Kalie Webb and her mentor installing a package.
Read more Beek of the Month on page 3.
President's Message – The Board is Busy as Honeybees

By the time you read these words it will be old news, but the situation begs words in our state-wide newsletter. On Thursday, December 28, Justin and Tory Engelhardt, owners of Wild Hill Honey near Sioux City, fell victim to a senseless and cruel crime. Vandalism broke into a shed housing their bee equipment and threw it about the bee yard. But if that wasn’t destructive enough, the perpetrators knocked over their 50 beehives killing all the bees. Why? There is no good reason. Thankfully, through a GoFundMe campaign, the couple reached and exceeded funds needed to help rebuild their business. However fortunate they may feel, it does not diminish the fact they were vandalized. It makes me pause and contemplate how in a matter of just three days we saw the worst of humankind and the best of humankind. We all need to be vigilant and report the crime to the authorities. Our voices speak volumes and help to draw attention to matters deserving awareness.

The start of a New Year brings a renewed spirit. Who doesn’t like a fresh slate to begin anew? The Iowa Honey Producers board and district directors met on Saturday, January 6 for a two hour board meeting followed by a five hour strategic planning meeting. To say we had two full agendas would be an understatement. With only five board meetings a year, our meetings are engaging and act as a means to share valuable information and provide updates on projects. I can assure you, we are all are kept busy from the first of the year to the end of the year.

Before I tell you some of what we discussed, I would like to share the IHPA Mission as it is ‘the mission’ that drives our organization: *The objects of this Association shall be to coordinate the interest of the beekeepers of Iowa and bring them into closer relationship of mutual helpfulness by association, conference and correspondence; to sponsor legislation for the benefit and protection of the industry; to assist in the dissemination of information on the control of diseases; to inform the members and the public of the valuable use of honey as well as the importance of the honey bee in relation to the pollination of agricultural crops; and to support every effort to promote the advancement of the beekeeping industry.*

Three important outreach events for our organization include the Summer Field Day, the Iowa State Fair and the Annual Meeting and Conference. These are areas where we can use assistance with the formation of committees. Some of you graciously offered to assist at the 2018 November Annual Meeting and I thank you. But we could use extra help for our Queen Program (Connie Bronnenburg), Youth Program (aside from mentors) (Ted Reeves), Contests, and Auctions (Erin). Erin Miller has some really great ideas for the Annual Meeting but as I experienced, help is always needed to make sure the event runs smooth. If you are interested in helping on a committee, please reach out to Erin, Connie Bronnenberg or Ted Reeves.

For the Iowa State Fair, we’re looking to make some much needed improvements to the booth. We’re looking to update the shelving and add more lighting to better see the entries, and provide additional shelving for the smaller sale items such as lip balms, soaps, candles; we’re looking to provide signage to help route folks around the offered samples to the lemonade if that’s all they’ve come for; and we’re looking to add drawers behind the booth to store product. Of course all that takes money, time and effort. It won’t all happen in 2018 but at least we’ve got a few goals to work towards. To help fund the effort, Erin Miller has created a guide to the Apiary – Bees and Honey category for fair entries. It is a comprehensive step-by-step guide from understanding the rules and entry eligibility to when entries are due and how they are judged. Want to know more about the classes? she’s got it all covered with photos and valuable tips to help you be successful. These booklets will be available for donation at the Summer Field Day on June 30 at Dordt College in Sioux Center. And if you’d like to be involved with upgrades to the booth, I encourage you to reach out to Heidi Love.

[cont-->]
Thank you to all that attended the Annual Meeting and for re-electing me for another year. I enjoy the job of Treasurer and I am thankful for your confidence in my ability to provide a proper accounting of the organization’s monies. If you ever have any questions about any of our expenses or income, please feel free to reach out to me and I will try to answer your questions to the best of my ability.

Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer

PS: I have copies of Keith Delaplane’s book First Lessons in Beekeeping. Cost is just $8, so please consider ordering a quantity for your club members or your library. Shipping costs will be extra.

Beek of the Month

The photo on the cover shows Kalie Webb and her tutor getting started with a package. She writes:

My name is Kalie Webb, I am 18 years old, I live near Johnston, and I keep my bees on my mentor’s property. I got into beekeeping through the IHPA beekeeping Scholarship Program. My initial interest for keeping bees stems from when I was young and visited the Iowa State Fair. Every year my family would visit the IHPA stand, grab a glass of honey lemonade, and make a bee’s wax candle. I did not fear the bees and always enjoyed myself.

It took a few years, but in my senior year of high school I applied for the Scholarship and began beekeeping. For me, the experience was full of trying new things. My mentors, Bruce and Jeanette Griener, helped me build the hives. They would go out with me to feed them in the colder months and together we opened them for a look inside in the warmer months. August was the month for honey collection and my mentors were such a big help during that time! I am very grateful to them in aiding me in my experience with bees.

Now, as a college student, I will be leaving for dorm life, but my younger sister has taken interest in them, so the bees will still be within my family and I hope she enjoys working with them as much as I did if not more!
Annual Meeting

Thank you to everyone that supported the Queen Program and the Youth Scholarship Program during the Annual Meeting. If you asked me to send you a receipt, please reach out to me so I don’t miss sending you a receipt for your donation.

IHPA is a 501©3 non-profit organization. Your donations to IHPA are tax deductible. Your magazine subscriptions may also be tax deductible, as well as any meetings/conferences you attend for your Hobby or Business as well as your mileage. Please contact your tax professional with these questions.

Please call, 515-724-2124, or e-mail, ihpatreasurer@gmail.com, to remind me to send you a receipt. I don’t want to miss anyone and their generous donation.

Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer

How Can I Help?

Have you ever wondered that question when thinking of your honey bees. You are a beekeeper because of your love for bees, your love of honey, your desire to help our environment, to pollinate your garden, etc. Can this be taken one step further? Is there anything else you could do to help the honey bees here in Iowa? YES, there is and YES, YOU CAN HELP! Wednesday, March 14 is Iowa Honey Bee Day! Celebrate this day with fellow beekeepers at our State Capital in Conference Room 116 from 7-9 AM. Enjoy visiting with your legislators about the importance of the honeybees, the difficulties faced by honey bees and beekeepers, the role of honey bees in our environment while enjoying some honey and honey treats. YES, You Can Help! Be a part of Iowa Honey Bee Day, Wednesday, March 14, 2018 from 7-9 AM at the Conference Room 116 in our State Capital, Des Moines, Iowa

Mary Wiltgen, IHPA District 3 Director

Hear! Hear! The Queen Speaks:

Greetings again! This is Joy and I have been keeping busy since I was crowned the 2018 Iowa Honey Queen. I went to several holiday vendor shows leading up to Christmas, so I have been thinking a lot about marketing.

Marketing is one of the most important parts of the beekeeping craft. You can have everything from managing your hives to streamlining processing down, but I have found my product will not sell if I do not put any effort into my marketing.

I have distinguished my product by running a treatment-free operation and processing my honey so it’s raw and unfiltered. Because I produced just under 1,500 pounds of honey last season, I am able to offer many sizes in plastic and glass jars.

Some of the simplest and most effective techniques I use are bringing an observation hive to farmer’s markets. It draws traffic to my booth and gives me the opportunity to teach people about honey bees. I have also found that offering free samples boosts sales, especially with comb honey because many of my customers have never seen comb honey before. For my vendor show through November and December, I added Christmas bows and honey dippers to my glass jars and prepackaged some of my honey in gift boxes and bags.

I find the winter months are a great time to brainstorm new marketing strategies for the coming summer. If you are interested in talking to me about marketing or scheduling a visit to your area, my email is joy@honeywarbee.com. I look forward to hearing from you!
Save the Date for the HIPA 2018 Annual Conference!

Our Annual HIPA Conference dates and location have been set. Please join us November 9-10, 2018 for the HIPA’s Annual Conference – Bee Hive Strong 2018, at the Shemann Building in Ames Iowa. Sneak Peak: The Mead Contest is back, start brewing! More details will follow in the upcoming months.

If you have wanted to become more involved with the events during the Annual Convention, please send an email to beehivestrong@gmail.com or call me @ 319-360-4913 (FYI email or text messages are often best). We are looking for members to help with the silent and live auctions, registration, HIPA store, vendor relations, competition judging and coordination, and the other many tasks before and during the convention. We have a need and a place for all that would like to assist. A huge thank you in advance to all of you that volunteer. Without you we would not be able to host these events.

Erin Miller, HIPA Vice President

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**You Know You are a Beekeeper When...**

Excerpts from an article by John Caldeira at OutdoorPlace.org/beekeeping/youknow

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--You know the bloom period of more local flowers than the state horticulturist.
--You don’t mind driving home with a few honey bees inside your vehicle.
--Your family and friends know exactly what they're going to get for Christmas.
--You don’t mow the lawn because the bees are working the weeds.
--You drive down a road and find yourself evaluating the roadside flowers for their honey-producing potential.
--You come home smelling like a camp fire, and you haven't been camping.
--You never stop marveling at these wonderful creatures.
--Quote from Andy Joseph, our state apiarist: “The hair on the back of your hands is singed.”
In preparation for the board’s strategic planning meeting, I spent a lot of time perusing the websites of many states’ beekeepers associations. One of my favorite sites is the Utah Beekeepers Association. Did you know Utah is known as The Beehive State? The beehive, a symbol of hard work and industry, reflects back upon the early settlers to the state. I was particularly attracted to the site’s piece on the History of Beekeeping in Utah. When I clicked on the aptly named ‘History’ tab, I discovered a 20-page paper written by Al Chubak for the 2017 Utah Beekeeping Conference entitled History of Beekeeping Utah 1846-1900. The first page features a replica of the inside of a 17th century British merchant ship, followed by the routes settlers took from east to west. There’s a detailed bee-related timeline and several black and white photos of beekeepers, one photo featuring a couple sporting veils, the woman holding a smoker and wearing a dress. How many of you female beekeepers would dare work your bees on a hot July day in a dress? Could be worse than a bee in your bonnet. Iowa, too, has a lot of history when it comes to keeping bees. Our Historian, Carole Vannoy, surely will want to educate us all a bit more in future editions.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President

Plans are in the works to organize another bee club in District 3. This district encompasses northeast Iowa and includes the following 15 counties: Worth, Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek, Floyd, Chickasaw, Butler, Bremer, Grundy, Black Hawk, Marshall, Tama, Benton, Poweshiek, Iowa, and Johnson.

If you live in any of these counties or even nearby, please join us for an organizational meeting on Thursday, March 8th at the Extension Office at 720 7th Ave SW, Tripoli. The focus of our first meeting would be to establish if there is a need or desire to have a bee club in this area of the state, determine a meeting location and date, number of meetings per year, and enlist fellow beekeepers who would help with the leadership of this new organization. If you would be interested in helping with this endeavor in any role, please contact Mary Wiltgen, District 3 Director, at tmwiltgen@gmail.com. Please include “bee club” in subject line so I can retrieve it quickly.

Together we can make this happen. A few goals for this bee club would be to

- share information (yes, we’ll be talking),
- learn from others (guest speakers on a wide variety of important topics), and
- helping beekeepers in our area (mentor/mentee opportunities and/or just reaching out to others).

My personal hope is that there would not be a burden on anyone since many hands make light work! Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, March, 8th. Email me with any questions, concerns, ideas, suggestions, or volunteering to help make a success!

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

‘Bee’ grateful, ‘Bee’ blessed, and ‘Bee’ a blessing,

Mary Wiltgen, District 3 Director

DID YOU KNOW... Honey bee trivia from http://www.honeybeesonline.com/honey-bees/

- Bees stroke their wings 11,400 times per minute.
- The record harvest for one colony is 404 pounds, by the Aebis Family in 1974. A
- Bees can see the same colors we see except red. They can also see ultraviolet.
- A foraging honey bee can carry 80% of their weight in pollen or nectar.
- Honey bees make up 80% of all pollinators.
- It takes approximately 3,500 bees to weigh 1 pound. (over 10,000 in a 3-lb package)
Do you need a new T-Shirt? A hat? A cookbook or two or three or thirty? A Valentine’s Day gift? Now is the time to get yours. We have a tremendous supply of T-Shirts, some colors in limited sizes. We have had the Keep Calm and Keep Bees theme for several years now. We can’t get a new slogan for shirts until we sell a lot of our inventory.

We have yellow with black text, we have black with yellow text, hot pink with black text, lime green with black text and ash gray with black text. You know your children and grandchildren are going to need a larger size T-shirt this year, so why not get some now? Where are you going to get a better price than this?

Of course we will have to add shipping to the order. Postage typically runs about $6 per T-shirt. Cookbooks are about $5 per book. A case of cookbooks ships for about $21.

What a great time to get shirts for your local bee club! Everyone could wear the same shirt when you work at the Iowa State Fair in August.

If you are interested, please contact Rhonda Heston, 515–724–2124 or ihpatreasurer@gmail.com. We would be glad to hook you up with some new shirts. You know you want to impress the girls this Spring.

Inventory Blowout:
All Adult T-Shirts $5.00
All Youth T-Shirts $2.00
Hats $5.00
Aprons $8.00
Cookbook $4.00
Cookbooks (30 case) $90.00

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**Beekeeping, it’s a honey of a hobby**

**DECEMBER 23, 2017 BY MATT KELLEY**

Iowans who might be considering taking up beekeeping in the new year will have plenty of opportunities to learn what all the buzz is about.

A record number of 36 courses will be held across Iowa during 2018 for both the beginner and advanced beekeeper.

Dustin Vande Hoef, spokesman for the state Department of Agriculture, says the courses are very informative. “These are often put on by local extension officers or community colleges and led at the local level but working with our state apiarist,” Vande Hoef says. “We’ve collected them so folks can get a sense of where all the classes are and if they’re interested, I encourage them to look into them and consider signing up.”

Most of the classes charge a fee, from $35 to $100, though some are free and several are starting in January. “Actually, a lot of them, it’s a series of classes and a number include a site visit where they’ll go out to a place where they’re keeping bees and get an understanding,” Vande Hoef says. “There are some full-day classes where it’s just one day but many it’s a series of hour or two classes at night or on weekends and they’ll go through it in a series of classes.”

There are now about 4,500 beekeepers in Iowa who manage more than 45,000 colonies of honey bees. “We continue to see interest both at the hobbyist beekeeper level where they have a hive or a handful of hives that they keep and use the honey and give it to their friends as gifts,” Vande Hoef says, “but we also are seeing growth in the commercial size where they’ll have hundreds or maybe thousands of colonies where they’ll hire those out to go pollinate crops.”

Iowa honey bees produce about four million pounds of honey every year, valued at over $8 million. Meanwhile, the economic value of honey bees as crop pollinators in Iowa is estimated at $92 million annually.

(See next page for class locations and see Web Page for details)
2018 Beginning and Advanced Beekeeping Courses to be Offered Across the State of Iowa.

For more information, please to the web site: [www.iowahoneyproducers.org](http://www.iowahoneyproducers.org) of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

* “To Be Determined”. (TBD) These locations are having a class, but class information isn’t finalized to date.

Please feel free to contact them to register for a class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City and Time</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>To Register</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ankeny, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 25 – Mar 1</td>
<td>Andrew Joseph: 515-326-5765 (call / text) or <a href="mailto:Andrew.Joseph@iowaAgriculture.gov">Andrew.Joseph@iowaAgriculture.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albia, Tuesday evening</td>
<td>Jan 30-Mar 20</td>
<td>Sheila @ 641-891-2268 / Jerry @ 641-891-4071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calmar, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 30 – Mar 6</td>
<td>NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Rapids, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6-9 pm</td>
<td>Yearlong starting in Jan.</td>
<td>To register: 319-362-0664 or indiancreeknaturecenter.org/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Council Bluffs Sat. mornings</td>
<td>April -May</td>
<td>Iowa Western Comm. College 712-325-3255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davenport, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Feb – Mar</td>
<td>Eastern Iowa Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Moines, Tues. evenings</td>
<td>Jan - Feb</td>
<td><a href="http://commed.dmschools.org/programs/adults/">http://commed.dmschools.org/programs/adults/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dubuque, Tues evening</td>
<td>Jan 30 – Mar 6</td>
<td>NICC Continuing Ed: 563-557-8271, ext 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Feb – March</td>
<td>Jefferson Co Extension / Coleen @ 641-472-4166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Dodge, Saturday morn.</td>
<td>Jan 13-Feb 3</td>
<td>Yvonne @ 515-835-9326 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:Yvonne@iastate.edu">Yvonne@iastate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Dodge, Sat. Advanced</td>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Yvonne @ 515-835-9326 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:Yvonne@iastate.edu">Yvonne@iastate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fredericksburg, Saturdays</td>
<td>Jan 20 - Jan 27</td>
<td>Mary Wiltgen @ 563-920-9628 / <a href="mailto:tmwiltgen@gmail.com">tmwiltgen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indianola, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 25-Mar 15</td>
<td>Judy Spence: 515-988-8397 / <a href="mailto:Jespencejr44@gmail.com">Jespencejr44@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa Falls, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 23-Jan 20</td>
<td>Rachael Koehler: 1-800-284-4823 / 641-752-4645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keosauqua, Monday evenings</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>Van Buren Co Extension / 319-293-3039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knoxville, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 25 Mar 15</td>
<td>Jerry Weldon @ 641-842-5888 / Sheila 641-842-5888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshalltown, Thur. evening</td>
<td>Jan 24-Feb 28</td>
<td>Rachael Koehler: 800-284-4823/641-752-4645 / Room 612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason City, Saturday morning</td>
<td>Feb 3-Feb 24</td>
<td>NIACC Continuing Education: 641-422-4358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt Pleasant, Thursday evening</td>
<td>Feb1 –March 1</td>
<td>Henry Co Extension Office: 319-385-8126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton; Tues. evening</td>
<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>ISU extension: John Krzton-Presson 641-792-6433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okoboji, Saturday-Sunday</td>
<td>Feb 10-11</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com">nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com</a> / 507-227-5919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okoboji, Advanced –Sunday</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com">nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com</a> / 507-227-5919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okoboji; Sunday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com">nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com</a> / 507-227-5919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oskaloosa, Friday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 19-Mar 16</td>
<td>Tina / Jim Marshall @641-660-0983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottumwa, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 16-Feb 27</td>
<td>Great Prairie Area Ed. Agency - Jen Daugherty 641-682-5491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peosta, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 25-Mar 1</td>
<td>NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk City, Saturday mornings</td>
<td>Feb 3-Feb 24</td>
<td>Ray Meylor 515-619-9014 / <a href="mailto:cherryglenfarmiowa@gmail.com">cherryglenfarmiowa@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux Center, Thurs. evening</td>
<td>Feb 1-Feb 22</td>
<td>712-722-6275 or <a href="mailto:duanehajema@dordt.edu">duanehajema@dordt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddville, Monday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 22-August</td>
<td>Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or <a href="mailto:honeybeeclasses@gmail.com">honeybeeclasses@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddville, Friday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 19 – August</td>
<td>Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or <a href="mailto:honeybeeclasses@gmail.com">honeybeeclasses@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddville, Advanced</td>
<td>March 3-4</td>
<td>Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or <a href="mailto:honeybeeclasses@gmail.com">honeybeeclasses@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddville, Queen Rearing</td>
<td>June 23-24</td>
<td>Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or <a href="mailto:honeybeeclasses@gmail.com">honeybeeclasses@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, Monday evening</td>
<td>Feb 5-Feb 27</td>
<td>Kirkwood Comm. College, 319-653-4655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterloo, Wed. evenings</td>
<td>Jan 10-April 18</td>
<td>Hawkeye Comm. College, 319-296-4290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that not all of these courses are sponsored by the Iowa Honey Producers Association, and the information presented by the instructors is not necessarily endorsed by the IHPA. Additionally, none of the courses are sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship and the information presented by the instructors is not necessarily endorsed by IDALS.
District Directors have a new role—one month of the year they will feature clubs in their districts. They will also be wanting to feature a bee in their district to ride on the cover of the Buzz with a story inside—Beek of the Month. Get to know your District Director, and send him/her pictures of your hobby/sideline. Include your family members who are into bees. Develop a sense of unity in your club, and spread that onto the whole state, so that the functions of the clubs can grow as District Directors get to know you better. One good thing your club can promote this month is Fieldwatch signup. (p. 11)

Here are the clubs:

**IOWA BEE CLUBS:**

**Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club**  
Contact: Jim & Tina Marshall  
2923 Jones Ave  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
(641) 660-0983  
marshalljt@wildblue.net

**Boone River Beekeeping Club**  
Contact: Roy Kra Özel  
(515) 293-2458  
kroyster.rk@gmail.com or  
Yvonne McCormick  
(515) 835-9326  
ISU Extension Office  
217 S. 25th St  
Ft. Dodge, IA 50501  
Yvonne@iastate.edu

**Central Iowa Beekeepers Association**  
Contact Mike Sander  
1104 Scenic View  
Altoona, IA 50009  
(515) 707-9951  
masander3@gmail.com

**Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers**  
Contact: Ellen Bell  
enbellia@gmail.com  
10458 SE Vandalia Drive  
Runnells, IA 50237  
(515) 707-9951 or  
Joe Villines  
myascape@gmail.com

**East Central Iowa Beekeepers**  
Contact: Dave Irvin  
2254 S. Riverside Dr.  
Iowa City, IA 52246  
(319) 351-6205

**Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa**  
Contact: Judy Spence  
12839 Carpenter Trail  
Carlisle, IA 50047  
(515) 988-8397  
jespencejr44@gmail.com

**Great River Bend Beekeepers**  
Contact: David Hayes  
1749 110th St.  
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060  
(563) 678-2862  
prairiecreekfrm@netins.net

**Iowa B Club**  
Contact: Shane Bixby  
Wickiup Hill Learning Center  
10260 Morris Hill Rd.  
Toddville, IA 52341  
(319) 721-3493  
iowabcub.org

**Loess Hills Beekeeping Association**  
Contact: Chris Ruhaak  
22524 Hunt Avenue  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-7978  
(402) 681-8170  
LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com

**North Iowa Bee Club**  
Contact: Randy Elsbernd  
19050 Thrush Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 420-7297  
randlejd2210@gmail.com

**Northwest Iowa Beekeepers**  
Contact: Larry/Marlene Boernsen  
6724 200th St.  
Ocheyedan, IA 51354  
(712) 320-1907  
Lm5kbees@gmail.com

**Omaha Bee Club**  
Contact: Linn Danzer  
235 E. Orchard Ave  
Council Bluffs, IA  
(402) 321-3754  
upsbeeman@gmail.com

**Quad City Beekeeping Club**  
Contact: Ron Fischer or Doug Dahlin  
(563) 340-7498  
qcbeecub@yahoo.com

**Red Rock Beekeepers**  
Contact: Jerry/Shelia Weldon  
210 N. Iowa St (Extension Off)  
Knoxville, IA 50138  
(641) 891-4071 or 891-2268  
weldonjs@windstream.net

**Southeast Iowa Beekeepers**  
Contact: Vernie Ramsey  
22781 Route J16  
Birmingham, IA 52535  
(319) 498-4355  
Vdramsey@netins.net

**Southern Iowa Hive Handlers**  
Contact: Scott Kent  
100 South Main  
Osceola, IA 50213  
(641) 414-1600  
clarkeccb@gmail.com

**Southwest Iowa Beekeepers**  
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms  
14922 535th Street  
Griswold, IA 51535  
(712) 778-4256  
mbrahrens@netins.net

**Siouxland Beekeepers**  
Contact: Ron Rynders  
890 13th Ave SE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
(712) 449-5010  
rrihpa@gmail.com

**Tama County Bee Keepers**  
Jim & Penny Dolezal  
1460-370th Street Tama, Iowa 52339  
(641) 751-2985 or 751-2566  
busybeecores@yahoo.com

**Our Iowa Honey Queen:**  
Joy Westerkamp  
joy@honeywarbee.com  
Cell—319-677-0514
Information on advertising in the Buzz:

Some of you have wondered what the arrangements are for posting ads in the Buzz. Here are the details.

First, Paid Ads: If you are a company and wish to advertise in the Buzz, you may select from 4 sizes of ad space. A full-page ad costs $75 a month or $720 annually.

A half-page ad costs $50 a month or $360 annually.

A 1/4-page ad costs $25 a month or $180 annually.

And a 1/8-page ad costs $10 a month or $72 annually.

This page is purposely set into 3 sized boxes (4, if you count full page). Use these sizes to create paid ads.

You need to develop all the artwork so that it fits into the proper size ad. Billing is handled by Rhonda Heston and checks are made out to IHPA. (contact info on back of Buzz) Submit the ad to Ron Rynders (contact info on back of Buzz) before the 10th of any month to be included in the next month.

Second, members can post short ads free. A free ad is limited to a couple sentences. Readers are used to these ads, and know how small many of them are. Currently, I’m placing a border around each ad to set it apart. I do edit and size the ads so that they fit into a small box.

A situation is coming up of late, and hence the reason for the clarification--members have created large ads that they expect the IHPA to run for free. This means that people who are paying for ads begin to wonder why they are paying for ads when they can simply send in for a free space.

So, going forward, if an ad begins to approach the size of a 1/8th page, we will send a bill for that ad and treat it as a paid ad. We do not do art work on such ads, and we’ll gladly post them, but members with large ads will have to help pay the bills as well. Thanks for understanding.

Editor Ron Rynders.

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Did you all see the article in the last American Bee Journal about the women beekeepers in Iowa? One is our outgoing queen, another is our Buzz Recipe Person, and the rest are our friends and neighbors. It’s really great to bask in the fact that Iowa is a great place to be keeping bees. There is so much camaraderie in this state, so much support, so much encouragement! Not to mention that all the officers of the IHPA serving presently are women. Gotta love the diversity this all brings to our hobby/business.

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Say, “Carny”. Imagine someone who works in a carnival. What do you call them?--Carny. So there’s a strain of bees whose name is often mis-pronounced. Many people say “Car-no-li-an” and that’s not the way to say it. Say “Carny” first and then say “o-li-an”

Car-knee-OH-lan.

Not Car-KNOW-lee-an.

Only an editor would make a point of that... Sorry.
SIGN UP ON FIELDWATCH!!

DES MOINES — The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship highlighted the success of the revamped Iowa Sensitive Crops Registry and encouraged eligible producers and apiarists to register or re-save their data for the 2018 growing season.

“We have been encouraged to see such a strong response to the updated directory and the positive feedback to the improved mapping features, streamlined data entry, and increased accuracy. We hope both farmers and applicators will continue to take advantage of the directory to promote better communication around sensitive sites,” said Mike Naig, Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

The Department launched the updated directory last January in partnership with the nonprofit FieldWatch, Inc. Since then, more than 1,500 producers of pesticide sensitive crops have registered 740 Iowa fields covering almost 33,000 acres. Apiarists in the state have registered over 1,700 apiaries containing over 11,000 beehives.

Of the 14 states that participated in the FieldWatch program in 2017, Iowa ranked number one in listed beehives, second in apiaries, third in the number of registered producers, and fourth in the number of registered fields. Pesticide applicators have also embraced the registry: at 513 registered applicators, Iowa ranked first among participating states in this category in 2017.

“These stats really bring home the fact that Iowa’s apiarists and sensitive crop producers, as well as the pesticide applicators that work in the state, have embraced this new registry. In just a twelve month period, Iowa’s standings are comparable to those of states that have been in the program for several years.” Naig said.

The online database provided stakeholders improved means of communication including satellite-image mapping tools that allowed apiarists and producers to visually mark the location of hives and to trace the outlines of production fields of pesticide sensitive crops. Along with these visuals, commercial pesticide applicators could download field and apiary locations as GPS data points. Additional pop-up boxes allowed producers to leave messages for applicators and provide contact information for ongoing communication.

“When I registered, adding hive locations and tracing out our production fields on the FieldWatch maps was really pretty easy,” reported Bob Shephard, a producer, beekeeper, farmers’ market manager and vendor near Washington, Iowa. “For me, because it’s visual, this new system removed the uncertainty I had before this that I was providing the correct information to the pesticide applicators. That’s gone now.”...

The Department encourages producers and apiarists to register or re-save data they entered into the registry in 2017. Along with apiary sites, half an acre or larger commercial vineyards, orchards, fruit and vegetable grow sites, nursery and Christmas tree production sites, and certified organic crops are included in the registry. Once registered, producers can log in any time and edit contact and site information. The Iowa Sensitive Crops Registry, and links to the FieldWatch login page can be found at http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/sensitiveCropDirectory.asp. Questions can also be directed to IDALS State Horticulturist, Paul Ovrom, at paul.ovrom@iowaagriculture.gov or 515-242-6239.

— Iowa Department of Agriculture
Membership Dues

The form above has been included again so that you can either copy it or clip it and send to Rhonda. You can also go to iowahoneyproducers.org, select About IHPA and select Membership. A printable form is available at the bottom of that page.

IHPA membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st. With that said, it is time to renew your membership if the date on the back of this BUZZ says Expires: 12/31/2017.

Membership dues for a year are $20 for the first beekeeper in the house and $5 for each additional beekeeper in the house. IHPA will mail one BUZZ newsletter to the household.

Do you wait for the BUZZ to come in the mail or do you read it on the website? The reason I ask – for the month of December we mailed out 981 newsletters. That bill was $1,509.78. Eighteen dollars of your $20 membership pays for the BUZZ. It is your option to read the BUZZ in hand or on the website – or both. If you prefer to read the BUZZ on website and not get a hard copy, please indicate when you renew your membership. If you have already renewed your membership, just send me an email or text if you want to change your newsletter delivery option.
FROM HEARTLAND APICULTURAL SOCIETY (HAS)

Speakers Confirmed for Heartland Apiculture Society's 2018 Missouri Conference

ST. LOUIS – Five speakers have been confirmed for Heartland Apicultural Society’s (HAS) annual conference to be held July 11–13, 2018 at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Established in 2001 by several professional entomologists, the conference rotates through the Midwest to make it easier for local beekeepers to attend sessions focused on the latest beekeeping methods and research.

Among the speakers confirmed to date:
- Dr. Marla Spivak, a MacArthur Fellow at University of Minnesota’s Bee Lab;
- University of Minnesota Bee Squad, a beekeeping instructional and public outreach program to encourage collaboration and public education about bees;
- Dr. Keith Delaplane, director of the University of Georgia Honey Bee Program;
- Jennifer Berry, University of Georgia Honey Bee program lab manager.
- Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, University of Maryland Honeybee Lab, who directs the Bee Informed Partnership, the Tech Transfer Program and the annual national beekeeping management surveys, and
- Samuel Ramsey, University of Maryland PhD candidate and researcher.

More details will be posted as they are finalized at http://www.heartlandbees.org.

---bzzz---

Honey Exchange
I thoroughly enjoyed this year’s Annual Meeting and Conference. One of the activities was the honey exchange, and I prepared for it ahead of time. Being from Wisconsin, I knew that there would be some differences in the honey sources, and the honey. I ended up bring seven containers of good Iowa honey back home to Wisconsin. I had an Iowa map, and charted the location of each jar of honey. Along with tasting spoons, I brought the honey to our December meeting of the Milwaukee Waukesha Beekeepers Association. About 60 of our members were in attendance, and many of them did the taste testing. The most common comment was that the honeys tasted different. I explained to the group regional honeys, and how the nectar is expressed in the variety of flavors. All of the honeys were very good. We conduct activities like this for education of our members. Most people on the street buying honey see the label on the jar, look at price, and put it in the cart. More people at the farm markets are interested in organic and local honey. When our beekeepers are properly educated, they in turn can educate consumers, at the farm markets and during beekeeping presentations. I enjoyed the honey exchange, and worked to get the most out of it. I hope that this can help your associations.

Regards,
Andy the Bee Guy

GO TO THE BEE AND LEARN HOW DILIGENT SHE IS,
AND WHAT A NOBLE WORKS SHE PRODUCES,
WHOSE LABOURS KINGS AND PRIVATE MEN
USE FOR THEIR USE.
SHE IS DESIRED AND HONOURED BY ALL,
AND THOUGH WEAK IN STRENGTH,
SHE VALUES WISDOM AND PREVAILS.
Proverbs 6:8, Septuagint

(quoted from First Lessons in Beekeeping,
Keith S. Delaplane)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
The Summer Field Day date and location has been set. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 30th at Dordt College located in Sioux Center, IA. We will be featuring an ALL IOWA line-up of speakers. Join Commercial Beekeepers Curt Bronnenberg, Phil Ebert, Bob Fassbinder, and our State Apiarist Andy Joseph. We will also be featuring or Iowa Honey Queen, Joy Westerkamp.

Dordt College is located at 498 4th Avenue NE, Sioux Center. We will be located in the Science, and Technology Center. Local lodging includes: Holiday Inn Express 712-722-3500, the Econo Lodge 712-722-4000, and camping at the Sandy Hollow Recreation Area (reservations: www.mycountyparks.com/county/sioux.aspx). If you are interested in camping, camping sites fill quickly and should be able to be reserved soon. More details and registration information to come in the following months.

Erin Miller, IIHPA Vice President

Annual Meeting & Conference – Friday & Saturday, November 9 & 10, Scheman Building, Ames, Iowa

If you are an IIHPA member and have a bee club meeting or event you would like added to our event calendar, please

...
Iowa State University Bee Research Update

Randall Cass, Iowa State University Extension Entomologist, Honey Bees and Native Bees

Currently there are several ongoing research projects related to bees being conducted at Iowa State University. As the new extension entomologist at Iowa State, I will periodically report on the different research efforts being carried out that are relevant to the Iowa beekeeping community.

In 2016 Iowa State University was granted funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to implement a research project focused on the health of honey bees and native bees in Iowa. Grants were awarded to seven land-grant universities to fund research and extension projects to improve pollinator health.

The project is titled Combining Crop Production and Conservation for Improved Bee Health. It began in the spring of 2017 and focuses on learning more about three primary stressors for bees: pesticide exposure, pests and disease, and poor forage availability. The research team is observing honey bees and native bees in soybean fields and prairie landscapes, looking at how rates of insecticide sprays affect populations and comparing the overall hive health in soybean and prairie foraging habitats. Additionally, the team is collecting data on hives relocated from soybean to prairie landscapes in the late summer to identify whether a non-agricultural ecosystem provides hives with more forage to build up honey and pollen stores for overwintering. Finally, the project also aims to determine if honey bee presence in prairies impacts native bees, through resource competition for pollen and nectar, or by the transmission of pathogens, such as viruses.

The research team is overseen by Iowa State professors, Dr. Amy Toth and Dr. Matt O’Neal, Iowa State extension entomologist, Dr. Erin Hodgson, and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign professor, Dr. Adam Dolezal. Other team members include two PhD students, Ashley St. Clair and Ge Zhang, and a post-doctoral researcher, Dr. Harmen Hendriksma, lending his expertise on bee nutrition to the project.

In addition to research, extension efforts are a key component of the project. I will serve as the extension entomologist for the project, communicating the research findings to various stakeholders in the community, including beekeepers, soybean farmers, and landowners. I will also be surveying stakeholders to measure changes in attitudes or behaviors related to our research over the next three years.

The team is currently taking advantage of the winter to plan logistics for the upcoming growing season, select hive sites, and input data from samples collected last season. As the project progresses, I will provide updates on the team’s findings.

Follow us on Instagram: iowastatebees

Photo: PhD student Ge Zhang inspecting hives at the Toth Lab apiary.

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Here’s a note from Jodi Kraft, the organizer of the Quilts for the Annual Meeting:

I hope everyone had a blessed holiday season! Now that we are into the New Year, it’s time to start sewing your IHPA Quilt Block packets. I need to have these back to me the first of February so that I can get the quilt tops made and off to the quilter, so please get your sewing done and return the blocks to Jodi Kraft at P.O. Box 1, Goldfield, IA 50542-0001. Thank you to everyone who helps get the blocks done so that we have quilts together for the Auction and Raffle at Annual Meeting time.
Recipes from Emma Jakes

Valentine’s Day! Time to make those Valentine’s Day cookies and share sweet things with all the people you love! This month we have two snacky recipes, Honey Spice Oatmeal Cookie Mix and Gooey Honey Blondies. They were both really good and easy to make, great for sharing with a friend, or just keeping for your self. They were also deemed keeper recipes.

Honey Spice Oatmeal Cookie Mix (Pg. 81):

2 ¾ cup all-purpose flour
2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
2 teaspoons ground ginger
1 cup + 2 Tablespoons uncooked oats, uncooked
1 teaspoon baking soda

To make: Mix in a large bowl, combine flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, cloves and nutmeg; mix well. Add oats; mix well. Transfer to re-sealable plastic bag, an unbreakable jar with lid or an air tight container. Store in a cool dry place.

Ingredients needed to complete cookies:
½ pound (2 sticks, 1 cup) butter, softened (no substitutes)
¾ cup honey, 1 large egg

To prepare cookies: In a large bowl, beat butter and honey with an electric mixer until creamy. Add egg and beat well. Add cookies mix; beat well. Divide dough into thirds; place each on a piece of plastic wrap and flatten to ¼ inch thickness. Wrap tightly; chill at least 4 hours. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten in 1/8-inch thickness with the bottom of a glass cup dipped in granulated sugar. Repeat with remaining dough. Bake 5-7 minute, just until the centers are set. (Cookies will feel soft. Do not over bake.) Cool one minute on a cookie sheet; remove to wire rack. Cool completely. Store tightly covered.

From Emma: These cookies were really good! I did accidentally use 1 teaspoon ground ginger instead of one tablespoon, which is a BIG difference! So if you ever feel like all of your cooking is going wrong, I make mistakes too! The recipe made about 4 dozen cookies.

Gooey Honey Blondies (Pg. 70):

1 stick+2 tablespoons (10 Tbsp) butter, melted
1 cup brown sugar
½ cup honey
1 egg
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup + 2 Tablespoons flour
¼ cup chocolate chips

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray an 8”x 8” baking pan with baking spray. Set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together the melted butter, brown sugar, honey, egg, salt, and vanilla, until just smooth. Stir in flour and chocolate chips until just combined.

Spread the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 25 minutes, or until the edges are golden and the center is just set. Allow to cool completely before cutting into squares.

NOTE: If you have an “as seen on TV” every-piece-is-a-corner brownie pan, this is the recipe to use it for.

From Emma: Yum! If you are used to an all sugar Blondies recipe, this is going to be a little bit different. The recipe was simple and quick to make, taking less than 20 minutes to mix together. It does only make an 8”x 8” pan so they do disappear quickly. If you’re making them for any get-togethers, definitely make several pans’ worth. I sprinkled some chocolate chips over the top of my blondies right before I put them in the oven just to give it a fun and flavorful flare.
FOR SALE:
2 or 3 pound packages of Italian bees with queen "bred-to-be-gentle" from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. Great for beginners. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, IA in mid-April. All orders must be received by February 28, 2018. Contact Douglas Child at phone 319-634-3682 or at childbees@gmail.com.

FOR SALE:
We will have package bees and nucs for sale again this year. Prices are unknown at this point. Watch our website for price updates. www.eberthoney.com or contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or ehoney37@netsign.net  Adam Ebert at 319-430-3514 or fiddler171@gmail.com

Russians For Sale:
Starting January 1st at 10 AM central standard time you can begin placing your orders for Russian Nucs and Queens from Foley's Russian Bees.
-Russian Queens 1-10 are $38 each, discounts for larger orders
-5-frame Russian nuc $152 each
-2 & 3-pound Carniolan packages available for pre-order mid-January.
Complete hive kits, and hive components also available. To place an order, visit us on the web at www.russianbee.com.

FOR SALE:
5-frame medium nucs, local and anklebiter blood lines, limited amount. Available 1st of June. Also, complete hives—8-frame, mediums, with bees included. June 1st. Pick up in Decorah, IA.  Phone-563-419-0877 or gmhunter@neitel.net

FOR SALE:
We will have a few nucs for sale in the Spring. The nucs will have locally mated survivor queens.
Rhonda & Steve Heston  South 6 Apiary 515-724-2124

FOR SALE:
Northern California 2lb. and 3lb. packages with unmarked Italian, Carniolan, or Buckfast queens—Price TBD
Georgia 3lb. packages with unmarked Italian queens—Price: Qty 1-9= $122/ea, Qty 10-99= $117/ea, Qty 100+= $112/ea (plus IA Sales Tax)
5-frame nucs from Northern California (Italian or Carniolan queens) arriving approximately April 21st—Price: Qty 1-9= $160/ea, Qty 10-99= $150/ea, Qty 100+= $140/ea (plus IA Sales Tax)
Pick-up in Iowa City, IA or Sullivan, WI
Loads arriving weekly from late March through mid-May (specific dates are weather dependent)
Call Tim Wilbanks 319-321-2494 or email: timwilbanksbees@gmail.com, www.heritagehoneybee.com
Heritage Honeybee, LLC, PO Box 117, Sullivan, WI 53178

P & P HONEY AND BEE SUPPLY, GOODELL, IA
Packages: 3 # packages w/Italian queens. $116.00 each +tax & dept. Pick in early to mid April in Goodell, IA.
Nucs: 5 frame nucs w/Italian queens, ready for pick up from Goodell, mid May, weather permitting.
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We will also will have our own, Iowa raised queens, from June – September, $40.00. VHS/Ankle Biter traits.
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We’re on Facebook too!
The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com
Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010

The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month to be included in the following month’s newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

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Missouri State Beekeepers Association Spring Conference
March 2-3, 2018

WARRENSBURG, Mo. – Missouri State Beekeepers Association’s spring conference will be held March 2-3, 2018 February 19, 2018 at Johnson County Fairgrounds in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Registration for the conference is $60 including Saturday’s lunch. Cory Stevens queen-rearing session is an additional $35 per person. Registration is available online at www.mostatebeekeepers.org.

MSBA is a 501©4 non-profit focused on assisting Missouri beekeepers, farmers, gardeners and consumers for over a century. The volunteer organization holds two conferences a year at locations around the state to make it easier for beekeepers to attend the sessions.

Among the speakers appearing at the 2018 spring conference:

Dr. James Tew, Auburn University Cooperative Extension System beekeeping specialist. He will discuss swarm management; the frustrating truth about modern queen management; why beeswax is unappreciated and foulbrood diseases.

Alexandria Payne is in the second year of her PhD program at Dr. Juliana Rangel’s Honey Bee Lab, Texas A&M Entomology Department, focusing on transmission of honeybee viruses. She will discuss transmission routes of honeybee viruses and what happens when a honey bee gets sick.

Cory Stevens is certified as an Eastern Apicultural Society master beekeeper and has a Bloomfield, Mo. honeybee breeding operation focused on selecting for mite and disease resistant traits. He will have a 3-hour class on queen-rearing including handouts on queen rearing, one queen cell fame, 20 push-in plastic cell cups and grafting tool.

Charlotte Ekker Wiggins is an advanced master gardener and beekeeper currently serving on University of Missouri’s Master Pollinator Steward working group. She will discuss honeybee friendly nectar plants.

Bill Allinder is a Kansas City Culinary Center’s Professional Culinary Arts Program graduate and instructor. Bill has converted several acres of his Paradise, Mo. farm into pollinator habitat that includes honeybees. He will discuss cooking with honey.

Ray Shadow’s full time job is a systems analyst for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is also a Columbia College adjunct professor. He will discuss how to build and maintain a club website for “little or no money” including general computer security, blogging, You Tube and Facebook sites.

If you have any conference questions, please email Bruce Snavely, conference chairman, at brucesnavely@hotmail.com.

---bzzz--

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American Honey Producers Association: www.ahpanet.com
American Beekeeping Federation: www.ABFnet.org

National Honey Board: www.honey.com

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