PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Beekeeping friends,
Can you believe summer is fast approaching and spring is almost gone!

I wondered how my bees would ramp up this spring since a warm late winter sometimes is not good. I was so pleasantly surprised how strong my few hives were. Making several splits was possible and has put me right back into business. I was really concerned about how much honey I would have or how much business I could do. I’m not worried any more. I hope I’m not alone here. I’m finding out in this business that I must learn how to make lemonade out of the lemons you sometimes get.

I always enjoy hearing from beginning beekeepers on how their bees are doing. It’s rewarding to me to hear them tell how much pollen they see coming in or how many frames are drawn out. That excitement fuels me to work my bees or find time to start raising queens. I get a lot of calls about beekeeping and enjoy the conversations. Sometimes I think the parents enjoy the bees more than the kids do!

I want to say “Job well done” to the Central Iowa Bee Club on a very nice, well-organized auction they had. People, if you missed it, mark the calendar for next year. It’s the place to be in late April. They had a good selection of bee stuff for all. I felt there was a strong market for good quality bee equipment.

The day when we see who has what at the state fair will be July 1st at the American Inn in Ames—2507 SE 16th, Ames, Iowa. 1 p.m. (notice date change) Members are welcome to witness.

The IHPA Summer field day is now just days away and it looks like the place to bee. Great line up, and nicely-organized by our vice president Eve. I’m looking forward to the day in Toddville, Iowa. Hope to see you there.

The state fair booth is run, as you know, by volunteers, members of the IHPA. We will be signing up people real soon, so get your days booked. We buy your ticket to get you through the gate. I encourage all new beekeepers to help us make some new friends that have the same interest as you. It’s a lemonade stand like you can’t imagine! Get ahold of Heidi and get your spot reserved.

I’ve highlighted some things coming up. One thing is for sure: bees need attention this time of year. Make sure they have plenty of room or swarming may occur. Add honey supers and make sure they are moving up and not just staying down in brood chambers. The big flow will soon be upon us. Try something this year—put that extra super of drawn comb on that big hive and see what happens!

I need to go since I’ve been working on this long enough. One other thing: don’t forget about the Annual Meeting in Oskaloosa this year. GET YOUR ROOM SOON. Things will fill up down there.

So, stay calm, and keep bees!
Roy Kraft, IHPA President

Hey, All!
It has been amazing being your 2017 Iowa Honey Queen so far, and I am learning and growing so much on My Honey Queen Adventure!! As of May 10th, I have been able to reach 36 out of 99 counties! I’ll list the counties I have visited below. I need your help to reach my goal of visiting all 99 counties, so please connect with me if you have any suggestions on where to give a program in the remaining counties! Thank you to everyone who has coordinated programs, promoted my visits, shared a meal with me and my traveling companions, given us a place to stay, and much, much more. I couldn’t do this without you! Feel free to pass on my contact information to people in the remaining counties so that we can coordinate a program!
- Carly Raye, 2017 Iowa Honey Queen. Facebook: My Honey Queen Adventure

Email: myhoneyqueenadventure@gmail.com  Cellphone: 515-669-7178

Counties visited: Allamakee, Appanoose, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Bremerton, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clayton, Clarke, Clinton, Dallas, Decatur, Dubuque, Fayette, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Linn, Mahaska, Marion, Monona, Polk, Ringgold, Story, Tama, Warren, Webster, Winnebago, and Winneshiek.

Carly Raye, Iowa Honey Queen
Mentoring – A Sweet Partnership

What does it mean to be a mentor? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a mentor as: someone who teaches or gives help and advice to a less experienced and often younger person. I would further define a mentor as someone who communicates effectively and willingly.

Are you a mentor to an IHPA Youth Scholarship recipient? Maybe you mentor new beekeepers in your bee club? Eric Kenoyer spent considerable time to put together an excellent mentoring program for the IHPA scholarship recipients but it could just as easily be used for any new beekeeper. Though the beekeeping season is off and running with beekeepers busy in their bee yards and no doubt chasing a swarm or two, let us not forget those we are mentoring. They need our help, advice and support.

By now you have helped the new beekeeper hive their bees and should be making a point to stop by their location on a regular basis. Remember, as a mentor you are teaching the craft and not necessarily doing the beekeeping for them. Yes, mentoring may take more time than you initially anticipated but put yourself in their shoes. What would you want from someone mentoring you? Patience, kindness and a little bit of direction would be my top three requests. Keep in mind they may not want to kill so many bees when putting a hive box back on; they may not see eggs quite as readily as you; they may not know how to light a smoker as quickly as you. Accept the fact you may need to do a little hand holding at first. Guide them to become more confident. How about showing them some tricks of the trade or show them the tools you have found to be most useful. All of this comes with experience and requires practice. Your role is to assist in any way possible so they can be successful.

To those who have a mentor, it is important to ask questions. You have gone through a beekeeping class, read books, listened to presentations, and maybe watched a YouTube video or two, now it’s time to put what you have learned into practice. Yes, like all new ventures, beekeeping can be overwhelming at first, but consider yourself lucky that you have a mentor to help you along the way.

Questions often lead to more questions so don’t be afraid to ask your mentor why he/she is moving a frame or how do you know when to remove the entrance reducer? When do you add a super? When would you use a queen excluder? How do you know if a hive is queenless? The more you ask, the more you will learn or reinforce what you have learned.

Mentors: County fairs and the Iowa State Fair are right around the corner. This is the perfect time to talk about entering a frame of honey, honey comb, photo, or an apiary related project. Make sure to mention volunteering at the IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair is fun and a great way to share what they have learned. Additionally you’ll want to encourage participation in a local beekeeping club and encourage them to attend the Summer Field Day on July 15. These opportunities will only enhance their knowledge and beekeeping experience.

The mentoring process is a partnership and should be rewarding for both. If you have a mentor, ask yourself these three questions:

Has my mentor been available when I needed him/her?
Has my mentor answered my questions to my satisfaction?
Does my mentor explain what is going on inside my hive?

If you answered ‘yes’ to the questions above, take a moment to thank them for their valuable time. The benefit of a willing mentor is invaluable.

And mentors, don’t let yourselves get burned out. You are needed. Those who you are mentoring today may become future mentors. By sharing your time and support, you are sharing more than wealth can buy.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA Vice President
2017 Iowa Honey Producers Association Summer Field Day
Saturday, July 15, 2017
Wickiuphill Learning Center
10260 Morris Hill Road, Toddville, Iowa (north of Cedar Rapids)

Relying on GPS may lead you to an incorrect location. More details to follow in a future edition of The Buzz and website.

Registration: 8:30  Field Day: 9:00 – 4:15

Field Day Guest Speakers include: Dale Hill, Ph.D. from Illinois who will speak on “Nutrition for Honeybees” and “Midwest Plants for Honeybees” and Andy Joseph, Iowa’s State Apiarist, will provide an update on the state of Iowa’s honeybees. Afternoon session topics will feature how to make flavored creamed honey and what it means to have a certified kitchen; how to assemble equipment; and how to test for mites and use of various treatment methods. Meet the American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox and Iowa Honey Queen, Carly Vannoy. Following the sessions, stay for an on-site extraction demonstration. This will be a full day of knowledge exchange for beekeepers of all levels. Please mark your calendar and remember to bring your bee gear.

A delicious lunch will be provided except for the dessert. YOU are asked to bring one to share! Bottled water, honey lemonade, and coffee will be available throughout the day.

NAME: _________________________________________________________
ADDRESS:_______________________________________________________
CITY:_________________________________    ZIP:_________________
PHONE:(____)_____________________
CELL:(____)__________________ EMAIL:_________________________________________________________

Registration:  

Single (member):    $35 before June 30, 2017

Number attending: _____________  x $35 =        ______

Single (non-member): $ 40 before June 30, 2017

Number attending: _____________  x $40 =        ______

Walk-in on July 15, 2017 (member)

Number attending: _____________  x $40 =        ______

Walk-in on July 15, 2017 (non-member)

Number attending: _____________  x $45 =        ______

Return this completed form together with your check payable to IHPA, by Friday, June 30, 2017 to:
Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer   52735 187th Avenue  Chariton, IA 50049
Iowa Honey Producers Association
2017 Summer Field Day
Saturday, July 15, 2017
Wickiup Hill Learning Center, Toddville, Iowa

Registration: 8:30 AM    Field Day: 9:00 AM - 4:15 PM

8:30 AM   Registration
9:00 AM   Welcome and Announcements
9:10 AM   State of Iowa Honeybees - Andy Joseph, State Apiarist
9:40 AM   Guest Speaker – Dale A. Hill, Ph.D.
          “Nutrition for Honeybees” and
          “Midwest Plants for Honeybees”
11:45 AM  Lunch with dessert buffet
12:15PM   Message from IHPA President, Roy Kraft
12:45 PM  American Honey Queen, Maia Jaycox and Iowa Honey Queen, Carly Vannoy
12:55 PM  Afternoon sessions and rotation times
          Start where you like
          ▪ Assemble Equipment – Jerry Weldon
          ▪ Flavored Creamed Honey – Marlene Boernsen
          ▪ Certified Kitchen – Kurt Rueber
          ▪ Test for Mites & Treatments - Bob Wolff
1:00 PM   Session 1   1:45 Rotate
1:50 PM   Session 2   2:35 Rotate
2:40 PM   Session 3   3:25 Rotate
3:30 PM   Extraction demonstration by Gregg and Suzanne Lind
4:15 PM   Another successful field day comes to an end
          Thank you for coming!
ANOTHER REASON TO DO OSKALOOSA IN NOVEMBER:
Would you believe it if I told you not everyone attends the IHPA Annual Meeting and Convention for the notable speakers or the coming together of a great group of beekeepers? It’s true. Some come solely for the hot tub experience at the hotel. If you are surprised to read those words, imagine my surprise upon hearing them at the most recent board meeting. Upon further reflection, I fully understand.

Let’s say you’re part of a duo where one of you is interested in beekeeping and the other not so much but supports the other’s interest. You want to attend the Annual Meeting and Convention, the other raises his/her eyebrows and sighs. This is not a new phenomenon, you know. In order for the duo to come away from the weekend happy and content, there has to be a draw for both parties. Well, if you’re the other half who enjoys hydrotherapy, you are in luck. I am happy to report, a new hot tub has been installed at the EverSpring Inn & Suites as of this writing. Since the entire hotel will be booked with beekeepers, you’re likely to have the hot tub, and pool, all to yourselves. At the conclusion of the meeting, however, on the evaluation form, give me the skinny; I’ll want to know whether you enjoyed it.

If hydrotherapy is not your thing, Oskaloosa has an array of shops located on their downtown square to visit as does Pella just 16 miles northwest. Eight miles north of Oskaloosa, however, on the way to Pella via Hwy 163, I can recommend a stop at Tassel Ridge Winery. They often feature wine pairings with cheeses made by Frisian Farms, a cheese house just 2.6 miles up the road from them, or simply enjoy sampling their wines. They also offer bistro-style lunches on select Saturdays which I can personally recommend. As I mentioned, Frisian Farms is up the road and they allow you to view the cheese making process and enjoy a few samples; they are known for their delectable Gouda cheese. So before you head to Oskaloosa, check out their websites for hours and details. If you’ve come all this way, it’s worth your while to visit these businesses ... in between bouts hydrotherapy, of course.

Eve Vanden Broek,
IHPA Vice President

Where to Stay for Summer Field Day?

So you have decided to attend the Summer Field Day on Saturday, July 15. That’s excellent news and I couldn’t be happier. But, you’ve got a four- to five- hour early drive to Todenville and would rather stay the night in Cedar Rapids versus the long drive home. That’s understandable.

Where to stay? If you don’t have time to do a lot of research, let me help you with some hotel options.

Note, there are no blocks of rooms on hold for our event and the rates noted are only an estimate found at the time of my research (May 8). You are welcome to call the hotel directly to book or check for a lower fare at Priceline.com or Booking.com. All hotel options are within 8 to 10 miles of the Wickiup Hill Learning Center and are in Cedar Rapids.

There are several options for dining and shopping in the area.

1. Days Inn & Suites, 2215 Blairs Ferry Road NE – Tel: 319-378-3948 - $85
2. Comfort Inn & Suites, 2025 Werner Avenue NE – Tel: 319-378-8888 - $104
3. Holiday Inn Express, 1230 Collins Road NE – Tel: 319-294-9407 - $130
4. La Quinta Inn & Suites, 1220 Park Place NE – Tel: 319-378-8000 - $109
5. Homewood Suites by Hilton, 1140 Park Place NE – Tel: 319-378-1140 - $99
6. County Inn & Suites by Carlson, 4444 Czech Lane NE – Tel: 319-294-8700 - $84

For those of you who may want to camp, Squaw Creek Park is the closest campground but all sites appear to be booked except for the group sites. Pleasant Creek State Park is not much further up the road and does have 50 sites open for July 14 & 15. You can call for information at 319-436-7716, or you can access their reservation system at iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com.

Anyone interested in a more romantic setting? How about the Victorian Lace Bed and Breakfast located at 300 E. Main Street in Marion, a mere 9 miles from the Wickiup Hill. They have two rooms and an outdoor pool. Remember, it will be hot in July. Please call the bed and breakfast for availability at 888-377-5138.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA Vice President
Searchable Bee Law Website

by Julia McGuire

The IHPA was a fiscal agent for BeeLaws.org. The final report was submitted by Principal Investigator Julia McGuire in April 2017. Because of its length, a summary is provided here. For those who requested a final report, it will be uploaded to the state website late 2017. Behind the final product, a searchable bee law website, research and analysis gives some interesting findings. As laid out in the grant presentations given at the 2016 and 2017 Annual Meetings, there were a few things we were curious about: if a searchable bee law website would be a useful tool, where it is legal to keep bees, which new cities might successfully support a class, if the website positively would positively influence the number of beekeeping classes, students, apiaries, and honey producers. Taking those one by one:

Outcome 1. New knowledge. Proof of concept was positively confirmed by users.

Outcome 1.1 Know where bee-friendly city codes exist. Results were presented at the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meeting.

Outcome 1.2 Predict where a new class may be taught successfully. Results were presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Outcome 2. Increase in beekeeping classes. Not achieved. There was a decrease of 41 students from 2016 to 2017.

Outcome 3. Increase of honey producers. See table below.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties with at least one bee hive on the registry</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of bee keepers</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>+149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of bee yards</td>
<td>1,189</td>
<td>1,419</td>
<td>+230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of bee hives</td>
<td>10,568</td>
<td>11,419</td>
<td>+851</td>
</tr>
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Additionally, there are always lessons learned, including: A high demand for knowledge of city beekeeping policy exists.

Every city is unique in its operation and policy. Cities rely on different offices to handle bee laws. There is little consistency among the 97 cities included in BeeLaws.org. Cities want to know what other cities have for beekeeping policy. Being first is always difficult. Iowa remains the only state with a searchable bee law website.

The Principal Investigator thanks the many very supportive users -- beekeepers and city staff -- and the State Apiarist. Thank you also to Pat Ennis for the initial small IHPA grant for the research that preceded this one.

Two Beekeeping Field Days at Dordt College, Sioux Center

The first field day will be an all-day field day on Saturday, June 10 for beekeepers that will include morning activity of panels and in-house workshops, and the afternoon activity will include workshops at the beehives at the college farm. The program for the first field day will focus on topics related to summer activity such as swarm control, varroa control, queen introductions or more. Some familiar names who will be presenting at the field day are Andy Joseph from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Roy Kraft, president of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, and Pat Ennis, past president of the Iowa Honey Producers Association.

The second field day will be held on Saturday, July 29 and will follow a similar format to the first field day. The second field day will address late summer issues of honey extraction, winter hive preparation, varroa control going into the winter, fall feeding, and other topics associated with late summer and fall beekeeping activity.

Please contact Helen Zeutenhorst at 712-722-6354 or e-mail her at helen.Zeutenhorst@dordt.edu to obtain additional registration information. The deadline for registration for the first field day is June 5 and the second field day is July 15.
Here is an interesting article gleaned from the University of Texas site. If you care to read the whole article, it's located at https://news.utexas.edu/2017/03/14/overuse-of-antibiotics-brings-risks-for-bees-and-for-us?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term

AUSTIN, Texas — Researchers from The University of Texas at Austin have found that honeybees treated with a common antibiotic were half as likely to survive the week after treatment compared with a group of untreated bees, a finding that may have health implications for bees and people alike.

The scientists found the antibiotics cleared out beneficial gut bacteria in the bees, making way for a harmful pathogen, which also occurs in humans, to get a foothold. The research is the latest discovery to indicate overuse of antibiotics can sometimes make living things, including people, sicker.

The UT Austin team, led by professor Nancy Moran and postdoctoral researcher Kasie Raymann, found that after treatment with the common antibiotic tetracycline, the bees had dramatically fewer naturally occurring gut microbes — meaning healthy bacteria that can help to block pathogens, break down toxins, promote absorption of nutrients from food and more. They also found elevated levels of Serratia, a pathogenic bacterium that afflicts humans and other animals, in the bees treated with antibiotics, suggesting that the increased mortality might have been a result of losing the gut microbes that provide a natural defense against the dangerous bacteria.

TESTIMONIAL:

Last year at the Iowa Honey Producers Annual Meeting, I participated in the mentor auction and won a field day with Roy Kraft. My husband, my sister-in-law and I traveled to Goldfield, Iowa on a beautiful Saturday to spend some time with Roy and his bees.

Roy designed a day around what I wanted to learn. He patiently helped me practice queen-spotting and split-making. At the conclusion, everyone agreed that they enjoyed the camaraderie and learning.

I want to encourage experienced bee keepers, with all levels of experience, and newer bee keepers, to participate in the Iowa Honey Producers mentor auction at the next Annual Meeting. It supports a great cause, brings beekeepers together and spreads the joy of bee keeping.

Sincerely,
Becky Marshall

A FLASH FROM THE PAST

Arvin Foell sent a copy of an old email (1998):
For all you new beekeepers, this is how it used to be when Varroa was just becoming a problem. The real problem was AFB in those days. This is how we treated hives infected with AFB.

From: Bob Cox
To: 'Foell, Arvin'
Subject: Bee Inspections
Date: Wednesday, October 07, 1998 9:15 AM

Arvin, I wanted to drop off the inspection reports at your home yesterday, but ran out of time. The Cambridge beeyard has 3 colonies heavily infected with AFB and need to be destroyed. Whatever you did last year did not work. One of them is almost dead already. The AFB is not resistant to Terramycin, but you can't leave comb that is full of AFB scale in the hive and expect the antibiotic to take care of it.

The brood comb in the hives was just rotten with scale. You also had a varroa mite level that requires treatment on the colonies that are not diseased. In the Stanley yard 2 colonies were infected with AFB and must be destroyed because the combs are full of AFB scale. Additionally, 2 colonies are drone layers. The colonies also had a high varroa mite level (44 mites/300 bee ether roll test) and require treatment with Apistan strips. Please take care of these problems in a timely manner. If you have any questions, give me a call.

Bob

ANOTHER TESTIMONIAL:

Editor note here—We too “bought” Pat Ennis at the Annual Meeting. He came last Saturday, the 13th, and taught us splits in the morning. We found a hive that was about to swarm and made two boxes besides the original. In the afternoon, we painstakingly found day-old eggs in a frame and grafted them into cells and placed them into a box that is queenless. Let’s hope they “take” and the owner is left with some ankle-biter queens. Pat is a great teacher! He is patient, lets the newbees ask the questions, takes time teaching us basics (smoker-lighting techniques) and inserts some humor into the day as well. Everyone who attended (more than 30) reported learning a lot that day. And the weather was amazing also. Be sure to get ready to “buy” whoever decides to go to the auction block in Oskie. (It didn’t hurt that Pat showed a little leg during the auction either : -)

Ron Rynders
Recipes with Emma Jakes

Happy June! With summer right around the corner and the days continually getting warmer, homemade ice cream seemed like the perfect treat. This ice cream makes a delicious refreshment after a long day of work. And, with each unhealthy summer treat, we need a good balancer: salad dressing! This dressing, while healthier, is still a delicious addition to any salad.

Sea Salt and Honey Ice Cream: (Pg 177)

2 cups heavy whipping cream
1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk
1/3 cup honey and 1 tablespoon for topping
½ teaspoon sea salt
3 tablespoons lavender flowers, if desired.

Pour the whipping cream into the bowl of a stand-mixer affixed with the whisk attachment. Start out mixing on low-speed, then slowly increase speed to high and mix until the whipping cream forms soft peaks, about 2 minutes. Using a spatula, gently fold the sweetened condensed milk ¼ cup honey and ½ teaspoon sea slat and lavender into the whipped cream; continue stirring gently until completely combined. Pour into a completely air tight container drizzle the top with one tablespoon honey, seal. Freeze until solid, at least 6 hours. Drizzle individual serving with honey and a pinch of sea salt.

This recipe works well for people who don’t have an ice cream freezer because the cream is already whipped. Even if you over whipped the cream slightly the ice cream will still turn out very good. I didn’t use the lavender flowers, but look forward to trying it when they are in season. Some other yummy additions we thought about trying: chopped pecans, fruit of your choice, chocolate. The ice cream is very rich. Even if you love ice cream, you might want to start out with a small helping. Very creamy and similar to store bought texture.

Honey, Apple Cider Vinegar Salad Dressing with Pecans: 
Pg (185)

½ cup honey
¼ cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
¼ cup Apple Cider Vinegar
1 teaspoon mustard powder
½ teaspoon dried Rosemary (1 teaspoon fresh) 1 small onion, minced
Juice of one lemon
2 tablespoons pecans, finely chopped

Whisk together honey, vinegar, onion, lemon juice, mustard powder, and rosemary (1). Slowly add olive oil (2) while whisking to emulsify. Pour into jar with lid and refrigerate. Recipe makes about 1 cup salad dressing.

This salad dressing was very good. There were two minor alterations that I made to the recipe for clarity. (1) Pecans should be added at this point, or may be used as a salad garnish. (2) The original recipe called for coconut oil at this point but that was not included in the ingredient list, I used olive oil. I allowed the dressing to sit for several hours before use to allow the flavors to blend completely.

Editor Note: Please notice that we had space (p.12) for three clubs in this issue. I’m trying to raise awareness of clubs in the state, in hopes that eventually we can find ways to function more effectively. We are devoted to education, but also to mutual protection, advocacy, and the general increase in pollinator habitat in the state. There will be a spot in the schedule where club representatives can gather at the Annual Meeting in Oskaloosa. Be sure your club is represented! (More featured in July). Ron Rynders
We need your help at the 2017 Iowa State Fair booth!

I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair, however, Spring is here and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching—August 10-20. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building 2nd floor. We sell honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fund raising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs.

We ask our members to help make this event a success by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc. Each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a FREE pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2016 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone’s support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily: 9am-1:30pm, 1:30pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 10-20, we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear off slip below, or email the same details to bhlove5@aol.com, or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

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Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 18488 E Ave, Dawson, IA 50066. Cell: 515-729-1761

1st person:_______________________________________________________________________
2nd person:_______________________________________________________________________
3rd person:_______________________________________________________________________
Child’s name & ages:_______________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ________________ Zip __________
Phone no.: ______________________ Email address: _____________________________

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you. (Fair dates August 10-20.) We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date:_________ 9:00-1:30pm  1:30pm-6:00pm  6:00pm-9:00pm
Date:_________ 9:00-1:30pm  1:30pm-6:00pm  6:00pm-9:00pm
Date:_________ 9:00-1:30pm  1:30pm-6:00pm  6:00pm-9:00pm
Date:_________ 9:00-1:30pm  1:30pm-6:00pm  6:00pm-9:00pm
Date:_________ 9:00-1:30pm  1:30pm-6:00pm  6:00pm-9:00pm
Clubs Across the State

So many of us are members of clubs. What if our clubs were more connected and had more strength? Some clubs have age and experience; some clubs just got started and wonder how to run things. Clubs can bring in good speakers, they can make themselves known to the community (swarm removal, speeches, classroom appearances, etc). Eventually, as we together raise awareness of the plight of the honey bee, we can become advocates for a saner, safer world for bees. AND! We can have fun doing it. And make some good friends. What a deal.

I’ll feature a few clubs this month, here and on page 12. The rest can run in July. If you are reading this and your club is not listed on the back of the Buzz, please get me some sort of info and I’ll include you on the list.

In the fall in Oskaloosa, we’ll have time to gather those interested in talking about clubs. Be sure someone from your club is there to listen and talk.

Here’s my Northwest Iowa/South Dakota club:

Siouxland Beekeepers Club

Our club is an outgrowth of several initial beekeepers from this area, working with many interested students from beginning beekeeping classes offered by Dr. Duane Bajema in conjunction with Dordt College. The new beekeepers had an interest in continuing their association with those with more experience, as well as those others who were new to beekeeping. We have been having regularly scheduled meetings for almost two years now. Our last meeting, in Feb of this year, had 63 people in attendance, with members/attendees from south of Sioux City to west of Sioux Falls. We have had presentations varying from forage and pollinator plantings, to honey tasting, and several excellent presentations from some in the area that had been large honey producers in the past, but have since dialed back, and they explained some of the differences they see now versus the “golden years” with little to no pest problems and a ready supply of forage and less pesticide use. We are working towards a mentor system where each new beekeeper has at least one or two contacts of another in the club to help mentor and share thoughts, experiences, failures and successes. With the large area covered by our members, we have actually broken off to a southern group and a northern/western group for members in those locales to meet on their own occasionally, with some of the senior members attending as well, and then having whole group meetings for everyone at other times.

On the horizon for this year are some field days focusing on splits and queen rearing as well as just a general workday where the club gets together to assemble wooden ware purchased in bulk to speed up the assembly and make it a teambuilding (and less tedious) project. We are also developing a plan for trying to develop our own queens, raised and overwintered in our area to better promote hardy and mite resistant genetics. We plan to have booths at several of the local county fairs, and offer insight, advice and possibly honey products again. And we are developing a web and facebook presence to keep our members informed as well as offer links to our activities for others to access.

Steve Wanderscheid, steve.wanderscheid @ demco-products.com

Quad City Beekeepers

Our club services members from the Quad Cities so half our members live in Iowa and half in Illinois. We are two years old and meet at Nanha Marsh 4220 Wapello Ave, Davenport, Iowa. Our meetings are the last Wednesday of each month except December at 7:30 pm till 9:00 pm. We have a Facebook site called Quad City Bee Keeping Club. D. Dahlin qcbeeclub@yahoo.com

Southwest Iowa Beekeepers

The group is a small, but dedicated group of beekeepers which meet on the fourth Friday evening of January, March, June and September each year. The meetings are held in Atlantic, IA at Weitzel’s Steakhouse in their meeting room which has plenty of room to bring props to the meetings to illustrate the topics picked by the group. At least once a year, state apiarist, Andy Joseph, joins our group to give his report to the eager beekeepers. A couple field days are usually thrown in and the group is always available to help members with problems or successes. The group has been meeting in Southwest Iowa for at least 30 or 40 years as the charter members remember. The original group started meeting just once a year with the state apiarist reporting issues to the interested beekeepers. Several years ago the format was changed and quarterly meetings were held. The Southwest Iowa group has sponsored several local honey queens that have gone on to represent Iowa as the Iowa Honey Queen and then on to become American Honey Princesses or Queen. We are so proud to have had that honor. The group is always interested in beekeeping issues and is very active. Please join us. For information contact Mike or Donna Brahms at (712) 778-4256 or mbrahms@netins.net

Great River Bend Beekeepers

Great River Bend Beekeeper is located in Maquoketa Iowa. We have monthly meetings every third Thursday of the month with an average of ten to thirty members at each meeting. No membership dues, no experience required and all ages welcomed! Mike Overstake. skeezer@fbcom.net
30 pallets of beehives stolen from Madera County orchard found in Fresno County
By Robert Rodriguez

More than 30 pallets of stolen bee hives were recovered by Madera and Fresno county law enforcement officials Friday.

The hives were stolen from an orchard on Road 20 in Madera County in March and found in 6000 block of East Central last week. The hives are worth $35,000.

Madera County detectives arrested 51-year-old Pavel Tveretinov of Sacramento on suspicion of possession of stolen property. He was later booked into the Madera County Department of Corrections.

Bee Clubs Continued:
Boone River Bee Club
For the third year, Beginning Beekeeping 101 workshops were held at the Webster County Extension and Outreach office. Forty-five participants attended the four-session workshops. An advanced beekeeping workshop attracted an additional 13 attendees. These workshops helped attendees increase their knowledge of honey production and address the decline of honey bees over the last several years.

Additionally, in 2016, the Boone River Bee Club was formed in conjunction with these workshops to further promote the preservation of honey bee populations in Iowa. The club meets monthly at the ISU Extension and Outreach office in Webster County (Fort Dodge) and is open to the public. Meeting times are the third Saturday of the month, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, with a featured speaker at each meeting.

Submitted by Yvonne McCormick. (yvonne@iastate.edu)

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers
Vern and Doris Ramsey report that the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers meet in the Pizza Ranch in Mt. Pleasant. They have about 50 members present at most meetings. Andy Joseph spoke at one of their early spring meetings. They report about a 50% winter loss. Joy Westercamp is their honey queen. Joy and Vern taught classes in Keosauqua and Fairfield in the spring, and presented to 350 kids at the Ag Day in Eldon.

(Vdramsey@netins.net)

North Iowa Bee Club
Our club is going on 2 years old and is comprised of mostly hobby beekeepers with a couple of commercial and general public that do not keep bees but are interested in pollinators. The club is open to anyone. We meet October thru April @ 630 PM at Lime Creek Nature Center at Mason City, usually is held the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Once in a while, to accommodate our speaker, we change to the 2nd Thursday of the month which is happening in April this year. Speakers have been commercial beekeepers, club members, Andy Joseph, DNR and Farm Service Agency representatives, a school Lego league working on building a bee feeder and the Iowa Honey Queen, Carly Rae, last month. Topics vary from wintering bees, marketing honey, diseases, mite testing, how-to or how this person or that person may do something. We have no club membership dues, running on mostly member donations due to about our only expense of giving $50 to our speaker. Lime Creek Nature Center lets us hold the meetings at no charge being it is nature related. Donations come from contributing to snacks, refreshments, door prizes and $1 raffle of a surprise gift donated by members. We have 2 jars, names can be thrown into if people choose, regular door prize and/or $1 raffle. Door prizes range from a dozen eggs, canned goods, bee props/decor/equipment to homemade bird houses. Anything anyone wants to donate. The raffle prize is usually secret till the winner is picked, these prizes have ranged from a bees wax nativity set, nuc boxes to 50 lb bags of sugar and others. Our meetings usually last about an hour and a half, very little organizational items, speaker, discussion, questions/answer time (can be unrelated to speaker topic) and a social time. Attendance ranges from 40-60 per meeting. Some projects are club started this year is an over wintering survey and purchasing ankle biter queens. As a club we purchased 101 ankle biter queens saving our members a few dollars in shipping. We will see how our projects turn out as time goes on.

We welcome anyone to come and participate in our meetings, it is fun. We are not experts but are willing to learn from all.

North Iowa Bee Club
Randy Elsbernd (randlejd2210@gmail.com)
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

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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<td>For Sale: A 36”X36”X14” Flash Heater with four 240 volt 4500 watt heaters. Stand is included. $1800. Also extractor that holds 44 medium frames 24 deep frames. $2,000. Marion Striegel 641-660-8689, Oskaloosa</td>
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<td>For Sale: Twenty five (25) 6 5/8 extracting supers with new foundation. Contact Boyd Palmer, 319-437-3751,</td>
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| For Sale: 5-frame medium nucs with queen $125
For Sale: light amber honey 5 gal. buckets $2.40 per lb.
Jeremy Van Donselaar 641-670-7468
email mahaskahoney@gmail.com |
| For Sale: 5-frame medium nucs. Ready early June and again in July. Local Queens for July. Pick-up in Decorah, IA. Phone- 563-419-0877. Gerald Hunter gmhunter@neitel.net |
| Kelly Thoma of St. Donatus is getting out of beekeeping. She has two active hives, lots of additional boxes/frames, extractors, assorted equipment, and is wanting to sell all of it in order to attend to her son’s health. She will sell it all for $1500.00. Email kltho1@aol.com . Phone 563-451-7778. |
| For Sale: 5‐frame medium nucs. Ready early June and again in July. Local Queens for July. Pick-up in Decorah, IA. Phone- 563-419-0877. Gerald Hunter gmhunter@neitel.net |
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Iowa Beekeeping Clubs

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club
Contact: Jim & Tina Marshall
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marshallj@wildblue.net

Boone River Beekeeping Club
Contact: Roy Kraft
PO Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542
Phone: 515.293.2458
kroyster.rk@gmail.com

Central Iowa Beekeepers Assoc.
Contact: Mike Sander, President
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Altoona, IA 50009
(515) 957-8730
masander3@gmail.com

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
Contact: Julia McGuire
desmoinesbackyardbeekeepers.org

East Central Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Dave Konver
2254 S. Riverside Dr.
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(319) 351-6205

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa
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Luverne, MN 56156
nbbleeperesearch@gmail.com

Red Rock Beekeepers
Contact: Jerry & Sheila Weldon
(641) 891-4071 or 891-2268
210 N. Iowa St, Knoxville IA
windstream.net

Southwest Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
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Griswold, IA 51535
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American Honey Producers Association:
www.ahpanet.com

American Beekeeping Federation:
www.ABFnet.org

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IDALS website: www.agriculture.state.ia.us

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www.honey.com

American Honey Producers Association:
www.ahpanet.com

American Beekeeping Federation:
www.ABFnet.org

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