The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. The deadline for submissions is the 15th 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. IHPA Membership is only $10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Dates To Bee Remembered

September 19, 2010 Board Meeting 2 pm Heartland Inn, Des Moines
November 4, 2010 Board Meeting 7 pm Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA
November 5th & 6th Annual Meeting  Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown

For Sale: Pine Hive Components. 9 5/8” Boxes $16, 6 5/8” Boxes $14, reversible screened bottom boards $14 (solid bottom boards $13), telescoping cover $16. Painted, handholds, and bee space compatible with commercial woodenware. Glued with Titebond II and screwed, simple butt joints. Contact: Josh Sommers (641) 658-2213

For Sale: Stainless steel Kelley Grocer’s tank (15 gal.) with out honey gate. $80. Contact: Galen Eiben (319) 885-6264

For Sale: Honeybees in one-story hives with ten frames of good comb, reversible screened bottom board and a cover. $125. Contact Josh Sommers 641-658-2213

FOR SALE: 4 Frame Nucs for summer expansion--available late June to early July. Call for pricing, Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

FOR SALE: new crop honey $1.75 lb. in five gal. bucket plus new bucket exchange. Don't let your customers run out of honey, or they will get it from someone else. Curt Bronnenberg (515) 465-5939 www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

FOR SALE: Queen excluders--$2; feeder buckets--$1

Contact Dick Blake at 712-246-3412

FOR SALE: Good Used Bee Equipment
#8 Hive Bodies with 10 frames
#5 Illinois Supers with 10 frames
#6 Galvanized Top Covers
#6 Inner Covers (wood)
#2 Shallow comb supers
#5 Bee Excluders (maze)
#5 Queen Excluders (screen)
#1 Kelly Stainless Steel 2 frame extractor with motor & stand (like new)
#1 Colony of bees in 2 story hive with 2 Illinois Supers
Miscellaneous supplies and equipment for beginner $600 for everything

Robert Nolan 563-355-2163 Davenport

FOR SALE: Better Way Wax Melter that was made in Altoona IA. It is 27” wide, 46” long 24” high and has a 9” stand. $200.00

Curtis Barnhart
Phone 319 480-4209 Monticello IA

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BANANA-HONEY MUFFINS
Printed from COOKS.COM

1 1/2 c. bran cereal
3/4 c. milk
1 c. mashed banana
1/3 c. honey
1/2 c. butter, melted
1 egg, slightly beaten
1 1/4 c. all purpose flour
1 tbsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Heat oven to 400 degrees. In a large bowl stir together bran cereal and milk. Let stand 5 minutes. Stir in banana, honey, butter and egg. Stir in flour, baking powder and salt just until dry ingredients are moistened, 10 to 12 strokes. Spoon into greased or paper lined 12 cup muffin pans 2/3 full. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

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Dear Honey Producers,

August…..Iowa State Fair, schools start, vacations, beekeeping, garden, orchard and yard work…… the list can go on and on. It seems to me that it just finally warmed up and the snow melted. What happened, did I miss most of the spring and summer seasons?

White sweet clover is blooming in our area and the white Dutch clover is still blooming. Too bad it keeps raining all of the nectar off the plants with all of the rain. Our bees are doing really well with the bad start that they had. August is typically the time some honey is pulled also. Please make sure that you check your bees when you pull the honey for mites and if the counts call for it, treat for mites. Let’s see if we can have extremely healthy bees going into winter this year. Please check to make sure that your bees are registered so there are few problems with all of the spraying that typically takes place in August.

July was busy also. Melanie, Amber and I attended the July 19th meeting of the ACF-Iowa Chapter in Polk City to promote the use of honey by chefs and other food service professionals. More details about it next month because of deadlines.

The field day was declared a success. The only complaint that I heard was the hot weather. There was great beekeeping information and interaction between attendees, great food and lots of cold drinks to keep everyone hydrated. Thanks to Phil Ebert and his boys for a wonderful field day at their home and for allowing us to see their beekeeping operation. Thanks also to all of the speakers. One of the down sides to the day was not enough board members for a quorum so that there could be a board meeting.

Jumping ahead to September remember to include some promotions at farmers markets, town celebrations, put articles in newspapers and on the radios that September is National Honey Month. The designation of National Honey Month is another way to bring attention to beekeeping and to give information to the public about honey bees and honey. Even if you just hand out a couple honey recipes, maybe someone will try them and will make sure that they have honey to use all the time. If you need help getting recipes, let me know. It is also a great time to schedule some school visits. The teachers and the kids love it when I come to talk to them. The questions that they ask are really great and it shows that they are listening to what is being told to them.

Thanks to everyone for volunteering to help at the state fair. It takes everyone to volunteer to get this project done and to earn the operating money for the year. As of this deadline there are open dates, but it is filling up nicely. Another disappointment is not any entries for the art design contest to help us celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the IHPA. I guess the deadline isn’t for a couple of weeks.

Don’t miss the article about the youth beekeeping scholarship program. The applications are due by Sept. 15th. If you know of someone that is interested, please direct them to the IHPA website to get an application. The same goes for deserving people to get the IHPA beekeeping awards. Send the nominations in to Louise or Matt.

Bee friendly with all of the new people that you meet in August. Bee careful on vacation. Enjoy your families and don’t work too hard.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

Youth Scholarship Applications are available now. If you know of a youth who would like to become a beekeeper, please have them get an application from our website, ABuzzAboutBees.com or by contacting the Youth Scholarship Chairman, Mike Brahms at (712) 778-4255.

The requirements are:
- Be a youth between the ages of 13 and 17.
- Be from a non beekeeping family.
- Send in the completed application by September 15th to:
  Mike Brahms
  14922 535th Street
  Griswold, IA  51535

We had several of our current and past youth beekeepers and their families work the sales booth at the Iowa State Fair. All of the current youth scholarship winners are doing great and the mentors are reporting that they are becoming quite proficient in beekeeping.
Iowa Honey Queen-August

Where has the time gone? My summer is more than half way over by now, my birthday has come and gone, fair is coming and school is getting ready to start back up again. I suppose when you are the honey queen, have a part time job, and show at county/state fair; time will fly.

Speaking of fair, I sure hope many of you find time to help the IHPA out and volunteer at the state fair booth. It’s not only a good time, but you learn a lot about beekeeping, people, and so many other things. My favorite thing about working the booth is meeting new people; whether they are beekeepers or just a honey/honey bee enthusiast. I sure love to hear the little kids squeal out when they find the queen on the observation hives and hear what they have to say about bees. Also look for me in the state fair parade! I have a float entered and I am hoping it helps boost sells and honeybee awareness!

In June I added a 2nd hive body to my hive which the bees filled up fast, so I added a super about 2 weeks later and that was full so I added another super the first week of July. I also went 50/50 with a friend and bought a nuc from Phil Ebert the last week of June. They are doing well and have a super on already. I cannot wait to see if I get some honey this year. I want to say thank you to the association and Lee Heine for helping me get started in beekeeping again! The IHPA and its members have really impacted my life in ways I could never have imagined and I am truly touched to know that so many people want to see me and other youth succeed. Thank you!

I will keep this article short and sweet, I know we are all busy with bee chores and back to school prep. Keep me in mind when planning a honey event or farmer’s market.

Amber Connett
aconnett@iastate.edu
515-460-9199

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IHPA Award Nominations

It is time to think of deserving beekeepers and friends of the association that should receive one of the Awards that the IHPA presents at the Annual Meeting banquet. Please review the categories and submit your suggestions along with a short letter explaining why you feel that this candidate should receive an award. The categories that we usually present are as follows:

1. **Pioneer Award** - for having been involved for 50 years or more and still active in beekeeping.

2. **Distinguished Service Award** - for assisting other beekeepers, willing to share information, and/or serving the association.

3. **Education Award** - teaching beekeeping classes, speaking at service clubs, giving presentations to school children or speaking about beekeeping on radio or T.V.

4. **Promotions Award** - for promoting honey and beekeeping, promotions for the state association or promoting their own product.

5. **Friendship Award** - for being a friend of the association. This could be someone who has displayed at the annual IHPA trade show, a state official who has assisted or encouraged beekeeping, someone outside our industry of producing honey.

6. **Youth Award** - for a young person who has shown commendable involvement in such things as helping the the state fair, successfully keeping bees for at least one season including wintering, writing, making a float for a parade, speaking, etc.

If you would like to nominate someone, please send the information to us by the deadline of **September 30th**.

Louise Johnson
34147 310th Street
Guttenberg, IA  52052
(563) 252-2340
louisej@alpinecom.net

Matthew Stewart
2956 170th Street
South Amana, IA 52234
(319) 662-4145
Propolis Removal

Good news! I successfully removed all traces of the propolis from my jeans. First, I tried Goo Gone but that did absolutely nothing.

Then I remembered I have a product called Charlie’s Soap http://www.charliessoap.com. I first made a paste of the laundry powder and rubbed that into the propolis and let it sit awhile. I scraped that off and then sprayed the All-Purpose Cleaner on it and put it in the washing machine with a couple tablespoons of the laundry powder and put it on pre-soak for a half hour or so. Then I put it through the regular cycle. The jeans were completely clean.

I also used Charlie’s All-Purpose Cleaner right on the end-gate of the pickup to get the propolis off so there was no longer any risk of getting more on our clothes. It was amazing to see it dissolve the propolis.

The bottle of the All-Purpose Cleaner says: “Cleans Everything From False Teeth to Diesel Engines. Removes grease, grass, blood, red clay, mildew stains, mustard, tar, catsup, pine sap, and poop.” I figured if it could remove pine sap it might be able to remove the propolis.

Anyway, I thought I would let you know about this great product. Maybe other beekeepers would be interested in it too.

Thanks!

DeAnn Cline

Honeybees smarter in the morning, study finds

CTV.ca News Staff

The early bee catches the best flower and is smarter for it, new research says. The study, led by Professor Giovanni Galizia from the University of Konstanz in Germany, found that bees are best at learning new odours in the morning.

That has allowed them to adapt to which flower is the best source of nectar, Galizia told CTV News Channel Sunday morning.

"One thing that we know about bees is that they are very good learners. They collect nectar from flowers and in order to be efficient they learn which flower has the best nectar. And what we know about bees is that they also learn not only which flower is the best flower, but also at what time of day would which flower have what nectar," he said.

Flowers accumulate most of their nectar in the morning, so it is advantageous to bees to learn new odours during that period.

"What we think is that the bees have adapted to the flowers, and probably the flowers have adapted to the bees in the sense that the flower that would give nectar earlier in the morning would capture the first bees and the bees that would learn better in the morning would capture the best nectar," Galizia said. "And so the two together have evolved to go early into the morning time."

This "co-evolving" is described in the study, which was published in the journal Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology.

"It might be evolutionarily advantageous to be the 'early bee' and to 'catch' the flower in order to out-compete possible competitors such as butterflies, flies and (bees from) other hives," the researchers wrote.

In the study, 1,000 bees were tested by training them to identify different odours at different times of day. The study found bees were much better at identifying what each odour meant in the morning.

Learning is very energy-intensive for bees' brains, so researchers suggest being "less clever" later in the day helps them conserve energy.

Artificial Bee Eye

(Ivanhoe Newswire) -- They're less than an inch long, but bees may change the way mobile robots and small flying vehicles are built. In a new study, scientists recreated a lightweight imaging system that mimics a honeybee's field of view.

According to the article, bees have remarkable navigation capabilities based on their vision. Investigators from Germany built the artificial bee eye, which consists of a lightweight mirror-lens combination attached to a USB video camera. The "eye" has allowed researchers to take unique images showing the world from an insect's point of view.

In the future, scientists hope to include UV to fully reflect a bee's color vision and to incorporate models of the neural processing stages.

"Despite the discussed limitations of our model of the spatial resolution of the honeybee's compound eyes, we are confident that it is useful for many purposes [such as] for the simulation of bee-like agents in virtual environments and, in combination with presented imaging system, for testing bee-inspired visual navigation strategies on mobile robots."

SOURCE: Bioinspiration & Biomimetics, August 6, 2010
Beekeeper’s Record
& Journal

The following was reprinted with
the permission of the estate of Rich-
ard Taylor. The material is from the
book, “Beekeeper’s Record & Jour-
nal”, text by Richard Taylor, and
designed and illustrated by Cynthia
Diamond. This book (among other
items) was graciously donated to the
youth scholarships’ during the 2009
IHPA annual meeting in October at
the Best Western Regency Inn in
Marshalltown. After the meeting,
this book was not taken and is now
the property of the Iowa Honey Pro-
ducers Association, Historian. I
have enjoyed reading it, and thought
the membership would also. As
stated by Kim Flottum, Editor of the
Bee Culture; “We have a Gem”.

Peggy Ennis, IHPA Historian

AUGUST

This month marks the transition to what
is, for the beekeeper, an entirely new
season—the season of the fall flow.
Still, everything from now on will be
anticlimactic. Maybe there will be a
flow from buckwheat, maybe not; you
cannot tell just by looking for buck-
wheat fields. The goldenrod is more
promising. There are over a hundred
different kinds of goldenrod on this
continent, but most of them are in the
northeast, and many of them are of little
use to the bees. Still, where the gold-
rod is honey plants at all, they are
usually among the most reliable sources
of nectar, provided they are not killed
off by early frost. You begin to see
them in August, and they are the annual
reminder that summer is nearly gone.
There are other reminders. All convey
the same feelings, which only poets
could do justice to. The cicadas, so
quiet until now, rip the silence of the
August afternoon with their prolonged
buzzing, rizing from nothing then sub-
siding to stillness again, only to be re-
peated in a few minutes. The katydids
of the evening now disturb the night air,
talking back and forth in such unison
that you cease to hear the sometimes
considerable racket, unless you listen
for it. Here and there an alfalfa field
blooms. The farmer should have cut it,
but other things demanded attention, to
the joy of the beekeeper. If the days are
hot enough, and moisture is in the soil,
the bees can get a lot of honey from
that neglected alfalfa.

For the most part, however, the bees
have little to do in August, and unless
they find a field of buckwheat or al-
falfa, they are likely to while away the
hours with only desultory flight. Ap-
parently with nothing better to do, they
sit out in front of their hives and per-
form together the mysterious
“wasserwoman” motion, each bee ap-
pearing to be scrubbing an invisible
garment against an invisible
washboard. Not one has yet discovered
the significance of this strange behav-
ior. But the beekeeper can get one
clear meaning from it—the bees are not
getting much honey. Now is a good
time to harvest honey, provided you
can do it with the minimum of notice
from the bees, in other words, with bee
escapes. The honey in the hives is well
ripened, even if there are combs that are
not capped over, for the honey flows
have ceased. But it is not a good time
to harvest with a bee blower, for those
malingering bees can spring to life very
quickly in the presence of exposed
honey during an August dearth of nect-	ar in the fields, and can make known
with their stings their determination to
get it.

Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor was born 1919 and
passed away October 30, 2003 in New
York. He earned his PhD at Brown
University and taught principally at
Brown University, Columbia, and Uni-
versity of Rochester. He was an
American Philosopher, renowned for
his dry wit and his contributions to
Metaphysics. Although it is well known
he was a philosopher – he was far better
known as a beekeeper. It is often said –
“I have never met a beekeeper who has
not heard of Richard Taylor”. He
owned 300 hives and from 1970 pro-
duced mostly comb honey. His signifi-
cant contributions to beekeeping are -
authoring many books on beekeeping
among these are the two; “The comb
Honey Book” and “The Joys of Bee-
keeping”, and regularly writing articles
for bee journals. His near legendary
honey stand at the roadside in front of
his country home operated on the honor
system, secured only by gentle solicita-
tions to honesty posted on its walls.

To “bee” continued next month

THE BEEYARD REPORT

The Field Day was successful but we
didn’t get quite the turnout I had hoped
for. We had about 50. It was a lot of
work to get ready for the event. It did
force me to do some things I needed to
do. One of those was to clean up the
branches and twigs that had fallen off
the trees. I had only mowed my yard a
couple of times buts it was real incon-
vient mowing around the fallen
branches. I thought the food was great.
There was chicken and biscuits from
the local restaurant. The attendees
brought some good looking (and good
tasting) fruit salads, potato salads and
nice desserts. Donna sent honey lemon-
ade. I made some baked beans. I left
them in the oven to keep warm. They
got a little dried out but were still eat-
able. I passed on dessert thinking I
would go back later but I spent too
much time visiting. We had to start the
program back up before I got dessert.
There were about 20 that went back to
the queen yard at the end of the after-
noon. I was surprised how long they
stayed there. I think the last people left after almost an hour in the yard.

We started extracting after the Field Day. We have been pecking away at it. We have 22 barrels done as of this writing. All of our comb honey boxes are going to get filled up this year. Many of them went on as third and fourth boxes. We used to always put them out on top of a honey box. That keeps the bees from moving wax off the brood combs and darkening the comb in the supers. Then we found that if we did this in a 60# year, we weren't going to get much comb honey. After that we started putting the cut comb boxes right on top of the brood boxes of two story colonies with no queen excluders. That's how we manage to get comb honey in a poor year.

We had 3" of rain sandwiched around the Field Day. We had a dry week after that. The bees were able to store. Then we got another 4". That stopped the nectar flow. It started picking up again around July 12. In the interlude between flows, Alex made more clip pallets and assembled frames. We have put together 1100 deep frames this year. We still have 100 migratory lids to assemble.

My life became a lot less congested after I put Adam's phone number on my answering machine. The calls for queens were unending. I didn't always know what he had. The best thing was to let him handle it. He said the thing he likes least is having to tell people he can't help them. He is thinking of expanded his mating yard next year to 200 or 300 nucs. He has a life outside of beekeeping. We have to see how it all fits together in the end.

We have a couple of baby skunks hanging around the place. There tends to be a slight essence of skunk on the air. I have never seen them but other people have. Alex has some pictures of them.

The local paper did an article on us. I thought it was quite good. The lady who did the interview even offered to let us put bees on her place. Crop reports are spotty. Roger Bailey told me North Dakota was good in spots. South Dakota west of the river has had trouble with weevils and grasshoppers. Southern Missouri has a very short crop. Somewhere, I heard Wisconsin was good. I can't remember who told me that. It wasn't anybody from Wisconsin. There is still time but the peak of the bloom is past.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

The wasp attacks began shortly after the fireworks show started at 9:15 p.m. About 5,000 people were in the grandstands, and 15 minutes later sting victims started showing up in the first aid area, Knowles said.

"Apparently there were a number of (yellow jackets) also in attendance for the fireworks display last night," Knowles said Saturday.

She said emergency personnel at the fair set up a triage area to care for those who were stung. Everyone was treated on site and there were no hospitalizations, Knowles said.

By midnight Friday, an exterminator located and removed a ground nest, Mitchell said. The yellow jackets were probably disturbed by the vibrations as the fireworks were launched, not the explosions overhead, she said.

The fair attracted attention Thursday after a chain on the Wacky Worm, a kiddie roller coaster ride, broke, injuring five children and two adults. One child and one adult were taken to Valley Care Hospital in Pleasanton for further observation. The others were treated at the fairgrounds.

The ride was repaired and reopened Friday afternoon.

E-mail the writers at eallday@sfbchronicle.com and wkane@sfbchronicle.com.

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Renewals, Address Changes, Mail Returns

There are still a number of members who have not sent in their renewals for 2010. Your renewal date is above your name on the Buzz. We would appreciate your attention to renewing your membership as your dues pay only 66% of the cost for the editing, printing and mailing of your Buzz each year.

A couple of other items that need to be mentioned are address changes and mail returns. We are charged by the Post Office for all returned issues of the Buzz because of an address change or because a member is “temporarily away”. If an issue is returned because of an address change, an effort is made to re-send it to the new address which means additional postage has to be paid to re-send it. This also means your issue will be delayed in getting to you.

If an issue is returned because the member is “temporarily away”, please notify me when you leave and again when you return. I will hold your issues until your return and send them in one package.

Thank you for your renewal and for providing updated information so that your Buzz can be delivered in a timely manner.

Melanie Bower
Treasurer/Membership

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Garion Consier is our featured beekeeper of the month and is another of the Iowa Honey Producers’ Youth Scholarship participants. Richard and Rebecca are his parents. Garion says he has three sisters, two dogs, and one cat. His family lives at Churdan, Iowa.

Garion attends Paton-Churdan school where he is in the 7th grade. Activities he enjoys are band, vocal, track, cross-country, piano, and basketball. He is also in the Cedar-Highland 4-H club. He enjoys going to the county fair and is taking ducks as his project. For hobbies he likes taking pictures, working with electronics and playing with his electric train.

After graduating high-school Garion plans to go to Iowa State University and study computers.

Garion’s grandmother suggested he try beekeeping and Craig Bradke is mentoring him. He says he has become more comfortable being around the bees and feels the smoke is very important because the bees managed to sting him a couple of times while he was putting sugar water on the hive. Garion took his beekeeping class at Spenser, Iowa.

When asked about interesting beekeeping experiences, he said Easter Sunday he was searching for eggs and heard a buzzing sound. Then his dad told him to look up and he discovered the bees moving from one bud to another. Something you don’t always thing about until you become a beekeeper. This year Garion is hoping to start a nuc from his hive and thus increase his numbers to two.

Good luck with your project and we hope your bees produce lots of honey.

Submitted by Ron Wher

Garion Consier with his hive of honeybees. He hopes to add another hive to his count.
Your ONE and ONLY “in hive” Small Hive Beetle Treatment!

Lowest Price Ever!

CheckMite+™
DC-800  CheckMite+™ 100 pack........$150.00
DC-810  CheckMite+™ 10 pack........$  19.95

Small Hive Beetle Treatment
- Use a ground drench in addition to CheckMite+™
- Use 1 strip cut in 1/2 then attached to a 5” x 5” corrugated square. Place square strip side down on bottom board.
- Remove strips after 42-45 days

Non-Medicated 5” x 5” Plastic Squares
For use in application with CheckMite+™ in treating Small Hive Beetles.
DC-815  Black Squares 1 - 499........$.35
        500+........$.29

GardStar®
It is important to use GardStar® as a ground drench when treating for the small hive beetle!
DC-825  GardStar® 4 oz. bottle.........$ 26.95
DC-830  GardStar® quart bottle.........$114.95

SHB Life Cycle
Eggs → Larvae → Pupae → Adult

Avoiding SHB Infestations
- Keep strong healthy hives by treating for disease and mites when appropriate.
- Feed syrup and pollen substitute to keep your hives strong when natural sources are not available.
- Use CheckMite+™ and GardStar® at the first sign of infestation.

TIP: To attract the beetles, spread a small amount of Bee-Pro® patty down the center of the square then attach the strip on either side of the patty

Varroa Treatment
- Treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest
- Treat all infested colonies within the yard
- Use 1 strip for every 5 frames of bees
- Remove strips after 42-45 days

Mann Lake Ltd.
Hackensack, MN - Woodland, CA
Order anytime at www.mannlake ltd.com
or call 800-880-7694

Prices are subject to change without notice and do not include shipping charges.
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**American Beekeeping Federation website**  
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