Central Iowa Beekeepers Annual Auction Pg.4
March “Beekeeper’s Record & Journal”, Richard Taylor Pg.6
Beekeeper of the Month Trevor Turner Pg.7
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

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THANK YOU AND BEE HAPPY PAT

**FOR SALE:** Taking orders for 3 LB. packages of Italian bees and Queens from Olivarez Honey Bees Inc. to be picked up in the middle of April. Prices will be available late Jan. Call Curt Bronnenberg (515)465-5939 or Pat Ennis (515)293-2601

**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 or www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

**FOR SALE:** Package Bees-2#, 3# and 4# pkgs. with Italian or Carniolan queens from CF Koehnen in California. 4# pkgs. Come with 2 queens. Arriving early to mid April. Contact Phil Ebert at ehoney37@netins.net or phone 641-527-2639

**FOR SALE:** Carniolan queens from Koehnens. Available in mid April. The price will be close to last year. Queens from our own production won't be available until sometime in June.

Contact Phil Ebert at ehoney37@netins.net or phone 641-527-2639

**FOR SALE:** Package bees. 2# pkgs with Italian or Carniolan queens. Available for pickup at Drakeville in SE Iowa in mid April. Contact Charles Newton at 641-799-9266

**For Sale:** 9 5/8” and 6 5/8” hive boxes made out of cedar lumber. Simple butt joints glued with Tite-Bond II glue and screwed. $12 and $9 assembled. Also available in full one inch wood for cheaper. $9 and $7. Call Josh Sommers 641-658-2213

**Beekeeping Classes**

Enrollment in the beekeeping classes is way up this year. The Ankeny class has over 40. Indianola and Knoxville have around 25 each. Osky has 12 and Marshalltown has 18. Pat Randol has 15 registered for the Winterset class. Other family members may attend also. Washington and Spencer are yet to come.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

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Dates To Bee Remembered

April 17, 2010 CIBA Annual Beekeeping Equipment auction at Spring Valley Honey Farm, Perry, IA.

March 21, 2010 Board Meeting 2 pm Des Moines at the Heartland Inn, 11414 Forest Ave.

June 26, 2010 Field Day at Ebert Honey Lynnville, IA

August 12-22, 2010 Iowa State Fair

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
Dear Honey Producers,

The weather seems like a broken record, snow, snow, snow! Here in southwest Iowa anyway. There was no surprise when on February 2nd the infamous groundhog announced that there would be another six weeks of winter. It will take that long just to get most of the snow melted. Spring isn’t until March 21st anyway. Let’s just hope that March will come in like a lamb and go out like a lamb. We could use some nice weather.

Mike and I had anticipated that our trip to Florida would have weather that we have always encountered there. No, we just had a continuation of “crappy” weather in Florida at the ABF convention. At least 32 degrees was warmer than Iowa, but a long way from the 60’s and 70’s that we had wanted to experience. It was nice to get away from as much snow. The snow did follow us all the way to Atlanta, but the roads were fine to drive on. Anyway that is what Mike reported to me. I must have slept more than I realized! He got even with me on the return trip. I had to drive through Atlanta, St. Louis and Kansas City.

I am not thinking that the spring survival rate of colonies is going to be good. The amount of continuous days of cold, snowy weather has not been good for cleansing flights. As Glen Stanley mentioned in his article last month an upper entrance is a must this year. There is just too much snow piled around the hives for the honey bees to be able to fly out of the lower entrance. If we do have some nice warm days, make sure you get out to check your hives and to start feeding as soon as possible. I am quite certain that if the colony is alive, it will need to have some supplemental honey to make it through the rest of the season. Let’s keep good thoughts circulating.

Don’t forget to get your hives registered. If you need help, contact Iowa State Apiarist, Andy Joseph. To keep honey bees and hives safe from commercial spraying, we need to have them registered. It is really easy to do. It is the only recourse a beekeeper has to recoup any losses.

Keeping adulterated honey from being sold on Iowa store shelves is a project of the IHPCA board for this year. Several states have passed legislation to set a honey standard. Iowa is exploring the project and pushing for similar action here. We have the paperwork from Florida which was the first state to pass a honey standard. The goal is to get the standard in all fifty states of the United States. When that is accomplished the FDA will need to progress to provide the language of a honey standard for their standard in the United States. We will keep you posted on the progress.

I know we have been talking about winter survival rates of hives, passing legislation to protect the integrity of honey, registering hives, etc. but it is also the perfect time to plan taking time off from your employment to help our organization at the Iowa State Fair. The Iowa State Fair will be held from August 12th through the 22nd. Please consider helping. Our organization, the IHPCA, needs over 25 people each day to fill all the time slots and to effectively cover all of the shifts. It is also time to plan all of the special exhibits for the Apiary department competition. Mark your calendars for August 12-22, 2010 for the Iowa State Fair.

On a personal note, our youngest son, Mitchell just got back from Iraq Monday, February 8th. His company flew into Fort Sill, OK. Our daughter-in-law, Abbie, drove down from Wisconsin to meet him. Our eldest son, Shawn and his family are stationed at Fort Sill. Shawn and Abbie met Mitch when he arrived. We were playing with grandson, Zane, at our home while Mitch out processed. Mitch was completing his third deployment to Iraq. He is in the Army Reserve now, before he was active Army. Middle son, Steve, is trying to get apple trees pruned, but the wonderful snow is complicating the process. With 1300 trees to prune, he needs to get busy now. Grandchildren, JoAnn and Jack are missing lots of school and preschool this year.

Think Spring! Warmer weather, at least in the 30’s or 40’s would be great. We have lots of garden seeds ordered and would love to get them in the ground on time. Hope we can get packages installed on time also. Think Spring!

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPCA President

IHPA Membership and The Buzz

Please check your issue of The Buzz for your membership expiration date. Dues for 2010 are now past due. It is still $10 for the primary member and $5 for each additional family member at the same address. Please send it to: IHPCA, Melanie Bower, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, Iowa 50315-5227.

Melanie Bower
Treasurer

The Iowa State Horticultural Society announces the Upcoming All Iowa Horticulture Exposition II

March 19-20 2010 at the Bridge View Center in Ottumwa, Iowa

Friday, March 19 11:00am to 4:00pm Saturday, March 20 9:00am to 2:00pm

Keynote Speakers:
Internationally known plantsman Dan Heims
Famed garden designer and author Stephanie Cohen

Join us for the second annual All-Iowa Horticulture Exposition, supported by over 20 Iowa horticulture associations and organizations. The Expo offers diverse, multi-dimensional activities, geared to the novice gardener, as well as the professional.
THE BEEYARD REPORT

It has been the winter of snow removal. My driveway is like a canyon between the piles of snow. The pile of road apples in the lean-to where the horses stand is becoming a prominent hill. The pile is frozen solid so it will be there well into spring. The squirrel that nests in the tree in my front yard has discovered how to get food out of the bird feeder. It's interesting to watch. There is also a flicker that visits the feeder. The holes aren't in the right spot for it. It's too big a bird so it leans way back and braces its tail against the bottom of the feeder so it can get something out of the holes.

I have one single box of bees inside my shed. They were left over at the end of the year so I just set them inside the warehouse. There isn't any heat in there but it's out of the wind. I checked them on Feb 3. They looked good but they have a long way to go yet. There really isn't any point in trying to check the others now. They are either dead or alive.

There isn't anything we can do. I'll try to check a few yards at the end of the month to get some idea on our death loss. My rule of thumb is that whatever the death loss at the end of February is, it will be double by the end of March. So, most of them better be alive or we are going to have a big loss. It seems to go by yards. They will either be mostly dead or mostly alive. There doesn't seem to be much middle ground.

Dec 1 was a flying day for us. The bees have been confined since then. We had one sunny day in January with a temp around forty when the clusters loosened a little but we had no flight. I have heard from others who did. Were the bees coming out to die? It is common for them to come out at low temps when they are stressed. They don't come back to the hive, though.

Monday is the day I run my delivery route. It has been a snow day for the last three weeks. The first Monday it snowed was the blizzard. It wasn't too

CENTRAL IOWA BEEKEEPER’S ANNUAL AUCTION

The central Iowa Beekeeper’s auction is being held on April 17th, 2010 in Perry, Iowa.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have graciously offered the use of their “in town honey house”. There will be a food booth and restrooms available. We are looking for consigners and buyers!!

If you are like us, we have accumulated a variety of bee stuff over the years, and some of it we have never used, so now is the perfect time to clean, sort, repair, and make a few bucks to buy more bee stuff!!

In the past we have had a hard time getting consigners, and we would like to keep this auction going, so we need those consignments!

Cleaning the “bee shed” we personally have some 8 frame equipment, smokers, wooden frames, spur embedders, wood bound queen excluders, foundation installing device, frame grips, feeders, migratory covers, screen bottom boards, and the list is growing.

Take a look around and please email me your list of items to consign. If you would like to have a list of items consigned, please send me your email and I will email the list to you in late March.

10% if consigned before the date of March 20th, and 15% thereafter. All drawn comb will be inspected. There will be signs posted on Highway 141.

Pat Ennis
515-293-2601
Flat_lander@lycos.com
HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!
bad driving around Des Moines. I knew it was supposed to be bad going to Ames but I thought, “How bad can it really be?” It turned out to be really, really bad. That was the longest 20 miles I have driven in my life. I pulled into the first motel I came to. It turned out that Pat and Peggy Ennis were stranded at the same motel. They had just returned from working bees in California. We had a nice visit.

The following week I sent Alex out on the route. The forecast was for flurries or something like that. The weatherman must have forgotten to look out the window. Alex felt fortunate to make it home with everything still in one piece. The 3rd Monday was forecast to be bad late in the day so we split the route up. Alex went south with the 4-wheel drive pickup. I went to Des Moines with the old beater. I started home about 3:30. Once I got past Altoona, I-80 got really nasty. It was down to 25 MPH by the time I got to Colfax. I didn't feel safe even at that slow speed. I am one of the few individuals that owns a set of tire chains. I pulled off into the Casey's parking lot in Colfax and put them on. One of the bread men I see in Des Moines had told me he always goes home to Baxter on Old #6 when the weather is bad. That's what I did. I rumbled down Old 6 with my tire chains and got home without incident around 6:00.

I have a nice class in Marshallown. There are 18 in it and there is a nice mix of ages. The books we are using this year are much better. I am actually using it. I'm not sure who came up with the idea to change. It may have been Andy.

The days are getting longer. Think spring!!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

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**March Issue**
**Iowa Honey Queen**

Snow, snow, and more snow... It never seems to end. I never used to mind the snow or cold until I started college and had to start walking everywhere I go. All this snow is really going to cause a problem with flooding this spring and set back planting for the farmers. Unfortunately this also means problems for the bees but hopefully not too many problems.

On March 6th I am doing a speech for Pat and Peggy Ennis in Mason City. I will be speaking at their beekeeping class about the queen program and the youth mentoring program. I also get to travel to Dubuque on the 12th to do my press training so that way I am better prepared for interviews and public appearances. I really look forward to getting this training and making sure I am representing the association to the best of my ability.

In addition to the press training I will hopefully get to do a cooking demonstration for Louise at her local farmer's market. This should be interesting as I really can't cook, I can barely make toast, ha ha. But in all I think it will be a really fun learning experience for not only me, but for Louise as well. I also will be speaking to the Ames Kiwanis group this month. We haven't scheduled it yet, but I really look forward to this event.

Well that's all I got for now. Feel free to contact me to schedule an event or if you just want to talk with me. I would love to get to know everyone in the association better and would love to help with your events.

Amber Connett
2010 Iowa Honey Queen
aconnett@iastate.edu
(515) 460-9199
The willows turn yellow, against the still grey background of the lakes and meadows, signaling the approach of spring. Their roots are deep in the earth, where seasons are unknown, but the trees respond to the slowly increasing sunlight as winter reluctantly withdraw. Now the precipitous skunk cabbages bust forth, contemptuous of the very real threat that winter still poses. Those bleak skies are no bluff, and avalanches of snow are not only still possible, but very likely. Still, we know, with the whole of nature, that we are at the threshold of spring. The pollen that the bees are already bringing in on those rare warm days is the unmistakable harbinger. Pollen is food for the bees, but to the plants whose still inconspicuous blossoms yield it; it is the generation of new life. Everywhere that life begins to stir again. It was never really still. It was only relaxed, and somewhat concealed by the overwhelming snow. This month it begins to reassert itself.

There is sealed brood in those hives, lots of it. The bees have not been waiting. Even a few drones may have been started, in anticipation of swarming, when there will be new queens in the air eager to mate. 

But March in not a very safe month for the bees. If the beekeeper was too greedy in his harvesting in the fall, now is when the bees are most likely to feel it. A thousand hungry larvae can consume very quickly what stores there are, and the bees, desperate to keep alive those young on which the destiny of the colony rests, forge everywhere for whatever trace of nectar of pollen they can find. If you put a few pounds of dry white sugar on the inner cover of a hungry colony you can usually ward off starvation. The bees will gather moisture to dissolve it, and thereby save the day, until enough dandelions bloom to put them back upon the secure dependence of nature.

Spring is coming fast. The bees are determined to fulfill their role, which is to fill the air with swarms, thereby ensuring that not just the colony, but the species itself, will survive. For them, gathering honey is only the means to this. But the beekeeper is ready to fulfill his role, too, which is to subtly trick the bees into pouring all their energy into honey getting, and somehow avoid even the preparations for swarming.

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 University 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 produced mostly comb honey.

His significant contributions to beekeeping are authoring many books on beekeeping - among these are the two; “The comb Honey Book” and “The Joys of Beekeeping”, 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 solicitations to honesty posted on its walls.

IHPA Members Attend ABF Convention in Orlando
Several Iowa Honey Producers Association members attended the American Beekeeping Federation meeting held in Orlando, FL from January 12th through the 16th, 2010. Here is a photo of the Iowa delegation. Those in the photo are Mike and Donna Brahms, Bill and Louise Johnson, David and Darlene Hayes, American Honey Queen Diane Jurchen, Iowa Honey Queen Shiliah Spaulding, Lois Spaulding, Cecilia Patterson, LuAnn. Not present for the photo but attending the meeting were Manley and Linda Bigalk.

Submitted by Donna Brahms
Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Trevor Turner is our featured beekeeper of the month. He is another one of the Iowa Honey Producers Association’s 2009 Youth Scholarship winners. His parents are Tom and Tara Turner and they live in Winterset, Iowa. Trevor tells me he is 15 years old and has 3 brothers and 1 sister. His oldest brother is 20 and is on a mission for their church to New Caledonia. His 11-year-old brother is a boy scout, and his 2 youngest siblings are adopted from China.

Trevor is home schooled and plays sports at Winterset High. He plays baseball and runs cross-country and track. He says he loves hunting, woodworking, running in the woods and scouting. His future plans are getting a job and going to college at D-Mac. When he is 19 he is also planning to go on a mission for his church.

Dan Dixion was Trevor’s mentor. “He was great!” is how Trevor explained it. “I learned that as a beekeeper you have to always be prepared. I learned how to extract honey and to take care of a hive. I wanted to be a beekeeper because I like to try new things and I thought it would be a lot of fun. I took a course to learn about bees at the Winterset Public Library and I learned a lot from my mentor, Dan Dixon.” This year his hive produced 35 pounds of honey. Trevor’s interesting story is about extracting. He said, “I had just gotten my honey extracted and I set my frames in front of my garage. Unfortunately I wasn’t home, so my dad had to carry the frames to my hives so the bees wouldn’t go in the house.” Next year Trevor plans to start a second hive and sell some of his honey.

Good luck with your project Trevor, and thanks for your story.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

Trevor Turner with a perfect frame of honey. Trevor plans to start a second hive to produce even more honey.
Back to Basics Bee Club Scholarships

Back to Basics Bee Club has awarded their ten scholarships to the following youth, Madeline Webb, Darby Bean, Cody Leydens, Kendal Marshall, Lyman Marshall, Bracken Taylor, Logan Kates, Mason Ogbourne, Jessica Loftis, and Hayden Hostetler. The applicants had to attend and successfully complete the beginning beekeeping classes, give a short progress report during the year at two Back to Basics meetings, keep a written record complete with dates, photos, and other pertinent data to assist in sharing the scholar’s beekeeping experience with others, successfully keep a colony of bees throughout the year, present a final report to the Back to Basics Bee Club at the October meeting.

They will receive: woodenware consisting of three medium hive bodies with frames and foundation, bottom board, inner cover, and a top cover, a three pound package of bees, smoker, hive tool, hat and veil, and gloves. They will also have a mentor they can use throughout the year, and a one year membership to the Iowa Honey Producers Association.

The grant was funded in part by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the USDA Specialty Crops Grant, and the Iowa State University Extension, Marion Co. If you have any questions give me a call. Thank you,
Craig Greene 641-842-2112

Are You a Beekeeper?

With the long winter and snow, I could use a bit of humor. We found ourselves relating to many of these, maybe you do too!!

The following is from John’s Beekeeping Notebook http://www.outdoorplace.org/beekeeping. Content from John’s Beekeeping Notebook may be used for any non-commercial purpose except internet duplication, providing the source is acknowledged. Created by John Caldeira; Dallas Texas, USA john@outdoorplace.org. Thanks John!!

You know you’re a beekeeper when….

By John Caldeira; with contributions from many others.

The windshield of your vehicle has at least two yellow dots on it.

You have answers ready for questions about Africanized bees and the value of local honey in preventing allergies.

You eagerly await the phone call from the post office asking you to please come pick up your bees.

You check out all the honey labels and prices at the supermarket.

You’ve gone through the supermarket checkout line buying nothing more than a big load of sugar, and maybe some Crisco.

You’ve estimated just how much money you spent to control mites.

You pick up matches at restaurants, even though you don’t smoke.

Your friends and neighbors think you are the answer to every swarm and bees-in-the-wall problem.

You are keenly aware of the first and last freezes of each winter.

There is propolis on the steering wheel of your vehicle and the bottom of your boots.

There is a bucket of something in your garage that can only be good for smoker fuel.

You are called “the Bee man”, or “the Bee Lady” by a lot of people who don’t know your name.

You know the bloom period of more local flowers that the state horticulturist.

You welcome a rainy weekend if it will stimulate nectar production.

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 saw “Ulee’s Gold” and didn’t think there were enough shots of the bees.

You overhear your 9 year old daughter explaining to her friends how to tie a trucker’s hitch.

The school principal calls to ask that you never again let your child take a drone tied with a thread to school for show and tell.

Your never stop marveling at these wonderful creatures.

Excerpts from the above list were published in American Bee Journal (December. 1998), which prompted the following responses from readers:

You know you’re married to a beekeeper when……

You spend at least one day a week on your hands and knees with a sharp knife scraping wax and propolis off your kitchen floor.

You’ve ever used bee boxes as furniture in your house, for coffee tables, chairs, night stands, and storage boxes.

You mow around mountains of bee equipment that never seems to make it to the barn.

You plan wedding, child birth, surgery and funerals around honey extracting time.

When buying a new truck, your spouse checks weight loads and measures the bed to see how many hives he can fit in it.

You get stung by the bee that was clinging to your husband’s bee suit when you picked it up to wash it.

Submitted by Peggy Ennis
IHPA Historian
Your ONE and ONLY “in hive” Small Hive Beetle Treatment!

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

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