



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



April 2007





Dates to BEE Remembered:

April 14th, 2007

SW IA Honey Producers meeting
(Feedlot in Atlantic)

June 9, 2007

Midwest Beekeeping Symposium

June 24th-28th, 2007 International
Pollination Symposium, ISU/Ames

July 14th, 2007

Field Day

August 9-19th, 2007 Iowa State Fair,
Des Moines

November 16th & 17th, 2007 IHPA
Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA

To add an important date to the list,
contact the Buzz by email at
thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

Or by mail at the address listed on the
front cover.

Contact Information for The National Honey Board

National Honey Board
11409 Business Park Circle
Suite 210
Firestone, CO 80504
www.honey.com
(303) 776-2337
(800) 553-7162

FOR SALE: Single story colonies
with four frames of bees and a 2007
queen—bottom bd and lid included.
Each box will have 4 or 5 frames with
foundation. Available in early May.
Contact Curtis Barnhardt at 319-480-
4209 or 800-728-9979

Queens for sale, \$13.00 Available
around April 9. Queens are pick up at
my home. If you wish to have them
shipped there will be a shipping fee.
4 and 5 frame Nuc for sale around
May 1, new 2007 Queens, price will
be around \$75.00 and \$85.00

Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell Iowa, 50439
flat_lander@lycos.com

For Sale: S.E. Iowa raised Queens.

Ready in June.
Contact Ron Wehr
(319) 698-7542

Wanted: Two over-wintered 1 1/2 to
2 story colonies or 2007 splits.

Contact

Felix Knutson at (641)-864-3398 or
Knutson.93@hotmail.com

For Sale: 12 frame radial extractor
and good wood built stand, like new.

Electric heated knife. \$30.00

1 Hive set up. \$50.00

Contact:

Ernest Hinkle
531 W. Cedar St.
Birmingham, IA 52535
(319) 498-4479



Apiary Registration 2007

Maury Wills, IDALS

It is time to register your apiary sites for 2007. You may again register on-line using your pin number and password from last year. Before registering you must contact the office via email (maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us) or by phone (515-281-5783) to let us know how many apiary sites you will have in which counties. If you don't remember your pin number and password please contact us. If you do not have a computer or are having difficulty registering on-line you may register by calling the office. If you register in this manner you must have the following apiary information available when you call:

1. Township Name
2. Landowner Name
3. Township Number
4. Range
5. Section
6. Quarter Section
7. Number of colonies at each site



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 Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

Wow, the weather can change here in Iowa. Last month's article stated that I was writing this column in Blizzard conditions. Those "conditions" were nothing compared to the blizzard that dumped on us March 1st. The old adage better be true, if March comes in like a lion it will go out like a lamb. We couldn't even find most of our beehives, they were completely covered with snow. It didn't take too long for them to reappear though. The heat from the hives melted the snow covering them and there was room for the honey bees to fly out and about. It is truly quite an amazing sight to see them flying and walking around in the snow. The evidence of them flying is also quite visible! I am quite ready for another weather saying, April showers bring May flowers.

I would suggest that you register your hives with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship department. I have had reports that the website it hard to navigate and it is too much trouble. Go to your local FSA office and register your colonies with them if you would feel more comfortable doing it there. It isn't that difficult to do on the computer, but if you have problems Maury Wills is more than willing to help you. Maury can be reached at (515) 281-5783 or maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us. It is a whole lot nicer to register those hives now than wish you would have when you encounter a problem with sprayers and chemicals. If you don't register, you can't get any help with your losses.

Please keep track of your colony losses this year. It will help with the statistics from Iowa and the rest of the country when the research is being done on the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). In an information update that we received from the American Beekeeping Federation this week, some issues have been identified and the industry needs to take a look at these to see what can be done and to aid the research being done on CCD. Some of the suggestions include:

Check Your Colonies Often. Keep in touch with what is happening inside

your beehives. If you are having a problem, the sooner you recognize it, the better.

Don't "Double Up" the Dead -Outs.

Some affected beekeepers have stacked their dead-outs onto supposedly healthy colonies only to have the second hive collapse soon after. The current recommendation is to store the dead-outs away from your bees so they can't rob them out. (see <http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/index.html> for a complete list of recommendations). A related, long term recommendation is to replace old dark brood combs with foundation; this practice has been recommended as good management practices on the basis of previous research.

Feed Your Bees. Beekeepers who feed more have fared better than their neighbors who had stored honey their bees were consuming. This surfaced in Florida recently. When cold weather curtailed the nectar flow, beekeepers felt their colonies suffered more than expected; the theory is that the colonies went back to consuming old stored honey. And, don't neglect pollen feeding.

Evaluate Your Locations. While no suspect has been confirmed as a cause for CCD, we have become concerned about the widespread use of a relatively new class of systemic insecticides on an increasing number and variety of crops. These neonicotinoids, even at doses that are not deadly to individual bees, may cause sublethal effects that may lead to colony mortality or reduced productivity. This class of compounds is known to impair learning and memory and modify many honey bee behaviors and disrupt the social organization of the colony. You may want to talk to farmers or orchardists in your areas of operation and ask them to warn you about applications of products containing neonicotinoids, so that you can avoid exposure. Some beekeepers think CCD is linked to bees being located near corn, soybeans, or cotton-crops on

which neonicotinoids are heavily used.

Complete the Survey: Go to www.beesurvey.com and complete the beekeeper survey-whether or not you feel that your colonies are suffering from CCS. The information collected will remain confidential- you do not necessarily have to give your name. The surveys may help identify common links for affected colonies.

Contact your Congressman. Your United States Congressman needs to hear from you about the problems facing the beekeeping industry. There is a push for a general appropriations increase in funds. The ARS Bee labs are shrinking. Each lab has at least one open position; leaving the position open frees up money for the remaining scientists to use for research and field work. There have been no significant new funds appropriated for honey bee research in decades. The CCD crisis illuminated significant gaps in what we know about our industry. Here are some unknowns; number of beekeepers; amount of pollination activity (how many bees rented, how much revenue earned); how many colonies die and are rebuilt in the course of a normal year; how many queens and packages are sold.

These same questions come up in our IHPA board meetings. Just how many beekeepers do we have in the state of Iowa? How many colonies are managed in Iowa? We could really use all the members that we can get to help bring the industry into the focus of the consumers.

I took oldest son, Shawn and his family to St. Louis to catch a plane to Germany. They are to be there for a few years. Time to plan a vacation. Enjoy spring! Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

Central Iowa Beekeepers Annual Auction

April 21, 2007

Held at Harry Hunter's place:
2781 SE 70th St.
Pleasant Hill, IA

Starts at 10:00 a.m.
Lunch available.

Questions contact Margaret Hala at
(641) 752-2981 or
mhala@marshallnet.com

SALE CONSIGNMENT LISTING AS OF APRIL 1

so far there have been few consigners,
but these items have been consigned.

4 refurbished hives consisting of:

- 1 bottom board
- 2 deep bodies with new frames
and foundation
- 1 queen excluder
- 2 medium supers with frames
and foundation
- 1 inner cover
- 1 outer cover

inner covers
outer covers
bottom boards
wood bound queen excluders
100 plus deep bodies with frames, some
with foundation or wax
medium supers, some with frames,
some with foundation or wax
shallow super, same as above
screened bottom boards
bee blower--looks almost new
Dadant 12 frame radial extractor--looks
new
Kelley 100 gallon bottling tank--heavy
duty
steam powered vibrating knife and
steam generator



THE BEEYARD REPORT

It could be worse--a lot worse. Our bees are 30% dead. That's a lot higher than normal but given the problems we had with mites last fall, I feel pretty good about it. That 30% doesn't include all the colonies I picked up last fall. Numbers can be misleading. It depends how you use them. We have about 350 left from a peak of 675 last summer.

I only had one yard that I could drive into on the first round. That left a lot of walking but I had to get feed to the light ones. I estimate that 30% of our loss was due to starvation. In the past, it has been pretty rare for us to have a colony starve but the fall was chilly. The bees didn't take syrup well.

I am always amazed at some of the colonies that live and, also, at some of the good looking ones that die. I had a colony that had dwindled down to two or three frames of bees by last November. It was too late to unite them with something else. I could have dumped them on the ground but, for some reason, I reduced them to a single box and left them on the pallet. They were still alive in mid March and looked pretty decent with a nice patch of brood. There didn't appear to be a drop of honey anywhere in the box. How had they managed to survive? I have no idea.

There was an interesting article in a recent Bee Journal about installing packages at 22 degrees. I would never have had the nerve to try it but the article made sense.

I have been telling people that the package bee situation wouldn't be as bad as last year but it turned out to be worse. Koehnens called in March to cut my package order back by 1/3. That was after I had most of them sold. That made it necessary to go out and find 200 packages which, of course, cost a lot more than I expected to pay. It's a blow to the ego when you have to buy from your competitor. After promising

packages at a set price I didn't feel like I could raise the price to people who had already ordered. I did raise the price on the later orders.

Fuel prices are climbing again. I am waiting for another government genius to announce that this isn't inflationary. This actually happened the last time fuel approached \$3/gallon. I went to Ames to see Barack Obama with Adam and Alex. One of the things he said was that the best we can hope for from government is that it doesn't do us too much harm. I could identify with that statement. He reminds me of John Kennedy with his ability to verbalize the issues and energize people. Sometimes I wonder what would have happened if Kennedy had lived. Would things have evolved into 1968?

We are still cleaning up from the ice storm. In a move of unequalled brilliance, I managed to fall off a ladder. Two days later, I came to realize my left hand was really messed up. The doctor was sure it was broken but the X-ray was inconclusive. I have a lot of swelling but they haven't put me in a cast yet. In the meantime, Alex is running the chain saw. I am working one handed.

We are on the cusp of spring. Soon the horses will start losing hair and spring work will be in full swing. I hope everyone has a good spring.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Beekeeping Education Classes

The last class for 2007 was held in Spencer. Jim Strahan and Pat Ennis headed this up with help from Larry Boernsen. There were sixteen enrolled in the class. We would up with a total enrollment around 65 in all of the classes. That's about the same as we had last year.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2007 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium
Saturday June 9, 2007 ~ 8am– 4pm
McHenry County College Conference Center
Crystal Lake, Illinois

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association and McHenry County College proudly present the 2007 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium. The Symposium is designed to provide the latest, relevant information to all new and veteran Beekeepers as well as those simply interested in Honey Bees and Beekeeping.

The full-day agenda will contain a Keynote Presentation, General Sessions, a Panel Discussion, multiple Breakout Sessions, a featured “Beginner’s Track” of sessions, Lunch, Raffle, Beekeeping Magazines, Catalogs and a Beekeeping Supply Marketplace.

The Symposium will feature a keynote presentation by University of Montana, Research Professor Dr. Jerry Broomen-shenk, who will be presenting the latest research findings surrounding the epidemic Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). His recent research is focused on the causes and potential solutions to this devastating condition facing Honey Bee colonies nation wide.

Content leaders from Illinois and across the United States will be presenting a variety of topics. The varied and diverse Breakout sessions will include:

- ☐ Status of and Living with Small Hive Beetle in Illinois
- ☐ The State of Pollination in The USA
- ☐ Introduction to Mead ~ The Nectar of the Gods
- ☐ The Nutriceutical Properties of Honey
- ☐ Planning, Planting and Maintaining a Bee and Butterfly Garden
- ☐ The Secrets to Winning Honey Competitions
- ☐ A Day in the Life of an Apiary Inspector
- ☐ Introduction to Graft-Free Queen Rearing
- ☐ Long Distance Colony Management – Emerging Beekeeping Technology
- ☐ Bees in the War on Terror – Smelling Out Danger
- ☐ The Sideliner and Hobbyist’s Guide to Marketing Honey
- ☐ “The Honey Bee Whisperer” Reading Your Bees (Beginner Track)
- ☐ Introduction to Beekeeping (Beginner Track)

For more information, including a complete Symposium agenda, maps to McHenry County College and much more, visit the Illinois State Beekeepers Association website at www.isba.us or contact ISBA President, Ken Haller at vikinghoneyfarm

Pre-Registration by May 31:

Individual: \$40
Course Code: NCCS04001
Additional Family Members: \$20
Course Code: NCCS04002

On-Site Registration:

Individual: \$45
Additional Family Members: \$25

To Pre-Register by May 31:

Credit Card Payment: 815.455.8588
Monday – Thursday 8am-7:30pm
Friday 8am-4pm
Saturday 8am-1pm

Payment by Check:

(Payable to McHenry County College)
Send Name(s), Address, Phone and Check to:
McHenry County College ~ Attn. Molly Walsh
8900 Us Hwy 14 ~ Crystal Lake, IL 60012

A Word From The Iowa Honey Queen

Hello Beekeepers!

It is finally starting to warm up, and the snow is melting. I am looking forward for spring, and seeing a variety of flowers starting to bloom! I have been brainstorming some promotion opportunities that I will hopefully be able to pursue in the next few months. Please remember that I am here to service you, so remember to contact me if you are planning an event, I would be glad to help you!

On February 17th I traveled to Mason City to talk to the beginner's beekeeping class. I was pleased to see so many people interested in beekeeping. Several young people from the youth mentor program were enrolled in the class, and seemed so excited to learn! I was able to talk to the class about my role as a Queen, and my future adventures as a Honey Queen. I passed my scrapbook around for the class to look at, and gave samples of a honey snack mix, along with recipes. We spent a large amount of the class watching a clip of the movie "Bees and Beekeeping," and building frames. I was so excited to build my first frame, thanks to Arvin and Pat! I think these classes are so beneficial and allow new people to get interested in beekeeping, I want to thank all of you who take your time to teach these classes.

I want to wish all of you a wonderful spring. Please contact me if you have something I can help you with at (515)210-1027 or Chizel2004@aol.com

Sincerely,
Chelsa Bronnenberg
2007 Iowa Honey Queen



Youth Mentoring Program

The youth mentoring program that was launched last year has been running under the radar but it's still there. There are nine students in this program. The participants are Tova Jessen of Mapleton, Christian Hurd of Ames, Vivian Bernau of Altoona, Issac Sedlmayr of Afton, Noah Taylor of Bouton, Cameron Hall of Nashua, Amber Connett of Reasoner and Maggie Van Roekel of Wellman. All participants will be supplied with equipment and bees for one complete colony. They will each have a mentor to help them get started. The Iowa Honey Producers are supplying the equipment and Lee Heine is supplying the bees.

The SE Iowa Beekeepers started two students with bees in the spring of 2006. Vern and Doris Ramsey have been working with them. This is a great way to get kids started with bees.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

A New Season Begins.

It is March 14 already and I am not ready. I bought some used boxes, most of these boxes were only used 1 year before they were in a tornado. All the bees and frames were gone. 3 tops and the deep boxes were found and stored inside since 1977. I have only half of them cleaned and painted. Still need to make tops and screen bottom boards before my packages get here. I have decided to try small cell comb for mite control. I am using Mann Lake all plastic frames and foundation # PF-100 cell size 5.0 to start. Will let everyone know how that works this fall.

I am looking forward to start inspections in southern Iowa as soon as the weather permits. I am getting many calls and e-mails about dead hives, all are from starvation because of the long cold periods. Everyone is very concerned about the new Colony Collapse Disorder. CCD may not be new, reports date back to 1896 other names for it are Fall Dwindle disease, Absconding dis-

ease, May disease, Spring Dwindle and Autumn collapse. With CCD the bees fly away and do not come back so there are very few or no dead bees on the bottom board. Here are some web sites to check out for CCD info.

www.missoulanews.com/News/News.asp?no=6345

www.cosmosmagazine.com/node/087

<http://maarec.cas.psu.edu/pressReleases/CollapseDisorderWG.html>

Submitted by Delmar Nelson

Legislative Request to Iowa Beekeepers

Many of you have experienced trouble with your hives or have read about the many disorders and problems facing the beekeeping industry. We as a group need to get the information to our elected officials. The new Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) has been in the news lately. It has started people asking more questions about honey bees and what the effect is going to be in Iowa. Due to the fact that Iowa beekeepers don't have a State Apiarist or a representative in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) any longer, we need to do that job ourselves. Iowa is not being mentioned as being a state with problems. Why are we not mentioned? It is because we don't have a voice in IDALS and no one is available to collect data and pass it on to other organizations or to get something done such as more money for research, etc.

Mike and I spent the morning at a legislative coffee in Cumberland talking to three elected officials and the public about the needs of the Iowa Honey Producers. It takes all of us to work at this. We did find out that IDALS is receiving more appropriations this year, so we need to emphasize the fact that we need and active, working Apiary Department.

Please consider helping by contacting your elected officials in Des Moines. Many of you know whom your State Representative or Senator is. Contact them on behalf of the Iowa beekeepers and tell them of the need for a State Apiarist in IDALS. We don't need a part-time person, we need a full time position filled. If you aren't sure who your representative is go to the internet and put in Iowa Legislature in the search engine and a list will come up. You can use it for committee listings or for Senate or House listings.

Information concerning the facts and figures of Iowa beekeepers is available at the IHPA website,

www.ABuzzAboutBees.com

or you can contact me directly to get this information. I am adding some information that the IHPA is requesting for the Apiary Department. We would like a fully funded Apiary Department within IDALS. Here is the proposal:

Iowa Honey Producers Association Proposal for the Apiary Bureau February 2007

We feel that around \$120,000.00 per year would fund an apiary department. Mr. Bob Cox, the last Iowa State Apiarist, was making about \$45,000.00 per year in 2001 when he was terminated. Add a 5% increase to that figure per year and a salary of just over \$59,000.00 per year isn't extravagant for a qualified person with a doctorate degree to serve as state apiarist. The person has to put in long hours and a fair amount of travel is necessary during the summer to see that all of the inspections are done and to meet the educational side of the job. The state apiarist also visits schools and other groups that may request the apiarist to come and speak.

Questions on honey bees and beekeeping are directed to the State Apiarist and apiary registration is necessary to protect beekeepers from pesticide spraying. The State Apiarist also educates and supervises the state inspectors.

The part-time inspectors have been getting by on a shoestring budget for the past five years. There are usually around 900 hours that any one inspector can use in the fiscal year. They earn around \$15.00 per hour, so that would calculate out to \$41,500.00 for inspectors.

The bare bones amount would be \$99,500.00. An additional amount of money would be needed for the apiarist to perform the duties of State Apiarist. This money would be used for materials, reference books and periodicals such as American Bee Journal and Bee Culture, meetings to keep current on research and other necessary items that have been misplaced or thrown away.

When you factor in all of the incidentals, a budget of \$120,000.00 for an Apiary Department is not out of line and yet is not wasteful of the taxpayer's money either.

Please help out your organization and your industry by contacting your elected officials. I intend to do a vast emailing campaign.

Submitted by Donna Brahms
IHPA President

Mite Treatment Approvals

CheckMite+ has received Section 18 approval for use in Iowa.

For Use Only Under Section 18 Authorization. For Control of Varroa Mites and Small Hive Beetles in Honeybee Colonies For use only as authorized in IOWA by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under section 18 of F.I.F.R.A. This labeling must be in the possession of the user at the time of application. **This labeling expires February 1, 2008.**

Also, API LIFE VAR (active ingredient: Thymol) and APIGUARD (active ingredient: Thymol) are both now under full EPA registration so a section 18 is no longer required for these products.

Submitted by Chuck Eckermann

Spring Management of Colonies

It might be helpful to beekeepers who begin manipulating colonies in Spring to review some practices in management that have proven to be quite successful for a period of many years.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD MANAGEMENT. Having wintered colonies with ample stores of honey will eliminate a lot of problems during the Spring and make the working of colonies much easier without the need to do supplemental feeding.

Going into April throughout the Midwest the weather generally cooperates so colonies can be manipulated easily.

Starting about April 1st through the 10th here in central Iowa colonies can be examined for disease and for strength as to the amount of brood that has already started the rapid reproduction of bees. This is the time to really get down to business and start manipulating by way of equalizing brood among all colonies.

If it is determined at this time that many colonies have six or seven combs of brood it is then time to relieve such colonies of some of the brood taking away all but three or four combs which are left in the parent hive making sure the queen is also left with the parent colony.

The remainder combs of brood, probably two, are placed in another brood chamber along with a couple of combs of honey and by selecting another couple of combs of brood, always with adhering bees from another colony added to the newly constructed hive also shaking in additional bees and some partly filled combs and you have established another colony. Just keep it closed during this procedure and continue to keep it closed until it is moved to another

apiary some distance away. Queens should be on hand at this time so all colonies that are developed can be re-queened.

I realize to some this sounds like a lot of work but if managed properly it will reduce many unnecessary problems in weeks to come. All you may need to take with you in the way of additional equipment is probably extra covers, inner covers and bottom boards plus entrance reducers. All this provided you have wintered your colonies in two brood chambers which most beekeepers have done.

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Fax: 936-825-3642

Email: rweaver@tca.net www.rweaver.com

Now, some may wonder what is the benefit of all this exercise? The results are simple. You have reduced much of the problem of colonies swarming. NOW don't assume that swarming has been eliminated entirely BECAUSE there is no such thing as eliminating swarming 100%. However, this and inspecting colonies each week through the months of May and June swarming was kept to 1% or less.

In approximately three weeks after doing this equalization all colonies new and parent will probably be ready for the second brood chamber. One way to tell is that after removing the lid and inner cover the single chamber is chuck full of bees and all queens are laying they need room to expand.

Throughout the months of May and June each colony **MUST** be checked to make sure that no queen cells are

started in preparation of swarming and if queen eggs are present in the cells should be removed. If good combs are kept the easy and quickest way to check for cells is to simply smoke the colony well, tip the whole hive over on its back, pry the brood cambers apart and look from the bottom of each for queen cells. If the entrance reducer has been kept in place the cells will likely be near the bottom of the brood combs and most will be in view. Place the brood chambers back just as they were.

Always remember the entrance reducer should be in place all through the months of April, May, and part of June or until it is determined that the major honey flow is on. That allows the queen access to laying eggs in the combs near the bottom bars in the lower chamber. Again just another means of preventing swarming.

All combs will likely be filled by the first or second week in June so now surplus honey supers must be added. Hopefully all will be providing good white combs for the production of surplus honey as a matter of producing a much finer quality of honey.

Before the mites were in the picture it was possible to winter colonies with less than a 2% loss. Then using the **BROOD EQUALIZATION** program we could expand colony count by about 25%. That you can do with honey and I'm not so sure it can be done with much of this supplemental feeding.

After having accomplished all this you will note that all colonies will produce within just a few pounds of each other. It entirely eliminated having some colonies with 150 pounds of surplus and some with almost nothing.

The entrance reducers are an important item. Soon after all the surplus honey is removed in the Fall the reducer should again be in place.

You can simplify your beekeeping and

make it more pleasurable by having a task that you would just not have to perform.

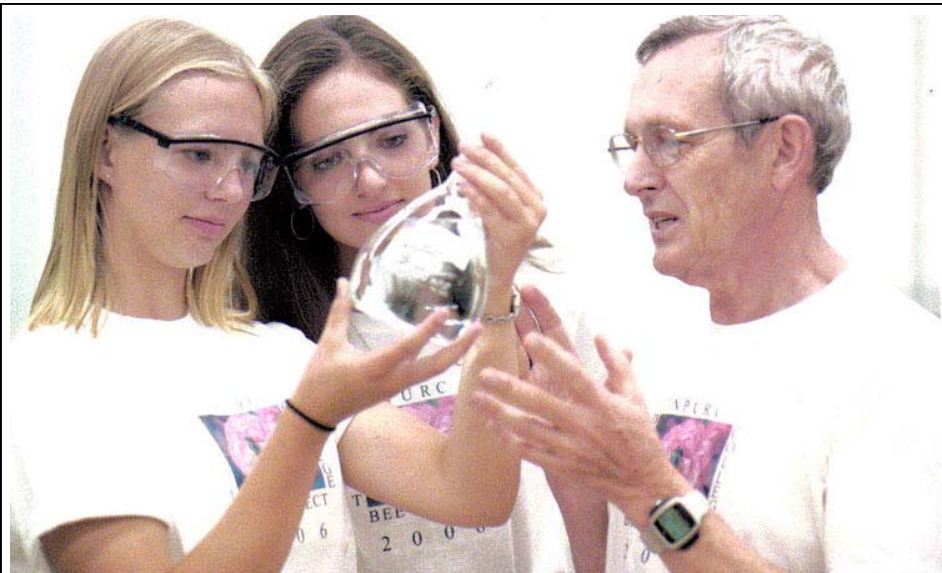
Glen L. Stanley
3835 Merced
Des Moines, IA 50310

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Dr. Edwin Geels who is a chemistry professor at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. He and his wife, Helena, live in Sioux Center. Dr. Geels say he took a beekeeping class 6 years ago and started beekeeping with 1 hive. Now he has 20 colonies of small cell (4.9mm) bees. He markets his honey in quarts and bears and sells comb honey. Candle making is Helena's interest so that may be an added product. Working with small cell bees and watching the colonies thrive with no chemical applications is his challenge. He enjoys working outdoors, extracting, bottling, and selling honey as well as spending time educating others about the benefits of bees and bee products.

Dr. Geels started a research project on 4.9mm small cell beekeeping in the spring of 2006. He was joined by 2 undergraduate students and supported by a National Science Foundation grant. Dr. Geels has applied for a renewal of this grant for 2007 and hopes to continue the project for 5 years. So far the hives are thriving with extremely low mite populations. He and his students will be presenting their preliminary results to the spring meeting of the American Chemical Society, Ag and Food Division, in Chicago and later in April to the National Conference of Undergraduate Research in San Rafael, CA.

Many of you may remember Dr. Geels spoke at the Iowa Honey Producers Assoc. meeting in Marshalltown in November 2006, where he explained his 4.9mm small cell research at Dordt College. He writes, "it was very well



Sara Hanenberg, Amanda Korver and Dr. Edwin Geels in the Chemistry/Bee Research Lab.

received and I thank them for a warm reception and a good experience." There are no local beekeeping groups in the Sioux Center area, but Dr. Geels knows several local beekeepers.

Thanks, Dr., for your hard work and research to make a difference in beekeeping. Keep us posted about your results. You can reach Dr. Geels at Geels@Dordt.edu or calling his office at 712-722-6284.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Dr. Edwin Geels, Sara Hanenberg and Amanda Korver presenting Preliminary Results of the Bee Project at the Northern Plains Undergraduate Research Symposium July 7, 2006.

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Fax : 515-266-1112**

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