The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

Beek of the Month for May--Kyle and Reagan Welander.

See page 7

iowahoneyproducers.org
President’s Message

First and foremost, thank you, thank you, thank you to those of you who read my plea for newsletter articles and then diligently put pen to paper. Several of you provided an article (or two) and/or photos for the April edition of The Buzz which lead to an expanded edition - from 19 pages to 23 pages! It was great to read such a diverse group of bee-related topics. I felt engaged and so enjoyed learning about what’s happening statewide with beekeeping. As I mentioned in March, we have a great monthly newsletter and my aim is to see it flourish in 2018 and beyond. I challenge everyone to send your articles, information, photos and ideas to Ron Rynders. To our clubs, I’d love to learn more about what you are doing as a group; I’d like to learn about your members, old and new. Are you reaching out to the public in any fashion? Are you engaging the public in your operations? Tell us what’s happening bee-wise in your neck of the woods or corner of the city. Remember, Ron needs all articles and photos by the 10th of the month for the next month’s newsletter. Please feel free to flood his e-mail inbox.

Finding a topic to write about each month can sometimes be a challenge. But does the President’s message have to follow just one theme? I decided no, but I don’t want to sound like I’m covering too much and don’t have a focus. One thing that has been on my mind for the last few months and something I believe is vital to our organization is OUTREACH. We’re doing a great job, in particular, with the number of beekeeping classes offered throughout the state. A big THANK YOU to all those individuals who organized and taught classes this winter and to those who continue to teach this year. The number of beekeeping clubs is growing and many are flourishing. My hats off to those who organize and facilitate these meetings. You are appreciated in many ways. Additionally, we celebrated Iowa Honey Bee Day on March 14 at the Iowa State Capitol amongst our fellow beekeepers, family and friends of beekeepers, and our all-important legislators. Hands down, it was a great day for beekeeping.

Linn Wilbur, Jamie Beyer, Pat Ennis and I met in March with Joseph, and the need of an educational piece for our youth. honeybees, the value we see in our State Apiarist, Andy Linn Wilbur, Jamie Beyer, Pat Ennis and I met in March with the IHPA, or where you can access more information on a particular topic, inquire about a club in your area, or maybe you have an idea for a speaker at a meeting. This is all part of outreach and very important to the success of the IHPA. I don’t want you to have to say, “Well, if only someone had reached out to me I would have known (you fill in the blank).”

The night before our meeting with Secretary Naig, I ran into Phil Ebert at Fareway stocking the shelves with honey. He, too, noted pesticides were a big concern for him, and all of Iowa. The morning of our meeting, Bob Fasbinder reached out to me and we discussed the upcoming Field Day and his work with Randy Oliver surrounding Varroa mites. And just last night I had a wonderful conversation with Bob Wolff about his upcoming adventure to Ghana where he will work alongside Isaac Quaidoo in an enabling prosperity project (you fill in the blank). Just like a worker bee, I have been busy foraging (outreach) to bring back to the hive what will feed the hive (IHPA) to keep it flourishing all season long. I encourage you to reach out to me, as well as to our board members and district directors, with your questions or concerns. We may not have the answer Johnny on the spot, but we are dedicated to serving our members the best way we can.

Working recently behind the scenes with volunteers and the Iowa Honey Queen, Joy Westercamp, to ensure the 450 4th graders in Marion County and the 250 3rd graders in Oskaloosa has been exciting. The youngsters enjoyed a wonderful experience learning about honeybees in their Ag In the Classroom days. These two projects opened my eyes to the fact the IHPA has no educational piece for 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-graders. They’re not old enough to apply for a youth scholarship but are at the ripe age of learning the importance of honeybees. From my follow-up with the volunteers, the kids were fascinated with honeybees and soaked up everything they learned, and so did the adults at the event.

Big THANK YOU to all those individuals who organized and worked alongside Isac Quaidoo in an enabling prosperity venture. You may remember Isaac from last year’s Summer Field Day; he had traveled the farthest to be with us. Bob promises to tell us about working with Africanized bees and the venture he and Isaac have embarked upon this year. Let me tell you, you will ‘bee’ amazed.

The next IHPA board meeting will take place immediately following our Summer Field Day at Dordt College. I have told our district directors I would like to learn about the outreach they are doing in their districts. I want them to share with our board members whom they have met with over the last six months (students, beekeepers, farmers, teachers, local government, club meetings, mentors, etc.). I am anxious for all of us to learn how our directors have been involved with YOU. This is will be an exercise for all of us to learn what is going on locally and statewide. We need to understand how better we can meet your needs, no matter how many hives you manage. If you do not know your district director, all are listed on our website, along with an Iowa map showing the six districts. If you haven’t met or talked with your district director, I encourage you to reach out to them with your questions, ask them how you can become more involved with the IHPA, or where you can access more information on a particular topic, inquire about a club in your area, or maybe you have an idea for a speaker at a meeting. This is all part of outreach and very important to the success of the IHPA. I don’t want you to have to say, “Well, if only someone had reached out to me I would have known (you fill in the blank).”

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President
It seemed mighty early at 6:00 a.m. on March 14 this year when a group of IHPA members and volunteers started setting up for the Iowa Honey Bee Day reception in the Iowa Senate Conference Room at the Iowa State Capitol. But this bunch of very bleary-eyed people quickly transformed a drab room into a bee conference and snack area. At 7:00 a.m., IHPA was ready for Iowa legislators, government employees, the public and many state and local bee club members to show up to meet and talk about honey bees and what was needed to support honey bees and beekeeping in Iowa.

By the time the morning reception was over at 9:00 a.m., a lot of Iowa State Fair lemonade, tea, coffee, and treats baked with honey were gone and many Iowa legislators had heard how important the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Apiary Program was to Iowa, the significance and impact of honey bees and the honey bee industry was on Iowa and Iowa agriculture, how bees were dealing with varroa mites, Iowa winters and the myriad problems beekeepers face.

It was a very successful time and for many of the legislators this was the first opportunity to talk with and hear from beekeepers. They were especially impressed with talking with the 2018 IHPA Honey Queen, Joy Westercamp, as well as 2015 IHPA Scholarship Program graduate Noah Nusbaum, and other youth that were present. These youth represented beekeeping very well, as did the other IHPA members who attended.

Not all the guests made it past the treats to the demonstration area. Those that did found information on the IHPA, local bee clubs, bee-related pictures and bee equipment. The demonstration area did provide an easy way to converse and educate. Thanks to all who brought items for this area.

Jim Obradovich of the Capitol Group and the IHPA lobbyist worked at matching up IHPA members with their Iowa Representatives as they came in. Jim said that he received comments from the legislators following the Iowa Honey Bee Day. They ranged from complimenting IHPA on a well-run event to "Why haven’t we heard from beekeepers before—I learned a lot," to them looking forward to attending next year. Jim reported that IHPA had as good an attendance from legislators as he had seen for a morning reception. This event was held early in the morning so legislators could attend before the committee meetings and chamber sessions started. The Iowa Senate invited the IHPA to attend their session that day and recognized Iowa Honey Bee Day and the IHPA members in the gallery during the opening.

The second IHPA honey "basket" was a door prize which all attendees could register for. Near the end of the event a name was drawn by the IHPA Honey Queen with the assistance of Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President. The winner was Jacinda Shafer an IHPA member from Knoxville, IA. You saw information on Jacinda and the basket for the Iowa Governor in the April BUZZ.

We were fortunate to have Nicole Crusinberry at the event to take pictures and the photographs here are taken by her. Thanks, Nicole!

Thanks to everyone who made this event possible. Please provide feedback to the IHPA Officers and Regional Directors, especially if you attended. The IHPA Board is planning to discuss the event and consider if an Iowa Honey Bee Day proclamation and reception should be an event next year. Your comments are important to determining if this is worthwhile for IHPA to sponsor.

Linn Wilbur, IHPA lobbyist
The Rest of the Story......the IHPA honey "basket"

We (Ann, Jamie and Linn) are the first to admit we didn't know what we were getting into when we brought up the idea of IHPA having an Iowa Honey Bee Day at the Iowa State Capitol and the IHPA Board approved the project. Seemed simple enough--have a meet-and-greet with our legislators and have a chance to highlight honey bees in Iowa. From there it got more complicated quickly.

The idea of having a Proclamation signed by the Iowa Governor was proposed as well as a reception. So we trotted off to the internet to see how a Proclamation is done. Said it had to be submitted six weeks before needed. We barely had time. Drafted and submitted and waited. A week and a half later had a call from Ali Boettcher, the governor's Administrative Assistant, saying it was in the process of being finalized. Wow! Time to get serious. Turns out the Governor's Office signs over 1,200 Proclamations a year. Most from within Iowa but many recognizing events or organizations outside the state that impact Iowa.

Linn had a few discussions with Ali on the process especially as we had requested having an official signing. In one of those discussions he asked if it was acceptable to have a small gift to present to the governor at the time of the signing. Turns out it was.

A little head scratching and we came up with presenting a basket of honey and bee-related items. How about a broad range of products from as many different Iowa beekeepers as possible? Started calling around and asking for products for two baskets, so we could not only do a basket for the governor but have another to use as a door prize for Iowa Honey Bee Day. No one turned us down. What a great group are IHPA members!

Once all these items started rolling in, we started looking at baskets. Nothing seemed quite right. Why not turn a super into a basket? Several years earlier Linn had a project that used a 4 1/2" super, shallower than even the conventional shallow super, that really didn't work out. He had set the extra shallow super boxes aside (do beekeepers every throw anything away?--at least not this one).

So Linn pulled a couple of those super shallows out, rabbeted the bottom to inset a plywood piece and glued and stapled it in place. Ann suggested she decorate over the already white paint and using various bee/tree/flower stencils, a honey bee "basket" was born and their recycling credentials endorsed. When it was presented, the box and all the contents made a great impression on the governor.

A week and a half after the Proclamation signing and "basket" presentation, Linn had a call from Ali. The governor was asking if there was anywhere she could purchase another "basket." She was interested in gifting a box. Unfortunately, he had to tell her these were one-of-a-kind.

We didn't hear much more between the Proclamation signing and Iowa Honey Bee Day about what happened to the Governor's "basket." Linn stopped in to talk with Ali and make sure she and the Governor's staff were aware that Iowa Honey Bee Day was only two days off and he hoped they would stop by. Linn noticed Ali had a 2 oz. honey bear behind her desk and commented on it. Ali said yes, the governor had shared with her staff and she not only got one of the four small bears, but ended up with the "basket." It had come down to either the governor or Ali getting that and the governor had given it to Ali. Ali said she was really enjoying it and she would be sure to come to the reception as she knew we had another "basket" as a door prize and she would love to be the winner.

On Iowa Honey Bee Day, Ann was helping serve when one of the red-jacketed Iowa Senate pages came through the line. He was drinking tea and was liberally adding honey to it. Ann commented that he must really like honey. He said yes, he did. He told her that each morning for the last little while he had been taking a small bit of honey with comb out of a small wooden frame, spreading it on his toast and really enjoying it. Said the Governor had set out the "basket" for sharing with all the pages and he had gotten this little square of comb honey. Turns out what he had gotten was the old-fashioned basswood comb honey that Linn and Ann had donated. So not only did Ann find out who got their donation but where all the parts of the governor's honey "basket" had gone.

On Iowa Honey Bee Day the winner of the door prize was Jacinda Shafer (sorry, Ali). A little bit about Jacinda is in the April Buzz along with the picture of her being presented with the "basket." Jacinda had left the Capitol building before the "basket" drawing, but her mentors Shelia and Jerry Weldon were able to catch up with her in the parking lot and got that great picture with the Capitol in the background. Jacinda has sent out thank you notes to those who donated, and we know she really appreciated the honey "basket."

Now you know the rest of the story.....(our apologies to the late Paul Harvey)

by Ann Wilbur, Jamie Beyer, and Linn Wilbur

IHPA Pres Eve shows Governor Reynolds the Basket.
Diving In
By CaroleAnne Vannoy
I still have a bit of anxiety as I look over the many boxes that came into my possession as the State Historian of the Iowa Honey Producers. My mind rolls over ways that it could be organized and made more accessible and it seems an almost impossible task. Perhaps if I stay with it and peck away at it bit by bit, you and I will both be the better for it. So here I am offering you the opportunity to peek over my shoulder as I dive into the first box!

Several people asked me after the election what my goals were. I have to admit I hadn’t set any goals not knowing how the election might turn out, but Carly and I kicked around a lot of ideas after hearing that Butch Wetzel was wanting to retire.

Carly had already created a Facebook page called Iowa Beekeeping History to create a record of her favorite stories, so I encourage you to go “like” that page as I hope to post stories and videos there. I will also be posting on the Iowa Honey Producers Facebook page.

Butch also suggested that having a story in the Buzz would be nice. I would love to say I would get one written every month but as a mother of eight and grandmother of 13, life happens, but I will do my very best to find interesting tidbits to share through this newsletter.

Beyond that, I am hoping that you will contact me with your ideas. After all, I am here to serve you. Carly and I are hatching a plan where we would like to interview older beekeepers who could provide some information about their beekeeping experience and perhaps even the earlier days of the IHPA.

Please send any suggestions, comments or feedback to me at iowabeekeepinghistory@gmail.com or message me through the Iowa Beekeeping History Facebook page. You can also send information to me via regular mail at 3205 Hillsdale Drive, Urbandale, Iowa 50322.

Now, don’t feel sorry for me when I mull over the enormity of this task. I feel privileged to hold these documents in my hands and peruse them at my convenience. The file in my hands this evening is a copy of the program from the dedication of the Frank Chapman Pellett Memorial in Atlantic, Iowa, on July 11, 1954. For those of you who don’t recognize his name, Pellett served as the State Apiarist for Iowa, starting his post in 1912.

In an article called The Honey Plant Garden, Pellett describes taking possession of a tract of land near Atlantic, Iowa, along the East Nishnabotna River. It was the spring of 1907 and he had returned to Cass County with his wife and first two children planning to live his life as a naturalist and beekeeper. He was concerned that many of the plants he had enjoyed as a boy were then becoming extinct.

Pellett described the farm as having “little in the way of fences,” “with buildings too poor for consideration” and “overgrown with weeds.” He reported that his wife wept at the thought of calling such a place home. And yet he felt that a hog lot offered possibilities as a site for a wildflower preserve. So the hogs were removed, the weeds pulled and the plot was set aside for restoration.

Pellett was surprised by the show of interest from the public and was spurred on to find more plants that offered promise for bee pasture and to extend the area dedicated to their study. This area is now owned by the State of Iowa and managed by the Cass County Conservation Board. It is said to contain over 120 species of plants. I can hardly wait for spring so I can make a trip out to Atlantic to see the fruit of his efforts.

To plan your own trip, please see: https://www.mycountyparks.com. To learn more about Pellett’s life work, please see:
http://www.add.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/manuscripts/MS144.html
https://www.librarything.com/author/pellettfrankchapman
http://www.add.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/manuscripts/MS144.pdf
Collecting Bees from Nature

As District director, I field a lot of calls about bees that are not where a homeowner wants them to be. Sometimes these are swarms that have landed in their yard, sometimes they have taken up residency in their house or outbuildings, other times they are stinging whenever the homeowner gets near a certain location and they do not know what to do. Who are they going to call? A bee keeper. Now that you are a bee keeper, what are you going to do with these calls? First you need to get some basic information from the homeowner about what they are seeing before you can respond intelligently to them. It sounds basic but here is my list:

--How long have they been there?
--How many bees do you see? size of group--compare swarms to sporting balls, ie: football, basketball, etc.
--How high are they? Or where are they at?
--Can you send me a photo? (A photo is worth a thousand words, many people can text them.)

With this information you can determine if you are dealing with a swarm or a group of bees that have already inhabited a building, tree, or other suitable hive location.

Let's discuss Swarms first. You can find a lot of books out there to help you understand what a swarm is and why it typically issues from the colony. You can research this fairly easily. For this article we will describe a swarm as a group of honey bees that are clumped together and hanging on an object that is not their hive. Collecting swarms is usually fairly easy and not much of a threat to your apiary. Swarms typically issue from healthy colonies as a result of overpopulation. But we must also realize that they may come from a colony that is absconding from its original hive. This is not as common, so usually not a huge risk. As a bee keeper, if you want to increase, this can be a lucrative way to add a colony or two each year.

First you need to understand how long the swarm has been in its current location. Swarms that have issued from the colony can remain in an intermittent location anywhere from five minutes to several days. If the home owner saw them land, they can tell you how long they have been there. If not, the information is questionable. Remember the bees are not going to wait around for you to arrive, so you must react to these calls very quickly if you hope to collect the bees. Many swarms can be collected very quickly with very basic supplies. During peak swarm season I keep them in my vehicle at all times. Here is my swarm catcher list:

--A cardboard box. I use a paper box as they have lids that easily slide on and seal well.
--A set of tree pruning shears. I use a handheld set that can cut up to a 1” branch.
--A veil. I keep one of these just in case the homeowner wants to watch.
--A bee brush.
--Optional: a squirt bottle with some 1:1 sugar solution in it.

It is important to know how high they are. Remember, bees are not afraid of heights and therefore do not care if where they land is easily accessible by you. It is not advisable to scale a 40’ tree to collect a softball size swarm. A basketball size swarm on the side of a house under the second floor overhang may be a consideration. Swarms that are above 6’ will require a safe method of access to get to them. Ask the homeowner before you go if they have ladders on site if they have indicated the bees are higher up. Most importantly, be sure to have safe access, or leave them to fly on.

Swarms are USUALLY fairly docile. Before interacting with the swarm, protect yourself to your level of comfort. As always when working with honey bees, they can sense your level of fear or comfort so dress accordingly.

If available, I like to immediately spray a sugar solution onto a swarm before beginning to collect them. I have found that this can delay them flying off if the scouts return while I am evaluating how to collect them. Every swarm is different. They land in different locations, from clumps of grass to high on a building wall. When you get to the swarm, you must figure out how to get it into the box or container that you have with you to transport it. Here is a couple of scenarios that I have found:

--A swarm lands on the sidewalk and is spread out across a 6’ area and up the side of a car. Solution: Set a beehive box on the ground close to the swarm. The hive box has frames of wax in it. Add a cotton swab with “Lemon Grass Oil” dripped on it. The bees march into the hive box and I see the Queen go in! Success.

--A swarm lands on a small bush; homeowner does not allow the bush to be trimmed. Solution: Set the box under the swarm, spray down the swarm with 1:1 sugar solution, shake the bush to dislodge the swarm into the box.

--A swarm lands on the side of a building. Using shears, trim the branch below the swarm, then gently above the swarm. Drop the branch and swarm into the box.

--A swarm lands on a small tree branch. Using bee brush, swipe swarm into the box.

Collecting the swarm successfully and keeping them depends upon catching the queen. If you have the queen, you have a good chance of successfully installing them in a hive in your apiary. Don’t expect them to be happy to see you open the box when you get there. It is a good idea to have your veil on! Swarms will tend to climb to the top of the box that they are in. If your lid is on the top you are cutting right into their midst by opening the box.

To install the swarm, treat them similar to a new package. Depending on the time of day and weather when you do the installation you may vary this a little. I will often set an empty super on my bottom board and shake the swarm into this. If I

Continued on P. 7-->
have a tree branch in with the swarm it goes right in with them. I then top this with my hive body making sure that I have some bare foundation for them to draw comb on as well as drawn comb, if available, for the queen to immediately get to work laying eggs. This is topped with a gift of sugar water to feed them. I then completely close the entrance with wads of grass. By the time they work their way out they will learn to love their new home. The next time I visit the colony I remove the empty super.

It is a good idea to watch how the queen is doing and consider re-queening the colony to get the genetics and characteristics that you are wanting in your apiary.

Catching a swarm can be a very rewarding experience. I hope you get a call for a swarm this year. Good luck and let us know how your experience paid off.

Jim Marshall

Director, District 1, IHPA

Editor note—I’m assembling the May Buzz on April 11. I just got a call from Linn Danzer in the Omaha Bee Club who said he got his first call for a swarm catch today. His first call in 2017 was March 9! In 2017, he collected around 60 swarms.

Beek of the Month for May, 2018

It’s a windy and cold March 31st day as I head out to travel to Rockwell City. I show up early—I was fooled by the travel time. It was an early April Fool’s on me. However, I was invited into a warm chat around the kitchen table and the Welanders.

It’s my pleasure to introduce you to Kyle Welander and his daughter Reagan. Reagan started keeping bees one year ago and has set a goal to make a thousand dollars in beekeeping in 2018. She has named her venture "Beelander Honey". It’s a play on words that will work and a nice marketing ploy. She has developed a nice-looking label. Reagan is in FFA and is using bees as her project. She’s excited for the year to get started, and she’s looking forward to figuring out more about splitting a hive. She gives credit to her grandfather for getting her into bees, as he was a beekeeper years ago. Kyle and Reagan have two yards where they can put bees, and they realize how useful two places for bees can be.

I really enjoyed this interview meeting Reagan again and Kyle. I believe we will see some "Beelander Honey" around this year as the smile Reagan has just says it all. Kyle and Reagan—thank you! I look forward to hearing about how your year is going.

Submitted by Roy Kraft, past president of IHPA

NEW IHPA DIRECTORY TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2018!

READ MORE ON PAGE 8

Legislative News for Beekeepers (with addendum below!)

Since my last report last month there has been action on only one of the four bills that I summarized then. That is HF2371 – Municipal Liability For Bee Hives. On April 11 this bill was brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor and it passed 47 to 1. So in the entire process that this bill has gone through there was only one dissenting vote. It passed the House earlier in March with a unanimous vote of 96 to 0.

Now it goes to Governor Kim Reynolds’ desk to be signed. She is expected to sign it and when she does this bill will become law on July 1. This means that state agencies and municipalities will be exempt from liability for claims relating to bee hives on public property. This will make it much easier for the DNR, cities and schools to place hives on property that they own. This is a good step for beekeeping in the state. Thanks goes to Representative Rob Taylor for spearheading this bill through the process. Also I want to thank Jim Obradovich and the Capital Group, who are our paid lobbyists, for their efforts in helping us make the right contacts. This is the reason we have become active in Iowa’s legislature.

The other three bills have no action taken on them. That is the Ag Theft Bill, Honey Bee Taxation and Honey Bee as the State Insect. So I am assuming that since the session is only a couple weeks away from ending, these three bills will not go anywhere this year. We will have to pursue them again next year. Please refer to last month’s report for more info on what these bills are if you cannot remember.

As you will read in Linn Wilbur’s report about Honey Bee Day in the Legislature on March 14, we made a lot of contacts with legislators. The IHPA official photographer, Nicole Crusinberry, took a lot of great photos of beekeks talking to senators and representatives. Since then I sent each representative that we had a picture of, their picture. They really appreciated those pictures. We are making an impression on them – I think for the better.

Thanks for your participation in this important legislative process. Jamie Beyer, beyersbog@aol.com, 515-231-0215.

***

6:12 p.m. tonight April 11, I learned the following great news from Jim Obradovich … Senate approved the bill - next stop the Gov’s desk!!!

HF 2371 (formerly HSB 661) - Municipal Liability For Bee Hives (F) - This bill amends the Iowa tort claims Act and the Iowa municipal tort claims Act to create an exemption from liability for claims related to constructed honeybee hives on public property against state agencies and municipalities, provided that the state agency, municipality, or bee hive owner acted reasonably and in good faith. The Iowa tort claims Act defines state agency to include all executive departments, agencies, boards, bureaus, and commissions of the state. The Iowa municipal tort claims Act defines a municipality as a city, county, township, school district, or any other unit of local government.

Approved by House 96-0. Approved by Committee.
MERCHANDISE

Your response to the Inventory Blowout Sale has been tremendous. So much so in fact, we have VERY LIMITED Adult sizes. We have Small and Medium adult shirts in most colors, except yellow. We have 2X-Large in Gray, Yellow, Pink and Green. In 3X-Large we have Yellow, Pink, Green and Black. We have green camo shirts with blaze orange lettering in Small, Medium, Large and X-Large.

In YOUTH shirts we have most sizes in most colors. We have a few hats and aprons. We have plenty of cookbooks. All are still available for sale at GREAT prices.

Adult T-Shirts $5. Youth T-Shirts $2. IHPA Hats $5. IHPA Apron $8. Individual IHPA Cookbook $4. IHPA Cookbook case (30 books) $90 – that’s only $3 per book. It typically costs about $22 to ship a case to you. That is only $3.73 a book. These can be sold anywhere between $5 and $10 – with the profit going to you. What a great addition to your table/booth at upcoming farmers’ markets.

Postage for the T-Shirts is $5 for one shirt, $7.50 for two shirts, and $10 for three shirts. For larger orders, we can e-mail you an invoice with the exact amount of postage once your order has shipped. Please be sure to include shipping.

E-mail Rhonda at IHPATreasurer@gmail.com or send her a note with the sizes and colors. Remember, we may not have all sizes in all colors. So give us a 2nd choice in size and color. If you want to check with Rhonda before you order to see what is still available, her contact info is 515-724-2124, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton, IA 50049-8616

Keep Calm Keep Bees YOUTH T-Shirt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size 1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>Color 1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>How Many</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size 1st Choice</td>
<td>2nd Choice</td>
<td>Color 1st Choice</td>
<td>2nd Choice</td>
<td>How Many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size 1st Choice</td>
<td>2nd Choice</td>
<td>Color 1st Choice</td>
<td>2nd Choice</td>
<td>How Many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size 1st Choice</td>
<td>2nd Choice</td>
<td>Color 1st Choice</td>
<td>2nd Choice</td>
<td>How Many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size 1st Choice</td>
<td>2nd Choice</td>
<td>Color 1st Choice</td>
<td>2nd Choice</td>
<td>How Many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat</td>
<td>How Many</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cookbook</td>
<td>How Many</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apron</td>
<td>How Many</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: _____________________________________________________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________
City, ST, Zip ___________________________ Phone Number: ____________________

New Directory

All memberships received as of April 10th have been updated and should be receiving the May issue of The BUZZ Newsletter. Please check your address and be sure everything is spelled correctly. We want to be sure everything is correct for the new directory we are working on. If you’re not sure you gave me your phone number or e-mail address when you renewed your membership, please e-mail Rhonda at IHPATreasurer@gmail.com, in the subject line please list NEW DIRECTORY. Please have all information to her by May 31, 2018. We need this much time to get the data to the printer so we can have a new directory by the State Fair.

Blood Flow Improver –› Honey, rich in glucose, is known to improve the blood flow. Glucose provides energy in the bloodstream, which is distributed throughout the body. As a result, the blood produced has the proper consistency, flowing smoothly through the blood vessels. Glucose is believed to prevent capillary damage due to its ability to improve your blood flow.

Antiseptic –› Hydrogen peroxide is a chemical used for cleaning wounds and helping them heal quickly. Honey happens to contain a good amount of the chemical. It only needs to be released by diluting the substance in water or body fluids. When applied on an open wound, the glucose, contained by honey, is diluted and gradually releases hydrogen peroxide. The substance facilitates your wound’s faster healing. Due to its viscous consistency, it also prevents wounds from sticking to the dressing and reduces the appearance of scars.

Americans consume about 1.5 pounds of honey per person annually. In the United States, there are more than 300 types of honey. Pure honey has many benefits for humans. Not only can you enjoy honey as a food item, you can use it for a variety of home and health-related applications. It may not replace all of the technological methods currently practiced in hospitals, but it is used as a treatment for illnesses, as well as a replacement for vitamin supplements.
The Iowa State Fair may be three months away but we all know the importance of planning ahead. How many of you have wanted to enter your cut comb honey or a frame of honey ready for extraction? How about a piece of beeswax art or a photo of your beekeeping adventure? Do you have an observation hive you are proud of? Are you gifted with displays? All of these are classes in the Apiary – Bees and Honey Division. Maybe you want to enter but the entry process too complicated. Let me put your mind at ease; it’s no longer complicated.

IHPA Vice President, Erin Miller, has put together a comprehensive guide to entering all classes. The 35-page guide begins with the rules for submitting entries and provides clear, detailed, step by step instructions on how to complete your entries online. If you’re not connected to the web, you can also submit your entry form via snail mail.

Each step in the process, from entry to delivery to showing to scoring is clearly spelled out in this guide, complete with photos. There are a total of 24 classes for adults and youth. Want a few tips from past blue ribbon winners on how you, too, can get that blue ribbon? This guide has got that covered as well as general tips for entering each class. And just how is a class judged and scored? Well, that’s covered too. Like in many county fairs, there are premiums paid out for the various classes. That means you not only get a ribbon, but you can earn a bit of cash. In the end, however, the real reward is the number of people who will see your entry and your name attributed to it. How great is it – our would it be - to hear a friend, family member, neighbor, or colleague tell you they saw your entry at the Iowa State Fair?

So, now that you know the process has been made easier, where can you get one of these guides and how much does one cost? All of the IHPA board members and district directors have copies. If your club has a lending library, there may be one there you can check out. Contact information for board members and district directors is listed on the back of this newsletter and on the IHPA website. There is no set price on this guide, but we are asking a free-will donation of $5.00 or higher per guide. Please call us to get your copy and we’ll tell you where to send your donation. All funds collected from the sale of this guide will be put towards renovation projects of the Iowa Honey Producers Association booth at the Iowa State Fair. In fact, renovations are in the process now.

Great work went into the production of this State Fair entry guide. Erin has taken the complication and confusion about how to enter your “state fair” quality item(s). Each entry is just $1.00 so there’s no reason why every inch of the IHPA booth on the upper level of the Ag Building cannot be filled with honeybee related entries from all over our state. We are looking forward to hearing from you and cannot wait to see your entries.

** I M P O R T A N T ** The deadline to enter is July 14, 2018. Entries must be submitted online or postmarked on or before that date. No late entries accepted.

BLAST FROM THE PAST! (That’s Eve in the garden-->)

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas. WAIT A MOMENT. We celebrated the Holidays months ago. Day light savings time started in March. The calendar tells me it’s May. What’s going on? Could it be the effects of climate change? Is Mother Nature playing tricks on us? Might another Ice Age be approaching? No matter the truth, it’s a fact, Old Man Winter isn’t ready to call it quits.

How many of you remember bee season 2013? Here in my corner of paradise, just outside of Pella, on May 3, 2013 we received a few inches of snow. Yes, snow in May. Pella’s Tulip Time events for that day were cancelled. I remember spring arrived early that year and I had my garden nearly all planted. The night before, I had to cover up my tender plants to keep them from freezing. As a master gardener, I should have known better. The last frost date in my Zone 5 is May 12. Did the bees know what that next day would bring? In the end, the snow and cold didn’t recede until the following week. Are we to experience a repeat in 2018?
Coloring Pages for Kids and Adults

We have just finished teaching 3 separate beginning beekeeping classes. Before our classes started in January, we knew one young father might be bringing Olivia, his 6 year old daughter. We encourage families to take classes together if they wish and charge by the household. We think of it as planting a lot seeds for future beekeepers or individuals with an awareness of sustainability and environmental issues.

We had previously downloaded honey bee coloring pages, so we (more precisely Jerry) thought why not take some coloring pages and colored pencils to entertain his young daughter. We added these to our arsenal of supplies that we haul to our beekeeping classes.

In our Albia class, we had a mother bring 3 children (Secile-9, Syrus-11 and Shallis-12). Her 12-year-old son was very interested in the class and took a lot of notes. We asked the two girls if they would like to color a picture. Each week we tried to have different honey bee coloring pages for them to choose. What a way to entertain the younger ones and they looked forward to coming each week. Their mother was surprised at how much they were learning, especially the young girls who were coloring pages and still soaking in a lot of honey bee information. Their favorite class was when we sampled different types of honey to include buckwheat and it was always fun for us to see what the kids colored each week. The artwork is from their last night of classes.

This article started because we wanted to share with other individuals where they might download honey bee coloring pages. We first downloaded honey bee coloring pages a few years ago when we started doing annual spring presentations to kindergarteners in Knoxville during Marion County Days. Please note that we usually choose to print coloring pages on lightweight cardstock. On the internet there’s a nice variety of honey bee themed coloring pages for all ages (the very young and adults). We’ve also started downloading honey bee themed word games, mazes, etc. Please note that Pinterest has a lot of images and links. If you see something you want, you might want to download to your own device. Websites are often updated and in time, the content you want may no longer be available.

Respectfully submitted by both Jerry & Sheila Weldon

as well as Syrus, Secile & Olivia
RULES FOR 2018 STATE FAIR PRODUCTS BEING SOLD AT THE IHPA BOOTH

1.) There will be a 2-person committee, plus booth manager. Bids must be sent to 2 of the 3 on the committee, mailed only. Yes, 2 stamps, 2 envelopes. (No e-mail.)
2.) There will be a firm cut-off date of June 15, with the committee meeting on June 23.
3.) The committee will meet in a predetermined neutral place. The general IHPA membership will be allowed to witness.
4.) All liquid honey and comb honey is to be from 2018 harvest.
5.) All glass honey containers and creamed honey containers must have a protection seal.
6.) All plastic containers must have a pressure seal. This includes all large containers.
7.) All products must show proper labeling (i.e. name, city, phone number, and net weight).
8.) Any item not listed on the sheet or specialty items you wish to market at fair booth, is up to the discretion of the booth manager, based on counter space and the ability to supply. (ie. bee related items).
9.) Honey for the Honey Lemonade (50-pound buckets) will be a sealed bid only. Low bid takes it all. (This is the only true bid item.)
10.) Pollen must have a “US pollen” label.
11.) These rules will be reviewed yearly at the January board meeting.

SOLE CLASSES

1.) There will be one person that will have a sole class of honey or item based on price list. For example: one person will have ALL 24 oz bears for the fair based on price list. If 2 or more want it, we decide by a draw, winner takes the whole class. Excluding “case lots”; see below on these. Draw order will be most numbers sold last year first to least. You will only be allowed to win every other draw, however, if you are the only one that entered you will get the class. You may enter consecutive classes.
2.) All beeswax products (candles, ornaments, blocks, etc.) must be packaged to maintain cleanliness and for presentation.
3.) Lip balms, lotions and soaps- this will be at committee and booth manager discretion. Please submit to us by June 15 a list of what you would like to market at the fair for 2018. Please include phone number as the committee may call you on meeting day.

CREAMED HONEY RULES

1.) Flavored honey and creamed honey must come from a certified kitchen.
2.) A copy of the license must be on file with the booth manager and the booth manager must have with them at the State Fair.
3.) More than one wanting to bring a flavor, a draw will decide who brings the flavor.

CASE LOTS

1.) The purpose of the case lots is a way for the small beekeeper to provide honey to the fair. (By participating in the Case Lot classes, you forfeit your ability to participate in the “Sole Classes”.)
2.) If you participate in the “Sole Classes” you forfeit your ability to participate in the Case Lot classes.
3.) Case Lot classes are 1-pound glass, the 12-ounce bear and the 1-pound plastic.
4.) Case lots will be in case quantities of 24 bottles.
5.) You may bring no more than 4 cases of each class.
6.) Minimum is one case of 24 for a class.
7.) Clean-up rule: In the event the required quantity cannot be fulfilled through the case lot system those participating in “sole classes” will be encouraged to help supply the additional quantity needed of each class through a draw. (One person per class decided by draw if needed).

CUT COMB AND ROSS ROUNDS

--must be in a sealed container
--well-drained without liquid honey
--quality standards will be used (clean capping with all cells capped)
--needs to weigh at least 14 oz.
--MUST be frozen for a minimum of 48 hours prior to arriving at the Iowa State Fair, subject to rejection, booth manager discretion.
--Cut comb and Ross rounds are not a “Sole Class” nor a “Case Class”; open to all IHPA members.

DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS:

--You must deliver products to the booth.
--Plan to deliver your products between Sunday and Wednesday evening.
--All products must be received prior to fair opening at 9:00 am Thursday morning.
--Provide an invoice when product is delivered.
--Please make plans to pick up unsold product on Sunday evening between 9:00 and 10:00 pm or Monday between 8:00 and 12 noon.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOLE CLASSES</th>
<th>QUANTITY SOLD FROM 2016 STATE FAIR</th>
<th>QUANTITY SOLD FROM 2017 STATE FAIR</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>I want this class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 24 ounce bear</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>$5.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 3 pound jug</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>$10.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 2 pound glass</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 5 pound jug</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 2 ounce bear</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 16 ounce Antique (Muth) jar</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 8 ounce Antique (Muth) jar</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>$4.25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 4 ounce Antique (Muth) jar</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Buckwheat Honey 1 pound</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 12 pound gallon jugs</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Honey Stix</td>
<td>35,694</td>
<td>40,897</td>
<td>$0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CERTIFIED KITCHEN, SOLE CLASS**

| Creamed Honey - Regular & Flavored (1 pound) | 1815 | 2281 | $5.50 |
| Flavored Honey                           | 960  | 962  | $3.50 |

**BEESWAX PRODUCTS, SOLE CLASS**

| Beeswax bars - 1 ounce                  | 91   | 77   | $2.00 |
| Beeswax bars - 1/2 pound                | 26   | 28   | $4.00 |
| Beeswax bars - 1 pound                  | 26   | 26   | $7.00 |
| Honey (Wooden) Dippers                   | 85   | 109  | $1.50 |
| 11 piece Nativity Set                    | 8    | 3    | $27.50 |
| Corn Cob Candle                          | 24   | 27   | $5.50 |
| 12" pair Dinner Candles                 | 17   | 9    | $6.00 |
| 8" pair Dinner Candles                  | 21   | 24   | $5.00 |
| Small Skep with Bear Candle              | 40   | 44   | $3.00 |
| Tea lights (12 pack) Candles             | 12   | 15   | $5.50 |
| Round Pillar Bee                         | 12   | 15   | $5.50 |
| Pillar 6" Rolled Look Candle            | 12   | 15   | $5.50 |
| Square Bee Candle                        | 13   | 4    | $4.00 |
| Votive (4 pack) Candle                   | 12   | 23   | $5.00 |
| Turkey Candle                            | 9    | 11   | $4.50 |
| Lighthouse Candle                       | 11   | 4    | $4.00 |
| Medium Skep Candle                       | 10   | 14   | $4.00 |
| Large Skep Candle                        | 5    | 8    | $6.00 |
| Pillar 10" Rolled Look Candle           | 3    | 11   | $7.00 |
| Hand Dipped Pair Candles                | 0    | N/A  | $7.00 |
| Fire Starter (5 pack)                    | 22   | 23   | $1.50 |
| Bee Pollen (1/2 pound)                   | 61   |      | $6.00 |
| Bee Pollen (1 pound)                     | 50   | 100 lbs. | $10.00 |

**CASE LOTS 24 per case**

Limit 4 cases per class

| 1 pound glass liquid honey | 148 | 177 | $5.25 |
| 1 pound plastic (light honey) | 299 | 348 | $5.00 |
| 12 oz. Honey Bear (light honey) | 441 | 368 | $4.00 |
| Comb Honey (Clamshells & Boxes)    | 585 | 540 | $6.00 |
| Ross Rounds                       | 18  |     | $4.50 |

How many can you provide?

Price per pound - you bid, low bid take all

| Honey for Lemonade (50 pound pails) | 2,890 pounds | 2,428 pounds |

**CLEAN-UP**

| 1 pound glass |  |
| 1 pound plastic |  |
| 12 ounce Honey Bear |  |
Iowa Has a New Agricultural Secretary

Since our former Iowa Agricultural Secretary Bill Northey was appointed by the president to be an Under Secretary in the US Dept. of Agriculture – this left the Iowa position open. So, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, on March 1, appointed Mike Naig to fulfill the remaining term of Sec. Northey’s. He had been serving as Sec. Northey’s Deputy Secretary and is well-acquainted with the position.

The IHPA was very interested in meeting with our new Ag Sec. So, a meeting was arranged on March 27 with Sec. Naig. Those in attendance from IHPA were Eve Vanden Broek, Pres. IHPA; Pat Ennis, Commercial Beek (and former Pres. IHPA); Dr. Linn Wilbur, Volunteer Lobbyist IHPA; and Jamie Beyer, Volunteer Lobbyist IHPA.

Lots of items were discussed in a short 40-minute meeting. We talked about the importance of Fieldwatch to protect our hives from accidental spraying. We discussed our state apiarist, Andy Joseph and the workload he faces on a daily basis. Also, it was evident during the meeting that the subject of how valuable honey bees are to the state’s agricultural economy was very much on the mind of Sec. Naig.

To have an open dialogue with Sec. Naig is extremely important to the future and priority that honey bees must have in the Dept. of Ag. This was a valuable first step in that process. Sec. Naig was very open-minded and appeared to be very supportive of keeping honey bees at the forefront in the Dept. of Ag.

I want to thank Sec. Naig, Eve, Pat and Linn for taking time out of their day to attend this meeting. Please refer to the picture of us presenting some extracted honey items to Sec Naig that day.

---

It’s Fair Time……Almost.

The Iowa State Fair being held August 9-19th is the biggest public event for the IHPA and Iowa beekeepers. If you have never participated I would invite you to do so this year. There are several ways you can participate: sell honey, volunteer to work at the IHPA booth (super fun) or submit a fair entry.

Each year the IHPA publishes information regarding submitting a bid to sell honey and value add products at the fair. Last year the IHPA improved the bidding process so that smaller producers can participate. If you can produce a single case of one-pound jars you can sell your honey at the fair. Don’t let questions stop you from participating! Call Roy Kraft for help with your honey bid.

WE NEED YOU! It takes many volunteers to work the IHPA booth located directly above the famous Butter Cow in the Ag building. The sale of honey lemonade is our largest fund raiser and helps support the Youth Scholarship and Queen Programs. Last year we volunteered as a family and had one of the best fair experiences to date. Our boys are already planning to work again this year. There are many jobs available to fit everyone’s needs and preferences. Plus, as a bonus you will receive free admission to the fair for working a shift and all the honey lemonade you can drink. Sign up sheets will be available at the Summer Field Day in Sioux Center June 30th. If you have any questions or would like to sign up now contact Heidi Love for more details.

The 2018 Premium Books and Entry forms are now available for the Iowa State Fair and entries will be accepted on May 1st. The final due date for entries is July 14th. Submitting an entry into the State Fair can be intimidating for the first timer, but I would encourage everyone to participate. Entering the fair allows you to get judges’ feedback on your products and the possibly of adding a few extra dollars in your pocket. If you are unsure of how to enter the fair, the IHPA has created a booklet containing general information and details on each exhibit to help guide you through the entire process. Booklets are available for a donation (donations will be used to renovate the fair booth) and will be available at the Summer Field Day. For more information regarding how to enter the Iowa State Fair or how to obtain a booklet please contact your District Director.

Nothing Compares to the Iowa State Fair’s Moments! Join us this year at the fair.

Shane Bixby and Erin Miller, IHPA Vice President
Field Day Guest Speakers include an ALL IOWA line-up featuring: Curt Bronnenberg, “Evaluating and Splitting Your Hives”; Phil Ebert, “Wintering your Bees in Iowa”; Bob Fassbinder, “Queen Rearing”; and Andy Joseph, Iowa’s State Apiarist, providing an update on the state of Iowa’s honeybees. Also meet Joy Westerkamp the Iowa Honey Queen and hear her speak. This will be a full day of knowledge exchange for beekeepers of all levels. IHPA District 6 Director Dave Korver will be placing hives at the college in early spring.

Please mark your calendar and remember to bring your bee gear.

A delicious lunch will be provided. Bottled water, honey lemonade, and coffee will be available throughout the day.

**Registration:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$30 before June 1, 2018</td>
<td>$30 x Number attending =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***Walk-ins on June 30, 2018 welcome however lunch may be unavailable.***

***Space for this event is limited to the first 200 registrants.***
Summer Field Day is coming!!

You won’t want to miss the learning that will go on in Sioux Center this summer. Here’s one of the sectional leaders:

In 1976 Bob Fassbinder and his wife Kathy moved from the city to rural Elgin Iowa to start the beginning of their beekeeping operation. The Fassbinder operation grew to tending hives in 60 locations, teaching, and queen rearing. As a result of the loss of bees nationwide and the family’s passion to save the bees, the Fassbinders started to raise their own queens. Bob has worked to raise hardy bees that have a better chance of survival. Bob believes that the key to honey bee survival is genetics. Please join us at the Annual Field Day to see Bob graft live and talk about queen rearing basics. The live grafting will be captured on camera and will be projected on screen for all to see.

Erin Miller, IHPA Vice President

END OF SUMMER FIELD DAY

“Is it just me, or have the drones been extra hungry this week?”
“Where did you say that flower patch was? Corner house, green one with the garden?” “No, the trees were by the pond.”
“Nice proboscis, Sally”

MORE SUMMER FIELD DAY!

Curt Bronnenberg is a second-generation beekeeper that has been involved in keeping bees his entire life. Curt and his wife Connie have managed Spring Valley Honey Farms for more than 30 years and manage over 4000 colonies. The Bronnenbergs produce and market approximately 140,000 pounds of honey annually and participate in the almond pollination in California during Iowa’s cold months. Curt will be joining us at the Annual IHPA Field Day to demonstrate what he looks for during a hive inspection. He will also discuss colony splits. The Annual Field Day will be held June 30th, in Sioux Center, IA. Complete your registration (p. 14) today.

Now we all know your secret Curt—your grand daughter tells you where to put the boxes. No wonder you’re so successful!

BTW, I wasn’t kidding about the Dutch Bakery. If you’ve never offered Pigs In The Blanket to your guests, you’re missing out. Take them home frozen! And Almond Patties.
FieldWatch/BeeCheck—Communication, Cooperation, Collaboration by Linn Wilbur

If you are a new beekeeper or this year's IHPA Youth Scholarship Program Student you might not be aware of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) sponsored hive registration program, FieldWatch/BeeCheck. The intent of FieldWatch/BeeCheck is "...to help pesticide applicators and beekeepers communicate more effectively to promote awareness and stewardship activities to help prevent and manage drift effects."

The location, number of hives and contact information you enter is used by commercial pesticide applicators to find your hives, so they can comply with Iowa pesticide application rules. This information is also accessible by non-commercial applicators and others. Your apiary location is available in the form of a map with a highlighted circle representing the one mile applicator distance in Iowa regulations or you can select to display just the location. Your contact information is available by clicking on the circle/location, though under IA application rules the commercial applicator is not required to contact you. FieldWatch/BeeCheck is voluntary and free.

In 2017 with the adoption of FieldWatch/BeeCheck IDALS adopted a major upgrade from their previous program, making entry, access and upgrading hive locations easier. Previously you needed to know the legal description of where your hives were located, but now can use a Google Earth style interface to locate your hives. Each registrant can enter as many apiary locations as needed and keep them updated. Yearly renewal is required, but is an easy process that does not require you to re-enter information.

There has been discussion if it is advisable to publically list the location of your hives. The risk is this information could be used to steal or harass hives. This is a personal decision that you need to make--that risk versus the chance of being sprayed. Personally, I list all my apiary locations, have not had any theft issues, continue to have aerial applicators call prior to application, and have local farmers contact me to discuss best application practices to avoid issues for my hives. If your hives are not listed, you limit your recourse in the event of being sprayed.

Access and registration for FieldWatch/BeeCheck:
IDALS web site and select FieldWatch: https://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/sensitiveCropDirectory.asp
IHPA web site/links-resources page and select FieldWatch: https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/links-resources
FieldWatch web site and select BeeCheck: https://ia.beecheck.org/

Editor note: As a result of our IHPA president’s request for interesting stories from our members, we are getting articles like the one that follows. As you read this, consider if it’s something you too can do. Please submit them before the 10th of any month for inclusion in the following month’s Buzz.

We at Great River Bend Beekeepers, in Jackson County, had a while back one of our members, Mike, bring a picture of his personal honey supply, being displayed on the shores of Greece by his daughter. This brought on the quiet challenge of others to find their own far-away place. All was going well, until recently we had another member, Will, bring in a picture of his personal honey being displayed on the fender of a military tank in Afghanistan. So, upon taking this all into consideration, the wife and I had made plans for a 15-day cruise trip to Hawaii and the islands of. My picture is of our personal honey going on a cruise and visiting the islands of Hilo, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui, and a last stopover in Ensenada, Mexico. While walking the streets of Ensenada I came upon a local bee keeper with his display of products. We talked, and I shared some local pictures of our Iowa hives, but not before being stung by one of his local honey bees occupying his display. As we departed from our experience of a great cruise trip we left our personal honey in the hands of our head waiter "Alan" who resides from the Philippines.

I have provided you with a picture of our personal honey that we took on our tour standing on deck seven, overlooking the Pacific ocean while enroute to our next destination. What a ride we had!

Thanks,
Stan & Kay Bates, Great River Bend BeeKeepers
Beekeeping Clubs across the state:

1. The South East Iowa Beekeepers met Monday night, March 5, at the Pizza Ranch in Mt. Pleasant. There were about 50 beeks present, and Joy Westercamp gave the program. She did an excellent job. Then on Saturday March 31 we had an all-day class for new beekeepers. There were 30 present, and again Joy did an excellent job with the class. We will be having three field days this summer. The times and topics have not been determined yet.

Vern Ramsey

2. Message from Quad City Bee Keeper Club (Davenport area)

We have booked Dale Hill who invented AP23 feed for ADM for our May meeting. Another accomplishment over here is after two years of working with the Scott County fair board, we will again (after many years missing) have honey judging at the Mississippi Valley Fair in August. We are using some of the Iowa State Fair style entries, so winners could move on to the State Fair the next week if they cared to.

From club secretary Doug Dahlin

3. The Siouxland Beekeepers of NW Iowa is what got Jackie Busch and Marita Turner connected with each other. One night when the group was very large in the Orange City meeting, Ron Rynders asked where people were from. Towns were popping out all over the place like morel mushrooms in spring. Jackie announced she was from Anthon, IA and when Marita immediately announced Moville, IA, that put us within ten miles of each other. Both of us had driven over 60 miles to get to Orange City that night, in order to find out that our nearest beekeeper neighbor in the club was ten miles away.

Jackie was just getting started in bees and she was willing to get help in every endeavor regarding a hive. She had tagged along beside Cecilia (Rosie) Patterson, her mentor, a veteran of bees for 60 years. John Anderson, the Sioux City representative of the Siouxland Beekeepers, and Marita called upon her to help in a late fall cut out that didn’t end well for the bees, but solidified the fact that we were compatible with our ideas that we wanted to share in our efforts to help bees do their job as pollinators.

Marita’s family has been involved with bee since the early 1900’s when Brown, one of the founders of Sioux Bee Honey, had an extraction bee house on the place and two caves where bees were placed prior to the mighty bee migration to the California almond groves. Agriculture has changed. They used to extract three times a year from that house. Now the commercial guy struggles to get enough honey for one extract. He informed Marita there are only twelve commercial bee keepers left in Iowa and six of them do NOT live there.

The commercial guy has access to Marita’s place, so Marita works with others. Marita had actively become involved with bees due to John Anderson’s influence, and had just left a three year relationship because they wanted to take a year off. So the equipment was there and needed to be kept in active production, when Jackie and Marita met.

Jackie and Marita were preparing for the new NUC’s that were to arrive in the spring. The winter job of prepping equipment and laying out what would be needed for each hive to go from nuc to two deep frame brood boxes with frames, bottom boards, inner boards, covers and feeders was occurring. We thought we had accomplished counting boxes when the resource hive kept sneaking into our numbers. Marita told Jackie we need a way to mark that resource hive so that we don’t keep including the 4-frame small boxes of the resource hive with the 5-frame NUC’s and the resource divided hive bottom with a regular deep. Jackie then took her artistic ability and added the cartoon character bees of recalculating on an orientation flight, pest buster box or bouncer to the mites and wax moths, Sherlock Holmes in search of pollinators everywhere and honey flow direction to the sides of the resource boxes so we can differentiate between the types of boxes.

Submitted by Jackie Busch (Attached pictures are of the designs we have come up with so far.)

OK, folks, who else out there paints their hives with these wonderful pics? Send me some examples of your artwork, and I’ll use them in future Buzz articles.

Thanks to all the IHPA beeks who have shared their personal stories. Keep them coming!!
More than just honey from the hive.

I have read throughout past "The Buzz" newsletters encouragement for members to participate in submitting articles. So I thought, since I enjoy writing, I will give it shot. By the time this article is published, I sincerely hope the weather is warmer! As I write this, it is currently a whopping 23 degrees in April, strong northwest wind, and chances of 3 to 4 inches of snow. I really needed to work in our shop today as I am behind building our own bee hives and nuc's. But the thought of working in an unheated building without gloves, and the feeling of cold fingers turning color did not appeal today. The alternative of writing an article with the laptop, and sitting next to a heater seemed a much better option.

A brief background of ourselves: We are Jim and Penny Dolezal, and operate Busy Bee Acres near Tama. We currently have approximately 55 hives, and will be expanding them to 80 this year. Our goal is to grow to the point that eventually generates the bulk of our income from honey bees. Right now I still truck livestock throughout Iowa, and am "gear jamming" two days per week. Which is by far the least favorite part of what we do. We are also mentors for two students this year through the Iowa Honey Producers Scholarship Program. We have been very excited and think highly of this program and love helping someone begin their bee keeping journey.

Over a year ago, we felt the need for a bee club localized in our area. Thus we began and manage Tama County Bee Keepers which has grown to approximately 30+ members attending meetings, and 74 Facebook members. More and more we receive phone calls, texts, or messages from people that just need opinions, ideas, costs, or have a bad experience and need to vent. Talking bees with people is a subject I will always make time for, and never get tired of.

One of the first questions new bee keepers ask us: "How much money does it take to begin bee keeping?" I usually respond joking. "How much money do you have?" There are so many variables with that question, depending if you are purchasing everything you need at a supply store, or making it yourself. In our operation I make everything except frames and foundation. I could not have expanded the numbers we have if everything was bee supply store purchased. But no matter how it is done, it still becomes an investment that takes time to gainback.

But I also think that a lot of individuals entering bee keeping do not know that there is much more than just honey as a marketable commodity. We attend three weekly farmers markets each season, and doprivate sales. Sure, we sell raw honey as probably the number one product, but also take the beeswax and turn it into lip balms, body bars, candles, and beeswax food wraps, just to name a few. This becomes Penny's job of the operation. Through hard work, practice, and trial & error, she has created some excellent products. With that being her part of the business, mine is primarily hands-on caretaker of the bees. This arrangement works well as I am sure if I was the one melting the wax, adding the scents, etc., I would ruin more batches than she would have time to fix! There is much demand and consumer interest in natural products that aren't filled with chemicals. By a breakdown of our product sales—60% of our hive income generates from raw honey and bees, and 40% is from natural hiveby-products.

But most important of all: take care of the bees! Without them, nothing else will materialize. To us they are so much more than a potential money-maker. The jobs they perform, and things they do are always an amazing thing. For me they are therapeutic. I can be having a really bad day, but spending time, or just watching them can bring that As a whole different perspective.

Jim and Penny Dolezal.

Cancer and Heart Disease Prevention → Heart disease and cancer are diseases that have claimed the lives of millions of people. Both conditions have a multitude of causes, some of which are hard to identify. You must have some sort of protection from these diseases. That protection can come in the form of honey. Honey’s antioxidants prevent the formation of cancer cells and preserve the quality of the produced blood. This prevents heart disease in the process. However, engaging in acts that promote cancer, such as smoking and excessive drinking, will still trigger the diseases. So, remain aware of what you choose to do to your body.
**Emma’s Recipes (from the IHPA Recipe Book)**

May is upon us and Mother’s Day is almost here! Why not surprise your mom, wife, or maybe just yourself with homemade honey bread and some nice chocolate brownies! Everybody loves homemade goodies, especially ones full of something as delicious as honey!

**Honey White Bread (Pg 24):**

1 teaspoon dry yeast

3 ½ cup flour

½ teaspoon salt

1 cup buttermilk

¼ cup honey

¼ cup oil

¼ teaspoon baking soda

Place ingredients in bread machine in order given. Select “white bread” setting. Bake according to bread machine directions.

Emma’s notes:

YUM!! This isn’t the best recipe if you do not have a bread machine, but if you do, it is delicious. I did not have buttermilk when I made this, so I made buttermilk. I mixed 1 cup milk with about one tablespoon of white vinegar.

**Bodacious Brownies (Pg 67):**

1/3 cup butter

¾ cup whole wheat flour

¼ teaspoon salt

½ cup unsweetened, shredded coconut

2 ounces unsweetened chocolate

2 eggs

¼ cup raw honey

½ cup unsweetened, chopped pecans, toasted

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease 8”x8” baking dish; set aside.

In a sauce pan, melt butter and chocolate together. In a small bowl, whisk together, flour, baking powder, and salt; set aside.

In a large bowl, beat eggs until frothy. Gradually beat in honey. Beat in a small amount of the chocolate mixture and then gradually beat in the remaining chocolate mixture.

Add flour mixture and beat until smooth. Stir in coconut and pecans.

Pour batter into prepared dish and bake for 25-30 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely before cutting. Yields: 8-10 brownies.

Emma’s notes:

These brownies turned out very good. When you make them, be careful not to overbake them as they dry out easily. Be careful when melting the butter and chocolate that you do not scorch the chocolate. Melted chocolate chips also make a delicious frosting for these brownies.

---

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

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

Dordt College is located at 498 4th Avenue NE, Sioux Center. We will be located in the Science and Technology Center. Local lodging includes: Holiday Inn Express 712-722-3500, the Econo Lodge 712-722-4000, and camping at the Sandy Hollow Recreation Area (reservations: [www.mycountyparks.com/county/sioux/aspx](http://www.mycountyparks.com/county/sioux/aspx)). If you are interested in camping, camping sites fill quickly and should be able to be reserved soon by calling District 5 Director Dave Korver--712-541-4803. More details and registration information to come in the following months.

Erin Miller, IHPA Vice President

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

If you are an IHPA member and have a bee club meeting or event you would like added to our event calendar, please send your detailed information to ihpa1912@gmail.com
It is April 11 as I write this. We have just finished distributing package bees to 250 people. It takes five people to make this run smoothly. We take the old cages back so it ties up a person to take care of that. There have been other years when we had snow on the ground when packages came. However, I don’t recall a year when we had sustained cold weather over such a long period at this time of year. It makes package installation more challenging.

It has probably been 15 years since we have had to buy bees in any quantity. This proved to be that year. We had 200 packages to install on top of getting the bees distributed in a timely fashion. Thursday, April 5, was a decent day. Steve Hardeman came down from Grinnell in the afternoon and helped Alex put in 75 packages. Friday was just nasty, and Saturday was not much better. Friday night, Alex set up 8 pallets in the back of our building after the customers were gone. It was about 20 degrees in there. I was doing something else related to packages, so he started without me. In the end, he put in 29 packages. I did 3. We got them wet enough that there were very few fliers—10 or 12 tops. This was at night with the lights on. We finished package distribution Saturday morning. Alex and Diana installed more packages in the back room over the afternoon and evening. I think they finished up around 10. Sunday afternoon, the neighbor boy came over and helped me install packages in the front of the building, load the delivery van and do a few other things. It was warming up on Monday, so we cleared the remaining pallets out of the building before the bees got active.

Installing packages in cold weather requires a slightly different technique. Unfortunately, there were a few people that I was unable to communicate this to. Some people had been told not to spray syrup on the bees in cold weather because it would chill them. This is totally incorrect! The other misconception is that they need to keep the packages warm. I should qualify this to say it is true within limits. They can get too cold if the wind is blowing around them or if they are next to a cold side of the trailer during transport. If they are stationary and have access to food, they can generate their own heat. It can be a lot of heat. This was brought home to me several years ago. Phil Kurkoski was still hauling for us. He brought 600 packages. It seemed like a lot at the time. It was 20 degrees outside and there was snow on the ground. When we got them all stacked up inside the building, the temp jumped up about 15 degrees. You could feel the heat coming off the stacks.

If it is really nasty outside, it is perfectly acceptable to install the bees inside a building. Temps in the 45- to 50-degree range are fine. You can put a screen in the entrance and hold them there for several days if necessary. However, heat is not necessary, especially if you have frames with honey in them. I got an anguished call from one gentleman who installed the bees on his porch. That is fine, but he turned the heat up to 70 degrees. At that temp, the bees are going to find a way out of the box. Even if they don’t, they are going to be much too active at that temp. It will stress them out.

To install packages at low temps, get them super wet with syrup. You are not going to get too much on them. You want the bees rolling around like a bunch of BBs in the cage. The syrup gives the bees the ability to generate heat. Leave all the frames in the box. Dump all the bees out on the top bars. If you get many fliers, you don’t have enough syrup on them. It is much easier to shake the bees out of the cage when they are super wet. You will have a pile of bees in a mound on the top bars. You can put the queen between the frames with a piece of marsh mellow in the cork hole or you can pop the cork and stick the cage into the pile of bees. That is what I prefer. Put a piece of newspaper over the bees. Put a box or something to hold the newspaper in place. We have some medication rims that are about 2” in height. That is what we used. If you are curious, put your hand on the newspaper. Within 30 seconds you can feel the heat coming off the cluster. It will take the bees an hour or two to go down on to the frames. We had frames with honey in them so we did not have to worry about feed. Once the bees are down on the frames, you can remove the newspaper and rim, put the lid on and move the bees outside.

If you have empty combs or foundation in cold weather, it is a little trickier. I prefer to have a little heat in this scenario if possible. The bees have to find the food quickly. You need to have a Mason jar or feeder bucket inverted on the hole in the inner cover. Division board feeders and box feeders are absolutely no good in cold weather. The queen needs to be placed close to the hole in the inner cover so that the cluster will form around her and find the feeder at the same time. You need to place something in the cork hole (marshmellow will work) to keep the queen from coming out. If she moves away from the syrup the cluster will move with her and starve. We had four packages that we installed on empty combs. They were outside in the cold. Two of the queens were too far from the inner cover hole. The bees missed the syrup and starved.

When we got down to the last few racks, two of the package clusters began to fall. I saw it right away and moved them into a heated area. The cluster reformed in a couple of hours and appeared to be okay. In summary, packages can be successfully installed in cold weather. You have to use the proper technique and the bees have to find the food quickly.

(Editor note: Phil is one of the presenters we’ll all be hearing from June 30 in Sioux Center at the Field Day. Don’t miss out!)
The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions
Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com
Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250  Cell 712-449-5010
The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month to be included in the following month’s newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.
SPRING VALLEY HONEY FARMS, PERRY IOWA

See us for:
Corn Syrup: 40# bucket--$18.00
50# bucket--$23.00
Your container--.40/lb
500# + .35/lb

Protein Patties: $2 each, or case of 40 $70.00

Honey: 50# $127.00 ($2.40/lb + $7—bucket)

Honey Styx: 1-499 cost .15 each
500-1,999 cost .12 each
Box of 2,000 costs .09 each--$180

Connie 515-480-6076, Curt 515-480-6075
Quality and service that can’t be beat anywhere in the industry. See a full list of beekeeping products in our catalog!

Varroa EasyCheck
Premium Smokers M00928
Plywood Nuc Boxes
M60015 6 5/8" nuc box
M60020 9 5/8" nuc box
(Jar not included)

Apiguard or Apivar for Varroa Mite Control
VarroaVap Vaporizer to use with oxalic acid for varroa mite control

Tools

Assembled Starter Kit

C52201P Quality Woodenware and Foundations

Full Line of Honey House Equipment

Little Wonder Hand-Extractor Kits
M00396KIT - Hand
M00403KIT - Power

New 2015 Edition of The Hive and the Honey Bee

Request a Free Catalog today!
(on-line version available at www.dadant.com)

Many styles from which to choose

Economy Vent Suit V01260(size) Suit

AMERICA’S OLDEST & LARGEST BEE SUPPLY COMPANY
WWW.DADANT.COM
TOLL FREE 1-888-922-1293

• 51 S. 2ND STREET, HAMILTON, IL 62341 PH (888) 922-1293 •
• 1318 11TH STREET, SIOUX CITY, IA 51102 PH (877) 732-3268 •
The Buzz Newsletter
Iowa Honey Producers Association
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049

2017/18 IHPA Leaders
Pres: Eve Vanden Broek
134 Holland Dr.
Pella, IA 50219
Ph: (515) 491-6760
mrstheo@iowatelecom.net

Vice. Pres: Erin Miller
5470 Kacena Ave
Marion, IA 52302
Ph: (319) 360-4913
erinmill722@msn.com

Secretary: Heidi Love
18488 E Ave
Dawson, IA 50066
Ph: (515) 729-1761
bhlove5@aol.com

Treasurer: Rhonda Heston
52735 187th Ave
Chariton, IA 50049
Ph: (515) 724-2124
IHPATreasurer@gmail.com

Historian: Carole Vannoy
3205 Hillsdale Dr.
Urbandale IA 50322
Ph: (641)780-8947
Iowabeekeepinghistory@gmail.com

Past Pres: Roy Kraft
PO Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542
Ph: (515) 293-2458
kroyster.rk@gmail.com

Directors:
District 1: Jim Marshall
2923 Jones Ave
Oslo, IA 52577
Ph: (641) 660-9930
Jim.marshall@musco.com

District 2: Shane Bixby
5470 Kacena Ave
Marion, IA 52302
Ph: (319) 360-4913
shanebixby@aol.com

District 3: Mary Wiltgen
3025 270th St
Fredricksburg, IA 50630
Ph: (563) 920-9628
tmwiltgen@gmail.com

District 4: Doyle Kincy
7304 Monroe Ct
Urbandale, IA 50322
Ph: (515) 710-4752
dwkincy@msn.com

District 5: Eric Kenoyer
1270 Upland Lane
Van Meter, IA 50261
Ph: (515) 490-2477
ekenoyer@aol.com

District 6: Dave Korver
3314 510 St
Maurice, IA 51036
Ph: (712) 541-4803
dpkorver@frontier.com

State Apiarist: Andrew Joseph
Phone: (515) 725-1481
andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

IDALS website: www.agriculture.state.ia.us
Amy Toth, Assistant Professor Iowa State University Ecology, Evolution,
and Organismal Biology
amytoth@iastate.edu
www.public.iastate.edu/~amytoth/Toth_lab/Home.html
Mary Harris maharris@iastate.edu
National Honey Board: www.honey.com
American Honey Producers Association: www.ahpanet.com
American Beekeeping Federation: www.ABFnet.org

IHPA Queen Program:
Connie Bronnenberg
14405 Hull Ave
Perry, IA 50220-6343
Ph: (515) 480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

Youth Scholarship:
Ted Reeves
17400 Illinois St.
Ackworth, IA 50001
Ph: (515) 720-7617
Beekeep-
er@reevestkd.com

The Buzz Newsletter:
Ron Ryners
890 13th Ave SE
Sioux Center, IA 51250
Ph: (712) 449-5010
rrhipa@gmail.com

Bee Emergency
Program Information:
Vern Ramsey
910 Country Lane Dr.
Apt 21 Keosauqua, IA 52565
Ph: (319) 293-3555
vdramsey@netins.net