Beek of the Month--A Whole Club!! (Page 9)
Here’s our new Veep (Page 9)
Grimes Day--CIBA January event (Pages 4, 5)
Part I of a New Story (Page 13)
President’s Report

Iowa beekeepers,

Thanksgiving is past, your Christmas shopping season is over with, the birth of Christ is celebrated, the new year is upon us, and Old Man Winter sinks his grip upon us.

Planning time! What will each of us do differently in 2020 from 2019?

I write this today, Sunday morning, looking out my picture window to a sunny start to the day. About 25 degrees is nice for this time of year. It could be a blizzard. I’m sure a couple of those will happen. I venture out to my four hives in my back yard to discover a few bees flying. It’s very cold but the sun on them has them warmed up enough for a cleansing flight. I pause and make sure. I do enjoy watching bees going in and out of the hive. I will always be amazed at how bees know exactly what to do or make it look that way. They seem so focused and organized. Always on a mission. A job that has to get done. Why can’t we humans learn something here? I think we could, we just think we see much more than the bees do. But do we? Something to think about. Just a thought; not wanting to ruffle feathers.

Teaching has begun. Classes all over the place. It’s a fun time for me to meet new future beekeepers and assist them along their journey of keeping bees. My class is coming together, with the catalogs arriving at the house, my books in my semi, a few more add-ins, agenda to make and a couple phone calls and I should be ready to go. It looks good on paper anyway.

My new Event Coordinator is off to a fast start as I have to sadly announce we will not be the Airport Holiday Inn for next year’s Annual Meeting. The date was booked. I’m confident we will find a good place. This may be arranged by the time you all read this. We are looking at a good one as I type. Our coordinator is aggressively working on this.

I’m sure 2020 will be a great year as many of us, including myself, are very ready for 2019 to end. Some of us lost loved ones, it was just a different year weather-wise, and it was a trying period for a lot of people. I really think 2020 has great potential. The IHPA has coming a great board and officers I’m really excited to work with, all to make 2020 a year to remember. Don’t be shy about telling people about all the classes available around the state if your path crosses a person who wants info about beekeeping. They are all listed on the website rather than in the Buzz. These classes are a key tool for people to learn about beekeeping. They all have some good stuff a beginner needs, plus each class might connect students with a real mentor. All beginners need a mentor, whether it is on the phone or class instructor. I’m very happy to be an IHPA member and have all the resources available to allow me to be the beekeeper I want to be.

It’s time for me to get some sleep and Ron is again waiting for my notes, so good night. Just stay tuned folks, the best is yet to come!

Sincerely,
Roy Kraft,
IHPA President

Those honeybees you’re so worried about? They’re killing off wild bee species.
By Nathanael Johnson on Jun 27, 2019
Those honeybees you’ve been fretting over are getting native bumblebees sick.
A new study shows that viruses infecting domestic honeybees are spreading to wild bee species. This is potentially a much bigger conservation disaster than the better-known honeybee die-off because the lonely native pollinators are quietly dwindling toward extinction. Several species of pollinators have been listed as threatened or endangered. Some have not been spotted for years. Others may have winked out of existence without anyone noticing. -->

Meanwhile, honeybees have an industry breeding new hives and researching solutions to support them. “The honeybee is a livestock animal,” said Samantha Alger, a University of Vermont grad student and lead author of the new paper published in PLOS One. “Being concerned about pollinator conservation and using the honeybee as your iconic image is about as logical as being concerned about bird conservation and using the chicken as your iconic image.”

(Continued on Page 6)

Foley's Russian Bees. For Sale:
Russian Queens $38 each with discounts on larger orders. 2- & 3-pound Carniolan packages available for preorder starting mid-January. Complete hive kits just $220 (that’s 2 deeps, 2 mediums, 40 frames with foundation, division board feeder, reducer, inner cover, top cover, and bottom board). Hive components also available. To place an order, please visit us on the web at www.russianbee.com
NEWS from IHPA District 2, by Tom Hart, Director

Discussions from IHPA District 2 Bee Club meetings will likely sound familiar state-wide. “Varroa Destructor”, “Winter Survival Preparedness”, “Fall Conference Highlights”, “Pesticide Protection” and “Education / Mentoring Initiatives” were themes discussed at District 2 meetings.

Winter hive preparations included a variety of mite treatments, leaving 40-80 lbs. of honey/food reserves, assuring adequate hive strength, topping hives with sugar/fondant, considering insulation practices, condensation controls using ventilation or quilt boxes and installing mouse guards. Mite control discussions included oxalic acid drips and fogs, Apiguard, and formic acid. Mentoring initiatives included preparation for 2020 bee classes and establishing partnerships to promote apiaries on correction facility campuses. Technical discussions included monitoring internal winter hive temperatures using remote sensors that can be linked to a cell phone and employing thermal hive treatments for mite control. Pesticide discussions included emphasizing hive registration with BeeCheck and improving communication with pesticide applicators.

Kirsten Traynor was a featured speaker at the Fall Conference who emphasized interrupting mite biology with a combination using blank drone frames as mite magnets and removing them at three-week intervals. Conducting hive splits and treating recovered bees with oxalic acid prior to installing new queens would further reduce mite counts. Ms. Traynor further emphasized the historical medicinal uses of honey that should be adopted by current physicians for infection control. She has authored two books and referred to them in her presentations, “Two Million Blossoms” and “Simple, Smart Beekeeping”. She also explained that honey clarity was explained as a function of its sugar content. Honey is a supersaturated liquid, and cloudier honey is more saturated and more prone to crystallizing. Using crystalized honey is healthier than reconstituted honey due to the loss of natural enzymes and oxidases. The Minnesota Bee Squad promoted the establishment of more floral habitats and pollinator awareness.

While many of these topics are common to multiple club meetings, each club is distinctive and meeting the needs of local novice and veteran beekeepers.

Where are we headed?!

I subscribe to a podcast called The World and Everything In It. Today’s piece included a tongue-in-cheek story ab out a guy who is also getting sick of some of the antics of our culture. He read about the lady who declared her peacock an emotional support animal and wanted to board a plane with it.

So David Keller (AZ) registered his beehive as an emotional support feature in his life. He wants, of course, to reveal the absolute senselessness of the individualism we’ve become fond of. “I need my bees for emotional support, so the rest of you can wear gear like I have on if you please, or you can just deal with stings…”

The article reminded us that ONLY specially-trained dogs are legal to ride airplanes, something which snowflakes should have known from the start already.

Keep your bees home and fly safely! (Editor)

The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) is sponsoring a day long Winter Beekeeping Seminar on Saturday, January 18, 2020. On the next two pages are a flier and registration form with information on the event. Please distribute this to your club members as you see fit. This info along with the agenda is also available on line at https://centralliowabeekeepersassoc.org/mc-events/ciba-winter-seminar-2020/?mc_id=9

For this event we hope to draw beekeepers from across the state as well as the public. In 2017 when CIBA had a similar day long event we sold out. At that seminar we had the majority of clubs represented as well as beekeepers from outside the state. I hope our speakers and their topics generate as much interest this year. The speakers are not only excellent but their topics address problems most of us face whether we are beginners, sideliners or commercial beekeepers... Each attendee's name tag will include their self identified club association(s), which during our breaks and luncheon we hope will increase the conversation about local clubs and encourage further club interest and participation.

On that Saturday, as people enter, CIBA will hand out a folder with various information. This will include info on the seminar, handouts from beekeeping vendors, state and local bee club info and other bee-related information.

CIBA would be glad to include pertinent information on your club in the folder. You would need to provide up to 240 copies at least ten days prior to the event (seating capacity is limited to 225). CIBA will stuff the folders and there is no charge for inclusion. I would appreciate you letting me know shortly if you wish to include info in the folder along with an idea of the number of pages.

If any questions, please contact me
Linn Wilbur, VP and Program Chair CIBA 515.291.6204

See next two pages for program and registration form.
CIBA WINTER SEMINAR

When: Saturday, January 18, 2020
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Where: Grimes Community Complex
410 SE Main Street
Grimes, IA 50111
Who: Dr. Lawrence John Connor
Dr. Judy Wu-Smart
Mr. Sheldon Brummel
Contact: Linn Wilbur, lwilbur50201@gmail.com, 515.382.4882
Website: https://centralliowabeekeepersassoc.org

Speakers:
- **Dr. Larry Connor** will give talks on Keeping Bees Alive--Sustainable Beekeeping Concepts and Increase Essentials--Population Control, Mite Management and Much More. Dr. Connor is author and coauthor of numerous beekeeping books, a former university professor and instrumental in Dadant’s former Starline and Midnite queen rearing program. Presently he is head of Wicwas Press which publishes many beekeeping books.

- **Dr. Judy Wu-Smart** is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and will talk on Managing for honey production and other considerations for the Mid-West. Dr. Wu-Smart is Director of the UNL Bee Lab.

- **Mr. Sheldon Brummel** is associated with the UNL Bee Lab and is the Coordinator for the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Project. His talks are on the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program and on Bee Friendly Backyards.

The Winter Seminar fee is $35 for CIBA members and $40 for non-members, including an on-site catered luncheon by Felix and Oscars. Look forward to an Iowa comfort food meal.

Additional information and mail-in registration forms are available on the CIBA website at https://centralliowabeekeepersassoc.org

Registration deadline is January 7, 2020 postmark.

Registration is required for attendance as there will be no ticket sales at the door on the day of the seminar.

Seating is limited.

We plan to hold the event unless the City of Grimes determines the facility can’t be opened because of severe weather.
CIBA WINTER BEEKEEPING SEMINAR
Sponsored by the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Grimes Community Complex, 410 SE Main, Grimes, IA 50111
Questions? Ask Linn Wilbur at 515.382.4882 or lwilbur50201@gmail.com
Additional information at https://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org

8:30 Registration

9:00-12:00 Morning session with Dr. Lawrence John Connor, Wicwas Press, Kalamazoo, MI
--Keeping Bees Alive—Sustainable Beekeeping Concepts
--Increase Essentials—Population Control, Mite Management and Much More

12-1:00 Catered lunch on site by Felix and Oscars, Des Moines. Look forward to an Iowa comfort food meal.

1:00-4:30 Afternoon session with Dr. Judy Wu Smart and Mr. Sheldon Brummel, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
--About Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program
--Managing for honey production and other considerations for the Midwest
--Bee Friendly Back Yards

Cut here and mail bottom portion to CIBA Winter Seminar, c/o Linn Wilbur, 64626 170th St., Nevada, IA 50201-7653

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Name of bee clubs to which you belong or name of commercial beekeeping enterprise:

☐ Iowa Honey Producers Association
☐ Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
Other Beekeeping Club(s) (please name):
Other:

Registration per person is $35 for CIBA members and $40 for non-members.

Total enclosed:

Make checks payable to: CIBA. Postmark by Jan 7, 2020.
Pre-registration required. No ticket sales at the door on the day of the seminar. Seating is limited.
You will receive confirmation of your registration.

By registering for this event, you are releasing the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association, its officers and board members and the City of Grimes from any and all harm that may occur as a result of attending this Winter Seminar. We plan to hold the event except if the City of Grimes determines the facility can not be opened because of severe weather.

Mail form to CIBA Winter Seminar, c/o Linn Wilbur, 64626 170th St., Nevada, IA 50201-7653
Notes from the Beeyard, by Phil Ebert

There may be pollination gold in California, but it is often obscured in the weeds. Loads of bees are inspected at the border before they are allowed to enter the state. They found three ants on our first load. They are picky about fire ants, but we don’t have those in Iowa. I am sure these were carpenter ants that they already have in California. No matter, they rejected the load anyway. There was another point of entry to the north that closed at midnight. Adam told the driver to go up there and wait until after midnight to cross into California. I don’t know what part of “wait until after midnight” he didn’t understand. He crossed before midnight and they caught him. This led to a second rejection. We had to do something with the bees. The only wash station open was in Needles where it was 90 degrees. Our bees were way north of there at Truckee. Needles was too hot and too far away. It turned into one of those deals of knowing someone who knew someone. After a number of false starts, Adam called Tim Wilbanks. Tim called K&L Apiaries in Idaho. Adam got together with K&L. He then sent the bees to Idaho where K&L put them in a potato cellar. All this, of course, is costing thousands of dollars in extra mileage and storage fees. It is still better than winding up with a load of dead bees. It was another case of expect the unexpected. All of this happened on a Saturday afternoon and Sunday. We were fortunate that people answered their phones.

The 2nd load was stacked and ready to go. The truck was supposed to show up on a Monday. He called Monday morning and said he wouldn’t arrive until Tuesday. He was in Omaha. They needed a crane to unload him and it would not be available until later in the day. The projected temperature for that Monday was 50 degrees. I was instantly on point. A lot of bees could be flying at that temp. Which box will they wind up in? We had just cleaned off the pallets. If we unstacked them, they would be sitting in the mud. We decided to leave them stacked and hope for the best. Fortunately, there was a cool breeze and most of the bees stayed in the boxes. That load arrived in California without incident.

The final load left Dec. 4—a Wednesday. Snow in California delayed this one. I-5 near Redding was closed twice during Thanksgiving week. That is near the area where we go. The bees had been stacked since the preceding Friday. The days were cool for the most part. The final day was close to 50 but the bees stayed in. We made it thru the inspection station without incident. Snow was expected during the night so the trucks had to be inspected to make sure they had chains before they could go over Donner Pass. The line was long, so the delay was long, also. I never thought we would be sending bees to California. I resisted it for a lot of years.

It was nice to see Lee Heine at the annual meeting. Lee has had trouble with prostate cancer. It was good to see him out and about. He knew about three loads of bees that had wrecked on the way to California. Those were stories I didn’t really need to hear since we had a load on the road. Lee is really social and knows everyone. He is fun to be around.

Turkey Day is past. The pace will slow down a bit now that all the bees have been shipped. We have around 200 supers that we do cut comb in. We will start putting wax in those and working on some of the other equipment. We process a lot of wax in the wintertime. It is also time to get yard rent out. That is a time-consuming venture, but fun. It is the only time during the year that we see some of the land owners. It provides a chance to visit and eat Christmas cookies.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season!!!

Honey Bees Killing off Wild Bees? (cont. from Page 2)

Wild bees contribute something on the order of $4 billion dollars a year to the United States by providing free pollination services. And bumblebees have a unique talent for shaking pollen out of tomatoes and squash flowers in a way that improves yields. That’s a key to feeding more people without plowing under more wild habitat. It’s true that honeybees have had it rough recently. They are plagued by swarms of bloodsucking parasites named Varroa destructor, which pass diseases from one bee to the next. Add in the stress of being transported around the country on flatbed trucks and absorbing traces of pesticides, and you can start to see why tons of honeybees are dying.

But we haven’t devoted as much research and public attention to all the wild bees that are much more likely than honey bees to go extinct. And Alger’s research suggests that honeybees are part of the problem. Her team found that they were leaving behind viruses on flowers, where they could infect wild bumblebees.

“We thought finding these viruses was going to be like finding a needle in a haystack,” Alger said, “but we found them in 19 percent of the flowers near apiaries.”

Alger says wild bees are important pollinators of our food crops as well as flowers. And of course, these species have real value even if they don’t help us grow food or produce pretty flowers. Perhaps we’ve gotten things backwards by focusing on honeybees and ignoring the rest. But, in a twist, this new evidence suggests that to save wild bumblebees we may need to cure the honeybees.
Report from Andy Joseph, Iowa State Apiarist

Hello. Hope everyone had good opportunity to tuck their bees in well for winter. It’s sunny and pretty decent out there today as I’m writing, but we’ve been through some stuff already. This is my first afternoon in the office in quite a while. We have a pretty large number of beekeepers here and there across the state who send their bees either south or to CA almonds for winter. Man, the number of people sending to almonds from here has grown over the last several years. It’s an all-out scramble for all involved – lots of work to be done between when the honey is pulled off and when they get loaded out. Every fall is different in terms of weather / temperature cooperation.

Our season shut off pretty quickly this year, but we’ve definitely had worse years to contrast with in terms of rain and mud and snow… Things seemed to go well for nearly all beekeepers this fall. Heavy food stores in some areas meant little feeding was necessary, while other parts required a lot of syrup to get the boxes heavy. Mite numbers were better this season than the past couple years. Nearly everyone certainly found it necessary to treat to knock down the mites, but we didn’t seem to have the huge counts found the last couple fall seasons. Additionally, the treatments used seemed to do their thing effectively – while in the last couple seasons several have reported trouble with getting their mites killed while trying to properly follow the product label. Small hive beetle numbers were down too. Another striking contrast in Nosema infection – last fall and winter many beekeepers struggled with dwindling /dying colonies and I saw some of the highest Nosema spore counts I’ve ever seen. Happy to report things looked way better this fall.

All these comparisons serve to say we’ve had quite a year, most of it being good. Honey really came in, once it finally got rolling. And I’ve seen a lot of really good-looking bees ready for whatever winter brings. It’s great to be able to have so many positives to report, since we’re all too aware that beekeeping can sure be tough.

I believe my job is different from most other state / regulatory positions in that there’s quite a personal component to what I do. I’ve known many of you for well over decade now, and even if we just meet up once or twice per year on this professional sort of basis, I’ve come to think of a whole lot of you as friends. One thing’s for sure: there’s been way too much hardship in people’s personal lives here recently. Health problems, loss of loved ones, family troubles, accidents … no need for any details here of course. In this regard, it’s been a pretty overwhelming season. Without wanting to sound sappy, we’ve got to take care of ourselves and we’ve got to take care of each other. As the holidays and the end of the year are coming up on us, I’m looking for 2020 to be a happier, easier, and healthier year! Happy Thanksgiving / Merry Christmas … whatever the next upcoming holiday is whenever you read this. Enjoy yourselves, have some fun, maybe even get some rest, because spring will get here soon enough!

Notice to Anyone promoting a Bee Class

Due to the fact that most of the people who read the Buzz are not people who might sign up to take a beekeeping class, we have decided to post the classes on the website only. This way we have much more flexibility since anyone with information they wish to post it at any time by contacting Eric Kenoyer at kenoyer1270@gmail.com and he’ll update the website. Anyone who speaks with a friend who wants information on any class can provide the website address--iowahoneyproducers.org--and the potential class member can sign up using the contact info on the web.

As we look ahead to 2020, please know that class information must get to the webmaster in early December. If you want information posted on the web for a class in early 2020, you’re already late and must take immediate action.

And please tie a string around your finger to remind yourself in early December, 2020, you must get your info to the webmaster for 2021 classes.

Here’s where those wonderful quilts get started! Thanks, Peggy.

With the holidays behind us, it’s time to put the pedal to the metal and get the quilt blocks sewn. I am so very happy to say that I have received several blocks back to me before December even hit the calendar turning!! Thank you so much to those who have already sent in your blocks! It’s very much appreciated!! So with that being said, February 1st will quickly arrive and I hope I am not having to reach out by phone or email to bother people to get the blocks returned to me. I thoroughly appreciate your help with the sewing of the blocks and look forward to receiving each one of them to go into two quilts.

Thank you!, Jodi Kraft
IOWA HONEY BEE DAY

February 13, 2020
AM
Conference Room 116
Iowa State Capitol
Des Moines, IA

Meet with Iowa Legislators to discuss the importance of honey bees to Iowa and the role we play as beekeepers in their success.

How Can I Help?

Have you ever wondered that question when thinking of your honey bees? You are a beekeeper because of your love for bees, your love of honey, your desire to help our environment, to pollinate your garden, etc. Can this be taken one step farther? Is there anything else you could do to help the honey bees here in Iowa?

YES, there is and YES, YOU CAN HELP!
Thursday, February 13 is IOWA HONEY BEE DAY!

Celebrate this day with fellow beekeepers at our State Capitol in Conference Room 116 from 7-9 A.M. Enjoy visiting with your legislators about the importance of the honeybees, the difficulties faced by honey bees and beekeepers, the role of honey bees in our environment while enjoying some honey and honey treats. If you were there last year you know what an impact this event had—not only a chance to meet and talk with other beekeepers but a chance to meet with Government Officials, Legislators, Industry Representatives, and Educators.

YES, You Can Help! Be a part of IOWA HONEY BEE DAY
Thursday, February 13, 2020
7-9 AM (Yes, Eaaaarly)
Conference Room 116 in our State Capitol

For directions and parking information for the Iowa State Capitol visit the Iowa Honey Producers Association website at: https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/

For further information or questions please contact your IHPA District Director or:

Jamie Beyer
beyersbog@aol.com
515.231.0215

Sponsored by the Iowa Honey Producers Association
Introducing our new Veep

I am Kris Silvers. I have been attempting to keep bees for ten years. I am married to the love of my life: Gregg Silvers. We have been married for fifteen years. We live south and east of Osceola Iowa. I am a member of the Southern Iowa Hive Handlers and the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa clubs. We currently have four hives. I have two step-daughters and six step grand kids. I graduated from Iowa State University in Landscape Horticulture. I have worked hard to push to get pollinators as an accepted CRP practice on our farm. I currently am a beauty consultant with Mary Kay cosmetics and drive school bus for Clarke Community Schools. I decided to run as your vice president so I could be more involved in the Iowa Honey Producers and hopefully get to meet more of the membership and find out their concerns. I have made some life-long friends as part of the IHPA and am excited to get started in helping out wherever I can.

Kris Silvers,
IHPA Vice President

Beek(s) of the Month

FBI – FRIENDLY BEEKEEPERS OF IOWA
The FBI started from this group back in 2009-2010. They have been active in supporting and teaching beekeeping on the local and State levels. Three of this original group are current Iowa Honey Producers board members. The FBI has continued teaching beginning Beekeeping classes in the Indianola area since it started. Mike Wyatt was the original teacher of the classes, he and his wife were retired FBI employees. Trying to come up with a name for the club, The FBI, was suggested in their honor.

There are 5 current IHPA board members, the Youth scholarship coordinator, the webmaster, 2017 Iowa Honey Queen that are members of the FBI. It started as a small group with a great interest in beekeeping and has grown each year. The FBI’s facebook page has nearly 1300 followers.

Let’s give a shout out to the FBI, for their efforts in teaching and promoting this great thing called Beekeeping.

Doyle Kincy
District 4 Director IHPA

1 FOR SALE: We will be selling nucs again this year. You may book those at any time. Package bees are another story. We are not getting package bees from California this year. If our bees hold up we will shake a limited number from our own colonies. We will not book packages until the last half of January. The price is unknown at this point. Contact Adam Ebert at 319-430-3514; e-mail him at adam.ebert@eberthoney.com or contact Phil Ebert at 641-521-6361; e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

1 FOR SALE: 2- or 3-pound packages of Italian bees with queen.
Picked up in Aurora or Cedar Rapids mid-April.
Hill-Ward Apiary bees from California. All orders by March 1st. Douglas Child 319-634-3682 / or childbees@gmail.com.
The following article appeared in the journal of the American Honey Producers Association

**Bees Declared To Be The Most Important Living Being On Earth**

The bees have been declared the most important living beings on this planet, the Earthwatch Institute concluded in the last meeting of the Royal Geographical Society of London. However, according to wildlife experts and scientists, the bees have joined the endangered species long list.

The recent studies show a dramatic decline of the bees' number as almost 90 percent of the bee population has disappeared in the last few years. The uncontrolled use of pesticides, deforestation or lack of flowers are the main reasons for their extinction.

However, why would such a little being be named the most important creature on Earth? Well, the answer is actually more simple than you ever thought. Seventy percent of the world's agriculture depends exclusively on bees. Needless to mention the pollination is the bees' job, although the plants would not be able to reproduce, therefore the fauna would have been gone in a very short time. More than that, a study conducted by the Apiculture Entrepreneurship Center of the Universidad Mayor (CeapiMayor) and the Apiculture Corporation of Chile (Cach) with the support of the Foundation for Agrarian Innovation (FIA) concluded that the bees are the only living being who does not carry any type of pathogen.

After all, Albert Einstein's say about bees has never been truer. "If the bees disappear, humans would have 4 years to live," the famous physicist said.

Since the bees' importance is crucial in our planet's ecosystems and they've also been declared an endangered species, we really need to be as careful as possible on the matter. And we need to act quickly as we still have some solutions.

Therefore, in order to protect these hard-working creatures, some activists believe that we should immediately prohibit the use of pesticides, promote completely natural agricultural alternatives and we should carefully monitor their health and welfare.

Lately, people started to realize the importance of the bees and many animal rights groups are trying their best for the conservation of the species. Many celebrities have also joined the cause. And maybe the most wonderful example is Morgan Freeman. Recently the Hollywood star transformed his huge 124-acres land in Mississippi, into a bee sanctuary, in order to protect the species.

"There is a concerted effort for bringing bees back onto the planet... We do not realize that they are the foundation, I think, of the growth of the planet, the vegetation," Morgan Freeman said in an interview.

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**Board Meeting Coming.**

(All IHPA members are invited to join the board meeting)

Who: IHPA Board Members & other great people!

What: January Board Meeting

When: Saturday January 25th, 2020  Room will be opened at 9:30 AM, meeting starts at 10:00 AM sharp, until 5:00 PM.

Where: Ames Public Library  515 Douglas Ave, Ames IA 50010  in the Rotary Room

Why: Normal January Meeting, getting to know the new Board members, long agenda to go through for the new year.

We can bring in food, just need to clean up. It's a bigger room so should accommodate anyone that wants to come.

Thank you, see you all there. This will also be posted on the website calendar.

Eric Kenoyer, Webmaster

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

IHPA membership year runs from January 1st and ends on December 31st. Still only $20 for the first Beekeeper and $5 for each additional Beekeeper in the house. Only one Buzz Newsletter will be mailed per membership address. By sending one Buzz Newsletter to one address, we reduce the cost of the Buzz. Which in turn provides more funds for more scholarships, more programs, etc. If you would rather read the Buzz online, please indicate that when you renew your membership. We have the ability to take debit and credit cards now.

It is time to prepare a new 2020 Membership Directory (the last one was printed in 2018). Please check your information for accuracy so we can have an accurate directory in 2020.

IHPA is a 501(c)5 organization. This means that your membership could be tax deductible, as your magazine subscriptions and conferences could be as well. Consult your tax professional for more information.

Also, if you donated bees, products, services or items for the auctions, a letter of donation can be provided for these as well.

If you would like a letter of donation, please let Rhonda Heston know. She can be reached at IHPATreasurer@gmail.com or 515-724-2124 (call or text).

Address: 53735 187th Ave, Chariton, IA 50049.

Thanks,

Rhonda
The Queen is a productive one!

Happy New Year! I have given several presentations already in November and December. On November 16th, I attended the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association's meeting. I gave a review of my year as the CIABA Honey Queen and talked about my goals as the Iowa Honey Queen. On November 23rd, I was at the Outlets of Des Moines Craft Show with MJ’s Hometown Honey. I was able to talk to some of the shoppers about honey and beeswax, how to help the bees, and the IHPA Youth Scholarship Program. I gave a presentation on honey at Kennybrook Village (a senior living community in Grimes) on December 3rd. I explained how honey is made by the bees, how a beekeeper harvests and extracts honey, the health benefits of honey, and how to bake with honey. I also talked about my honey bee story time that I often do at libraries. On December 6th, I gave a crafting with beeswax demonstration at the Urbandale Public Library. I demonstrated how to make beeswax-based hand cream, beeswax-based lip balm, and rolled beeswax candles. Each participant was able to take home a jar of cream, a lip balm, and a rolled candle. While I demonstrated how to make the products, the participants asked lots of questions. The group was largely teenagers, so it was a great opportunity to share about the IHPA Youth Scholarship Program. On December 14th, I will give a presentation about my programs at the Boone River Bee Club’s meeting. I will tell you all about it in the next Buzz.

I have several presentations this month. On January 3rd, I will be giving a honey bee-themed story time at the Altoona Public Library. On January 18th, I will attend the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association's Winter Seminar. I am looking forward to learning from the excellent speakers they have scheduled. On January 23rd, I will be demonstrating how to make beeswax-based lip balm and rolled beeswax candles to a Girl Scouts group.

I would love to come to your library, school, senior living community, bee club, county fair, farmer's market, or other event. To schedule an event with me please contact Connie Bronnenburg, the IHPA Queen Chair, via phone at (515)-480-6076 or via email at cbronny823@aol.com. Do not forget to like the Iowa Honey Queen Program Facebook page to follow my activities!

Abigail Kelly, 2020 Iowa Honey Queen

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Emma’s Recipes are back!

Now that the Holiday season is past and most Christmas parties have been celebrated, we can turn our attention to our least busy time of year: January! As most kids are back in school cold and flu season is also back in full swing, I decided to try a hot drink to help with stuffy heads, sore throats, and everything in between. I also decided to try a honey snack. While they may not be the healthiest, they were fun to make.

**Cold and Flu Season Cider (Pg. 193)**

8-10 ounces of water  
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon honey  
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar

Bring water to a boil, while heating, put other ingredients in cup and pour boiling water into cup. Stir well.

**Emma’s Notes:** It had a really tasty tang, but for people who do not like “tang,” it would not have been good. If I were to make this drink for kids, I would add more honey. It tasted like medicine but also had a good flavor. It was also very easy to make.

**Honey Balls (Pg. 71)**

½ cup honey  
1 cup powder sugar  
½ cup peanut butter  
2 cups graham cracker crumbs

Mix honey, peanut butter, and powdered sugar together, roll into balls. Roll in graham cracker crumbs.

**Emma’s Notes:** They sound simple enough to make but they were messy. The peanut butter mixture was WAY too runny to roll into balls. I refrigerated the mixture over night so that it would be stiff enough to work with and then rolled them in the graham cracker crumbs. They were very tasty but would not hold their shape. If you make these, keep them cold until you are ready to serve them. Quick tip: You can make fast graham cracker crumbs by running the graham crackers through the

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**1 Help wanted: Full-Time Beekeeper**

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**The Buzz Newsletter Article/Ad Submissions**

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rihpa@gmail.com or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010. Complimentary (small) ads run for two months. Paid (larger) ads payment handled by Treasurer Rhonda Heston. 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.
Part I of 3--Josia Vandersall’s New Job: A Must Read!!

One of my very first tasks when I started working for Ebert Honey last spring was painting over old empty bee boxes. Coating them with many variations of off-white paint reminded me of my first ideas of beekeeping. My dad and I were always dreaming up ideas for our little 3-acre plot outside of Martelle, Iowa. Whether it was hair sheep, yellow tomatoes, or salsa gardens, there was always something in the works. We especially loved the wide-open field beside our little farmhouse and my dad thought one day how perfect it would be for honey bees! I got so excited about the idea (envisioning myself dressed head to toe in khaki running through the field being chased by bees holding a jar dripping with honey back to the house), so he bought me a book on beekeeping. I opened it up and began flipping through the pages only to become disheartened. Page after page of neat pictures, with clean white suits, veils, and gloves. There were shiny tools and smokers, along with neatly lined boxes and frames. The beekeepers looked like scientists and even the bees looked highly sophisticated and unamused. I couldn’t make sense of anything I saw. Overwhelmed, I closed the book and let that little dream slowly fade and be forgotten. I remember though in those first weeks at Ebert Honey as I dipped my brush again and again into that white paint, I could see underneath were wooden boxes that were all beaten up and weathered—not the white boxes that had once seemed so regimented and unattainable.

When I stepped on the bee farm the first day in flip flops and my hair down, I had no idea I would be working for a commercial bee company. So in March when over 400 of those hives showed up on a semi and were spread out in the hayfield by skid loader in row after row behind our house, I was quite shocked. I had put on a bee suit for the first time and after having taken 20 minutes to zip up and duct tape down and finally wiggle on the two awkward and oversized gloves, I bumbled out to the field. It was all I could do to not burst out laughing when my boss in his own white bee suit walked up and began giving instructions on what to do. I didn’t think I would ever get used having serious conversations while wearing these outfits!

It took weeks to get used to wearing a bee suit day in and day out. At first, I felt every movement—the extra fabric rubbing and crinkling, my peripheral vision was cut in half by the veil, and after a full day looking through mesh, my eyes would burn. In the spring, when it was chilly, the bees would huddle in little clumps at our necks and waists, and we spent many minutes brushing these little cuddly creatures off our backs. I can remember once in the middle of a full day of continually pulling up the sagging bee suit and brushing off bees. When my lunch break came I ran to the tiny building out front, madly unzipped the bee suit, ripped my boots off and threw them both across the room just to lie down on the floor and then get up, put it back on and go back out.

Hive tools were also a thing of great mystery in the beginning. They are good at everything—they scrape, they pry, they cut, they also spread peanut butter, but similarly to a tv remote they are the very best at disappearing. It was all I could do to not lose or forget every hive tool I held in my hand. I became too embarrassed to say when I could not find mine and resorted to using a specific wide-eyed smile to communicate a lost hive tool. But spending day after day cracking apart hives and frames the tables quickly turned and within a few months I had no idea how I lived without one. Driving home from work I would be pulling into my driveway looking down to see I was still holding my hive tool in my hand while steering the wheel.

As spring came into full bloom the bees were taken from the large hayfield at Ebert Honey and scattered throughout Eastern Iowa—placed in fields and byways, apple orchards and pumpkin farms, some down steep hills or in narrow pathways and secluded stretches of land. As we began our work in the spring, so did the bees. The bees began collecting pollen from the first blossoms and storing it in the wax. All the confusion and questions I initially had as to what we were doing and why finally began to die down, the more time we spent with the bees. On one of those first long sunny days, as the hours wore on, more and more bees joined the jubilee. They were circling and orienting above us. The hum became so loud, the bees so thick in the air it seemed like time stopped. The giant noise drowned out my own thoughts. There are times when bees hum in alarm or fear or anger, but I did not have to be a beekeeper to know that this frequency was one of pure bliss—a sound of reverie behind each beating wing. As if in slow motion, I watched the light break on the bees and their wings became silver and their bodies shimmered like gold. It was like they had armor. The sunlight continued to sway and dance on them as they crawled to and fro in their kingdom, cheering and singing in victory. Spring was here! The black locust was in bloom! The first dandelions had broken through the tough ground! This was a day of rejoicing. After that day I knew the bees and I would get along just fine!

(To bee continued in Feb and March issues)

PS: Anyone is invited to write for the Buzz!!
Iowa Honey Producers Association
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First Membership:

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I wish to receive my monthly newsletter by: Website (pdf) USPS (mail)

May we publish your information in the Association members booklet? Yes No

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North Iowa Beekeepers’ Club Auction

The North Iowa Beekeepers’ Club is having an auction of beekeeping equipment / poultry equipment.

Mark your calendar for the last Saturday in April 2020!

Location:
P & P Honey and Bee Supply Inc
Pat & Peggy Ennis
2105 110th St, Goodell, IA 50439
Date: Saturday, April 25th, 2020 / Starting @ 10:00 am / Auctioneer: Roy Kraft

We’re looking for new / gently used beekeeping and or poultry items!
We all have some stuff in the shed or barn we don’t use that would be of great benefit or value to someone else. So now is a great time to dust off, repair, paint and bring it to the auction!

All combs, to be sold, will be inspected before the auction.

To consign your items, and for a list of items being consigned, please call or email Pat @ 515-293-2601 or pphoneyandbeesupply@gmail.com.

Consignment rate: Before April 1st, - 10% / After April 1st, - 15%

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