The Buzz
Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

July 2019

Beek of the Month Laura Juffer--story on page 13

Inside:  Review of Summer Field Day.
         Information on State Fair activity
         It’s volunteer time in the IHPA Honey booth at the Fair!
         New Event--RAGBRAI Day (great chance for fundraising)
         Information on the Annual Meeting (Plan ahead!)

iowahoneyproducers.org
President’s Report—July

Iowa beekeepers,

It’s the first week of June and I believe our summer is here! I guess our spring did stop through, or at least the calendar said so! Spring is always too short for me. My July message—I can’t believe it.

My bees went through quite a spring as I had some chalkbrood issues and that always seems to set them back a bit. My yellow bee truck needed brakes two months ago and it just went to the shop two weeks ago! Not good! Bigger bill. I’ve been too busy to get it there since I stay out two weeks at a time. My weekends just are never long enough, even though Jodi helps me stay organized. We put priority on what to do about every given minute I’m home. We had garage sales this last weekend, since there was a lot of glassware and crystal on my mother’s estate. The market has really dropped on that stuff. Lots of tables full of some very nice glassware. I’m So! Looking forward to this next weekend—our summer Field Day.

I need to talk about our special event coming in July. Our Ragbrai day. We will need some volunteers so get a hold of Keri and sign up. I’m sure there is info in this month’s issue to help you. Then state fair in August. We need help from you all, as this is the big one for the year. I’m sure Heidi will get you signed up! Please check this out, especially you new beekeepers, as it is quite the experience making lemonade at the Iowa State Fair in the IHPA booth. There just are not enough words to describe it. I think it’s an experience that you just can’t describe. It’s a must do, and once you do it, then you understand. Almost forgot—we buy the ticket in. If you sign up for a couple of days we will help with parking. There are a lot of jobs to do at the booth, so I’m sure we can find the right one for you. Hope to see you there.

A couple of deadlines that always catch me off guard are our queen program and youth scholarship program. The IHPA has a wonderful program for a young lady to represent the state of Iowa promoting honey and beekeeping all over the state. If this interests you, contact Connie Bronnenberg. She will help you apply (her contact info is on back of the Buzz) The youth program, of which Ted Reeves is chairperson (his info on back of Buzz as well), is a program for youth wanting to learn beekeeping. If you are a young person wanting to get started (cheaply) in bees, check this out as a wonderful program that is very well worth your time.

Ok, pull the phone out and see what time works for you to work at the fair and get it scheduled. If you’re anything like me, if you don’t do it now it may not get done! I’m looking forward to the fair since it’s a break out of this truck.

If you want to show an entry at the state fair show, NOW is the time to go online and get your show application and tie on tickets to show in as many classes as you can. They cost you ONE dollar a class. Yes, $1.00 a class. You need to start so you can be better next year. You learn a lot from showing. Just ask anyone who shows, I think they will agree with that statement. Good clean fun and learning for all. It’s a great way to promote your product as well. You would be surprised who looks at those name tags as they walk through. There are youth classes as well. Scholarship students, take a look at them. Get your application and try this. I encourage you all to try a class or two. Give me a call I will give YOU the best tips. My cell is 515 293-2458.

I have to get going down the road as I started this last night and wanted to finish it this morning. I hope you all are on round two of putting honey supers on and the flow is on like the Mississippi in St Louis!!

Good Day!
Roy Kraft, IHPA President

Editor Comments: A little shameless promotion of Field Days—plan now to attend next summer, wherever the Field Day is located! So often newbees have questions that are completely answered at Field Day. When we watched Andy Joseph dig into hives and heard him explaining what he sees, and when we watched Pat Ennis mark queens, and when we learned all the various mite test methods from Randall Cass, we learned so much! All the speakers were so informative. Anyone even remotely thinking about competing at the State Fair would benefit hugely from Ginny Mitchel (the judge herself!). I love trees, and Melissa Burdick was such an inspiration. Seth Applegate stood inside his prairie and challenged each of us with land to consider increasing the pollinator habitat in our state—all great stuff!! Thanks to all who attended.
Veep Keri Kenoyer Explains Several Important Events:

Welcome to July fellow Buzz readers!! This year is going by so fast!! By the time you read this edition Summer Field Day will have come and gone. For those who attended, thank you for spending the day with us. I hope you enjoyed your day at the Farm and were able to get some valuable information from the presenters and to visit with a few of the students/grads/post docs to see what new information they are finding about our favorite little things.....BEES!

Thank you to Ginny Mitchel, Melissa Burdick, Andy Joseph, Curt Bronnenburg, Pat Ennis, Randall Cass and Seth Apelgate for sharing your passion and knowledge with the rest of us. I would also like to extend a big thank you to Linn Wilbur for suggesting the Hort. Farm, Jamie Beyer, Randal Cass and Nick Howell for helping to coordinate this event and to the IHPA members and Board Directors who volunteered their time to make this event a success.

Looking forward to the future: In THREE WEEKS we will have our Ragbrai fundraising event at Howell’s Greenhouse and Pumpkin Patch! This will be held on July 23rd, 6:00 am – 2:00 pm (roughly). We are needing willing volunteers to pull this off!! They are expecting 4,000 to 5,000 people at any given time to stop by the Farm. There will be breakfast food vendors and “farm” entertainment activities as well to get them to stay and play. This is a huge opportunity for us to raise some additional funds this year. We will be selling honey lemonade and honey stix, as well as having an informational booth. If you wish to volunteer your time, please contact Keri Kenoyer at 515-490-2011 or kenoyerfarms@gmail.com.

August will bring us the STATE FAIR and FAIR PARADE!! Please consider being a part of both. The Fair Parade will be on August 7th at 6:00 pm in Downtown Des Moines. This year’s theme is “Fair Favorites”! What better favorite than honey lemonade!? Being a part of the fair parade doesn’t require much, just simply walk/ride, smile and wave. The more people we have, the better the “buzz” from parade watchers. More details will be posted on Facebook or the website.

Don’t forget that the deadline for Apiary entries for the State Fair is July 14th! After all the great tips and tricks we learned from Ginny Mitchel at Summer Field Day, it would be fantastic to see an abundance of entries from more beekeepers.

The State Fair will run August 8th – 18th. The IHPA Booth is our biggest fundraiser of the year and it takes the help of you, our members, to make it happen. Volunteering at the IHPA honey booth is a great way to share your passion for beekeeping with the general public and educate them about all the benefits of bees and honey. I always have a great time when I volunteer to work a shift or two at the honey booth. If you would like to volunteer for a shift, contact Heidi Love.

Annual Fall Conference is only four months away. Information about speakers, contests, and vendors will start being posted in each Buzz and on the website. This year will be full of information with both technical beekeeping topics and speaking topics from the creative side. All your favorite contests will be held plus we will try out one new one this year. We will have the honey swap again this year as well. I am looking forward to seeing all the contest entries. We will have a large room for the contests and I would love to see it filled with entries!

I hope everyone has/had (depending on when you read this) a safe 4th of July Holiday and hopefully see some of you at the upcoming events!! - Keri Kenoyer -Vice President

Time to think about Iowa State Fair entries.

Is your honey as clear as water this year? Or a deep amber yellow? How about your candles? Did your girls make really pretty wax this year? Did you catch that bee just right in a photo? Are you a designer at heart, but never had the nerve to try a Display Window? Do you have an Observation Hive with a marked Queen? How about that great honey recipe you tried out from the IHPA Cookbook?

If you answered “Yes” to any of these questions, it is time to share your accomplishments with the world. You can do this by entering your items in the Iowa State Fair. How great would it be to say, “I entered my honey in the Iowa State Fair”?

Here is the link to the Competition Events:

How to enter: https://www.iowastatefair.org/upl/downloads/competition/premium-books/apiary-bees-honey-23.pdf. This site provides all the information on all the classes and what is required for each.


Entry Form: https://www.iowastatefair.org/participate/competition/entry-deadlines/

Once you follow the steps to set up an account, you will see a screen that guides you through the process. The fee is $2 per Apiary entry and $4 for a Window Display entry. Everyone should think about entering. Not only do you have the satisfaction that you entered, but your entries help make the Iowa Honey Producers’ booth the best -looking booth.

If you have questions, reach out to the Iowa State Fair or any of your directors.

(Reprinted from last month)
Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer
Meet a Mentor Extraordinaire

John Johnson did not have time for honey bees while growing up on his family’s central Iowa farm in Marshall County. “They were mean and they stung me all the time,” he recalls. But now, after more than 45 years of keeping honey bees and mentoring dozens if not hundreds of new beekeepers throughout Iowa, John’s biggest wonder is “why in the heck can’t I keep on doing this?” This has been the first spring that John hasn’t donned his white suit on an almost daily basis to check his bees. At 87, health problems have forced John to hang up his smoker and sell a trailer-load of beekeeping equipment. The frames, tools, hives and even honey brought more than $1,800 for the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) at a recent auction – all going to the organization. That’s the kind of person he is, generous with his time and vast knowledge of beekeeping.

I was one of the many “newbies” John mentored during more than four decades of beekeeping. He patiently answered my questions and would drive to my house in the country to help me capture a swarm or figure out a problem with my bees. In March, CIBA honored John and his wife Elaine for their work with the organization and promotion of beekeeping. A year earlier, the Iowa Honey Producers Association presented him with their prestigious Pioneer Award. Johnson served as IHPA president from 1989-1991, when the Iowa Honey Queen program was adopted and about the time that the group introduced its popular honey lemonade at the Iowa State Fair.

A few days ago, my husband Dave and I visited John and Elaine to hear a few highlights of his long beekeeping career and see what advice he wanted to offer. We knew he would be thorough and meticulous – our bee notebook is full of John’s typed notes and we have spent more than a few hours listening to his lessons. Given the “mean bees” on his family’s farm, how did he get back to tending his own bees? It was about 1974 and John was area extension director in northern Iowa. The Clay County office needed help setting up for a program by the state apiarist. “I guess I got interested and ended up taking the beekeeping course myself,” John said. He got two colonies of bees from his brother-in-law and that was it: bit by the bee bug. Day-to-day details of keeping bees can be really confusing, and like other newcomers, John relied on help from established beekeepers to learn the ropes. A few years later, he moved to Ames to take a state-level extension job at ISU. The first thing he did was look for bee mentors. “I couldn’t find anything going on in Story County and I couldn’t believe it,” he said. He offered to teach a class at McFarland Park with the Story County Conservation Board.

“They were all for it,” he said. “We expected about 10 people but 36 showed up. It was one of the most pleasant classes I taught.” Interest grew quickly. John taught in Des Moines and began to take new beekeepers under his wing. His apiary also expanded. At one point he tended 70 hives, selling at several farmers markets, even wholesale the year he had 10 barrels of honey in his garage. It was common to get 120 pounds from each colony.

“But the world for bees and beekeepers has really changed since then,” John lamented. Among the most drastic is habitat loss. “Many of the flowers and trees they depend on for pollen and nectar are not there anymore,” John said. “Think of white Dutch clover; our lawns used to be filled with them, and all those hayfields and fence rows are gone. This is serious stuff.”

He has no trouble remembering his best colonies, two “boomers” in the late 1980s. He pulled out a framed photo of him and his granddaughter Jessica with two towering colonies between them – each with seven boxes of honey. That photo was taken in the early 2000s. Thirty years ago, beekeepers fought American foulbrood, treating each fall and spring. Now he said it’s “doggone varroa mite” – if in doubt, treat, he advised. The biggest mistake made by new beekeepers is to not keep watch over their hives. “They spend all this time in class and money for bees, and then they don’t check on the hives,” he said. “You need to give the bees what they need when they need it – like honey supers. I always carried some with me.” John admits that he kept bees for more than the honey and their pollination services. “I just like bees,” he said, explaining the mysterious passion that many beekeepers feel once they get hooked. “Think of the wonders you will see if you keep bees. It is marvelous.”

We couldn’t agree more! Thanks for fueling that passion for us and many others!

Submitted by Laura Miller whose blog is https://beeladyhoney.com.

Editor note: Each year at the Annual Meeting the IHPA holds an auction. This year, you’ll find a collection of John’s books as well as a copper smoker. John has contributed them for someone to take home with profits going to IHPA programs. Roy Kraft held this copper smoker up at the Field Day, and it’s truly lovely. Please plan ahead to attend the Annual Meeting.
We need your help at the 2019 Iowa State Fair booth!

Dear Beekeepers,

I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair, however, Spring is here and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching: August 8-18. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag Building 2nd floor. We sell honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fund-raising event, and the profits are used to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc. Each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a FREE pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2018 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone's support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily: 9 am to 1:30 pm; 1:30 pm to 6 pm; and 6 pm to 9 pm (14-16 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 8-18, we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear-off slip below, or email the same details to bhlove5@aol.com, or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary)  18115 F Ave, Perry, IA 50220.  Cell: 515-729-1761

1st person: ____________________________________________

2nd person: ____________________________________________

3rd person: ____________________________________________

Childs name & ages: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________________ Zip __________

Phone no.: ___________________ Email address: ______________________

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you.

We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date(s): ____________________________ 9:00 am-1:30 pm, 1:30-6:00 pm, 6:00—9:00 pm

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Scott Kent and Craig Green help the students in the Southern Iowa Hive Handlers. See the full article on Page 14. Thanks to all who submit news from our wonderful clubs all across the state!
107th Iowa Honey Producers Association
Conference and Annual Meeting
November 8th -9th, 2019
Airport Holiday Inn – Des Moines, Iowa

Friday and Saturday ~~ Registration: 8:00 AM ~~ Conference/Annual Meeting: 8:30 AM

Please print legibly!

Name: _____________________________________   Additional Attendees: (please include age of children)
Address: ___________________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________________
Phone: _____________________________________
E-mail Address: _____________________________

DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION IS OCTOBER 25th ** NO EXCEPTIONS **
If you can only attend one day, no discounts are offered. No refunds given after November 1st.

Conference and Annual Meeting Fees:

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<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Before Oct 25th</th>
<th>After Oct 25th</th>
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<td>Members Registration</td>
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<td>Non-members Registration</td>
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Youth 17 and younger FREE to attend with a parent or guardian 

QUEEN LUNCHON – Friday: Italian Buffet (pre-registration required)
Number of tickets $25.00

BANQUET – Friday Awards Banquet
Vegetarian Lasagna $30.00
Honey Garlic Chicken w/ Honey Garlic Butter Sauce $30.00
Parmesan Crusted Pork Loin w/ Parmesan Cream Sauce $30.00
Child’s Dinner (child up to 10 years) Chicken Tenders $12.00

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHON – Saturday TBD
Number of tickets (per person) $TBD

Queen or Youth Scholarship Sponsor – Listed in Event program as a sponsor
Queen Sponsor (Must be received prior to Nov. 1st to be listed) $10.00
Youth Scholarship Sponsor (Must be received prior to Nov. 1st to be listed) $10.00

2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES
IHPA membership dues (includes subscription to “The Buzz” newsletter) $20.00
2nd Family membership w/same address – Name - ___________________________ $5.00

TOTAL DUE: $ __________

Return this completed form along with payment to: Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer
Check payable to Iowa Honey Producers Association
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049

Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation

** REMEMBER TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL – ROOMS WILL GO QUICK – MORE EVENT DETAILS ON THE WEBSITE **

Event questions can be directed to Keri Kenoyer, VP IHPA, kenoyerfarms@gmail.com
107th Iowa Honey Producers Association
Conference and Annual Meeting
Friday, November 8th and Saturday, November 9th, 2019
Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport 6111 Fleur Drive Des Moines, IA. 50301

Registration opens: 8:00 am                Conference/Annual Meeting starts: 8:30 am

The IHPA Conference and Annual Meeting is our yearly opportunity to get together and discuss our favorite thing, BEES!! This meeting is open to anyone interested in beekeeping and honeybees. We have a variety of guest speakers to speak on their expertise in the beekeeping world.

This is a great opportunity for individuals thinking about keeping bees, new beekeepers and beekeepers a few years in, to meet other beekeepers from around the state, swap stories, ask questions and seek advice from those who have years of beekeeping under their belts. There will be no shortage of information and answers!!

This is why you go to a conference........ Vision, Inspiration and Connections!!

2019 Keynote Speakers:
Mel Disselkoen, Kirsten Traynor and The Minnesota Bee Squad

Additional Speakers:
Becky Tipton, Bill Allinder, Jeannie Saum and Peggy Ennis

There will be presentations about Queens, Mites and overall bee health as well as making products, cooking with honey, processing wax, business start-up and labeling.

For those who enjoy a little friendly competition, there will be several contests you can enter to showcase your passion and talents. There will be both a youth and an adult category in each contest. The contests will include mead-making, hive body painting, photography, cooking with honey and (new for 2019) black label honey tasting. Additional contest details and rules will be in the next Buzz. Looking forward to seeing all the entries this year.

The honey swap will also be happening this year. This is a fantastic way for you to swap honey with other fellow beekeepers from around Iowa and maybe from another state!

There are several rooms reserved for our event at a discounted rate of $119.00 = taxes. Rooms will go quickly. Reservations must be made by Thursday, October 17th, 2019 to get this discounted room rate. There are a couple Handicappable rooms reserved for our event as well. Call (515) 287-2400 to make your reservations.

Questions? Call or text 515-490-2011 or email kenoyerfarms@gmail.com  IHPA VP Keri Kenoyer
U.S. honey production rose in 2018, but yield dropped

By Paul Brinkmann

ORLANDO, Fla., May 20 (UPI) -- Honey production in the United States rose in 2018 for the first time in five years, but not because bees have turned a corner on numerous threats. Production was up 2 percent in 2018 to 152 million pounds, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture released last week.

But the primary reason for more honey was that large producers increased the number of bee colonies to meet rising demand for natural sweeteners. The number of colonies jumped 4 percent to 2.8 million. The amount of honey produced by each colony actually dropped 2 percent to 54.4 pounds.

"Beekeepers are working harder than ever to keep up with the growing demand, while bees are struggling," Margaret Lombard, chief executive officer of the National Honey Board, told UPI. "Consumption is at an all-time high right now because natural sweeteners are preferred more and more, and there are a lot of natural benefits." A study by University of California researchers presented in October said the United States is meeting growing demand partly by importing more honey from nations like India and Vietnam. State production varied widely across the country, according to the USDA report. Florida saw a boost in production and yield per colony for honey, while Wisconsin saw a small drop in the number of colonies and a record low in production.

Bees are beleaguered by illness, parasites and environmental threats including pesticides, according to the National Honey Board and other beekeeping organizations. Large-scale row-cropping of corn and soybeans in the Midwest, along with modern farming methods, have resulted in fewer types of nectar and pollen available to bees. "Beekeepers are definitely trying to ramp up operations and have more hives to increase production," said Douglas Hauke, a large-scale honey producer and beekeeper based in Marshfield, Wisc. He also sits on the USDA's National Honey Board and manages 3,400 colonies of bees. "Unfortunately, the bees are very sick still. It's hard for them to be productive," Hauke said. "They don't have good nutrition that they used to get from smaller and more diverse farms."

The USDA counts only honey producers with five or more colonies (hives), and only those who answered survey questions. It doesn't include hobbyists or wild colonies. The report said U.S. honey wholesale prices declined 2 percent during 2018 to $2.16 per pound. Florida added 10,000 more bee colonies to reach 215,000 total in 2018. Yield per colony also rose to 49 pounds from 43 pounds in 2017. That resulted in a jump of honey production in Florida to 10.5 million pounds in 2018 from from 8.8 million pounds the year before. Bees in the Sunshine State benefit from a broader variety of crops and flowers, and recent mild winters, said Chris Stalder, a beekeeper from the Orlando area and coordinator of the speakers bureau for the Florida State Beekeepers Association. "Here in Central Florida, I'm surrounded by people with great flower gardens, and some butterfly gardens, and lakes that prevent any chilly nights from getting near freezing," Stalder said. In Wisconsin, the number of colonies dropped by 2,000 to 51,000, while yield plummeted from 56 pounds to 45 pounds per colony. The result was production declining from 2.96 million pounds to 2.3 million pounds. According to the USDA report, the biggest producing state, California, saw numbers unchanged in 2018 for colonies, yield and production at 335,000, 41 pounds and 13.7 million pounds, respectively.

Reprinted from the American Honey Producers publication
The passing of a lifetime beekeeper.

Leonard Kurtz: Beekeeper and Volunteer—August 20, 1940 – June 5, 2019

The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center staff is saddened by the loss of a friend and volunteer, Leonard Kurtz. He passed away recently and his absence will greatly affect many. Here is a bit of his history:

Leonard Kurtz’s first full time job was with the Bradshaw Honey Co. in Wendell, Idaho. At that time, they were the largest producer packer of honey in the U.S. They operated about 40,000 colonies of bees and packed about 10,000,000 pounds of honey per year. Some of the employees had their own colonies of bees and he would go out and help them so that he could learn more about the bees.

In 1961, he married Diana Comstock. Sioux Honey Association bought the Bradshaw Honey Co. in 1964 and in 1969 he and his wife moved to Sioux City from Wendell, Idaho. At the time of his transfer, he was the assistant plant manager. At Sioux City, he worked in the field production department where he visited beekeepers throughout the U.S. for about 17 years. He then began working in the sales department at Sioux Honey Association where his duties were to co-ordinate the packed honey production and regulate shipments of honey throughout the U.S. He also sold all of the beeswax that was delivered to Sioux Honey Association.

Sioux Honey Association is one of the largest honey and beeswax marketing organizations in the world. He worked in sales and as a beekeeper for Sioux Bee Honey for over 52 years and had had some of his own bees during most of that time. He was an active beekeeper up until the time of his death.

Leonard’s passion for bees has been most helpful to the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. He actively maintained our educational beehive for more than 20 years. He played an integral part in the re-design of the observational beehive exhibit. The beehive is one of the most popular exhibits in the Nature Center and his time and expertise was invaluable to us. We have many fond memories of “supervising” Leonard on a ladder while he collected our bees when they swarmed.

Once, while servicing the hive at the Nature Center, the smoke from his smoker set off the fire alarm. Leonard happily gave the firemen that arrived on the scene a lesson in bee biology!

Leonard & his wife Diana raised four children, 2 boys and 2 girls. It was always a pleasure to have Leonard visit and share his knowledge of bees and we have learned so much over the years, thanks to him. We send our sympathy to the family and friends of Leonard Kurtz and wish to thank them for sharing such a wonderful man with us.

Submitted by Dawn Snyder, Education Programs Director at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City, IA

Editor Note: Those who were at the IHPA Annual Meeting last Nov. recall that Leonard was awarded the Pioneer Award for his years working in the world of bees. He will bee missed.
Emma’s Recipes:
One of my favorite things to do in the summer is grill out with my family and sit down for a quick meal between the different events and activities we attend. The chicken salad was really quick and easy to make. The versatility of both of these recipes makes them great for different people’s preferences – the chicken salad can be used for a sandwich or lettuce salad and the burgers can be cooked inside the house or out, depending on the weather.

Great Honey Burgers (Pg. 45):
1 pound ground beef
½ cup soft bread crumbs
½ teaspoon salt
¾ teaspoon pepper
1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon chopped green onions
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Combine ground beef with bread crumbs, salt, and pepper. Shape into four patties. Brown in skillet and pour off excess fat. Blend together tomato sauce, honey, chopped onion, Worcestershire sauce, and mustard. Pour sauce over patties and simmer 10 minutes. Serve on toasted split buns with additional chopped green onions for garnish. Serves 2-4.

Emma’s Notes: The patties were very thick and juicy and could be made on the grill rather than the stove top, if desired. To do that you would cook them on the grill and then transfer them to a stove top pan and simmer the sauce. If I made them again, I would make the patties thinner but the same size around so that I could get more than four. They were delicious.

Honey Almond Chicken Salad (Pg. 127):
2 cups diced, cooked chicken breasts
½ cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
½ cup slivered almonds
3 tablespoons honey
Salt, pepper, and dill weed to taste

Combine all ingredients, serve on a bed of lettuce or as a sandwich filling.

Emma's Notes: I would not eat the salad straight, but it is good on a sandwich or with lettuce. The sauce on the chicken makes a delicious salad dressing. I would also recommend you dice the chicken into pretty small chunks – you don’t want them falling off your sandwich. Finally, the more dill and pepper you use the less potent the mayonnaise will be.

Editor’s Notes: If you’re new to this newsletter, please note that our Recipe Contributor is quite the young lady. She writes and edits these recipes like a pro and adds all these insightful Notes. She sounds like she’s been cooking for decades with lots of little ones around her apron, but she’s the queen of her club and I think she’s still in high school. You’ll see her judging food contests at our Annual Meeting. What a faithful contributor! She’s also a potter and who knows what she’ll bring for the Annual Meeting auction! Perhaps others of you would like to contribute regularly?

Catmint – Who Knew?
A couple of summers ago, we had a retaining wall redone which was an opportunity to rethink what to plant in the wall. Last summer, I opted for some low maintenance pollinator friendly perennials like Russian Sage and catmint. I planted different varieties of each species and sadly I don’t have notes on all the varieties, including my favorite, a large catmint. The two large catmints have been blooming for a while and are a bee magnet. I’m not sure that I would plant the small catmints again; however, time will tell. My goal was to create a blue planting; however, I’ve tossed in some annual seeds and they’ll add color later in the summer. The Russian Sage should start blooming soon and I know that it blooms until frost. The Russian Sage will do well with the droughts and the catmints will bloom earlier in the season. Remember that with perennials they sleep the first year, weep the next and leap the third year.

The fact that all these plants made it through this past brutal winter is a good sign; however, the plants went into winter with a lot of moisture in the ground which helps. Diversity in plants helps, especially as our weather seems to be changing and becoming more extreme.

I should clarify that catmint (Nepeta mussinii) is a great ornamental plant in the garden and not the same as catnip (Nepeta cataria) which is loved by cats. Plant in full sun and in well-drained soil; however, I’ve read that it can be invasive, so you may want to plant where you can control it.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weldon
News from the DIstricts

As I thought about this month’s District 3 news, it immediately came to mind that the bees have been saved finally from the horrible fall, winter and spring weather. The weather is actually becoming better. The spring (or lack of) was either cold or drenching rain or both with very few days for the ladies to do their work or their virgin queens to find some handsome drones.

Then it came to me that most District 3 beeks are small-time operators or hobbyists who undoubtedly are keenly aware of what trees and plants are bee habitat and who keep track of the current bloom. However, how many are aware of the fantastic resources that have been developed in our area with two key facilities in Decorah and Cedar Falls at their public libraries? I am referring to their seed libraries. You can exchange or borrow seeds from the libraries then return a new crop of seeds at the end of the season for others to use the next year. The Cedar Falls Public Library and Decorah’s Robert Becker Memorial Library also has thousands of volumes dedicated to agriculture and horticulture. Their seed exchange’s goal is to collect, store, and regenerate the seeds of rare, heirloom and open-pollinated varieties. Decorah’s seed library is the nation’s largest nongovernmental seed bank. The Ely Public Library is also growing its seed library.

So beeks, when you are planning your gardens or landscape for your ladies, consider using these unique Iowa resources for seeds otherwise unavailable through seed catalogs or even for the usual ones.

Ed St.John IHPA District 3 Director

Notes from the Beeyard, by Phil Ebert

At last, I can safely say that package bees are history. It was an ordeal I do not care to repeat. Packages have been an important part of our business for 20 years, but I think it is time to move on. They are a lot of work and the margin is small. There are other opportunities out there.

It is June 8th as I write this. We have had a week of dry weather. Nectar is coming in. Wild mustard is pretty much done but Dutch Clover is in bloom and yellow sweet clover is showing in the road ditches. The first round of supering is finished. We tried to start May 30, but Alex got stuck three times. Most of his day was occupied with getting unstuck. We got rolling after that. With a crew of four, things go pretty fast.

Sending bees to California accelerates the mite cycle. The bees start brooding up out there in January. By the time we get them back in late March or early April, they already have the mites that bees overwintered in Iowa would have in July. Cool spring temps are not conducive to effective mite treatments. Oxalic acid or Tactic are about the only options. We plan to apply oxalic at intervals thru the summer. It remains to be seen how well that is going to work. We have to keep mite levels low enough that we can have an effective treatment in late summer. If levels get too high, it doesn’t matter what you do. The bees will die. Our goal used to be to have 2/3 of our first round of mite treatments in by September 10th. That was sufficient for a long time. It isn’t any more. The last two years we have lost most of the bees that did not get a mite treatment until September. There were more mites and the treatments were not as effective as in the past.

We have started pulling our honey sooner. Last year we started the first week of August. We are shooting for July 20 this year. The colonies will be really full of bees at that time. We may be able to make some late splits. It is still a work in progress.

There are always little problems that come up that prove to be irritating. We had two 80-gallon double boilers made by Kelley that we bottled from. One of them developed pin holes on the outer tank. They mostly leaked when the heat was on. I sealed them up with caulkling compound. It never occurred to me to check the inner tank. This was a bad oversight. Eventually, it started to stink. There were pinholes in the inner tank that let water into the tank when the honey level was low. The bigger problem was the bad solder joint that let honey seep into the water side. That was where the smell coming from. We were heating a mixture of honey and water. The tank was only five years old. Complaining to Kelly got me nowhere. The guy in the metal shop said there was no excuse for something like that. Someone would call me. I received assurances from other people in sales that someone would call me. I am still waiting, after several weeks.

Adam has had swarming problems. The bees were not all that good when they came back from California. They had brood but nothing like the year before. He pulled brood to sell and made splits, but the bees still got ahead of him. The wet weather didn’t seem to hinder hive development. It did hinder getting the bees to locations. He had hundreds of colonies stuck in his hay field for way too long. Every year is an adventure in one way or another.

Here is hoping for a productive summer.
**The Historical Buzz Post**

*By Tina Meyer IHPA Historian*

I thought this was a fun read and one man’s account with what I would assume as Africanized Bees in 1900. Hope you enjoy!

**A Plague of Bees in Africa- By C.V. A. Peel**  
*Source – American Bee Journal June 1900*

I had been enticed into the Haweea County of Africa by reports of elephants. From the time I set foot in the country I was pestered by a perfect plague of bees. The country was nothing but a wilderness of stony ground covered with thorn bushes. The afternoon of my arrival, I pitched camp by the side of a deep well in the solid rock. When my tent was up, I threw myself on my bed hoping to find rest. I jumped up quicker than it took to lie down, being stung in the back by a bee. “No peace for the wicked,” I said to myself as I took my sponge, intending to have a bath, only to be stung the hand by a swarm of bees. They had settled on the damp sponge and were eagerly sucking up the moisture. It was becoming more than a joke. I poured out the water into my India-rubber bath amidst a buzz of approval from my thirsty companions. I took off my clothes, being stung in the attempt by a bee which had crawled through my stockings and got into my bath. This apparently was the signal for a combined attack upon me.

After the first sponge full of water had gone over me, a perfect swarm of bees attacked my head, while dozens crawled all over my naked body. Twice I was stung in the head and three times I had to pull stingers out of my body.

At length I could stand it no longer. I ran amuck as I threw the bath, pail, water sponge, towels and bad language in every direction. I dashed out of my tent and fled naked out my zeriba, followed by a grinning crowd of natives inquiring if I had taken leave of my senses. I sat for the rest of the afternoon in the shade, and as far from any water as possible until the sun went down, and I could return to my tent. When the golden orb at length disappeared, I returned to camp in my birthday garments, feeling rather chilly, and anointed my numerous stings with ammonia. Upon my tent floor I discovered with my bare feet there still crawled the little demons, but the had mercifully ceased to fly for the night.

The next day was destined to be the most miserable of days. From the moment the sun peeped up over the horizon until it set like a great ball of fire in the west, an enormous army of bees pestered and annoyed me. I could not eat, drink, sit, sleep, stand nor walk as they would crawl all over me and sting me. It was all fine to say “Don’t touch them and they will not sting you,” but the plagues tickled me so dreadfully as they crawled up my britches, down my socks into my shoes, around my head and over my whole body. I was stung almost everywhere. As we packed up to leave the county, I laughed afresh at the sights of my men as I applied ammonia to their poisoned wounds.

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**Extractor and Sugar House for rent!**

The Indian Creek Nature Center's Sugar House is available for rent during honey harvest season (July 16-September 27). The rate is $20 for a half day. Included in the rental is the use of the Nature Center's radial extractor, decapping stand, and various decapping tools. Renters are responsible for scheduling a brief training to review how to operate the extractor and orient themselves to the Sugar House (to be scheduled when you call to reserve the Sugar House). Renters are also responsible for clean up and leaving the Sugar House in perfect condition for the next renter. Students who have participated in an ICNC Beginning Beekeeping Series in the past can use the Sugar House for free!

Questions/reservations, contact Registrar Rachel Bailey at rachel@indiancreeknaturecenter.org

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**The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions**

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrrihpa@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.
Beek of the Month--July

Hi! My name is Laura Juffer. I am a mom to two busy 7-year-old twins, Sophie and Aiden, and wife to Dan Juffer. We live in the city of Adel. We are very fortunate to have a large lot in town. I have thought of beekeeping, and looked into it for many years but always talked myself out of it. This year (2019) I decided to go for it. I enrolled in the beginner beekeeper class at Cherry Glen Learning Farm in February. I installed my first package of bees in one of my two hives the beginning of May.

I have a very patient and awesome mentor--Eric Kenoyer with Kenoyer Farms. I think I would have run screaming after installing my first hive if it wasn't for his help and guidance. I recently captured a swarm for my second hive (technically that was my second attempt with a swarm. My mentor gave me a swarm he captured but they took off after installing them). Eric gave me instructions over the phone and off I traipsed to capture them, like Roo in Winnie the Pooh’s Heffalump movie. What a thrilling, scary, heart-pounding experience that is! It’s hard to put to words!

It’s never a dull moment around my home. I have a home-based, busy dog grooming business, Handsome Hounds Pet Grooming. When I’m not working or watching my bees I am playing with my kids, dogs, cats, chickens, finding horses to ride or volunteering at church. I also run with a non-profit called Team Run Free and help my husband with his plant nursery hobby--Juffer Family Gardens.

I am a very new beekeeper and am enjoy learning all I can. I can’t wait to see what is yet to come.

Submitted by Eric Kenoyer, IHPA District 5 Director

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Yay, it's finally summer! I don't know about anyone else, but I'm excited to be on the river, and seeing my family much more! However, I'm currently looking for work as a certified nursing assistant, which will probably take up most of my days. It's been really hard to find swarms this year. As I mentioned in my previous article, possibly, I had been gone a majority of May; therefore, I couldn't get ordered bees without someone else having to step in for me. I really didn't want it on other people's shoulders, so I just decided to look for possible swarms. That has proven difficult! In the meantime, I've gone to Collins Elementary to teach kindergarten through fifth graders about bees. The funniest question was: "How do bees mate with the queen?" I, of course, countered it with an answer to the outcome. I believe I mentioned how many eggs the queen could lay in a day after mating, and went on about that. The teacher whispered to me, "Great answer to that one," with a wink. The kids here were amazing, and I loved my time with them! I also drove down to Knoxville the same day and talked to a group of elderly residents. They were glad to see youth getting more involved like I was, and they really enjoyed learning about how bees live in the hive itself. After everything, I had to drive home in the huge storm! It took me about 3 ½ hours to get home. It was crazy! Coming up I have a three-day camp with kids, as well as a few other library programs. I'm excited that fair season is coming up quickly!

### Help wanted: Full-Time Beekeeper

This is a year-round position. Experience helpful but will train. P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc. Pat and Peggy Ennis, 2105 110th ST. Goodell, IA. 50439. Call, text or email us at 641-444-4767 or 515-293-2601.

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### Southern Iowa Hive Handlers Introduces HS Youth to Beekeeping

By: Judy Kjellsen

The Southern Iowa Hive Handlers started 3 years ago when Clarke County Conservation Director, Scott Kent and beekeeper, Rose Greif taught beginning beekeeping to a small group of interested “newbees” and experienced beekeepers. With classes offered again in 2018 and 2019 at Honey Hill in Osceola, the club has grown to over 60 active members and continues to grow. They meet once a month at East Lake Park to share ideas, ask questions, and offer advice about each other’s hives. Members have also shared anything from wildflower seeds and plants to ointments, and even mead! A Facebook page is visited by 188 people who also answer questions, promote, and troubleshoot with members throughout Iowa.

When Farm & Home in Osceola donated a hive box to the club, the members decided the donation should go to the FFA Club at Clarke High School to help educate the next generation about the importance of the honeybees. Four students contacted one of the members, saying they were interested in beekeeping for their FFA project. They got to help inspect a hive and were shown what to look for in a healthy hive. Knowing the importance of timing for starting a new hive, Scott and Rose went to work to locate a nuc and Greif Farms generously donated the nuc to the students to get them started. The club met on May 16th, rounded up some spare bee suits and gave the kids their first hands-on experience with installing a nuc. After learning the parts of the hive, Craig Green showed the students the difference between the worker bees, drones and the queen. After filling the hive feeder with syrup, they transported the frames from the nuc into the new hive and finished setting up the hive. As their school year comes to an end, their homework continues! First on the list: shopping for bee suits and a 2nd hive box, followed by another inspection to check on their project. They’re already talking about investing in a second hive!

The club is excited to introduce the new members and mentor them on their journey into beekeeping. Hopefully, they will motivate their friends to follow in the years to come, or at least save, instead of swat, the next honeybee flying their way!

Submitted by Judy Kjellsen of Osceola (Boyt Harness Company) (see some pictures back on page 5)
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The Iowa Honey Producers Association supports honeybee and beekeeping research through grants to research projects during the IHPA Annual Meeting.

The IHPA Grant Proposal Form will need to be submitted during the Submission Period prior to the Annual Meeting. The IHPA Board will review the stated use of the Grant to confirm the use is in line with the goal of promoting continued research in honeybees and beekeeping. This review will allow the board time to request additional information if needed, and ensure total proposed Grants do not exceed the association’s budget for research Grants.

With acceptance by the IHPA Board, the Grant Proposal will be brought to the floor during the Business Meeting of the Annual Meeting for a vote by the members. Grant Proposals can be made by anyone with a current IHPA membership. Members are encouraged to help the Association to identify research projects that will continue to work for the benefit of honeybees, beekeepers and the honey industry.

Submission Deadline: September 30, 2019
Submission Period: July 1st – September 30, 2019

IHPA Member submitting the Grant Proposal.

Name: ________________________ ____________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________
Phone Number: __________________________________________________________________
E-Mail Address: __________________________________________________________________

Grant Proposal

Proposed dollar amount of the IHPA Grant: $_________________________

Contact Information for head researcher / project organization.

Name:  ________________________ _________________________________
Address: __________________ _______________________________________
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Please provide a description of how the proposed Grant would be used in regard to your research relating to honeybees, beekeeping or the honey industry. (Please add additional page(s) as needed.)

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
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_____________________________________________________________________________________
State Apiarist Report--Andy Joseph

Hello.

Summer is nearly here. End of May and it’s been kind of a rough month. The bees have built up well in spite of the cold and rain. It sure has been a beautiful looking spring, but bee foraging opportunities have so far been limited. We haven’t had any big late freezes to harm the early blooms. We’re coming into what could be a honey flow now. All we need is some warm sunny days to give the bees half a chance to get out and get after it.

We experienced plenty bee losses across the state over winter. Maybe as much as 60+% dead between October and April. I spent quite a bit of time looking through deadouts and taking samples these last couple months. I wrote last time on some clues to look for when doing winter loss detective work. Most of the losses seem to be the sadly typical Varroa-related damage ending in dwindled down winter clusters unable to support themselves. This type of loss has sadly become pretty normal. There were also some really high Nosema counts coming out of winter – not everyone across the board – it was more like either no problem at all or really high infection. We don’t have access to any good Nosema treatment, so my only plan is to keep an eye open, probably doing more counts later in the season and again come next spring just to see if there’s any pattern or reliable early warning. Most of the higher counts were associated with dead hives, so now that we’re into spring, spore counts I’ve done more recently have looked better.

As you watch for early signs of swarming, also keep an eye for EFB. European Foulbrood was a relatively rare bacterial disease until the last several years. We’ve been seeing it increasingly though recently, and I can’t exactly say why. It’s not nearly as devastating as an American Foulbrood infection, especially since it doesn’t end in the scale which ruins combs for future use. That said, EFB can take hives right downhill, and fast. It’s a stress-associated bacterial infection. You’d typically see it this time of year – May through June, especially when weather / foraging conditions aren’t the greatest. EFB affects honey bee larvae causing sickness and death prior to the stage at which they’d be capped for pupation. You’ll see a spotty pattern of capped brood cells with shrunken, discolored (grey, brown, orange) larvae in the mix. Other bee health issues can create a similar appearance on the brood comb, but if you see this you know something’s not right and deserves a closer look. Mild EFB infection can sometimes clear up with good dry warm days and a good flow of nectar and pollen coming in. A break in brood, culling any particularly bad combs, and a full Terramycin treatment all can work wonders. Just keep a watchful eye!

The biggest news I have now is … We have a new Apiary Inspector! Austin Miller has recently started with us at Iowa Dept of Agriculture & Land Stewardship as our North Iowa Apiary Inspector. Austin and his family live in north central Iowa. He’s a knowledgeable beekeeper quickly building up an operation of his own. He’s a hard worker for sure and importantly he has what I’d call a passion for helping others succeed with their bees. Austin is conducting apiary inspection work in a loose territory of the northern third of the state. Please don’t hesitate to give Austin a call if you’d like him to visit your bees, particularly if something in the yard doesn’t seem quite right or if you’re selling bees / used equipment containing combs. His number is (515) 571-8991. Welcome Austin.

It really is great to work in a government program which is largely appreciated by the industry. I’ve enjoyed visiting a few beekeeping groups across northern Iowa, sharing the news that we have a new inspector working in the area, and having that news be happily well-received. This obviously is not a common experience for regulatory officials, and not all states share Iowa’s support for this work. I enjoy my work, I know Arvin enjoys his, and it’s completely safe to say Austin will also. So thank you, as always.

Let’s get out there and make some honey. Hope to see you all at the Summer Field Day. It’s going to be a great event.

Andy 515 326 5765 (text or call) Andrew.Joseph@iowaAgriculture.gov

Two Newbees join forces -- Bees and Fun!

About a year ago Teresa Aardema and Sheila Vink were talking about raising bees but were both scared to do it by themselves. So, the plan of raising bees together was born. After Sheila’s husband Carl put together two unassembled hives and painted them with at least six coats of paint (over achiever!) Sheila decided the hive was too boring and needed to be “fun”. She asked her son Jeremy (a graphics designer who makes vintage-looking signs) to design and cut out vinyl stencils of bees and honeycombs. Sheila got busy laying out the design and started painting. Soon the creative and interesting beehives were done and were ready to be placed at Teresa’s home on the edge of Doon. We are still a bit nervous about this whole raising bee adventure, but we hope at the end of our season we have more than just cute hives...
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Iowa Honey Producers Association
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049

2018/109 IHPA Leaders:
Pres: Roy Kraft
P.O. Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542
Ph: (515) 293-2458
kroyster.rk@gmail.com

Vice. Pres: Keri Kenoyer
1270 Upland Lane
Van Meter, IA 50261
Ph: (515) 490-2477
kenoyer1270@gmail.com

Secretary: Heidi Love
18115 S Ave.
Perry, IA 50220
Ph: (515) 729-1761
bhlve5@aol.com

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

Historian: Tina Meyer
2118 60th St.
Des Moines, IA 50322
Ph: (515) 612-4554
ihpahistorian@yahoo.com

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

Directors:
District 1: Chris Jackson
524 South 2nd Ave.
Danville, IA 52623
Ph: (319) 850-6559
chrisjackson1977@gmail.com

District 2: Tom Hart
1107 12th St. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
Ph: (319) 213-6807
cedarvalleyapiaries@gmail.com

District 3: Ed St John
1642 Oak View Dr. NE
Solon, IA 52233
Ph: (319) 491-4343
esj178@gmail.com

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

District 5: Eric Kenoyer
1270 Upland Lane
Van Meter, IA 50261
Ph: (515) 490-2477
kenoyer1270@gmail.com

District 6: Dave Korver
3314 510 St
Maurice, IA 51036
Ph: (712) 541-4803
korverdavid@gmail.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.
Akrworth, IA 50001
Ph: (515) 720-7617
Beekeeper@reevestkd.com

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

Bee Emergency Program Information:
Roy Kraft
P.O. Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542
Ph: (515) 293-2458
kroyster.rk@gmail.com