The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

Another informative Annual Meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association has come and gone. It is always a lot of work, but the reward of providing the membership with a quality program is well worth the time. A great big hand goes out to Pat Ennis for the planning of this meeting. Thank you Pat and Peggy for all of your work. Pat has recently had back surgery, but that hasn't slowed down his enthusiasm for the IHPA and the programs it provides. If you didn't attend, you missed a great time. The date for next year is November 16th and 17th at the Marshalltown Best Western Regency Inn. Mark your calendars now. Pat already is planning that event.

Thursday evening November 16th the IHPA officers and board members along with several members of the IHPA met with the new Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Bill Northey. A very candid discussion took place. Questions were posed by Mr. Northey and the IHPA members present concerning the direction of beekeeping in Iowa. We are very anxious to continue the dialog and to work on creating the best possible Apiary Department in Iowa.

There are nine new Iowa beekeepers due to the new Youth Scholarship program. Teresa Jurchen created and has administered the program for the Iowa Honey Producers Association. The nine finalists attended the meeting held in Marshalltown. They were interviewed on Friday afternoon and then attended the banquet to find out which five had won the scholarships. They were pleasantly surprised to find out that all nine finalists were going to be awarded scholarships. The coming year will prove to be an exciting time for these new beekeepers and their mentors.

Make it a goal to try some of the tasty foods that were entered in the Honey Foods contest. Some of the recipes will be included in the BUZZ this month with the remainder following in future editions. Enjoy them for the holidays.

Chelsa Bronnenberg is the new 2007 Iowa Honey Queen. Her parents are Connie and Curt Bronnenberg from Perry. If you are sponsoring or attending a promotion and would like to have her help you promote honey, please contact her.

I would like to THANK the 2006 Iowa Honey Queen, Elizabeth Macken, for all of her hard work in helping to promote honey and beekeeping in Iowa this past year. She is a delight to work with.

American Honey Princess, Teresa Jurchen also needs a well-deserved "Thank You" for all of the time she has spent on honey promotions. We are going to miss both Teresa and Liz, but wish them both the best of luck in the future.

With the approaching holidays, consider an Iowa Honey Producers Association shirt as a gift. Another idea for gift giving could be a membership to the IHPA or a subscription to a beekeeping magazine.

Family time is such a wonderful gift. Many of us take it for granted. Please remember our military men and women and their families this holiday season. Many families will be separated by miles this Christmas. Remember to keep them in your thoughts and prayers and to thank them for their service when you see them.

"Bee" truly happy and enjoy your holiday. Spend time with your family to create happy memories. If you can't be together, find a way to communicate your pleasure of "beeing" part of a family. Our organization is an extended family, so my wish for you is to have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year in 2007.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to **TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com** or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only $10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762

Dates to BEE Remembered:

January 9-13 AHPA 38th Annual Convention; Phoenix, Arizona

January 10-13 ABF Convention and Trade Show; Austin, Texas

January 20th IHP Board Meeting, 1:00pm

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

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

Maury Wills, who is our contact at IDALS, recently had heart surgery. We would like to wish Maury a speedy recovery.

Wanted: Comb honey. Also would like to have someone produce comb honey for the 2007 season. Also need extracted honey.

Contact Earl Markworth
Email: earlnlana@gpcom.net

The Buzz Picture Contest
December

This picture was sent to us by Donna Brahms. This is the picture of the month for December. Congratulations! Honey bear in hand, Mike's little helper gives him a shot of sweet tasting honey. Just say "when"!

Remember that "The Buzz" is offering $10 for one picture each month. I know some of you will have good photo opportunities during the summer months. Entertain your fellow beekeepers and make some money at the same time. This offer does not pertain to pictures printed with articles. Submit you photo via e-mail to the Buzz at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

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Contact: Donna Brahms
(712) 774-5878 or
mbrahms@netins.net

(Shipping will be added)

National Meetings To Be Held in January

The American Honey Producers Association will hold their 38th Annual convention on January 9-13, 2007. The meeting will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. For information, the website for the AHPA is www.americanhoneyproducers.org or you may phone (406) 463-2227.

The American Beekeeping Federation will hold their Convention and Trade Show in Austin, Texas on January 10-13, 2007. For information, the website for the ABF is www.ABFnet.org or you may phone (912)427-4233.

Much research sharing, information gathering, equipment viewing and just plain conversation with other beekeepers takes place at these meetings. If you have never attended one before, consider attending.

Submitted by Donna Brahms

Article Submissions to The Buzz Newsletter

The Buzz Newsletter would like to invite you to submit an article in 2007. A new year is about to begin and we would like everyone to feel free to share their experiences, knowledge, and joys in beekeeping with the rest of the IHPA membership. So share what you know! Send submissions to the address on the front of the Buzz, or email items to

TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com

Please send submissions to The Buzz **by the 15th of the month** to be included in that following month's issue. This date will allow us to have the Buzz printed and ready for mailing by the first of the month to coincide more closely with the posting of the online version.

Beekeeping is an exciting world, lets share the enthusiasm! Submit your article today.

Submitted by Alex Ebert
Editor, The Buzz Newsletter
TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com

IHPA Award Winners for 2006

Pioneer Award
Mr. Howard White, Posthumously

Promotion Award
Matthew Stewart

Friendship Award
Terri Pollard

Education Award
James Strachan

Youth Award
Teresa Jurchen

Sweepstakes Award
Mike & Donna Brahms

Herman Bickle Award
Donna Brahms

Lifetime Membership
Eves Cadwallader and William Eickholt

Honey Pumpkin Pie Desert

1 29oz can pumpkin
4 Eggs
2/3 Cup Iowa Honey
1 Can sweetened & condensed milk
1/2 Teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 Teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 Teaspoons cinnamon
1 Yellow cake mix
1 Cup melted butter
1/2 Cup chopped pecans

Mix together all ingredients except cake mix, butter and nuts. Spread in a 9x13 inch baking dish. Sprinkle dry cake mix over top. Drizzle melted butter over cake mix and sprinkle with nuts.

Bake at 350^{o} for 1 hour, or until top crust is browned. Serve with whipped topping.

Recipe from Donna Brahms
IHPA Annual Meeting Submission

NHB Change of Address

The National Honey Board has moved to a new location, both on land and on the internet. The original website www.nhb.org has now been incorporated into the site at www.honey.com.

The new address for the National Honey Board is:

National Honey Board
11409 Business Park Cir #210
Firestone, CO 80504-9200

The Buzz – December 2006

The Annual Honey Producers meeting has come and gone meaning that my reign as the 2006 Iowa Honey Queen is officially over. It is hard to believe that it has already been a year and an amazing one at that.

Thinking back on the past couple years of my life I never would have imagined representing Iowa as the Honey Queen. I was talking with one of my best friends and she asked if I "ever thought it would go this far"? I have to admit, when I invested in my first hive, I never expected it to take me the places it did. I started out with one lonely hive which turned into three. I ended up placing third in the state for an FFA State proficiencies project. I even got the rest of my family, particularly my dad, interested in beekeeping and they are now the ones who run the 13 hives we have, including mine while I attend college. One thing that I never dreamed of was to be crowned Iowa Honey Queen two years later. Now that it is all said and done, I can't imagine not having this experience as part of my life.

At the banquet, I wasn't able to give my closing remarks as the retiring honey queen so I would like to do that here. For those of you who attended the convention, you were able to see the slide show I put together to show some of the activities I was able to do. For those of you who are unfamiliar with some of the events, here is a quick wrap up: Wheatsfield Grocery store promotion, Spencer County Fair, Iowa State Fair, Field Day at Madrid, Honey fest, and a beginning beekeepers course to name a few. Going to these places, I not only learned about beekeeping in general but I was able to talk with local beekeepers. They told me their personal experiences and stories about their life, something you can't learn from a book; I was able to meet so many new people all across Iowa.

The only thing I have left to do is thank you. I want to thank all of you for letting me represent you. It was been an amazing experience because of you and I am so proud to say that I was the 2006 Iowa Honey Queen. But my time is done and I know that the new queen, Chelsa Bronennberg will do a great job; especially with the support Iowa honey producers give. Again thank you and Happy Holidays! BEE happy and thankful!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Macken
2006 Iowa Honey Queen

The Beeyard Report

It's the middle of November. We are still sucking wind. We are still trying to kill mites and the bees aren't taking syrup worth a hoot. After the strips failed to kill any mites we bought 500 Miteaway pads. I only put out 150 of them as temperatures weren't very favorable. They are supposed to work when daytime highs are over 50 degrees. We have found, however, that if the high is not reached until mid afternoon and nighttime temps are in the 20's and 30's, not very many mites are going to be killed. I put a sticky board into one of our breeder colonies that we keep close to the house. I sampled this colony and estimated the mite load to be somewhere between 2000 and 3000. We were only dropping 20 or 30 per day with the Miteaway pads installed. When daytime highs got into the sixties, the drop would be 150 to 200. The other zinger is that the bees wouldn't go around the formic pads to get the syrup. I was worried about this when we put the pads in. In one yard I gave the colonies division board feeders when I put the Miteaway pads on. They took their syrup but I had to make three trips back to the yard to refill the feeders. They don't hold enough.

The only thing we have found effective on the mites is oxalic acid. It only kills the mites that are exposed. I have one yard that had a lot of brood where I used it three times. Most of the others got it twice. When I talked to the Miteaway people, they told me that most of the Canadian beekeepers using Miteaway give an oxalic treatment when they take the Miteaway pads off. They also told me that I would probably be lucky if I killed 60% of my mites with the weather conditions I was operating under.

Dennis Naeve visited the Wisconsin meeting this fall. He said they were working with oxalic up there. Like most of the other benign treatments, it's effective under the right

conditions. There needs to be minimal brood and it's not going to work if the load is too high. If the mite load is in the 6% or 7% range it seems to knock them back pretty well. If it's higher than that, you go back a second time and hope.

We had another good year production wise. We extracted 121 barrels and produced another 50 supers of nice comb honey. We hope to expand the comb honey production next year. This may be contingent on how many bees we have left alive in the spring. We had a 50% loss during the winter of 1999-2000. Since then, our losses have been in the 5% to 20% range. I'm probably due for a big loss. If I had any vague thoughts of sending bees to California, the mite load has killed them.

Why are there so many mites this year? Who knows?? Maybe my spring treatment didn't work as well as I thought it did. We tested but maybe I just happened to test the colonies with small loads. We took colonies into winter last year with a 6% to 8% load. They came through fine but that's a fairly high load to start with,. If you couple that with a spring treatment that may not have worked as well as we thought, the result could be a lot of mites. We also had a much longer brood cycle this year. In 2005, brood rearing in our area stopped in early to mid September. This year we have a lot of colonies that still have brood in mid November. This struck me as really odd because conditions in October were not conducive to brood rearing.

50% to 75% of the mites are going to be in the brood. If your colony tests 3% and 75% of the mites are in the brood, you will have a 12% load in 12 days when the brood emerges. If you get another brood cycle after that, the mite population can double to 24%. Your colony is toast if that happens. Most years are not that extreme but this year it happened.

I don't think my poor nucs have much chance to survive. They haven't received much attention. Adam checked them at the beginning of October. He weeded out the bum ones and gave everything some feed. I brought part of them home but have never taken the lids off.

See you next month. Have a great holiday season!!!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

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Board Meets With Secretary of Agriculture Elect Bill Northey

The IHP board and other interested individuals met with Secretary of Agriculture Elect, Bill Northey, on Thursday evening, November 16th at the Best Western Inn in Marshalltown. Gordon Powell set the meeting up. It was short notice but it was a good fit. We had a board meeting scheduled for that night and Bill had met with the horticulture group earlier in the day. It was a very positive meeting. Bill took a lot of notes and asked a lot of questions. He is a good listener. The IDALS budget for the upcoming year is already set. There won't be any immediate changes. We need to look for opportunities to work with the state in the future.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Member of the Year Award

Dick Blake received the 2006 Member of the Year for the Sioux Bee Association. Congratulations, Dick!

Magazine Ordering Information

American Bee Journal Rates: 1 year: $19.20
51 S. 2nd Street 2 years $35.75
Hamilton, IL 62341

Speedy Bee Rates: I year $18.25
PO Box 1038 2 years $35.50
Jesup, GA 31598-1038

Bee Culture Rates: 1 year $19.00
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Check the Name label on the front of the Buzz. At the end of your name will be the month and the year your membership expires.

Example- John Smith Dec. 03
1234 Green Grass Rd.
Wonderful, IA 54321

Please join the Iowa Honey Producers Association to continue to receive The Buzz.

Make check payable to: IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
Send form and check to: J. Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer
4012 54th Street
Des Moines, IA. 50310-1815

Scientist finds 100 million-year-old bee

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. - A scientist has found a 100 million-year-old bee trapped in amber, making it possibly the oldest bee ever found.

"I knew right away what it was, because I had seen bees in younger amber before," said George Poinar, a zoology professor at Oregon State University.

The bee is about 40 million years older than previously found bees. The discovery of the ancient bee may help explain the rapid expansion and diversity of flowering plants during that time.

Poinar found the bee in amber from a mine in the Hukawng Valley of northern Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. Many researchers buy bags of amber from miners to search for fossils. Amber, a translucent semiprecious stone, is a substance that begins as tree resin. The sticky resin entombs and preserves insects, pollen and other small organisms.

Also embedded in the amber are four kinds of flowers. "So we can imagine this little bee flitting around these tiny flowers millions of years ago," Poinar said.

An article on his discovery will appear Friday in the journal Science, co-authored by bee researcher Bryan Danforth of Cornell University.

In the competing journal Nature this week, there is an article about the unraveling of the genetic map of the honeybee. The recently completed sequencing of the honeybee genome already is giving scientists fresh insights into the social insects. Poinar's ancient male bee, Melittosphex burmensis, is not a honeybee and not related to any modern bee family.

The pollen-eating bee has a few features of meat-eating wasps, such as narrow hind legs, but the body's branched hairs are a key feature of pollen-spreading bees.

The bee — about one-fifth the size of today's worker honeybee — has a heart-shaped head.

But the ancient bee was probably an evolutionary dead end and may not have given rise to modern bees, scientists said.

"It's exciting to see something that seems so different from what we think of as modern bees," Danforth said. "It's not an ancestor of honeybees, but probably was a species on an early branch of the evolutionary tree of bees that went extinct."

Article forwarded by Gale Urquhart

Nutty Butterballs

1 Cup butter
1/3 Cup Honey
2 1/4 Cups flour
3 Teaspoons vanilla
2 Cups chopped nuts (pecans, black walnuts, or English walnuts)

Cream butter and honey till creamy. Add flour and vanilla. Mix well and add chopped nuts. Form into very small balls and put on a greased baking sheet. Bake at 300^{o} for 20-22 minutes. Roll in powdered sugar if desired while still hot. Cool and roll in powdered sugar again.

Recipe from Doris Ramsey
IHPA Annual Meeting Submission

Honey Glazed Snack Mix

1 Box Honey Teddy Grahams
1 Pkg. Crispix cereal
1 Cup miniature pretzels
1 Cup pecan halves
2/3 Cup butter
2/3 Cup Iowa Honey
1 Cup vanilla baking chips

In a large bowl, combine crackers, cereal, pretzels and pecans. Melt butter in the microwave. Add honey and use a whisk to blend. Pour over mixture and stir well. Put on a large baking sheet (or 2 smaller ones). Bake at 325^{o} for 15 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes. Cool in the pan for 3 minutes. Turn out onto waxed paper to cool. When completely cool, add chips. Yield: About 6 quarts. Makes a great gift!
Recipe from Donna Brahms
IHPA Annual Meeting Submission

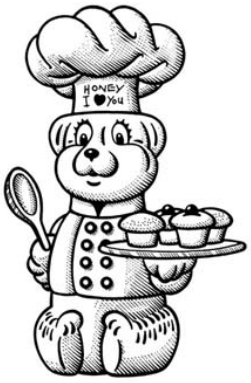
Honey Peanutbutter Balls

2 Cups oatmeal
2 Cups peanut butter
3/4 Cup Honey
3/4 to 1 Cup raisins or choice of ingredients; chocolate chips, M & Ms, peanut butter chips, peanuts, cheerios, rice crispies or others.
Colored sprinkles

Dump all ingredients (except sprinkles) into a large mixing bowl and mix well. Roll the mixture into balls and roll sparingly in the sprinkles. Makes about 45 1” balls.
Recipe from Sandy Strachan
IHPA Annual Meeting Submission

Fudgy Brownies

1/2 Cup butter or margarine
2 1oz squares unsweetened chocolate
1/2 Teaspoon salt
1 Teaspoon vanilla extract
1 Cup mild Honey
1/3 Cup white flour
1 Teaspoon baking powder
2 Eggs
1 Cup coarsely chopped walnuts



Melt butter, chocolate, and salt together in a saucepan over very low heat. Remove from the stove and stir in the vanilla. Then blend in the honey, flour and baking powder. Add the eggs and beat well with an electric mixer. Stir in the walnuts. Pour into a greased 9x9x2” pan and bake in a 325^{o} oven for about 35 minutes or until done in the center. Remove from the oven and allow the brownies to cool for 15 minutes before marking into squares. Makes 16 delicious Fudgy Brownies.
Recipe from Arlene Burns
IHPA Annual Meeting Submission

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The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
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weic@kdsi.net

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(515) 228-3060

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
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Des Moines, IA 50315

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Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers
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Fairfield, IA 52556
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IDALS website
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American Beekeeping Federation website
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