Greetings from the President of the IHPCA

Another month has just disappeared into history. At least the storms appear to have slowed down from all the activity in April. I think that April and May seemed to have reversed themselves. The wonderful warm weather in April gave me an opportunity to get lots of work done outside and to get a head start on my garden. At least I had radishes and lettuce for the first farmers’ market May 13th. The cool weather in May has hindered the beekeeping work of installing packages, splitting and adding new queens. It was pretty cool and somewhat rainy when we did it, but they are doing well.

In the month of May we added to our family. Youngest son, Mitch married Abbie on May 27th. We now have three daughters to go with our three sons. We can’t have a gathering without using honey to prepare the food. I was in charge of the mints (three colors) and our family favorite, Spring salad (both prepared with honey, of course). Granddaughter, JoAnn even had bees on her flower girl dress and she borrowed a pair of Oma’s bee earrings to go with it. It is nice to have time to regroup and relax a little by having a wedding over a long holiday weekend. At least I wasn’t the mother of the bride!

It is time to invite everyone to work at the Iowa State Fair in the Iowa Honey Producers Association sales booth. The IHPA honey sales booth and honey lemonade sales booth pay for the majority of the existing programs and help keep things “buzzing” along with all the activities that need financial support for our organization. The IHPA could not run the booth without the help of all of you, the members of the organization. We need to fill approximately 200 slots with workers from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for 11 days. Last year 95 different people volunteered to work for 132 hours. Please consider helping to make this “A Honey of a Fair” this year. We NEED YOU. The sign-up sheet is included elsewhere in this issue of the Buzz. Please get a list of the selected days you can work to me. Thank you for making this possible.

Remember to send in the bid sheets for selling your products at the Iowa State Fair in the IHPA sales booth. Please send them to John Johnson. They need to be postmarked by the 30th of June. The bid sheet is located in this issue or on the website.

Make plans to attend the IHPA Field Day. Pat has put together a great program. I don’t even have a Farmers’ market that day, so I can attend all day this year. Make sure you put July 8th on your calendar. Read all about the program in another article.

Remember to invite Liz, the Iowa Honey Queen to your community activities. Her presence is a great attraction at any event. People love to meet royalty and learn about our fascinating friends, the honey bees.

American Honey Princess, Teresa, is also available to help at events, if she is not traveling to other parts of the country. If you have children interested in the youth program or you want to become a mentor in the program, contact Teresa also.

I certainly hope you have time to smell the flowers, enjoy the beautiful scenery of Iowa, and spend time with your family this month. I hope you need to keep lots of honey supers added to your beehives to accommodate all the nectar being gathered. Have a great month.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President
Pink Rhubarb Punch

8 cups chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb
8 cups water
2 ½ cups honey
2 Tbs. strawberry gelatin
2 cups boiling water
2 cups pineapple juice
¼ cup lemon juice
6 cups ginger ale, chilled

In a large saucepan, bring rhubarb and water to a boil.

Reduce heat; simmer for 10 minutes. Drain, reserving liquid (save rhubarb for another use).

In a large bowl, combine honey, gelatin and boiling water until dissolved. Add pineapple and lemon juices; Mix well. Stir in rhubarb liquid; refrigerate.

Just before serving, pour into a punch bowl and add Ginger ale. Yields: about 5 quarts.

Submitted by Donna Brahms

THE BEEYARD REPORT

We pulled on to the yard at 11:00 PM on May 7th. Splitting was over. Now I would have time to mow the yard for the first time. The horses had been working on it but they hadn’t gotten it clipped in a very even manner. I need some hay, so I hated to mow it.

I feel real fortunate that our packages at least showed up on time, even though we didn’t get everything we ordered. Others weren’t so fortunate. The queens we had ordered from California got set way back. They canceled me two weeks in a row. Finally, I called Dale Bauer and he bailed me out with a box of queens. Because Dale helped us, we pretty much got through splitting on time.

I don’t think our first lot of grafted queens is going to have much chance to mate. The weather turned cold as we entered the mating period. There has been almost no flight at all. The second lot is grafted. We’ll hope for a better outcome next time around.

Anthony has a summer job in Colorado. He will only be home briefly. Someone else will have to run the extractor this year. Eric, the son you don’t hear much about, has a free month at the end of the summer. He has had a couple of years off from the bee business. He worked here the spring and summer after he got out of the Marines. Maybe I can get him to run a few barrels.

I hope everyone has a productive spring.

Submitted by Phil Ebert
Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeepers are Jim Nedtwig and Beth Henning. They live in Des Moines, Iowa. Jim produces honey for friends and family. Explaining how and why he started keeping bees Jim writes and says, “I began beekeeping in 1993, shortly after buying 90 acres of land in NW Guthrie County. Charles Carpenter and David Toussain (Prairie Song Apiary) kindly helped me get started, and donated hive boxes. Bob Cox’s beekeeping class was also a great help. A book sale yielded a copy of Frank Pellet’s 1920 book *American Honey Plants*, which documented the value of native plants as sources of pollen and nectar. I found that these plants, well adapted to the area, thrived in spite of my limited horticultural abilities.

Restoration of the land has become a life long project. The old neglected pasture I purchased in 1993 is beginning to dress up in its’ Sunday best—the handsome and diverse prairie/savanna plant community that lit the area prior to European settlement. I guess you could say beekeeping is the catalyst that helped me discover the lost beauty of Iowa. Oh, and the bees really like it, too”.

Jim says the establishment of late summer/fall blooming native plants has greatly reduced fall feeding requirements.

Thanks for your story Jim. Keep enjoying nature.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

The Buzz – June 2006

The months come and go faster and faster. I can’t believe that it has already been seven months since I was crowned the Iowa Honey Queen. Along with that, I have officially graduated from Wapsie Valley High School. My time there was amazing and I wouldn’t have traded it for anything but now it is time to move on to bigger and better things.

Though May was extremely busy with Confirmations, graduation parties, and a trip to Chicago to name a few, I now have a little more time to go out and meet people. I already have a few activities scheduled for June including a summer field day on June 16. This event will be held at Camp Ingawanis near Waverly, Iowa. This event is directed towards children grades kindergarten through sixth grade; parents are also encouraged to attend. Throughout the day, there will be many activities with a few breaks and then lunch. Some of the topics will include: the bees’ societal makeup, how honey is made, the bee dances, and an observation hive for them to look at. Hands on equipment will also be available for them to see such as frames, supers, and a bee suit. This is a general idea of what the day will be like; we will finalize the plans as the date approaches. If you have any questions or are interested in attending feel free to contract me.

I will also be visiting several grocery stores during the first couple weeks of June. While there, I will be passing out honey samples, recipes, and of course spreading the word about honey.

I look forward to all of the opportunities I have and would love to help out in anyway. If you have anything you would like help with or want me to attend an event, don’t hesitate to call, that is what I am here for. Until then, my home number is (319) 279 - 3892 or you might have better luck calling my cell phone at (319) 269 – 7212.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Macken
Iowa Honey Queen

1890 Honey Cake

5 glasses flour
5 eggs
1 glass seltzer
1 glass coffee
1 1/2 glasses honey
1 glass sugar
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
3 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. bicarb soda
1/2 glass walnuts, chopped
Rind of lemon, grated

Separate eggs. Mix yellows and sugar until smooth and fluffy. Gradually add flour (sifted), baking powder, and bicarb soda then gradually add glass of seltzer, coffee, honey, oil, walnuts, and lemon rind. Beat egg whites until snowy and fold in at very end gently. Put 1/2 glass of walnuts on top of batter. Bake at 325 degree oven. Test with straw if dry.

A glass is an old fashioned finger glass. One glass is equivalent to 1 cup.

Recipe from cooks.com
What Can the Iowa Honey Producers Do For YOU?

I would like to let you know what the IHPA can do for you as a member. I read an article in the April 2006 issue of Country Folks Grower Midwest titled “What Can Associations Do For You?” I’d like to highlight some of the things that the author, Beth Newsome stated in the article.

“Many farmers underestimate the benefits they might receive from joining a professional growers’ association. There are associations for almost any type of farm operation imaginable. A web search for ‘growers associations’ yields hundreds of professional growers’ support organizations. They represent interests in diverse operations. Groups may serve as Cooperatives, extend group insurance opportunities, offer educational seminars, or be engaged in regional politics. These associations are formed for a number of reasons. The benefits each association offers its members depend largely on why the group was formed.”

Ms Newsome further states, “They raise funds for research. They provide research findings to elected officials. Many groups use their membership as a base from which to gather statistics to provide to state and national policy makers. This way, they can make their concerns known.”

“Some growers associations represent a local area, rather than an industry. A horticultural association, which can include growers, retailers and landscapers can put on large annual trade show. These shows can provide a network of information and a marketplace for products and services.”

“Grower associations may be valuable in helping growers navigate tax laws, government regulations and state programs.”

“Informative conferences are held by some growers’ association. Researchers and other professionals can be invited to speak and answer questions. Some of these conferences may be tax deductible for growers. Groups may publish hard-to-find information or archive it to make it easily accessible. Studies that track industry growth are valuable for growers of crops whose markets are being developed or expanded.”

“Children of growers may benefit from youth educational activities organized by associations.”

The bylaws of the Iowa Honey Producers Association has in Article II- Objects of the organization. It reads: “The objects of this Association shall be to coordinate the interest of the beekeepers of Iowa and bring them into closer relationship of mutual helpfulness by association, conference and correspondence; to sponsor legislation for the benefit and protection of the industry; to assist in the dissemination of information on the control of diseases; to inform the members and the public of the valuable use of honey as well as the importance of the honey bee in relation to the pollination of agricultural crops, and to support every effort to promote the advancement of the beekeeping industry.

Let’s take a look at the advantages of membership in the IHPA:
1. The membership fee is very nominal compared to other organizations
2. Discount subscriptions to the national beekeeping magazines
3. The web-site information: ABuzzAboutBees.com
4. THE BUZZ newsletter
5. Hive Registration (with IDALS) Colony protection from pesticide spraying
6. Colony Inspections (with IDALS) Disease Control
7. Legislative communication for the industry-local, state, nationally
8. Participation in the Iowa State Fair- marketing, promotion & education
9. Honey Queen program provides statewide promotion of honey & products
10. Association with the Iowa Fruits & Vegetable Growers- pollination
11. Annual meeting brings in National Researchers & Speakers
12. Can provide information needed concerning regulations
13. Statistics are gathered and used for necessary promotion of honey & products
14. State Directory of members to promote, provide help to public & for emergencies
15. Youth mentoring program

These are some of the items provided by “our” organization. Yes, this is “our” IHPA. Please let the officers or directors know your wants and wishes. How can we provide the things that you want if we don’t know what they are. Thanks for being a member of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. If you know of a beekeeper that is interested in joining a great organization, inform him of the wonderful reasons for becoming a member.

Submitted by Donna Brahms
Solid Honey Wafer Offers Hands Off Solution for Beverages

Honey Board Promotes No Mess or Fuss Benefits; It’s “Simply Honey”

Longmont, Colo. (May 16, 2006) – Next time you’re considering adding a little honey to your tea, picture yourself reaching for a solid honey wafer. Amazingly, thanks to research sponsored by the National Honey Board (NHB), the ease and convenience of solid honey is now more than wishful thinking, it’s reality.

Prompted by growing interest from food manufacturers in dried honey, the Honey Board initiated a product concept program on behalf of the U.S. honey industry to optimize the utility of the various forms and styles of honey. Early in the project, due to honey’s hygroscopic properties, the Honey Board realized honey’s sticky constraints. By removing a portion of the water content of honey – honey contains roughly 17% water), technologists solved the stickiness problem and created a new concept/product – solid honey. Launched with the tentative name “Simply Honey”, the honey wafer has a single ingredient: pure honey (no additives or stabilizers). With dimensions approximating the size and thickness of a quarter, it dissolves quickly in hot liquid.

To monitor public response, the Honey Board introduced “Simply Honey” as a hot beverage sweetener at food trade shows during 2006, beginning with the World Tea Expo in Las Vegas (March), the Specialty Coffee Association of America conference in Charlotte, NC (April) and at the annual Food Marketing Institute show in Chicago (May). At these events, the board prospected for food manufacturers willing to implement the Honey Board’s primary objective: moving the concept from ideation to the store shelves. The concept comes at no cost to the manufacturer; however, additional product development, product identity, packaging and distribution would be the manufacturer’s responsibility.

While commodity boards primarily focus on generic promotion programs, the National Honey Board proactively assists the industry by identifying opportunistic honey applications and consumer-friendly honey concepts. Since joining the NHB as Marketing Director, Bruce Wolk has spearheaded industry efforts to make honey more accessible to 21st century consumers. “Our goal is to keep honey top of mind when consumers reach for a sweetener. Market research and focus group feedback shows us the honey’s natural appeal and unique flavor are no longer strong enough to influence that decision, whereas a form of honey that is easy to handle and store adds considerably to its attractiveness.”

For more information on current and concept forms and styles of honey contact Charlotte Jordan at (303) 776-2337 or charlotte@nhb.org. For more information about the National Honey Board and its marketing and promotion programs, visit www.honey.com.

The honey Board, through its staff in Longmont, Colo., conducts research, advertising and promotion programs to help maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets for honey. The Board’s work, funded by an assessment of one cent per pound on domestic and imported honey, is designed to expand the awareness and use of honey by consumers, the foodservice industry and food manufacturers.

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Honey Industry to Hold Roundtable in June 2006

Longmont, Colo. – Issues of current interest to the honey industry will be discussed at an industry roundtable, June 28, in Denver, Colo. The National Honey Board (NHB) is hosting the event.

Topics scheduled for discussion at the roundtable include standard of identity, voluntary quality assurance and labeling. The forum will include speakers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service and from the Food and Drug Administration.

Invited organizations are the American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association, National Honey Packers & Dealers Association and Sioux Honey Association.

The roundtable is open to the public, and any honey industry member is welcome to attend the event. NHB periodically sponsors industry roundtables to provide a discussion forum. The last such roundtable was held in 2004.

For more information, contact Lisa Jager at (800) 553-7162 or at lisa@nhb.org

www.nhb.org
www.honey.com
2006 BID SHEET FOR HONEY AND PRODUCTS TO BE SOLD AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR SALES BOOTH

Bid on any or all items (state quantity you will supply and bid price)

1 lb. Jars--light honey......................... 12 oz. Bears--light honey.........................
2 lb. Jars--light honey......................... 24 oz. Bears--light honey.........................
5 lb. Jugs--light honey....................... 1 lb. Skep--light honey.........................
Gallons--light honey......................... 50 or 60 lb. Pails (for lemonade).............
4 oz. Antique Jars............................ Comb Honey........................................
8 oz. Antique Jars............................ Honey Stix.........................................
Hard Honey Candy(assorted).................... Creamed Honey-regular.........................
Creamed Honey-flavors....................... Beeswax Candles.................................
Other Beeswax Products....................... Beeswax Bars(1 oz., ½ lb., 1 lb.)...............

NOTE: We need a substantial supply of comb honey in plastic boxes and section comb honey. This item is usually in short supply and thus bidding doesn’t make sense. We will accept cut comb in plastic boxes and wooden and round section comb containers. Quality standards for all comb honey are: clean cappings and all cells capped. Cut comb in plastic boxes must be well drained with little or no liquid honey. We will pay $4.00 per unit for cut comb in plastic boxes or section comb honey which weighs at least 14 ounces. We will pay $3.25 for comb honey in round containers that meet quality standards. Honey from all suppliers must be 2006 crop, Iowa honey with 18.5% or less moisture content and excellent overall quality. All of the containers need to be at a uniform fill line and free from foam. The IHPA booth manager has the right to refuse any containers not meeting this standard. Winning bids will be based on price, quality and ability to provide required quantity of product for the entire fair. All winning bids will remain in effect for the duration of the Iowa State Fair. Bids must be received by June 30, 2006.

Please sign the bid sheet and provide address and phone numbers. Suppliers of State Fair Honey will use their own business label on products supplies for State Fair Sales. Labels must be attractive with preprinted wording, which includes name and address of the supplier and net weight of item supplied. Include one sample of your label with the bid sheet.

NOTE: Arrangements need to be made to pick up any unused product between 9 p.m. & 10 p.m. Sunday, August 20 or 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, August 21, 2006.

Your signature________________________________ Name (printed)_________________________________
Address, City, Zip_________________________ Phone &/or Cell _________________________

Return to: W. John Johnson 2426 Hamilton Dr. Ames, IA 50014-8202

Remember: This is the major money making event for the Iowa Honey Producers!!
Dear Honey Producers:

We hope you will be able to help the Iowa Honey Producers Association with honey and lemonade sales at the 2006 Iowa State Fair. Dates of this year’s fair are August 10th through the 20th. Please bring any other helpers with you who may be interested in working. Children who are ten years of age and older enjoy assisting and are welcome.

We will send passes which provide free entry to the State Fair to all who assist with honey and lemonade sales. Days, dates and times for which help is needed are listed at the bottom of this letter. Please return the work schedule, call or e-mail, if you prefer, indicating the dates and times you will help. Also, if possible, please list a first or second choice of dates and times you can be available to help with sales. Please state the names of all those coming with you who will be helping with State Fair sales.

Hope to see you at the Iowa State Fair!

Donna Brahms, IHPA Booth Manager
65071 720th Street
Cumberland, IA  50843-8125
(712) 774-5878-H or (712) 250-4304-C
E-mail: mbrahms@netins.net

Name:_________________________________________________________
Address:_______________________________________________________
City, State, Zip:__________________________________________________
Telephone:______________________________________________________

Date(s):__________________________ Date(s):__________________________
9:00-1:30_________________________ 9:00-1:30_________________________
1:30-6:00_________________________ 1:30-6:00_________________________
6:00-9:00_________________________ 6:00-9:00_________________________

We always have a “Honey Of A Time” working at the Iowa State Fair!
The Southeast Iowa Beekeepers
Submitted by David Oliver

The Southeast Iowa Beekeepers held their last meeting May 6th at Ron Wehrs' home. We had a good turn out and helped Ron install 40+ Nucs. It was a good opportunity for our new members, and older members, to get some hands on experience. We saw how the nucs came through shipping by inspecting for a queen that was laying, found some chalk brood, and learned how Ron installs bees and feeds with high fructose corn syrup.

We had a good educational meeting that afternoon sharing information and after all the hard work we, of course, had a supper of sloppy joes and pot luck.

Master Beekeeper Scholarship

Melanie Bower has won the Master Beekeeper Scholarship. Those of you that take items to the state fair are acquainted with Melanie. She is the one in charge of the fair entries. Dennis Nielsen was actually the first name drawn but his wife was in a serious car accident. She is facing a long period of recuperation and Dennis didn’t feel he could be away from home.

I was a little disappointed that we only had three people apply for the scholarship. Congratulations, Melanie!!! I am sure you will have a great time.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Bee Inspector

There is hope we may get some inspectors. I have two prospects that I am going to take out for a day next week (May 21-27) if everything works out. Last night Kerry Stitzel called me. Kerry has worked for Dick Blake for several years and should make a good inspector. Maury Wills has assured me these people will be considered for a position as soon as he fills Becky Ohrtman’s slot. This should be within the next couple of weeks.

Submitted by Phil Ebert
SUMMER FIELD DAY
JULY 8TH
IOWA 4-H CENTER
1991 Peach Avenue
Madrid, Iowa 50156
(515) 795-3338
www.extension.iastate.edu/4hcenter

Morning Schedule:
8:30  Registration
9:00  Welcome, Announcements, Introduction
9:15  Varroa Mite, what to do......................David Vander Dussen
10:30 BREAK
10:45 IOWA BEE INSPECTIONS..........................Boyd Palmer
11:00 Mite-Away II tm.................................David Vander Dussen
12:00 LUNCH     BBQ CHICKEN OR A BBQ PIG
1:15  BREAK OUT IN FOUR GROUPS:
      ONE........................................David Vander Dussen
      TWO......................................William Eickholt
      THREE....................................Boyd Palmer
      FOUR.....................................Pat Ennis

Each group will open up two hives, on one we will do either a powdered sugar or ether roll and the other will have a stick board to do a mite count.

3:15  QUESTIONS

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME, AND HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE FAIR.

We will be trying to get someone to come in and make homemade ice cream or malts. We hope all will bring a dish to pas and spend time with friends.

Summer Field Day

Don’t forget the summer field day coming up July 8th at the Iowa 4-H Center near Madrid. From Hiway 30, take Hiway 17 through Luther to county road E-57. Go west on E-57 for 2.6 miles to the third road going south. Turn onto Peach Ave and follow the road to the 4-H Center. If you are coming from the south, take Hiway 17 and go through Madrid. North of Madrid you will come to E-57. Proceed west on E-57 as before.

David Vander Dussen has a product to promote but he also has a lot of good information on the population growth rate of Varroa mites. You need to understand this if you hope to control them. If you wait too long, it doesn’t matter what you treat with. The bees are going to die. Bill Ruzieka calls this “Missing the cue”. I have always liked that term.

The main course and drinks for lunch are being furnished by the Association. We hope everyone will bring a dish to share for pot luck. Get your registration sent in. We hope to have a good crowd. Fees will be $10 for members and $15 for non members. Non members will be able to receive the Buzz for the remainder of the year.

Send your registration to Pat Ennis, 1040 Union Ave, Goodell, Ia, 50439 Pat’s phone number is 641-444-4767

Submitted by Phil Ebert
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1-877-732-3369 www.dadant.com

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Investors in Beekeeping
www.vita-europe.com
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Jane_humke@yahoo.com

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club
Contact: Joan Boer
2435 Osburn Ave.
Oskaolosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-9486

Central Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Arvin Foell
30390 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
(515) 228-3060

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
Contact: Frank Pering
210 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50315

East Central Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Terry Dahms
3086 Sycamore Trail NE
Iowa City, IA 52240
(319) 336-5919
Terry.dahms@gmail.com

North Iowa Bee Club
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1040 Union Ave.
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(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@lycos.com

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

Northwest Beekeepers Association
Contact: Jeanne Rust
3155 480th St.
Webb, IA 51366
(712) 838-4458

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Dave Oliver
1603 200th St.
Fairfield, IA 52556
(641) 472-3916

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
65071 720th St.
Cumberland, IA 50843
(712) 774-5878

Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

Iowa Honey Producers Association
4012 54th St.
Des Moines, IA 50310

ISSUE 6 – June 2006

Additional Links and Emails

IDALS Contact
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(515) 281-5783
maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.NHB.org

Robert Haxton, Food Processing Plants,
Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals
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American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

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