Good morning Iowa beekeepers!

I dedicate this month's writing to my father who always believed if you need to make a big decision or do something really good, sleep on it first. My dad was always an early riser. He was at his best at 4 a.m. If I truly wanted something big I went to dad at 4:30 am. We had breakfast, and the discussion was always the best. (He was a Navy cook, and breakfast was his specialty.)

It’s 4:00 a.m. the morning after the Annual Meeting and I’m sitting in the motel lobby. I was totally surprised to have James and Valerie Tew come down the hall to be shuttled to the airport. The man upstairs can arrange things, now can’t he? I had a great few minutes with them before they departed.

James Tew and Jennifer Berry--what a great pair of speakers to build an annual meeting around! They worked great together. We had a very good annual meeting. I will not try to highlight all as Ron does not have room in the Buzz for all the good stuff for me to say. But I’m sure we will be talking about it for a while. Instead I will talk about the future.

We will have the 105th annual meeting in Oskaloosa, Iowa on November 10th and 11, 2017 at the Gateway Church of the Nazarine. I was able to tour this facility a while back, and was very impressed. How does it sound to have the annual meeting cost you less in 2017? Few things go down in price, other than gasoline, but we are going to work hard on making this happen! We have confirmation on one speaker already and more information coming later. I will say we have been working on getting this person for quite some time. I don’t think you will be disappointed. We will be working on motel rooms and such in Oskaloosa real soon. Just mark the calendar for now.

I do want to say "Thank you" to Mary Wiltgen for having the courage to bring to the board an idea that raised over $1900.00 for the IHPA. We auctioned off people’s beekeeping expertise to tutor someone hands on, in the spring, in the field, one on one, at the appropriate time. We had some really good people step up and be auctioned off. What a great success this was! I’m getting very positive feedback on both sides of this. What a great idea! THANK YOU MARY!

I was very impressed with how a lot of people stepped up to make this event run smoothly. I saw people, over the two days, step up and make things happen, and I feel this is what makes IHPA a very special association. It’s the simplest of stuff like just handing out a door prize, assisting someone with a box going in or out, or showing them where they will need to go for a meeting. I want to thank all who helped in these areas.

I thank you, members, for trusting me to be your president for another year (I will not, however, be running after that). I have more clubs to get to and issues that I’m already addressing. I will address these in months to come.

I welcome our new vice president Eve Vanden Broek. I look forward to working with her and seeing what ideas Eve will bring on board. At our business meeting, Jim Marshall was re-elected to District 1 Director. I want to thank David Hayes for his service as he decided not to run again for Director of District 2; I welcome Shane Bixby as our new director. I want to thank Dennis Nielson for his service on the board of directors, and I welcome Mary Wiltgen, as the next District 3 Director.

I need to try and wrap this up now. I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and encourage you all to take a break and enjoy the holiday season. I feel 2017 will be a great year for the IHPA. I am excited!!

Sincerely, Roy Kraft, IHPA President
A Simple but Efficient System for Working the Hive
By Dennis Brown, Lone Star Farms, www.lonestarfarms.net
Editor’s Note: Bee-ginners often ask how to work the hive. Dennis explains an efficient approach for doing so.

Always pry up the second comb closest to you first. The first comb is usually anchored to the side wall in several places by the bees and it is much harder to remove first.

Once you remove the second comb, hold it to the side and look at the face of the third comb for the queen. You will be able to locate the queen much easier if you adopt this system because you are always looking ahead to the face of the next comb. (Don’t worry about looking for the queen on the comb in your hand first, because if the queen is on it you already have her.)

If you don’t see the queen on the face of the third comb, then inspect the second comb (the one in your hand). After inspecting this comb for all of the things you should be looking for, stand it on its end up against the back of the hive to avoid kicking it. By leaving this comb out, you have provided more space to work in. (In the bee catalogs you can find a new comb rack that hooks onto the side of the hive and gives you a place to rest the combs if you don’t want to put them on the ground.)

Next, remove the third comb and hold it to the side while you inspect the face of the fourth comb for the queen.

After inspecting the third comb place it next to the first comb which is still in the hive next to the wall.

Remove the fourth comb and hold it to the side and inspect the face of the fifth comb for the queen. Note: If at any time during the inspection you find the queen, you should inspect her carefully and slide the frame back into the hive. Never place the frame that has the queen on it outside the hive no matter which frame you find her on.

After looking at the face of the fifth comb inspect the fourth comb. After inspecting the fourth comb, place it back inside the hive next to the third comb.

Remove the fifth comb and hold it to the side and inspect the face of the sixth comb for the queen.

After inspecting the fifth comb place it back inside the hive next to the fourth comb.

Remove the sixth comb and hold it to the side and inspect the face of the seventh comb for the queen.

After inspecting the sixth comb place it back in the hive next to the fifth comb.

Cont.—> Keep working the hive this way until all of the combs have been inspected. Always place the combs back in the exact position they were in when you started. The last comb you remove should be placed back where you got it.

Then, slide each of the other combs into their original position. Remove the first comb, which is still on the side wall, and inspect it and place it back on the wall. Take the second comb, which is outside the hive, and place it in the second position in the hive. At this time all of the combs are back in their original position and the inspection is complete.

Get in the habit of looking for the queen herself, not the colored dot on her back. Beekeepers who order their queens to be marked always get in a habit of looking for the colored dot instead of the queen herself when they inspect their hives. Sometimes this dot fades and is not visible. Sometimes the same queen you started with is not there any longer, and the new queen doesn’t have a colored dot. Use the colored dot as a secondary means of locating the queen, not the primary means.

You will know you have become skilled at opening and working a hive when you find the queen still laying eggs in the cells as you watch. That means that you have performed the inspection with very little disruption to the hive, which is what you should strive for.

Dennis is author of “Beekeeping: A Personal Journey”
Source: Kelly’s Beekeeping, April 1, 2013

LATE-SEASON RE-QUEENING!
Hi! My name is Carly Vannoy and I’m the 2017 Iowa Honey Queen! For the past several months I have been serving at a local level for the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa as a club queen, giving over 45 presentations, traveling over 1,000 miles, and participating in every day of the Iowa State Fair. With the support of my family, friends, and those within the IHPA, I was able to reach thousands of people. I want to do the same thing at a state level, and my goal is to work with you all to reach all 99 counties! Help me reach as many people as possible by scheduling a program. Shoot me an email at myhoneyqueenadventure@gmail.com to set up a presentation. Looking forward to an amazing year working with you all!!
Musings from Mary

Whew! The 104th IHPA Conference and Annual Meeting is in the books! A BIG thank you to our amazing presenters. We learned and laughed and lingered together for hours of bee talk. What a great way to spend time! Thank you to Jim Tew, Jennifer Berry, and Charlotte Hubbard. These three speakers taught us, inspired us, encouraged us, and are guiding us in our great bee journey. Thank you for all of that and the laughs along the way!

Another BIG thank you to other fellow beekeepers who were willing to step up to the proverbial plate and share their talents. Thank you to Andy Hemken, Marlin Buus, Joy Westercamp, Julia McGuire, Pat Ennis, Alex Ebert, Curt Bronnenberg, and Bob Fastbinder. You gave us so much information and we truly appreciate it!

A sidenote from me….just because I can! I also do bee presentations for others and love the opportunities I have sharing our bee adventure. I know how much time it takes to prepare even a half hour presentation. I know the agonizing thoughts of preparation. The unfortunate and unexpected technical difficulties (for example - my power point worked fine at home and now it won’t load – ugh! Really?!? PUNT!!!! The mic was fine just a minute ago – what’s up?). But, most importantly, am I preparing a presentation that will meet the needs of my audience? It is stressful folks, so when I say thank you to a presenter; I am doing it for more reasons than just what I saw during the presentation. There is so much more that goes on behind the scenes! So, to all my presenters, thank you for the time you gave before in preparation and the time you gave us presenting. Well, done!!!

Now, in the midst of the conference and the rush to get our final session going, I forgot to introduce a group of people who did just what I was talking about in the previous paragraph. Pat Ennis and Alex Ebert addressed many of you advanced beekeepers while Curt Bronnenberg and Bob Fastbinder discussed the commercial side of beekeeping with many more participants than we expected. My introduction of these four great beekeepers was to share with you some collective information. These four gentlemen have 6,930 colonies of bees, 146 years of experience, and 23 employees. None of these beekeepers do farmer’s market events while two winter their bees in Iowa and two tour the country with their bees. ALL of these fine men mentor others! That’s what I would have said, had I remembered! The break-out sessions were successful with more individual needs being met for our different levels of experience in beekeeping. These presenters, and Charlotte Hubbard for the newbies, met the needs of beekeepers at all levels.

Now, a brief comment about our venue, the Clarion Inn and Convention Center. The logistics of organizing an event such as ours is not done in a day, month, or even year. Some speakers are actually lined up 12-18 months prior to the event while the venue is rented 10-12 months prior. So much is needed from the venue to make the event successful. Yet, prior to booking, road trips and phone calls were made to other venues with no success for date availability and/or accommodations. Therefore, due to the success of the 2015 conference at the Clarion, I opted to go there again after looking at the number of participants we had and anticipating a few more. The facilities were very sufficient and the staff more than willing to accommodate us in every way possible.

Now, on to the 2016 event. Who would have thought that our participation in this conference would explode? That is just what happened; we unknowingly, and in the last month, unfortunately outgrew the Clarion. Wow! A great problem to have, but, at the same time, very stressful. We tried to make do by adding more chairs and ordering more coffee! Unfortunately, changing locations is not an option at this point in time. (We are not like a wedding where you just start eliminating people from the invitation list either!) So, we make do. We tried! The GREAT news is that next year’s venue will hold 600 people so there will be MORE space for ALL of us!

And a final whopper of unfortunate events was a fire alarm going off just prior to our Banquet! This was something we and the Clarion have never experienced. As they were setting up our event, everyone, including our chef who was in the final throes of food prep, vacated the building for 45 minutes while the fire fighters search the building for the source of the alarm. Sensors indicated the source being near our dining room, but the search thankfully showed nothing. We, the guests, entered the building along with the staff. As you know, hind sight is 20/20; we should have given the staff a little time for finishing preparations in the dining room prior to our entrance. As it was, within minutes we were socializing in the same area where work still needed to be done. To say it was confusing for many, it was! Us and them! Hopefully, we will lovingly remember this as the fire alarm banquet! Thankfully, the food was excellent (much relief to the chef who was fretting about his green bean almondine dish he knew needed to be turned down!) and the hotel did compensate us for the inconvenience and were as stressed as we were. A very memorable event indeed and what a series of unfortunate events!
Another side note from me… just because I can! I hope you will all remember that we are all human and life does not always happen the way we had planned it. We are looking at all that happened this year and doing our best to make next year even better. I look forward to it but will not hold the Clarion or others in ill-regard because of things that happened beyond our and their control. If you are upset about something, let me know, but don’t hold it against the hotel or our IHPA organization. We are just fellow beekeepers accepting the job (yes, this is work) of creating an educational and fun event to help other beekeepers. Please keep that in mind and step up the plate to help if you can!

My musings have mightily meandered so as I conclude, I want to thank everyone who helped with this conference and with me as the VP this year. It does take a village to do this and I appreciate each and every one of you. If you are in the northeast part of Iowa and looking for a beginning beekeeping class, I am teaching one which will be held on Saturday, January 14th and 21st. Email or call me if you are interested for details.

Bee sure to take care of your bees right now. Hoping to have our winter prep and winter feed on by the time this is published. It is too beautifully warm right now to do it! Enjoy this time of year with family and friends. Take time to read up and dream of the 2017 bee adventure you will bee having soon!

Finally, thank you to all of you who spoke with me personally about the conference. Your words of encouragement and praise made all the time and stress of preparing this event for you worthwhile. I do bee-lieve that the best people in the world just happen to bee beekeepers!

‘Bee’ grateful, ‘Bee’ blessed, and ‘Bee’ a blessing,

Mary Wiltgen
Past Vice President
New Director for District 3

(Mary’s Musing cont.)

Mentoring Auction Success

Thank you to the following people for allowing themselves to be ‘sold’ at the 104th Conference and Annual Meeting: Pat Ennis, Roy Kraft, Carly Vannoy, Tim & Mary Wiltgen, Curt Bronnenberg, Eric Kenoyer, and Jim Marshall. These people have offered their time and talents with other beekeepers to do basic beekeeping, splitting hives, a party, and even help to create a web page. The auctions became lively at times especially with a little leg from Pat and a few bidding wars going on! And then, out of the clear blue, here comes Andy Hemken offering a day of mead-making and Jason Foley sharing queen rearing. With their amazing efforts, this raised $1,950.00! This money has been designated to defer the cost of the conference as the registration and meal costs do not pay the total expenses. Even better than that, though, is all the great advice going out to the bid winners! I am hoping that next year even more will volunteer their talents and share them with others through this event. What an amazingly fun fundraiser! Thanks again for those who volunteered to be ‘sold!’

Mary Wiltgen, outgoing Vice President, Director District 3.

LEARN BEEKEEPING!

FBI Club Beekeeping Classes Start Feb 2, 2017
The Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa will be teaching an eight-week beekeeping course on Thursdays at 6:30-8:30pm, starting Feb 2 thru March 23, 2016. The cost of the course will be free, but for first time beekeepers we require you purchase the book, “First Lessons in Beekeeping” by Keith Delaplane, which will be available for $8.00.

A power point presentation provided by Andy Joseph, State Apiarist, follows the “First Lessons in Beekeeping” book that we will use as a course outline. This information will be available the first night of class.

Our club welcomes all levels of beekeepers. Most of us continue to attend the course after the first year, as there is always something new to learn! We are of all ages and willing to help and support all.

Classes will be held at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2708 N Jefferson Way, Indianola, IA 50125.

Please email Judy at jespencejr44@gmail.com with any question you have.

Mary Wiltgen
Past Vice President
New Director for District 3
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS WINNERS

Hello everyone! Wow what a great meeting we just had. I want to thank Mary Wiltgen for organizing it and getting some great speakers. I am looking forward to next year’s meeting already.

I want to thank all the mentors for doing such a great job with their scholarship students this year and we all hope that we hear more out of them and their continuing beekeeping adventures. Moving on with another new record year for the amount of new scholarship students, I would like to congratulate the new students into the IHPA. If you are lucky to have one as a student or one in your class, please congratulate them and welcome them as a scholar winner and to the association. Here are the nineteen (19) scholarship winners and their locations for the 2017 year.

Gus Arthur from Johnston
Keifer Carlson from Britt
Ashlyn Carnes from Waverly

Tianna Charlsom from Plymouth
Delaney Dalton form Villisca
Anna Edwards from Des Moines
Megan Eveland from Eddyville
Julie Hammerand from Sherrill
Esiah Hinze from Pisgah
Jocelyn Martin from Maquoketa
Reece Nielsen from Kirkman
Rose Nippert from Villisca
Matthew Kauffman from Pleasantville
Harrison Prentice from Des Moines
Grace Rowland from Pleasant Hill
Dominick Shover from North Liberty
Alex Steffensmeier from Fort Madison
Kalie Webb from Johnston
Rebekkah Weers from Pella

Congratulations to you all!!!
Eric Kenoyer - IHPA Youth Scholarship Coordinator

CONTEST WINNERS!

We want to thank everyone who participated in the contests this fall. What fun! In future months, we will feature some of the recipes that were food winners this fall.

1st place Hive Body design - Bonnie Bishop
1st place Photo (Marketing or Promoting Honey) - Sherry Niles
1st place Photo (Extracting Honey or Specific Photos Pertaining to Honey) - Mary Wiltgen
1st place Photo (Bee on Flower) - Emma Jakes
1st place Photo (General Beekeeping) - Bonnie Bishop
1st place Candy (Chocolate Honey Candy) Mary Wiltgen
1st place Cookies (Gluten Free Chocolate Chip Cookies) Keri Kenoyer

2nd place Cookies (Honey Cookies) Carol Kolb
2nd place Cakes (Honey Walnut Cake) Arlene Burns

GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Becky Marshall won the full hive in the final drawing of the day at the Annual Meeting. She is from the Cedar Rapids area. Congratulations to her (we also know that she has a great voice, since she really sounded off when she won:-)

As you read through this issue of the Buzz, those of you who could not join us must be wishing you had attended. Take a moment to lock in your schedule for next Nov. 10 and 11. Be sure that you come to Oskaloosa—you won’t be sorry.

Congratulations to Becky and all the other winners—like Connie Bronnenburg who calmly walked up and claimed the quilt with her winning ticket. You can see the corner of her new quilt just beside Becky in this photo.

REGISTRATION is now open for the 2017 North American Beekeeping Conference and Tradeshow. You can learn more at www.nabeekeepingconference.com. It will happen Jan. 10-14 in Galveston, TX. This event is a coalition of the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association, and the Canadian Honey Council. Any member of the IHPA who attends this conference is welcome to submit an article to the Buzz for publication.
New to the Annual Meeting this year was a Mentor Auction. The Mentor Auction was put together by Mary Wiltgen. The mentors put themselves up for auction. The mentors decided what would be allowed – you come to their apiary or they come to your apiary and what the time frame was. They were bid on and the winners of the mentors are:

- **Mentor**
  - Pat Ennis
  - Roy Kraft
  - Mary & Tim Wiltgen
  - Carly Raye (Honey Queen)
  - Andy Hempken
  - Eric Kenoyer
  - Jim Marshall

- **Mentor Auction Winner**
  - Dave Korver
  - Becky Marshall
  - Shane Bixby
  - Todd Edeker
  - Curt Bronnenberg
  - Kathleen Van DeWalle
  - Eli Kalke
  - Pat Ennis
  - Patrick Liegl

The mentor auction netted an additional $1,950 in income to help offset expenses of the annual meeting.

Thank you to everyone who put yourself out there.

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**Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner**

If you registered by 10/31/2016, and purchased a banquet ticket, you were entered into a drawing to have your banquet ticket price refunded. The winners of the contest were Mike Buske, of Fort Dodge, Iowa and Gerald Gray of Mt Vernon, Iowa. If you ask these guys, they might tell you it pays to register early!

Some of the Door Prize winners of IHPA merchandise/events at the annual meeting were:

- **Annual Family Membership:** Lonika S. Utterback, Ted Reeves, Melissa Kauffman, Heidi Liegl
- **IHPA Cookbook:** Cindy Ehrlich
- **IHPA Hat:** Sherri Niles, Jacci Ebelhr
- **IHPA T-Shirt:** Becky Marshall, Leonard Kurtz, Sherri Niles
- **Banquet Ticket:** Larry Spina, Liz Hanna

**2017 IHPA Advanced Beekeeping Class:** Scott Bell, Brice Robinson

**2017 IHPA Field Day Registration:** Kevin Conley, Eugene Harms

**2017 Annual Meeting Registration:** Craig Kauffman, Gerald Gray, Tina Meyer

**2017 Annual Meeting Registration, Banquets and Hotel Room:** Craig & Carol Stripling

There were a few others that I didn’t get their names when they picked up their door prize.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!**

How was the attendance at the Annual Meeting? Pretty good!!!!

Here are some preliminary numbers:

- Meeting: 276
- Queen Lunch: 122
- Banquet: 280
- Board Lunch: 127

All in all, a REALLY good turnout. Thanks to everyone who came and made this Annual Meeting a success!!! See you next year in Oskaloosa, Iowa.
Beginning and Advanced Beekeeping Courses to be Offered Across the State of Iowa, 2017. See Web site for more information @www.iowahoneyproducers.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City and Time</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>To Register</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ankeny, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Jan – February</td>
<td>Andrew Joseph: 515-326-5765 (call / text) or <a href="mailto:Andrew.Joseph@iowaAgriculture.gov">Andrew.Joseph@iowaAgriculture.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Calmar, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 24 – Feb 28</td>
<td>NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cedar Rapids, Indian Creek Nature Center</td>
<td>Through the year</td>
<td>To register: 319-362-0664 or indiancreeknaturecenter.org/</td>
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<td>Council Bluffs</td>
<td>April / TBD</td>
<td>Iowa Western Comm. College 712-325-3255</td>
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<td>Davenport, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Feb 7 – Mar 14</td>
<td>Eastern Iowa Community College</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
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<td>Des Moines, Merrill Middle School, Monday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 23 – Feb 27 Mar 27– May 1</td>
<td><a href="https://commed.dmgs.k12.ia.us/wconnect/ace/currentclasses.htm">https://commed.dmgs.k12.ia.us/wconnect/ace/currentclasses.htm</a></td>
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<td>Jan 26-Mar2</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wdmcs.org/commed/programs/adults/learnwest/">http://www.wdmcs.org/commed/programs/adults/learnwest/</a></td>
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<td>Fairfield, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Feb – March</td>
<td>Jefferson Co Extension / Coleen @ 641-472-4166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Dodge, Saturday mornings</td>
<td>Jan 7-Feb 4</td>
<td>Yvonne @ 515-835-9326 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:Yvonne@iastate.edu">Yvonne@iastate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Dodge, Advanced Saturday afternoon</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Yvonne @ 515-835-9326 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:Yvonne@iastate.edu">Yvonne@iastate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fredericksburg, Saturdays</td>
<td>Jan 14, Jan 21</td>
<td>Mary Wiltgen @ 563-920-9268 / <a href="mailto:tmwiltgen@gmail.com">tmwiltgen@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenwood, Thursdays</td>
<td>February, TBD</td>
<td>Clarence Sealy: 712-310-7410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indianola, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Feb 2-Mar 23</td>
<td>Judy Spence: 515-988-8397 / <a href="mailto:jespencejr44@gmail.com">jespencejr44@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Iowa Falls, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 24-Feb 28</td>
<td>Rachael Koehler: 1-800-284-4823 / 641-752-4645</td>
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<td>Keosauqua, Monday evenings</td>
<td>March 1-22</td>
<td>Van Buren Co Extension / 319-293-3039</td>
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<td>Knoxville, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Jan – Feb /TBD</td>
<td>Jerry Weldon @ 641-842-5888</td>
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<td>Marshalltown, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 26-Mar 2</td>
<td>Rachael Koehler: 800-284-4823/641-752-4645 / Room 612</td>
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<td>Mason City, Saturday morning</td>
<td>Feb 4-Feb 25</td>
<td>NIACC Continuing Education: 641-422-4358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okoboji, Saturday all day</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Marlene @ 712-320-1907 / Tim Olsen @ 507-227-5919</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okoboji, Advanced, Saturday all day</td>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Marlene @ 712-320-1907 / Tim Olsen @ 507-227-5919</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oskaloosa, Friday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 20- Mar 3</td>
<td>Tina / Jim Marshall @641-660-0983</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ottumwa, Tuesday evenings</td>
<td>Jan 17-Feb 2</td>
<td>Great Prairie Area Ed. Agency - Jen Daugherty 641-682-5491</td>
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<td>Peosta, Thursday evenings</td>
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<td>NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380</td>
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<td>Polk City, Tuesday mornings</td>
<td>Jan 24-Feb 28</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Susan Meylor @ 515-619-9014 / <a href="mailto:cherrylfenarmsiowa@gmail.com">cherrylfenarmsiowa@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Polk City, Saturday mornings</td>
<td>Jan 28-Mar 4</td>
<td>Ray &amp; Susan Meylor @ 515-619-9014 / <a href="mailto:cherrylfenarmsiowa@gmail.com">cherrylfenarmsiowa@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sioux Center, Thursday evenings</td>
<td>Feb 9-Mar 2</td>
<td>Dordt College 712-722-6275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toddville, Mondays thru year</td>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses @gmail.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toddville, Advanced, Sat &amp; Sun</td>
<td>March 4-S</td>
<td>Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses @gmail.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toddville, Queen Rearing</td>
<td>June 24-25</td>
<td>Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses @gmail.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington, Monday evening</td>
<td>Feb 6-Feb 27</td>
<td>Kirkwood Comm. College, 319-653-4655</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please note that not all of these courses are sponsored by the Iowa Honey Producers Association, and the information presented by the instructors is not necessarily endorsed by the IHPA. Additionally, none of the courses are sponsored by the
Membership Dues

It is time to renew your annual membership to the Iowa Honey Producers. The back of this Buzz has your expiration date on the label. When the January Buzz comes out, I will have had time to update all the renewals received during the Annual Meeting. Don’t fear, it’s still OK to send your dues to me. Annual fees are $20, with a second and third family member adding $5 each to the total.

Below is the information that I need to update the directory of Iowa beekeepers.

Name: _____________________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _______________________________________________________________
Phone: ____________________________________________ County: ___________________
E-mail Address: ______________________________________________________________
No. of Colonies: ________________________ Years in Beekeeping: _________________

I need this information to put together a new directory of members across the state. The last directory published in 2014 had a few errors, so we would like to get those corrected and add all of our new members. So, please, when completing your registration form, please provide all information. Our directory will only be as good as the information you provide (and how legible the information is). Sometimes I need to compare the information on the form to our membership list to be sure I am getting the right family’s membership updated.

Thanks, Rhonda 515-724-2124 IHPATreasurer@gmail.com

High Number of Pesticides Within Colonies Linked to Honey Bee Deaths

Some compounds commonly regarded as “bee-safe” could be a major contributor to honey bee colony losses in North America

Honey bee colonies in the United States have been dying at high rates for over a decade, and agricultural pesticides—including fungicides, herbicides and insecticides—are often implicated as major culprits. Until now, most scientific studies have looked at pesticides one at a time, rather than investigating the effects of multiple real-world pesticide exposures within a colony.

A new study is the first to systematically assess multiple pesticides that accumulate within bee colonies. The researchers found that the number of different pesticides within a colony—regardless of dose—closely correlates with colony death. The results also suggest that some fungicides, often regarded as safe for bees, correlate with high rates of colony deaths. The study appeared online September 15, 2016, in the journal Nature Scientific Reports.

“Our results fly in the face of one of the basic tenets of toxicology: that the dose makes the poison,” said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, an assistant professor of entomology at UMD and senior author on the study. “We found that the number of different compounds was highly predictive of colony death, which suggests that the addition of more compounds somehow overwhelms the bees’ ability to detoxify themselves.”

The researchers followed 91 honey bee colonies, owned by three different migratory commercial beekeepers, for an entire agricultural season. The colonies began their journey in Florida and moved up the East Coast, providing pollination services for different crops along the way. They also spent time in locations meant for honey production, as well as “holding areas” where beekeepers prepare large numbers of colonies for upcoming pollination contracts.

A total of 93 different pesticide compounds found their way into the colonies over the course of the season, accumulating in the wax, in processed pollen known as bee bread and in the bodies of nurse bees. At every stop along the beekeepers’ itinerary, the researchers assessed three different parameters within each colony: the total number of pesticides; the total number of (continued on Page 11)
RECIPES WITH EMMA JAKES (found in IHPA cookbook)

With Christmas coming, here are some recipes that might brighten your table.

Turtles

2/3 cup Honey ½ teaspoon salt  
½ cup evaporated milk 1 cup pecans  
6 ounces semi-sweet chocolate

Butter cookie sheet and dust with corn starch. Arrange 3 pecan halves in groups on a cookie sheet. In saucepan mix milk and honey. Stirring until it reaches 250 degrees. Drop a teaspoon of the mixture on the pecan clusters. Let cool. Melt chocolate in a double boiler. Coat the top of each cluster with melted chocolate.

These turtles are really yummy. This popular Christmas treat gets a new twist when you make caramels with honey. The taste is slightly different from the original version of Turtles but they are still very, very good. Dusting the cookie sheet with corn starch is something I have never done before; it was fun to learn new tricks like gently shaking the cookie sheet already sprinkled with corn starch until the whole sheet looks like it has been in a snow storm. When making the caramel, be sure to watch it closely. It’s easy to burn the caramel on the bottom of the pan.

Warm Chocolate Honey Torte

1 cup (6oz.) semi-sweet chocolate morsels ½ cup butter  
¼ cup honey 4 eggs, separated  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour 1 tablespoon instant coffee granules  
½ teaspoons baking soda ¼ teaspoon salt

Line the bottom of a 9-inch spring-form pan with waxed paper. In medium saucepan over low heat, melt butter; stir in chocolate morsels. Remove from heat; continue stirring until chocolate is melted. Gradually add honey stirring to blend. Lightly beat egg yokes; whisk into chocolate mixture. Stir in flour, coffee, baking soda and salt. In large bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold in ¼ of the egg whites into chocolate mixture. Stir lightened chocolate mixture into remaining whites; do not over mix. Pour mixture into prepared pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted into middle comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes. Invert cake onto plate; remove from wax paper. Makes 8 servings.

For all you younger bakers who have never made ‘torte’ before, it’s really fun! It was my first time making a torte and using a spring-form pan. I had never even heard of one until I made this recipe. My grandma, who is an amazing baker, taught me how to use a spring-form pan and helped me beat the egg whites (also new for me). Be sure while beating the whites not to over beat. We did and it made the cake slightly stiffer. This torte is also really yummy and even better with ice cream.J. It’s pretty easy to make, and the coffee is not overly strong. It adds an excellent flavor and texture.

(Editor Note: When I first printed one of Emma’s recipes, I assumed she was a more “mature” person, possibly a grandma. Her sentences read like she was very experienced. Imagine my surprise when I learned she was just a young gal, homeschooled, raises rabbits, brings ceramics to the Annual Auction, wins photo contests at the Annual Meeting, and I suspect the list goes on and on. And she’s just one of this new generation of beeks that just keep coming, winning scholarships, and will someday take over this whole affair. Be sure to get an IHPA recipe book and give them out for Christmas presents!)

Speaking of recipes, here’s a youtube of someone rubbing sugar mix into an empty hive frame, drying it, and using it as needed for winter groceries in your hives: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UK7Op4C8m_s.

It got me thinking—why not submit your favorite recipe of fall/winter hive supplies? Lots of our beeks are newbees, and they would appreciate hearing from the readership how older beeks maintain their winter hives. Send them right away, OK? I need to have them ready for the January Buzz by Dec. 10, you know… (editor)
“relevant” pesticides (defined as those above a minimum threshold of toxicity); and each colony’s “hazard quotient,” a measure devised by other researchers to integrate the total hazard posed to each colony by the cumulative toxicity of all pesticides present.

If three measures correlated with a higher probability of colony death or queen failure. In addition, the researchers found between five and 20 different pesticide residues in every sample of bee bread that exceeded a hazard quotient’s safety threshold. The highest number of pesticides accumulated in the colonies early on, shortly after beekeepers placed colonies into early season flowering crops like apples and blueberries. Honey production stopovers and holding areas offered the bees some respite from further contamination.

The study results also suggest that some fungicides, which have led to the mortality of honey bee larvae in lab studies, could have toxic effects on colony survival in the field. In the current study, pesticides with a particular mode of action also corresponded to higher colony mortality. For example, the fungicides most closely linked to queen deaths and colony mortality disrupted sterols—compounds that are essential for fungal development and survival.

“We were surprised to find such an abundance of fungicides inside the hives, but it was even more surprising to find that fungicides are linked to imminent colony mortality,” said Kirsten Traynor, a postdoctoral researcher in entomology at UMD and lead author on the study. “These compounds have long been thought to be safe for bees. We’re seeing them at higher doses than the chemicals beekeepers apply directly to the colonies to control varroa mites. So that is particularly concerning.”

The current study borrows a concept from human cancer research: the “exposome,” or the sum total of chemicals an organism is exposed to over its lifetime. But instead of looking at individual bees, the researchers assessed each colony as a single “superorganism” that functions as a single, cohesive unit.

Within this framework, the researchers tracked the death of queen bees, which is a life-threatening event for the colony as a whole. In some cases, a colony is able to create a new queen, but if those efforts fail the entire colony will die. In the current study, colonies with very low pesticide contamination in the wax experienced no queen events, while all colonies with high pesticide contamination in the wax lost a queen during the beekeeping season.

“This is a huge problem for beekeepers currently. Not long ago, a queen would typically last up to two years. But now many commercial beekeepers replace the queens in at least half of their colonies every spring in the hopes that this will prevent premature queen deaths,” Traynor explained. “Even with such measures, many queens still don’t make it through one season.”

The research team did not find a significant contribution from neonicotinoid pesticides. These compounds, derived from nicotine, are currently some of the most common pesticides in use globally. Because of their ubiquitous use, neonicotinoids have received significant media attention for their potential role in honey bee declines.

“We just did not find neonicotinoids in the colonies,” vanEngelsdorp explained. “There were some trace residues of neonicotinoids in a few samples, but not nearly on par with other compounds. However, it’s possible we did not test the right matrix—we did not test nectar, for example—or that the product breaks down faster than others in the collection process or that neonicotinoids are simply not very prevalent when crops are flowering.”

Because industrial practices have changed since the researchers collected the data for this study, Traynor and vanEngelsdorp acknowledge that further research could reveal new patterns in the relationship between pesticides and honey bee health. But the current study nonetheless offers some important insights for beekeepers and farmers alike.

“We have to figure out ways to reduce the amount of products that bees are exposed to while still helping farmers produce their crops,” vanEngelsdorp said. “This will require careful examination of spray plans, to make sure we only use the products we need, when we need them, in order to reduce the number of products bees are exposed to while pollinating different crops.”

In addition to Traynor and vanEngelsdorp, study co-authors include Jeffery Pettis (U.S. Department of Agriculture), David Tarpy (North Carolina State University), and Christopher Mullin, James Frazier and Maryann Frazier (Pennsylvania State University).

The research paper, “In-hive Pesticide Exposome: Assessing risks to migratory honey bees from in-hive pesticide contamination in the Eastern United States,” Kirsten Traynor, Jeffery Pettis, David Tarpy, Christopher Mullin, James Frazier, Maryann Frazier and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, was published in the online journal Nature Scientific Reports on September 15, 2016. This work was supported by the National Honey Board. The content of this article does not necessarily reflect the views of this organization.
Month by Month, December

December is a slower month. Your bees should have already been checked and treated for mites (in late August or early September), have been fed sugar syrup, sugar water, etc., and (if needed) protein patties from early September to the end of November according to how much food they needed. Two generation of healthy brood should exist without varroa mites. By the end of November to early December, you should put some sort of winter protection or hive wrap on them. I like to be able to get into the top of the hive to feed if necessary, for late winter feeding in the end of February to early spring, (March). We normally have a break with those warmer days, and we can peek in and quickly throw some food on, so keep that in mind when wrapping them up. It’s important to check on them on those days. You don’t want to lose them if they made it this far. So now what do you do. You had a good year with the bees, they’re feed, fat and happy, ready for winter, wrapped and protected from the winter elements. Slow down time! This time of year, I try to sit down and read, and plan for next year. (And yes, it’s hard for me to slow down!)

We beekeepers have had a hard time with varroa this year; I’ve heard a lot of people talking about mites this year. Mite counts in an ether roll of 40 – 60 mites. 500 – 600 mites drop to the floor after a treatment. The loss of bees due to mite infestation is serious! One beekeeper told me he’s lost half of his hives and a lot of beekeepers are losing a third of their hives. I myself have had my battles with mites this year. But I need to know why. Was it PPB (piss poor Beekeeping) or poor timing, or too late to do any good, or weather, or is it mites resistant to miticides? Many things can play into this mite problem. But this I know: Varroa Destructor can quickly build resistance to miticides if the beekeeper continues to use the same product over and over without changing what he’s using for mite treatments. Cases in point: Apistan (Fluvalinate) was first used in 1988 and only worked for 8 or so years. Because of overuse or misuses and the mites built a resistance to it for that very reason. Second case: Checkmite (Coumaphos) only lasted a few years before resistance was built because beekeepers did not rotate miticide use. (Reference November issue of the “American Beekeeping Journal, “Scientific Beekeeping, by Randy Oliver”). But also don’t forget the side effects of those products: sterile drones, wax contamination. The drone’s viability affects the quality of the queens. We have a big problem here, so what can we do? Where do we go for help? Can this problem be fixed? I think it can, but it won’t be easy.

Kim Flottums’ book “Better Beekeeping” published in 2011, pg 135 stated: “Rallying Cry: Varroa Mite Resistance or Death”. “It’s no secret that producing honey bees that are tolerant or resistant to varroa mites is the only way forward. Everything else – drone trapping, brood cycle breaks, and sugar dusting, screen bottom boards and all the rest of the IPM tricks – is just keeping us afloat until true resistance is established in the worldwide honey bee population” I believe the answer is the genetics of the honey bees: breeding resistant stock, VSH, Ankle Biters, Hygienic Carniolans, etc. Next month we’ll talk more about these and what to do and where to go, until then, Bee Happy, Bee Kind and Bee Yourself!

Pat Ennis

FOR SALE: 2 or 3 # packages W/ Italian or Carniolan queens  Price not yet confirmed. Pick-up in early to mid-April in Goodell, IA. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767 / flat_lander@lycos.com.

FOR SALE: 5 frame Nuc and Singles W/ Italian or Carniolan queens. Price not confirmed. Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up around mid May, weather permitting in Goodell, IA. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767/ flat_lander@lycos.com, P & P Honey & Bee Supply, Goodell IA.

FOR SALE: I will have Queens available mid April, Carniolan or Italian. Price not confirmed. Pick-up in Goodell IA. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767/ flat_lander@lycos.com, P & P Honey & Bee Supply, Goodell IA.

FOR SALE: Corn Syrup @ .40 lb, 500 lb or more .35 lb Also offering pollen patties, feeders, beekeeping equipment & supplies, bulk honey, beeswax, and bottling supplies. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767 / flat_lander@lycos.com, P & P Honey & Bee Supply, Goodell IA.

FOR SALE: Used colony quilt hive wraps--$2 each. New Plasticol winter cartons. 1-3 $23 each. 3+ $21 each Available for pickup in either Lynnville or Mt Vernon. Contact Phil Ebert 641-521-6361 or ehoney37@netins.net Adam Ebert 319-430-3514 or fiddler171@gmail.com

Spring Valley Honey Farms, Perry Iowa
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BEEKEEPING CLASS

Introduction to Bee Keeping class in Dakota City, NE. December 10th. Taught by: Judy Wu-Smart, Professor, Department of Entomology, Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska. Cost: $50.00 per person, includes handouts and lunch. $20 for each additional family member (does not include handouts). Pre-registration is required. Please register by December 2, 2016. Include your name(s), address, phone number, email and registration fee. Please send information & payment to Jeri Cunningham University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Entomology 202 Entomology Hall Lincoln, NE 68583-0816
Email: jcunningham1@unl.edu Phone: 402-472-8678
If you need further information about the class contact Judy. Email: jwu-smart@unl.edu or 402-472-8696.

FOR SALE:
Scott Martin, Humboldt IA, 515-460-4302, has 2 top bar hives for sale. One year old.

FOR SALE: Honey by the bucket or barrel. Pickup is available in Lynnville or Mt Vernon. Contact Phil Ebert 641-521-6361 ehoney37@netsns.net or Adam Ebert 319-430-3514 fiddler171@gmail.com.

BEEKEEPING CLASS:
Ray Meylor will teach classes on Tuesday nights, Jan. 24 to Feb 28, and again Saturday mornings Jan. 28 to March 4. Classes happen at Cherry Glen Farm, 3989 NW 94th Ave, Polk City, IA. 50226. Classes cost $40. Includes hands-on learning and a summer field day. Register at www.cherryglenlearningfarm.org

December Wintering Special!!

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Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com
Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250
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.
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Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!

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In warm appreciation of our association during the past year,
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