



# *The Buzz*



April 2019

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



Group Photograph at the Capitol on Honey Bee Day. Bee sure to join them in 2020!

Special thanks to our IHPA legislative leaders who promoted this entire event.

## President's Report:

Iowa beekeepers,

I have a lot on my mind and a short time to write, or at least I think I do. One thing is for sure--we have had a winter that I and a lot of people may not forget for quite a while. Bee losses are bad in a big area of Iowa. Why? I wish I could write and tell you. I'm hearing some staggering stats. I like positive stuff to write about, but this is horrible. Go to club meetings. Keep in touch. We all are in the same boat. This year is the year we need to get together, talk, experiment, share ideas, plan mite control, examine all aspects of how we are keeping bees. We have to rise up and change some things. I don't have the answer as to what we change or do different. I wish I did. I'm very concerned.

I had a very bad day on Feb 11th at about 7:30 P.M. I was driving on Hwy 151 when I got myself turned around in the round-about at Mt. Vernon, Iowa and found myself heading toward Solon on Hwy 1. I was wanting to go to Milwaukee, WI. I had a full load of pork in my refrigerated trailer grossing about 78,000 lbs. Snow-covered roads and blowing--travel is a challenge! I decide to take a square gravel section to get myself turned around and find myself mountain climbing in a loaded semi! After three major hills I slide backwards down a hill 75 yards and end up with the back of the trailer in the ditch. I'm not hurt. Truck is not on its side and is ok. But my pride is hurt. (Bank account is too. Wreckers are spendy.) I call 911 and report it since the road is blocked. A man comes walking out of the timber and says, "You ok?" "Yes, I'm ok," I reply. He seems like a nice guy (has show cattle and is checking cows as it's calving time). We chat until sheriff arrives. Sheriff is well, a sheriff. He tells me there is a towing ban on and nothing will happen till tomorrow.

Ok. About that time my friend from the woods comes back on a 4-wheeler. We chat some more. Other neighbors show up and we chat till 10 PM.

The next day I'm hot on it to get out of there. Towing ban stays on all day--blowing snow, not getting out. The man on his 4-wheeler returns and invites me to a spaghetti dinner with his wife. I accept and we chat until after 9 P.M. that night. I find out he is a beekeeper! I'm in the home of Mark and Luan Pisark from Solon. I like meeting new people and Mark and Luan are now some new friends of mine!! They have show cattle and go to the state fair, buy lemonade from our booth! Mark has asked a lot of questions at the observation hives. I can't wait to meet up with them again, only on better circumstances. Very nice people. Jim Fench on the other side of me was a great guy as well. Down the road that neighbor brought me breakfast and coffee, twice! The next evening Mark and Luan invited me to homemade pizza, ice cream, and I had the best adult beverage of all time from Mark! (That beverage tasted so good, I can't describe it). I went in the ditch on Monday night and did not get out till

4 P.M. Thursday. What a deal! Only in Iowa can you meet people like this. We had the best beekeeping talk of all time!!! I had to share this.

I must acknowledge Jamie Beyer and Linn Wilbur as I was not able to make our "Honey B Day" but I'm hearing a lot of positive comments, and from the pics and video, it was a great success. (The little bee was great!!) They are planning next year and wait tell you hear those plans!! Great job, Jamie and Linn.

We had our March IHBA board meeting and I will say it was a great meeting. We had a lot to go over and what a great board I have to work with! It's an honor for me to lead this board. It's fun to see what we can do and accomplish. I can see great things coming from this group.

Keri has our summer field day all lined up. She has some interesting stuff in the works as you will want to be there! Watch the Buzz and get registered. Annual meeting has great potential to be our biggest one yet! Keri has invited me to tour the facility. I hope I can make it work. Across from the DSM airport is a great location. I would like to park it till the event is over. Meaning, motel and event all in same building.

Keri has covered for me as it's really hard for me to make events during the week. (I can make more money if I stay out two weeks at a time). I say, "Thank you, Keri". You looked great by the governor! I will get this off to editor as it is way past my bed time and I'm not used to that time change thing. I will do my best and stay out of the ditch, you bee the best you can bee!

Roy Kraft  
IHPA President

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## 107<sup>th</sup> Iowa Honey Producers Association Conference and Annual Meeting

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport 6111 Fleur Drive Des Moines, IA. 50301



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

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

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

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

Honey Swap and Cooking Contest are BACK!! Many of you missed them last year and we were able to make arrangements to bring them back. The Mead, painted hive body and photography contests will be back as well. Maybe even a new one!! Contest details will be in a later "Buzz".

Room rates for IHPA members are \$119 plus taxes. Reservations must be made by **Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**, 2019 to get this discounted room rate. There are a couple Handicapable rooms reserved for our event as well. Call (515) 287-2400 to make your reservations. Questions? Call or text 515-490-2011 or email [kenoyerfarms@gmail.com](mailto:kenoyerfarms@gmail.com) IHPA VP Keri Kenoyer

Happy April fellow Buzz Readers!! Are you ready for this white stuff to go away? I know I am! I have been busy working in the greenhouses at work and we already have some things blooming. Makes me eager for Spring even more.

As you read this, we will have had another very successful Iowa **Honey Bee Day** in the books. I would like to say THANK YOU to all the beekeepers who made the early morning trek to the State Capitol to show your support of Iowa Honey Bee Day and the Iowa Honey Producers. I would like to extend an extremely appreciative **THANK YOU** to Linn and Ann Wilbur and to Jamie Byer! You all put in a lot of volunteered time and work to organize this important event for us. I'm definitely looking forward to next year's Iowa Honey Bee Day!!

Our next event to get ready for is **Summer Field Day** on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This event will be held at the ISU Horticulture Farm north of Ames. Come help us kick off Pollinator Week in Ames and keep your fingers crossed that the weather cooperates for this one. I am devising a plan "Bee" just in case. We will have presentations discussing:--Entering your items in the State Fair, Trees and Shrubs that are best for bees, onsite hive inspection and mite count demonstration, Queen marking and Round table discussions. As well

as a few more topic surprises. Attendance is limited to 120 people, registrations have started to arrive so don't delay on getting yours sent in.

The **Annual Conference** seems to be coming together rather nicely as well. The venue is beautiful and inviting. We should have plenty of room for vendors, presenters and contests. The following speakers have agreed to be part our amazing conference:--Mel Disselkoen, Kirsten Traynor, The Minnesota Bee Squad, Becky Tipton, Bill Allinder and Pat and Peggy Ennis.

I'm still organizing a few more topic ideas and possible speakers. I'm so excited for Annual Conference I can't wait!! JUST KIDDING! I still want to enjoy Spring and Summer first.

I would LOVE to see an abundance of entries for our contests this year, especially from our youth. There will be some adaptations to some of the contests this year. Look for the contest details in a future Buzz. Every year I look forward to seeing all the fun and creativity our members bring to the mix. Remember, I am always open to hear new ideas or suggestions for Summer Field Day and Annual Conference. Call me, text me or send me an email with whatever ideas you have and I'll take them into consideration. Until the next Buzz, stay warm!

**Keri Kenoyer**, IHPA Vice President

Response to Earlier Article: Think and Research that Plant Before you Plant it.

By Nancy Kurrle, retired Environmental Educator, avid pollinator-supportive gardener.

I read my Buzz and CIBA newsletters as soon as they arrive. I enjoy reading and learning from other Beeks, lots of hard-learned lessons and hands-on knowledge willingly shared by so many beekeepers. I want to address the article about planting the Bee Bee Tree and/or any other non-native potentially invasive species.

Invasive species are non-native plants which thrive in local environments, displacing and crowding out native species that provide higher-quality food for pollinators: foliage for caterpillars as well as nectar and pollen for adult pollinators. In the article it stated that the fall-blooming Bee Bee Tree produces thousands of tiny black seeds that readily sprout and need to be controlled. How do you control the birds that may forage and spread the seeds? There are many examples in the US and Iowa: been spent trying to eliminate them? (continued bottom of Page 7)--->



2019 Iowa Honey Producers Association Summer Field Day

June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Iowa State Horticulture Research Center

55519 170<sup>th</sup> St. Ames, Ia.

Registration: 8:00 am

Field Day: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

This will be an information-packed day! Field Day Guest Speakers: Andy Joseph, Iowa's State Apiarist, will perform an on-site hive inspection to show you what you should be looking for when you're checking on your hives. Melissa Burdick from The Brenton Arboretum will give an informative presentation on "Trees for Bees". Ginny Mitchel, who will be judging the State Fair entries this year, will talk about the ins and outs of what she is looking for in fair entries while judging. Additional presentations include Prairie Strips, queen marking demonstration using drones, a round table discussion with longtime beekeepers, plus a few other topics. Please **mark your calendars** and remember to bring your bee gear if you wish to watch the hive inspection. Registration will be limited to 120 people, so get your registration in early!

A delicious **lunch will be provided** except for the dessert. You are asked to bring one to share!

Bottled water, honey lemonade and coffee will be available throughout the day.

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Registration

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CELL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Single (member): \$35 before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

Single (non-member) \$40 before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

Walk-in (member) \$40 June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

Walk-in (non-member) \$45 June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed form together with your check payable to IHPA, by **Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.**

Send registration to: Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer 52735 187<sup>th</sup> Ave. Chariton, IA. 50049

Please refer questions to: Keri Kenoyer at [kenoyerfarms@gmail.com](mailto:kenoyerfarms@gmail.com) Summer Field Day in the subject line, or call 515-490-2011.





## News from the Beeyard, by Phil Ebert

Varroa mites have been my biggest problem for a long time, and I haven't been worried much about anything else. Lately, squirrels have come into the picture. They like to chew up the wiring on the trucks. Last summer, I opened up the hood on the flatbed to check the oil. There was a huge squirrel nest on top of the engine. Of course, some of the wiring had been chewed up to accommodate the nest. That occurrence was not too expensive. \$250 put it right. Fast forward a few months. The truck would not start. I opened the hood. It was instant replay only much worse. We had to drag the truck to the Ford Garage in Grinnell to get a new wiring loom. Goodbye \$1,000.

Twenty years ago, there were no squirrels. Then a couple showed up. They have multiplied over the years. I enjoyed seeing them chase each other around the yard and thru the trees. There were a lot of ash trees and almost all of them had a squirrel nest. Then the emerald ash borer showed up. We had to cut down 15 dead trees last summer. That reduced nesting options for the squirrels. I am guessing that may be the reason they are moving into the trucks.

Okay, now we have the truck fixed. I sprayed white grease on the wiring hoping to make it less tasty. I park it in the driveway beside our other old flatbed. A day and a half later, I go out to move the truck. It won't start. I open the hood. You guessed it. A squirrel had been in there gnawing on the greasy wires. I open the hood on the other truck. It is much worse. Some of the sensors had the tops chewed off. I found this very deflating. I now have two live traps and a .22. We are also

parking the trucks with the hoods up in the hope it will make them less attractive.

I had another truck adventure recently. It happened just as the last big snow was beginning. I had gone to Alex's place to pick up some honey. I was pulling the Bobcat on the trailer and had 7 barrels of honey on the truck. When you come into Lynnvile from the west, you go down a long hill. There was just enough snow to cover the road. As I started down the hill, I thought, "Maybe I should have taken another way home." As I passed the ball park, I barely touched the brakes. I immediately started to slide. It is a good thing no one was coming. I needed both sides of the road. There is a four way stop at the bottom of the hill with the bank on the left corner. At one point, I thought I was going to enter the bank lobby with the truck. Miraculously, I kept in on the road and slid thru the four way stop. I came to a stop a block past the bank. I have no idea how I kept it on the road. It was all reactions. The thought I had coming down the hill was that I had just spent \$1,500 on a truck I was going to crash. I lucked out for sure.

The bees we sent to California have held up well. We are going to have a significant death loss in the ones that stayed in Iowa. Alex looked at 130 colonies yesterday (Mar 8)). They were 40% dead. We had treated most of those colonies with Api Life Var. It didn't work very well. We cleaned them up with oxalic, but the fall was terrible with little flying time and not much brood rearing. They didn't have time to recover. I hope the other yards are better, but I am not optimistic.

Here's hoping for a nice spring.

### Introduced Iowa Legislation Affecting Honey Bees

The following bills have survived the "first funnel" date which means they are still active and potentially will be debated either in committee or in the House or Senate.

**SF 457 and HF 553** - Ag Theft and Damage Penalties (F) - Included in a major criminal penalty reform bill are provisions to create a new agricultural crime surcharge. The surcharge would apply to those who commit the theft of agricultural property or criminal mischief for damaging, defacing, altering, or destroying agricultural property. In addition, the theft or damage must be classified as a first-degree offense (class "C" felony), second degree offense (class "D" felony), or third-degree offense (aggravated misdemeanor). The agricultural property is limited to: (1) a crop, (2) livestock, or (3) honey bees or associated items.

Approved by Ways and Means Committee. Approved by Appropriations Committee subcommittee. On Senate debate calendar.

**SF 393** (formerly SF 285) - Bee Law Clean-Up (F) - Current Iowa Code section 160.14(1) lists a number of acts which constitute a criminal

offense (e.g., failing to properly care for bees or interfering with the department). The provision is phrased as a single sentence beginning with the requirement that one or all of the acts must be "knowingly" committed. The bill reformulates the sentence by stating that any of the acts constitutes a criminal offense if knowingly committed and then restructures the subsection to provide that each of a series of lettered paragraphs refers to a single criminal offense. On Senate debate calendar

**SSB 1102** - Iowa Brewing Ingredient Tax Deduction (F) - This bill relates to deducting Iowa brewing ingredients from individual and corporate income taxes if used to make beer for sale. Specifically, the bill allows an additional deduction expense for purchasing Iowa brewing ingredients from individual and corporate income taxes. Subcommittee; Feenstra, Dawson and Danielson  
Any questions please contact either me, Jamie Beyer, or Linn Wilbur.

By Jamie Beyer, Legislative Representative, IHPA

## Deadouts? Read Andy's analysis:

There has been a lot of loss already this season. Dealing with some amount of winter loss has always been a part of beekeeping. We're going to have plenty to deal with as the season warms. Simply ordering more bees to fill the holes does not make a person a better beekeeper. At least try to keep history from repeating itself! Sometimes the cause of a deadout is really hard to determine and that itself can be a harsh reality. Other times at least some evidence is present if we look and think.

My first thought is nearly always Varroa, Varroa, Varroa.

2018 was another pretty extreme year for Varroa mites. Their population numbers climbed pretty high in most hives by later summer, but more concerning is that they seemed difficult to kill. I don't honestly know why so many of us ran treatments through the hives but still had big numbers of mites remaining ... but it was a common story.

Old wisdom is that Varroa won't build up enough to present too much of a problem in newly-established hives, but now especially with the associated viral problems, all too often even those new hives get nailed. Early mite treatment is essential. Get them gone while the queen is still laying. This allows a couple cycles of brood still to be reared prior to winter without the pressure of the mites.

You can look for evidence of a high mite load to a degree by looking at the dead bees. Do any have deformed wings (virus symptom), and/or do any actually have mites on them? You can alcohol wash bees from a dead cluster. Are the dead clusters of bees large, or had they dwindled down into smaller numbers? You can also look at the bottom board for any mites in the debris. Look through the combs for any last brood – are there cells of dead brood, or did everything emerge/get cleaned out? If dead capped brood – gently pull out a few of the dead bees – check for deformed wings. Tilt the comb back with the sun coming over your shoulder, to light up the “ceilings” of the cells of comb. Look through the brood area to see if there is a white flakey/crystalline deposit on the sides, upper surfaces of the cells ... this is the remains of mite feces–guanine deposits. And if there is a good bit of it scattered around the brood area, then you had a ton of mites – and can more or less know that they were largely responsible for the dead hives.

A quick aside: I know lots of people swear by the repeated oxalic acid vapor treatment, but I'm not convinced it's actually effective in anything but a broodless colony. Time will tell.

Keep an eye on small hive beetles through the warmer seasons. Those things were everywhere this past year. Annoying, but don't seem to do much damage til the hive is experiencing some major problems already. Beetles

probably do not lend much to winter loss, but can add an element of stress to a colony and can really make a mess of things.

Were your mites in check, but you still found a dwindled dead cluster? Keep nutrition supplemented when necessary by feeding syrup and pollen sub. This allows a larger cluster of young, healthier, hopefully more robust bees to enter winter. Some years all will look great when we pull off the surplus honey, but then the season will quickly dry up. If we're not paying attention and reacting as beekeepers, this can result in brood being tapered off early. The last thing we want is a bunch of old subpar bees going into winter. Keep that queen laying to get a cluster of relatively younger bees (also further removed in time from your pre-treatment mite loads) heading into winter.

And of course continued feeding through fall can help a lighter colony pack on the pounds. Looking at winter losses, be sure to not overlook food stores. Even if the bees had stores on outer combs, they could have starved if they were clustered tightly even inches away from the food. Sadly, we've all seen the occasional cluster starve out in winter cold with honey stores just a frame away. Mid-winter supplemental feeding with winter patties or fondant or even dry sugar over the hive can really help reduce losses related to starvation.

Nosema can lead to stressed, struggling clusters and winter loss as well. We used to observe some dysentery around the entrance or over the top bars, and think Nosema! Well... maybe, but it's trickier than that now. Other things can cause dysentery. And now we know there a couple different species of Nosema infecting our bees. If you have observed a dwindled cluster, dysentery, stiff looking bees or crawlers (while they were alive in warmer weather), please know that you can send me a sample of the bees for a spore count. Similarly, tracheal mites...

Sometimes a buildup of moisture in the wintering hive can become problematic. Healthy bees can deal with cold pretty amazingly, but not when they're wet. If you see condensation dripping from above as you open the hive, that's a problem. If you find the dead cluster and / or combs wet and moldy, that's another indication. An upper entrance / ventilation hole of some sort in the top box, and an insulation board on top of the hive can really help. I don't have personal experience with using quilt boxes, but the idea seems good.

In any case, as harsh as it sounds, winter loss happens. Again, it's part of beekeeping. Hopefully if you are experiencing some loss, you have a couple more hives which are hanging on well. If you get them through winter, it'll be easy to split out and recover your loss, likely for just the cost of a new queen. Fingers crossed for everyone. See you.

Andy Joseph, Iowa State Apiarist

## Honey Bee License Plate Decals Are Done!!

By Jamie Beyer, Legislative Representative, Iowa Honey Producers Assoc.

The new Honey Bee Decals are done and ready for distribution. We have been working on the design and of getting them approved by the Dept. of Transportation so they are acceptable to be placed on the Decal Specialty Vehicle License Plate.

Some background information about what exactly is a Vehicle Decal License Plate: for many years the DOT approved and issued Vehicle Specialty License Plates. Many of you know about REAP plates with the goldfinch/wild rose on it or the eagle or the trout. You may know of the Firefighter Specialty Plate or Teacher Plate. These are widely popular and they do generate income to these groups.

Dan Whitmore asked me over a year ago whether we could apply for a Honey Bee Specialty Plate. Both he and I started investigating and found out that they no longer issue new specific types of Specialty Plates but are issuing a Decal License Plate. You buy this type of plate from the DOT or Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse for an additional registration fee of \$5 (then an annual \$5 renewal fee). This plate is designed to accept a certain size of a decal that has been submitted for approval and then approved by the DOT. Once you buy the Decal Plate you can then purchase the actual decals from a non-profit organization that has gone through the process of having their decal approved by the DOT.

Enter the Iowa Honey Producers Association. We are a non-profit group that has now gone through the application process. Our Decal, that has a photo of a Honey Bee on a Flower, is available from Rhonda Heston, the IHPA Treasurer. This photo was taken by Nicole Crusinberry and she generously allowed us to use her image for our Decal.

You can order them from Rhonda by contacting her at Rhonda Heston, Treasurer, IHPA, 52735 187<sup>th</sup> St., Chariton, IA 50049. You can order one decal for \$10 or two for \$15. You probably will want two since you will have two License Plates. You don't have to have a decal on both. Or you could choose a different non-profit organization's decal and place on the other plate, as well. Or, in the future you want a different type of decal you can easily change it or update your current decal.

The decal image is below but you can also see the Decal on the DOT's website which is <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/vehicleregistration/vehicleregistration/Decals>.



This decal is made to the same specifications that the month decal is made. So it should last a few years. Now, for those of you that do not want to buy the Decal License Plate but still want a cool decal you can use them like any decal – in your vehicle's window, bumper or even on your refrigerator.



The purpose of this decal is raise awareness of Honey Bees and IHPA in Iowa. Yes, we will raise some dollars too. Thanks for your support of this fun way of showing off our love of honey bees.

I agree as beekeepers we want to support our bees and other pollinators during the nectar dry spells. I suggest supporting pollinators with seasonal successional blooming plants in your landscape. Utilize a variety of spring, summer, fall bloomers as well as differing plant heights and structures (trees, vines, shrubs, annual and perennial herbaceous plants). Some bee favorite spring shrubs include pussy willow, lilac, chokecherry, viburnum, witch hazel and New Jersey Tea. There are many spring blooming trees, and dandelions. We don't mow it all at the same time, leaving patches of blooming white clover and dandelions throughout our yard for bee foraging. Our flower beds include some non-native flowering plants such as roses, hostas, salvia, sedums, zinnias, cosmos, moss rose, alyssum, snap dragons and sweet Williams—all favorites of pollinators. I especially enjoy the August/Sept/Oct bloomers and so do the bees. These include sunflowers, asters and Sweet Autumn Clematis vine covered in white blooms. The last bloomers are Creamy Gentians in our prairie (bumble bee pollinated) and the goldenrods. There are more than 100 species of goldenrods that bloom late into the fall and all rely entirely on animal pollinators. They are one of the best native herbaceous plants for attracting and feeding wildlife. One study found that goldenrods provide food and shelter for 115 butterfly and moth species, and more than 11 native bee species. The goldenrods pop up throughout our flower beds and the "rough zones" in our yard. I control their spreading by dead heading. Goldenrod, a weed to some people, but not this bee keeper with her bee-friendly yardscape.

Please consider native v. non-native plantings when making your purchases. It's easy to search out invasive species using the internet, local extension agencies and local garden club experts. There are so many plants available to gardener, beekeepers and pollinator supporters. Don't purchase and plant another Kudzu! Pollinator-friendly Sources: Fruit/Nut Trees (hard-to-find varieties): Stark Bros. [www.starkbros.com](http://www.starkbros.com). Native Plant/Seeds: Prairie Moon Nursery, Winona, MN [www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com) and Nashville Natives (Plants for Pollinators) [www.plantsforpollinators.com](http://www.plantsforpollinators.com). Garden Seeds



## Membership Dues

Iowa Honey Producers' Association membership year is January 1 through December 31. If you have not paid your dues for 2019, it is **TIME**. Please complete the form provided in this issue of the Buzz. The March Buzz was the last one for members that have not paid their 2019 dues. All funds received by March 15, 2019 will receive the April Buzz.

Please send to

Rhonda Heston, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049-8616.

Please call Rhonda if you have any questions at 515-724-2124. Thanks.

**Merchandise! Merchandise! Merchandise!** We have what you are looking for!! **T-Shirts** (V-neck and crew neck), **Long Sleeve T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Hoodies, Hats, Aprons, Cookbooks and Cooling Towels**. You know your T-Shirts are starting to look a little worn and need to be updated. We have the new slogan, **Save the Bees**. That is what we are all about! Check out the website for merchandise. We can accept credit cards on the website, but not by mail.

Prices By	Mail	Website:
Short sleeve t-shirts (v-neck and crew neck) Colors: Yellow, Black, Grey, Red, Blue	\$10.00	\$15.00
Long sleeve t-shirts Colors: Yellow, Black	\$15.00	\$20.00
Sweatshirts Colors: Black, Tan	\$20.00	\$25.00
Hoodies Colors: Yellow, Black	\$25.00	\$30.00
Hat (Tan)	\$10.00	\$15.00
Apron (Tan)	\$15.00	\$20.00
Cooling Towel (Black)	\$5.00	\$7.50
Cookbook (single)	\$4.00	\$5.00
Cookbook (case)	\$90.00	\$120.00
Shipping (1 item)	\$5.00	\$5.00
Shipping (2 items)	\$7.50	\$7.50
Shipping (more than 2, call for amount) (Cookbook shipping costs are about \$22)		

Call Rhonda with any questions at 515-724-2124. Thanks.



## The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to [rrihpa@gmail.com](mailto:rrihpa@gmail.com)

Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010

**The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month** to be included in the following month's newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

## Fun and Informative Iowa Honey Bee Day--February 27, 2019.

This is the second year for us to celebrate Iowa Honey Bee Day at the State Capital. Governor Kim Reynolds signed a Proclamation on February 20 designating February 27 as IHBD. The Proclamation signing was attended by a couple Representatives, several IHPA people and even the First Gentleman. Picture is included in this Buss.

Then to top off the Governor Proclamation we were able to obtain another 26 cities to proclaim the day as well. A lot of Beeks across the state approached their local community's mayor and asked if they would sign a Proclamation. Almost without fail, they happily signed them. A couple cities were not given enough time to get their signing in before the 27<sup>th</sup>, but they wanted to. Please see the attached list of cities that signed. Maybe your city was one.

IHBD started early (6:00 AM) by many Iowa Beeks, IHPA members and friends helping to set up the reception room with displays, food and drink. With so much help we had the room set up by 7:00 AM – the time that the reception started. Three Honey Queens attended. Our IHPA Queen Brooklyn Pardall and Emma Jakes, the Friendly Beekeeper Club Queen and also Veronica Vonderohe, the North Iowa Beekeeper Cub Queen. What a great photo opportunity for all the legislators that attended.

We had perhaps 20 Legislators that took the time out of their busy schedules to attend. They were able to meet over 40 to 50 Beekeepers from across the state. Lots of questions and lots of connections were made. In speaking with beeks that attended, they all said how much fun it was and well as being informative to meet their legislators and see the Capitol.

It was decided yesterday at the IHPA Board of Directors meeting to do it again next year but perhaps at a later start time. So, those that attended – I am sure they will want to come again and for those that were not able to make it – please try to come in February 2020. The date will be decided on soon.

I do want to Thank Linn and Ann Wilbur for an outstanding job of spearheading this day again. They donated so much time and resources to making this day happen. There are so many others that need thanked as well but I need to keep this report short so we can include more pics.

See ya next year. Jamie Beyer, IHPA Legislative Representative



Above is Pat Ennis in a bee suit, Iowa Honey Queen Brooklyn Pardal, Kevin Reynolds, Emma Jakes (Friendly Beeks Queen and recipe guru), and Connie Bronnenburg in costume.

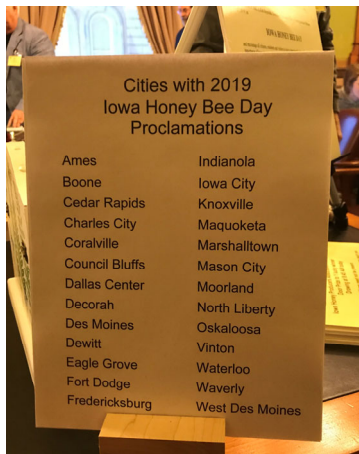


(right) The governor signs the official documents at Honey Bee Day, she is surrounded by Iowa beekeepers. \_\_\_\_\_,

Andy Joseph, \_\_\_\_\_, Jamie Beyer, Kevin Reynolds, Governor Reynolds, Keri Kenoyer, Doyle Kincy and Curt Bronnenburg



(right) Representative Jeff Kurtz was the winner of the basket of honey products raffled at Honey Bee Day!! He was very surprised to be the winner and is excited to share this prize with his family.



(left) Cities that proclaimed Bee Day: Ames, Boone, Cedar Rapids, Charles City, Coralville, Council Bluffs, Dallas Center, Decorah, Des Moines, Dewitt, Eagle Grove, Fort Dodge, Fredricksburg, Indianola, Iowa City, Knoxville, Maquoketa, Marshalltown, Mason City, Moorland, North Liberty, Oskaloosa, Vinton, Waterloo, Waverly and West Des Moines.

### **Coming To A Library Near You, by Ed St.John, Dist.3 Director**

A portion of the IHPA's Mission is 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.

In advancing IHPA's Mission, I have offered a couple of different presentations (An Overview of Beekeeping & Introduction to Beekeeping, A Primer On Getting Started) to select library administrators in District 3 free of charge. The Overview is a 2-hour presentation and the Introduction is 10 hours over several sessions.

The Introduction to Beekeeping has been presented at the Solon and Coralville libraries in February. The Cedar Falls Library presentation of An Overview of Beekeeping was attended by more than 30 people with a request for the Introduction presentation to be scheduled. It will be presented at the Cedar Falls Library.

I still have some open dates where I would be available to give these presentations. The library directors at Grinnell, Grundy Center, Marshalltown, New Hampton, Osage, Parkersburg, Tama, Vinton, Waverly and Williamsburg have been offered this opportunity. So far, I haven't heard back from them but if you think either of these presentations would be worthwhile for your community let them know your thoughts.

Ed St John, District 3 Director

### **Iowa Honey Queen's Busy Time**

This past month has been extremely hectic! In the same week, I went to Des Moines for Iowa Honey Bee Day (Tuesday, Wednesday) and then back home, Des Moines again after repacking for All-Iowa Honor Dance Team (Thursday, Friday, Saturday), to Ames in order to learn about our native bee pollinators as I am a 4-H county leader for this (Saturday, Sunday), back home again to re-pack, and finally went to Iowa City present my research on using honey bees to pollinate our commercial crops in Iowa (Monday, Tuesday). Just when I caught a break on Wednesday, I had conference science fair on Thursday! This was probably the most stressful time of my life, let me tell you.

Although saying this, it was so much fun talking to people while I was at the capitol! I met the speaker of the house (Linda Upmeyer) and the governor's husband Kevin Reynolds. Also, a shout-out to the Eric and Keri Kenoyer as they let me stay with them while I was in Des Moines. They are always so kind and have a great family.

I earned first place in the conference fair and a pollinator cash award from Tull Honey Farms, in case anybody reading this was wondering. Another shout-out to Dave and Ray Tull if either is reading this month's issue of The Buzz! Thank you!

During this time, I've also been answering some emails about library programs in the summer and setting up some camps to talk about both honey bees and other types of native bees, as I believe these are extremely important to educate young minds about as well. They will be making native bee pollinator nests out of PBC pipes for carpenter bees, mason bees, bumble bees, squash bees, and sweat bees to reside in.

Overall, it's been a great month, besides losing my hive (insert sad face). I think Iowa is going to be seeing some major losses this year. I'm looking forward to getting healthy bees in the spring!

Brooklyn Pardall, IHPA 2019 Honey Queen.



## Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Annual Auction

**What:** CIBA Annual Auction  
**When:** Saturday, April 20, 2019 Auction starts at 10:00 a.m.  
**Where:** 18930 210th St. Minburn, IA 50167

### Auction Consignment

**It's time to consign!** Committing to consign does not require a list of the items you are consigning, but the sooner we know the items you have to sell, the better we can advertise, and the better your opportunity to sell your beekeeping equipment. *As you are putting items away or cleaning your supplies, start a list of what you want to bring to the auction.*

### Consignment Fee

CIBA members that commit to consign by March 1, 2019, will be awarded a 10% consignment fee. After March 1<sup>st</sup>, CIBA member consignors will be charged a 15% consignment fee.

Non-members in the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association will be charged a 15% consignment fee.

### Concession Stand

Calling for all cooks and bakers! As in the past, there will be a concession stand at the auction – the stand funds our Honey Queen / Honey Ambassador program. Please let us know if you would like to help with food items, and what you are interested in assisting with!

Consignment and Concession Stand: Please contact Julie Sander at [maillsander@msn.com](mailto:maillsander@msn.com)

## North Iowa Beekeepers' Club Auction

**The North Iowa Beekeepers' Club is having an auction of beekeeping equipment and poultry equipment!**

### Location:

P & P Honey and Bee Supply Inc  
Pat & Peggy Ennis  
2105 110<sup>th</sup> St, Goodell, IA 50439

**Date: Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 / Starting @ 10:00 am** / Auctioneer: Roy Kraft



We're looking for new or gently used beekeeping and poultry items!

We all have some stuff in the shed or barn we don't use that would be of great benefit or value to someone else. So now is a great time to dust it off, repair, paint and bring it to the auction!

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

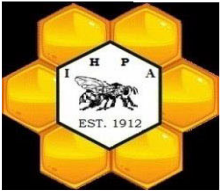
To consign your items, and for a list of items being consigned, please call or email Pat @ 515-293-2601 or email to [pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com](mailto:pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com).

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

All auction proceeds will benefit the North Iowa Beekeepers' Club and the youth with the purpose of educating and promoting the craft of beekeeping thru speakers and events to all the beekeepers throughout North Iowa.

Restrooms will be available (port-a-potties)

Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Bottled Water and Rolls, Baked Goods will be available for a donation/purchase.



## Iowa Honey Producers Association Annual Membership Form



### First Membership: \$20

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$20

### I wish to receive my monthly newsletter by:

Website (pdf)  
USPS (mail)


### May we publish your information in the Association members booklet?

Yes  
Not


### Second Family Member (Same address, \$5)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Third Family Member (Same address, \$5)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Includes a one-year subscription to The Buzz Newsletter**  
**Only one copy of The Buzz Newsletter is sent per address.**

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Make Checks Payable to:

Send form and check to:

### Iowa Honey Producers Association

Rhonda Heston, Treasurer  
52735 187th Ave  
Chariton, IA 50049

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. See the back of The Buzz Newsletter to find your expiration date. Above your name will be the expiration date.



**BUZZ Expires: 12/31/2018**

Example: John Smith  
1234 Honeybee Lane  
Beautiful City, IA 50000





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### May 2019

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### Pick Up Locations

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# The Historical Buzz Post

By Tina Meyer

## Iowa Beekeeping 1865

Mrs. Ellen Tupper says that, according to the Department of Interior, there were 87,118 colonies of bees in the state of Iowa in 1865. They produced roughly 1,117,833 pounds of honey, an average of 13 pounds of honey per colony. At that time they weren't sure what to do with all that honey.

There were many "Gold Rushes" in and out of Iowa at that time causing many beekeepers to be taken away by these emigrations. If a man in California reported a large yield of honey, many would leave and head to California, only to find they were not so well off there as they were in Iowa. It was also the same if someone reported a "Gold Rush" in Iowa: there would then be a rush for our state. At that time anyone who came to Iowa was not disappointed in the honey crop.

Source –[Report of The State Apiarist 1927](#)

### Did You Know?

On July 1, 1863--the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg--Beekeeper John Burns, at age 69, took up his flintlock musket and powder horn and walked out to the scene of the fighting that morning. He was the first one to arrive and the last one to leave. Story has it that the Confederate soldiers shot up his hives and soldiers were found who had been severely stung by the bees. Burns was shot, but survived.

Source-[Historical Honey Bee Articles](#)



## Ag in the Classroom 2019

On Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, most 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Marion County attended "Ag in the Classroom". Last year the event was in Pella; however, tornado damage to Vermeer buildings necessitated a change in venue. The National Guard Armory in Knoxville graciously hosted this year's event.

This was the second year that Kelly Schloss and Wendy Peffers volunteered to participate and the first time that students sampled local honey on crackers. Since we often talk about sustainability in conjunction with honey bees, we thought against honey sticks in an effort to reduce packaging and plastic straws.

Kelly and Wendy did 16 presentations coupled with a lot of honey bee visual interest. Kelly purchased and framed six honeybee-related posters as well as purchasing Mann Lake's Teaching Frame Inserts (set of 20) which she put in her own deep frames. Needless to say, Jerry and I have ordered our own set. The high quality photographs in frames are great visual teaching aids. Kelly also displayed her own fantastic photography in 8 x 10 photographs taped in a row to the edge of the table.

It amazes me how great the photography can be from cell phones and I'm finally seriously

thinking about updating my old phone.

Both of these women are educators and assets to our communities. During "Ag in the Classroom", they were asked to participate in "Thursdays in Pella" on June 27, 2019. Thursdays in Pella are mini-festivals on Thursday evenings from 6-9pm in June and July and each week features a different theme. The theme on June 27<sup>th</sup> will be "Ag in the City". Pella draws a lot of tourists, so you are all welcome, though you might want to bring your own lawn chair. **We love it when educators become beekeepers!**

Submitted by Sheila Weldon



## CLUB NEWS

### Club Changes its Name:

Cedar Valley Apiary Club, based out of Cedar Rapids, has changed names to **Sac and Fox Apiary Club**. They meet bi-monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30pm. The next meeting is Thursday, April 14th at Indian Creek Nature Center. Questions can be directed to Tom Hart (Tomhart1107@gmail.com) or Marty Stimson (mjstim@q.com). Meetings are free and open to the public.

The Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa would like to introduce you to our 2019 club queen, **Emma Jakes** of Indianola. She was crowned on Feb. 21st, 2019.

Emma is an amazing young lady and entrepreneur. She makes hand-crafted **pottery** that she sells at markets. Those that attended the 2018 banquet were able to see some of Emma's handiwork. She also makes and sells products made from the hive as well as submits a monthly honey **recipe** and review for the Buzz.

Thank you Emma for taking on this responsibility. We look forward to seeing what all you accomplish this year as the FBI queen.

Keri Kenoyer, Vice President



### Emma Jakes' Recipes

After a long and sometimes below-zero winter, spring is finally here! March 20th marked the official beginning of spring and so it's time to start thinking warmer weather thoughts. I decided to make Savory Bacon Muffins and Honey Fudge Pops. (Maybe if we all start making Popsicles summer will come faster!)

#### Savory Bacon Muffins (pg. 28)

1 1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 eggs, beaten  
2 tablespoons butter, melted  
1/4 cup minced onion  
1/2 cup cooked, crumbled bacon

3/4 cup buckwheat flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 cup honey  
1/2 cup buttermilk  
3/4 cup sour cream  
1/4 cup thinly sliced green onions

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease a 12-cup muffin pan; set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flours, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Make a well in the center and set aside.

In a separate bowl, combine honey, eggs, buttermilk, and butter. Stir in sour cream. Add to flour mixture all at once and stir. Fold in onions and bacon.

Divide evenly into prepared muffin pan and bake for 20 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes. Serve muffins with butter and honey, if desired. Yields; 12 muffins.

Emma's notes: As with most of the recipes I try, these were very good. My cousin and I worked together to make these and we both thought they were really simple. If you do not have buckwheat flour, plain wheat flour works well as a substitute. We made the muffins into egg and cheese sandwiches and that was also very good. They would also be great as an addition to your Easter brunch.

#### Honey Fudge Pops (pg. 179)

2 cups milk  
3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder  
2 tablespoons cornstarch

1/3 cup honey  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 teaspoon butter

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Cook over low heat until little bubbles appear and mixture thickens. Remove from heat; cool slightly and pour into Popsicle molds. Freeze 2-4 hours or until firm.

Emma's notes: Hot fudge sauce! If you have ever had hot fudge sundaes, the pops taste like the sauce. If you do not like chocolate, this recipe is probably not for you. But if you like chocolate, this is a must-try snack. I really liked them, as did my family, but they are very "chocolatey." Overall, this recipe is also a "keeper."

**Indian Creek Nature Center** in Cedar Rapids is accepting orders for 3-pound packages of bees until March 22nd, which will be delivered around April 20th to the Nature Center's Barn parking lot. The bees are Italian with a queen, and come from Georgia. Customers will be notified about 48 hours prior to the truck's arrival at the Nature Center. Packages are \$125. Go to <https://indiancreeknaturecenter.org/public-programs/beekeeping/> for more information and to reserve your package.

#### **Queen Rearing Class**

This is a two-day class being held at P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc 2105 110<sup>th</sup> St, Goodell IA. This is will be a class room and "hands on " class. Please call to reserve; class size is limited to 20 participants. Please have a minimum of 2 years beekeeping experience. There is a fee of \$100.00 for this class. RSVP by call, text or email to Pat Ennis, 641-444-4767/ 515-293-2601 or [pphoneyandbeesupply@gmail.com](mailto:pphoneyandbeesupply@gmail.com)

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I will have a few jumbo nucs (\$165) and hives (\$300) for sale this Spring. These hives use jumbo frames and aren't interchangeable with standard Langstroth equipment. A hive will come complete and ready to start producing honey as soon as the nectar flow starts. If you buy a hive from me and it doesn't make it through winter, I'll replace the bees free of charge.....restrictions apply. I also have jumbo equipment. Contact Brian Chancellor @ 740-525-2407 [windychancefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:windychancefarm@yahoo.com) with any questions. Located in Sully

**Buckwheat honey for sale:** Produced and harvested from an organic field in northern Iowa \$8.00 lb by the container or \$4.00 lb by the 40 lb pail + dept. P & P Honey and Bee Supply Inc  
641-444-4767

Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids is accepting orders for 3-pound packages of bees, which will be delivered around April 20th to the Nature Center's Barn parking lot. The bees are Italian with a queen, come from Georgia, and must be picked up that day. Customers will be notified about 48 hours in prior to the truck's arrival at the Nature Center. Packages are \$125, and any queens that die en route will be replaced. Go to <https://indiancreeknaturecenter.org/public-programs/beekeeping/> for more information and to reserve your package.



## CLASSIFIEDS

### 2019 Five-Frame Nucs (Limited Quantity) PLEASE READ ENTIRE POST.....PICK UP ONLY NO SHIPPING

Pickup only at our farm located in Waterloo Ia. 2019 Pre-order northern Carniolan Queens are \$35. Characteristics include gentle, good honey production, overwinter ability, fast spring buildup and comb building. Can be marked.

5-frame nucs with young laying queen, brood, honey and pollen. \$170. \$70 deposit, remaining \$100 balance + Iowa Sales Tax due at pick up in the second week of May, depending on weather. No extra charge required on equipment, everything is included in the price. Deposit is NOT refundable. For more information and questions please contact [Silverlakehoney.weebly.com](http://Silverlakehoney.weebly.com) or call Eddie Miskich at 319-504-3482.

### For Sale:

#### Complete hive kit includes everything but the bees:

Telescoping cover, Inner cover, 2 deep brood boxes w/ frames, 2 Illinois boxes w/frames, Queen excluder and solid bottom board. Includes bee jacket, gloves –in your size, bee brush, hive tool and smoker. Assembled and painted - \$379.00. Unassembled - \$319.00

#### Hive Kits include:

Telescoping cover, inner cover, 2 deep brood boxes w/ frames, 2 Illinois boxes w/frames, Queen excluder and solid bottom board. Painted and assembled \$258.00. Unassembled \$ 198.00.

**P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc.**, Goodell, IA 50439. Call, text at 641-444-4767 or 515-293-2601 or email us @: [pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com](mailto:pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com)

### Help wanted: Full-Time Beekeeper

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

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Foley's Russian Bees For Sale: Queens \$38 each w/ discounts on larger orders. 2-lb Carniolan pkgs \$103 each and 3-lb pkgs \$126 w/ discounts for larger orders. Complete hive kits \$220 (that's 2 deeps, 2 mediums, 40 frames/foundation, division board feeder, reducer, inner cover, top cover and bottom board). Hive components also available.

Foley's Russian Bees, 13778 Summerset Rd, Indianola IA 50125.

To place an order, visit [www.russianbee.com](http://www.russianbee.com)

### FOR SALE: 2- or 3-pound packages of Italian bees with queen.

Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, IA in mid-April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. All orders should be received by February 28. Contact Douglas Child at 319-634-3682 or at [childbees@gmail.com](mailto:childbees@gmail.com).

### Packages and nucs for sale for 2019:

*Packages*, 3 pounds w/laying Italian queen.

1-15 = \$116, 16-30 = \$114, 31-99 = \$112, 100 + \$110.

Each pkg sold add \$7 box deposit.

*Nucs*, 5-frame w/laying Italian queen.

1-49 = \$160, 50-99 = \$150, 100-199 = \$140, 200 + call.

Each nuc sold add \$30 box deposit.

Limited number of singles:\$200.00 w/laying Italian queen.

8 frames w/feeder, cover, inner cover & solid bb.

Also supplying syrup, pollen patties, mite treatments and beekeeping equipment.

**P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc. Pat and Peggy Ennis**  
2105 110<sup>th</sup> ST, Goodell, IA 50439. 641-444-4767 or 515-293-2601.

### FOR SALE: Package bees, nucs and singles. Prices will be set in

late January. Pickup can be in either Lynnvile or Mt Vernon. Contact Phil Ebert in Lynnvile at [ehoney37@netins.net](mailto:ehoney37@netins.net) or 641-527-2637. Adam Ebert in Mt Vernon at [adam.ebert@eberthoney.com](mailto:adam.ebert@eberthoney.com) or 319-430-3514

### For sale: 3# Packages with Italian queen. \$127 + tax + \$7 cage

deposit. Pick up in Belmond IA. **Bluff Creek Acres , LLC**

Austin + Jenna Miller 3009 110th St Belmond, IA 50421

Phone: 515-571-8991 [bluffcreekbeagles@gmail.com](mailto:bluffcreekbeagles@gmail.com)



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**Honey Styx:** 1-499 cost .15 each

500-1,999 cost .12 each

Box of 2,000 costs .09 each--\$180

Connie [515-480-6076](tel:515-480-6076). Curt [515-480-6075](tel:515-480-6075)

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[www.RussianBee.com](http://www.RussianBee.com)



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# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
52735 187th Avenue  
Chariton, IA 50049



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