Inside the Issue

Bee Camp 2022

Bee Camp 2022 was a success! See details on Pages 2-3

Summer Field Day 2022

See some photos from Summer Field Day 2022 on Page 4

IHPA Editorial

See details about the success the IHPA Editor has seen with queen rearing on Page 11

November 11-12
Annual Fall Conference

The Iowa State Fair is right around the corner! Find out details about volunteering at the IHPA Booth on Page 13
Hello and welcome to another addition of my ramblings! Today is June 9th, so that means that the 1st annual bee camp happened just two weekends ago! The kids showed up Saturday afternoon at Camp Wesley Woods on Lake Aquabi. After getting them set up with bedding in the cabin they got suited up and headed out with Andrew Joseph. They got a full rundown on various hives in the camp apiary and got to see the tell tail signs of a hopelessly queenless hive and one requeening itself. We ended up running to the 2nd apiary they have as well and harvested some frames of very young larva for my queen rearing class after dinner that night. The kids didn’t get some basic queen class, they got a full rundown of about every imaginable way of making queens there are as well as then having time to get training on both wet and dry grafting with both the Chinese grafting tool and German grafting tool. I went ahead and gifted the kids with their own Chinese grafting tools in the event they wanted to pursue that craft. After an evening of grafting the kids got to enjoy a campfire with cheddar dogs and s’mores. Early the next morning breakfast was on and Sara of the Holton Homestead showed up to give a talk on “Value Added Products”. Basically it opened their eyes on how to go from a few crudely packaged mason jars of honey to selling their honey at higher levels. From packaging upgrades and marketing to specialty gift shops. How to utilize the products of the hive for creating hand soaps, salves, tinctures, creamed and flavored honey, sugar scrubs and all sorts of products. The kids were taking so many notes that I’m pretty sure they plan on taking over the honey businesses in their home towns lol. It was a good test year and future ones should get better and more complex!

Moving on from bee camp, DANG IS THAT HONEY FLOW ON!!! I have bee yards I’ve put supers on 3 times now. Granted, that’s probably my fault for not just slapping a bunch on at once, but I figured the first time I gave them enough to last them a few weeks. After seeing one yard already getting close to being full after a few days, I ran around to all of them and threw more on. Then a few days later when I was making up some cell builders I was shocked that the extra supers tossed on were also getting filled up and had to do a 3rd round. This is just crazy. In a few weeks I have some hives with 5 supers on them. So I hope all of you had the same luck and also were able to keep up with the flow. If not, I am so sorry cause hives in a flow like this could easily get honey bound and then you are up a creek. Mite counts are still looking nice, but a flow like this has me wondering how bad mites will be. It seems like your high honey years go hand in hand with mega mite waves. So for any of you not familiar with that, keep that in the back of your thoughts and DON’T be greedy when August rolls around. So many times beeks will just keep putting off that honey harvest because they have that one box that has some uncapped frames. For the love of God, just pull your honey and if you are worried about some frames being too wet yet, JUST FEED IT BACK to them lol. They need 80lbs of honey to go into winter anyway. Save your hives and manage your mites early in August!

The last thing on my mind it all this stupid rain. It’s happening in a way that the bees are getting their food, and it’s not messing up the flow, but I am sick and tired of muddy bee yards and the creek that divides my property flooding over my crossing. Every time I need to do work on the other half of my place, I have to jump on a 4 wheeler or my bobcat just so I can cross the creek. I thought pouring a cement crossing a couple years back with culverts was the answer, but this spring a beaver took up residence up creek from me and put so much tree debris that my culverts have plugged and I’m waiting to get my hands on an excavator to fix it. Normally I can just walk down and clean it by hand, but nooooot this year lol.

Well, that’s about it for this issue. This Saturday is the IHPA’s Summer Field Day. Hopefully many of you reading this will have been there!
Bee Camp 2022

Bee camp is a new program hosted by the IHPA. Andrew Joseph, State Apiarist, and Jason Foley, IHPA President, put together a youth scholarship recipient training event where students were immersed in everything beekeeping. Three scholarship students, and Andy's son were present for the camp. Sara Todd showed scholarship recipients the world of value-added products. Hives that were used for hands-on inspections belonged to Tedd Reeves.

Left: Andrew Joseph guided youth scholarship recipients through identifying hive issues and identified pointers on nectar flows.

Right: Jason Foley taught a lengthy class on queen breeding, and hands on training for students for both dry and wet grafting.
Hello everyone,

I hope you enjoyed our 2022 Field Day as much as I did. There were many new beekeepers this year and a lot of new information that was shared. Thank you to everyone that made Field Day a successful event. Check out the event pictures that have been shared on the IHPA Facebook page.

Now we need to shift our thoughts to our 2022 Annual Fall Meeting. The Fall Meeting will be held in Ames November 11-12. We will be continuing the celebration as the IHPA turning 110 years old- "Still Going Strong." Some of our speakers include:

- Juliana Rangel Posada
- Michael Palmer
- Randy Oliver
- and MANY MORE!!!

Be sure to mark your calendars, you will want to attend this Annual Fall Meeting.

Have a great summer!

-Cheri

Dr. Duane Bajema, Dordt College (left), presented along with Dean Johnson (bottom) about swarm management using live bees

Above: Doug and Tony, the owners of Smitty Bee Honey, gave a tour on Saturday

Above: Julia McGuire discusses phenology and grants for sustainability to Field Day attendee
‘22 IOWA LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS AFTER 35 DAYS OF OVERTIME

The long simmering divide between the House of Representatives, Senate and Governor finally cooled off enough for the three parties to agree on a budget and some high-profile education policy, and bring the 2022 Session of the Iowa Legislature to a close 35 days past the scheduled adjournment date.

CHOOSE IOWA PROGRAM WILL HELP MARKET IOWA HONEY

The IHHA effort to support new marketing opportunities for Iowa agricultural products, specifically, honey, was successful during the 2022 Session of the Iowa Legislature. Included in an omnibus Department of Agriculture policy proposal, House File 2581, is the reestablishment of the Choose Iowa program. The original Choose Iowa program was introduced over a decade ago, but never fully implemented. HF 2581 brings the program back and the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Bill provides $500,000 for the effort. The Choose Iowa program will provide consumers a choice in purchasing a food item originating as an agricultural commodity produced on an Iowa farm. This includes either an agricultural commodity produced on an Iowa farm or a product processed in this state, if the product is an agricultural commodity that has been prepared in Iowa, or any of the product’s ingredients are agricultural commodities produced on an Iowa farm. It is important to note that the bill specifically includes Iowa honey. The program will also establish an official Choose Iowa logo that, via a licensing agreement with the Department of Agriculture, is to be used by program participants.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR TREES AND FOREST HEALTH APPROVED

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations bill, HF 2560, includes $500,000 for the state’s forest health management program which engages in monitoring, managing, and reducing insects and diseases that damage and harm Iowa’s forests.

A continuation of the post-derecho tree replanting appropriation was given the go-ahead in House File 2579. The Infrastructure Appropriations Bill allocated $250,000 for the replanting
Hello everyone,

I sure am keeping busy with attending various events, as well as learning more about beekeeping throughout these last few months!

At the beginning of May I gave a presentation to Earlham Elementary, which is located in the Des Moines area. There were around 50 students, and all were excited to learn about the importance of honey bees. They had many, many questions which I was glad to answer. This showed me how interested and excited they were about such an important topic!

In May, I was also honored to travel to Cedar Rapids to give a presentation to a small conference for women being held for the Farmers State Bank Kennett Club. I was asked to give an inspirational speech and to also focus on honey bees. This presentation was a lot different then what I normally do, so I was a bit nervous, but was told it turned out great and worked perfectly for their conference theme. Overall, I had a lot of fun meeting and talking to women about my passion for pollinators and also learned how they were making a positive difference for pollinators.

I also attended the Great River Bend Beekeeping Club May meeting, which is a local beekeeping club in my area. I gave a brief overview of my journey so far as a honey queen and what I had planned for the upcoming months. I greatly enjoyed meeting local beekeepers and getting to know others at this meeting. Thank you so much for having me and for asking questions and giving me advice!

Towards the end of May, I traveled to Manchester to give two presentations at the Meadow Assisted Living and the Good Neighbor Home. I received lots of great questions and was told some good stories from some of the residents’ experiences with honey bees in the past. They loved hearing about how honey bees work and function, especially here in Iowa!

At the beginning of June I gave a presentation at Charles City Public Library. I focused on discussing topics both adults and children could understand and relate too. I made sure to discuss the different jobs of a worker bee, why pollination is important, and how anyone can help honey bees. The children loved looking at and touching different types of frames from a hive, as well as trying on a beekeeper jacket!

In addition to attending all these events, I have been busy with checking out some local hives in my area to further my knowledge on beekeeping. I want to say thank you to Kevin Brunnings for letting me look at your hives and teaching me over these last few months, as well as providing me tools and equipment to use for my presentations! It is greatly appreciated!

Feel free to check out the Iowa Honey Queen Program page on Facebook to see my journey so far and to stay involved in my weekly segment of “Un-bee-lievable Tip Tuesday.” Thank you to everyone who participates with these posts!

If you are wanting me to attend an event or to give a presentation to reach out. Please contact Connie Bronnenburg, the IHPA Queen Chair, at (515)-480-6076 or cbronny823@aol.com or reach out to me through the Iowa Honey Queen Program page on Facebook.
Well, we have made it through another rainy June! Although not everywhere, I know my bees certainly swarmed a few too many times this spring. Oh well, at least I was able to have help from a friend catching them and starting up two new hives! Hopefully your springs have gone a little more smoothly than mine. Between raising bees and going to college, I have found this spring to be one of the busiest yet! While I had a few calm moments earlier this month I was able to try out two pretty amazing frosting recipes and a honey orange cupcake recipe to go with them. I was a little disappointed that one of the recipes had more sugar than honey, but I can’t complain about the flavor!

**Basic Honey Icing (Pg 171)**

1/2 cup honey  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
8 ounces cream cheese or one cup cottage cheese

With an electric mixer, beat all ingredients in a large bowl until thick and creamy, about 5 minutes. Spread immediately over cooled cake. If desired, top with chopped nuts, coconut, or chopped dried apricots.

**Honey Butter Icing (Pg 171)**

In small sauce pan mix:  
2 tablespoons butter  
3 tablespoons honey

Bring to a boil. Remove from heat and pour over 2 cups powdered sugar and 2 tablespoons lemon juice.

**Emma’s Notes:** I chose to compare these two recipes because they were the only frostings not designed to be paired with specific cakes. I hoped they would be good to contrast.

For the first recipe, I chose to use cream cheese rather than cottage cheese. I think this made it a little sweeter and more firm, although I would not describe it as a very firm icing. It was easily spreadable and slightly runny. The flavor was amazing and it only took 5 minutes to make.

For the second recipe, I followed it nearly exactly. I added a little more powdered sugar to thicken it. The exact amount of powdered sugar depends on how thick you would like your frosting to be. When it is refrigerated, the butter will also help the frosting to become more firm. This recipe was also very tasty! I especially liked this recipe because it does not require an electric mixer, just a stove and the ingredients. It is much easier for a beginner cook to make. The only draw back is the high quantity of powdered sugar.

Overall, my family preferred the second recipe for ease of creation and flavor with a standard cake recipe. If I were making a spice cake, I would use the first recipe as it makes an excellent compliment.
Honey Orange Cake (Pg. 109)

2 cups sifted cake flour  3 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 teaspoon salt  1/2 cup butter or other shortening
1/2 cup sugar  2/3 cup honey
2 eggs, separated and whites beaten  1/2 cup orange juice

Sift flour once, measure, add baking powder and salt, and sift together 3 times. Cream butter thoroughly, add sugar and cream together gradually until light and fluffy. Add honey. Blend. Add egg yolks and beat thoroughly. Alternate adding small amounts of flour and orange juice, beating after each addition until smooth. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake in 2 greased 9” layer pans in 350 degree oven 30-35 minutes.

Emma’s Notes: As normal, I also really enjoyed this cake. I made this recipe to celebrate the end of the semester from college. Since I had so many classmates to feed, I chose to bake it in cupcake tins instead of cake pans. This worked just fine; however I had to shorten the baking time. As far as flavor goes, the orange flavor was very subtle, almost to the point of not knowing it was there. As I like more pronounced flavors, I will be adding orange zest next time I make this recipe; however, the cake is very good without that. I paired the cupcakes with a generic frosting recipe to see if it would overpower the flavor of the cake, and it did. Most people who sampled the frosted cupcakes said the only flavor they could taste was frosting. Overall, I really enjoyed making this recipe, although it was a little more time consuming than some of the others, my peers enjoyed eating it! It was a win both ways!
ELAP - Honeybee Assistance
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

We all hope that our honeybees are doing well throughout the year, however, in the case that they aren't due to one of the following adverse weather or loss conditions, you may be eligible to file for assistance:

- Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)
- Earthquake
- Eligible winter storm
- Excessive wind
- Flood
- Hurricane
- Lightening
- Tornado
- Volcanic eruption
- wildfire

For a full fact sheet, please go to:
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/803a53_67a24e135689484d88e64a58db883a31.pdf

Contact your local Farm Service Agency for more information

Things to Think about:

- Order your fall mite treatment now so it's here and ready when you are
- Get ahold of honey bottles and lids you may need before harvest
- Stop by your local hardware store that mixes paint; check for any mis-tinted paints to paint your boxes, there is usually a large discount
- Watch for information regarding Apiary classes for the Iowa State Fair
- Look for information regarding the Fall Annual Conference and Meeting in the coming editions of The Buzz
- Follow the IHPA and the Iowa Honey Queen Program on Facebook
The short crop from 2021 and the antidumping suit have combined to push prices upward. I’m guessing they will fall off again when the new crop comes in—that’s assuming it will be better than 2021. With climate change and the confusing world situation, it is hard to predict what will happen. My crystal ball has always been a little cloudy, even in more certain times.

I happened to be down on Highway 34 on June 2. Yellow sweet clover and trefoil were blooming profusely. I have yet to see any around Lynnville. In years past, it was not uncommon to make a box of honey in the late May/early June time frame. That comes mostly from what I refer to as woodland bloom. We have not had any of that for several years. I have always considered June as the month of maximum bloom. Sweet clover (yellow and white), trefoil, basswood, Dutch clover, etc, all bloom in June. However, July is when we have been getting most of our honey. Soybeans are about all that is left when we get into that time frame. Beans went in late this year so we have some prospects for a late flow. We have been pulling out supers starting in the third week of July in order to get mite treatments in. We will be due for another oxalic pad in late July. If mites are testing low (1 or 2/300 bees) I might be tempted to leave a super on later. Every time you change something, it creates a new problem. If we leave boxes on, extracting lasts later. We lose most of the Lynnville help when school starts. We will have to figure out how to handle that.

In conclusion, plan ahead. Here is hoping for a good crop.

Written by Phil Ebert

I tried writing something for last month but I didn’t like it. I asked myself if it was worth reading. The answer was no. I hit “delete.” I don’t know if this will be better. I am not feeling inspired. A lot of my thoughts and conversations revolve around Varroa mites. You are probably sick of that by now but it is the single most important issue. Granted, there are other issues out there but without mite control, your bees are dead! We are continuing with the extended release oxalic pads. We have the 2nd round in now. We have also given an oxalic dribble. Sometimes things seem to work until they don’t but I am hopeful for this. It will be a big plus if we can keep hard chemicals out of the hives. We are going to have to give Randy Oliver a big donation if this works. We will start testing for mites in July. Things always look good this time of year. We will lose colonies to queen failure thru the summer. Then September comes and reality sets in. Some will crash and others will just never amount to anything. If we could hold our overall loss to 30%, I would be ecstatic.

I don’t know how many colonies we have. I’m guessing in the 1800-2000 range. The boys made splits in California and made more after the bees came back to Iowa. We have sold off some bees. Cash flow is always a good thing. We started supering right at the end of May. Andy Cody helps us in his spare time. Some of his colonies stored some surplus in late May. We were worried about finding help for Mt Vernon. Adam placed an ad on Indeed.com and got many responses. He was able to hire two guys that have worked out so far.

Have you ever thought about how easy it is to lose money in beekeeping? For every colony that fails to make a box of honey, that is a loss of, at least, $120. It is a lot more than that if you are selling a high dollar product at a Farmer’s Market. If there is no crop and the bees die, you are looking at a loss of $300 or so. You are out the cost of the bees, syrup, mite treatments and labor. Sometimes, I wonder how we make any money at all. This was before prices went crazy. Margins are going to shrink. The bulk price of honey has continued to rise.
Happy Summer!

I am happy to report that our first attempt at queen rearing has appeared to be successful, thus far. We are right in the middle of mating flights right now, and will know very soon if the queens got bred, if that is the right term; I grew up on a cattle farm and raised a large amount of rabbits, and that is what we would call it. We grafted 33 tiny tiny larva in a 85 degree room, and had 12 of those actually form queen cells! I was shocked to say the least, and wasn't prepared for what to do with that many queen cells. I split our hives to make four splits, and then helped another beekeeper split their hives into four splits, and split the West Bend Mallard School into two hives, and still ended up giving two cells (one that I damaged removing from the queen cell bar) to my mentor, and our IHPA Treasurer, Lisa Montgomery. Phew, that was a lot of carefully calculated work in about a month's time. Needless to say, I am REALLY hoping that those queens stick!

My trusty "Assistant Manager," Lily H (Pictured to the right) helped with just about the whole process between softball games and working. She is a hard working, dedicated going to be 8th grader! I'm so proud of her. I was on vacation with family the weekend I was supposed to put the queen cells from the incubator into the splits. Lily and a couple of community members jumped on the opportunity to help out, and I am so grateful!

I have been posting updates about this journey on the Gilmore City-Bradgate School Garden Facebook Page, if you'd like to follow along!

We also started the Gilmore City Farmers' Market for the season, and we are almost out of our 2021 honey! Eeek, we hope that the honey flow will start for us soon here in northwest/north central Iowa. We have had a lot of rainy days recently, and then a week of really hot weather. Soon we'll be putting those supers on and we'll be off to the races, and we hope you will be too!!

Another update, the GC-B students had a blast volunteering at the Iowa State Fair last year at the IHPA booth. We'll be back again, and hope that you can find some time in your busy schedule to come volunteer, because it is so worth it!

Oh, and I'm also doing another shout out for assistance. The summer is an especially busy time for me managing our school garden, orchard, pumpkin and sunflower patches and the bees. Therefore, I am feeling a bit like I am barely staying afloat with the Buzz and membership. If you feel like you have a talent creating, organizing, soliciting donations, or if you would all have an inkling to help, or if you know of some students that would enjoy this type of work, please, please please send them my way. I am happy to train, teach and support others. There are many many things that the IHPA does, that even I don't know about, but if you would like to help, even a little, please reach out...please. You won't regret that either! The IHPA is made up of the best people, which you can be actively involved with too!

-Kelsey Wigan
ihpaeditor@gmail.com
HELP WANTED
The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, (NASDA) working with USDA is hiring FIELD STAFF.

Work is part time collecting data for the USDA/NASS. A farm background is preferred. Qualifications- a good work ethic, a self starter, and good communication skills. Starting wage is $15/hr. Mileage allowance is 58.5 cents. Find more info at Nasda.org. Call Cindy at 515-450-8573.

FOR SALE: Expanding or just starting out? Save yourself some money with good used equipment. If you are really tight, we also have some that is not so good.

Here is what we have: 6 5/8 supers with 8 drawn combs--$25, 5 11/16 supers with 8 drawn combs--$20, deep boxes--$6-$10 depending on quality, also telescoping and migratory lids, bottom boards and inner covers. Some 4-way pallets are also available--$15-$40 depending on quality. Pickup in either Mt Vernon or Lynnville. Contact Phil Ebert 641-521-6361 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net Let’s make a deal!

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WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH!

Dear Beekeepers,
I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair, however Spring is here and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching; August 11 -21. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building 2nd floor; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fund raising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success, by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc.

Each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a FREE pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2021 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone’s support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily, **8:30 am-12:30pm, 12:30pm-4:30pm and 4:30pm-8:30pm** (11-14 people are needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 11-21, we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear off slip below, or email the same details to ihpasecretary@gmail.com, or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

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

First and Last Name: _______________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________City: _______________________State: _____ Zip ______________

Phone no.: ___________________________Email address:_____________________________________

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you. (Fair dates August 11-21.)

Date or Dates: 8:30am-12:30pm 12.30pm-4:30pm 4:30pm-8:30pm

We appreciate any help you can provide!

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Ebert Honey offers competitive pricing on a full lineup of professional honey packaging supplies, featuring over 20 container and bottle styles. We welcome orders of any size! We proudly offer high quality products paired with friendly, local customer service.

Choose local pick up or convenient shipping. Our streamlined website makes ordering and shipping fast and easy!

Pick up is arranged ahead of time and is available at both of our locations. We ship via USPS, FedEx, or SpeeDee Delivery.
Deadline for submissions to The Buzz is always the 10th of the month at 11:59 p.m. the month prior to when you would like to see information published.

If writing an article for The Buzz, submissions must be 800 words or less. Pictures are encouraged!

August Buzz topics of interest:

- What do you use for mouse guards?
- Are hive entrance reducers necessary?
- Closed or open bottom boards?
- What is a memory you have from attending the Annual Meeting?
- Do you wrap your hives with anything in the winter?

Deadline to submit information for the May Edition of The Buzz

Sunday, July 10th at 11:59 p.m.

If you need assistance designing your advertisement, information is due to Kelsey Wigans one week prior, on Sunday, July 3rd at 11:59 p.m.