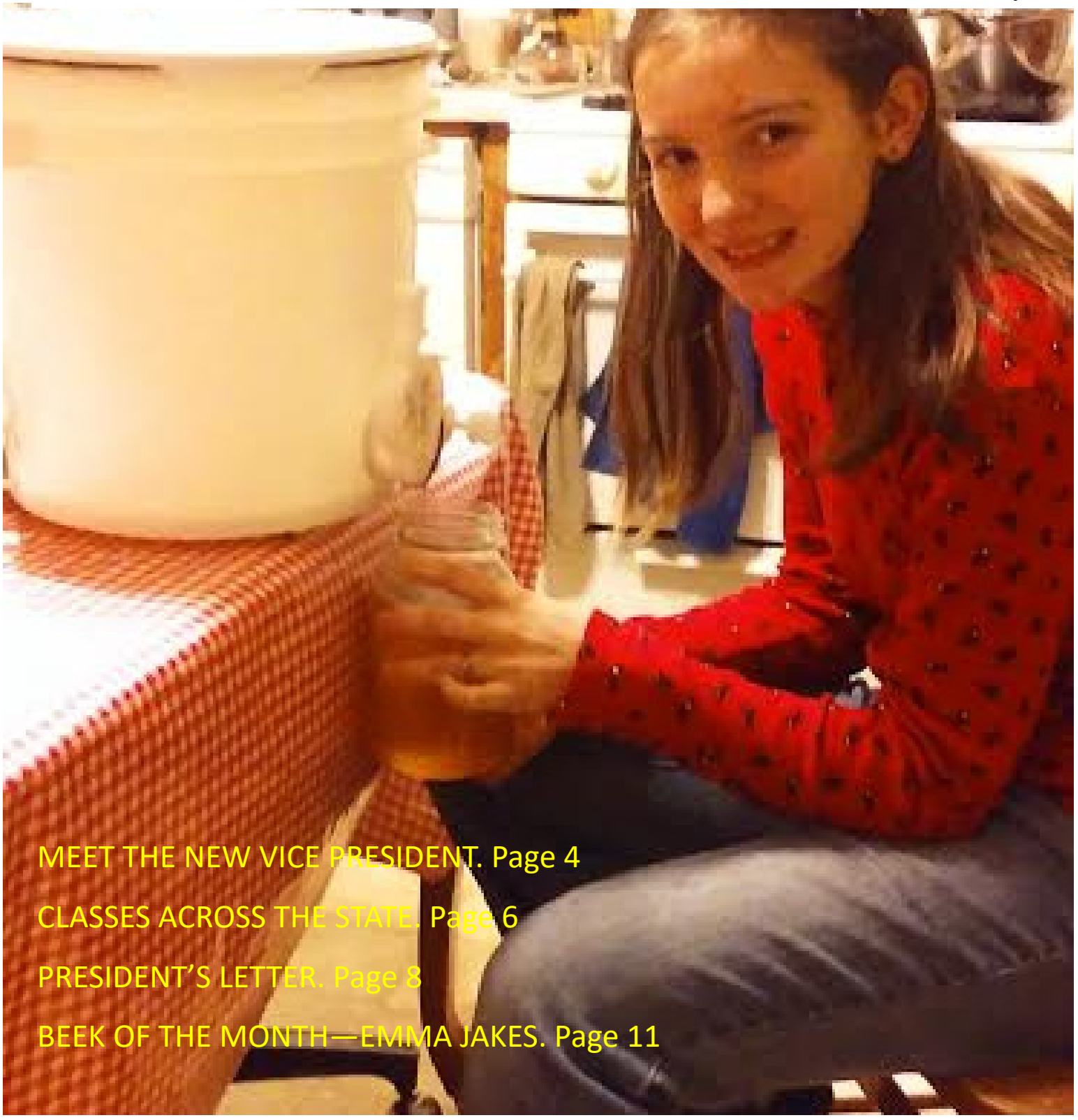
The Buzz

January 2017



MEET THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT. Page 4

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BEEK OF THE MONTH—EMMA JAKES. Page 11

Below is a list of people we recognized for their contributions to the world of beekeeping on the night of the banquet at the Annual Meeting in Cedar Rapids:

Teresa Brandenburg	Distinguished Service Award
Jodi Kraft	Distinguished Service Award
Bill and Louise Johnson	Distinguished Service Award
Eric Kenoyer	Distinguished Service Award
Lee Heine	Lifetime Membership Award
Carly Rae Vannoy	Education Award
Jacqueline Ehrlich	Outstanding Youth Award
Brandon Raasch	Outstanding Youth Award
The Vannoy Family	Friendship Award
Connie Bronnenberg	Sweepstakes Award

CONGRATULATIONS, ONE AND ALL!

Spring Valley Honey Farms

For Sale Package bees, 5 Frame Nucs & Queens. **2# & 3# Package Bees** (Carniolan or Italian Queens) We will be shaking package bees from our own hives and will be available early April through early June. **Nucs** will be available late April (Weather permitting) through early June. Prices have not been set yet but will not change significantly from our 2016 prices.

For Sale: Corn Syrup: 40# bucket--$18. 50# bucket--$23. Your container--.40/lb; 500# + .35/lb

Protein Patties: $2 each, or case of 40 $70.00
Honey: 50# $127.00 ($2.40/lb + $7—bucket)
Honey Styx: Box of 2,000--$180 (.09 ea). 500-1999 cost .12 ea. 1-499 cost .15 ea.
Spring Valley Honey Farms, Perry IA.
Connie 515-480-6076. Curt 515-480-6075

Here Comes the Queen!!

Hi! This is Carly Raye again! Since being crowned 2017 Iowa Honey Queen at the IHPA Conference, I have been busy as a bee! So far I have given 12 presentations as Iowa Honey Queen and visited three counties, Mahaska, Greene, and Marion. Although my personality lends itself more to flying-by--seat-of-my-pants planning, I am learning to schedule presentations farther in advance so as to reach the most people and have the most effective impact. It's three counties down, 96 to go! So please, line up a presentation with me! You can contact me through my Facebook page, My Honey Queen Adventure, or at my email myhoneyqueenadventure@gmail.com. Looking forward to visiting your area soon!!

BIG OLD APOLOGY!!

Linn Wilbur spoke to me (Ron Rynders) at the Annual Meeting and I agreed to run (in Dec. Buzz) an article about the **WINTER SEMINAR** that the DesMoines Backyard Beekeepers and the Central Iowa Beekeepers Assoc are putting on in January. When I got to organizing things for the December Buzz, I neglected to run the article. Now you all know why Roy published that letter we all got the other day. It's because he was graciously running cover for my error. Thanks, Roy!!

At any rate, be sure to get your registrations in for this seminar. Seating is limited to 200 people. The topics look great, pertinent to all of us. Reading Pat's Month-By-Month in this issue convinces me that these topics are good for ALL of us to hear about!!

Grab a pen and checkbook. The form is on the next page. Or check it out online at http://tinyurl.com/ja9517k .

"One can no more approach people without love than one can approach bees without care. Such is the quality of bees..."

- Leo Tolstoy

WINTER SEMINAR
REGISTRATION IS FULL

Presented by
Central Iowa Beekeepers Association &
Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

A reminder for those who have already registered:

Michael Bush, The Practical Beekeeper

Registration 9:00AM
Seminar 9:30AM -- 3:30PM
January 21, 2017

Grimes Community Center
410 Southeast Main Street
Grimes, Iowa

Topics for intermediate and advanced beekeepers will include:

Realistic Expectations

Queen Rearing and Genetics
Spring Management and Swarm Prevention

Alternative Equipment

Catered noon lunch by Hickory Park

New IHPA Vice President:

I have never run a marathon, changed a tire, belonged to a book club, owned a new car, or cooked a Thanksgiving turkey, but I am the one you have entrusted to plan your 2017 Annual Meeting. So, just who am I? My name is Eve Vanden Broek and I have called Pella home for the past 20 years. In 2005, I listened to a radio interview of Holly Bishop, author of the book *Robbing the Bees,* and was instantly captivated by the topic – and the book. It wasn't until the winter of 2010 that I pursued the interest and took my first beekeeping course.

Today, my husband Theo and I have 26 hives on our property outside Pella and two out yards selling honey out of our home. Theo has his hives and I have my own but I must admit, he was the main beekeeper this past season. Wax moths got the best of us and we vow to do better next year. I am active with the Back to Basics Beekeeping Club in Oskaloosa and relish any opportunity to educate the public about honey bees.

In winter, when the bees are clustering, I spend time researching and preparing for my next adventure. An avid world traveler, I have hiked to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, sailed the islands of Indonesia, kayaked the waters of the Tongan archipelago in Polynesia, ballooned over the Valley of the Kings in Egypt, and I find India the most culturally enriching country I have ever visited. In fact, I'm returning for a third time at the end of December.

I grew up in Cedar Rapids and graduated from Central College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French having studied two years in Paris, France. Following an eight year stint in banking in Chicago, Theo and I eloped to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Currently, I am the executive assistant to the president and chief lending officer at Bankers Trust in Des Moines. A Master Gardener since 2004 and past president of the Russ O'Harra Hosta Society, this passionate beekeeper is not afraid to get her hands dirty and is just as proud of her compost as she is her bees.

Eve Vander Broek, IHPA Vice President

For Sale: 2lb. and 3lb. packages with unmarked Italian or Carniolan queens. Pick-up in West Chester, IA or Sullivan, WI Loads arriving early-April through mid-May. Price: TBD
Call Tim Wilbanks 319-321-2494 or order through website: www.kalonahoney.com
Kalona Honey Co., LLC, 2104 Hemlock Ave, West Chester, IA 52359
Heritage Honeybee, LLC, PO Box 117, Sullivan, WI 53178

For sale – 2 or 3 lb. packages of bees with queen. Delivered to Indian Creek Nature Center or Aurora. Douglas Child. Call 319-634-3682 or Childbees@gmail.com

What's all the buzz?

Congratulations to Erin Miller of ***Bee a Part … Bee Together*** who in December received her Master Beekeeping Certificate through the University of Montana. Way to go!

Iowa Honey Producers Association Membership Form

First Membership ($20)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____-_____ County: _____ Phone: ( ) _____

Email: _____

Number of Colonies: ____ Number of Years Beekeeping: ____ Company Name: _____

Second Family Member (Same address, $5)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

First Membership Dues Includes a one-year subscription to The Buzz Newsletter.	$20.00	$ _____
Second Family Member Dues Only one copy of The Buzz Newsletter is sent per address.	$5.00	$ _____

If you choose NOT to receive a paper copy of The Buzz Newsletter, please check the box. [ ]

IHPA T-Shirts

The logo t-shirts are a bright yellow shirt with black lettering. The new Keep Calm and Keep Bees t-shirts are now available also. Prices include shipping.

BACK

BACK

Lime Green w/ black lettering _____ Pink w/ black lettering _____

Black w/ yellow lettering _____ (Please specify color).

Youth Sizes: (S) (M) (L) circle a size	Qty. _____	X	$13.00 =	$_____
Adult Sizes: (S) (M) (L) (XL) circle a size	Qty. _____	X	$15.00 =	$_____
Adult Sizes: (XL) (XXL) circle a size	Qty. _____	X	$17.00 =	$_____

To see when your IHPA membership expires, check the mailing label on The Buzz Newsletter. Above your name will be the month and year your membership is set to expire.

Example:

Buzz Expires: 12/31/16

John Smith
1234 Green Grass Rd.
Wonderful, IA 54321

Make checks payable to: **Iowa Honey Producers Association**
Send form and check to: c/o Rhonda Heston, Treasurer
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049

Total $_____

IHPA
Iowa Honey Producers Association

Beginning and Advanced Beekeeping Courses to be Offered Across the State of Iowa, 2017.
See Web site for more information @www.iowahoneyproducers.org

City and Time	Start Date	To Register
Ankeny, Thursday evenings	Jan 26 – Mar 2	Andrew Joseph: 515-326-5765 (call / text) or Andrew.Joseph@ IowaAgriculture.gov
Albia, Tuesday evening	Jan 10-Feb 21	Sheila @ 641-891-2268 / Jerry @ 641-891-4071
Calmar, Tuesday evenings	Jan 24 – Feb 28	NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380
Cedar Rapids, Indian Creek Nature Center	Through the year	To register: 319-362-0664 or indiancreeknaturecenter.org/
Council Bluffs	April 22-May 6	Iowa Western Comm. College 712-325-3255
Davenport, Tuesday evenings	Feb 7 – Mar 14	Eastern Iowa Community College
Des Moines, Blank Park Zoo Saturday mornings Q/A	February 18	https://commed.dmps.k12.ia.us/wconnect/ace/currentclasses.htm
Des Moines Botanical Garden Tuesday evening Q/A	April 4	http://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com/events-programs/adult-education/
Des Moines, Merrill Middle School, Monday evenings	Jan 23 – Feb 27 Mar 27– May 1	https://commed.dmps.k12.ia.us/wconnect/ace/currentclasses.htm
W. Des Moines, Thurs evening	Jan 26-Mar2	http://www.wdmcs.org/commed/programs/adults/learnwest/
Fairfield, Thursday evenings	Feb – March	Jefferson Co Extension / Coleen @ 641-472-4166
Fort Dodge, Saturday morn.	Jan 7-Feb 4	Yvonne @ 515-835-9326 or e-mail: Yvonne@iastate.edu
Fort Dodge, Advanced Saturday afternoon	Jan 28th	Yvonne @ 515-835-9326 or e-mail: Yvonne@iastate.edu
Fredericksburg, Saturdays	Jan 14, Jan 21	Mary Wiltgen @ 563-920-9628 / tmwiltgen@gmail.com
Indianola, Thursday evenings	Feb 2-Mar 23	Judy Spence: 515-988-8397 / Jespencejr44@gmail.com
Iowa Falls, Tuesday evenings	Jan 24-Feb 28	Rachael Koehler: 1-800-284-4823 / 641-752-4645
Keosauqua, Monday evenings	March 1-22	Van Buren Co Extension / 319-293-3039
Knoxville, Tuesday evenings	Jan 12-Feb 23	Jerry Weldon @ 641-842-5888
Marshalltown, Thursday evenings	Jan 26-Mar 2	Rachael Koehler: 800-284-4823/641-752-4645 / Room 612
Mason City, Saturday morning	Feb 4-Feb 25	NIACC Continuing Education: 641-422-4358
Okoboji, Saturday all day	Feb 11	Marlene @ 712-320-1907 / Tim Olsen @ 507-227-5919
Okoboji, Advanced, Saturday all day	March 11	Marlene @ 712-320-1907 / Tim Olsen @ 507-227-5919
Oskaloosa, Friday evenings	Jan 20- Mar 3	Tina / Jim Marshall @641-660-0983
Ottumwa, Tuesday evenings	Jan 17-Feb 2	Great Prairie Area Ed. Agency - Jen Daugherty 641-682-5491
Peosta, Thursday evenings	Jan 26-Mar2	NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380
Polk City, Tuesday evenings	Jan 24-Feb 28	Ray & Susan Meylor @ 515-619-9014 / cherryglenfarmsiowa@gmail.com
Polk City, Saturday mornings	Jan 28-Mar 4	Ray & Susan Meylor @ 515-619-9014 / cherryglenfarmsiowa@gmail.com
Sioux Center, Thursday evenings	Feb 9-Mar2	Dordt College 712-722-6275
Toddville, Mondays thru year	Jan 9-	Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses @gmail.com
Toddville, Advanced, Sat & Sun	March 4-5	Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses @gmail.com
Toddville, Queen Rearing	June 24-25	Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses @gmail.com
Washington, Monday evening	Feb 6-Feb 27	Kirkwood Comm. College, 319-653-4655
Waterloo, Wed. evenings	Jan 25-May 3	Hawkeye Comm. College, 319-296-4290

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 Iowa Department of Agriculture

Thoughts from Eve

It may no longer be Thanksgiving or Christmas but let us not forget to once again give thanks to those who organized and helped put on an excellent 2016 Annual Meeting. Thank you to our gracious and good-humored speakers. Thank you to those who donated auction items, who helped create the Bee Quilt, or entered the cooking, mead, and photography contests; thank you to those who offered to be a mentor to the our youth scholarship recipients; and thanks to those who came from far and wide to attend; we couldn't have held a winning event without you.

Whether you know it or not, to bring you a successful Annual Meeting, the planning begins the moment the current one has ended. My predecessors, Mary Wiltgen, Eli Kalke, Roy Kraft, Pat Ennis, and others, have all done a phenomenal job. It's clear to me: I have some big shoes to fill and there is no time to waste. If you took the time to fill out an evaluation; thank you. I have just read through them all and I'd like to share some of the themes:

All speakers were well-received
More spacious seating is needed
Breakout sessions were appreciated
Move meeting to central Iowa
You'd like on-line access to presentations
Auction items, including live auction, were great
Banquet ran long

I know from my experience of planning events, you cannot please everyone and you cannot plan for situations beyond your control, such as the fire drill we all participated in during the social hour. Our membership is flourishing and one of the growing pains is to find a location large enough to accommodate our size without putting a cost burden on attendees. For 2017, I can assure you the venue selected, the Gateway Church of the Nazarene located in Oskaloosa, should prove an improvement for space and comfort. The audio/visual equipment is state of the art and our own Jim Marshall will be our on-site technician. There are screens inside the large meeting room AND there are screens located in the wide hall outside the meeting room where I envision the vendors will be located. The chairs in the main meeting room have wide padded seats and backs, and ladies, there are 9 stalls in the women's restroom. However, with the change of venue from a hotel environment to a conference center environment, there are some gives and takes. What we are giving up is a more state central location. Yes, my predecessors have visited the venues you suggested on previous years' evaluation forms. It all comes down to room sizes; some will have plenty of banquet room space, but not enough room to accommodate our meeting space needs, or vice versa. Let us not forget other events going on at the same time squeezing hotel room space and service to a minimum. We are also giving up a hotel room being just down the hall. In Oskaloosa, you will have to drive to your hotel, though not far. Overall, I believe we will get more than we give up, but in the end you will be the judge.

Rest assured, your comments have been heard and all will be taken into consideration. With an event the size it has become, I'll have to rely on more volunteer participation. So, if on the evaluation you offered to help at the annual meeting, you can be assured I will contact you. Mary has suggested committees for the various aspects of our event: an excellent idea indeed. If you feel passionate about finding an excellent choice of vendors, or you have a penchant for door prizes, or maybe you want to have a hand in what is served for dinner--I can use your help!

Lastly, I want thank Jim Marshall for bringing the church venue option up to the board and I thank him and his wife Tina for spending three hours with me as we visited the space and discussed ideas on how to bring a great event to you in 2017. The planning has just begun. More to come

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA Vice President

PRECIOUSBEES FARM

3# PACKAGE BEES WITH ITALIAN QUEENS.18 APRIL & 10 MAY DELIVERY, WEATHER DEPENDENT. WILL ALSO HAVE REPLACEMENT QUEENS IN MAY.
TAKING ORDERS FOR COMPLETE BEE HIVES MANUFACTURED IN IOWA-$250.00.WE ALSO MANUFACTURE OXALIC ACID VAPORIZERS FOR VARROA TREATMENT- $100.00.
PH.# 319-400-4228
1828 Y AVE.
HOMESTEAD,IOWA 52236
PRECIOUSBEESFARM@AOL.COM

President's Report

Can you believe we are in 2017 ! I guess it is just another year closer to retirement. If you can look back at 2016 and say my bees are better than 2015 was, then you have had a better year than I had. I will say I know my mistakes and will learn from them. I am very much looking forward to spring and making splits and raising a few queens. I don't want more than I can handle. My honey market is strong and I want to be able to fill this.

The IHPA will be going through some new stuff in 2017. I will say we are going through the way we bid, consign, or get honey to the booth at the state fair. This is in the process of a major overhaul. I will not get into much this month but I will say, we all will understand this better than we have in the past. I feel there is room for more beekeepers to bring honey or products to the fair. I feel the committee that I have put together is working hard and is finding success in something I hope is appealing to more people. With board approval, I hope to announce this very, very soon. We need big beekeepers at the fair and also want there to be a place for the small guy too. Then when it all is over we all shake hands and do it again next year.

I can't stop thinking about annual meeting we had in Cedar Rapids this last November. We tried some new things that really worked great and Eve is looking at it all closely, I know. We had a round table discussion at 2015 meeting about wintering bees in cold climates. We got a lot out of that too. What would be another topic for a round table? 515 293-2458. Call me if you got one.

The fall we have been having has me with some light hives. Last year I made sugar syrup super thick and put it in the very thin 1 gallon baggie bags. (Syrup was like cake frosting consistency) The bees chewed the bags up and ate the stuff great. Was a good winter mix. This year I forgot to buy the bags, so I've found a new use for those thin Walmart bags. Ha , beekeeper frugal moment!! I use a shim under the inner cover about 1.5 to 2 inches of room so putting in winter patties or pollen fits fine. I've found bees don't make much burr comb in winter, but remove them 1st thing come spring!!

I am going to end this write-up short this month and I know I will have lots to chat about next month. So I hope your bees are snug in the hive and they are ready for that January thaw or early February day when they make cleansing flights! I try hard then to peek in and see if another shot of food is needed or put in pollen then. This I feel is critical as a lot of bees starve at that time. More next month.

Bee careful, Bee honest, Bee yourself!
Good night! Roy Kraft, President IHPA

FOR SALE: Honey by the bucket or barrel. Pick up in Mt Vernon or Lynnville. Contact Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or ehoney37@netins.net or contact Adam Ebert 319-430-3514 or fiddler171@gmail.com

Bee-Musings from Mary (District 3)

At the time of this writing, we are busily getting our bees ready for winter. It has been a pretty late venture this fall since summer seemed to linger longer than usual. Wouldn't complain except this beautifully, gorgeous autumn we were experiencing really kept the bees working and producing way past nature's ability to nurture them! I thought our children used to eat us out of house and home; but, now, the bees are filling that empty nest syndrome and doing it!

Fast forward to present day January. Christmas is history and our prayer for you is that you each did enjoy and were blessed by 'His Story.' And, those New Year Resolutions…revised or forgotten? Welcome to 2017. A new year, a new 'bee'gining for us all in the bee world. We will be checking our hives to make sure they are still enjoying the fruit of their labors – honey.
And, if in low supply, will restock their shelves by adding to the candy boards we put on in December. It is so important to make sure your bees have food ALL winter long. Remember, bees like to move vertically up the hive so have something 'up north' for them. One would think they would just go to where their honey is stored but that is not the case. 'Bee' prepared to feed 'em!

January is a time for beekeepers to relax just a bit. As for us, we are excited to be teaching a beekeeping class. As a retired teacher, it gets me back into the classroom, which I enjoy and, as a beekeeper, it gives us the opportunity to hone up on our bee knowledge and share it with others. If you have taken a class in the past, don't stop there. Take another. We took Pat's class twice! It is amazing how much more you learn when you have a little bit of knowledge about what you are hearing again. I predict YOU will pick up more than you ever thought possible and even be able to answer some of those questions asked in class! Check out all the classes available online at www.iowahoneyproducers.org.

January is also a great time to be planning for the new bee season that will be coming. We have spent many cold, snowy days in our wonderfully warm, cozy home building and painting hive bodies, putting together frames, and dreaming of our upcoming 'bee'-ventures! Planning ahead keeps you from 'bee'coming a '4P' person. But, don't get too upset if you are, we have been and unfortunately still find us in the 'piss poor prior planning' state when we weren't exactly ready for what our 'ba-bees' need. So, we do spend this time of year trying to get a grip on what our needs will 'bee.'

(Mary cont…)

As your District 3 Director, I look forward to sharing news from our District. If you have anything exciting happening, please let me know so it can be shared in *The Buzz*. Now, District 3 includes 16 counties. I see only one beekeeping club in District 3 and that is the East Central Iowa Beekeepers at Iowa City. I hope to make it down to a meeting or two and would love to report the happenings from this group of beekeepers. I do know there are several beekeeping clubs just on the outside of our parameters and would encourage you all to attend these meetings. We travel to the North Iowa Beekeeping Club in Mason City and have learned so much from our fellow beekeepers there. Don't feel that crossing District lines is a problem at all! Learning and sharing is most important. If you live in District 3, please feel free to call, text, or email me with concerns or needs. Let me know what's happening in your bee world.

Finally, sure hoping your new year is going great and that your bees are doing even better. Enjoy the time off from your beeduties, stay warm, and have a great 2017.

From Royden Brown: "Unique among all God's creatures, only the honeybee improves the environment and preys not on any other species."

'Bee' grateful, 'Bee' blessed, and 'Bee' a blessing,

Mary Wiltgen, District 3 Director
tmwiltgen@gmail.com 563.920.9628

Package Bees: (Prices and availability mid January)
Once again we are shipping in 3lb & 2lb package bees with mated Carniolan Queens the first part of April. Discounts pricing for larger orders!

Carniolan Queens: (Prices and availability mid January)
These are for pick-up only and available the same weekend that packages will be here. Along with grabbing packages, we will also be bringing back mated queens with us.

Russian Nucleus Hives: $152
Five frame nuc will have 4 drawn frames with bees, honey, and mated queen. A 5th frame of foundation for expansion space and temperature control. Please note that all frames are standard Langstroth deeps.

Russian Mated Queens: $40
Queens are all marked by default and can be shipped or picked-up in Des Moines. Discounts for larger orders!

Hive Kits: $240
Kits include 2 deeps, 2 mediums, all the wax coated frames, division board feeder, cover, inner cover, bottom, and reducer.

To Order, go to www.RussianBee.com

Iowa State Extension and Outreach is sponsoring
Beekeeping classes:
Classes will meet 4 Saturday mornings from 9 to noon. (Jan. 7, 14, 28, and Feb. 4 with Feb. 11 reserved if snow date)
All classes held at Webster County ISU Extension & Outreach located at 217 S. 25th Street, Fort Dodge, IA (South east corner Crossroads Mall).
The instructor will be Roy Kraft, Goldfield, IA Beekeeper/ Honey Producer, President Iowa Honeybee Association.
Class size is limited to the first 30 paid registrants. Cost (make checks to "ISUE") $35 – Individual, $45 – Family (Family registration includes one set of print materials).
To register, contact your local Region 7 ISU Extension & Outreach Office or Yvonne McCormick, ISU Extension Horticulturist serving Hamilton, Humboldt, Webster & Wright Counties. Cell phone: 515-835-9326. Email: yvonne@iastate.edu

Legos and Bees??

There are Lego Leagues around the state who compete in engineering ideas, and several have swarmed into the beek world with creative ideas. The Riceville Lego League has designed a waterer. The Cedar Rapids group develops educational posters and mounts them in box stores. The Johnston/Waukee group has created the Thunder Hive—more tech stuff in one hive than you can imagine: cameras to monitor movement, entrance applicators that anoint incoming bees with anti-mite powder, heaters that make it tough for mites but tolerable for bees, scales to monitor weight, and the list goes on. (Go to their website—https://www.facebook.com/fllteamthunder/) It's great to see the youth becoming more and more aware of the plight of the honey bee. And thanks to all the Lego League participants and their leaders—may your tribe increase!

My New Year's Beekeeping Resolutions

– By Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA Vice President

It's the start of a New Year. Do you have a Beekeeper's Resolution? Even if you don't, every beekeeper has goals, something they vow to do better, or something new they want to try or learn. I have found if I do not write my goals down, the less likely I am to achieve them. For the record, here are a few of my beekeeping resolutions for 2017.

1. **Continue to Learn** – I have let my subscriptions to Bee Culture and the American Bee Journal lapse. It's time to renew those subscriptions and make the time read at least half of the articles. I also want to take advantage of the Kim & Jim Show (sponsored by Bee Culture) where I am guaranteed to walk away with five key insights to help me become a better beekeeper.

2. **Size Management** – Fact: My husband Theo and I both work full time. Fact: The bees don't care that I'm tired after work. Fact: The bees will swarm. Whether I split every hive that makes it through winter and whether I capture every swarm from my hives, I resolve to sell those I cannot manage properly. What I earn will help pay for new product.

3. **Bee Proactive** – To minimize the risk of major wax moth infestations, which plagued me in 2016 (lazy beekeepers), I'll watch for signs of a weak hive and immediately combine it with another. I'll also nudge Theo to put up more swarm boxes early in the season and then nudge him take them down once the swarming season is over (again, to avoid wax moth issues). Lastly, I'd like to try Michael Bush's advice to avoid the moths pretty much altogether and harvest late. Remember, he wrote the book on practical beekeeping.

4. **Bottle/Label Immediately** – A procrastinator I am not, except when it comes to bottling and labeling honey. I don't know why; it's a job I rather enjoy. For this year, I aim to bottle and label honey the day I extract and I will replenish sizes immediately so my honey heater is always full and ready for every sale.

5. **Pay It Forward** – Take on the role as a mentor. I was fortunate to receive advice and help from beekeepers in my area, one in particular. Without their guidance and support, I'd be still studying the Dadant catalog. And for all those who have helped make previous Summer Field Day events and Annual Meetings huge successes, it's my turn to show you how much I have valued and enjoyed these events.

P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc.

January Special - Unassembled Hive Kits

2 – 9 5/8 Hive bodies w/ wood frames and rite-cell foundation

2 – 6 5/8 honey supers w/ wood frames and rite-cell foundation

Also includes 1 assembled telescoping cover w/inner cover and

1 assembled solid bottom board w/entrance reducer

Unassembled is $198.00 or assembled & painted - $258.00

Pat & Peggy Ennis, 2105 110th St Goodell, IA 50439, 641-444-4767

flat_lander@lycos.com

Promoting the beekeeping craft since 1981

January Beek of the Month—Emma Jakes

Our family is proof that the youth scholarship program is bringing new beekeepers into the organization.

Emma Jakes got her start at the side of her brother Peter, a 2012 youth scholar. He mentored her and shared bees with her. As he got busy with work, Emma took over his apiary.

Emma then moved a hive of bees to her grandparents' house near Pella. They enjoyed the bees so much, they decided to get bees of their own and attended classes to learn to care for them.

This year Emma's older sister Grace caught a swarm while Emma was gone one day. Now Emma is mentoring Grace in caring for bees. Their younger sister Katie is hoping to catch a swarm in the spring.

Emma and Grace didn't want to be competitors in the honey market, so Emma decided to produce plain honey, lip balm, and lotion. Grace decided to make creamed honey.

Emma mainly sells honey from her three hives to a local roadside stand, but also has a loyal group of customers who order from her. She sells her lotions and lip balms at the IHPA booth at the state fair and at Indianola Farmer's Market, where she also sells her own line of hand-made pottery.

Art has always been part of Emma's life and when she saw someone doing pottery at the state fair, she was hooked. She took classes at the Des Moines Art Center. After the class was over, her mentor helped her find a free kiln and a used wheel. Thrown Rose Pottery was born. Emma's necklaces are sold at Campbell's Nutrition. Necklaces and other pottery are sold at Indianola Farmer's Market. Emma also donated three original honey pots to the IHPA Queen Auction this year.

Cooking is something else Emma likes to do. She has really enjoyed getting to try out recipes from the new IHPA cookbook and then review them for The Buzz. Her favorite recipe so far has been the lemon-blueberry muffins.

She gets to put her cooking skills to use making coffee, and sometimes snacks, for the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa classes and meetings, which she really enjoys.

Rounding out her enterprises, Emma also raises rare Silver Fox rabbits with her sister Grace. Right now Emma has six rabbits. Since rabbits are really good at math, especially multiplying, that number changes a lot.

Being homeschooled helps Emma take advantage of good bee working weather in the middle of the day. That helps keep her town bees, and her neighbors, happy.

Two years of 4H presentations on beekeeping have helped Emma to get the word out to a larger group about the importance of bee keeping and providing habitat for all pollinators. Since she is a freshman now, she hopes she will get more chances to share her love of bees with others.

Emma's January Recipes (IHPA Cookbooks make great gifts, even after the holidays!)

Hot Chocolate makes a delicious drink for those cold winter days.

Honey hot cocoa (PAGE 162)

½ cup honey

½ cup water

3 cups hot low-fat milk

½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

In small saucepan, combine honey, cocoa powder, and water; mix well. Cook over low heat for 5 minutes, or until mixture is slightly thickened. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla. Set aside until ready to serve. To serve, stir chocolate into hot milk, 4 servings.

Hot chocolate is a really yummy drink to cozy-up with this time of year. This hot chocolate was really simple to make although you need to keep a close eye on the chocolate to keep it from getting too thick while heating. My mom really liked doubling the milk when we made it but everyone agreed, this recipe is a keeper.

Honey Butter – Variation

1 cup soft butter

1 cup honey

Cream honey and butter together in medium bowl. Can add 1 teaspoon cinnamon, beat mixture until fluffy. You can also add 1 cup chopped toasted pecans, stir until well blended. Carefully spoon into sterilized jar. Refrigerated up to 1 month.

The honey butter took about five minutes to mix up and was very tasty. It's really good on toast, bread, biscuits and so many other things. This recipe works with both crystallized honey and liquid honey.

Month by Month, January

Welcome 2017!! I love the optimism, and hope for change that a new year brings. *"This is the year"…* I'll get my taxes done early, work less and spend more time with my wife-husband-family , call my mother more, keep the house cleaner, lose weight, keep my blood pressure-good –bad cholesterol numbers in check, not lose my temper, give to charity, get organized, finish those honey do's. You get the idea!!

Optimism, hope, changes. For Peggy and me, trying to balance work and "us" time is always a challenge. Peggy's folks have health challenges. I see changes in the horizon for them and the rest of the family, and I notice when I get up each morning, it takes a cup or two of coffee to get us going. It seems as the new years come and go, our optimism, hopes and the change we want, change too!! Sometimes, we get to choose to changes and sometimes life chooses for us!! Another first change for us is with our bees--they are now out of Iowa's cold and basking in the California sun, waiting for the almonds to bloom, which starts happening in February on the early almond varieties. It was a bit stressful (lots of optimism, hope and prayer there!) to watch someone drive off our driveway with our livelihood on the back!

Last month we talked a little about how to get better bees or should I say, bees that aren't tolerant of mites. (Better genetics, breeding resistant stocks of bees, i.e., ankle biters, hygienic, or whatever it takes. Change, that's where we will start this month. The American Bee Journal (ABJ), for the last 3 months has specifically brought us articles on this. In October, Meghan Milbrath, PHD, had an article on *"Varroa Mite Monitoring"* on how to check your hives for mites. This is how we need to start this process! We need to know our mite levels to see if we have a problem. Again in the October ABJ, Tom & Fran Davidson's article on "*100% Overwintering Success in Ohio"* told us that they overwintered 62! hives with 100% success. They attributed this success to good preparation and using good local or Ohio queen--or "better genetics". And don't forget M.E.A. McNeil's Part I, *"Bomb vs. Bond"* the *"live and let die"* method. It talked about what....you guessed it: breeding better bees!

Now to Randy Oliver's November article, *"The Varroa Problem, Part I",* where he talked about how varroa has become resistant to chemicals so fast and why we're reluctant to use resistant stocks of bees, when we do have them - the VSH (Varroa Sensitive Hygiene) or the Russian stock, or even the ankle biters. And don't forget, part II of M.E.A. McNeil's *"Bomb Vs Bond"*. This one caught my eye--a commercial beekeeper who runs hives from the Dakotas to Texas has quit chemical treatment for 13 years now and last year he only lost 7% of his hives. That's 72 out of 1088. (He lost 70+% of his hives his first year. This would hit the pocket book hard! Ouch!!)

Then in December of the ABJ, you guessed it, Randy Oliver's part 2 & part 3 of *"The Varroa Problem".* In Part 2, Randy made this practical application: *"People resist any sort of change until it simply becomes too painful to continue doing things 'the old way'. My hope is that the expected worsening of the varroa problem will finally kick-start us into adopting the long term solution--Better Breeding".*

And then Meghan Milbrath's article in December's ABJ, "*Your Bees Don't Have to Die". "How can we become treatment –free without killing our colonies"*? This one is worth getting and reading. Meghan says you need 3 things to make this work. 1. A good system for taking notes. 2. A method for monitoring for mites and 3. A reputable source for good queens. I can't write everything here I like about this article, but briefly: you only keep low-count mite hives in your operation and anything that looks sick or with high mite counts you replace that queen with the good source queens. (better genetics)

So if you look back, I have given you about a page worth of information from articles by Meghan Milbrath, Randy Oliver, M.E.A. McNeil and Tom & Fran Davidson from the October, November and Decembers' ABJ to hopefully get you and me thinking about what we are doing with our bees. Do they have high mite counts? Deformed wing virus (DWV)? Did they die already? Did you lose many of your hives?

It's time for beekeepers, myself included, to stop and rethink what we are doing. Case in point: these bee researchers all think we need to breed better bees, (VSH, SMR, Minnesota Hygienic, Mite Resistant or Russian). As I flipped through the pages of the ABJ to find such bees, I found around 43 producers selling queens, but just 11 of the 43 producers selling queens with the traits we want and need. Why are there not more of these kinds of producers? I am thinking to myself.

There are clubs and people around the state working on producing their own queens that will survive Iowa's winters with mite counts that are low. Next month I will talk about that.

If you're working on this very thing, please give me a call, I would like to write about it. I know the North Iowa Bee Club and Northwest Iowa Beekeepers are working on this project too, using Ankle Biter and SMR queens. It's going to be a long-term commitment. You don't just buy a queen and everything is fixed. I'd enjoy hearing from you if you are going down this path also, if you are willing to share your experience.

Till next month, Bee Happy, Bee Kind and Bee Yourself! Pat.

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.

BeeLaws.org update

The initial report was submitted to IDALS and met the Dec. 1 deadline. It included all research results from earlier issues of The Buzz. This article focuses on the user survey from Oct. 2016.

The survey gave us demographic information and showed that users of BeeLaws.org are overwhelmingly Iowa bee keepers.

The survey also revealed that the website assisted 15% of users to expand their apiary.

Deeper analysis also shows us the twenty most visited webpages/cities, from most to least visited from Jan. 1 through Oct. 31, 2016: Des Moines, West Des Moines, Urbandale, Ames, Ankeny, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Adel, Davenport, Waukee, Sioux City, Altoona, Waterloo, Indianola, Newton, Bettendorf, and Marion. Of these cities, the following had many pageviews but no local beginning beekeeping class was held in 2016: Des Moines, West Des Moines, Ames, Waterloo, Newton, Bettendorf and Marion.

The final report will be submitted to IDALS this spring. At that time, attendance for 2017 beginning beekeeping classes will be reportable.
Julia McGuire

FOR SALE: Package bees and nucs. Prices to be set in January. Package bees available in early April to be picked up in Lynnville. Nucs available in early to mid-May They can be picked up in either Lynnville or Mt Vernon. Contact Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or ehoney37@netins.net or contact Adam Ebert 319-430-3514 or fiddler171@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE … **The IHPA Summer Field Day date has been set … Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 15 at the Wickiuphill Learning Center located in Toddville, Iowa, north of Cedar Rapids about 12 miles. More details to follow.**

Pollinator Posters – Food for Thought

If you attended the annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, you may have picked up the 2016 Pollinator Poster "Trees *for* Bees". Here's the link http://www.pollinator.org/poster2016 with detailed information regarding the trees and bees on the poster as well as information on the artist, credits and related projects. The posters have made nice door prizes for our local bee club meetings and I can't think of a group of people more deserving of this year's poster than beekeepers. My husband and I have a small collection of pollinator posters in our garage and wish we had some of the earlier posters that are now out of print. Fortunately, I have been able to download and print some of the older posters on 8 x 11 photo paper and have been very pleased with the results, especially with the "Bounty of Bees" 2008 poster.
As I write this, I feel compelled to share some concerns regarding policies within Iowa that are not supporting beekeepers. In particular, the state has been cutting down acres of trees on public land in an effort to return the land to prairie. Linden/Basswood trees thrive near waterways and have often been targeted. These large stately trees are great for our pollinators, especially honey bees which produce a light minty honey from the summer blooms of these trees. I do not have a list of all the tree species that have been targeted, but suspect that honey bees, beekeepers, and other pollinators are not being thought about in this process. As someone originally from the mountains of East Tennessee, I probably have a different perspective on trees. I've always valued trees as plants that produce oxygen which we all need, as well as food and habitat for so many of God's other critters. Since becoming a beekeeper, I now see the value of trees to our pollinators and honey bees. It takes a long time to grow an old tree and Iowa does not have an abundance of trees.

Thank You for Reading…. Sheila Weldon

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.comrrihpa@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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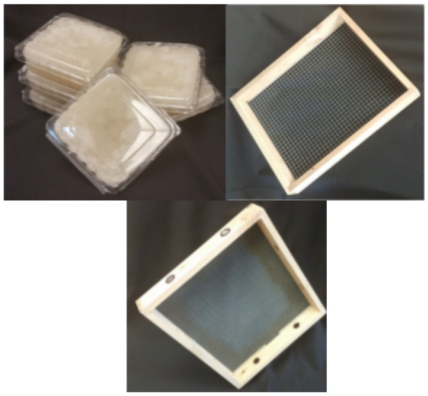

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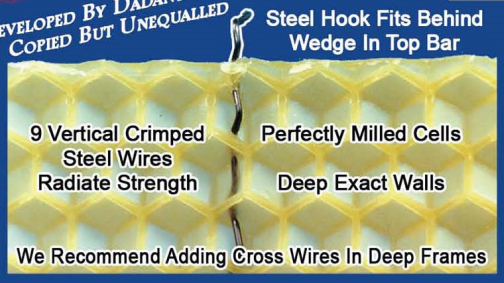

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The Buzz Newsletter

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