



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



July 2014



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Donation Proposal Form pg 12



July 12th—IHPA Summer Field Day— Perry, IA
August 7th-17th—Iowa State Fair
November 14th-15th—IHPA Annual Meeting—Marshalltown, IA



For Sale: Medium and Deep boxes with frames (no foundations) \$35.00 each. Also have Bottoms, Lids, and other misc. for sale. Also have Top Bars at 30 bars large, very nice, \$375.

Andrew Jenkins
Tipton, Iowa
Call 563-889-2632

For Sale: 4 drums of honey. Also several buckets @ \$2.10/lb. Contact Jeremy Van Donselaar Cedar, Iowa, 641-672-9598 or jkctlb17@hotmail.com

For Sale: 8 beehives reconditioned; some new parts, 90% complete, new paint, state inspected.
3 bee smokers
1 honey extractor

Call Dave at 319-331-6590

FOR SALE: Beekeeping Equipment and supplies - Goodell IA
Offering reasonably priced new and some used beekeeping supplies and equipment.
For more information, please call Pat @ 515-293-2601

FOR SALE: Husky 10 cu ft. 2 wheel wagon, used very little, \$80.00 (new \$140)

Great for moving bee equipment around, avoiding heavy lifting over variable distances.

Contact fieldstonefarms@netis.net or 641-512-4728 for more details.

2014 Field Day Location

There will be a change to the venue for this year's IHPA Summer Field Day, due to the Clemons school recent announcement, that it will be closing its doors at the end of this school year.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg of Spring Valley Honey Farm in Perry have kindly agreed to host the Summer Field Day at their place.

I thought I would try something different this year and have a number of workshops repeated throughout the morning, which will give attendees the flexibility to choose which ones they want to participate in. The afternoon session will be spent in the bee yard, going through some Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques and other hive management aspects.

Any questions let me know.
Look forward to seeing you there!

Eli Kalke (IHPA-VP)

Help Make the IHPA Booth a Success this year!

The IHPA is once again planning for the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines and are inviting you to be a part of this wonderful calendar event! The dates for this year's fair are August 7-17.

If you like talking to people and lending a hand, this is a great opportunity for you to help support the IHPA and also meet fellow beekeepers. The fair runs for 11 days with 3 shifts per day and have plenty of times and dates to satisfy

anyone's schedule, bring your family and friends along too! Every volunteer receives a **free pass** into the State Fair for the day.

We appreciate all your support you have given us in the past and look forward to hearing from you this year.

Any questions call Eli at 641-512-4728 or email fieldstonefarms@netis.net.

Keep on buzzing!
Eli Kalke

2014 Annual Meeting

I know the IHPA Annual Conference on November 14th-15th seems a long way off right now, but it is never too early to make your hotel reservations at either the Best Western or Super 8 in Marshalltown. Not only will you have peace of mind that you secured your accommodation arrangements for this event, by booking early, you will also be able to take advantage of the lower rates we have secured with both hotels.

More information about this year's Annual Meeting will be published in the Buzz Newsletter in the next few months. This year's keynote speakers will be Dr. Keith Delaplane MBA and Dr. Marla Spivak.

If you have any question, please let me know.

Eli
IHPA - VP

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex` Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com (also alex.ebert@eberthoney.com) or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **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.

President's Message

July 2014

June gone and July is coming in fast. So far it looks like it will be a good honey flow, but time will tell. Hopefully you already have all your honey supers on your hives, or close to having them done.

It would be nice having a few more people put their honey products at the State Fair in the competition. There are a lot of categories to enter for displaying your products (honey, creamed honey, comb honey, beeswax, photos, frames of sealed honey, etc.) and trying to get a blue ribbon or a handful of blue ribbons. 2014 State Fair apiary entries are being accepted now and the deadline is August 1st. Entries are being accepted by mail or online at www.iowastatefair.org.

On the Iowa State fair site, go to "Competition", "Categories/Premium Books" and scroll down to under "Sections" to 2014 apiary – Bees & Honey, or call 515-262-3111, x207 with questions. The Premium books and entry forms are only available online @ www.iowastatefair.org/premiumbooks. Also check out the "Required Reading" stuff. Any questions, again give the State Fair a call, and hope to see you enter the Apiary Competition!!!

Also please think about helping out at the IHPA Fair booth. The State Fair is August 7th – 17th. It's great to see our members volunteer to help at the booth and share their enthusiasm and passion of beekeeping with new beekeepers and the general public. I've had more than one person tell me that "it was because of the IHPA booth at the State Fair that they started beekeeping"!! It's also a great way to help the IHPA, have some fun talking about bees and getting a free pass into the State Fair for a "Fun Filled Day"! Eli Kalke is again in charge of getting the schedule for the fair set up, getting the fair passes sent out to the shift volunteer workers. We have a few people already signing up to work a shift or two, so please help Eli out and give her a call (641-512-4728) or e-mail her (fieldstonefarmsbiz@gmail.com) with the shift or shifts you would like to work. We greatly appreciate any help

you can provide the IHPA. I see this as a win-win!! I get to talk about bees, consume honey lemonade and get a free pass into the fair –all while helping and supporting the IHPA so they can support the beekeepers of Iowa!!! The income we hope to generate from the State Fair go towards paying for our Annual Meeting, motel and speaker expenses, (held in Marshalltown IA, November 14th - 15th) and donations the membership vote to support in the beekeeping industry. It also helps pay for the Annual Summer Field day.

The Summer Field day is fast approaching (July 12th) and Eli has a full day of education and fun, with a pot luck lunch. She was unable to have this at the same location as last year as the Clemons School is closing, so this year's location is Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry, Iowa. The IHPA will provide chicken, honey lemonade and eating utensils. Please bring a dish to pass, I really enjoy these events as we have some of the best cooks in Iowa and look forward to tasting to what they bring!!! Please see in this issue of the Buzz for more information on the Summer Field Day events she has set up. Hope to see you there.

I'd like to change gears and think about this coming winter. I've heard of people losing 40% – 80% of their bees in the 2013-2014 winter with most people not really knowing why their bees died; whether it was not enough honey for the winter or whether the mite population was too high going into winter. I had one person say to me "there was no pollen in his hive in the spring".

I would like to give a few thought to try to get through the upcoming 2014-2015 winter.

1st – Try to get your honey pulled off by the first of September so you can test and see where your mite count is. If you have a high mite count, treat to bring them to a controllable level. What you use to treat your hives is your choice, a screen bottom board w/powder sugar every 5 days for 4 weeks, a soft chemical like Ape-Life-Var or a harder chemical like____, you decide. Get your mite's to a controllable level to get in at

least 2 or 3 complete healthy brood cycles of clean bees before the winter. Take care of the bees that are going to take care of the bees.

2nd – The feed supply for the bees and is your hive heavy enough. Honey is always the best food for honey bees. This also goes back to having your honey pulled off the hives by the first of September, and then the fall honey flow will go to the hive. But if you didn't have enough fall honey flow or aren't able to give some honey back, you HAVE to feed the bees something, or they will die, guaranteed!! Whether it's sugar water, corn syrup, whatever else you use – you need to add enough food supply to your hives to last the cold Iowa winter (hive should weigh around 120 plus pounds going into winter.)

3rd - Wrapping your hives and having them in a "out of the wind" location. Helping your bees with some kind of wind block will always be beneficial for your hives so they use less food and energy to keep warm and help increase their survival during winter. We are just providing the basics, healthy bees, (low or no mites) an ample food supply, and a warm secure home protected from the elements. These are a good place to start to do a little better winter preparation and see if we can keep our bees alive thru our winters.

The Yellow Clover is starting to bloom and the Bass Wood trees in my area are about a week out, I've gotta run and put on our 2nd round of honey supers, the honey flow is at hand, that beautiful white comb is being built and this is a time of great anticipation for beekeepers!

Bee Happy, Bee Joyful and
Bee Yourself
Pat

Trivia: How long is a Honey Bees tongue or Proboscis?

Answer on page 12.



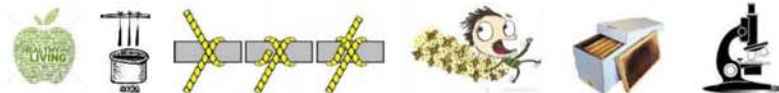
IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER FIELD DAY

Saturday, July 12th 2014

at Spring Valley Honey Farm, 14405 Hull Ave, Perry, IA

Registration at 8.00am. Activities begin 9.00am – 3.30pm.



Field Day Topics:

Simultaneous demonstrations, how-to and tips on promoting honey as a healthy sweetener, marketing your products, make beeswax candles, best knots for securing equipment in transit, catch a swarm, create a nuc, practice how to mark a bee using drones, mini lab to dissect bees and identify Nosema spores.

Field sessions with live bees, including IPM techniques, will be done in small groups (bring your bee suit). Latest apiary report from Andy Joseph - State Apiarist.

Please bring a potluck dish to share. IHPA will provide chicken, potato chips, tableware, bottled water and coffee.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ CELL: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Category	Early Registration (by 7/1/2014)	Walk-ins at field day (7/12/2014)	No. of people	\$ Amount
Single person (member)	\$25	\$35		
Single person (non-member)	\$35	\$45		
** (No refunds will be given after July 1 st) **			TOTAL:	

Return this completed form, together with your payment to:

Please make checks payable to IHPA.

Rhonda Heston
Iowa Honey Producers Association - Treasurer
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049

Any questions about the IHPA Summer Field Day, please contact Eli Kalke at fieldstonefarms@netins.net
or call 641-512-4728.

R.5/14

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 7-17**. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building; 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 2013 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, 9am-1.30pm, 1.30pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 7-17 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 fieldstonefarms@netins.net or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Eli Kalke (IHPA Vice President)
1445 165th Street, Clemons, IA 50051.
Cell: 641-512-4728

1st person: _____

2nd person: _____

3rd person: _____

Childs name & age: _____

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 7-17.)**

Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm
Date:	9.00-1.30pm	1.30pm-6.00pm	6.00pm-9.00pm

We appreciate any help you can provide!



Iowa Honey Queen

Hello beekeepers!

Summer is in full swing, which means beekeepers are scrambling to keep up with their busy girls. I love this time of the year because I get to see the bees excitedly working.

I also enjoy checking in on new queens. They are beautiful. I might be biased, but I believe a young queen just starting to build up her hive is a natural wonder of the world.

The end of May, I spent some time making nuc boxes. Each box was given a nice frame of brood, some honey, some bees, and a developing queen in her cell. My boss warned me to be very careful with the queen cells. I wouldn't want to crush their wings and prevent them from going on their nuptial flights. Overall, I had an excellent time making nucs. I love putting everything together and knowing a successful hive will grow from the small box.

Before the queens were placed in their cages and transferred to nuc boxes, I took a picture with the frame of queens and the nuc box they had been living in. All the bees in that box put a huge amount of work into making those tiny larvae into developed queens.



Here I am getting ready to position the queen in the nuc box. Her cage is wedged between two frames so she can easily crawl out of her cell when the time comes. My greatest hope is for all the queens to be accepted into their new hives. Sometimes, the worker bees do not want the queen they are given, and when she hatches, they quickly replace her with one of their own. However, the time it takes for them to raise a new queen will set back their spring



buildup. Consequently, they will not have a large force when the first foraging begins and will not perform as well as neighboring colonies. For this reason, it is important for us to do everything in our power to make them accept their new queen.



This is a close photo of the queen being placed. She is inside the orange cage.

After the queen is in place, I carefully arrange all the frames in the nuc box.



In addition to working with the bees, I continue to promote beekeeping. On June 7th, I had a wonderful time in Ackley as I participated in their Sauerkraut Days. I presented a half hour speech about the importance of honeybees and how everyone can do their part to help them out. I even had some help with my presentation from the crowd. One little boy volunteered to be the queen bee. He wore a queen bee mask as I discussed the role of the queen in the hive. I was so glad I had the opportunity to visit the lovely little town of Ackley.



I'm looking forward to all the events coming up this summer. I am especially excited for the Iowa State Fair! I hope to spend a lot of time at the IHPA booth. You'll probably find me near the honey lemonade. Nothing can compare to that refreshing treat on a hot summer day.

If you haven't recently, I'd like to invite you to look at my blog, BeeEnlightened.wordpress.com. I have numerous posts lined up to be released, and I would love to hear what you all think about the topics I discuss.

Best wishes keeping up with your busy bees!
Gabrielle Hemesath



Jeralyn G. Westercamp 2014 Iowa Honey Princess Graduated from the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a B.S. degree in Political Science with Distinction and the University of Iowa Henry B. Tippie College of Business with a B.B.A. degree in Management with Distinction and a B.B.A. degree in Marketing with Distinction. She earned University Honors and Departmental Honors. Fall 2014 Jeralyn will be a graduate student in the University of Iowa College of Public Health pursuing a Masters in Health Administration (M.H.A.) degree. Jeralyn also earned a Certificate in Nonprofit Management and a Certificate in Leadership Studies from the University of Iowa.

I'm Continuing Draper's Wax Operation!

If you've ever used Draper's Super Bee wax, you know the quality of their filtered wax. I have purchased their wax operation and will continue to uphold their standards! Currently in need of cappings. Please call or e-mail me if you have any cappings to sell or would like to reserve an order of wax as soon as it becomes available.

Royce Blackledge
Black Cat Acres
66435 270th Lane
Nevada, IA 50201
(515) 979-6585

royce.blackledge50@gmail.com

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

The IHPA featured youth member this month is Ryan Farrell. He lives with his parents Paul and Carolyn, two older sisters, one younger sister and two younger brothers in Ankeny. Ryan is a freshman at Dowling Catholic High School where he participates in golf, bowling and band. He likes to play baseball and swim and is planning to join the FFA. When he graduates he would like to attend Iowa State University. He is interested in an agricultural related profession.

Ryan says he has always been very interested in agriculture and nature. When he went to the Iowa State Fair last year the IHPA booth was very interesting to him and he decided to learn more



Ryan's first place photo in the Youth Photo Contest. Nice photo!



Ryan Farrell and mentor Andy Joseph checking in on Ryan's first beehive. Ryan says his hive made 85 lbs. of honey! That's a nice beginning in beekeeping. Keep up the good work.



Ryan's 2013 colony. Ryan hopes to expand this year with a few more hives.

about beekeeping. He applied for the youth scholarship program and was accepted. He was very excited to win a complete hive!

Ryan took beekeeping classes at DMACC in Ankeny where Andy Joseph was the instructor and also became his mentor. He says when his package of bees came his parents were on vacation in Las Vegas. His great aunt was watching the siblings. Ryan forgot to tell his aunt that several thousand bees would be coming to his house. When Andy and the bees arrived his aunt had to call his mom to make sure she knew stinging insects would be in their back yard. In August Ryan entered a photo of his queen bee in the youth photo contest. He won first place. He also served honey lemonade with the Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey.

Ryan says his hive produced 85 pounds of honey this year. He also says he learned a lot and hopes to learn more. "I would like to thank the IHPA for giving me the opportunity to keep bees and learn about beekeeping" says Ryan. This year he is planning to get a few more colonies and expand his knowledge of beekeeping. Great story Ryan, not everybody gets to serve honey lemonade with Secretary of Agriculture.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

The Evolving Beekeeper Forward Into the Past

by Phill Remick

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."

—Albert Einstein

It was 1968 and my new hive had arrived by truck shortly after dark. I decided the most advantageous placement would be an out of the way spot with excellent visibility and an unobstructed flight path. Where did I place it? I hoisted the two-story, shiny silver Langstroth hive—wait for it—onto my roof!

Never considering the possibility of high winds, I attached a large, black golf umbrella to the side of the structure to protect it from the sun, neglecting to anticipate the tremendous amount of direct heat radiated off the red-hot asphalt roof where it was situated. Oops.



Unfortunately I did not have a clue. How many of us start our beekeeping excursion in a similar fashion? While today's newbies may still get off to rocky starts, the beekeeping industry has gone through changes in the last 45-50 years: some of it good, some of it bad...a lot of it very rocky.

You Could See Forever

In the early 70's I vividly recall driving through open fields of wildflowers, orange grove after orange grove in southern and central California—the awesome fragrance almost melting my nose with olfactory delight. Where are all those orange groves now? Oh, there are a few highly coveted groves, saturated with honeybees in season, but nothing like there was. Some of golden state's most famous landmarks now appear where the beautiful, fragrant groves once stood.

Today, out of state migratory beekeepers can rent fields to put their bees in, if they can find them. So much land has been paved over for parking lots and condos that open forage for bees is harder and harder to find.

When It's Gone Its Gone

Even in the 70's our abundant American agricultural heritage was anchored by family farms which kept their crops rotated, fostered plant diversity, didn't spray every weed in sight, and of utmost importance possessed their own livestock. Livestock grazing in open fields meant no need for synthetic, toxic fertilizers. Scientists claim these synthetics can linger in soil for decades. Wonder if there are any vintage synthetic fertilizers from 1975 still lurking in the depths of county water systems? I sense the specter of Rachel Carson, who in 1962 warned of the impending pesticide problems impacting our planet.

With today's rapid-paced urbanization, beautiful wildflowers, beneficial weeds, and the majority of natural habitat have been plowed under thus destroying safe havens and often voiding the future of millions of native pollinators across our country. It is a classic example of monoculture. Yes, 'monoculture' is one of the culprits at work in the demise of the honey bee.

In a 70's a pamphlet describing California beekeeping approaches, it actually declared that in some situations, it may be advantageous to eliminate cover crops in orchards to lower competition (between bees for nectar) and reduce the pesticide damage risks. Monoculture was advocated in the 70's and has increased over the years with urbanization and corporate farming practices.

Pollination Practices

Pollination prices ranged from \$10-\$25 per colony for almond pollination in the San Joaquin Valley in the early and mid-1970's. Today the prices are rolling up to over \$200 per colony. If this price seems outrageous, I believe that most of us understand that simply keeping those colonies alive to arrive in today's almond orchards is a major financial and physical accomplishment. The standard pollination practice of the mid-

70's was four frames of bees and a laying queen per colony. For alfalfa seed production the minimum level was at least nine frames of bees and 600 square inches of brood with placement of two hives per acre.

The standard set for almond pollination is a bit different now; some growers want more or less bees per acre. For the record, a frame must have 4 to 5 bees per square inch of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the frame surface. Both sides then qualify as a frame of bees. Most spray outfits did their best to notify beekeepers of pending pesticide applications, although too many times there simply was not ample time to move threatened colonies.

There was also the errant, uninformed neighbor who would spray with total disregard for the honey bees close by. I imagine that this predicament still holds today.

Get Back to Where We Once Belonged

In the 70's there was a USDA subsidy program in California reimbursing beekeepers for pesticide damage. At that time, I happened to be a member of the Fresno County based apiary inspection team working the entire San Joaquin Valley which dealt with many of these issues. A dollar figure was placed on minor, moderate or severe damage to the colonies. Reimbursement was meager compared to what could have been gained financially by beekeepers if their hives had been maintained at maximum strength.

Obviously, the loss of the field force - about 1/3 of the bees, was devastating to any beekeeper - at least in the short term. Often many beekeepers hauled home empty boxes, forced to write off the balance of the season for some hives.

So much seemingly indiscriminate spraying transpired that it became difficult to anticipate the scope of each toxic event.

It All Began with DDT

The Organophosphate chemical group containing classic killers like Diazinon, Malathion and Parathion that were terminating pollinator's lives in the 70's are still in use today. These are just some of the regulars in the

killing fields in which honeybees forage.

Today, the EPA claims there are well over 350,000 pesticides: chemicals that defile the environment, pollute our aquifers and terminate our priceless pollinators. Why has pesticide use expanded over the years? Pesticide business is a \$12.5 billion industry in our country. Today, the EPA estimates over 1 billion TONS of pesticides are applied every year in the U.S. Follow the money.

Neo What?

Today, there are even more pesticides, fungicides, insecticides and acaricides. The

pest; the Asian Citrus Psyllid Moth. How will future attempts to eradicate this uninvited guest affect the fragile honey bee? Over 200 million acres are treated in the US with neonicotinoids. Imidacloprid, Clothianidin and Thiamethoxam all are Neonicotinoids which may be applied in what are known as soil-drench applications to control the Asian Citrus Psyllid Moth. Picture this soil-drenching procedure for a moment. These types of Neonicotinoids are water soluble so one must wonder where the poisons will flow off to once the soil has been drenched or flooded with these carcinogens: the municipal water supply, ponds, lakes, your well or my well.

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Is CCD a New Techie Device?

Colony Collapse Disorder did not exist in the 1970's and as we all know, it is far from techie. People often ask me, "What happened to all the bees?" I tell them to observe the multitude of weekend warriors armed with hand-held sprayers loaded with Glyphosate (Roundup). In some cases people are spraying just to spray, believing the only good weed is a dead weed. Sadly, one of the primary targets of these toxins is the delightful dandelion - one of the honey bee's favorite nectar sources. Even in the 1970's people would enjoy dandelion greens in salads and use the leaves to help eradicate toxins from their systems. Now, unless the plant is certified organic, if you ate any part of a dandelion, you could be putting toxins INTO your system.

The Mighty Mites

In 1984, tracheal mites were spotted in the United States. These troublesome mites (which can only be spotted using a microscope) spread rapidly due to migratory operations, queens being sold and shipped all over the United States, nucs with mites and packages arriving with mites already on them. In the 1970's there were no Varroa Destructor mites. There was no lengthy discussion of small cell size, starter strips or those almost 'glow in the dark' plastic green drone comb frames to inhibit the Varroa invaders. Today, mites are rampant and coupled with the high use of pesticides; the kill rate of bees is only increasing.

newer chemical killers on the block are in the lethal Neonicotinoid category. These toxins are systemic - exhibiting high toxicity where the seeds base is coated by powerful, destructive Neonics. The entire plant becomes deadly to any creature that dare nibble or sample its nectar. It's crucial to bear in mind our beloved honey bees also pollinate weeds (which have been sprayed). These weeds in turn provide food for birds and other critters. Neonicotinoids are also found in flea collars for pets.

Currently, orange growers face yet another

AFB Outsmarts

Us All In previous years, the paramount issue was American Foulbrood which was treated and justly so, like the plague. In the 1970's if apiary inspectors found AFB in your hives, it was a simple process: red tag the hive, gas it with cyanide and contact the owner who was given a time frame in which to remedy this foul situation. The bees were killed, all the frames/comb burned, supers/lids/bottoms could be spared if rendered in lye water or scorched with a blow torch. That's when Terramycine, or 'TM' was adapted; it effectively masked the symptoms of AFB. Even though AFB has been around forever, if treated on a consistent basis, TM was effective until the colony developed a resistance to it. Foulbrood?? What Foulbrood?

On a related note: two chemicals whose toxicity is increased by TM are Coumaphos and T-fluvalinate which are present in some mite control products.

Give me an 'A' Give me an 'H' Give Me a 'B'. What's That Spell?

The highly aggressive Africanized Honey Bees were relatively new phenomena in the early 70's. Now they are commonplace. With multiple reports of attacks resulting in human and pet death, the AHB is a terror that the uninformed, unfortunately often associate with our mild mannered honey bee. This stereotypical response has cast a pall on normal honey bees, but makes for sensational news stories and ridiculous, although terrifying movies.

AHB's are renowned for aggressive behavior and their unusual nesting locations bees. AHB's seek out cement walls, abandoned cars and even old mailboxes (special delivery!) The average honeybee prefers larger areas to set up housekeeping.

Today, AHB's are common in many areas of the south and southwestern corridors of the US.

Show Me the Honey!

The average price of extracted honey in 1973 was near .49 cents per pound wholesale. I recall delivering several tons a few years later and thinking, "Wow, \$1.09 a pound! What will I do with all this disposable income!?"

I was a member of the Valley Honey Asso-

ciation in Stockton and was thrilled to unload that big batch.

There was just one slight snag. I could never get payments in full since it was a coop. Disbursement averaged out over the year or sometimes longer. Oh well. Today the average honey price is about \$2.09 per pound wholesale.

Recently two honey processors and five other people were charged with federal crimes regarding the illegal importation of honey from China. This product often contained illegal and or unsafe antibiotics. This honey was so ultra-filtered there was zero pollen in it. Zero pollen means there was no way to verify its nectar location. In the last few years honey has also been adulterated with High Fructose Corn Syrup. The practice of substituting HFCS for honey has become so bad that often there is little honey in the jar at all. The flooding of U.S.

70's choice of drab white.

Just like the change in garb, I also sense a real lack of long term commitment from some of today's newbies. A large segment of them have never attended a class because in their estimation they don't need to. I often hear or read comments like this: "Beekeeping is so simple, set them and forget them. Why spend money on lots of equipment? Besides, I'm not sure I like bees that much... but right now, I want to help save them".

So they acquire an online blueprint for a hive, build it with the cheapest materials possible and slap a swarm or package bees into the box. What could BEE easier? Monkey-see, monkey do: just like their misinformed neighbor/mentor. That is until the bees swarm, sting a pet or child, develop a disease, become queen-less, notice the hummingbird feeders are always full of sugar or start pestering the neighbors in their pool.

I joke with a friend of mine who sells packages of bees to give me the addresses of these new folks who don't have a clue. I want to catch all their swarms! Joking aside, I know full well that without proper management skills their investment, time and honey bees will SOON be a bad memory. Sadly many get very discouraged and give up beekeeping entirely. What a waste of time, bees, money and potential.

Welcome to the Future

In the 70's people read LOTS of books to acquire knowledge. There were no YouTubes by every newbie 'expert' touting their approach to beekeeping; right or wrong (usually the latter). Yes, friends you too can become a REAL beekeeper in just a few short minutes! We did not have online resources for learning the skill of beekeeping... (There was no line at all) or from which to order our fancy new equipment.

In 2013 we possess new hive tool designs, frame grips, frame holders, spacing tools and polystyrene beehives. Queens are available year round, even if they are shipped in plastic queen cages. I prefer the biodegradable, 'outta sight', non-gaseous wooden ones.

*"If we make the world too toxic for honey bees,
Some compound brain, Monsanto
perhaps,*

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markets with this junk honey obviously has had an adverse effect on our honey prices.

The U.S. produced about 145 million pounds in 2012 of the more than 400 million pounds of honey consumed. We rely on imported honey from Argentina, Brazil and Canada among other countries to make up the deficit.

While 45-50 years ago we did not import so much honey, we also did not sell HFCS and call it honey. Who knew then that honey would become a commodity that could become big business for crooks?

A Chicken in Every Pot, a Beehive in Every Backyard?

With the dramatic rise of urban beekeeping comes its own set of issues. You've seen the ads, showing the chic garb for newbies; multi-colored coveralls versus the traditional



*Will invent tiny robots that will fly about
Pollinating flowers and making honey".*
—Wendell Berry

Welcome to the future! There is now a robotic bee. Researchers at Harvard have developed a tiny drone that can flit from flower to flower. We have yet to see evidence that they can gather nectar, mate with the Queen, keep brood warm and produce delectable honey. Oh well, what do you expect from a mechanical drone?

In the 70's There Were...

No GMO crops
No GMO tanker loads of High Fructose Corn Syrup.
Can you say Hydroxymethylfurfural?
No 'natural' bee repellents to remove the honey crop
No mini beehives for the backyard
No beetle traps or mite count trays
No GPS (there were far fewer satellites too!)
No beekeeping apps
No social media (the social media of the 70's was CB radio, '10-4 good buddy')
No welcome mats with bees on them
No powered two frame extractors (bummer!)
No plastic pollen traps
No EPA. Wait, Wikipedia claims the EPA came into existence in 1970, but most beekeepers are convinced they never really existed. I know, you're thinking, "Wow man, that's heavy"

Beekeeping in Bell Bottoms

I have to admit that I usually go to the bee yards in a t-shirt, jeans, hat and veil, no gloves. I am not fashion conscious when it comes to beekeeping (and my wife will say I'm not fashion conscious when it comes to anything else!) So, it is with wonder and a smile that I also note the difference in beekeeping garb and accoutrements in 2014.....

Ventilated or breathable 2 X bee suits in assorted colors
Custom couture beekeeping hats and veils
Custom designed tool boxes for beekeepers
Cute 'Little Beekeeper' key chains
Cell phones with which to order pizza from the bee yard (far-out!)
Shop anytime day or night for bee supplies

with your mobile device
Beeswax based lip balm kits
Plastic bee stick pins
Honey bee ornaments
Bee earrings

How did we ever survive in the 70's? How did our forefathers ever develop large beekeeping businesses from their buckboards? Now, it is de rigeur to follow or tweet fellow beekeepers. Remember when only commercial beekeepers had refractometers?

I know it will make me sound old school, but it used to be that nobody whined about the weight of a heavy super and began cutting their equipment down from standard Langstroth ten frames to eight frames. Funny, but once upon a time more frames used to mean more honey, which usually meant more money!

You get the point. I could continue but, I'm behind on my tweets and texts, the Tivo is loaded with shows to view on my new 60 inch flat screen, I've got 15 new friend requests on Facebook, and my latest selfie like totally needs to be posted, Dude.

Source and re-print permission: Kelley Beekeeping • Issue 43: January 2014

IHPA Donation Proposal Submission Form

In May the IHPA board voted to utilize a Donation Proposal Form and submission process for donations made to beekeeping research and projects going forward.

Starting July of 2014 the IHPA will begin using the IHPA Donation Proposal Form to receive proposed donations to research and other honeybee/beekeeping/honey related projects.

The submission time frame for proposals will be from July 1st to October 1st of each year.

In the past monetary donations have been requested and voted on during the Business Meeting part of the Annual Meeting.

There are a few goals that the Donation Proposal Form aims to meet.

1. Allow for a review of the proposal to see that the donation would be used in promoting continued research in honeybees and beekeeping.
2. Ensure total donations do not exceed the association's budget for research donations.
3. Expand the availability of members to make donation proposals even if they may not be able to attend the Annual Meeting.

The Donation Proposal Form is not intended to change the goals of the IHPA's support of research and projects through donations but to provide enough information for the membership to make an informed vote on the proposals.

At the Annual Meeting there is rightly a question about whether the IHPA can make donations of X total dollars in donations. Submitting proposals ahead of the Annual Meeting will allow a comparison between what is available for donations and the total of the donations submitted.

IHPA donations are being made on behalf of the entire membership. With the Donation Proposal Form the entire membership will be able to submit a proposal even if they may not be able to attend the Annual Meeting.

Finally one important point is that the IHPA membership will still be voting on the proposals at the Business portion of the Annual Meeting. Each year the IHPA gives out donations in the thousands of dollars to various researchers and projects usually in the course of the 5 to 10 minutes it takes for a proposal and vote with little other information. This process is only intended to provide better information about where/how the IHPA donations are utilized.

This is still a membership driven part of the association. Members are encouraged to help the association to identify research projects that will continue to work for the benefit of honeybees, beekeepers, and the honey industry.

Alex Ebert thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

Trivia Answer: The Proboscis is much more complicated and amazing than I thought, but short answer is the resting length is about 4 mm, but can be reduced to about 3mm and the extended length to about 6 mm or about 1/4 inch. Isn't the honey bee just fascinating!!!



2014 IHPA Donation Proposal Form



The Iowa Honey Producers Association supports honeybee and beekeeping research through donations to research projects during the IHPA Annual Meeting.

Starting in 2014 the IHPA Donation Proposal Form will need to be submitted during the Submission Period prior to the Annual Meeting. The IHPA Board will review the stated use of the donation to confirm the use is in line with the goal of promoting continued research in honeybees and beekeeping. This review will allow the board time to request additional information if needed and ensure total proposed donations do not exceed the association's budget for research donations.

With acceptance by the IHPA Board, the Donation Proposal will be brought to the floor during the Business Meeting of the Annual Meeting for a vote by the members. Donation Proposals can be made by anyone with a current IHPA membership. Members are encouraged to help the association to identify research projects that will continue to work for the benefit of honeybees, beekeepers, and the honey industry.

Submission Deadline: October 1st, 2014
Submission Period: July 1st – October 1st, 2014

IHPA Member submitting the Donation Proposal.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Donation Proposal

Proposed dollar amount of the IHPA donation: \$ _____

Contact information for head researcher / project organization.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please provide a description of how the proposed donation would be used regarding your research relating to honeybees, beekeeping, or the honey industry.

Please send Donation Proposal Forms to IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187th Avenue, Chariton, Iowa 50049



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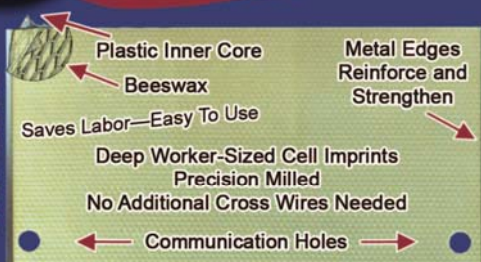
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The Buzz Newsletter

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