



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



May 2013

IHPA Summer Field Day Pg.4

2013 IHPA State Fair Bid Sheets (Due June 30th) Pg.6

Beekeeper of the Month Pg.13





May 18th Back to Basics Beekeeping Field Day

June 15th IHPA Field Day; Clemons, IA

June 15th IHPA Board Meeting following the Field Day events

September 29th IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm at DMACC/Ankeny

October 31 IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm at Marshalltown prior to the Annual Meeting

November 1 & 2 IHPA Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, IA



Wanted: I'm looking for someone to teach me how to knit. I'm not into quilting, but I might be a knitter by the time the Annual Meeting comes around. I live in Marshall county, if interested I would be very glad to hear from you.

Contact Eli at 641-512-4728 or
fieldstonefarms@netins.net

For Sale: 150 1 gallon paint pails new (plastic) w/bails & lids. Used a few for feeding. 0.30ea

L Soder
St Charles, IA
515-462-4489

For Sale: Kelley stainless steel grocers tank including valve. 3 yrs. old. \$250.00 (Kelley new price is \$485 without valve.

Contact: Galen Eiben
222 W. Main St.
Shell Rock, IA 50670
(319) 885-6264

FOR SALE: Honey Styx
I sent 2 barrels of honey to Oregon to have put into styx, so these are Iowa honey. Good flavored light honey.

\$0.08 each in boxes of 2000 or \$160
\$0.10 each for 500-1999
\$0.12 each for less than 500

Curt Bronnenberg
1433 Hull Ave.
Perry, IA 50220
(515) 465-5939
CBronny823@aol.com



IHPA Field Day

Remember it is time to sign up for the Field Day in June. Please send your registration to:

Iowa Honey Producers
c/o Rhonda Heston, Treasurer
52735 187th Ave
Chariton IA 50049-8616
Phone: 515-724-2124

IHPA 100th Anniversary merchandise still available by mail and will be available at Field Day. Merchandise purchased at Field Day will not have to include postage & handling.

For Sale: S.E. Iowa 3 frame nucs.

Contact
Ron Wehr
319-698-7542

FOR SALE: UNASSEMBLED commercial grade hive bodies and honey supers.

ASSEMBLED 9 1/2" AND 6 1/4" frames with waxed Plasticell foundation.

Contact: Phil at 641-527-2639 or
ehoney37@netins.net

BASIC HIVE KIT - UNASSEMBLED

2 DEEP BROOD BOXES.....	\$25.00
20 PLASTIC FRAMES.....	\$38.00
1 INNER COVER.....	\$ 6.00
1 COVER (W/METAL COVER)...	\$22.50
1 SCREEN BOTTOM BOARD.....	\$22.50
TOTAL	\$114.00

BASIC HONEY SUPER KIT - UNASSEMBLED

1 QUEEN EXCLUDER.....	\$ 7.00
2 - 6 5/8 HONEY SUPERS BOX-ES	\$23.00
20 PLASTIC FRAMES (6 5/8).....	\$35.00
TOTAL	\$65.00

TOTAL OF BOTH KITS **\$179.00**

(This price does not include shipping or postage) All equipment is new. Items can be picked-up, or shipped.

All items can be combined or ordered separately @ same price.

Please call for arrangements and for information.

Pat Ennis
515-293-2601 or
Flat_lander@lycos.com

FOR SALE: Pamphlet on Successful Management available: Ten Pages \$12 including postage.

Contact: Glen L. Stanley
908 N. Highway 69
Huxley, Iowa 50124
TELE: (515) 597-2555

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, May 2013

Greeting fellow beekeepers!

I think it was great to see so many Iowa beekeepers at Dadant's 150th anniversary celebration! Dadant rolled out the red carpet for their customers. Starting with a gift bag w/ Dadant baseball hat and mini pewter smoker, (my wife claimed that) and then with plant tours on Friday with many of the following processes running for us to see: bees-wax rendering— crimp wire and wireless foundation - assembly of frames - tin wares, (smokers, extractors, etc.) -and candle making. Very interesting to see the machines used to make our beekeeping supplies, and upstairs was Joe M. Graham, Editor for the *American Bee Journal*, highlighting a very impressive private collection of historical beekeeping books and other historical beekeeping artifacts, WOW!! Next that evening was a banquet with speaker, Jim Tew, who was very entertaining and full of excitement. Saturday morning Dadant treated everyone with rolls and coffee in the morning and another wonderful banquet lunch. The speakers for Saturday included: Randy Oliver, Jerry Hays, Jim Tew as well as Charles and Karen Lorence, William Latner and Kent Robertson. Great speakers and we were very well treated by Dadant's! The fifth and six generation of Dadant's were very accessible to talk to, and express gratitude for the overwhelming turnout. The number of attendees on Saturday was 850 people, a packed house.

There were a lot of good things said during this celebration, but two things that stood out for me were:

1. Randy Oliver was talking about how he raises his own queens and a question from the audience asked if he ever tried or used other queen-breeders queens? He said "he has tried a lot of queens, but none were from his geographical area and they didn't work as well as the ones he raised in his geographical area". He also said it's always best to get queens you know are raised in your own area. I think that was great, because there are some here in Iowa who are trying to just

do that. If you would like to "bee" part of this Iowa queen program, or would like more information about it, please give Andy Joseph or myself a call, it would great to have more people who would like to be involved in this project.

The second thing that stood out for me was not gained from the celebration, but was during Sunday morning having breakfast at the hotel before heading home. During breakfast, Randy Oliver joined us and spent 15 to 20 minutes just talking "bees". He asked about the honey crop in Iowa, problems and such, and even tried our honey (we take our own along for tea). Peggy said I was "*on cloud nine*" all the way home!! (Randy is one whom I look up to and highly respect)

Spring is here and the second week of April's temp is still only in the 30's to 50's. It's hard to get bee work done this chilly. Queens are slow coming, but try to help the bees in any way you can. I am putting a pitch in for the Spring Valley Honey Crew, working bees with 6 – 8 people working all the time we still can't keep up. Life this past three weeks is crazy busy, but it's good to have my head in a bee hive again, isn't that "buzz" sound great to hear!

Vern Ramsey is busy again helping fire departments preparing for "Bee Emergency". On May 7th he will be at Fort Dodge Fire Department at 9:00 am and Mason City's fire Department at 6:00 pm. He will be helping to train not just fire fighters, but also Mike Divis. Mike has volunteered to help with "Bee Emergency" program as well as firemen. I personally would like to say "Thank You Vern" for all your time and all you've do and done for the beekeeping industry and firemen. You are providing a much needed service. Also, "Thank You Mike" for also volunteering and training to help in this program. If you are interested in helping train firefighters for bee emergency in your area, please contact Vern Ramsey@ vdramsey@netins.net , it would be greatly appreciated.

Hope you have a great month and were able to attend the auction in Perry and picked up a few deals. Don't forget to put June 15 on your calendar for the Io-

wa Honey Producers Summer Field Day in Clemens Iowa. Eli has put in a lot of effort for the field day and it looks like she has great speakers lined up. It'll "bee" a lot of fun with great learning about products you can make from the hive with the wax, creamed honey and more. Look for more information is this Buzz Newsletter, and hope to see you there!

BEE HAPPY!!
Pat

May Trivia: To produce a pound of honey, how many flowers must a bee tap into? Answer on page 13.



Dr. Donald E Miller, Millers Apiary, of Cedar Rapids passed away January 1, 2013. Dr. Miller enjoyed working with the bees and all things related to beekeeping.

Mrs. Miller states we have a lot of equipment, including an extractor. She believes it would hold about 16 frames. There are boxes with frames and many other pieces of equipment. If you are interested, please call Mrs. Barbara Miller at 313-393-1442 to set up a time to come see the equipment.

Mrs. Miller we are saddened by your loss.

Back to Basics Field Day May 18th at 1:00pm

Location:
Eve & Theo Vanden Brock
134 Holland Drive
Pella, IA

The Back to Basics Beekeeping Club will be having their Field Day on May 18th. If you have any questions please contact Craig Greene at 641-842-2112.



Iowa Honey Producers Association Summer Field Day Saturday, June 15 2013

Clemons Lutheran School, 302 Bevins Street,
Clemons, Iowa 50051 (Hwy S52)

Registration at 8.30am. Activities begin 9.00am – 3.30pm.

Guest speakers will be Becky Tipton and Joli Winer from Kansas. They are active members of the NE Kansas Beekeepers Association and teachers at Master Beekeeping Workshop, University of Nebraska.

Field Day Topics:

Demonstrations, how-to's and tips on making lotions, soaps, lip balm, creamed honey, cut comb, photography. Field sessions with live bees (bring your bee suit). Latest apiary report from Andy Joseph (State Apiarist).

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

Pre-registration information:

Members fee: \$30. Non-members fee: \$40.

Send payment by May 31 to Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer
52735 187th Avenue, Chariton, IA 50049 Phone: 515-724-2124

Registration at the field day:

Members fee: \$35. Non-members fee: \$45.

If you have any questions, please contact Eli Kalke (IHPA VP).

Phone: 641-512-4728 Email: fieldstonefarms@netins.net.

Hope to see you there!

Loess Hills Beekeeping Association

The Loess Hills Beekeeping Association is a newly formed beekeeping organization for southwest Iowa. They meet the third Thursday of the month at the Council Bluffs Fish and Game Club at 7pm. If you are interested, they can be contacted by email at LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com, the Facebook page, or at 22524 Hunt Avenue, Council Bluffs, IA 51503-7978. Dues are \$25 per year.



Honeybee Queen Rearing Class

This is a two-day, hands-on class June 1st and 2nd (Saturday and Sunday) that begins at 9:00am and lasts until approximately 3:30pm each day at the Indian Creek Nature Center's apiary. This is a great opportunity for you to learn how to raise your own honeybee queens. No prior knowledge of queen rearing is required. The objective of the class is to provide experienced beekeepers a method of rearing their own queens. This reduces the need to purchase new queens and allows beekeepers to selectively promote the lines they like in their apiary. The class is tailored after the Larry Conner queen-rearing method. Each class member should receive one or two queen grafts at the end of the session. These grafts will require finishing in the student's apiary. Recommended reading before the class is "Queen Rearing Essentials" by Larry Connor. This book is available on line for \$20.00 plus shipping at www.bee-commerce.com

BEE sure to register early as the class size is limited to 15. Contact the Nature Center at (319) 362-0664 to register. Cost is \$65 for Nature Center members and \$75 for non-members. It is recommended that students bring lunch both days. Because of the somewhat remote location of the Nature Center and the intensive nature of the class, there will not be time to go off-site for lunch.

State Fair Bid Information

It is hard to believe that the state fair is approaching quickly. I will try to answer member questions about submitting a bid for our sales booth at the Iowa State Fair. The state fair sales booth is the main money making event for the IHPA.

We have honey lemonade for sale along with honey and beeswax products from the IHPA membership. The proceeds are used to fund most of the programs of the organization. If you have honey that you would like to provide to the IHPA for sale at the state fair, please fill out the bid sheet and submit it **by June 30th to Melanie Bower**. The same people submit bids each year and we would love to get some new people involved, so let us know if you are interested.

We can answer any questions, concerns or suggestions for the sales booth. Thanks for the consideration. Make sure you read the bid sheet submission form before you submit your bids.

The 2013 IHPA Bid Sheet is on page 6. A pdf version can found under the Media tab on the IHPA website, www.ABuzzAboutBees.com

Donna Brahms,
IHPA booth manager
14922 535th Street Griswold, IA
51535
(712) 778-4256
mbrahms@netins.net

BUZZ Quilt

The Quilt Blocks are back and they are SPECTACTULAR! We have some great quilt block seamstresses in this organization. It was a tough job trying to come up with the most visually appealing layout of the blocks. I've laid these out in what I think looks the best. But as with anything, the BEEuty is in the eye

of the BEEholder.

I am working to add the sashings to the blocks and the get the border added. As soon as I have the top completed, I will be sending it to Jodi Kraft, who volunteered, to do the quilting and binding. Once these steps are complete, the BUZZ quilt will be ready to start its travel across the State with the Iowa Honey Queen and Iowa Honey Princess. Tickets for the opportunity to win the quilt will travel with the BUZZ quilt. Ticket prices have not yet been determined.

Thank you to all quilters that made blocks. To those of you that didn't get to make a block this time, keep watching. There may be more opportunities in the future.

Rhonda Heston
515-724-2124

SEARCHING FOR A BETTER BEE!

Glen L. Stanley,
State Apiarist, emeritus
Huxley, Iowa 50124

I read with interest the proposal to assemble a few Iowa Beekeepers who have kept bees for a while and have raised some queens, with limited success.

I have known many and some of the best Scientists in Entomology and research in the business, a few became top Geneticists after an in-depth study of Science and biology which leads to genetics. In the 1020's and 30's Dr. O.W. Park was heading up a study of bee Biology and eventually, through selection, produced bees that were 97 percent resistant to American Foul Brood.

A few years following that three well known Scientists received their degree at Iowa State College, namely, G.H. Cale of Hamilton Illinois, Dr. Wakter Rothenbuehler, of Ohio and Dr. Shi-manuki of Hawaii. All happened to rank among the top Geneticists. I knew others from around the United

state and one from Russia and another from Germany.

They among others have produced some of the best bees that World will probably ever have. So, many beekeepers in Iowa can produce queens BUT the special bee for what you are searching is likely beyond being developed.

There is an age old theory that bees brought to the Midwest from California or the South never become acclimated to Midwest conditions. NOT SO, The bees that are shipped here in packages are no longer present after about six weeks, so the new bees are developed in Iowa.

In the late 1930's we bought bees and queens from the south to build our numbers fast. In the 60's we were getting our queens from the Homer Park Apiaries in California. So for 35 years of those queens we were able to produce excellent crops and with what we had learned over the years and practiced what we learned we found our colony losses over the Winter were less than two percent.

I doubt that it is BETTER BEES that is needed it is better BEEKEEPERS.

There was a belief that good wintering could no longer be achieved with the bees being brought into Iowa. SO, over the past three years a half dozen, or more, beekeepers are following my practices in beekeeping, first eliminating the feeding of sugar syrup (except when packages are installed and given a start for building a colony) Shifting combs to proper positions in October and inserting combs of honey where needed. Making all other winter preparations in late October and all is well until April First of next year, These few have had losses of about 1 1/2 percent the past three winters. SO, it can be done.

All this information appears in the Manual I edited last year. SEE my ad in the Buzz.





2013 BID SHEET FOR HONEY AND PRODUCTS TO BE SOLD AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR SALES BOOTH

Bid on any or all items (state quantity you will supply and bid price)

1 lb. Jars--light honey.....

12 oz. Bears--light honey.....

2 lb. Jars--light honey.....

24 oz. Bears--light honey.....

5 lb. Jugs--light honey.....

1 lb. Skep--light honey.....

Gallons--light honey.....

50 or 60 lb. Pails (for lemonade).....

4 oz. Antique Jars.....

Comb Honey.....

8 oz. Antique Jars.....

1 lb. Plastic jars--light honey.....

Hard Honey Candy(assorted).....

Creamed Honey-regular.....

Creamed Honey-flavors.....

Beeswax Candles.....

Other Beeswax Products.....

Beeswax Bars(1 oz., ½ lb., 1 lb.).....

NOTE: We need a substantial supply of comb honey in plastic boxes and section comb honey. This item is usually in short supply and thus bidding doesn't make sense. We will accept cut comb in plastic boxes and wooden and round section comb containers. Quality standards for all comb honey are: clean cappings and all cells capped. Cut comb in plastic boxes must be well drained with little or no liquid honey. We will pay **\$5.25** per unit for cut comb in plastic boxes or section comb honey which weighs at least 14 ounces. We will pay **\$4.00** for comb honey in round containers that meet quality standards. Honey from all suppliers must be 2013 crop, Iowa honey with 18.5% or less moisture content and excellent overall quality. All of the containers need to be at a uniform fill line and free from foam. The IHPA booth manager has the right to refuse any containers not meeting this standard. Winning bids will be based on quality and ability to provide required quantity of product for the entire fair. All winning bids will remain in effect for the duration of the Iowa State Fair.

Bids must be received by June 30, 2013. Please sign the bid sheet and provide address and phone numbers. Suppliers of State Fair Honey will use their own business label on products supplied for State Fair Sales. Labels must be attractive with preprinted wording, which includes name and address of the supplier and net weight of item supplied. Include one sample of your label with the bid sheet. The IHPA booth manager may limit the number of flavored creamed honey for sale due to lack of adequate sales space.

NOTE: Arrangements need to be made to pick up any unused product between 9 p.m. & 10 p.m. Sunday, August 18th or 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, August 19th, 2013.

Your signature _____ Name(printed) _____

Business Name _____

Address, City, Zip _____ Phone &/or Cell _____

Return to: **Dale Fields**
1445 165th St.
Clemons, IA 50051
(641) 691-4729

**Remember: This is the major money making event for
the Iowa Honey Producers!!**



51 South 2nd St.
Hamilton, IL 62341
Ph. (217) 847-3324
Fax (217) 847-3660
Email: dadant@dadant.com



For Immediate Release

March 18, 2013

DADANT & SONS CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Eight hundred beekeepers converged on the Dadant & Sons, Inc., Beekeeping Supply and Candle Company in Hamilton, Ill, March 15 & 16, 2013 to attend the Sesquicentennial Anniversary celebrating the company's 150 years of business.

Festivities on March 15 included a tour of the company's three main area manufacturing facilities in Hamilton and Dallas City, Illinois, and Kahoka, Missouri, as well as a complementary banquet and evening speaker at Sullivan Auctioneers, Inc., located outside of Hamilton on Highway 136. We would like to thank the Sullivan family for their generosity and helping with our 150th Anniversary celebration. The following day, beekeepers were treated to a full day of speeches and displays, as well as lunch provided by the company. Saturday's program included speeches from nationally known beekeeping experts: James Tew, retired Ohio State extension beekeeper and current extension beekeeper at Auburn University; Randy Oliver, California commercial beekeeper and pollinator and monthly columnist for the *American Bee Journal*; Jerry Hayes, former Florida State apiarist, who currently works for Monsanto in St. Louis on bee health and writes the monthly Classroom column for the *American Bee Journal*; and Chuck and Karen Lorence, Illinois sideline beekeepers and honey marketing experts. Talks were also given by Tim Dadant, company president; Kent Robertson, Dadant's Dallas City Metalware plant manager; and Ray Latner, Dadant's Florida branch manager.



Dadant & Sons, Inc., began their business in Hamilton, Illinois in 1863 when Charles Dadant emigrated from France to the United States with the intention of growing grapes in West Central Illinois. However, Charles, who had also been a hobby beekeeper in France, soon discovered that honey bees flourished and produced excellent honey crops in this area due to the abundance of native wildflowers, as well as clover and alfalfa grown by farmers. From this sideline pursuit the family's beekeeping business continued to grow. At one time, the family was known as one of the largest honey producers in the country.

Charles and his son, C.P. Dadant, also began to manufacture beeswax comb foundation for other beekeepers when it was discovered that providing reusable combs for beehives greatly increased the hive's honey productivity. Eventually, the company added beehives, honey processing equipment and other beekeeping accessories to the wide range of products they sold to beekeepers. As the family business grew, producing quality beekeeping supplies became a larger part of

the business. Today, Dadant & Sons, Inc., is the largest beekeeping supply manufacturer in the world. They also manufacture candles for both the religious and decorative candle trade. Besides its plants in Hamilton and Dallas City, Ill., and Kahoka, Mo., it owns a woodenware plant in Polson, Mont. It also has 10 branch sales offices located throughout the country, in addition to significant international sales volume. On the educational front, it maintains the monthly *American Bee Journal* magazine, the oldest English language beekeeping magazine, as well as publishing an extensive line of beekeeping educational books.

###

For more information about Dadant & Sons, Inc., contact our home office in Hamilton, IL. Phone: (217) 847-3324 or email: dadant@dadant.com. The company's web site is www.dadant.com.





OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO BEE RESEARCH IN IOWA

As many of you are aware, we have begun a new honey bee research program at Iowa State University, where we are focusing on the effects of nutrition and viruses on honey bee health. As a part of this, we are very interested in getting a better handle on what viruses are present in the hives of beekeepers across the state. This information will help us understand which viruses are most abundant and where they are located. It will also help us to look for patterns in how the spread of these viruses is linked to the type of landscape surrounding bee hives, and hopefully give us insight into how to better prevent some types of bee disease.

Of course, we can't accomplish this kind of goal without the support of the Iowa beekeeping community. Therefore, we are hoping to get permission to sample live bees from the hives of beekeepers across the state. To do this, we would come out to an apiary and collect about 100 bees from up to 5 hives in a yard. If a beekeeper has several yards that are separated by a few miles, we would be interested in sampling from each of these yards. The sampling is very quick and noninvasive, and just involves us sucking up some bees off of a few frames and collecting them into tubes. After the sampling, we will then perform a viral screening in our lab at ISU. If you are interested in our findings, the results from the screening of your hives

will be provided to you after we have completed the screening.

All findings will be confiden-

tial, and will not be shared in a personally identifiable form with anyone else.

If you, or another beekeeper you know, is interested in letting us come out and sample from your hives, please contact us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know and we can discuss them. This is a great opportunity to help build a strong picture of the bee virus situation in Iowa, and to continue to advance what we know about new bee diseases.

In addition to these regular screenings, we are also on the lookout for any beekeepers who suspect their hives have suffered from Colony Collapse Disorder. If you or any other beekeepers you know have sudden hives losses, specifically those where 1) there are few dead adult bees, 2) there is still brood and food stores in the nest, we are interested in investigating your hives. If you have hives that suffer from these symptoms, we would like to **quickly** come visit your apiary and collect any dead bees, some live bees, some brood, and some samples from the comb. We will then analyze these samples for viruses, so we can get a better idea on which viruses are usually associated with these types of colony losses in Iowa. Again, anything identifiable from the samples will be kept confidential.

If you are interested in participating in our bee screenings, or have hives with CCD that you will let us sample from, please contact us at:

Amy Toth, Assistant Professor,
315-294-3121,
amytoth@iastate.edu

Adam Dolezal,
Postdoctoral Research Associate,
315-650-3847,
adolezal@iastate.edu

To learn more about our research, please visit:

http://www.public.iastate.edu/~amytoth/Toth_lab/Home.html

THE BEEYARD REPORT

I thought I had solved the problem of snakes in the house when we put the new basement under the house. This proved to be wrong. Once it began to warm up a little, I picked up a snake in the kitchen every few days.

At first they were small ones. Now, they are getting much larger. They are all bull snakes. I know they are not dangerous but they always startle me and I hate the way they feel. I put on a glove before I pick them up.

I am still getting lot of friend requests for Facebook and other social media. I don't mean to be unfriendly but I don't need to have my life on social media. I am amazed at the things people put on Facebook and then wonder why there are consequences.

Our winter loss is holding at 10%. I am sure it will be 20% by the time we weed out the queenless colonies and other dinks. I consider that good survival. It is very manageable for us. I should point out that I don't count the colonies we pick up in the fall. I consider that to be a different set of problems mainly related to queen events. I do count those colonies when we figure our average colony yield. Everything that had a lid on it in the spring had expense. We have to take that into account. If you add both factors together, we are turning over 30% to 40% of our colonies every year.

We have gotten through our first load of package bees. It went pretty smoothly considering we were 100 packages short. This is not the first time we have been short but it is the first time it was my fault. I had the numbers right on the computer but when I transferred the numbers to the order sheet, I dropped 100 colonies. It not only shorted my customers, it also screwed up the whole load for hauling. We need to get 90 packages per row. They are stapled in place with lath and then the whole load is clamped in place with a chain that runs the length of the trailer.

Koehnens put on a few odd packages to help make up the shortfall but there was no way to secure them. A few of the

cages arrived looking like parallelogram. I have to compliment the haulers, though. Craig Greene and Jerry Weldon did a great job under difficult circumstances. We have one more load to go.

Given the weather we have had, the bees are brooding up very slowly. Koehnens called and said they were having queen problems. I told them I was happy to delay shipment. Then they called again and said the second load of packages was going to be late. They don't know what the problem is. The weather has been good but they are only picking 50% on the queen cycles. The package shake has been light. A recent article by Randy Oliver suggests that Insect Growth Regulators may be the cause of queen mortality. Dimilin is one of the possible culprits. Previously, it was thought that the fungicide Pristine was a player in this problem. There are way too many chemicals out there. I am afraid we are going to turn the planet into a toxic cocktail.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

RED ROCK BEEKEEPERS, Knoxville, and BACK TO BASICS, Oskaloosa, Iowa

February and March 2013 updates

Red Rock Beekeepers met on Feb 12, and Mar 12, 2013. We watched the last 2 parts of Organic Beekeeping 101 with Randy Sue which we had started in January. The video offered new angles and perspectives on the management of keeping our bees healthy and productive. We found ourselves opening up to new ideas and analyzing processes many of us have learned through classes and from each other. Randy Sue made each step appear simple and decisive. Some members presented pros and cons toward her presentations as compared to our mind sets. It is good to be open and willing to try procedures with a new angle and share those ideas throughout our meetings. Exactly the purpose of

attending classes and meetings. Beekeepers attending Red Rock Beekeepers and Back to Basics are like magnets which grow in magnitude and strength. General advise to beginners is to follow the wise and ways of their initial beekeeper instructor for the first couple years. With experience and time, take off with your own inclinations for experimental purposes to feel out how you would enjoy doing your management of your colonies. We soon learn there are many different ways and means of encouraging our bees to grow healthy and productive. Exactly that is what drives our interest and addiction to learning more to test our skills in increasing our honey supply and products from the hive.



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO SCHOLARS FROM BOTH BACK TO BASICS AND RED ROCK BEEKEEPERS

Six scholarships were made available to 11- thru 17-year-old scholars who have attended all the required bee classes for eligibility. Each scholar was presented with the materials to construct a two-box hive, including frames and foundation, along with hive tools, a brush, smoker, gloves, hat, and veil. A nucleus of bees with a queen will arrive in April when the weather is right for each ready and waiting hive.

Their instructor happened to be Craig Greene of Knoxville. Craig felt all six scholars were outstanding students of the beginning beekeeping class, along with their families. Most or all of these families plan to add hives to work along side their students and to start a nice

apiary. Family involvement and support were exceptional. Those who received scholarships completed lengthy applications timely. They have made the commitment to follow their project of building a bee hive, installing bees, and caring for their colonies for a one-year period and will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the year. They will give presentations to their clubs throughout the year with a final report in October. Each has been appointed a mentor who has beekeeping experience to assist the new beekeeper and his or her family throughout the year.

DONATIONS:

Thanks to donors of funds and equipment to make this scholarship program a great success in encouraging families without beekeeping experience to become involved with bees as a contribution to improving our environment and the pollination of crops and food plants. This program is a generous means of growth within the bee industry and within environmental awareness. It is also a compliment to the growth of 4-H and FFA girls and boys. The exciting part for these young scholars is the reward of putting honey on their family's tables with their Mom's and Grandma's homemade bread; as well as, the opportunity of showing bee products at the fair, and then as their supply grows they will be able to sell bee products and experience their very own family bee business. Some will use bee products in coordination with their artistic interests for personal use and for sale, such as candles and beeswax sculptures.

Scholarships draw attention to the growth of bee clubs and recognize donations from members who have been rewarded in their personal experiences of beekeeping and their desire for continued growth. Donations from commercial beekeepers is a means of advertising the availability of equipment and supplies beneficial to the beekeeper and their bees. Commercial beekeepers donate to share their



participation and interest in the growth of the bee industry. Many other local businesses donate toward scholarship funds to express their interest in the development of the community through our young people and their families. The Red Rock Beekeepers and Back To Basics wish to especially thank Pat and Peggy Ennis, President and Historian of Iowa Honey Producers Association and work with the Bronnenbergs of Spring Valley Honey Farms of Perry, Iowa. Also special thanks to Menniga Pest Control of Pella and The George Daily Foundation in Mahaska County for donations. These funds and equipment, along with funds from bee enthusiasts offer a path toward the growth of the bee industry and family participation within the community.

Red Rock Beekeepers presented one scholarship:

Savanna Scott received the one scholarship which Red Rock Beekeepers had to offer. It went to this 11- year-old

daughter of Jim and Heather Scott, of Knoxville. Jim and Heather are each purchasing a hive to learn the art of bee-keeping along with Savanna. Savanna's interest brought them to beekeeping classes. They caught the addiction and desire to build their own. Savanna is a real farm and nature gal. She loves the outdoors in caring for another member of her family named "Cowboy." Cowboy Scott is Savanna's miniature black pony who shares a lot of love with Savanna by trading rides and walks for food and currying. Savanna also raises chickens to show at the county fair for 4 -H. Daily she helps with sheep, goats, lambs, ducks, dogs and cats, each with an individual name. Savanna likes to get a little artily with designs. She is considering yellow and black for her hive. Only your guess for the resulting design. She has a special little signature bee at the end of her application. Cute! She would do well at making bee posters for the fair and maybe even a demonstration.

boys are home-schooled and mighty proud of it. Christopher is enthusiastic to learn about the wonderment of bees which have been in his grandfather's out-building for many, many years. Watching grandpa's bees has stimulated his interest in the magic of caring for bees and owning his own. Christopher's Aunt and parents have been most supportive in Christopher's apiary near Pella. It's wonderful to see the whole family attending meetings.

Elijah McQuivey is 12. He is home-schooled with his two brothers, ages 10 and 7. The home schooling group is Eddyville-Blakesburg- Fremont. Elijah is very attentive and speaks well of himself and his family. He attended a bee-keeping class two years ago, but was too young for a scholarship at that time, so he came back to this year's class to try out for his own hive and bee scholarship from Back To Basics. Elijah is very well acquainted with bee colonies. Since his class with his parents two years ago, his family has 3 colonies in their apiary near Fremont. His Dad is Jared McQuivey and is very pleased with Elijah's continued interest and desire to own his own colony. Elijah is proud that he has never been stung by a bee. He loves to play with the drones (in his hands - yes) and explained exactly how to properly handle a bee. (Drones don't sting, but those guard bees will certainly call out the girls who do the stinging.) Can you believe he's been around the family bees for 2 or 3 years and never been stung. Elijah will make a good mentor for scholars some day.

Laren McGinnis, age 14, of Pella and **Shanalle Vos** of Oskaloosa also received scholarships from Back To Basics. Since I am running out of time and space and have not visited with them to get to know them, their interests, and experiences, I will defer discussion about them and hope to catch up with them later.

On March 8th Delmar and Fern Nelson of Rock Creek Honey gave a most professional presentation on marketing honey bee products for Back To Basics. They have set up at farmers markets

Back To Basics presented the following five scholars with scholarships as described above:

Sarah Herz has a special interest with her Mother, Janet, in starting an apiary at their home in Lovila near Lake Miami. Janet is ordering her own equipment and bees to work along side Sarah. Both are excited, a little nervous, and yet enthusiastic at getting their hives ready for their bees and look forward to a summer of new experiences together. Sarah attends Albia School District.

Christopher Meinders will be 12 in August. Christopher has younger brothers, Luke, Tom, and Ethan for whom he is ready to demonstrate his new skills of working with bees. He also has a baby sister, Abbey, who is a bit young yet. By the end of the summer she will be saying "bees, boys, bees." The



Savanna Scott received the beekeeping scholarship awarded by the Red Rock Beekeepers.



Sarah Herz, Elijah McQuivey, and Christopher Meinders are three recipients of the beekeeping scholarships awarded by the Back to Basics Beekeeping club.



Iowa Honey Queen

Hello Iowa Beekeepers:

This spring is all sorts of disappointing as far as weather in my neck of the woods, here in Cedar Rapids. We have had some spotty nice weather, but currently it's rainy, windy, and a bombing 45 degrees outside with a chance of freezing rain tonight. Apparently winter did not get the memo that it we are done with it.

over the years and have developed a variety of products to draw in customers. They have had a lot of experience and have many helpful tips.

Gerald Bradley talked to us about his allergies to bee venom with some good advice for awareness. He had a cute poem about honey between Missouri and Iowa. Ask him.

Celebrate National Pollinator Week, June 17 - 23, 2013! U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is at:
<http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/>

The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction will be held April 20, 2013, at 10:00 am on Hwy 141, 1 block west of the hospital in Perry. It is the same place: Curt and Connie Bronnenbergs' "in town honey house."

Preparations are being made for the 2013 Southern Iowa Fair at Oskaloosa to be held July 15th - 20th. Back To Basics will be having a booth and do need help in setting up, tearing down, and in manning the booth. Please contact Angie Sutton at cadssut@iowatelecom.net to volunteer your time. Angie and Chris Sutton have made a very attractive, professional booth at which you would be proud to serve. Angie says there will be some-

thing a little different this year. Be sure to visit it at the fair in Oskaloosa.

Back To Basics has invited Red Rock Beekeepers to their Field Day to be held May 18 at 1:00 pm at Theo & Eve Vanden Broeks home/apiary. Bring your bee suit. Snacks are okay but not necessarily requested. The Vanden Broeks are at 134 Holland Dr, Pella, IA 50219.

Red Rock Beekeepers meets year round at 6:30 on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Knoxville meeting room next to the cafeteria -- open to everyone. Back to Basics meets at the Mahaska County Extension Office, 212 North I St. in Oskaloosa and is open to everyone. They meet on the 2nd Friday of every month, except June, July, and August, at 6:30 pm. The 2nd Friday in April, April 12th, will be the last meeting for Back To Basics in Oskaloosa until September 13, 2013, other than the Field Day on May 18.

Editor, Marilyn Jackson,
jacksmarylyn@hotmail.com



Classes are going great; I am almost done for my first year of college, here at Kirkwood Community College. During the summer months students are required to find an internship that coincide with their majors. I got the opportunity to start early at my internship. I am a farm hand, greenhouse hand, and many other things at Morgan Creek Produce Market and Farm. It is an organic farming operation on 45 acres west of Cedar Rapids. I am in love with it, and the process of sustainable agriculture that is growing in population here in the Midwest.

Over the past term I have learned that Parks and Natural Resources is not my cup of tea as far as a career choice. I prefer greenhouse work, landscaping, and nurseries. A wise person told me to hang tight, and something great will show up. With that in mind I went to Kirkwood advisors and asked if there was such a class that incorporated organic farming, and there was none available. I am currently paving the way for a new program/major at Kirkwood. Since there is not a program that incorporates organic farming Kirkwood is creating one for me and future students that want to have organic farming as a future career. It will be called Sustainable Agriculture and it will include organic farming.

viticulture (growing grapes), and other farming practice that are nontraditional.

My new advisor at Kirkwood is working with me to help create this program, and to make the pot even sweeter he is a fellow beekeeper. If you have been reading my issues you know that I have tried getting bees onto the Kirkwood property for educational purposes for months now, he is willing to help in trying again. We are not sure if it will work, but if it does not go through classes will be taking field trips to a local bee yard to learn.

On March 28 I saw many of you in Ames for the Bayer Bee Care Tour. We listen to what they had to say about honey bee health and chemicals. The crowd at the tour consisted of two thirds of Iowa Beekeepers, and the rest were farmers and Bayer representatives. It was educational but whenever we, the beekeepers, would ask a question the speaker would beat around the bush answering to get back to what they were saying. I enjoyed the event even though it won't really change anything.

This coming weekend packages will be arriving for me and the family, we ordered two more one for me to bring back to Cedar Rapids, and another for my brother back in Pella. I am excited to get the girls established while avoiding getting stung I told the story to most of you about the swollen eye/face last year.

My schedule is filling up pretty fast, if you have any events that I and Rachel could attend contact the Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg at 515.480.6076 or cbronny823@aol.com. You can also reach me directly at han-nah.vanwyk93@yahoo.com.

This recipe is great for a Sunday Brunch or when relatives are staying the weekend.

Yield: 8 servings
Nutritional Information
Calories: 418
Fat Total: 17.2 g
Protein: 7.09 g
Cholesterol: 160 mg
Carbohydrates: 66.4 g
Sodium: 185 mg
Dietary Fiber: 2.53 g
Calories from Fat: 34%

Ingredients
1-1/4 cups - honey, divided
1 cup - chopped toasted pecans
1/2 cup - dried cranberries
1/2 cup (3 oz.) - semi-sweet chocolate chips

WEAVER'S famous QUEENS and Package Bees

★ Buckfast ★ All-American

The R Weaver Apiaries, Inc.
16495 CR 319, Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-2333 Fax: 936-825-3642

Email: rweaver@tca.net www.rweaver.com

2 Tablespoons - unsweetened cocoa powder
6 - eggs, separated
3/4 cup - matzo meal
6 Tablespoons - potato starch
1/2 teaspoon - salt

Directions

In medium bowl, mix together 1/2 cup honey, pecans, cranberries, chocolate chips and cocoa powder. In separate bowl, combine remaining 3/4 cup honey, egg yolks, matzo meal, potato starch and salt. In small bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold 1/4 of whites into egg yolk mixture. Mix egg yolk mixture back into remaining egg whites. Spread 1/3 of batter in greased 9-inch spring form pan. Spoon half of pecan mixture on top. Repeat with remaining batter and pecan mixture. With spoon, gently swirl filling into batter. Bake at 325°F for 45 minutes, or until cake starts to pull from sides of pan and toothpick inserted near center comes out

clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove cake from pan and cool on wire rack. serve warm or at room temperature.

Good luck on your new packages.

Safe travels, and happy buzzing,
Hannah L. VanWyk
2013 Iowa Honey Queen

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper of the month is Liam Stowe. He is another of the Iowa Honey Producers mentor program participants and the only child, although he says he has lots of cousins, of Amy Beattie and Bill Stowe. They live in Des Moines, Iowa. Liam is in the 11th grade at Dowling Catholic in West Des Moines. He is involved in orchestra and drama at school and the Des Moines Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Besides beekeeping some of his other hobbies are movies, video games, biking, and playing the violin. Liam plans to attend college after graduation, but is not sure where or what he will major in.

His yearly visits to the IHPA state fair display inspired him to try beekeeping. He attended the classes in Ankeny taught by Andy Joseph and took advantage of beekeeping field days. Andy Joseph is also his mentor.

Through his beekeeping experiences, Liam learned how intricate the hive is and how interesting it is to see the bees interact with each other. He also learned how allergic his dad is to beestings. Liam plans to keep his first hive and increase his beekeeping activities this year.

Good luck with your second year as a beekeeper Liam.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

Honey Pecan Swirled Coffee Cake



**Liam Stowe and mentor Andy Joseph
installing a package of bees as part of
the IHPA Youth Mentoring
Program.**



President's Message Trivia Answer: : 2 Million flowers for 1 pound of honey.

Central Iowa Bee Supply
Cash and carry bee equipment
supplier of woodenware, tools,
suits, medications, and nutritional
products from Dadant & Sons.
Custom woodenware built by our
own cabinetmaker, Don Charleston,
is also available.

**Owners: Susan Jones and
George Jones**

**Our shop is located at
14535 NE 88th St., Maxwell, IA.
Phone numbers 515-387-8707 and
515-450-8296, or online at our website
www.cibees.com Email us for your bee
supplies at cibees8707@gmail.com**

**Open: Thurs. 5-8 p.m.,
Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., or call us.**

**We want to be your Central Iowa
bee equipment supplier for your hives and
all the supplies you need to get started in
the wonderful world of honey bees!**



**Come check out our shop 7 miles northeast of Elkhart,
or 5 miles southwest of Maxwell. When you need a Super
immediately for honey production - we are the ones to call.
When you need medication immediately - we are the ones to
come to. Cash and Carry. No more waiting on FEDEX
to show up in a week. You come and look at what you want
and walk out with it. No more shipping cost to worry about.
If we don't have it in stock, we will order it.**

For All Your Packaging Containers For Packing Honey

(No Order To Large or Small)

BL Plastic Containers, LLC



**"We Built Our Business on
Service, Quality, and
Dependability."**

**BL Plastic Containers, LLC
1425 Metro E. Drive Unit 109
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327**

**Phone: 515-266-6112
Fax: 515-266-1112**

**sales@blplasticiowa.com
www.blplasticiowa.com**

LAPPS BEE SUPPLY CENTER

**500 SOUTH MAIN STREET
REESEVILLE, WISCONSIN 53579**

**Beekeeping & Candlemaking
Supplies**

**FREE CATALOG
1-800-321-1960**

**"Serving the beekeeper
for 25 years"**



THE BEST EXTRACTORS IN THE BUSINESS



Extractors

MADE IN THE U.S.A.



SCAN THE QR
CODE WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE TO
VIEW OUR LINE OF
EXTRACTORS



EXTRACTOR KITS

M00396KIT
LITTLE WONDER HAND
EXTRACTOR KIT



SCAN THE QR CODE WITH
YOUR SMARTPHONE TO VIEW
OUR EXTRACTOR KITS



Standard
Reel
Included



M00400
RANGER
HAND
EXTRACTOR

M00402
Optional
Basket for
Deep Frames



M00401
RANGER
POWER
EXTRACTOR

GET YOUR
ORDER IN EARLY!

DADANT
WEBSITE



www.dadant.com

• 51 S. SECOND STREET, HAMILTON IL 62341 • PHONE (217) 847-3324 • FAX (217) 847-3660 • TOLL FREE 1-888-922-1293
• 1318 11TH STREET, SIOUX CITY, IA • PHONE (712) 255-3232 • FAX (712) 255-3233 • TOLL FREE 1-877-732-3268

DADANT@
DADANT.COM



The Buzz Newsletter

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



Officers

President: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@lycos.com

Vice President: Eli Kalke
1445 165th St.
Clemons, IA 50051
(641) 512-4728
FieldStoneFarms@netins.net

Secretary: Mary Ebert
705 Hwy. #1 West
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 354-6696
MEbert@netins.net

Treasurer: Rhonda Heston
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049
(515) 724-2124
R.Heston@yahoo.com

Historian: Peggy Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767

Past President :
Curt Bronnberg
1433 Hull Ave.
Perry, IA 50220
(515) 465-5939
CBronny823@aol.com

Judge Advocate: Larry J. Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, Iowa 51354
(712) 735-4205
Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

District Directors

District #1 Jackie Beard
19682 415th St.
Chariton, IA 50049
(641) 774-8047
BeardRJ@wildblue.net

District #2 Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

District #3 Dennis Nielson
6948 25th Ave.
Newhall, IA 52315-9620
(319) 350-8361
nielsondl@fbx.com

District #4 Julie Swett
2005 North Dakota Ave
Ames, IA 50014
(515) 450-2033
funcity@aol.com

District #5 Craig Greene
1554 135th PL
Knoxville, IA 50138
(641) 842-2112
cgreene@iowatelecom.net

District #6 Mike Divis
3312 210th St.
Anthon, IA 51004
(712) 373-9743
(712) 899-8117
mikyyyd@aol.com



Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

Contact: Eves Cadwallader
2420 285th St.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-3993
weic@kdsi.net

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

Contact: Arvin Foell
30930 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
Home phone 515/597-3060
Cell phone 515/450-9494
ajfoell@huxcomm.net

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Julia McGuire
jcammcguire@yahoo.com

East Central Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Dave Irvin
2254 S. Riverside Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 351-6205

State Apiarist

Andrew Joseph
(515) 725-1481
andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

IDALS website

www.agriculture.state.ia.us

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Mark Speltz
(515) 669-3266
mark.speltz@dia.iowa.gov

Iowa Honey Queen Program

Connie Bronnberg 515-480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

Loess Hills Beekeeping Association

22524 Hunt Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-7978
LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com

North Iowa Bee Club

Contact: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@lycos.com

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Louise Johnson
34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Larry J. Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, Iowa 51354
(712) 735-4205
Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

Bee Emergency Information

Contact: Vern Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535-8162
(319) 498-4355

Contact: Mike Divis
3312 210th St.
Anthon, IA 51004
(712) 373-9743
(712) 899-8117

American Honey Producers Association

www.ahpanet.com

Red Rock Beekeepers

Contact: Gerald Murphy
1180 92nd Ave
Knoxville, IA 50138
(641) 218-4814

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Vernie Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535
(319) 498-4355
Vdramsey@netins.net

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers

Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4256

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa

Contact: Judy Spence
12839 Carpenter Trail
Carlisle, IA 50047
(515) 988-8397
jespencejr44@gmail.com

American Beekeeping Federation

www.ABFnet.org

National Honey Board

www.honey.com

Amy Toth, Assistant Professor

Iowa State University
Ecology, Evolution,
and Organismal Biology
amytoth@iastate.edu
http://www.public.iastate.edu/~amytoth/
Toth_lab/Home.html