

The Buzz



Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

July 2010



Dates To Bee Remembered



August 12-22, 2010 Iowa State Fair
September 19, 2010 Board Meeting 2 pm Heartland Inn, Des Moines
November 4, 2010 Board Meeting 7 pm Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown IA



November 5th & 6th Annual Meeting Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown

For Sale: Pine Hive Components. 9 5/8" Boxes \$13, 6 5/8" Boxes \$10, reversible screened bottom boards \$10, telescoping cover \$13. Painted, handholds, and bee space compatible with commercial woodenware. Glued with Titebond II and screwed, simple butt joints.

Contact: Josh Sommers (641) 658-2213

For Sale: Stainless steel Kelley Grocer's tank (15 gal.) with out honey gate. \$80.

Contact: Galen Eiben (319) 885-6264

For Sale: Honeybees in one-story hives with ten frames of good comb, reversible screened bottom board and a cover. \$125.

Contact Josh Sommers 641-658-2213

FOR SALE: 4 Frame Nucs for summer expansion--available late June to early July.

Call for pricing, Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

For Sale: new crop honey \$1.75 lb. in five gal. bucket plus new bucket exchange. Don't let your customers run out of honey, or they will get it from someone else.

Curt Bronnenberg (515) 465-5939 www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

FOR SALE: Queen excluders--\$2; feeder buckets--\$1

Contact Dick Blake at 712-246-3412

Renewals, Address Changes, <u>Mail Returns</u>

There are still a number of members who have not sent in their renewals for 2010. Your renewal date is above your name on the Buzz. We would appreciate your attention to renewing your membership as your dues pay only 66% of the cost for the editing, printing and mailing of your Buzz each year.

A couple of other items that need to be mentioned are address changes and mail returns. We are charged by the Post Office for all returned issues of the Buzz because of an address change or because a member is "temporarily away". If an issue is returned because

of an address change, an effort is made to re-send it to the new address which means additional postage has to be paid to re-send it. This also means your issue will be delayed in getting to you.

If an issue is returned because the member is "temporarily away", that issue will not be re-mailed as it may be returned again resulting in more postage being paid. If you are going to be "temporarily away", please notify me when you leave and again when you return. I will hold your issues until your return and send them in one package.

Thank you for your renewal and for providing updated information so that your Buzz can be delivered in a timely manner.

Melanie Bower Treasurer/Membership



The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to **TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.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 15th 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. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

Is anyone else tired of the rain? It is making garden work, beekeeping and yard work never ending. We just can't seem to keep caught up. It makes cleaning vegetables a really long process. Honey bees are not getting nectar with all of this wet weather. The nectar is being washed off the plants. Andy sent an email a while ago stating he was going to check e-bay for thousands of small rain coats for his bees. I am thinking we almost need a dome. Then we could provide the perfect conditions article. Let Amber work for you. for honey bees. Wishful thinking!!



I still need lots of volunteers to work at the Iowa Honey Producers sales booth at the Iowa State Fair. The IHPA booth is open from 9 am until 9 pm for 11 days during the run of the Iowa State Fair, August 12-22, 2010. We need to have at least 25 people each day volunteer to work in the booth. The shifts are from 9 am until 1:30 pm; 1:30 pm until 6 pm; and 6 pm until 9 pm. The 6 -9 pm shift of volunteers also needs to help put everything away and clean up the area. It is helpful if workers arrive a little early so we can give instructions to the workers and answer any questions. The IHPA provides each volunteer with entrance tickets into the fairgrounds for the day or days that you can work. They will be sent to you when I can pick them up, usually around the end of July. Please volunteer to work to help the IHPA obtain the necessary operating money for the coming year. It is a lot of fun to people watch, answer questions from the interested public and provide great refreshments and Iowa honey products to consumers. Please contact me with dates that you are able to work. It makes my life a lot easier if you can contact me really soon.

Please call (712) 778-4255 home (402) 677-2460 cell mbrahms@netins.net email.

Remember to include Iowa Honey ber know. Queen, Amber Connett, in your summer promotion plans. Contact Louise Sincerely. Johnson to schedule an appearance. People really enjoy meeting royalty and the honey queen really attracts attention to your celebration or booth. Amber's contact information is located in her

I still haven't received any art designs for the contest the IHPA is sponsoring for the 100th Anniversary of the IHPA. Please send the designs to me. We want to display them during the Iowa State Fair and have people vote on

Remember to check your honey bees for swarm cells often. Keep enough honey supers on your colonies to keep workers busy. I know it is early, but we need to monitor mite levels and get hives treated as soon as honey supers are removed. Let's see if we can have a higher survival rate this winter. Mite treatments seem to be linked to that survival rate. Another way to ensure survival is to make sure that your colonies are registered. If you need help registering your colonies, please contact Andy Joseph, the Iowa State Apia-Talk to vour neighbors about where your colonies are located and the importance of careful spraying around them. We can "kill" our neighbors with kindness and possibly gain some ground in the spraying issues that have caused problems in the past.

Bee careful on the 4th of July, enjoy some family time and get your projects finished for entry at the Iowa State Fair in the Apiary Department, the Food Department especially the foods made with honey division or the (Homemade Wine) Department. Watch for 4-H projects from our younger members jcammcguire@yahoo.com

also. Let's make a great showing at the state fair. We could use volunteers to help with the daily presentations in the new Animal Learning Center. We are gearing toward children this year. Have any fun ideas? Let a board mem-

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

IHPA Art Contest

The Iowa Honey Producers Association board would like to announce an art design contest to the entire member-Someone in the organization could win \$100 for the winning design that will "bee" used for memorabilia to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Iowa Beekeeping. The Iowa Beekeeping group was established in 1912 making it 100 years in 2012.

The winning entry could be used for print material, bumper stickers, belt buckles, ball caps, bolo ties, etc. Please submit your entries by August 1st, 2010 to Donna Brahms. We will have the design on display during the Iowa State Fair. Fairgoers will get a chance to vote on their favorite design August-12 -22 while the 2010 Iowa State Fair is being held. Put your artistic thinking cap on and submit that winning design.



Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers is up and meeting again. Monthly meetings, supplemented by a members-only email loop, are currently being managed by Julia McGuire. Des Moinesarea beekeepers and prospects are invited to join.

Contact info is Julia McGuire --



IHPA Award Nominations

It is time to think of deserving beekeepers and friends of the association that should receive one of the Awards that the IHPA presents at the Annual Meeting banquet. Please review the categories and submit your suggestions along with a short letter explaining why you feel that this candidate should receive an award. The categories that we usually present are as follows:

- 1. **Pioneer Award** for having been involved for 50 years or more and still active in beekeeping.
- 2. **Distinguished Service Award** for assisting other beekeepers, willing to share information, and /or serving the association.
- 3. **Education Award** teaching beekeeping classes, speaking at service clubs, giving presentations to school children or speaking about beekeeping on radio or T.V.
- 4. **Promotions Award** for promoting honey and beekeeping, promotions for the state association or promoting their own product.
- 5. **Friendship Award** for being a friend of the association. This could be someone who has displayed at the annual IHPA trade show, a state official who has assisted or encouraged beekeeping, someone outside our industry of producing honey.
- 6. **Youth Award** for a young person who has shown commendable involvement in such things as helping the the state fair, successfully keeping bees for at least one season including wintering, writing, making a float for a parade, speaking, etc.

If you would like to nominate someone, please send the information to us by the deadline of **September 30th**. :

Louise Johnson 34147 310th Street Guttenberg, IA 52052 (563) 252-2340 louisej@alpinecom.net

Matthew Stewart 2956 170th Street South Amana, IA 52234 (319) 662-4145



Iowa Honey Queen July

Oh July, the best month of the year if you ask me! Not only is there the 4th, where you get to celebrate the great country we live in, but you also get to eat all kinds of delicious BBQ, watch fireworks, and spend time with your family. July is also the best month for me as it is county fair season and the month my birthday lands in.

This year at county fair I will be exhibiting around 25 birds for the poultry show, some of my artwork, flowers, and with some luck and cooperation from the weather I will have some vegetables. Our county fair runs from July 16-22 and I cannot wait for it to get here.

June was another slow month for events. I had planned on a couple school visits, but with the kids being in a week later than usually the school's decided they would just reschedule me for the fall because the students would be more cooperative then. It kind of makes you wish colleges also gave a couple days for us to wind down before summer, ha-ha.

Right now I am scheduled for the culinary event in July with Melanie and Donna, as well as a day at the organic supermarket, Wheatsfield, in Ames for Phil Ebert. Both events will be fun and hopefully I will have more events rolling in as the weather warms up.

Good luck to all the county fair exhibitors with your projects and good luck to everyone with their bees. Stay safe and stay warm, and don't forget to get some fishing in between all your chores and events. Also keep me in mind when planning for farmer's markets, county fairs, and other events! I am always excited to get out and promote the honey bees and our association.

Amber Connett aconnett@iastate.edu 515-460-9199



Dear Honey Producers:

We hope you will be able to help the Iowa Honey Producers Association with honey and lemonade sales at the 2010 Iowa State Fair. Dates of this year's fair are August 12th through the 22nd. Please bring any other helpers with you who may be interested in working. Children who are ten years of age and older enjoy assisting and are welcome.

We will send passes which provide free entry to the State Fair to all who assist with honey and lemonade sales.

Days, dates and times for which help is needed are listed at the bottom of this letter. Please return the work schedule, call or e-mail, if you prefer, indicating the dates and times you will help. Also, if possible, please list a first or second choice of dates and times you can be available to help with sales. Please state the names of all those coming with you who will be helping with State Fair sales.

I already have dates filling up. Thanks to those who have asked for a specific date at this early time. Remember that we need approximately 21 people per day to fill the necessary shifts. The building is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. for each of the 11 days that the Iowa State Fair runs. This is the main money making project of the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Please help us maintain adequate money to provide the necessary programs of the association.

We had a fantastic year last year and hope to continue the large amount of sales this year. Please consider helping your association.

Hope to see you at the Iowa State Fair!

Donna Brahms, IHPA Booth Manager 14922 535th Street Griswold, IA 51535 (712) 778-4255-H or (402) 677-2460-C E-mail: mbrahms@netins.net

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Name:		
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- Color (Andrew Andrew Color)		
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Telephone:		
Date(s):	Date(s):	
9:00-1:30	9:00-1:30	
1:30-6:00	1:30-6:00	
6:00 0:00	6:00 0:00	

We always have a "Honey Of A Time" working at the Iowa State Fair!

Beekeeper's Record & Journal

The following was reprinted with the permission of the estate of Richard Taylor. The material is from the book, "Beekeeper's Record & Journal", text by Richard Taylor, and designed and illustrated by Cynthia Diamond. This book (among other items) was graciously donated to the youth scholarships' during the 2009 IHPA annual meeting in October at the Best Western Regency Inn in Marshalltown. After the meeting, this book was not taken and is now the property of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, Historian. have enjoyed reading it, and thought the membership would also. stated by Kim Flottum, Editor of the Bee Culture; "We have a Gem".

Peggy Ennis, IHPA Historian

July

This is a month for relaxing, at least so far as apiary work is concerned. The work is feverish, but it falls to the bees, not the beekeeper. The supers are all on, and before the month is over the first comb honey will be harvested.

July is the month of the basswoods. They bloom about the first week of July, their pale greenish flowers largely concealed by the leaves that shelter them. People, with the exception of beekeepers, are largely unaware that they are blooming, but the bees certainly know. Sometimes bees will gather from basswoods even during a light shower, and the position of the blooms, under the protecting leaves, protects them from the rain which To "bee" continued next month..... would otherwise wash the nectar away. But hot days are necessary for a really good flow from this, or indeed any other source. It can hardly be too warm for the bees, provided the hives themselves are not subjected to the stress of extreme heat. It is abundant sunshine that causes the nectar to flow. same warmth increases the activity of

the bees, so that sometimes, on a hot July day, your scale hive will show a gain of twenty pounds or more. It is no wonder that the supers, which a week ago were almost empty, are sometimes now suddenly full, and you look with rejoicing at comb after comb, filled to the edges and capped with unstained, snow-white wax. It is hard for a beekeeper not to be happy in July. The anxious days of watching for swarms are over, the supers are piled on the hives, and the bees increase your prosperity from hour to hour.

Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor was born 1919 and passed away October 30, 2003 in New York. He earned his PhD at Brown University and taught principally at Brown University, Columbia, and University of Rochester. He was an American Philosopher, renowned for his dry wit and his contributions to Metaphysics. Although it is well known he was a philosopher – he was far better known as a beekeeper. It is often said – "I have never met a beekeeper who has not heard of Richard Taylor". owned 300 hives and from 1970 produced mostly comb honey. His significant contributions to beekeeping are authoring many books on beekeeping among these are the two; "The comb Honey Book" and "The Joys of Beekeeping", and regularly writing articles for bee journals. His near legendary honey stand at the roadside in front of his country home operated on the honor system, secured only by gentle solicitations to honesty posted on its walls.





Reflections on the Life of Stanford Matchie

September 29,1922 – March 12, 2010

Johnnie Matchie was a beekeeper for over 70 years and was a past member of the IHPA. He used to also volunteer at the Iowa State Fair in the IHPA booth.

Thanks to Mark Tintjer for forwarding the obituary to get a greater appreciation for the life of Johnnie Matchie.

Stanford (Johnnie) Louis Matchie was born September 29, 1922 in Marshalltown to Frank Joseph and Edna Catherine (Dunn) Matchie.

He attended various country schools in the Marshalltown area and on December 8, 1944 joined the Army. Johnnie took basic training in Texas. He served on the Philippine Island and in Occupied Japan. He was discharged on November 26, 1946.

On June 12, 1949, Johnnie and Arlene Hazel Pickett were married in Zion Lutheran Church of Radcliffe. After their marriage the couple lived near Beaman, Ackley and then moved back to Arlene's family home five miles south of Radcliffe. He farmed all of his life until retirement in 1987.

Johnnie and Arlene had four children: Stanford Jr., Sharon, Steven, and Larry. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Radcliffe Legion, and past member and board member of the Hardin County Farm Bureau.

joyed all things out doors. Since a teen- The result will be lots of mites by the Nebraska. I bought a load of honey cue swarms from around the county. He will have to deal with. loved storytelling and one of his favorites was about his own birthday. We didn't have any cut comb boxes up a few things. Then I went on to he discovered that it was September boxes. We hardly ever do that. 29th. So he celebrated two birthdays We had a little honey coming in until honey from Suchans. We have used the every year after that.

Radcliffe, IA; one daughter Sharon and ing around in the beeyards us like walk-know if I put out of state honey in the husband Clifton Erhardt of Gaston, OR; ing on a sponge. of Radcliffe, IA, Larry and wife Vonda have a replay of the last two years when the local market. Sales have been really

(Van Meeteren) of Roland, IA; six grandchildren Morgan and Jessica Erhardt, Brett and Katie Matchie, Sara and Chad great-Matchie; two grandchildren Aidan Yeazel-Matchie and Chloie Shaffer-Matchie: four half-sisters Rosemary Rakes of Marshalltown, Catherine Williams of Grant City, MO, Joyce Gatton of WI, and Yvonne Jensen of WI; one half-brother Edward Meech of Marshalltown, IA.

on. That's a bad sign. We left the treat-Johnnie was an avid fisherman and en- ments half finished and put supers on. I had to make a swing through Eastern ager he kept bees and was called to res- beginning of August. It's a problem we from Roger Bailey last fall and needed

Throughout his life, birthdays were ready to go when the flow came on. A McCool Junction. After I dropped celebrated on October 29th until age 65 lot of those were put on as 3rd and 4th Roger's barrels off, I swung up to

early June when the rain put a stop to out of state honey to fill the needs of things. We got about 12" in a 10 day our bulk market. Our labels say "Pure He is survived by his wife Arlene of span. It's worse to the south of us. Mov- Iowa Honey". Probably no one would

two sons Steven and wife Anita (Topp) If the rain continues, we are going to held most of our honey and Taylors for

to take some of his barrels back.

I stopped at Drapers on the way to pick Schuyler and picked up a few barrels of jars but I don't want to do it. We have

good.

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Johnnie was preceded in death by his we got very short crops. mother, father, stepfather Ed Meech. one sister Miriam Anne Matchie We have continued to sell nucs to ease Schroeder, one son Stanford Jr., one bees. That's over 500 miles. It plainly granddaughter Erin Matchie.

and memory of Stanford (Johnnie) the mail. Matchie.

THE BEEYARD **REPORT**

The flow started around May 12. We weren't done splitting yet. Since the bees brooded up really early, we had planned to do a round of mite treatments. We saw too many mites early

(infancy), one brother Francis (Pete) the potential financial pain of a poor Matchie, one half-brother Robert crop. I seem to get a few calls for bees Submitted by Phil Ebert Matchie, three half-sisters Marjorie every week. We even had one couple Borton, Mary Meech, and Eilene come up here from Arkansas to get states on our web site that we do not ship bees but we still get lots of calls Let us give thanks to God for the life from people who want us to put nucs in

> There are always problems to deal with. A couple yards got away from us and were full of cells when the boys got there. Most of those colonies were reduced to two singles with a cell in each box. Some of the bees were brought home to stock the mating nucs in or queen yard. Another yard had half the colonies decide to requeen in mid May. That slowed things up.

We have a couple signs of summer. The oriole is back and the male barn swallow is sitting on the nail outside the back door. The swallows nest in the garage but the male always sits on the nail outside the back door of the house during the night.

I finally got the yard mowed for Memorial Day--sort of. I mowed around the sticks and branches that had fallen over

the winter. I'll need to do a better job before the Field Day. I'm hoping for good attendance.

Honey Production in Iowa

For several years Iowa was high among the states in honey production. I do not have acce3ss to the National records but in or about 1950 (give or take a year or two) Iowa ranked fifth in honey production. At the time the Midwest was known for the most of the best quality honey. Several years ensued as reasonably good crops were the norm.

There was one year during that time, as I recall about 1960 that the crop over the entire state averaged twenty-five pounds of surplus hone. Our own bees averaged just that and just like today that didn't pay the expenses of working the colonies.

The weather pattern has not changed to any extent so we may be headed for another of those years of State wide production of 25 pounds or less.

To get any production of any consequence from packaged bees it takes a three pound package, installed the first day of April and fed honey from day one until a good flow begins to come from natural resources.

I have no recollection of what caused the short crop in 1960 but it was evidently weather conditions. Needless to say it came as a big surprise to all Iowa beekeepers.

There were several beekeepers in Iowa at the time with 500 to 700 colonies but rarely any over 1000. The 500 & 700 colony operations were for the most part one man operations. Among them were some of Iowa's finest beekeepers.

The last excellent, far above average honey crop in Iowa was that of 1988. Our own colonies averaged 180 pounds and there were others that averaged even better. As I recall there happened to be plenty of soil moisture and the air cleared and turned dry which mad an ideal situate for honey production.

At the time there was still an adequate amount of blossom available that was producing. In those years there was usually what we called a Fall flow. It didn't always produce any surplus honey but it did provide enough nectar that the colonies filled their brood chambers well for Winter. We all are wishing for those conditions again but it appears that they are gone forever.

Glen L. Stanley State Apiarist (Emeritus) 2615 Aspen Road Ames, Iowa 50014 (515) 292-3243

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Quency Vos from Ellston, Iowa. He is another of our Iowa Honey Producer youth mentor members. He sent this story...

My name is Quency A. Vos. My parent's names are Jeff and Cherri Vos. My dad Jeff, and my mom Cherri, own a furniture and flooring store called "The Outpost". My dad has a cattle farm. He also raises corn and soybeans. My mom is a realtor at Sun Valley Lake, and surrounding area. I also have a younger sister named Chania. I attend Mt. Ayr Comm. High School. I am currently in the 8th grade. I enjoy playing football, basketball, and baseball within the district. I am in Advanced Math, as well as T.A.G. Some of my hobbies include; hunting, fishing, water sports, video games, building, 4-H for three years. So far, every year I've shown cattle, and had a project go to State. I plan to go to college after school, but I don't know where yet. As a beginning beekeeper, I had absolutely no knowledge about beekeeping, that is, before my first IHPA meeting in 2008. Then I went to Pat Randol's beekeeping classes in Winterset. What interested me in beekeeping, was the beehives that my soon to be mentor had placed on our farm. A funny story I have to tell is; I was harvesting the honey from my hive, with the help from my dad, although the bees did not take to him kindly. They stung him to the point that he looked like Popeye. I have used my entrepreneur skills and have called my business Sun Valley Honey, with many returning customers. I am looking to expand my honey business to help pay for my sports, traveling, and college. It has been extremely educational and I continue to learn new things with every experience of my beekeeping.

Good luck in your beekeeping business Quency.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



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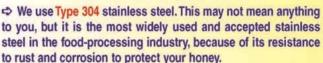
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The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association 207 S.E. Diehl Des Moines, IA 50315

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ISSUE 7 – July 2010





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