

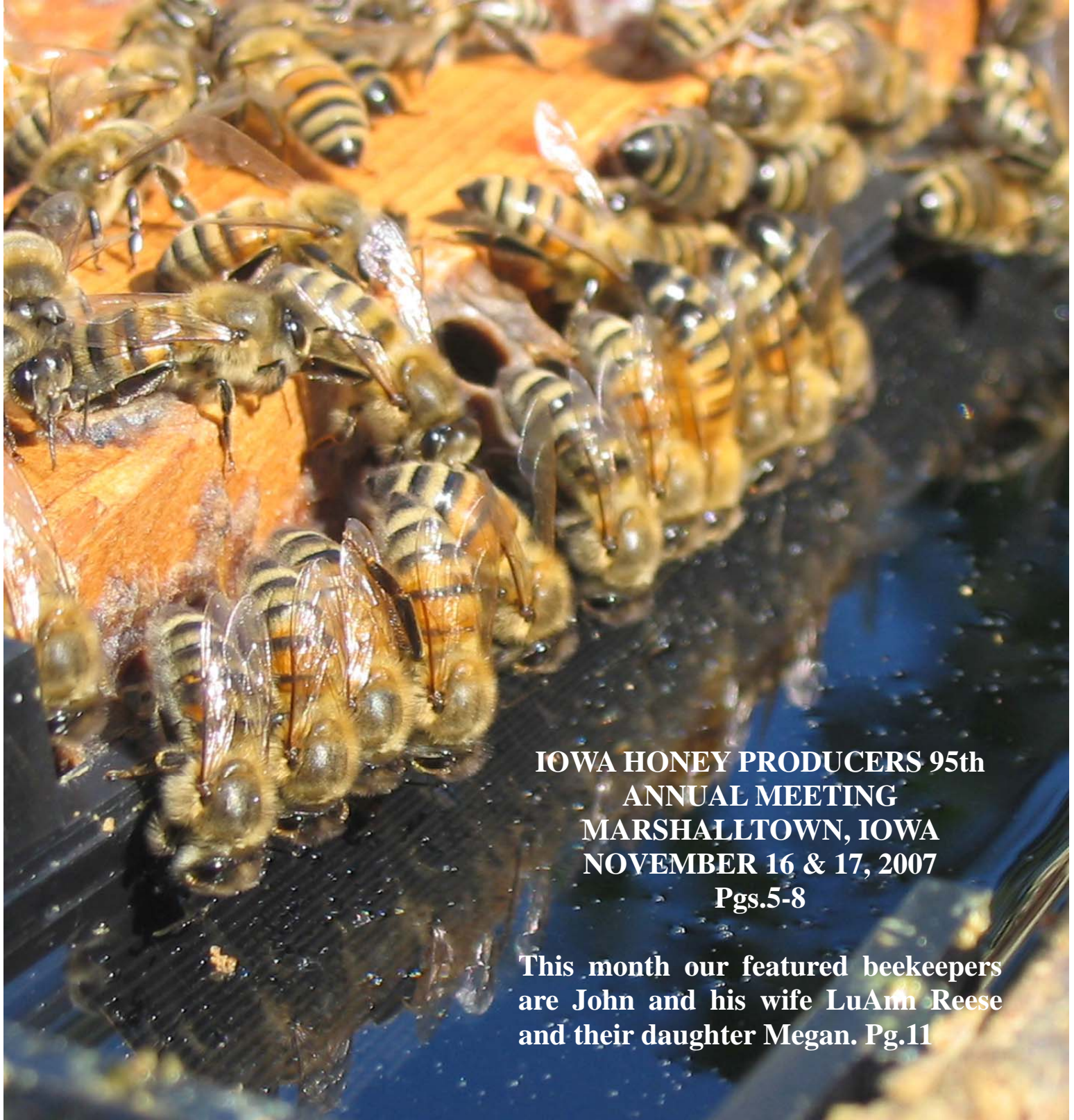


The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



October 2007



**IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 95th
ANNUAL MEETING
MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA
NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2007
Pgs.5-8**

**This month our featured beekeepers
are John and his wife LuAnn Reese
and their daughter Megan. Pg.11**



Dates to BEE Remembered:

November 15th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
IHPA Board meeting

November 16th & 17th, 2007
IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA

January 9-12, 2008 in Sacramento.
National Beekeeping Conference

To add an important date to the list,
contact the Buzz by email at
thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

For Sale: Honey Extractor 20 frame variable speed. 3 settling tanks. Cowan uncapper, steam heated. Steam generator. uncapping tank, sump and pump, small air compressor, 6 5/8 supers with new light drawn comb, 6 5/8 & 9 5/8 supers with foundation, pallets, queen excluders (metal & wood bound), bottoms, tops & inner covers. Other miscellaneous.

Contact: Albert Andrianno
Cummings, IA
515-981-0360.

For Sale: Corn syrup for fall feeding--by the bucket or by the barrel. Call for pricing. Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

Contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or
e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

For Sale: Clean 5 gallon buckets with lids--1-9, \$1.75 each; 10+, \$1.50 contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639

Contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or
e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

FOR SALE: Queens from high producing Carniolan stock that has survived an Iowa winter. Available from late June to early Sept. Marked queens are \$12.50 each. Shipping and insurance on small lots runs \$7. Shipping to most points in Iowa is overnight.

Contact Adam or Phil Ebert
at 641-527-2639 or
e-mail ehoney37@netins.net



IHPA T-Shirts (*These are membership prices. Non-member prices are available on request.*)

The t-shirts are a bright yellow shirt with brown lettering.

Youth	size (S) (M) (L) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$ 8.50	\$ _____
Adult	size (S) (M) (L) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$ 9.00	\$ _____
Adult	size (XL) (XXL) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$10.00	\$ _____

Shipping is \$3.00 per shirt, or \$5.00 for two shirts.

Shipping TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to: **IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**
Send form and check to: **J. Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer**
4012 54th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310-1815

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 Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

Have you been getting as many questions concerning Colony Collapse Disorder as I have? I think it is great that people are asking questions, but they don't always want to listen to the correct answer. Most of them have a preconceived notion and are positive that they know the answer, not wanting to listen to what I am trying to tell them. If you have read the information about the virus, Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus, that the media has said is the mystery solving conclusion to the honey bee disappearance, you will recall that the researchers are quick to point out that the virus is NOT the total reason behind the Colony Collapse Disorder. It is not the entire problem and is just possibly only one of the things affecting the colonies of honey bees. The researchers don't even know if beekeepers could afford to treat for the virus or even what to treat it with. As I understand it, this is a stepping stone to work from and to develop other research to narrow down the diagnosis.

I received an e-mail from Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, to inform us that money has been funded, \$4 million, by the USDA for research to be conducted on honey bees and any problems concerning them. There is information elsewhere in this issue for you to read concerning this money.

Maury Wills also informed me that there were 29 applicants for the State Apiarist position. He is going to begin interviewing the candidates and I sincerely hope that by the time you read this, we will have a new State Apiarist. I don't know when the person will start working as State Apiarist, but at least maybe we will know that one will be in place in the very near future. I am looking forward to being able to tell people when they call for information and questions to contact our State Apiarist. It is not that I don't like referring people with questions to the correct source, it is just that I don't feel that I am doing the job justice because I don't always get the person directed to the right source in a timely manner. I guess what I am saying, I am looking forward to some "expert" answering questions.

I read with great interest an article by James E. Tew in the September issue of BEE CULTURE. It talked about change. I know that we, especially beekeepers, don't

care for change, but I think that James has a great point to make. We should eliminate the word "hobby" from describing a beekeeper. What hobby do you know of that gets federal funding? How can we look like we are a viable industry with the designation of hobby beekeepers? We either have lots of colonies or we have a few colonies. We also need to let the public know that the most important action of a honey bee is pollination, not the end result of honey. Most people associate honey bees with stinging and then with honey. Very few think of or even realize that honey bees help pollinate over 90 different crops. It doesn't matter if you have a few colonies or many colonies, pollination is being done. James says, "time and again, I have had people say to me, 'I am just a hobby beekeeper, I only have three hives. I don't do it for the money.'" Stop feeling that way! Even if you don't sell the token honey crop, your colonies still pollinate millions of flowers." He continues on to say, "I don't honestly expect the concept of being a 'hobby beekeeper' to vaporize anytime soon, but the CCD issue has focused a very bright light on our industry. We presently have the attention of people who are not beekeepers but who do eat three meals a day and they want to continue that fundamental luxury. If we want these people's help, we need to re-consider our own perspective of our beekeeping selves. 'Hobby' may be the term we have always used to describe beekeepers with only a few hives, but these reviewers have made me look at the way the term belittles the contribution that our 'hobby' industry makes to our society; therefore, provide a meal- be a beekeeper." Get a copy of BEE CULTURE to read the article, The Passing of the Hobby Beekeeper. It has a lot of thought provoking content.

The United States Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, said in a statement, "This crisis threatens to wipe out production of crops dependent on bees for pollination. A congressional study said honey bees add about \$15 billion a year in value to our food supply. Beekeepers and honey bees are very important to our food supply.

Chelsa helped me at the Drake Market that I attend on Wednesdays. She answered questions about the observation hive that I had with me and she was a great help to me in packing up all of the market items. Thank you Chelsa.

Governor Chet Culver signed a proclamation declaring September as Honey Month in Iowa. The facts included with that proclamation are very revealing. Iowa crops depend on honey bees for pollination. Iowa honey bees depend on Iowa beekeepers to manage them. I will have copies of the proclamation at the Annual Meeting if you would like to have one.

Mike and I are going to try fall re-queening some of our colonies. Usually he tells everyone that he takes care of the bees and I sell the honey. I have to tell you what he did. He left for work one Monday morning and about five minutes later the phone rang. I was extremely happy to hear that he had not remembered to install the queens into the new splits that he made the day before. I was going to have to do it. I did it and didn't have any trouble, but it sure wasn't on my agenda for Monday morning before I went to work.

Make sure that you look through your photos to find the perfect ones for the contest at the Annual Meeting to be held in Marshalltown at the Best Western Regency Inn on November 16th and 17th. Dust off those cookbooks to locate your most luscious recipes for the Cooking with honey contest to be held at the Annual Meeting. If you make Mead bring it along also for a new contest this year. Don't forget to order any supplies from our vendors so that you won't have to pay freight on the orders. Larry and Brenda from Draper's Super Bee, Jim from Dadant, Elmer from B & L Plastic Containers, B & B Honey and Joli and Cecil from Heartland Honey (formerly Mid-Con) will be able to bring your needed supplies for you. Remember to book your rooms and most of all, make plans to relax, learn some new things, and enjoy the fellowship and knowledge of other beekeepers. Pat has a great meeting planned. Join us in Marshalltown.

Hope your honey crop was a great one and the weather will hold out to get the needed mite treatments done for the fall and you have time to prepare the colonies for Iowa's winter weather.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

A Word From the Iowa Honey Queen.

It's starting to get cold outside, and as I'm writing this, they said on the News that we would have our first frost this weekend. My promotion opportunities have picked up since the State Fair. I have had several people call me and say they heard me on the radio. It has been exciting for me!

I went to the Drake Farmer's Market and helped Donna Brahms by promoting products from her business, as well as The Valley Junction Farmer's Market, and the Winterset Market and helped Pat Randol by promoting products from her business. I had a good time, and was asked several questions about Colony Collapse Disorder, as well as the new virus. I'm going to be speaking to the Perry Rotary Club, and the elderly at the Rowely Memorial Masonic Home. I have been working on my scrapbook, and trying to include several pictures of the events I have attended. It is taking some time, but I really enjoy scrapping the pictures, they bring back a lot of memories! If you have an event that you would like me to help you with, please contact me. My number is (515)210-1027 and my email is Chizel2004@aol.com.

Sincerely,
Chelsa Bronnenberg
2007 Iowa Honey Queen



Design Contest

The IHPA officers and board members recently authorized a contest for the membership. The canopy area above the Iowa State Fair product booth is in need of a design to designate to the public what is in that area. The fair attendees that are downstairs in the Ag. Building can see the white canopy, but there is nothing to indicate what is in the booth. We do have signs that say Iowa Honey Producers Association in front of the exhibit area and signs that say the beehive on the sides of

WEAVER'S famous QUEENS and Package Bees

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★ 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

the canopy and banners that announce the honey lemonade, but nothing in front and visible from the lower floor. We are opening up a contest to help us find a design to display there. It could be a slogan, honey bees, words and graphics, artwork, etc. The creativity of the entry, the feasible of the board to implement the design and workmanship will be considered. The winner will receive a \$75.00 cash prize. Please submit your ideas to

Mike Brahms
65071 720th Street
Cumberland, IA 50843

The entry deadline is January 15th. The area to be covered with a design is approximately 10 feet by 33 feet and is the large area above the sales

counter at the Iowa State Fair booth located in the Ag Building.

Monetary Help for Attending the National Beekeeping Conference in Sacramento

The IHPA board would like to announce that there will be available to the membership a \$500 "scholarship" to help defray some of the cost of attending the American Honey Producers/American Beekeeping Federation joint meeting in Sacramento to be held January 9-12, 2008. Interested beekeepers need to submit a letter to the board stating the reason for wanting to attend. The recipient of the money will be required to submit articles to the BUZZ for inclusion in the February issue with a deadline of January 15th telling about important items that were discussed through the sessions held.

We need to keep current on the events and research that is being done in the United States and this meeting gets that information to beekeepers. We feel it is necessary to get as much information to the membership as possible to help keep beekeepers informed concerning new technology and treatments available and to learn about the research that is taking place to further beekeeping.

Please submit your application letter by October 31st to:

Donna Brahms
65071 720th Street
Cumberland, IA 50843
Mbrahms@netins.net



IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 95th ANNUAL MEETING MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA — NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2007

It's meeting time again! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producer's Association will be held Friday, November 16th and Saturday, November 17th, 2007 in Marshalltown, Iowa at the Best Western Regency Inn located at 3303 South Center Street.

Rooms for the event are available at the Best Western Regency Inn at the rate of 1 adult for \$67.50 or 2 adults for \$72.00. The rooms need to be reserved by October 25th to get the convention special rate and please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms. The telephone number to call is: Best Western (641)752-6321 . The Super 8 Motel's number is (641) 752-3137

We have a full schedule planned as usual. Make plans to enter the photo contest or the foods made with honey contest to show off your skills. There will also be a home mead contest for all of you mead makers.

Some of the speakers for this year include T'Lee Sollenberger , Chuck Norton and Rick Hellmich from ISU to speak on the CCD session held during the Pollination Symposium.

Make your plans now to attend the annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producer's Association on November 16th and 17th, 2007.

**SEE YOU IN MARSHALLTOWN NOVEMBER 16TH AND 17TH FOR FUN,
FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING!!!**





IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 95th ANNUAL MEETING

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA — NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2007

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Phone: (____) _____ County: _____

No. of Colonies: _____ Years Beekeeping: _____ Company Name: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

NOTE: PREREGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING DEAD LINE NOV. 10TH. NO EXCEPTIONS:

Individual:	Registration at meeting will be \$16.00	\$14.00	\$ _____
Family Rate:	Registration at meeting will be \$30.00	\$28.00	\$ _____
BANQUET - Friday night 7:00 P.M.(per person)	Number of tickets _____ X	\$27.50	\$ _____
Lunch on Saturday - (per person)	Number of tickets _____ X	\$18.50	\$ _____

YEAR 2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Iowa Honey Producers Association	includes subscription to "The Buzz"	\$10.00	\$ _____
2nd Family Membership same address	Name: _____	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
3rd Family Membership same address	Name: _____	\$ 5.00	\$ _____

(Year 2008 membership required to vote at Business Meeting)

COOKBOOKS:	<u>QTY</u>	<u>1-9</u>	<u>10 or more</u>	
Iowa Honey Producers Large Green Cook Book	_____	\$4.50	\$3.50	\$ _____
			TOTAL	\$ _____

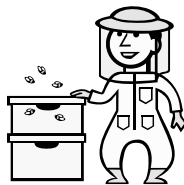
Make Check payable to: Iowa Honey Producers Association
Send Form and Check to: J. Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer
Please fill out form completely: 4012 54th Street Des Moines, Iowa 50310-1815

THE ANNUAL MEETING PREREGISTRATION IS THE SAME PRICES AS LAST YEAR.

THE BANQUET AND LUNCHEON PRICES HAVE INCREASED DUE TO PRICE INCREASES BY THE RESTURANT AS THEIR COST HAVE INCREASED OVER LAST YEAR. THE MEAL COST IS STILL VERY REASONABLE FOR THE FOOD AND THE USE OF THE MOTEL FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING.

NOTE: MEMBERS ARE RESPONSILBLE FOR SENDING IN THEIR OWN MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2003

When sending in your magazine subscription or national association membership be sure to inform them of your membership with Iowa Honey Producers Association and give them the name of the Treasurer. There will be printed magazine ordering forms at the meeting. This should speed up your renewals and still give you the association rate on the magazines. There is no discount on membership to the national associations.



**95th ANNUAL MEETING
IOWA HONEY PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2007
BEST WESTERN REGENCY INN
MARSHALLTOWN, IA 50158
641-752-6321**

Friday, November 16th

Morning schedule:

8:00- Registration & silent auction items are due. Must be present in room for door prizes.
(Visit vendors in room E)

Meeting will take place in rooms A & B

8:30- Call to Order and Welcome.....Donna Brahms, President of the IHPA
Introduction of IHPA Board Members and Announcements

-Cooking with Honey & Photo Contest entries due in room F at 10:00

-Silent Auction

8:45- Meet the new State Apiarist.....

9:00- Secretary of Agriculture.....Bill Northey

9:40- Marketing Magic.....T'Lee Sollenberger

10:40- **BREAK - Make a bid on the silent auction items & visit vendors in Rm. E.**

11:00- **Door Prize**

11:05- Africanized bees, are they coming.....Vern Ramsey

11:20- NHB UPDATE.....Lee Heine, Dadant WI

12:00- LUNCH (on your own). You can eat at Mr. G restaurant here in the motel.

Queen Luncheon in Mr. G's. GET TO KNOW THE QUEEN

Afternoon Schedule:

1:00- **Door Prizes**

1:05- Annual Business Meeting (We will have an agenda for the members)

2:45- Cooking Contest Results.....Donna Young, Doris Ramsey Carol Wehr
Photo Contest Results.....someone!

3:00- **BREAK - Make a bid on the silent auction items & visit vendors in Rm. E.**

3:20- **Door Prizes and meeting the Honey Queen candidates.....Regina Jager**

3:40- **What is new on CCD.....Richard L.Hellmich**

4:30- State Fair Exhibitor's (meet in Rm. F)

Silent Auction ends for today – pick up your merchandise.

5:00- **Wine & Cheese welcome (by the pool)**—Time to visit – Compliments of the Marshalltown Convention
& Visitors Bureau (If you made Mead, bring samples.)

6:30- **Banquet (located in rooms C & D)** – The banquet will feature two entrees- BBQ Chicken and Sliced Roast beef, Tossed salad, Marinated Pasta salad, Fresh fruit, Irish parsley potatoes, Glazed Carrots, and Apple Dumpling with Ice cream for Dessert. The cost will be \$28.00 per person with the tax and gratuity included.

Banquet Program:

Introduction of Queen Candidates, Parents and Sponsors.....Regina Jager,
Honey Queen Chair
Awards Presentation.....Donna Young, Chairman of the Awards Committee
Thanks from the Iowa Honey Queen.....Chelsa Bronnenberg
Auction.....Bill Van Roekel
Something is funny about bees.....Chuck Norton
Queen Coronation.....Regina Jager

Good Night!!!!!!



Saturday, November 17th

Morning Schedule

8:00- Registration

Note: Vendors will be packing up around noon today.

8:30- Announcements and Door Prizes.....Pat Ennis
Introduction of IHPA Board Members
Bee inspection report
8:50- Getting Good Queens'Chuck Norton
9:50- **Break - Make a bid on the silent auction items & visit vendors in Rm. E**
10:10- Door **Prizes**
10:15- 2 + 2 + 5 Way's to Improve Your Honey Sales.....T'Lee Sollemberger
11:15- Good Russian Queens.....Chuck Norton
12:00 –**Lunch (\$19.00 tax and gratuity included)** – Roast Pork with Sage Dressing& Gravy, Tossed Salad,
Wild rice, California Blend, and freshly Baked Roll
1:00 – **Silent Auction Ends – collect your treasures!**

2007 Beekeeping Workshops (Rm. A & B)

1:00- – The Good and Bad of Russian Queens.....Manley Bigalk
2:00- - Bug Out! How to organically produce honey products using Integrated Pest
Management Techniques.....T'Lee Sollenberger
3:00- – **OPEN**Someone
4:00- **Adjournment**

Note: There will be a short meeting of 2008 board members and officers in Rm. B
Thank you for coming and Drive Safely!!!!

Honey, Mead, Pollen

The Summer is almost over and the school has started. My hives are strong and queen right finally. I left one super on each hive to get some goldenrod. The honey has been selling as fast as I could bottle it. Looks like I will have very little to start the farmers market next spring. maybe I will have more next year. I say that every year.

I gave my brother honey to make five gallon of mead for me, that could be a mistake. My brother has made wine that some times mistaken for grain alcohol. I will bring some to IHPA Nov. meeting for everyone to taste.

I have been seeing a lot of wax moths in very weak hives, so I checked my honey supers that the bees had robbed out and found them full of moths. Moths like old brood comb that are in dark storage. My supers never had brood in them and were nice white comb, they were stored where there was some light. Para-Moth crystals should take care of the moths until cold weather.

Fern and I have been taken pollen since last Fall so we started selling pollen this year and we could not believe how well it sold. When you believe in a product it is very easy to sell. We had customers buy five bottles at a time and had many people tell us they had been taken pollen for years. We had hand outs that told all about pollen and it's benefits. We use one pound honey bottles, if you shake them as you fill them they will hold eight ounces. Draper's has a good supply of pollen. Pollen is a great extra to sell give it a try.

Delmar Nelson

THE BEEYARD REPORT

The winter hay for the horses is in the barn. The days grow shorter. I feel a year older. The things I had on my list for summer projects are only half done. The bees look good. Last year at this time we were deep into a struggle with the mites. This year, I sampled most of our yards before we pulled the last honey. I put in three sticky boards per yard unless the yard had more than 20 colonies. In that case, I used four. It required an extra trip through the yards but it gave me an idea where we were at with the mite load. You have to guess what the population is order to come up with a load percentage. I used 40,000 bees. If you have a 100 mite/day drop and five percent of the mites drop daily, the total mite load figures to be around 2000 or 5%. 5% is what we established as our indicator for immediate treatment. It's always a guess how many mites are in the brood. The worst case scenario is 90%. Last year we went from a 4% load to 30% in about three weeks. As we move into October, brood rearing decreases. Spikes in the mite load will be less extreme.

Tylan does work to clean up foulbrood. I don't plan to use it but I wanted to see if I could mix it effectively. The amount of Tylan relative to the amount of sugar is tiny. I infected a colony I had at home with foulbrood and treated it with Tylan. I also treated a colony in one of the outyards. Treatment was successful in both cases.

Some of our queen mating nucs have swarmed. I'm not sure what precipitated this. They weren't that big. Adam was in the yard one day when a small swarm came out and usurped a nuc that was already

queenright. We have also had a problem with them getting robbed out. There are a lot of bees in that yard by the end of summer. Adam has put together over 20 colonies from the bees in that yard. He has worked a lot harder than I was at getting the bees put on pallets. Once they are in full sized boxes we move them into other yards.

We have extracted 70 barrels of honey. We probably have five of six left to go. The honey is different this year. It's darker and has a distinct bite to it. Our average per colony is going to be slightly over 90# when the comb honey it taken into account. Colony attrition has been significant. I was in a yard tonight that only had 13 colonies left out of 20. The production average on the colonies we have left is much higher than 90# but I always take the average off the highest spring count. We have to figure our expenses on that number.

Adam has gone to Sweden for two weeks. I thought things would get really jammed up without him but we are holding our own. Alex has been cleaning the yards off and I have been coming behind him with the mite treatments. We are using a variety of treatments. Part of the colonies are getting Miteaway pads. Those need to go on early because the bees won't take feed while they are on the colonies.

Be sure to get your mite treatments on if you need them and get those colonies fed up to weight.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



NEWS RELEASE

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, D.C. 20250
www.csrees.usda.gov



Jennifer Martin, (202) 720-8188

USDA ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING FOR BEE HEALTH AND PROTECTION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11, 2007 – USDA announced today that \$4 million will be available in Fiscal Year 2008 for a 4-year Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) to research ways to improve the health and protection of honeybees, which are facing serious threats that have the potential to heavily impact the nation's food supply.

“Bee populations throughout the United States are in serious decline,” said Gale Buchanan, USDA under secretary for Research, Education and Economics. “As the threat of Colony Collapse Disorder and other bee health problems increases, it becomes more important that USDA takes the necessary steps to help protect these valuable assets.”

The overall goal of the Protection of Managed Bees CAP is to improve the health of managed bee populations in agricultural systems. The research USDA is seeking to fund is expected to address genomics, breeding, pathology, immunology and applied ecology that explain the cause behind dwindling bee populations. Unique to this CAP program is that the researchers will work closely with the extension community and stakeholders to develop mitigation strategies for Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) and other significant problems that threaten the bee industry and U.S. agriculture.

Bee pollination is responsible for \$15 billion in added crop value each year. CCD became a matter of concern in the winter of 2006-2007 when an estimated 25 percent of the beekeepers in the United States reported losses of adult bees from their hives.

CAP projects focus around the coordinated activities of individuals, institutions, states and regions to promote open communication and the exchange of information in response to emerging areas of national priority and need. The project should complement and/or link with existing programs and projects at the national level.

In Fiscal Year 2007, CSREES committed another \$1.7 million to honeybees and pollinator research, while USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will spend about \$7.7 million on honeybee research focused on mites, pathogen and nutrition. National program leaders at ARS and CSREES developed an Action Plan for CCD which is a long term plan for research, extension and educational activities that are recommended to address this important problem. The plan is available on the ARS website.

In October 2007, ARS will begin research on the Honeybee Health Areawide Project, which will provide robust bee colonies for early season crops such as almonds in California or squash in Florida. It will also include all major beekeeping routes, such as cherries, apples, cranberries, etc., with a focus on bee nutrition and pest resistance. The 5-year project will be funded at \$1 million per year, with 2007 funded at \$670,000.

The USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is funding the CAP project under the National Research Initiative's 2008 Request for Applications. Dr. Mary Purcell-Miramontes, national program leader for arthropod and nematode biology, developed this new CAP project and will be coordinating this new funding opportunity.

More information about the CAP funding opportunity can be found online at www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/nri.html. Background information about CCD and the Action Plan is also available at www.ars.usda.gov/is/br/ccd.

CSREES advances knowledge for agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and communities by supporting research, education and extension programs in the Land-Grant University System. For more information, visit www.csrees.usda.gov. ARS is the principal intramural scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Visit <http://www.ars.usda.gov> for more information.

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Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeepers are John and his wife LuAnn Reese and their daughter Megan. They live at Laurens, Iowa. Megan's Hunny is the name of their business and they market honey and wax.

John writes, "My daughter Megan wanted something different for a FFA project. She wanted to do honey bees. A long time friend and beekeeper Melvin Runnenberg got us started and made it possible. In the spring of 2004 Megan got two hives. In June one swarmed out, and 1 produced about 40 lbs. In 2005 Megan purchased four 2-pound packages, two swarmed and 2 produced 350 pounds of honey. Megan wintered 2. By the spring of 2006 the two wintered hives produced 1 nuc and she bought 5 packages putting us to 8 hives. Some did well,

some swarmed, and some produced 750 pounds of honey. Fall of 2006 wintered 6, all survived. Spring of 2007 Megan graduated from High School and was out of beekeeping, but I was hooked on beekeeping so I bought 5 packages, made splits, and ended up with 15 hives. 2007 started slow, looks fair. It is fun to work with one of nature's finest achievements."

John also tells me he loves the outdoors, hunting and fishing. Beekeeping is just another way to enjoy the outdoors, and since he does a lot of woodworking he makes a lot of his own bee equipment. His future plans are to have 25 colonies and market honey locally.



John Reese and his daughter Megan show us their extracting station.



John and Megan stand next to one of their hives. Megan "wanted something different for a FFA project".

support each other as well as have beekeeping classes.

The Iowa Honey Producers haven't met John and his family yet. He says it's a long way from the Northwest corner of the state. We'll keep working on him.

Thanks for your story. It's always interesting to hear other's stories about how they got "hooked" on beekeeping.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

John is the newly elected vice president of the Northwest Iowa Bee Association (NWIBA). The group tries to meet monthly to



Beekeeping (Fall Planning)

Glen L. Stanley
Iowa State apiarist (Emeritus)

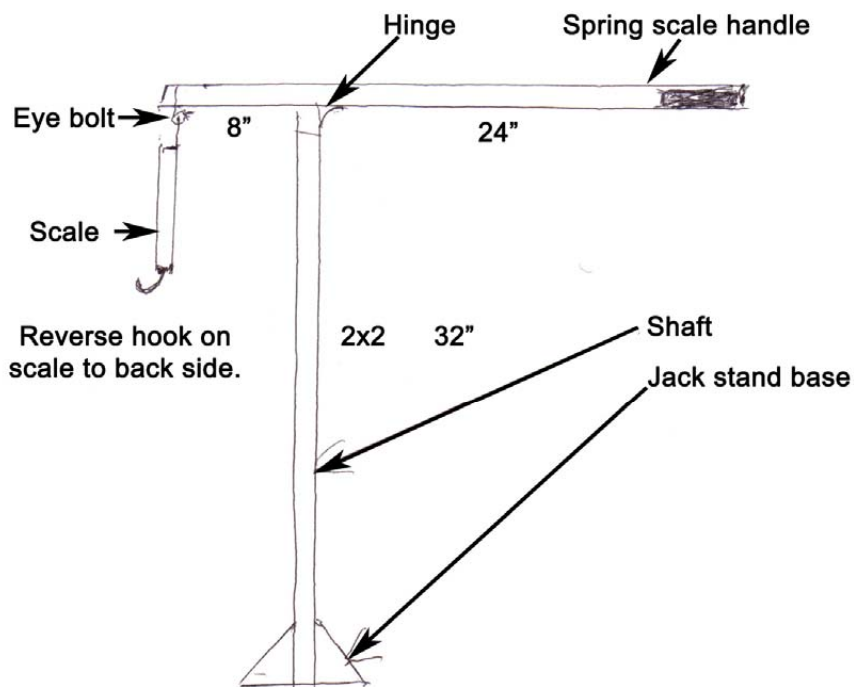
Even though there will be many more warm, to hot days ahead the time is rapidly approaching for making a decision as to which colonies qualify for wintering.

My predecessor as State Apiarist, Floyd B. Paddock, Professor of entomology at Iowa State, always referred to the month of August as being the month to begin colony preparation for fall management and wintering.

Beekeepers hesitate looking deep within their colonies if there is still much surplus honey still in the colonies. However, by the time you receive this, a good share of the surplus honey will have been harvested, so a closer look within the colonies can be made.

There are a few items to consider when selecting colonies that will be likely prospects of Wintering. Here in Iowa and throughout the Mid-west, along about the last of September, or first weeks of October, each colony would have three or four combs of brood. That is assurance that the colony will have enough bees hatching late, which will survive the winter. Prior to that, the honey flow is over so the lower entrance should have been reduced to a small opening.

Now, comes the act of making sure that each colony has an adequate supply of honey stored in the two brood chambers. The **ONLY WAY** to make sure of this is to weigh each colony. It would not be wise thinking to believe every colony would be placed on a platform scale and weighed. So to avoid all such lifting, I designed a scale to do it all with little effort. (Scale pictured). This is done with the use of a spring scale with a hook reversed so the scale can be read as each side of the hive is lifted. Just weigh each side and add the two and the accuracy of weight will be within a pound or two.



Colony Scale

In central Iowa it was determined that we needed each colony in two standard brood chambers to weigh 115 to 120 pounds without the outer cover. In Northern Iowa, and further up in the Midwest that would need to be increased to maybe 125 or 130 pounds. That can be accomplished easily with a little maneuvering of combs of honey.

Any colony weighing 90 pounds or less should be eliminated. Just use what honey the lighter colonies have to bring the better ones up to the desired weight. In some areas some colonies will gather excessive amounts of pollen. In that case, make sure that there is not full combs of pollen that are being weighed instead of honey. The bees need some pollen but not much until brood rearing begins next spring.

The colony that has made the most honey may not necessarily be a good colony to plan to winter. The greater production could have resulted from the loss of their queens for whatever reason, at just the right time and that left the colony with no brood to feed so

consequently a big honey production.

Sometimes when weighing colonies you will find a colony that has too much honey. Why is it too much? Such a colony will also likely have too much honey come spring so the number of empty cells for the queen to begin laying will be inadequate thus delaying development of the colony.

A Review of the Final Preparations to Colonies for Winter Is As Follows:

If you have followed the former plan, then the remainder of preparations is easy and does not require a lot of time.

Colonies have been weighed so now set off the top brood chamber and place two or three combs of open cells or brood in the upper chamber, putting the combs of honey in the bottom chamber. Why? Because bees prefer to cluster on partly open cells and this will also be where the bees will begin their brood rearing in early spring where it might not occur had they been confined to the bottom brood chamber by excess honey



Glen L. Stanley demonstrates his colony weighing scale. Assessing fall weight is an important part of winter survival.

Now, all is well and made secure until next April with no need to think about feeding, even then there will likely be enough honey in the hive until some source of nectar is available come spring.

The question will arise, how do I get replacement bees for those I disposed of last fall. If all goes well, there will be enough brood and bees

every 15 minutes. This proved to be quite difficult for me. I'm a free form speaker. If I skip something, I go back and pick it up later. By the time I got to my third group, I had no clue what I had told anyone. I jotted down a few notes between groups and fared better with the last few groups.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

IHPA Meeting

The IHPA board of directors met Sunday, Sept 22 at the Immanuel Methodist Church in Des Moines. We want to come up with something to put on the awning at the state fair sales booth that will be visible from the lower floor. The awning is about 10x30. A prize of \$75 will be offered if someone comes up with a good design. It could be something simple, i.e., Iowa Honey Producers in big letters with some bees around the edges. Put on your thinking caps and see what you can come up with.

It was decided at an earlier board meeting to offer \$500 to help someone go to one of the national meetings. The hotels at these meetings are usually about \$100/night. It normally costs me around \$1000 to attend a meeting. I would expect Sacramento to be higher. Apply to the board if you wish to attend a meeting. Board members make the final decision on who will get the stipend. Anyone attending a meeting with IHPA support will be required to submit a detailed report of the meeting to be printed in the March issue of the Buzz. The report must be submitted to the Buzz by Feb 15.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



in the upper chamber.

Having completed that, place a middle entrance between the brood chambers by using two pieces of wood shingle about 1 inch wide on each side of the lower chamber. Then cut 2 pieces of lathe, 7 1/2 inches in length to place in front leaving a one-inch entrance directly in the middle. This is a must, in case the bottom entrance should become plugged during the winter.

Place the upper chamber back then the inner cover on top. Cover the escape hole in the inner cover with a thin material then place a sheet of Styrofoam on the inner cover. Colonies may be wrapped with the 15 pound felt paper with or without the outer cover. Two colonies may be wrapped together to save material.

The felt may be cut in half, the long way to wrap around the hives. Just so there is an overlap at the ends. One lathe will hold that in place. If wrapping two hives together then cut a full sheet of felt 36"x48" – fold as if wrapping a package and lathe on all four sides. Make sure a hole is made in the felt at the middle entrance.

in nearly every colony to rob two or more combs of brood and bees to make up more colonies than you eliminated. Even additional colonies could be established.

For 40 years we did it so we know it works and we sold nuclei besides.

I now have three colonies and they have over 400 pounds of surplus honey on them now, and could be 500 if I can provide empty supers. This is August 20th and the alfalfa where they are foraging is still blooming.

Glen L. Stanley
Iowa State Apiarist (Emeritus)
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Farm Bureau Ag Day In Marshalltown

The Farm Bureau sponsors an Ag Day for 4th grade students in Marshalltown. The students visit various stations and eat lunch at the Central Iowa Fairgrounds. One of the stations is beekeeping. Margaret Hala spoke to eight groups of students in the morning and I spoke to eight in the afternoon. There is a new group

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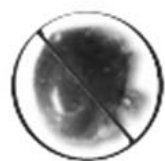
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