The Buzz

Newsletter of the

Iowa Honey Producers

Association



August 2023

https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/



Iowa State Fair

Volunteer at the ISF Details on Page 2!



IOWA





The Buzz is a monthly publication printed by the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA). This is one of the many perks of being a member of the IHPA!



You may opt to receive an electronic version of The Buzz, as a donation to the IHPA. Please contact the editor at: ihpaeditor@gmail.com



Save the Date!!

IHPA Annual Conference & Trade Show November 10-11th

IHPA Officer & Director News

Ramblings from the Russian Bee Guy President, Jason Foley

Hello and welcome to my August Ramblings. For the past couple of weeks my life has been consumed with prepping for state fair. When I'm not working bees, I'm shut up in our little certified food packing room bottling up honey, barrel aged honey, and dutch letter creamed honey. I guess when I write it that way it doesn't sound like all that much, but it does equate to over 1,200 units of product. All of which need poured or made then poured, labeled, shrink wrap sealed, and a barcode put on it lol. Oh, and we have boxes and boxes of candles we also had to prep before that and are barcoding right now. Barcodes just showed up yesterday lol.

In the next couple of weeks we will start work on our blue ribbon entries. Don't worry, I went crazy last year on doing a ton of entries. I just "HAD" to win the sweepstakes award at last year's annual conference. This year I just want to focus on a few categories that I find dear to me. Like the beeswax art category I take particular interest and pride in because I actually have a degree in art lol.

Nothing much to report on the bees at this time. It seems like they have settled down and are holding solid or just barely growing at this stage of the season. 3rd week of August it will turn into a madhouse getting everything extracted and treated. With me assisting more board members than ever on projects, I'm closing down the gueen rearing early this year. I'll have queens through the first week of August but will be done and over with at that point. I just need to focus more on state fair and the IHPA right now. There's a ton of stuff in the works for both state fair and annual conferences that need me to design art, advertising, videos, posters, etc... Plus it's an early year for seeing hive beetles and issues with so dang many dragonflies around my area eating up the gueens. All-in-all, it's just best to wrap up than to stretch myself too thin.



Updates from your lowa State Fair Committee

WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH!

Dear Beekeepers,

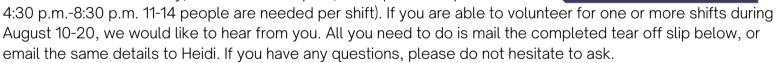
I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair, however Spring is here and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching; August 10-20. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we

have a booth at the State Fair annually in the

Ag building 2ndfloor; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fundraising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success, by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging products, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc. Each volunteer will be provided with **free** honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a **FREE** pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2022 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone's support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. and



Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 18115 F Ave, Perry, IA 50220. Cell: 515-729-1761

Address			
Dity:	State:	Zip	
hone no.:	Ema	ail address:	Number volunteering:
Please v	rrite the date(s) belo	w you would like to work a (Fair dates August 10	and circle shift that works best for you. -20)

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Date or Dates:

12.30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

IOWA

STATE

FAIR

august

IowaStateFair

IHPA Program Leaders

IHPA Youth Scholarship Program

Youth Scholarship Coordinator, Stephanie Meyers

The IHPA Youth Scholarship Program encourages all beekeepers to reach out to youth ages 13 to 16 years old (by **November 1, 2023)** in your neighborhood, community, church, etc. and share about the program. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2024 year and must be postmarked by **September 15, 2023.**



10 frame observation hive. Frames included. \$25.00. Bondurant Tony Christensen (515) 240-4957.

HELP WANTED: The National Association of State
Departments of Agriculture, (NASDA) working with
USDA is hiring FIELD STAFF. Work is part time
collection data for the USDA/NASS. A farm
background is preferred. Qualifications - a good
work ethic, a self-starter, and good
communications skills. Starting wage is \$16.31/hr.
Mileage allowance is 65.5 cents. Find more info at
NASDA.org. For more information call Tony at 515802-8367

This year the wife & I are sad to say but we are selling out of the bees. Our jobs are taking away from the bees. We have 8 frame hives. We have some that are built & some that are bought from Dadant & Mann Lake. There is too much to list-if you're interested please call or text me at (319) 572-2012. Wanting to sell all together not piece it out. Have supers, hives, hive stands. Thank you. [Eric Higdon, Mediapolis, IA]

Interested individuals should check out the IHPA website at

https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/youth-scholarship-program

for more information. Students accepted into the program will receive a complete hive, a package of bees with a queen, a feeder, a hive tool, a smoker, a bee brush, a hooded jacket/veil, a pair of leather gloves, a mentor for a year, a membership to the lowa Honey Producers Association, free registration to Bee Camp, and free registration for annual conference.

I know it may seem early, but start chatting with youth in your area today! If you have any questions, please reach out to **Stephanie Meyers**, Youth Scholarship Coordinator by phone at 641-691-5036 or by email at sonshinefarmsia@gmail.com.



Foley's Russian Bees is an Indianola, Iowa based producer of Primorsky Russian bees & beekeeping equipment. We specialize in Russian mated queens and Russian nucleus hives. We also are a provider of Carniolan packages. When you are in need of bees, we can help!

To place an order, check us out on the web www.RussianBee.com

Iown Honey Royally



Rachel Vakulich - 2023 Iowa Honey Queen

Happy August!

While back to school and Iowa State Fair are occurring, it might be hard to catch the last bit of summer that is left. I hope that your honey supers are full and overflowing. For this month's article, I am going to write about the application process and competition for the Iowa Honey Queen position. Now, some of these are my thoughts and experiences and may not be the same for other queen contestants who were running for the Iowa Honey Queen position.

The application form asks the usual things like name, address, schools, clubs, and other things like that. But the other aspect is the question: "Tell me about you?" I personally do not like that question because that means that I have to try to brag about myself which is hard to do. It asks to list your accomplishments, your contributions, and your leadership positions. It can be easier for someone who has been in 4-H or FFA or has been a local honey queen before. Now being a local honey queen has great advantages because the local queen already knows some time management skills, speaking skills, and may be comfortable interacting with any age group. It also asks you to list all your contributions to the beekeeping. This can be in the form of presentations in 4-H or even being a queen, volunteering at the Iowa State Fair, or showing up to the Iowa Honey Bee Day reception. It can be as simple or as difficult as you would want it to be.

The last part asks you why you are the best candidate for the lowa Honey Queen position. This is the part where you have to persuade the reader of your application that your leadership and speaking skills really add up to something and you are the most qualified for the job. I know that I struggled with this one because I felt like there was probably someone who deserved the position better than I. This application is originally three pages long but I know that other honey queens in the past submitted a five page application. It depends on how many things you are involved in and what you want to include in that application.

Now allow me to insert something important. While some candidates did not have a scrapbook, a scrapbook offers a pictural view of the different things that you do to promote honey and beekeeping. I personally will have three scrapbooks of each of the years that I was a honey queen.

While having a scrapbook is not necessary for the lowa Honey Queen program, if you ever wanted to go to the American Honey Queen competition, having a scrapbook is required. Plus, having a scrapbook helps the judges learn to know you and the other attendees can look at your scrapbook and see all the things that you did to promote honey and beekeeping.

So the application gets mailed in (or emailed to Connie Bronnenberg). You will communicate with Connie a lot during this process of when you need to meet at the Annual Conference and what you need to do. The night before the IHPA Annual Meeting and Conference begins, the IHPA board has a meeting. The queen candidates are given the opportunity to go in front of the board and answer questions about their qualifications, application, and anything else that the board decides to ask. Some of the questions that might be asked would be: "How do you manage school, job, and extracurricular activities and how to you plan to manage all this while being the lowa Honey Queen?" or "Tell us about the most fun experience that you had as being a local honey queen." These interviews help the board get to know the candidates and allows them to break the ice per see.

The following day, the Iowa Honey Queen candidates have a variety of roles to do. They might introduce speakers, give a short presentation about why they are to be the next Iowa Honey Queen, help with the gueen silent auction table, or even direct lost attendees to the correct rooms. While they are doing these tasks, a few anonymous judges judge the candidates. (To this day, I still do not know who the judges were, but my sister spotted a few but would not tell me anything). Some of the things that the candidates are judged for are public speaking, interactions with attendees, and overall personality. Some of the things that are not judged are beauty or how expensive is the wardrobe. Just after the mead social, the candidates are dismissed to go and get ready for the banquet. The banquet is definitely a highlight because that is when the queen's live auction is (if you have any ideas on what should be sold there, let me know). The candidates and the queen show off the merchandise while Roy Kraft does his magic. The years Iowa Honey Queen says her farewell and the new queen is crowned. Saturday is more relaxed as the new Iowa Honey Queen takes a back seat and the youth scholarships are honored. The new Iowa Honey Queen then has the opportunity to meet the IHPA membership and get to know them.

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Iown Honey Royally



Rachel Vakulich - 2023 Iowa Honey Queen

That night, the new lowa Honey Queen goes home, ready to tackle the enormous task of being the public representative for the lowa Honey Producer's Association.

I hope that this gives you all a sneak peak into the lowa Honey Queen competition. If you would like to run for the 2024 Iowa Honey Queen, the application deadline is September 30th, 2023. I hope to see you all at the Iowa State Fair.

If there are any events that you would like the lowa Honey Queen or Princess to come to, let Connie Bronnenberg know. We would be happy to come to your event.



Sincerely,

Rachel Vakulich

2023 Iowa Honey Queen







Iowa Honey Royalty Application

Thank you for expressing interest in running for the Iowa Honey Queen/Iowa Honey Princess!

Please fill out the following information as completely and accurately as possible.

Any questions may be directed towards the Iowa Honey Producers Association Queen Chair Connie Bronnenberg.

She can be reached at one of the following; 515-480-6076 or cbronny823@aol.com.

NAME:		
LOCAL TITLE:		
SPONSOR:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		
PHONE:	BIRTHDATE:	
FATHER'S NAME:		
FATHER'S ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
FATHER'S PHONE:		
MOTHER'S NAME:		
MOTHER'S ADDRESS:		
CITY:		
MOTHER'S PHONE:		
Please fill out the following information about your educati	ion. If an area is not applicable,	please indicate by writing, "NA".
SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTENDING:		
HIGH SCHOOL NAME:		
GRADUATION DATE:		
ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE:		
YEAR IN SCHOOL:		
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY NAME:		

MAJOR(S)/MINOR(S):
Please list the following information. Feel free to add lines or additional pages.
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:
SDORTS:
SPORTS:
CHURCH:
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:
OTHER HOBBIES & INTERESTS:
OTHER HOUDIES & INTERESTS.

Please answer the following questions completely using full sentences and proper grammar usage. Feel free to add lines or additional pages.
How long have you been affiliated with beekeeping and/or honeybees?
What have you done locally to promote honeybees, beekeeping, and the consumption of honey?
Why would you like to be part of the Iowa Honey Producers Association Royalty and what assets do you possess which make you a qualified candidate for the position?

Please send completed form via email to Connie Bronnenberg or to Iowa Honey Producers Association Royalty Program Attn: Queen Chair Connie Bronnenberg 1433 Hull Avenue Perry, IA 50220

From the Editor

Kelsey Wigans, IHPA Editor

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition Teacher of the Year 2022 Humboldt County Conservation Teacher of the Year 2022



Hello Beekeepers!

Things have been busy with planning homesteading classes and getting ready to open our preschool, King's Kids, in Humboldt.

I'm looking forward to presenting for the third year at the Pollinator Party put on by the Humboldt Soil and Water Conservation District about pollinator plants that benefit you AND pollinators. Trying to get more bang for our buck when planting landscapes is important. For example, purple coneflower (echinacea) is a good one for honey bees and for people. You'll often see a picture of a purple coneflower on "immune boosting" tea blends.

In other news, H.R. Cook, myself, and the existing Event Committee are in the works of planning the 2023 Annual Conference. It's been a whirlwind of meetings, emails, and planning, but it's going to be a blast. Be looking in the next edition of The Buzz for registration details. AND always be checking iowahoneyproducers.org for up to date information.



Quilter's Corner

Submitted by: Jodi Kraft

The guilts to support the Iowa Honey Queen Program are finished, and they are BEE-U-TIFUL!





These quilts are stitched together by several people in the IHPA. Quilt block kits are picked up at the IHPA Annual Conference and Meeting in November, submitted by February and finished up by the very talented, Jodi Kraft.

The auction quilt is 80 inches x 100 inches, a very large queen sized quilt. [LEFT]

The raffle quilt is 50 inches by 64 inches. Still a nice lap sized quilt. [RIGHT]

Happy August! I can't believe how quickly this summer seemed to fly by! One minute I was making my list of summer adventures and the next the State Fair and school were upon us. I guess I will just have to savor this last month of summer, even if it is super hot outside! With that heat, I decided to try some cool and refreshing treats. This month I made red lemonade punch and Kaleidoscope popsicles. They were delicious treats after a hot day in the bee yard!

Ruby Red Punch (Pg. 167):

1/2 cup honey 1 (6 oz.) can of frozen lemonade

3 cups very hot water 1(1 pint or 2 cups) bottle of cranberry juice cocktail

1 cup apple juice

Blend honey into hot water. Let stand until cool. Mix the remaining ingredients. Chill and pour into punch bowl. Garnish with frozen fruit ice cubes, if desired. Yeild: 16 punch glass servings.

Emma's Notes: Yummy! We loved this punch and all the flavor it had. It reminded me of a much healthier version of fruit punch Kool-aid. It was super simple to make and was fun to make with kids. There was something for everyone to do even if the kitchen did get a bit messy! We made a double batch which worked really well since frozen lemonade is typically sold in 12 oz. cans. Although it had some unusual ingredients I don't usually keep on hand, it was worth the extra trip to the grocery store to enjoy it!

Kaleidoscope Honey Pops (Pg. 179):

2 1/4 cup water

3/4 cup honey

3 cups assorted fruit, cut into small pieces

12 paper cups or popsicle molds 12 popsicle sticks

Whisk together water and honey in a pitcher until well blended. Place 1/4 cup fruit in each mold. Divide honey mixture between cups. Freeze until firm and ready to serve. Makes 12 servings.

Emma's Notes: This was such a fun way to use up mixed fruit trays from Fareway and Hy-Vee.

If you are like me, there is always a little bit of fruit left over that isn't eaten from those fruit trays. This is a super fast and easy way to use it all up before going bad. The honey complemented the fruit really well and balanced with some of the more tart fruits I used. I chose to not include bananas since I have problems with them browning in the freezer. My assorted fruits were cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes, and pineapple. The more colors of fruit you can add, the more like a Kaleidoscope the popsicles will look! I made these popsicles for a party and everyone enjoyed how cute and fun they were. We loved these and are now my go-to use for left over fruit!













www.iowahoneyproducers.org

Tom Seeley

NEW this year!

TWO FULL DAYS filled with content from speakers, demonstrations, vendors, entertainment, networking and MORE!!!

Highlights

Coffee Service
Friday-Queens' and Presidents' Social & Contest Awards Ceremony
Friday night dinner
Saturday morning IHPA meeting

Saturday evening LIVE auction and IHPA Awards Ceremony

Collectible Pin to commemorate the 2023 Annual Conference Nametag differentiation. Novice and pro beekeepers



A block of rooms have been reserved for people attending the IHPA Conference for Thursday, November 9 - Saturday, November 11th.

Trust us. You're going to want to stay BOTH Friday AND Saturday night!

bit.ly/ihpahotel

Vendor and Sponsorship Registration Form

for the Annual Meeting and Conference November 10-11, 2023

NEW! Any	y IHPA member can be a v	endor for \$50 per space,	if they hav	/e <u>never</u> beer	n a vendor at a pre	vious IHPA co	onference
First and Last Name:				Phone	Number:		
Company/Business Name:				Website:/Description of items:			
Mailing Add	dress:	City:			State:	Zip:	
Email Addre	ess:		Sig	nature:			
Are you into	erested in donating 1-2+ ite	ems to be given out as do	or prizes?	Y / N	[] # Tables	s [] #	Chairs
If yes, what	t item(s) will you be donatir	ng:			_ Electricity Y / N	N (must bring o	own cords
Are you into	erested in donating 1-2+ ite	ems to be used in our Sile	nt Auction	for our Hone	y Queen Program	? Y/N	
If yes, what	t item(s) will you be donatir	ng:					
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	Youth Scholarship Spor				Standard Exhib	it Booth	\$65
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	,	inpacaito (wgmait.com		[] 1/4 p	age ad	\$60	

[] 1/8 page ad

\$40

For Questions please contact: ihpaeditor@gmail.com





From the Beeyard





Written by Phil Ebert

A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

There was a great early flow but we missed most of it. Having two locations is not always the most efficient way to operate. We didn't have any bees on the Lynnville end until the Washington state bees came home in late May. By the time we got them split, moved to locations and supered, it was June 10. All of the other doubles wound up in Mt Vernon. We had to get our share of those hauled to Lynnville. After the California bees came home, we acquired some bees from the Postville area. It took 11 loads on our flatbeds to get those to Mt Vernon. It was a lot of windshield time to get everything moved. So far, our junk trucks have held up pretty well. We did have to buy a vacuum pump for the '95. It is still a good running truck despite having 310,000 miles on it.

Since our splits were made so late, it changed how we handled them. Normally, A split with three frames of brood comes with a box full of bees. This year, it was so hot, we didn't get as many bees moving up thru the excluder. If the split has a box full of bees we can double them up as soon as we know if the queens took. They were too small for that this year. Further complicating matters was the fact we had considerable drifting. This is not usually a problem. I don't know why it was this year. The splits overall were pretty lame. We added brood to some and combined others but the result was not what I had hoped for. Bottom line, we are running 90% of the splits as singles. As I write this on July 9, about 60% of them are moving into the supers.

Since we are running singles, the extended release oxalic pads are right under the excluder. We have found that he acid eats the coating off the excluder wires and lets them rust. They are still usable but it doesn't look very good.

Honey reports from the Dakotas sound promising. It started out very dry up there but they have had rain lately. Some of the sweet clover is 6' high. That stuff will grow anywhere. I have some that is 5' tall around my loading dock where there is nothing but gravel. The tap root can reach down 5' or 6'. They say South Dakota around the Black Hills is spotty. All of these reports are local so the big picture could be different from what I am hearing. Most of the people I have talked to in lowa are doing great.

Here's hoping that your area is doing well!



FOR SALE: Near new 6 5/8 supers with 8 drawn combs/bx. Minimum sale is 10 supers @ 35 each. By a pallet of 48, they are \$30 each. One pallet of homemade bottom boards—approx 80 bottoms. Make an offer for the pallet. Near new deep boxes with frames and foundation--\$50 each. Pix available. Migratory lids are also available. Contact Phil at 641-521-6361 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net Pickup is in Mt Vernon or Lynnville.





Tales from a Migratory Beekeeper





Written by Tyler Holton

A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

Been a while since my last entry. Things are moving along pretty well for the honey season. The rainy weather has been great for the crops but rather poor in the honey production department, but things could always be worse.

Speaking of migratory beekeeping I'm expanding my area of operation even further south into lowa to try and diversify. It really like a whole different way of beekeeping just a 100 miles or so in a different direction.

Queen rearing took a backseat until I got caught up with honey supers but that's well underway now, I will be making some late summer nucs to help fill any empty spaces in the pallets as the year progresses and some hives may dwindle.

We will be moving the extraction setup and bottling line into a new building by Aug 1st. Be on the look out on the Holton Homestead Facebook page for dates of an open house.

I took a more active role in IHPA this year. One being the District 4 director. I look forward to contributing to the association and continuing it's progress.

You'll also find us at the State Fair this year at the IHPA booth as well as the demo kitchen. Hope to see you there too





Climate Change is in our Hands

Respectfully Submitted by Sheila Weldon

Climate Change is in Our Hands - Little Things Matter The 2023 Pollinator Poster is 28" x 34"; however, the following image does not reflect the advertising sponsors below the artwork. Just keep that in mind if you decide to frame a poster or frame it without the advertising. The complete poster and the story behind it may be viewed at https://www.pollinator.org/poster-2023. Previous pollinator posters may also be viewed on the website and may be ordered if still available; however, costs are associated when ordering through the website. Your local NRCS office should be able to obtain current pollinator posters at no cost to you. They may or may not be

Here's a very recent YouTube link that might help when registering Bee Hives and specialty or sensitive crops in lowa. Jeff Jensen did the video and is with Trees Forever as well as the lowa Nut Growers Association. We know a lot of beekeepers also dabble in other hobbies, especially planting for pollinators. Get those bee hives and crops registered with Field Watch annually. In fact, get it on your calendar to do so early every year. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=

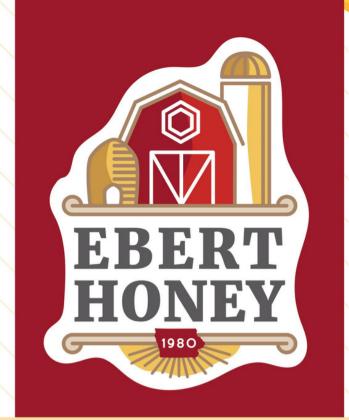
familiar with the program, but it's a

great resource for all of us.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= npBR7W_zyj0

[Title: FieldWatch Tutorial: Map Your Beehives and Specialty Crops to Protect Your Investment] My husband and I taught beekeeping classes a number of years; however, in our early days of teaching, we quickly discovered that much of lowa is a desert for pollinators. We then incorporated into our classes a unit on planting for honey bees as well as other pollinators and often gave away pollinator posters to students and other interested individuals. Annual pollinator posters are hanging in our garage and usually one more is added each year. Here's a link to a pdf file of this poster.







HONEY Containers & More!







NOW OFFERING

- Rectangle Front Bears
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- · Pint Glass Jars
- · Classic Glass Iars
- · Hourglass Squeeze Grip
- Jugs & 5-Gallon Buckets
- · Honeycomb Cases
- · Spout, Snap Cap & Flat Lids

...AND MORE!



ABOUT OUR CONTAINER LINE

Ebert Honey offers competitive pricing on a full lineup of professional honey packaging supplies, featuring over 20 container and bottle styles. We welcome orders of any size!

We proudly offer high quality products paired with friendly, local customer service.



ABOUT YOUR CONTAINER ORDER

Choose local pick up or convenient shipping. Our streamlined website makes ordering and shipping fast and easy!

Pick up is arranged ahead of time and is available at both of our locations. We ship via USPS, FedEx, or SpeeDee Delivery.



319.259.9377 info@eberthoney.com
f ⊙ @eberthoney



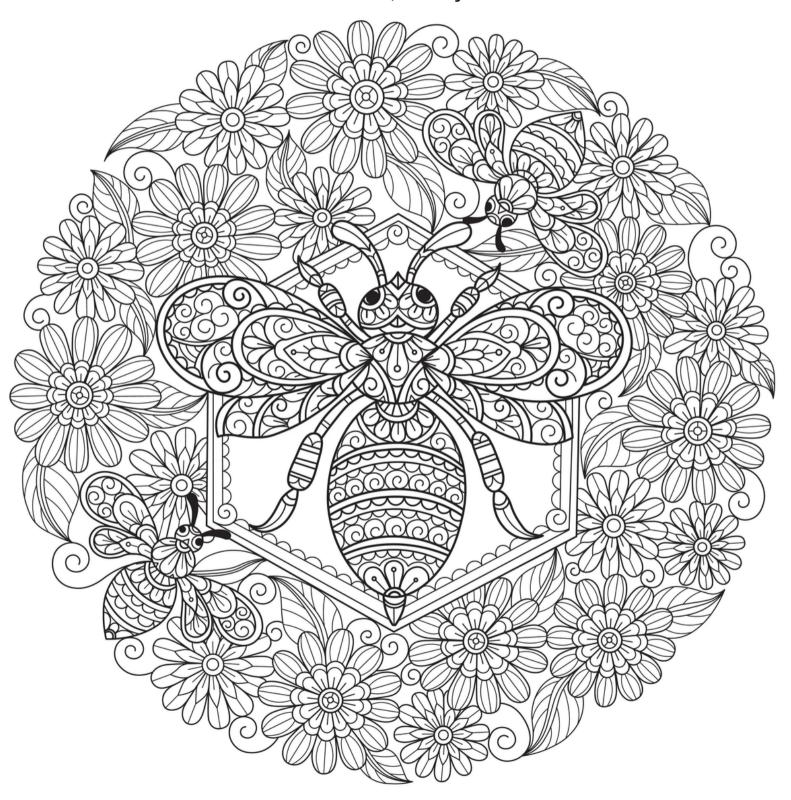
14808 South 102nd Ave. East Lynnville, Iowa 50153



1090 Highway 1 North Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314

Should we have a coloring contest at the IHPA Annual Conference?

Write to ihpaeditor@gmail.com to let us know what you want to see more and less of, or if you have ideas!



The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association c/o Editor, Kelsey Wigans 1255 Virginia Avenue Renwick, IA 50577



The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society



Deadline for submissions to The Buzz is always the 10th of the month at 11:59 p.m. the month prior to when you would like to see information published.

If writing an article for The Buzz, submissions must be 800 words or less. Pictures are encouraged!

Deadline to submit information for the September Edition of The Buzz

Thursday, August 10th at 11:59 p.m.

If you need assistance designing your advertisement, information is due to Kelsey Wigans one week prior, on Thursday, August 3rd at 11:59 p.m.

Please submit materials to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

