



The Buzz



June 2019

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



**Randy Hahn--Beek of the Month . Builds Warre boxes in Johnson County. See details on Page 17.
Deadlines--Register for Summer Field Day (6/1). Submit forms for State Fair competition (6/15).**

IHPA President's Report from Roy Kraft

Beekeepers,

June is upon us! Can you bee-lieve it! We have a lot of important dates and deadlines this month so look and read this issue carefully. Summer Field Day is just a few days away. Camper people, Little Wall Lake campground is a good one. Can't wait to go. Wish it was today! Contact Jackie Ediker at 319-939-6181 because she has the low-down. State Fair product form has an important deadline real soon. Do not wait if you want a piece of the pie. Forms should be in this issue: fill it out and get it mailed off.

I was able to go to CIBA auction at Minburn. I witnessed some nice bee equipment change hands to the highest bidder. It was a nice sale and a great day for it weather-wise as well. One week later the North Iowa Bee Club had their sale in a blizzard! Yes blizzard. They had a good sale as well. They were able to get all the consignments inside and we had an indoor sale. Had a good crowd and a good sale, considering the weather. Something to mark on the calendar for next year. These sales have some good stuff and you always see a friend for some good conversation and the food is good too! April is the month in 2020. I'm sure there will be more auctions of beekeeping and relating paraphernalia.

The IHPA is going to try something new this year as an event. I will not go into details other than it involves bicycles. I'm sure you will hear real soon. I must say that the vice president is working hard on this and we will need some volunteers.

I had the worst luck with my beekeeping operation this last year as my five hives all died. I cut way back to be able to take

better care of them and I still lost them all. It was hard to take, but life goes on. I was convinced I should take the year off since my trucking is more demanding than ever. That news didn't last too long. Jodi was convinced we should have a couple hives as we have a solid honey market. I will say something that selling honey does make me money. This trucking sometimes, well the company does its best but it's nature of the beast that it doesn't sit as well as it used to. Being gone so much is hard. Some loads are better than others and etc. and etc.

Back to bees. I'm back in now with three hives that all look good. I must admit it may have been a long year with no bees. I like my girls in the box too much! New genetics has me excited to see how they will work. Will they be the comb builders I'm used to? Will they winter? Will they show any mite resistance? All these questions I have in my mind. Another thing, I'm considering going to all medium boxes 8-frame size. I've cut way back on bees and beekeeping equipment so it would be a good time to make this switch. My back is really liking the idea of this a whole bunch! My research is starting. I know some of you out there already keep 8-frame mediums. Shoot me an email or call me, I would enjoy the chat or correspondence on this. This is something a couple years ago I never would have even considered. I liked the deep frames. The weight of the deep is not my friend anymore. I am dreaming of queen rearing in med nuc boxes. Something to think about until next month. Spark some interest? Or you think it will never work?

Bee blessed, and don't get a headache pondering that too long! More next month. Good night!

Update from Brooklyn Pardall, Iowa Honey Queen

As a quick update for both May and June (since I forgot about May), a lot has gone on! April has been a lot on science fair again as these first few months of the year always are. In March, I competed at many fairs as mentioned in the previous Buzz article. But since the previous article, I've been in even more. I competed at the Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair in Cedar Rapids and was a finalist (top 10) there. Although I didn't win champion like I did last year, two amazing projects did! One, in particular, was by Amara Orth. She also has a great project on bees as just a freshman. As I talked to them, her father mentioned that her mother was a honey queen herself. Small world! She will be moving on to international competition in May. I then went on to

compete at the state level where I got other awards as well, including second in my category. I then got 4th overall in the state for my project, and they surprised me with another trip to internationals! So, I will be traveling to Phoenix this Sunday, May 12th, to compete. I'm very excited for this opportunity! Additionally, I've just gotten done painting my beehives and hopefully can set one up to get a swarm. I have up to five to fill! I've just been so busy with school I've been seeing this now as my best option (If you didn't read my latest Buzz article, my bees died over the winter due to extreme cold). If all doesn't work out, there is always next year. I'm constantly learning and would love to study the biology of how swarms work. I think they are fascinating! :)





107th Iowa Honey Producers Association Conference and Annual Meeting

Friday, November 8th and Saturday, November 9th, 2019

Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport 6111 Fleur Drive Des Moines, IA. 50301



The IHPA Conference and Annual Meeting is our yearly opportunity to get together and discuss our favorite thing, BEES!! This meeting is open to anyone interested in beekeeping and honeybees. We have a variety of guest speakers to speak on their expertise in the beekeeping world.

This is a great opportunity for individuals thinking about keeping bees, new beekeepers and beekeepers a few years in, to meet other beekeepers from around the state, swap stories, ask questions and seek advice from those who have years of beekeeping under their belts. There will be no shortage of information and answers!!

This is why you go to a conference..... Vision, Inspiration and Connections!!

2019 Keynote Speakers: Mel Disselkoen, Kirsten Traynor and The Minnesota Bee Squad

Honey Swap and Cooking Contest are BACK!! Many of you missed them last year and we were able to make arrangements to bring them back. The Mead, painted hive body and photography contests will be back as well. Maybe even a new one!! Contest details will be in a later "Buzz".

Room rates for IHPA members are \$119 plus taxes. Reservations must be made by **Thursday, October 17th**, 2019 to get this discounted room rate. There are a couple Handicap-able rooms reserved for our event as well. Call (515) 287-2400 to make your reservations. Questions? Call or text 515-490-2011 or email kenoyerfarms@gmail.com IHPA VP Keri Kenoyer

Updates from our Vice President

Welcome to June fellow Buzz readers!!

I hope everyone's bees are faring well and welcome to beekeeping to all the "newbees". This last month has been extremely busy for me planting plants in the greenhouses, unloading new merchandise for the gift shop in which I work, putting the final touches on Summer Field Day and adding two more promotional event possibilities to our summer calendar. The two additional events will be **an educational table at Reiman Garden's Pollinator Fest June 22nd** and **an educational booth and honey lemonade booth on Tuesday July 23rd at Howell's Greenhouse and Pumpkin Patch**. They have been selected as the AG Oasis stop of the day. We would like to get a planning committee in place, so **if you would like to help in the planning and can volunteer to work the booths on the 23rd please let me know right away!**

Keri Kenoyer @ kenoyerfarms@gmail.com Ragbrai Committee in the subject.

Summer Field Day is fast approaching!! I feel there is a great day planned for your enjoyment. You will find the agenda in this issue as well as speaker bios. REMEMBER to bring your bee veil/protection!! The first breakout session will be in the ISU bee yard where there will be three different presentation rotations, each 20 minutes long. If you are interested in camping for the weekend, there is Little Wall Lake Park about 20 minutes or so north of the farm. If you are interested contact Jaci Edecker at 319-939-6192. Leave a message if she is unable to answer.

I am seeking volunteers for these three events! Please let me know if this is something you are interested in.

I hope to see most of you at SFD on June 15th! You will start to see information about Annual Conference at SFD and in the July Buzz.

Keri Kenoyer – VP

Ginny Mitchell is an entomologist at Iowa State University. Known as “The Bug Lady”, she coordinates the Insect Zoo where she teaches tens of thousands of Iowa children about the importance of arthropods. In her 7-year career with the Insect Zoo, Ginny has given over 1,400 presentation and has been to 90 of the 99 Iowa counties.

Ginny started her beekeeping career at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she worked as a beekeeper with Dr. Marion Ellis. While working on her degree in Insect Science, she focused on bees, specifically queen rearing and the queen mandibular pheromone. Ginny helped to organize and led the 2011 UNL Master Beekeeping Queen Rearing Workshop, and presented and assisted in hands-on training at the 2013 UNL Master Beekeeping workshop, and the 2011, 2010 UNL Beginner Beekeeping Workshops.

Ginny began judging honey at state fairs in 2014, but her training began in 2010 under the supervision of Dr. Marion Ellis. She quickly developed a knack for picking out the perfections in the sweet liquid and has been asked to judge the Kansas, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri and Nebraska State Fairs. Ginny tries to give constructive feedback on every entry, from cut comb to creamed to fancy wax sculptures. She loves seeing the number of honey entries climb each year!

Ginny’s favorite entry to judge is comb honey. It is a tedious process to create the perfect piece of cut comb and requires a hot knife and an eye for perfection! Ginny has a best in show ribbon for her chunk comb honey entry into the 2010 Nebraska State Fair. Her least favorite to judge is photography, there are so many good ones and not any defining lines like moisture content. This makes it very difficult to judge!

When she is not teaching kids about bugs or judging honey, Ginny likes to spend time with her 3 children, Malachite (12), Poppy (9) and Wren (4) and her husband JD. She is a very active wrestling mom to Poppy and Wren and volunteers as a Girl Scout leader for her daughter’s troop.

We will look at samples of State Fair honey entries including comb, liquid and creamed honey as well as wax. We will use the tools Ginny uses to judge so you can see first-hand what she sees. We will talk about some tricks to getting the perfect entries and she will answer all your questions! You are encouraged to bring comb, frame of honey, Extracted frame of honey, creamed honey, wax, candles, or anything that is in the entry book to be mock-judged You may also bring liquid honey to have its moisture content tested.

Melissa Burdick is the Executive Director at The Brenton Arboretum in Dallas Center, Iowa. Prior to taking on her role there, she served as Director of Horticulture at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha for three years and as Curator of Herbaceous Collections at The Norfolk Botanical Garden in Virginia for eight years.

A native of Alabama, Melissa earned her bachelor’s degree in Landscape Design from Auburn University (*War Eagle!*) and a master’s in public horticulture administration from the Longwood Gardens Graduate Program at the University of Delaware, home of the Fightin’ Blue Hens!

In her spare time she works in her home garden in Adel where she prefers Old English Roses and perennials of all kinds. Melissa is also co-host of the radio show “Gardening Today” Sunday mornings on WHO Newsradio 1040.

Melissa will be presenting on the different varieties of trees and shrubs that offer the best pollen and nectar source for bees.



Volunteers Needed!!

We need your help with some upcoming events. Contact Keri Kenoyer if interested in one of these areas of need. Call 515-490-2011 or email kenoyerfarms@gmail.com

On June 14th, we need help setting up Summer Field Day starting at 2:00 p.m.

On June 15th, we’ll need help at the Registration Table (3-4 volunteers at 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.)

Some will hand out name badges and information packets, some will assist with dessert placements.

We’ll need 1-2 volunteers at the Tee Shirt Tables in two shifts 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We’ll need 3-4 Parking Guides from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. We’ll also need 2-3 helpers at the Refreshment Table in two shifts: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. And then there’s Tear Down: we’ll need 4-6 volunteers in two shifts--12 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

On June 22nd, I need 2-3 beekeepers and/or board members who love to talk bees. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Also, **on July 23rd**, I’ll need 6-8 volunteers to man a Ragbrai booth. Hours are 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. We can discuss shift hours if needed. We will be looking for a bulk honey supplier and a honey stix supplier for this event. Email Keri Kenoyer at kenoyerfarms@gmail.com if interested in being a supplier. We can work out selection details once the committee is formed. Be sure to put Ragbrai Supplier in the subject.



2019 Iowa Honey Producers
Summer Field Day
June 15th, 2019



- 8:00 am Registration opens (**see below for entry form by June 1**)
- 8:30 am Welcome and Announcements
- 8:45 am **Guest Speaker – Ginny Mitchel**, state fair Judge
“What you need to know about entering items into the State Fair”
- 9:55 am **Guest Speaker – Melissa Burdick**, the Brenton Arboretum
“Trees for Bees”
- 11:00 am Lunch/ Social Hour (**Bring a dessert to share**)
- 12:05 pm **IHPA Queen – Brooklyn Pardall**
“Queen’s Report”
- 12:15 pm Load the people movers to go to breakout sessions
- 12:30 pm Session 1 **Bee Barn** (three rotations 20 min. each)
Hive Demonstration – Andy Joseph
Queen Marking Demonstration - Pat Ennis
Various Mite Count Methods – Randall Cass
- 1:45 pm Load the people movers to rotate breakout session 2
- 2:00 pm Session 2 **Prairie Strips**
- 2:25 pm Load people movers to return to main building
- 2:45 pm Panel Discussion- Phil Ebert, Andy Joseph, Randall Cass
- 3:45 pm **Iowa State Apiarist – Andy Joseph**
“The State of Iowa Honey Bees”
- 4:20 pm Closing remarks
- 4:30 pm IHPA Board meeting in Classroom, CIBA meeting in Production Room



Ginny Mitchel



Melissa Burdick

Cut here -----**Registration**-----Cut here

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: (____) _____

CELL: (____) _____ EMAIL: _____

Single (member): \$35 before June 1st, 2019 _____ x \$35 = _____

Single (non-member) \$40 before June 1st, 2019 _____ x \$40 = _____

Walk-in (member) \$40 June 15th, 2019 _____ x \$40 = _____

Walk-in (non-member) \$45 June 15th, 2019 _____ x \$45 = _____

Return this completed form together with your check payable to **IHPA**, by **Saturday, June 1st, 2019**.

Send registration to: Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer 52735 187th Ave. Chariton, IA. 50049

Please refer questions to: Keri Kenoyer at kenoyerfarms@gmail.com Summer Field Day in the subject line,
or call 515-490-2011.

Let Me Tell You about the Birds & the Bees and the Flowers & the Trees

In early April, Jerry and I checked on three known honey bee colonies (one in a barn and two at the base of trees). We saw honey bees flying in two of the locations. At the time we checked, one colony was in the shade and we weren't sure if it was dead or not. After this extreme winter, it was great to discover that there are still feral colonies (feral - in a wild state, especially after escape from captivity or domestication).

As someone promoting pollinator friendly trees, I'm once again hearing that the DNR is cutting down trees for various reasons having nothing to do with the tree health. I understand cutting down Ash trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer; however, cutting down trees to return the land to prairie or open up views is probably not in our best interest. It takes a long time to grow a big tree and our planet is quickly losing trees due to agriAculture practices and this type of thinking.

The honey bee is not native to our country; however, could you imagine what our food supply would be like if we lost the honey bee. It's the only insect that we can manage for the pollination of large scale monocultures needed to feed people on this planet. With that thought in mind, perhaps planting pollinator friendly trees might also be in the best interest of our food supply, the oxygen we breathe and the cooling

effects produced by trees.

In the past 25 to 30 years in Iowa, we've observed that it has become more difficult to grow old healthy trees due to the increased deer population and their negative impact on young trees. The chronic impact of various chemicals has also had a detrimental impact on growing healthy trees in the state. Most of us know that plants are greatly impacted by what's in the soil and water. Unfortunately, the soil, water and air quality have made it more difficult to grow old healthy trees. I personally love really large trees, but know most of us do not want them next to our houses.

Last year, we planted a few more Japanese Lilac Trees near our house. It's a fragrant honey bee tree that blooms after spring bloomers are done and most summer bloomers are forming buds. The lilac type fragrance also makes it feel like spring is lasting a little longer. It's a great tree to plant if you're looking for a fragrant, honey bee-friendly specimen tree that's safe to plant near your house. It's hardy to zone 3 and blooms at a very young age.

Pollinator friendly trees are akin to acres of blooms in the sky let alone the oxygen needed for life as we know it. I sure hope that the state tree in Iowa doesn't become the telephone pole.

Respectfully Submitted by Sheila Weldon

Time to think about Iowa State Fair entries.

Is your honey as clear as water this year? Or a deep amber yellow? How about your candles? Did your girls make really pretty wax this year? Did you catch that bee just right in a photo? Are you a designer at heart, but never had the nerve to try a Display Window? Do you have an Observation Hive with a marked Queen? How about that great honey recipe you tried out from the IHPA Cookbook?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, it is time to share your accomplishments with the world. You can do this by entering your items in the **Iowa State Fair**. How great would it be to say, "I entered my honey in the Iowa State Fair"?

Here is the link to the Competition Events:

How to enter: <https://www.iowastatefair.org/upl/downloads/competition/premium-books/apiary-bees-honey-23.pdf>. This site provides all the information on all the classes and what is required for each.

Food / Cooking with Honey: <https://www.iowastatefair.org/upl/downloads/competition/premium-books/food-23.pdf>

Entry Form: <https://www.iowastatefair.org/participate/competition/entry-deadlines/>

Once you follow the steps to set up an account, you will see a screen that guides you through the process. The fee is \$2 per Apiary entry and \$4 for a Window Display entry. Everyone should think about entering. Not only do you have the satisfaction that you entered, but your entries help make the Iowa Honey Producers' booth the best-looking booth.

If you have questions, reach out to the Iowa State Fair or any of your directors.





MR. EUGENE SECOR.

The Historical Buzz Post

By Tina Meyer IHPA Historian

In 1889 Eugene Secor was known as America's "Poet-laurate of Apiculture." For ten years he had already been writing poetry and prose for the American Bee Journal along with some of the best poetic effusions such as "Honey-Moon" and "The Bees are Swarming".

He moved from New York to Forest City, Iowa where he attended Cornell College in 1864. He held many court offices in Winnebago County, Iowa which includes being the first elected Mayor. Eugene Secor also held the office of Vice-President of the Iowa State Horticulture Society. During his years of beekeeping he was a member of the North American Beekeepers Society, and for two years he was Vice-President of the Iowa Chapter. Eugene Secor was also a member of the Iowa State Beekeepers' Society.

Eugene Secor was an enthusiastic fruit-grower and was known to have the largest apiary in the county at that time. His bee-keeping experience began in 1870, when he paid \$10.00 for a prime swarm of black bees. He paid a carpenter who was also a beekeeper \$3.00 for a frame hive to put them in. He knew nothing of bees and at that time couldn't tell a comb filled with sealed brood from one with sealed honey. The number of colonies he kept never exceeded 50. His aim was to keep the number so small that he could manage them without hired help. He strove to keep down increase and keep up the production of the colonies.

District 4 News

It's the 3rd week of April. The birds are singing, the bees are flying, and the dandelions are blooming. Favorite time of the year for a beekeeper. By the time you are reading this it will be the end of May. Hopefully your hives haven't swarmed and you're stacking on honey supers.

Overall it was a rough winter for bee survival. I'm hearing of 60 to 70 percent losses across the State. Those hives coming out of winter seemed to be very strong. Those are the ones to grab genetics from when making queens. This is the time of year to reassess **how**, **when** and **what** you did for mite treatment late summer last year. In my opinion we have to start this process by the end of July, first of August. The longer past this timeline you wait, the greater percentage of your colonies not getting through the winter will be.

Summer Field Day is coming up fast. This will be an information-filled day, and hopefully you will be able to attend. Thanks to Keri, our Vice President, for a well-planned day of activities.

If you are wanting to sell your products at the State Fair Booth remember the deadline of **June 15th**. Information is in this issue



of the Buzz. There are a few rule changes, so be sure and read them. Also, the deadline for Iowa State Fair entries is **July 14th**. We would love to see another great display of honey and products from beekeepers all across the State.

I was able to visit several beekeeping classes and club meetings through the winter. We have some great clubs promoting our wonderful hobby. See you soon.

Doyle Kincy
District 4 Director

HONEY - SOLE CLASS					
		Amount Sold in 2018	Amount Sold in 2017	PRICE	I want this class
1	24 ounce bear	231	282	\$5.75	
2	3 pound jug	48	83	\$10.50	
3	2 pound jug	75	104	\$8.50	
4	5 pound jug	40	23	\$16.00	
5	2 ounce bear	311	482	\$1.25	
6	16 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	29	46	\$6.50	
7	8 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	36	31	\$4.25	
8	4 ounce Antique (Muth) jar	36	16	\$3.00	
9	Buckwheat Honey 1 pound	0	0		
10	12 pound gallon jug	35	23	\$35.00	
11	Honey Stix		40,897	\$0.10	

HONEY - CASE LOT - 24 PER CASE

Additional Flavors:

Price per Pound - you bid, low bid provides all for the Fair

CLEAN-UP

77	1 pound glass	
78	1 pound plastic	
79	12 ounce honey bear	

CERTIFIED KITCHEN - SOLE CLASS

Additional Flavors:

LOTIONS / SOAPS / LIP BALM / ETC

RULES FOR 2019 STATE FAIR PRODUCTS BEING SOLD AT THE IHPA BOOTH

There will be a 4-person committee, plus booth manager. Bids must be sent to all 4 on the committee, mailed only. Yes, 4 stamps, 4 envelopes. (No e-mail.) There will be a **firm cut-off date of June 15th**, with the committee meeting on June 30th. The committee will meet in a pre-determined neutral place. The general IHPA membership will be allowed to witness. All liquid honey and comb honey is to be from 2019 harvest from Iowa origins. All glass honey containers and creamed honey containers must have a protection seal. All plastic containers must have a pressure seal. This includes all large containers. All products must show proper labeling (i.e. name, city, phone number and weight). Any item not listed on the sheet or specialty items you wish to market at the IHPA State Fair Booth needs to be approved by the booth manager by the committee deadline. Honey for the Honey Lemonade (50-pound buckets) will be a sealed bid only. Low bid takes it all. (This is the only true bid item). Pollen must have a "US Pollen" label. These rules will be reviewed annually at the January Board Meeting.

Due to the time frame of honey styx production it is a two-year commitment. This commitment is for 2020 and 2021.

SOLE CLASSES:

There will be one person that will have a sole class of honey or item based on price list. For example: one person will have ALL 24oz bears for the State Fair based on price list. If 2 or more want it, we decide by a draw, winner takes the whole class. Excluding "case lots"; see below on these. Draw order will be most numbers sold last year first to last. You will only be allowed to win every other draw, however, if you are the only one that entered you will get the class. You may enter consecutive classes.

OPEN CLASSES:

All beeswax products (candles, ornaments, blocks, etc) must be packaged to maintain cleanliness and for presentation Lip balms, lotions and soaps – this will be at committee and booth managers discretion. Please submit to us by June 15th a list of what you would like to market at the Iowa State Fair for 2019. Please include a phone number as the committee may call you the day of the meeting.

CREAMED and FLAVORED HONEY RULES: MUST BE IOWA HONEY.

Flavored honey and creamed honey must come from a certified kitchen. A copy of the license must be on file with the booth manager and the booth manager must have with them at the State Fair. If more than one person wanting to bring a flavor, a draw will decide who brings the flavor. Please provide a 1-ounce sample, by committee deadline, if you wish to bring Pure Creamed Honey.

CASE LOTS:

The purpose of the case lots is a way for the small beekeeper to provide honey to the fair. (By participating in the Case Lot classes, you forfeit your ability to participate in the "Sole Classes".) If you participate in the "Sole Classes" you forfeit your ability to participate in the Case Lot classes. Case Lot classes are 1-pound glass, 1-pound plastic and the 12-ounce bear. Case Lots will be in case quantities of 24 bottles.

You may bring no more than 4 cases of each class. Minimum is one case of 24 for a class.

Clean-up rule: In the event the required quantity cannot be fulfilled through the case lot system, those participating in the "sole class" will be encouraged to help supply the additional quantity needed of each class through a draw. (One person per class decided by draw if needed).

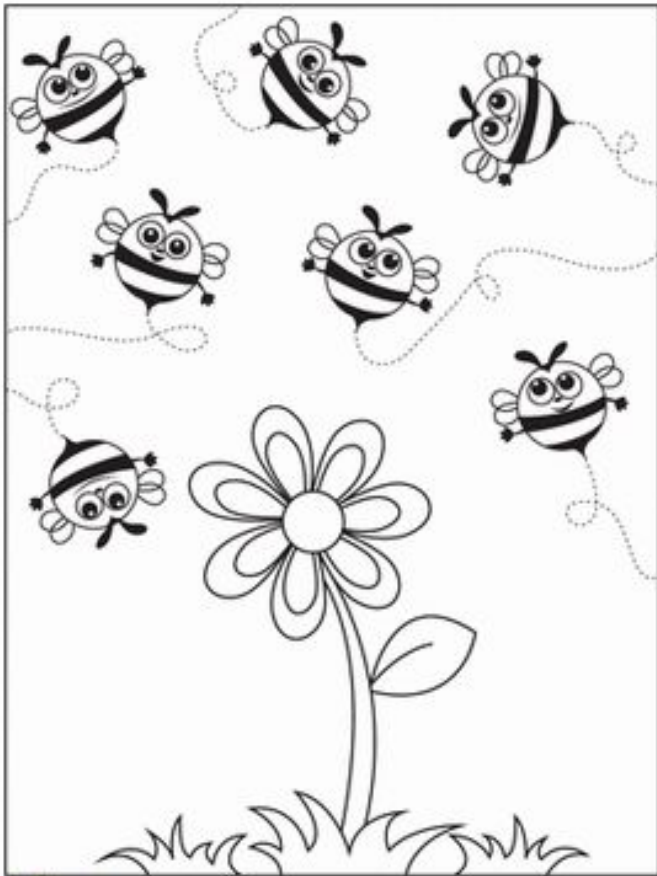
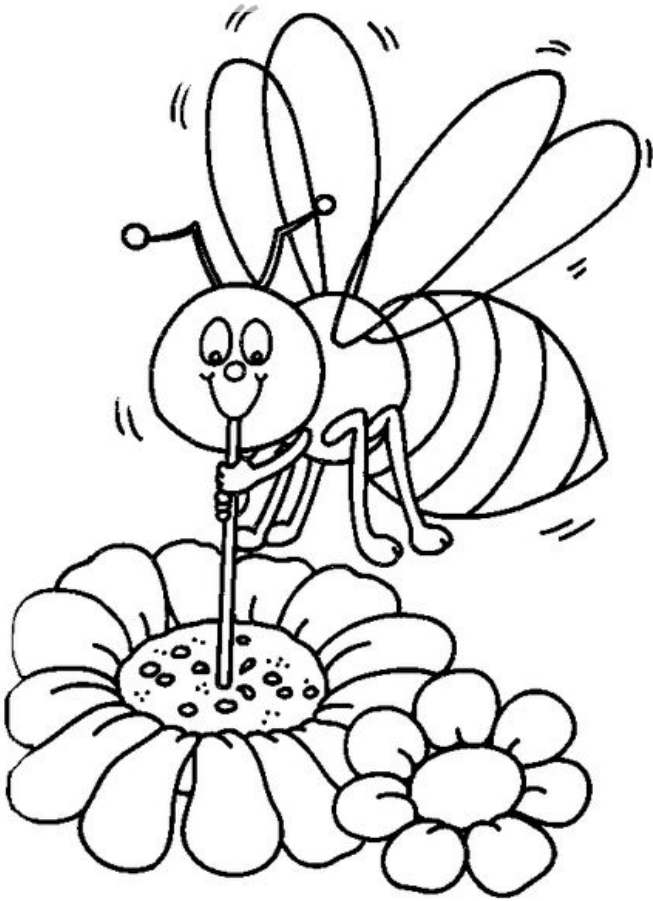
CUT COMB, ROSS ROUNDS and CHUNK HONEY:

Must be in a sealed container. Well-drained without liquid honey (Chunk honey excluded). Quality standards will be used (clean capping with all cells capped). Needs to weigh at least 14 ounces (Chunk honey excluded). **MUST** be frozen for a minimum of 48 hours prior to arriving at the Iowa State Fair, subject to rejection, booth manager discretion, (Chunk honey will be need to be frozen as well.)

DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS:

You must deliver products to the IHPA Booth at the State Fair. Plan to deliver your products between Sunday and Wednesday evening. All products must be received prior to fair opening at 9:00 am Thursday morning. You must provide an invoice when product is delivered. Please make plans to pick up unsold product on Sunday evening between 9:00pm and 10:00 pm or Monday between 8:00am and 12:00 noon. Anyone without a business name must complete a W-9 for tax purposes. (Will be provided on-site.)

Need something for the kids to color?



News from the Beeyard, by Phil Ebert

When I wrote the draft for this a couple of weeks ago, my opening line was, "The agony of package bees is over." At the time of this writing (May8) it still is not over. We came up with enough bees to keep it from being a complete disaster, but we are still waiting on the last 200 packagers. Package bees has been a significant part of our business for 20 years but, at this point in time, I don't care if I ever see another package. It is a nightmare that just won't end. We did get some help. Pat Ennis let us take 250 off his load. Even with that, we didn't have enough to make up a truckload. Tim Wilbanks worked with us on the hauling. Without those guys, we would have been totally sucking wind.

Distribution of nucs and single-story colonies is the next thing on the agenda. Of course, we still have to maintain the parent colonies and get bees distributed to the various yards. The wet weather has not helped any of this. We have gone thru massive quantities of syrup. We are undergoing a lot of adjustments as we shift a lot of the beekeeping to Mt Vernon. We don't have syrup tanks there yet. That is a pretty basic thing, but we have had a lot on the agenda over there. It just hasn't happened yet. Adam bought some totes so we can haul a decent quantity of syrup from Lynnvile.

The old flatbed we bought in Texas has continued to have issues other than the squirrels. The most recent was the waste gate in the turbo. It was hanging up, so the computer was not reading the correct exhaust pressure. That was not a good thing. Performance suffered. That's life with a fleet of junk trucks. We have a 2015 delivery van, but the trucks go back to '95. It works financially but you have to deal with the aggravation they cause. I spent 30 years as a mechanic, so I am used to it. I have always felt like it was a lot easier to make money with vehicles when they were paid for. We have always looked for cheap stuff that no one else wanted. Going forward, as the operation grows, we may have to adjust our thinking.

The weather man is saying there are sunny days ahead. I hope he is right. That's the only job I know of where you can be wrong a large part of the time and still keep your job. This is the second crap spring in a row. At least, the late snow went north this year. Whether you believe in global warming or not (I do), weather patterns are changing and not for the better. I visited the San Diego Zoo a few years ago when I was there for a beekeepers meeting. They had a display showing that 25% of the polar ice cap had melted since the 80's. There will soon be a Northwest Passage.

Here's hoping for better days ahead and a good honey crop.



Bees colonies fail from cold during shipping--Weak honey bee colonies may fail from cold exposure during shipping

PUBLISHED ON **APRIL 22, 2019** in **Morning Ag Clips**

FARGO, N.D. — Cold temperatures inside honey bee colonies may cause colony losses during and after long-distance hauling, according to a [preliminary study](#) by Agricultural Research Service ([ARS](#)) scientists.

Every year almost 2 million honey bee colonies—nearly two-thirds of the managed colonies in the United States—are loaded aboard semi-trailers and shipped across the country multiple times to pollinate crops like California almonds.

But within days of arrival, some of these colonies will have few if any honey bees left to visit almond flowers, to provide essential pollination services to California's 1.3 million acres of almond orchards.

"We found that less robust colonies—those that have fewer than 10 frames of honey bees and larvae when loaded onto trucks—cannot maintain the temperature inside the hive and are subjected to cold stress," said [Dacotah Melicher](#), a post-doctoral researcher with the ARS Bioscience Research Laboratory in Fargo, North Dakota.

Smaller colonies are more likely to fail and fail faster, and many lose almost all of their bees within days of arrival.

Robust colonies with 10 or more frames were able to maintain stable temperatures and populations.

Honey bee transporters often worry about colonies overheating during shipping, which can cause a colony to die very quickly. However, chilling can be as damaging but less obviously. If brood—bee larvae—are chilled, it can result in developmental abnormalities when they emerge as adult bees. This could be the cause of smaller colonies failing within a few weeks of being shipped. Colonies with fewer than 10 frames just may not have the numbers to allow the colony to thermo-regulate well enough to prevent chilling.

When honey bee boxes are loaded onto semi-trailers, they are oriented with the hive box openings inward toward a central aisle or outward toward the highway. The aisle helps prevent overheating but may cause air turbulence that can affect hive temperature if the outside air temperature is low.

Internal colony temperatures also varied significantly depending on where they were located on the trailer. Colonies near the front and the back of the trailer and the colonies facing the central aisle showed the greatest

loss of temperature, but more hives need to be monitored to see if location matters.

In addition to measuring colony temperatures, the scientists also profiled genetically mediated responses—known as gene expression—at departure, on arrival and after a recovery period of three weeks to identify honey bees' internal reactions to the stress of being trucked. What the researchers found was that, after the recovery period, the activity of genes that support more disease resistance and those that respond to cold stress as well as genes that guide aggressiveness all had decreased significantly as the hive rebounded from being transported. At the same time though, the bees' genes involved in producing antibiotic peptides had increased activity, possibly as a way for the bees to prepare to fight off new potential bacterial infections to which the stressed hive may be more vulnerable.

"Before we can really pinpoint the greatest stresses, we need to measure honey bee responses to other factors that occur during long-distance trucking such as vibration, air pressure, diesel exhaust, and the stress of confining the honey bees within the boxes during transport. It's likely that some factors are causing more stress than we expect, but there might be inexpensive solutions that could help beekeepers save hives," explained Melicher.

—USDA ARS



Here's how a healthy club blesses its members:

Saturday, April 27th, was another cold, rainy and breezy day in northwest Iowa. The Siouxland Beekeepers had planned for a nice, warm and sunny day for a hive inspection at the Adaville Honey Company apiary of Dean & Barb Johnson. Backup plans had been made to reserve the meeting room at the Woodbury County Extension Office in Sioux City in case of a total downpour of rain.

The hive inspection was set up primarily for new beekeepers who hadn't had their noses in a bee colony yet and were planning to get nucs or packages of bees in a couple of weeks. Persistence and faith paid off as displays were set up in the fading drizzle of early afternoon and in the southern side of an evergreen wind break that makes for a night and day difference when it comes to wind protection.

Fourteen people showed up at the 2:00 start time and discussions were well underway about different hive stands, feeders and hive placement locations before the demonstrations even began. We started out with having the newbees light their smokers. These shiny new tin cans that had never seen a spark or smoke smudge yet, became a challenge for people to decide what kind of fuel to use and how to get them lit. Success came slowly as clouds of smoke started to fill the ever-clearing air as the rain clouds continued to move east.

We moved on to open three hives quickly as the temperature

was still quite cool, but there was no wind in the wind break and peeks of sunshine occasionally came through the clouds. Protective gear was put on (some of it coming out of the wrappers for the first time). Everyone got to handle frames and see the pollen, larvae, capped brood and honey along with a couple of queen bees. There was one Facebook comment on the posted pictures that said "I don't think I have ever seen a larger group of perfectly white bee suits. A few months and they will look like everyone else's!"

A mock up nuc installation was carried out showing different options of getting heavy frames in a box with new foundation frames. Once again there were different opinions from several experts on how to do this when the new beekeepers were wanting the straight answer for the perfect transfer.

Testing for varroa was discussed over snacks. There is always much to learn, and new people are extremely pleased with the way seasoned beekeepers share their knowledge and experiences with others.

Be sure to check out Siouxland Beekeepers Group on Facebook.

Dean & Barb Johnson
Adaville Honey Company
Merrill, Iowa



Some Amazing Honeybee Facts:

Honey bees must gather nectar from two million flowers to make one pound of honey.

One bee has to fly about 90,000 miles – three times around the globe – to make one pound of honey.

The average bee will make only 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.

A honey bee visits 50 to 100 flowers during a collection trip.

A honey bee can fly for up to six miles, and as fast as 15 miles per hour.

The bee's brain is oval in shape and about the size of a sesame seed, yet it has a remarkable capacity to learn and remember things. For example, it is able to make complex calculations on distance travelled and foraging efficiency.

Honey bees communicate with one another by dancing.

A colony of bees consists of 20,000-60,000 honey bees and one queen. Worker honey bees are female, live for about 6 weeks and do all the work.

The queen bee can live up to 5 years and is the only bee that lays eggs. She is the busiest in the summer months, when the hive needs to be at its maximum strength, and lays up to 2500 eggs per day.

Larger than the worker bees, the male honey bees (also called drones), have no stinger and do no work. All they do is mate.

(Continued on Page 14)

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com

Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010

The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

Emma's Recipes

For most of us beekeepers, June will be our busiest time of year. Between taking care of our hives, selling our excess honey, making beeswax products, and living a normal life, we have little to no extra time to make a good, healthy meal, let alone a fun snack. The cookie dough balls and peanut butter balls are a really nice snack to keep in the fridge or freezer for those busy days. They don't require an oven and they take very little time to make, which makes them the ideal quick summer snack.

Cookie Dough Balls (Pg. 147)

½ cup whole wheat flour	1 ¼ cup rolled oats
1 teaspoon cinnamon	¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup creamy peanut butter	1/3 cup maple syrup
¼ cup no-sugar-added applesauce	1 teaspoon honey
2 teaspoons vanilla	¼ cup butterscotch chips

Line a baking sheet with waxed paper and set aside.

In a small bowl, whisk the flour, oats, cinnamon, and salt; set aside.

Cream the peanut butter, applesauce, maple syrup, honey, and vanilla in a large bowl until well combined. Add the flour and oats and stir until combined. Add butterscotch chips and stir well. Scoop about 2 tablespoons of dough and roll into a ball.

Repeat with all the dough. Recipe makes about 16 dough balls. Refrigerate before serving. Store in the refrigerator.

Emma's notes: They were much softer than I expected even after being refrigerated for several hours. They tasted like apple spice cookies which made them a bit different than traditional cookie dough balls, but they were still quite tasty.

Honey Peanut Butter Balls (Pg. 153)

2 cups oatmeal	2 cups peanut butter
¾ cup honey	1 jar sprinkles
¾ – 1 cup of your choice: (raisins, cheerios, chocolate chips, peanut butter chips, Rice Krispies, or M&Ms)	

Combine all ingredients (except sprinkles) in a large mixing bowl and mix well. Roll into 1-inch balls and roll in sprinkles separately. Makes approximately 45 1-inch balls.

Emma's notes: I chose to put chocolate chips in the balls and it made them taste a bit like **Reeces**® peanut butter cups. They were very tasty and only took 25 minutes to make. This would be a great recipe to make with the little people in your life.

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court has given the Environmental Protection Agency 90 days to justify why a widely used but dangerous pesticide should stay on the market.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday issued the order at the request of a coalition of farmworker and environmental groups. The attorneys general for several states, including California, Washington, New York and Massachusetts, joined the case.

The groups sued after then-EPA chief Scott Pruitt reversed an Obama-era effort to ban chlorpyrifos, which is widely sprayed on citrus fruit and other crops.

Last summer, a three-judge panel of the court ordered the EPA to ban all sales of the pesticide. The court decided to reconsider that ruling with a slate of 11 judges, and those judges Friday gave the EPA three months to respond to the plaintiffs' objections.

—Associated Press

State Fair Bid Winners

I know as I write this, we are predicted to have snow this weekend (April 13th). It is hard to think that the Iowa State Fair is only 119 days away. I know it is hard to think about bidding on product for the Fair when the bees are struggling to get going this year. However, it is time to start thinking about this.

I want to take a minute to talk about what will be needed if you are the winning bidder of product for the Iowa State Fair. The bid committee will need a label with a barcode on each product you bid on, if you have them. If you are bidding on creamed honey or flavored honey, you won't need to have a separate barcode for each flavor, unless you just want to. If you don't have barcodes for your product, please let the bid committee know at the time your bid is placed. This will allow us time to get barcodes ordered if we need to.

Have you ever thought about getting barcodes for your product? As your business continues to grow and you want to put your product in stores, more and more are wanting a barcode on your product. IHPA, in the past, has used www.BarCodesTalk.com to order our barcodes. This company has a great turn-around time. They can provide you the numbers immediately and if you want to order labels, you will have them within a few days. They are reasonably priced as well.

If you would like more information, please contact Rhonda at 515-724-2124.

I (heart) Iowa Honey bags:

Don't you love the **I (heart) Iowa Honey** bags we use at the Fair? Of course you do. If you would like to purchase some for your Farmer's Markets, you can. IHPA will be placing an order for more in the next few weeks. The cost is \$0.25 per bag or \$250 per case. There are 1,000 bags to the case. If you don't need that many, a lesser amount can be purchased. Please let Rhonda Heston (515-724-2124) or Connie Bronnenberg (515-480-6076) know if you are interested in getting some bags that will make your product look FANTASTIC!



Honeybee Facts Continued:

Honey has antiseptic properties and was historically used as a dressing for wounds and a first aid treatment for burns and cuts.

The natural fruit sugars in honey – fructose and glucose – are quickly digested by the body. This is why sportsmen and athletes use honey to give them a natural energy boost.

Honey bees have been producing honey in the same way since creation.

The honey bee is the only insect that produces food eaten by man.

Honey lasts an incredibly long time. An explorer who found a 2000 year old jar of honey in an Egyptian tomb said it tasted delicious!

The bees' buzz is the sound made by their wings which beat 11,400 times per minute.

When a bee finds a good source of nectar it flies back to the hive and shows its friends where the nectar source is by doing a dance which positions the flower in relation to the sun and hive. This is known as the 'waggle dance.'

Honey's ability to attract and retain moisture means that it has long been used as a beauty treatment. It was part of Cleopatra's daily beauty ritual.

Honey is incredibly healthy and includes enzymes, vitamins, minerals. It's the only food that contains "pinocembrin", an antioxidant associated with improved brain functioning.

Original article Golden Green





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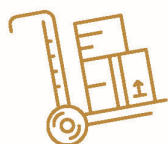
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Queen Rearing Class

This is a two-day class being held at P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc 2105 110th St, Goodell IA. This is will be a class room and "hands on " class. Please call to reserve; class size is limited to 20 participants. Please have a minimum of 2 years beekeeping experience. There is a fee of \$100.00 for this class. RSVP by call, text or email to Pat Ennis, 641-444-4767/ 515-293-2601 or pphoneyandbeesupply@gmail.com

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June Beek Of The Month Randy Hahn:

Warre Beekeeping – A Different Approach

Randy Hahn of Johnson County, living near the Coralville Reservoir, is our June Beek of the Month. This article is submitted by Ed St. John, IHPA District 3 Director.

Randy became interested in beekeeping because his grandson had been involved with a couple of hives for several years, and he had only used honey himself as a sweetener for many years. He has self-imposed requirements about beekeeping, however, since he has practiced organic gardening for almost 30 years and didn't want to use any chemicals. He wanted to keep bees naturally although he hadn't been aware of Tom Seeley's work or Tom's Darwinian Beekeeping approach.

Randy did research and concluded that he wanted to use a Warre hive design. He decided to build three hives of which he is going to use two for Nucs he is obtaining from another "natural" beekeeper, and he's keeping one as a spare.

The Warre Hive is sometimes called the "People's Hive". It was developed by Emile Warre in France in the early 1900's. He designed a system to be bee-friendly and which replicated natural environments.

A Warre hive is a vertical top bar hive that traditionally uses 8 bars instead of frames. Bees draw their comb down from these bars, so the hive is foundationless. Some Warre beeks do provide frames. The design is intended to replicate a natural location inside a tree. The hive is a vertically-stacking hive with the initial brood chamber at the top and then additional boxes are added at the bottom. Supposedly there is less need to inspect the hive as is typical for Langstroth hives. Bees draw the comb down into the box using the top of the comb for honey and the bottom for brood. The brood space is always moving downward. Each box is separate which can later be removed and harvested for its comb honey. It is designed for natural chemical-free beekeeping.

Warre boxes are 11 13/16" square x 8 5/16" deep thus closer to a natural tree space, they have a small entrance, and are typically made from thicker wood usually cedar. Randy used

1.5" cedar for his hives.

The Warre design is thought to be consistent with natural beekeeping or those who practice sustainable beekeeping. The boxes are smaller than 10-frame Langstroths and are thus easier to carry and handle. They are designed for the hobbyist who doesn't mind lower honey harvests. Adding additional boxes can be cumbersome as they are always added on the bottom so moving the upper boxes must be done carefully so as not to damage the free-hanging comb.

The Warre hive does have an attractive appearance with its roof being just an open space under which is a small box called a quilt which contains wood shavings to reduce condensation. Over-wintering is thought to be more successful than on Langstroth hives since the space is more compact and the bees are closer to honey resources. The thick body of the hive provides more insulation and the upper quilt box takes care of condensation.

There are certainly opposing opinions as to the soundness of this approach. Varroa Destructor changed the rules for the Warre beek as well and the Langstroth beeks. Natural beekeepers view these new problems as natural evolution with several natural approaches: breeding mite resistant bees; another is destroying colonies that become overloaded with mites. Randy intends to use thermal treatments in his hives to control mite levels. Obviously, Randy's approach entails more effort, but he feels it is worthwhile to achieve his "organic" beekeeping goals.

If you are interested in Warre beekeeping and want to discuss it further you can send an email to randyshoneybees@gmail.com.

Ed St. John IHPA District 3 Director



Social versus Solitary

Ants and termites and honeybees have something in common, but they stand in contrast to flies and butterflies and moths. When the former band together into a society that is interdependent, they are socially involved with each other and they combine efforts to serve a common goal. The latter are independent creatures, surviving for their time on Earth as best they can. Although some butterflies (Monarchs) do migrate together in groups, their basic lives are lived independent of one another. When a hive of bees develop into a super-organism of voluntary cooperation, they put humans to shame. We tend to be far more like flies, all independent and selfish, and only looking for the next meal on our own. To the extent that humans can begin to pattern their behavior after the honeybee, they learn to do things right. To the extent that they pay attention to one another's needs instead of seeking their own needs first, they begin to bless those around them. And only as we finally learn to set out own needs aside and defer to the common weal, will we as a generation of fighting, squabbling failures start to succeed. Next time you open your hives, marvel at their witness. Editor.

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