



# *The Buzz*

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



October 2013



**Iowa Honey Queen & Princess Pg5**  
**State Fair Pictures Pg6-7**  
**Updated Annual Meeting Prices Pg10**





**September 29th** IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm at DMACC/Ankeny  
**October 31** IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm at Marshalltown prior to the Annual Meeting  
**November 1 & 2** IHPA Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, IA



#### **FOR SALE: Honey Styx**

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

\$0.09 each in boxes of 2000 -

\$180.00

0.12 each 500 - 1999

0.15 for 1 - 499

Curt Bronnenberg

14405 Hull Ave.

Perry, IA 50220

(515) 465-5939

CBronny823@aol.com

**FOR SALE:** Approx 18 cases of new 9oz hex jars with lids--\$6/cs or \$5/cs if you take them all. Also for sale: 4cs of new 12oz hex jars--\$7/cs with lids included.

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

### **IHPA Nominations**

After reading all the Thank You's in last months Buzz, the award committee was reminded that a good way to show appreciation or say "Thank You" is to give the deserving person an award.

The awards committee invites members to give these awards careful consideration and e-mail or send us any nominations you feel are worthy. E-

mail:cbronny823@aol.com or send to Curt Bronnenberg 14405 Hull Ave. Perry, IA 50220

#### **Lifetime Membership**

**Pioneer Award** ---50 years and still

active

#### **Distinguished Service**

#### **Education**

#### **Promotions**

**Friendship**---A friend of beekeeping but doesn't have to be a beekeeper.

#### **Youth**

Thank You,

The Award s Committee

### **Prize Winning Quilt**

The First Annual Buzz Quilt won an Honorable Mention at the 2013 Iowa State Fair. Be sure to get your tickets before the drawing on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Annual Meeting. **The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.** These can be purchased by contacting Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187<sup>th</sup> Ave, Chariton IA 50049 or 515-724-2124.

Tickets are not just for our members. Tickets can be sold to anyone wishing for the chance to win a beautiful quilt. Remember the more tickets sold, the more we support the Iowa Honey Queen Program.

If you would like to sell tickets, please contact Rhonda about getting tickets and a picture of the quilt to you. Tickets can also be purchased at the Annual Meeting. Don't miss out on a Once-In-A-Lifetime quilt. There may be copies someday, but never another one like this one!

Need not be present to win, but we would like you to be...

### **Time to Pay your 2014**

#### **Membership Dues**

As the seasons change this means it is time to start getting the bees ready for winter. With the bees all nestled down for the winter you will still want to be

informed about what is going on in the organization and with bees in general.

To keep you up to date, it is time to renew your Iowa Honey Producer Association membership for 2014. The dues are \$20 for the first person living in your household and \$5 for each additional person. Your membership dues will bring you a Buzz Newsletter on a monthly basis, an opportunity to vote for Board Members and Directors, and to receive discounted fees for the Annual Field Day and Annual Meeting and discounts for some of the major bee magazines. Please ask about the magazine discounts when you renew your dues.

If you are unable to attend the annual meeting (which I hope you will be able to attend), please complete the membership form on the internet ([www.abuzzaboutbees.com](http://www.abuzzaboutbees.com)). I would like to ask you to complete the form in its entirety so our membership list can be current. We have a few members that have not been receiving the Buzz as we do not have the current address. If we have a current e-mail address or phone number, we could contact them to get the right information. I know that not everyone has an e-mail address, but if you do, please include this as well. We will not send you e-mails unless there is something of great importance that needs immediate attention.

Please mail your check and completed form to Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187<sup>th</sup> Ave, Chariton IA 50049. Please call Rhonda at 515-724-2124 if you have any questions.

### **The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions**

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex` Ebert by email to **TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com** (also alex.ebert@eberthoney.com) or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

## President's Message October 2013

At the time of writing this, October is coming fast and will be here when you read this. It seems like just last week was the State Fair was going on, but it's been over for almost a month. We had a great fair this year, with lots of new faces helping out at the booth. I CAN'T THANK YOU ALL ENOUGH!! I know I talked about the State fair in last months' message, but you all helped make the IHPA booth succeed! We had **over \$100,000** in sales (is this a record?) at the booth and that is with a **10% decline** in fair attendance according to the state fair records! The IHPA has the best members, and again -thank you, thank you, thank you!! You gave of your time to volunteer to work and brought your product to sell to support the IHPA. I enjoy being a part of such a great group of people promoting beekeeping and honey.

To switch gears, the annual meeting is coming up fast and I hope you are making plans to attend if you can. Eli has done a lot of work on getting things set up. Randy Oliver and Jackie Parks-Burris are our main speakers. We are also having Amy Toth, from ISU coming again and Inger Lamb who is the newsletter editor and former President of the "Iowa Prairie Network". She is a professional designer of native-plant landscapes, and a PAL member of "Wild Ones" ([www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org)). She will be talking about planting for honey bees. I am personally looking forward to hearing what they each have to say. Look for more information from Eli in this "Buzz Newsletter".

At the annual meeting there will also be the on Friday the "Cooking with Honey Contest", the "Photo Contest", and the "Mead Contest". I hope you will consider entering some, or all of these. (I look forward to sampling the goodies after judging during one of the breaks!) The Best Western in Marshalltown does a great job in setting this up for the IHPA. Try to reserve your hotel room early, be sure to mention your coming for the IHPA meeting to receive the discount rate before the number of set aside

rooms are gone. We also raise money with silent auctions on both Friday and Saturday and a larger auction during the Friday evening banquet to support the Queen and Princess Program. The money raised helps pay for traveling expenses for the girls to come to your events. If you wish to donate items, please do so and support the queen program.

From the past evaluation forms, we were asked to reduce the amount of the Friday evening banquet meal, so for this year we are. As a heads up, we are reducing the price for the banquet from \$35 of last year - to this year to **\$25** and youth (4-12 years) to **\$19.00**. Join us and save some money. One of our main speakers will be speaking during the banquet, enjoy a good meal, bid on some good stuff during the auction and enjoy meeting other beekeepers and beekeeping fellowship. (I love it... 2 days of talking about bee stuff!!)

Now is also the time of year to think about the bees and the upcoming winter preparations. If you have read any of the data by "Bee Informed", you will see that the beekeepers who medicated to help the bees eliminate Varroa Destructor had better winter survival rates than those that didn't. (and who doesn't want that!!!) This seems like common sense to me, but there is a low percent of beekeepers that actually treat for mites, for one reason or another. The people who used screen bottom board properly, had good winter survivability according to the article by "Bee Informed". I think we, as beekeepers, need to work on doing a better job helping our bees. I believe the Varroa Mite is still the biggest factor for our bees all the way around, and the first thing we must do is find out if we have a Varroa Mite problem in our hives. Do an ether role, powder sugar role, or something to check your hives for their mite counts. Have a plan ready to reduce or eliminate your mite counts. Take care of the bees that take care of the bees. Work for 2 or 3 cycles of clean brood before going into winter. Hopefully most of us have been working towards doing this, as October is getting late to get this accomplished before winter. Read the September issue "Buzz's" article on "Varroa Con-

trol: National Management Survey by The Bee Informed Team", pages 11-13.

Feeding is also important for keeping up winter food supply for the bees. I know honey is the desired bee food, but with farming practices changing as they are, loss of honey producing forage plants and the weather not cooperating, the fall honey flow isn't were we hoped it would be. I've talked to some beekeepers that will only get a 20 - 40 pound average. Help your bees survive and help them thru the winter. Feeding is crucial to help your hives. Keep the girls warm, fat and mite free for and thru the winter. I also feed my bees pollen patties. I know some people don't like to do this. After listening to Dave Mandes speak at last year's meeting in Marshalltown, stating: "*the solution to pollution is dilution.*" Some of our hives are in a very agriculture setting and I am substituting pollen patties to the bees at different times of the year, I believe this gets the bees a better food source by compensating for the possible contaminated ones they may be receiving from the environment, thus the "dilution".

Have a good October, and I hope to see you in Marshalltown at the annual meeting

BEE HAPPY!!

Pat

**Trivia:** The Italian honeybee is the most common honey bee in the USA; can you name three other different honey bee types? Answer on page 13.





## Honey Booth at the Iowa State Fair

For those of you who were not able to attend the parade or state fair this year, here is a summary of the fair activities we would like to share with you.

Many thanks to Julie Swett, Connie Bronnenberg and all the many people who were instrumental in organizing and decorating the float and/or participating in the parade. Your efforts didn't go unnoticed, as the IHPA float was awarded Most Creative/Original Non-commercial, in tied position with another entry. Congratulations!

The booth counter tops were showing their age, so the Booth Fair Committee decided due to time constraints, to have a fabric drape made and were fortunate to have Rhonda Heston put her sewing skills to great use once again. What a great job Rhonda did! It transformed the entire area, including the exhibits area with the help of Andy Joseph. The new look helped make everything stand out and seemed to transform the entire area.

We made quite an impact with the me-

dia too! Our Iowa Honey Queen, Hannah VanWyk was interviewed on the radio numerous times. KCCI presenters Kevin Cooney and Stacey Horst did a segment about the honey booth. Tiffany Ingersoll gave a demonstration on how to extract honey, which was televised on Al Roker's - The Weather Channel (WHO TV).

And if that wasn't enough, the IHPA was honored to have the Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey visit our booth for a few hours; helping serve and greet customers at the honey lemonade stand. Hannah VanWyk kindly demonstrated how to make rolled candles; judging by the photographs, I think they had lots of fun doing this and well as encouraging others too!

Hannah VanWyk, Rachel Stika (IHPA Princess) and Ciera Bronnenberg with some help from Starlette Love did a terrific job rolling candles. Over the 11 day period at the fair, Hannah and Ciera got very creative making some very interesting beeswax designs; skep, hula girls, tulip, corn cob to name a few.

To view the various video streams of the parade, KCCI and The Weather Channel

televised segments, these can be found by clicking the *State Fair* tab on the IHPA website, [www.abuzzaboutbees.com](http://www.abuzzaboutbees.com).

Thank you again to all those who participated at the fair and hope to see you again next year!

Honey Booth Fair Committee  
Eli Kalke (Chair), Pat Ennis, Rhonda Heston & Connie Bronnenberg



## Iowa Honey Queen

Hello everyone!

September is a very busy month and I almost forgot to write to all of you. This past weekend I traveled to the great city of Ames to help Fieldstone Farms at the Main Street Market. It was a warm one, but the honey cupcakes were wonderful. This coming weekend I will be at my local Honey Festival at the Indian Creek Nature Center where I hope to educate people on our wonderful hobby. There is no rest for this Queen, as you can see.



Bill Northey (Iowa Ag Secretary) and Hannah VanWyk (2013 Iowa Honey Queen) helping kids roll beeswax candles at the Iowa State Fair.



Hannah giving a presentation at the Animal Learning Center.



**Hannah with Van and Bonnie in the Morning radio personalities.**

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for a busy successful State Fair. We got a lot of media coverage, sales, and new bee keepers. I hope that our hobby will be saved, and all our hard work will pay off in the long run.

As I travel and talk to most of you it is defiantly our busy season. I hope the honey flow is large and that this hot weather is not getting the best of you. I will be pulling my last super off next week from my hive. I am guessing in total from my first year hive I will have

roughly 60 pounds. It's about average, but I am proud of my girls. I will have a bottle of my Basswood honey and a bottle from this next harvesting on the auction table for the queen program. I have been working on numerous drawings, and other decorations, so do not forget your checkbook at home this year.

As my year of the 2013 Iowa Honey Queen is winding down please keep in mind if you have any events that Rachel, Joy, Jeralyn, and I could attend for you. Contact Connie Bronnenburg at 515-480-6076 or at her email [cbronny823@aol.com](mailto:cbronny823@aol.com).

Here are a bunch of pictures from the Iowa State Fair!

May the Honey Flow be in your favor,

Keep Buzzing

Hannah VanWyk  
2013 Iowa Honey Queen

### Iowa Honey Princess

Hello! I hope everyone's hives are doing well! I just thought I would give you a little update about what I have been up to! I have been very busy now that school has started again. As some of you might know, I am now a senior in high school! So I stay busy with volleyball, choir and other school activi-



**Hannah with a handful of honey sticks for a great photo for KCCI Channel 8 News.**



**Rachel giving her presentation about honeybees.**

ties.

In August I was able to come down to the State Fair and work at the honey booth. Helping at the sales booth was busy yet fun! It was a ton of fun meeting more of Iowa's beekeepers. I also had a blast teach many of the fair goers about honeybees! I was asked a lot of great questions! I had fun rolling out wax candles with kids. I enjoyed giving presentations at the Knapp Center and answering questions and handing out honey sticks. I also gave an educational presentation for 4-H at the State Fair. The presentation was of course about honey and honeybees! I receive the Seal of Excellence on my presentation!

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the State Fair such a success! I know I had a blast and hope everyone else who worked, did too. I have many Princess duties coming up, that I am very excited about. I am going to the Honey Fest, farmer's markets and a nursing home to give presentations! I can't wait to keep spreading the buzz about bees! I can't wait to see you all at the IHPA annual meeting, since it will be here before we know it!

If you would like to see Hannah or I at an upcoming event, please contact Connie Bronnenberg at 515-480-6076 or at [cbronny823@aol.com](mailto:cbronny823@aol.com). You can also directly contact me at [rachelstika@hotmail.com](mailto:rachelstika@hotmail.com).

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

Rachel Stika  
2013 Iowa Honey Princess





Rachel and Hannah rolling out wax candles with kids. The beeswax candle activity is very popular during the fair.



Thank you to all the volunteers who make the IHPA Honey Booth a success each and every year.



Hannah outside the Agricultural Building.. The IHPA Honey Booth located on the second floor is a popular destination for a cool glass of honey lemonade during the fair.



2013 Iowa Honey Queen Hannah Van Wyk rides on the IHPA float in the Iowa State Fair.



Many thanks to Julie Swett, Connie Bronnenberg and all the many people who were instrumental in decorating the float and/or participating in the parade.





**Bill Northey (Iowa Ag Secretary) joined Iowa Honey Queen Hannah VanWyk and Pat Ennis for an eventful day at the IHPA Honey Booth during the 2013 Iowa State Fair.**



**2013 Iowa State Fair Exhibits.**



**2013 Iowa State Fair Photo Exhibits.**



**The Iowa State Fair is a great opportunity for the IHPA to reach out to the public.. It is our chance to show how much fun beekeeping can be, and just how important the honeybee is to the food supply. This outreach is also important in encouraging the next generations of beekeepers to join in the fun of beekeeping.**



**The IHPA float was awarded, most creative/original non-commercial in tied position with another entry.**



## GUEST SPEAKERS

for our

# 101<sup>st</sup> Iowa Honey Producer's Association Annual Meeting



and on his website: [www.ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://www.ScientificBeekeeping.com).

**Randy Oliver** owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage about 1000 colonies for migratory pollination, and produce queens, nucs and honey. He has over 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biological Sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world in order to not only broaden his own depth of understanding and knowledge, but to develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he then shares with other beekeepers through his various articles in bee magazines, his speaking engagements worldwide,



**Jackie Park-Burris** is a second generation queen breeder from Northern CA. Her Uncle Homer Park, started playing with honey bees at a very early age; he later became one of the most prolific queen breeders in the country. In 1960 he helped his youngest brother Jack start his own bee business. Jackie purchased the queen rearing portion of her parents business after her father's untimely death.

Jackie markets her Park Italian Queens throughout the US while also chasing honey production and pollination contracts in CA, OR, and MT. She is currently serving as Chairman of the CA State Apiary Board. Jackie has been on the CA State Beekeepers Association's board of directors for over 20 years and is currently the Legislative Chairman. She has served as President of the CA State Beekeepers Association, CA

State Bee Breeders Association, and the Shasta Beekeepers Association.

Jackie is a proud member of the Bee Informed Tech-Transfer Team that was a vision of Dr. Marla Spivak. The Bee Informed Team has come to be through a great collaboration with Dr. Dennis VanEnglesdorp and many other great researchers. They have been doing continuous monitoring of her outfit for mites, nosema, viruses and other bee diseases. They also help her with hygienic behavior testing of breeder queens in the very busy spring time. All of which helps her with her quest to produce the healthiest queens possible with the diverse challenges the bee industry has today.





**101st Annual meeting of the  
Iowa Honey Producers Association  
November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013  
Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA**

It's meeting time again!! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association will be held Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Marshalltown, IA at the Best Western Regency Inn (641-752-6321), located at 3303 South center Street.

**Room rates are:** The Best Western Regency Inn for double occupancy is \$73.00 plus tax.  
The Super 8 is \$60.00 plus tax.

**To get the above convention special rate, these rooms need to be reserved by October 10<sup>th</sup> (please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms).** The telephone numbers to call are: Best Western (641) 752 6321, or Super 8 (641) 753-3333. For best availability, advisable to book early.

Our speakers this year are: **Randy Oliver**, commercial beekeeper, researcher and well known columnist in the American Bee Journal. **Jackie Park-Burris**, queen breeder from northern California and member of the Bee Informed Tech-Transfer Team; **Dr Marla Spivak** was instrumental in forming. **Amy Toth**, assistant Professor, *Iowa State University, Departments of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology and Entomology.*

Please think about entering our photo contest, cooking with honey contest, mead contest, or bringing items for the queen and silent auction! Consider attending the banquet, enjoying fellowship with your fellow beekeepers.



***Rules for the Photo Contest:***

- Photo must be matted but not framed
- Any size photo will be accepted for this competition
- Please put your name on the backside of the photo

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Bee on Flower
2. General beekeeping
3. Marketing or Promotion
4. Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey

Entries could be judged on (Judges reserve the right to determine how to best judge the entries)

- Presentation of entry
- Best use of honey
- amount of honey used (compared to other entries in category)
- Flavor of entry
- Overall appearance of entry

***Rules for the Cooking Contest:***

- Honey is to be the only sweetener
- Please submit your recipe with your entry
- Judges will keep recipes to be included in the "Buzz"
- Put your name on the back of the recipe card

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Desserts
2. Bars or Cookies
3. Drinks
4. Cakes
5. Breads
6. Appetizers or Snacks

***Rules for Mead Judging Contest:***

- Supply at least two bottles of Mead
- Mead will be judged on the rules of the State Fair
- Mead will be judged on alcohol strength, sweetness, carbonation, temperature, taste, and presentation

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Traditional Meads
2. Molemel (Fruit Meads)
3. Metheglyn (Spiced Meads)

Bring extra bottles of Mead to share at the "Wine and Cheese" party by the pool Friday night.



**IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**  
**101<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA on NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2013**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
NO. OF COLONIES: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS BEEKEEPING \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual:**

Registration after October 15<sup>th</sup> will be \$30.00 / Before Oct 15<sup>th</sup> \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Couple/Family Rate:**

Registration after October 15<sup>th</sup> will be \$45.00 / Before Oct 15<sup>th</sup> \$40.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL MEETING PRE-REGISTRATION IS OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> (NO EXCEPTIONS).  
*If you can only attend one day, no discounts can be given. No refunds will be given after October 25<sup>th</sup>.*

**Queen luncheon - Friday noon** Number of tickets (per person) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of tickets (per child 4-12 yrs) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet - Friday night 6:30 PM** Number of tickets (per adult) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of tickets (per child 4-12 yrs) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$19.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAR 2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

Iowa Honey Producers Association membership dues

also includes subscription to our newsletter, "*The Buzz*" \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Family Membership, same address Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Family Membership, same address Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*\* For door registrations, we accept the following payment methods: cash, check & all major credit cards. \**

**NOTE:** Paid 2013 membership is required to vote at the business meeting.

**Return this completed form, together with your payment to:**

Please make checks payable to IHPA.

Rhonda Heston (IHPA Treasurer)  
Iowa Honey Producers Association  
52735 187<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Chariton, IA 50049

*Any questions about the annual meeting, please contact Eli Kalke (IHPA VP) at [fieldstonefarms@netins.net](mailto:fieldstonefarms@netins.net)  
or call 641-512-4728.*

**Note:** Members are responsible 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 association.

R.927





## New Pesticide Labels Will Better Protect Bees and Other Pollinators

**WASHINGTON** – In an ongoing effort to protect bees and other pollinators, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed new pesticide labels that prohibit use of some neonicotinoid pesticide products where bees are present.

“Multiple factors play a role in bee colony declines, including pesticides. The Environmental Protection Agency is taking action to protect bees from pesticide exposure and these label changes will further our efforts,” said Jim Jones, assistant administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention.

The new labels will have a bee advisory box and icon with information on routes of exposure and spray drift precautions. Today’s announcement affects products containing the neonicotinoids imidacloprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin and thiamethoxam. The EPA will work with pesticide manufacturers to change labels so that they will meet the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) safety standard.

In May, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and EPA released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health, showing scientific consensus that there are a complex set of stressors associated with honey bee declines, including loss of habitat, parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure.

The agency continues to work with beekeepers, growers, pesticide applicators, pesticide and seed companies, and federal and state agencies to reduce pesticide drift dust and advance best management practices. The EPA recently released new enforcement guidance to federal, state and tribal enforcement officials to enhance investigations of bee-kill incidents.

More on the EPA’s label changes and pollinator protection efforts: <http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/ecosystem/pollinator/index.html>

View the infographic on EPA’s new bee advisory box:

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ecosystem/pollinator/bee-label-infographic.pdf>

Permissions given by Bee Culture/Kim Flottum.

relate to the recent surge of honey bee losses. In addition, Laura will investigate what genes are essential for honey bee antiviral immunity.

Laura is co-mentored by Dr. Michelle Flenniken, a virologist/ microbiologist investigating honey bee host-pathogen interactions, and Dr. Carl Yeoman, an expert on rumen/gastrointestinal microbiology in organisms ranging from humans to honey bees. Laura grew up on a dairy farm in Little Falls, MN, where her passion for nature and science developed early. She obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, with a major in biology in 2012 and joined the Molecular Biosciences graduate program at Montana State in August 2012.

Since beginning her research, Laura has been actively involved in maintaining the university's honey bee colonies and sampling/surveying the honey bee-associated microbes in commercial colonies. She looks forward to sharing her research findings with both the scientific and beekeeping communities in order to improve honey bee health.

*Congratulations, Laura!*

Check out all the **LATEST NEWS** on our website: [AHPAnet.com](http://AHPAnet.com)

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## Meet the New Project Apis m. - Costco Scholar!

Beekeeping community, get acquainted with this smiling face! Introducing Laura Brutscher, the new PAm-Costco Scholar. Laura is the recipient of Project Apis m.’s three-year \$50,000/year award to pursue her PhD -- helping bees.

Laura Brutscher is a Ph.D. student in the Microbiology Department at Montana State University where she is investigating the role of microbes (bacteria, viruses, fungi) in maintaining and disrupting colony health and how microbes may





## Beekeeper of the Month

My name is Alex Ebert. I live just south of Grinnell, Iowa and work in the family bee business Ebert Honey, LLC in Lynnville, IA. Phil (dad), Adam (brother), and myself work 1000 colonies. I have been working bees for the last 10 years but we have had bees as far back as 1980. Of course it was only a couple colonies at the start.

It has been quite an adventure learning to keep bees. In addition to learning the basic of beekeeping, learning to handle them has been an equally important lesson. At one point it seemed like every lid I removed resulted in a few hundred bees making straight for my veil. I really appreciate zippered veil jackets and suits. Probably my worst incident was one day when Adam and I were pulling honey boxes when I got a couple of hives upset. These hives then got the rest of the bee yard very excited. The result was that I counted 50+ welts from stings when I got out of that yard. I have since gotten much better at handling bees and get stung rarely most days if at all.

My favorite way of thinking about beekeeping is that, "Honeybees were designed to survive on their own." And if you take that to heart, your bees will likely die sooner rather than later. The caveat is that HEALTHY bees can take care of themselves. So my goal as a beekeeper is to ask, "At this point in the year, what can I do to help my bees stay healthy?" The answer

depends on when in the season you ask the question. Do they still have enough food stores and pollen to be healthy until the spring bloom? Are there any signs of disease that I can treat? Are there any small but healthy hives that could use an extra frame or two of brood to boost the population? Do they have enough food for the winter? And of course the all-important, "What is my varroa mite load, and what am I going to do about it?" These are just a few questions. The point is to ask am I doing everything I can to keep the bees healthy? Beekeeping can be quite easy and straight forward when everything is going right. Focusing on keeping the bees as healthy as possible will give you the best chance of having a good and rewarding year.

Another thing to keep in mind is that honeybees have their own calendar. It is not like our calendar. Bees follow nature and the weather. 2012 and 2013 are a great example. In 2012 spring was early by 2-3 weeks. This year spring seemed to be 1-2 weeks late. You can have a general schedule for when things need to happen through out the season, but be ready, be adaptive. Along with keeping your bees healthy ask, "What are the needs of the bees at this point in the season?"

One last note is that in order to keep your bees healthy and know what they need to progress through the season, you have to visit your bees often enough to see what is going on in the hive. Ideally we like to visit hives every two weeks. The idea is that if a hive runs into some trouble, you want to know about it in time to help them out if possible. If the bees are healthy great! But as a beekeeper you want to be there in time to help them when they need it.

These are just some of the things I have learned over the last 10 years that help guide my beekeeping.

Many of you may know that I am also the editor of The Buzz Newsletter and the IHPA website



**This picture is a few years old. Since I take a lot of pictures, the result is that I don't appear in many of them. This was a small top bar hive that I started for fun. It was neat to see the bees draw down the entire comb from the top bars.**

([www.abuzzaboutbees.com](http://www.abuzzaboutbees.com)). If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see in the newsletter or website let me know. I would also like to encourage everyone to send in your stories about beekeeping to [thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com](mailto:thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com) (my address for regular mail is on the bottom of page 2) Everyone's experiences are unique and The Buzz is a great way to share your beekeeping adventures with your fellow beekeepers.

I would also like to say "Thanks" to Ron Wehr for all his efforts in obtaining Beekeeper of the Month articles that we all enjoy.

Alex Ebert

Editor: The Buzz Newsletter, IHPA Website  
[www.ABuzzAboutBees.com](http://www.ABuzzAboutBees.com)



**Raise your hand if your favorite time to harvest honey boxes is on a cool September day when the local bloom is dwindling.... Nobody? The bees robbing off the truck make it clear the bloom is coming to an end for another year.**





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## I H P A Merchandise



I know that is early, but not too early to be thinking about the holidays. IHPA merchandise makes Great Gifts! Merchandise can be picked up during the annual meeting or mailed you. The price in the Buzz includes shipping/postage costs. If merchandise is picked up at the Annual Meeting you will save on the shipping/postage costs. See the list online

Please call Rhonda Heston, 515-724-2124, for availability of crocks, honey pots and hive tools.

We are out of some items and running low on others. We have a few 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirts in large and x-large only.

## Bee a Supporter! University of Minnesota Bee Research and Discovery Center

Bee populations throughout the country continue to decline. At the University of Minnesota Bee Research and Discovery Center, we are committed to promoting the health of bee pollinators through our research, programming and the resources we provide to the beekeeping community. As the only bee research center in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota our work is pivotal to improving the lives of bees throughout the Midwest and the United States.

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Schwan's Home Delivery is offering Schwan's Cares™ to help the U of M Bee Research and Discovery Center raise the funds it needs. From August 22 through October 6, for each \$25 Schwan's Home Service eCertificate purchased, \$10 will be contributed to this fundraiser, and for each purchase by new and existing customers, 20% of your purchase will be contributed. In addition, any additional orders placed through July 2014 will contribute 5% of your order to the fundraiser.

Go to [Schwans-Cares.com](http://Schwans-Cares.com), Search/Select Bee Research (campaign 951) and Support Now

Or you can call 855-870-7208 and tell the rep you want to order for campaign 951

Want to help more? Click the Join Team button and share this fundraiser with friends, family, and coworkers through email and social media!

### *Vision for a new Bee Research and Discovery Center*

The Bee Research and Discovery Center will be unique among bee labs nationally. The center will encompass two prominent sites at the University of Minnesota: the Research Space will be on the St. Paul Campus and the Discovery Center will be at the Landscape Arboretum. The Center will function like a bee hive, efficiently combining research and educational space to improve bee health and biodiversity and to showcase the importance of bees to agriculture and to human nutrition, health and food safety. You can make a direct online donation to the Bee Research and Discovery Center fund here... Give Now!

[https://makingagift.umn.edu/onlinegiving/enterOnlineGiving.do?owner=O\\_BEE&desc\\_source=UWXX\\_CFAN\\_SITE](https://makingagift.umn.edu/onlinegiving/enterOnlineGiving.do?owner=O_BEE&desc_source=UWXX_CFAN_SITE)

**Trivia Answer:** Caucasian Bee- Russian Bee – Carniolan Bee – Buckfast Bee- German Bee (rare) –Africanized.

Source: [www.beesource.com](http://www.beesource.com) (see August 2013 issue of the "Buzz", pages 11-13).



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# The Buzz Newsletter

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