



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



July 2012

Greg Beard at the 2012 IHPA Field Day



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August 9th-19th—Iowa State Fair
September 9th—IHPA Board Meeting, 2pm.
November 15th—IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm.
November 16-17th—IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA



FOR SALE: Approx 170 Shallow-5 3/4, and 20 Medium-6 5/8"-Honey Supers located in Vinton, IA. All have 9 Frames of drawn comb. They are stored in my garage and have moth cystrals on them. There is no moth damage. I would like to sell them to a honey producer. I can be reached by phone at 319-472-3810 or by E-Mail --m.duncan@q.com

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Jalapeno powder in 1.5 lb bags (6 cups)

Jalapeno pepper 1/8" in 1 lb bags (6 cups)

Raspberry powder in 5.5 lb bags

Ann Garber at
Bus phone 641-873-4119
Cell phone 641-870-2119

2012 Membership Renewal

The first membership for 2012 is still \$10.00 and \$5.00 for each additional family member that would like a membership and is living at the same ad-

dress.

Membership dues for 2013 will be \$20.00 for the first membership and \$5.00 for each additional family member that would like a membership and is living at the same address.

Melanie Bower, Treasurer



SUMMER PEACHES IN PASTRY

Printed from COOKS.COM

4 ripe peaches
Double crust pie pastry rolled out

SAUCE:

5 tbsp. honey
1 stick butter
1 c. powdered sugar
3 tbsp. half and half

Wrap each peach in pie pastry completely. Bake wrapped peaches for 45 minutes at 350 degrees.

SAUCE: Heat together all ingredients. Do not boil. Pour over warm peaches. Sauce may be made ahead of time and warmed again.

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Greetings from the President

I'm extremely late in writing this month. I contacted Alex a couple of days ago, hoping he had gone on without the president's message. No such luck, actually, at the time he was off at a funeral. He informed me that he would be back in a couple of days and if I had it done then, that would be fine. Alex and I had a discussion about getting the Buzz back on schedule; I assured him that I would get it in gear and he would have my report on time and hoped we could get this next issue out to be back on schedule for August. I received a call the other day from a member who seemed very upset that he had just received his June issue and it was already July. The person introduced himself and described where he was from but the name somehow escaped me by the end of the conversation. I don't think I handled the complaint very well because the call ended with a click and a dial tone from the other end. I was a little put off by the way they presented their problem but they are a member of our association and they have a legitimate complaint. Anyway, if that person ever sees me at an IHPA event such as the Annual Meeting, Field Day or working at the State Fair sales booth with other volunteers, I would welcome a conversation and a handshake.

I hope many of you have picked out a few shifts to work at the IHPA sales booth at the fair. As long as we are talking about the fair, it is not too late to get a couple of entries ready for the fair. Like I said before I will supply each observation hive entry that is placed, a replacement queen or nuc. Andy Joseph and I talked about giving a 2012 IHPA 100th Anniversary stainless steel hive tool to every entrant but I'm just not sure we should have to bribe to get entrants. I guess the other side to that is maybe it would be a nice reward to those who take the time and effort to participate. Bottom line, we never went further with that idea and we would want board approval to invest that amount of money. It is possible that this idea could still come to

fruition. Oh yah that word just seemed like it had to be there, I'm pretty sure it means "it could still happen". Please enter just in case I wouldn't want you to be left out. By the way you just may take home a Blue Ribbon or at least a ribbon of some color along with some personal satisfaction.

One more thing I should mention about the fair, just another reason to sign up for a shift so you can be involved in all the excitement, I have been in discussion with a Hollywood studio that will be filming at the fair and I think we may be able to have the celebrity guest selling our honey lemonade at the booth.

How have your bees done so far? Mine have finally come around and have been on a major flow. The hot weather makes all the difference. Basswood has hit very well in some areas and the clover flow seems to be going in most all of my locations. It seems to be fairly a slow flow and bees don't draw foundation as well then but they are still drawing it. Drawn comb is always better and I have advised a few people who called not to put on foundation this late because the bees hate to use the energy and resources to build the wax. If that is all you have it's better to get it out there though and they may fill all available cells before drawing the new comb but who knows how long the heat and forage will last. It would probably be helpful to know the month of July is nearly a third gone as I'm writing this, helpful for you but embarrassing for myself and Alex because we could do much better. I guess I better be wrapping this up because the deadline for the next Buzz is just days away so I had better get busy on it.

Work Hard,
Curt Bronnenberg



HONEY - HEALTHY GRAIN - SUNFLOWER SEED BREAD

Printed from COOKS.COM

This bread machine recipe is delicious and one of my favorites.

FOR 1-POUND LOAF:

3/4 cup water
1 1/2 cup white bread flour
1/4 cup wheat bread flour
2 teaspoons dry milk
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons honey
1 tablespoon olive oil
1/4 cup carrots (chopped or grated)
1/4 cup sunflower seeds
1/4 cup bran flakes
1 tablespoon wheat germ
1 teaspoon yeast (fast rise) -OR-
2 teaspoons yeast (active dry)

FOR 1 1/2-POUND LOAF:

1 1/4 cup water
2 cups white bread flour
3/4 cup wheat bread flour
1 tablespoon dry milk
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon honey
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup carrots (chopped or grated)
1/2 cup sunflower seeds
1/2 cup bran flakes
2 tablespoons wheat germ
2 teaspoons yeast (fast rise) -OR-
3 teaspoons yeast (active dry)

Add ingredients to your Bread Machine pan in the order given. If using the time bake cycle, skip the carrots.

This recipe can be used with the regular, rapid, or delayed time bake cycles.

Yield: 1 loaf



Iowa Honey Queen

Happy Summer Iowa Beekeepers!

Even though school is out, I don't feel like I've slowed down a bit! Between my last varsity soccer game, university orientation, a trip as a 4-H counselor to the Omaha Zoo, Clover Sprout Day Camp, State Council 4-H Conference decorating, working with livestock for the fair, and – oh yes! – the bees; I am definitely keeping busy.

On June 9, I enjoyed traveling to Marshalltown to speak at the Grimes Farm Conservation Center. I met up with



energetic event planners Dale Fields and Eli Kalke of Fieldstone Apiaries and also, Pat and Peggy Ennis. We were delighted with the size of our group and began the afternoon by allowing the public to view honey and beeswax products, literature, equipment, tools, and the honeybees themselves in a live observation hive. The event, which was recorded and made into a DVD by the conservation center, began with a welcome from Eli Kalke. Next, I spoke about the Iowa Honey Producers Association Youth Mentor Program. I finished my PowerPoint with an overview of my queen adventures. IHPA Vice President Pat Ennis concluded the afternoon with an interactive session rightfully dubbed "Beekeeping Explained". The audi-



Guest speaker Larry Conner, Ph.D. of Kalamazoo, Michigan at the 2012 IHPA Field Day.

ence was actively involved in the presentation, sharing their own beekeeping experiences and asking questions.

working with the Swett Family as we shared beekeeping with families from the general public.

June also provided me with the opportunity to attend the Iowa Honey Producers Association 100th Anniversary Summer Field Day. The day began with guest speaker Larry Conner, Ph.D. of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He spoke about queen rearing and keys to wintering bees, providing insight of past experiences, and demonstrating the process through a slideshow presentation. After the potluck lunch, he continued his program by speaking about hive products. While the members enjoyed Dr. Connor's presentation, I began

Activities included dressing up as a beekeeper, learning the parts of a hive, rolling a beeswax candle, viewing a hand-crank extractor, honeybee beanbag toss, frosting cookies, a bee photo cutout, and (my personal favorite) face painting! We had the opportunity to speak with almost thirty children and their families who came out to the Spring Valley Honey Farm to enjoy the festivities. The beanbag toss, bee photo cutout board, and face painting were a hit – which even some adults couldn't resist! The rest of the day in-



Dale Fields at the queen grafting station during the 2012 IHPA Field Day.



Julie Swett (left) and Renae Beard (center) talk to families about beekeeping and ran fun activities for the kids during the field day.

cluded seeing numerous bee-painted faces.

While we enjoyed ourselves with the families, field-day goers attended different small group sessions, which consisted of starter, finisher, and a grafting demonstration. The field day finished with the much anticipated bee beard demonstration by Curt Bronnenberg and my younger brother, Greg Beard

(How cute, right? Greg Beard with a bee beard!). It was absolutely AMAZING! This was the first beard for both of them and by the end of the process, with help from dutiful “barbers”, each displayed an impressive beard of bees. A VERY exciting way to end a fantastic day filled with great conversation, fun friends, and new lessons about the bees!



The bee beard demo was a very big hit and a great way to end another fun and successful field day.

In the next couple of months, I look forward to attending several famers markets to spread the good word about bees, in addition to preparing for my own fair, the Iowa State Fair, and enjoying a couple weeks of 4-H and FBLA! I love talking about the honey-bees - please think of me when preparing events; it would be my pleasure to come and “bee” helpful in any way possible! Again, please do not hesitate to contact the Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg to set something up.

I look forward to hearing from you – enjoy our beautiful Iowa summer!

Renae Michelle Beard
2012 Iowa Honey Queen



Greg Beard sports a great honeybee beard!





THE BEEYARD REPORT

The craziness has subsided for the time being. The bees are supered. We are setting up our extracting system and waiting for the crop. I have had time to go to some baseball and softball games. Kyle VanDyke, who bottles honey for us, plays on the junior high team. Adam's bees in the Cedar Rapids area have been on a massive flow that started around June 7. The five county area where we have bees in Central Iowa has not been so kind. The bees started coming back into the supers around June 8. Most of the colonies in our Otley yard had a half box of honey by then.

The Jansen yard, that is just across the river from Lynnvile, made a half box in May but hasn't done a thing since. We are waiting on the rest of the yards.

I am always a little nervous until the first box gets filled. I like to get the expenses covered. Comb honey is a big deal for us but the bees haven't had a flow big enough to stimulate them to get on the foundation. We usually have all of the cut comb boxes out by now but not this year.

It's hard to assess where we are at. In many ways the season has been a month in advance. Yellow sweet clover was finished by mid June. The bees didn't get a thing off of it. It was too cool during much of the blooming period. Trefoil wasn't in full bloom until June 5. That's about normal. It's impossible to predict what lies ahead. It is very dry in the Lynnvile area. The storms that went through only left 0.03" of rain as of June 20. The beans look bad and the leaves on the corn are curling.

After years of having stacks of queen excluders lying around, we wound up short this year. We have a number of singles---250 to 300. Those require queen excluders. There wasn't time to let them grow into doubles. We were short on combs so the splits have to draw several frames of foundation. I have a feeling we may never have this many colonies again. Boxes and frames were purchased in large numbers to allow us to deal with the bees. If we get a crop we will be able to sell off the excess next year and come out financially. .

I am still reflecting on our extraordi-

difference on the forward gears. Those are helically cut. The reverse gear has straight teeth. Everything has to stop moving to shift into reverse. I didn't realize how bad it had gotten until I drove the truck in the spring. I bought a Teflon bushing at the hardware store and ground and carved on it until I had something that would take up most of the slack. My intent was to do something with it after supering was done. Now that we are finished supering, it is time to pull the first boxes. This means the tranny has to live a few more months. I will let you know how things go.

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nary queen acceptance this year. It was well over 95%. Last year it may have been 80% if we were lucky. What was the difference? I can only guess. I know the weather was better and we had a bit of a flow going on during splitting. Also, the splits were smaller. The split boxes had a lot of foundation in them. The bees readily move on to the brood frames but don't cover the foundation. My rule of thumb has always been--the smaller the split them more likely the new queen will be accepted.

I am a little concerned about the transmission on the flatbed. The teeth on reverse gear are ground down to almost nothing. This is a wound that is somewhat self inflicted. The truck has a hydraulic clutch. I knew the pedal had way too much free play. The result of this being the clutch does not completely disengage. It doesn't make any

Alex and I went to the Field Day. Two people inquired about the condition of my horse. If anybody else is interested, she is holding her own. She looks really good but old age is catching up with her. She has a trickle of blood coming out of her nose. This was explained to me as a problem in her head that could cause her to bleed out. It doesn't appear to be that bad at this point, although I can tell it irritates her. She also has a really bad knee. She can't run any more but walks normally.

As long as she is comfortable, I'll keep her around. I also have a pony that keeps the horse company. They don't like to get too far apart.

Here's hoping for a good crop!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert



Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper of the month is Sarah Ochs, one of the Iowa Honey Producer mentor participants. She is the daughter of Steven and Christine Ochs from Dubuque, Iowa. Sarah has two older sisters, Nicole, and Patty. She also has two Shi Tzu dogs, Minnie and Daisy and a Beagle named Larry. Sarah is in the 10th grade at Wahlert Catholic High School where she participates in student senate, cross-country, basketball, and soccer. Her hobbies are running, baking, hanging with friends, and dancing. After high school she plans to go to college and continue learning about beekeeping with her family.

Sarah learned about the IHPA mentor program at the Iowa State Fair and volunteered at the IHPA booth, working with lemonade sales. She took training through Kirkwood College in Washington, Iowa and Bill and Louise Johnson are her mentors. Sarah writes, "This has been a year of learning! I've learned so much about how bees work in a hive and how to run a successful hive. It is



Sarah Ochs working with her brand new beehive.

so enjoyable to see the bees working together. Bill was an awesome mentor. He and Louise were always so kind to me. They taught me a lot.

rage door the bees set off the sensor and it opened back up again. We called my mentors and they suggested taking some honey and placing it closer to the hives. A short time later, the bees started to leave the garage and the surrounding house area and return toward their hive. My mom learned that day what searcher bees were and I learned that day to make sure the garage door is closed."

Great story Sarah. Good luck with your beekeeping this year.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Sarah and her mom putting the finishing touch on a newly built frame.

Sarah has a funny story about her beekeeping experiences. She says, "The beekeeping experience has taught me many things, but has also provided our family with a few funny stories. I think the story that we will never let my mom forget is this one: After collecting the frames or the last time of the season and placing them in our garage until we extracted the honey on a Sunday; the next day my mom thought she had closed the garage door after I left for school. Well, two hours later and after my mom received a frantic phone call from our next door neighbor about our bees, she realized that the garage door was open and that the "searcher" bees were all over the house and inside the garage. There were so many bees in the garage that every time we tried to close the ga-



Buzz Off: EPA Denies Beekeeper Pesticide Petition

by Tara Holmes

www.care2.com/causes/buzz-off-epa-denies-beekeeper-pesticide-petition.html

Honeybees have it rough these days. The climate is changing, adding all sorts of weather-related stress and pollen producing challenges, and increasing numbers of bees are being shipped farther and farther for large-scale industrial agricultural pollination as local colonies struggle. Add to this Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), and we have ourselves a serious problem.

If you aren't familiar with CCD or haven't yet seen *Vanishing of the Bees*, let me bring you up to speed: honeybees are more than just buzzing insects that land on flowers and produce honey for you to enjoy in your tea; bees are the critical link between us and our food. In fact, without bees, "two-thirds of our natural crops would not be propagated." This is bad news for anyone who needs food to survive, which constitutes, well, pretty much everyone on Earth.

In light of the continued and growing concern for bee population health and stability, a number of beekeepers and environmental groups from around the U.S. came together this past March to petition the EPA to cease sales of clothianidin, a neonicotinoids (neonics) class of pesticides that is suspected of being harmful to honeybees. The EPA rejected the petition due to failure to demonstrate a case for "imminent harm," or harm that will occur "within the one to two years necessary to complete cancellation proceedings." The agency also downplayed the science connecting clothianidin to bee decline, acknowledging that the chemical effects bees but not on a widespread scale.

It's important to note that this EPA ruling is based off of low numbers of *reported* incidents related to clothianidin. Also be aware that clothianidin isn't the only pesticide on the market being used today; mega companies like Bayer, the manufacturer of clothianidin, Monsanto, Dow Chemicals, Syngenta and BASF have numerous pesticides at their disposal and a powerful lobbying operation in place to ensure their agricultural chemicals remain in use.

Adding complication to the matter is the fact that pesticides may not be the only CCD culprit: viruses, mites, pathogens and habitat loss could also play a role, yet the likelihood of such massive, systematic and consistent colony collapse reeks of a broader-reaching agent. One has to also wonder about the relationship between government regulatory agencies and corporations. For example, a leaked memo in 2010 revealed that both EPA scientists and independent scientists determined that an earlier Bayer study researching clothianidin's impact on pollinators was inadequate, yet the pesticide remains on the market today.

Losing honeybees at such an alarming rate is a very serious economic and environmental concern that deserves much more regulatory and public attention. Most of us buy our food from our local grocery store and don't think about the greater connection between the pollinators and our apple, yet it's a direct and critical relationship. One way you can combat CCD and the chemical lobby is to buy local, organic produce and support your local organic farmers. And, if you're feeling adventurous, you can set up beehives in your yard (or on your back porch if your neighbors don't mind), but check first with your town or city as some areas have specific beekeeping ordinances.

There are always immediate ways you can do your part to combat the heavily saturated chemical world we're all exposed to, although more and more we find chemicals laced in practically everything, from baby bottles to the air we breathe. Clearly, the fight for a healthier planet and food future continues. Now, wouldn't it be nice if the EPA got on-board?

Beekeeper robbed of 500,000 bees, tons of honey

By JOSEPH SAPIENZA

<http://vancouver.24hrs.ca/News/local/2012/07/30/20044551.html>

An Abbotsford beekeeper stung to the tune of \$100,000 at one of his apiaries has vowed to tighten up security after falling victim to theft for the second time in three weeks.

The biggest heist saw the 76-year-old fleeced of half-a-million bees and an estimated 8,000 pounds of honey in the 27600 block of 0 Avenue sometime between July 7 and July 26. The keeper didn't inspect the hives on a daily basis.

During his last visit Thursday, however, the unnamed beekeeper was shocked to find almost 100 hive frames missing, along with almost all of his bees and honey.

While the hives — believed to be the largest of his multiple operations — were situated well away from the road, the Abbotsford Police Department is certain there are witnesses with the amount of equipment and transport required to carry out the heist.

Const. Ian MacDonald said the upset victim had spoken to his insurance agent about recouping some of his losses and was now planning to bolster the security of his prized assets. "Specifically, he's trying to determine what safeguards he can implement going forward. So we had a conversation about infrared security cameras and potentially even GPS devices installed on some of the equipment," he said.

"He's certainly starting to think of things in terms of how he can proactively change some of the security procedures moving forward."

Police also revealed the victim had contacted police June 23 to report a loss of bees and honey valued at \$4,000 from another of his hive locations. Investigators are now trying to determine which crime took place first.

"Although it's a pittance compared to this one, it still impacts you if that's your livelihood," MacDonald said.

Police said the brazen theft was the work of experts who had access to a "flatbed truck, light crane or forklift and obviously beekeeping suits."

"If you or I were to go meandering up to half-a-million bees it would only be because we were intoxicated or there was some sort of bet involved," MacDonald said.

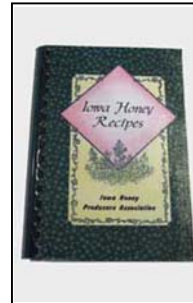
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Melanie Bower, Treasurer



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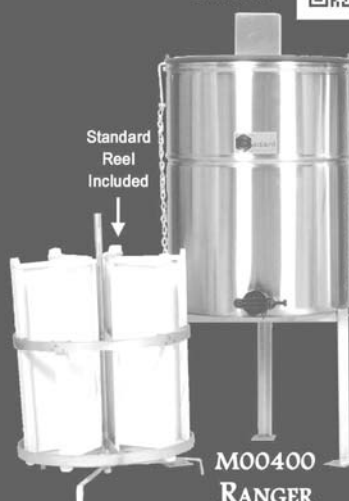
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The Buzz Newsletter

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Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club
Contact: Eves Cadwallader
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Oskaloosa, IA 52577
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Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
Contact: Arvin Foell
30930 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
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Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
Contact: Julia McGuire
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Bee Emergency Information

Contact: Vern Ramsey
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Birmingham, IA 52535-8162
(319) 498-4355

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Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

East Central Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Dave Irvin
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North Iowa Bee Club
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Northeast Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Louise Johnson
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Southwest Iowa Honey Producers
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IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
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