



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



March 2014



CIBA Auction Listing Pg5
Iowa Honey Queen Pg8
Featured Beekeeper of the Month Pg13



April 12th CIBA Annual Auction Perry, IA 10 am

May 4th IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm Ankeny DMACC location.

Iowa State Fair Honey Booth : Just a reminder that the bids for the sale items at the IHPA booth will be due in June. There will be the 1 lb jar category again this year so if you would like to see your honey for sale at the fair and can supply at least 24 jars then plan now to send in your bid sheet! The bid sheet will be printed in an upcoming issue.



FOR SALE: 3 pound Italian bee packages to be picked up April 18, 2014 (weather may change pick up date). Complete with mated queen and cage. \$100 per package

visit www.lyonsdenhoney.com or call (712) 423-9067 to reserve your packages today.

FOR SALE: 2#, 3# and 4# packages. The 4# can come with one or two queens. Your choice of Italian or Carniolan queens. We are getting two loads in April. Prices available on our website www.eberthoney.com

Contact: Phil ehoney37@netins.net
641-527-2639 or

Alex alex.ebert@eberthoney.com
641-821-9648

FOR SALE: 3 pound package bees with your choice of Italian or Carniolan queen, available in April. \$5 deposit refundable upon return of box.

Also for sale, 3-4 frame nucs (state inspected), with your choice of Italian or Carniolan queen (limited supply).

Should be ready first part of May. Pick up for packages and nucs north of State Center.

Contact fieldstonefarms@netis.net or 641-477-8521 for more details.

For Sale: Package bees in Western Iowa. We will have 2 pound packages available early, mid or late April. 3 pound packages will be available until mid to late April. 2 # packages will be \$82 and 3 # packages will be \$96. Choose from Italian or Carniolan bees.

Queen prices haven't been decided yet, call for information. All packages will be picked up in Griswold. Order early, any orders received after March 1st will be charged an additional \$15 processing fee.

Contact Mike Brahms, 3 Bee Farms, for deposit information and questions at (712) 778-4256 or mbrahms@netins.net

FOR SALE: 5 frame Nuc w/Italian queen - \$125.00.
Also a few singles w/Italian queen - \$150.00

Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up May 10th from Goodell, Iowa. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601

FOR SALE: I will have Queens's available mid-April. Pick-up is in Goodell. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601

FOR SALE: Beekeeping Equipment and supplies - Goodell IA
Offering reasonably priced new and some used beekeeping supplies and equipment. For more information, please call Pat @ 515-293-2601

FOR SALE:

3 lb. Packages with marked Italian Queens for Pick-up only in West Chester, IA (no deliveries)

Pick-up will be the week of May 12, 2014 (actual date will be determined based on weather in GA)

\$95/pkg. (\$90/pkg. for orders of 10+); extra marked queens = \$26/each Email number of packages and contact info. to:

kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com

or visit our website

www.kalonahoney.com and click on the "package bees" tab or contact Tim Wilbanks cell: 319-321-2494

FOR SALE: Package Bees
Spring Valley Honey Farms will have 2# and 3# packages W/Italian or Carniolan queens. Availability will be mid-April. Price not confirmed as of yet, to book please call:
Home: 515-465-5939
Connie @ 515-480-6076
Pat @ 515-293-2601

Pick-up in Perry or Goodell
Prices of packages will be our web site as soon as we know @ www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

FOR SALE: Beekeeping Supplies @ Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry IA, is offering a fairly complete line of new beekeeping supplies available February through June from their showroom. No set business hours, so call with your needs. 515-465-5939 or Connie @ 515-480-6076

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. 102nd 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

March 2014

As I sit and write this message, March is fast approaching with the next two weeks of February forecasted to be above normal temperatures (mid 40's plus!). I hope all of you took the time to go out and take a look at those bees and feed them as necessary. This time of year a lot of bees are lost because lack of honey or pollen. The two key ingredients needed to raise brood. If you're reading this and have not looked into your hives yet, please take the time to do so, for it will save you money in the long run. The package bees seem to be in short supply again this spring, so you may wish to get that order in soon. If you need them and you've been procrastinating, **now is the time to order, or you may be out of luck!!**

The central Iowa Beekeepers are having their annual spring auction on April 12th in Perry, located on Hwy 141, starting at 10:00. We are looking for people with extra equipment they wish to sell at the auction. If you're like me, I seem to collect more stuff over the year than I need, so this is the perfect opportunity for me to move some of those items I won't use, or no longer need and help out the beekeepers looking for deals and beekeeping stuff. As of now, I have 7 consigners and am looking for more.

One consigner has a motorized stainless steel 6/3 extractor in excellent shape. We also have another consigner with a box of correspondence from the 1946's thru 1950's. Everything from postcards, hand written letters – some with a business letter head of bee supply companies and beekeeping farms, railroad shipping receipts, bill of lading. This is a very neat collection of older beekeeping correspondences. So if you have beekeeping items you wish to get rid of, let me know and I'll add you to the consigners list.

As you're planning your year on what to do, I hope you will plan some time for the IHPA summer Field Day on July 12 in Clemons IA. Eli is still working on the details for this event, so keep watching the BUZZ for more information.

Another event you can plan for is the Iowa State Fair, August 7 -17. This is the main means by which the IHPA generates income to fund our organization. We have 3 shifts a day and need about 23 volunteers a day to fill each of the 11 days of the fair. The first shift needs 7 - 9 people and is from 9am – 1pm. The Second shift needs 7 – 9 people also and is from 1pm – 5pm. And the third shift needs about 5 people and is from 5pm - 9pm. Please think about helping volunteer at the State Fair IHPA booth and maybe work a shift or two. The IHPA gives you a free ticket to get through the gate and all the honey lemonade you can drink (the BEST drink at the Fair!!). Have some fun at the fair this year, volunteer to work at the IHPA booth, and enjoy the rest of the day at the fair.

If you're the competitive type, you can enter some of the competitions and go for a blue ribbon at the IHPA booth: comb honey, extracted honey, observation hive, photos, there are over 20 categories to choose from, try your hand at one or all of them and show people just how good your honey is! If you want to sell your honey at the State Fair IHPA booth, you can make a bid. We have made some options for the smaller producer to sell their honey to the booth and give your honey statewide recognition.

One option is some of the non-bid items, which is an item anyone can supply to the IHPA booth. (Items paid a flat rate for) One is comb honey and Ross rounds. They are always in short supply and we are always looking for more sources that can help supply the fair. Last year we very happily received comb honey from over 6 different sources.

Last but not least is our Annual Meeting, November 14 – 15 in Marshalltown. We will again have 3- 4 large vendors with some smaller and local vendors that supply anything you could possibly need to keep bees. Many of these vendors will bring your ordered items to the meeting for pick-up, saving you postage and freight money. Eli has 2 fantastic speakers coming....Keith Delaplane of

the University of Georgia and Marla Spivak of the University of St Paul.

Wow, I am fired up on hearing them speak!!

Till next month...Bee Happy...Bee Faithful...Bee Joyful and Bee Yourself Pat

March Trivia Question: What is a Varroa Bomb?

Answer on page 13.



FOR SALE: PACKAGE BEES

3lb Carniolan package bees with mated queen available in late April for \$92.50 (discounts on bulk orders). Pick-up in Des Moines, Iowa at Foley's Russian Bees. To order go to www.russianbee.com

FOR SALE: AROMATIC RED CEDAR HIVE KITS

Foley's Russian Bees is taking pre-orders on a limited run of handmade cedar hive kits that will be completed on or before April 1st, and available for pick-up in Des Moines. Pricing and product details online at www.russianbee.com/store

FOR SALE: 3 pound package bees with your choice of Italian or Carniolan queen, available in April. \$5 deposit refundable upon return of box. Also for sale, 3-4 frame nucs (state inspected), with your choice of Italian or Carniolan queen (limited supply). Should be ready first part of May. Pick up for packages and nucs north of State Center.

Contact fieldstonefarms@netis.net or 641-477-8521 for more details.



For Sale: 4 frame nucs \$95.00 the end of April near Sioux City, IA , 712 -551-2355
cell 605-809-6291

Lyndon Ruyter

For Sale: 8 beehives reconditioned; some new parts, 90% complete, new paint, state inspected.

3 bee smokers
1 honey extractor

Call Dave at 319-331-6590

Wanted: William Lambright is looking to buy medium honey supers and a radial hand crank extractor.

Contact by mail:
1053 Fair bank Amish Blvd.
Fair bank IA 50629.

**I'm Continuing
Draper's Wax Operation!**

If you've ever used Draper's Super Bee wax, you know the quality of their filtered wax. I have purchased their wax operation and will continue to uphold their standards! Call or e-mail me if you have cappings to sell or want to buy wax!

Royce Blackledge
Black Cat Acres
66435 270th Lane
Nevada, IA 50201
(515) 979-6585
royce.blackledge50@gmail.com

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

Mark Your Calendar for the Beekeeping Annual Auction!

The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction
is being held on **April 12th 2014 at 10:00 a.m.**

The auction located is right on Hwy 141, north side of the road – just 1 block west of the hospital in Perry, Iowa.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have graciously offered the Central Iowa Beekeepers the use of their “in town honey house” again this year. There will be a restroom available, as well as hot coffee, hot chocolate, bars, and rolls.

WE ARE IN NEED OF CONSIGNERS AND BUYERS!!

Now is the perfect time to clean, sort, and sell your extra beekeeping equipment, or to purchase good beekeeping equipment! Please e-mail me your list of items you would like to consign. Items consigned in time will be advertized in the March and April Buzz Newsletter. For a listing of the items being consigned, please e-mail me after April 1st, and I will send you the list of consigned items thus far. Consignment fee is 10% if consigned before March 9th, and 15% thereafter. All drawn comb will be inspected.

For your convince, there will
be signs posted on Highway
141.



Pat Ennis
515-293-2601
Flat_Lander@lycos.com



HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!



Central Iowa Beekeepers Annual Auction

Perry IA, April 12, starting @ 10:00.

Partial Consignment List as of February 16, 2014

1 - Box of correspondence from the 1946's - 1950's.

Items in collection are addressed to a "Mr. W. R. Moomaw" of Stone Creek, OH.

Mr. Moonaw appears to have been a buyer and seller of honey, beeswax, honey comb, and popcorn.

Included are postcards, hand written letters, railway express shipper's receipts, as well as correspondence from honey packers, bee supply companies, (some no longer in business) and beekeepers. Some of the correspondences are even from cities in Iowa, including: Graettinger, Charles city, Marshalltown, Nashua, Stratford, Mount Vernon, Sac City, Clarence, Woodbine, Beaver, Moorhead, and others.

Many other states represented are, Indiana, Ohio, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Minnesota, Kansas, Illinois, Texas and others. This is a very unique collection and glimpse into the correspondences, transactions and prices of that time.

2 - Honey storage tank - stainless steel, misc. covers, inner covers and bottom boards. More items by auction time.

3 - Misc. bottling containers, telescoping covers, inner covers, bottom boards. More items by auction time.

4 - Stainless steel Mann Lake Extractor, motorized 6/3 frame, used one season and in like "new" condition.

5 - Misc. migratory and telescoping covers, inner covers and bottom boards.

6 - Miscellaneous beekeeping items.

7 - 2 Aromatic red cedar hive kits, handmade & clear coated. This includes: 2 deeps, 3 mediums, wax coated plastic frames, telescoping cover w/ inner cover, top feeder w/floats, entrance reducer & solid bottom board.

More items will be added to the consignment list as auction date nears. To consign your items, please contact Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601 or Flat_lander@lycos.com

For a listing of the items being consigned, please e-mail me after April 1st, and I will send you an updated list of consigned items thus far.



For Sale: Package Bees

The package will consist of bottom board, 9 5/8 - 10 frame hive body with bees and 9 frames, entrance reducer, insulated inner lid and metal outer lid. New Italian queen. This is new equipment. The total for this hive package will be \$195.00. This same package with used equipment will be \$160.00. It is painted used equipment in good condition. I will need a \$45.00 deposit when you order and the package will be ready for you to pick up mid May at Monticello Iowa barring weather conditions. We also have 4 frame nucs with new queen for \$98.00. Deposit of \$30.00 required. (No frame exchange) Our bee yards are inspected by Iowa Bee inspectors. I will only be selling 20 package hives this year. I have 40+ years experience in beekeeping.

Send deposit to Curtis Barnhart, P. O. Box 70, Monticello, IA 52310 with your name, address and phone number that you can be reached at. I am out of town until March 24. You can call and leave a message 319-480-4209 Or atum49@yahoo.com

Thank you.
Curtis Barnhart

Greetings from your new Historian, Butch Wetzel

Altoona, Iowa

Hello Fellow Beekeepers
I would like to thank you for electing me as Historian of the Iowa Honey Producers. And a big thank you to Peggy Ennis for all her past work.

Here's a quick bit of history on myself: I have just entered into retirement from many years in commercial construction work - painting, drywall finishing and carpentry. My wife and I raised two daughters on our small acreage that we have occupied for the past 24 years. Over the years, we would occasionally notice swarms of honeybees in the hollow trees. Knowing these were a thing of value, I called upon a beekeeper friend whom I knew would be happy to come and capture them. After several of these 'easy captures' my wife prompted me. "Why don't you just keep one? See what happens. My dad has some supplies left, back from when my Grandfather kept bees." So, I bought some hives, made some hives, and caught a swarm. This was the beginning of a sweet deal! After a quick class at DMACC, with Andy Joseph, I learned a few things, with a great desire to learn more.

Last year, while cleaning out a century old undisturbed trunk from my mother-in-law's attic, I came upon stacks of American Bee Journals, dated early 1900's, numerous equipment catalogues, and five journals from the state apiarist to the Governor dated 1913. I also came upon five panoramic photos of the first IHPA members, including my wife's grandfather. I did have these digitally reproduced and had brought them to the fall meeting. Please contact me if you wish to have a copy yourself.

So, now I seem to have the leisure of going back in time, in the pages of ancient journals and occasionally come upon one that makes me



smile or learn or simply be amazed. Confined to my warm home on one of our brutal Iowa winter blizzard days, I found this article thought provoking. It is written by beekeeper Allen Latham, of Norwichtown, Connecticut. It comes from the Fifth Annual Report of the State Bee Inspector for the Year 1916. I hope you enjoy it.

What color shall our hives be?

Was it an accident that bee hives are mostly painted white, or did this come about by design? Many in reply would say that it came about by design, and will give reasons for the selection of white. I am inclined to say that it was incidental. White used to be the color of almost all dwellings. White lead is a time worn basis for good paint, and colors belong to a younger generation. Originally hives, if painted at all, were painted with the paint left over from painting the house.

If anyone doubts the logic of the foregoing paragraph let him digest this. Except where the hive comes already painted, or where the apiarist has been told to use white, one finds today hives painted all colors. The custom still holds that the farmer paints his hives with whatever paint is handy, whether it be what was left from painting the kitchen floor, or the dump cart.

If white is the most prevalent color today, and if it is the mature selection of the expert, what is his reason for that selection? Only one is ever offered - namely, white absorbs the rays of the sun less than any warmer color, and the bees will be more comfortable for that reason. On its face this seems a good and sufficient reason, but it must at once be acclaimed as theoretical rather than practical. Actual experience might teach otherwise.

Some years ago, about fifteen, the writer had occasion to make an experimental hive. Instead of painting it, he covered it with dark roofing paper, one which becomes particularly black after a few months of exposure to the elements. To his surprise, he found that the bees prospered in these hives in an astonishing

degree. Further trial proved to his satisfaction that the color of the paper was one of the factors which entered into the prosperity of the bees.

So great has the writers confidence become in black for beehives, that he now paints his nonpapered hives black. He has found the following paint an admirable paint from several standpoints. Equal parts of powdered charcoal of best quality and lamp black are mixed with pure linseed oil. The first coat is put on very thin, the second somewhat thicker. The paint is long in drying, but after a few days leaves no mark in handling. It is an extremely durable paint, and has high protective properties. In cost it is far below that of other paints.

Let us now consider some of the possible reasons for the advantages of black over white for beehives.

The first reason is the very one which was the cause for the selection of white, the high absorbent power black has for heat rays. Black hives warm up more quickly. This is a distinct advantage for the bees a large part of the year. In early spring the hive-wall gets warm and the dampness and chill of the hive are dissipated. In winter the snow melts quickly about these black hives and when the day is suitable get a good safe flight while in white hives the entrances would still be clogged with snow and ice. In the fall months there is little or no advantage and in summer there is not so much advantage.

If left to the full fury of the mid-day sun a black hive becomes almost too hot. In spite of this fact I have seen bees hang out worse from a white hive than from a black one when so far as I knew other things were equal. The explanation is found in the fact that black is a good radiator as well as absorber. Only one of the several walls of the hive is getting the sunshine, while all the others are radiating the heat. Only on the sunny side does the black hive suffer. Once I noted that of five hives in a row only one had melted down combs, and that hive was the only white hive in the row. As there are other causes for melt-

ing down than mere heat, I will not give the color the full responsibility.

From all my observations I honestly believe that the ideal color for hives is black provided the hive is double-walled, or that it has some shade. This shade may be a ventilated cover, a wide board, a sparsely branched tree, etc. Black hives do better when the mid-day sun does not vent its full heat upon them. White is very poor for hives. To think that white is a substitute for shade is poor logic. White has only negative value for beehives, while black has positive value.

From the Fifth Annual Report of the State Bee Inspector for the year 1916

Iowa State Fair

I heard this morning on the radio that there are only 178 days left until the beginning of the Iowa State Fair! By the time you read this, there will be even less.

Remember we NEED YOUR products at the Fair. All producers welcome. Not only do we need your product, we need your time. Remember how much fun you had at the Fair last year? Come on back this year for a repeat performance! Stay tuned for more details as the times draws short.

Rhonda Heston, Treasurer

Membership Renewal

Please check the back of this Buzz Newsletter.

Go ahead, check now, I'll wait.

What's the date? Is it 12/31/2013? If so, the March issue (THIS ONE) could be your last issue.

We don't want you to miss out on a single issue of The Buzz Newsletter. The Buzz is packed each month with fun facts, what is happening in the hive, history of the organization and

what's going on in the industry.

Don't delay. Please send your \$20 membership renewal for the first person in your household and \$5 for each additional person in your household to: Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049-8616. If you have any questions, give me a call at 515-724-2124.

At this time, we only have the ability to accept cash, checks or money orders for new or renewal membership dues. We are working towards being able (in the future) to accept cards online. An exciting prospect, so please keep checking. Again, don't let this Buzz be your last one. Renew today! :)

Rhonda Heston, Treasurer

Bayer's Second Bee Care Tour

Bayer CropScience launched its second annual Bee Care Tour, a mobile tour designed to emphasize the important role bees play, last week in Pullman, Wash. The Tour included an interactive exhibit with two frames of honey in a mobile hive, stewardship workshops and expert presentations on issues impacting pollination and bee health.

Highlights from the launch included:

- A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Steve Sheppard, one of the nation's leading entomologists and honey bee researchers at Washington State University. Dr. Sheppard was joined by Dr. Doug Walsh, professor at Washington State University; Dr. Alan Schreiber, president of the Agriculture Development Group; and Brandon Hopkins and Natalie Boyle, two doctoral candidates at Washington State University.

- A featured presentation on bee health and pest management practices from Dr. David Fischer, director of Environmental Toxicology and Risk Assessment at Bayer CropScience.

- A Bee Care Tour exhibit that featured an interactive display on Bayer's Varroa mite research, new Bee Care Center and Fluency Agent trials and development. The exhibit included a honey tasting bar with six different flavors of honey, including a local honey produced in Pullman, Wash.

"At Bayer, we strongly believe that advancing sustainable solutions for honey bee health requires ongoing collaboration with partners and stakeholders," said Becky Langer-Curry, manager of the North American Bee Care Program. "Through our mobile Bee Care Tour stop, Bayer successfully fostered interaction directly with supporters of bee health in Washington to heighten discussion, increase awareness regarding good stewardship practices and encourage the sharing of ideas."

The [Bee Care Tour](#) will also travel to: University of California in Davis (Feb. 12); Oregon State University in Corvallis (Feb. 18); Commodity Classic in San Antonio (Feb. 27-March 1); South Dakota State University in Brookings (March 12); Purdue University in West Lafayette (March 20); and last, but not least, the Tour will make a final stop in Washington, D.C. to celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 16-23) at the United States Botanic Gardens.

Re-print permission granted by Kim Flottum (Bee Culture magazine)

Merchandise

How does your Iowa Honey Producer T-Shirt look? Is it getting a little worn? A little faded? Stains all over it? Oops – a hole? When the girls

emerge from the hive, you want to look your best don't you? Of course you do. You know you want to impress the ladies. How about getting yourself a new T-Shirt for Spring? We have all sizes. We have also have IHPA 100th Anniversary Polo Shirts. These are very attractive shirts. If you really want to impress the ladies, this is your fashion statement garment for 2014. All shirts available for immediate shipment. Youth T-shirts are \$11, Adult T-shirts are \$13 (all siz-

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- A pollinator-inspired lunch, including foods pollinated by honey bees.

Bayer's mobile Bee Care Tour aims to facilitate education and collaboration among growers, beekeepers and researchers to promote best stewardship practices and bee health. Specifically, the Tour provides information on the vital role honey bees play in sustainable agriculture, and raises awareness of the health challenges impacting honey bee populations.



es) and Collared Polo shirts are \$22. These prices include shipping.

I know your 100th anniversary IHPA hat needs to be replaced. It's been 2 years after all. \$11 will get you a new hat or if your head gets too hot, a visor. This includes shipping.

What is your favorite hot beverage this time of year? Coffee? Tea? Cocoa? Or something a little "spicier"? Don't you think your hot beverage deserves a new vessel? Heck with your beverage needing a new vessel, you deserve a new one! How about an 100th Anniversary Mug with spoon for only \$11, including shipping.

It's cool enough (cold enough) to have the oven going this time of the year. There are some GREAT recipes from some GREAT cooks in the IHPA cookbook. These are available for \$6.50, shipping included. If you want more than 10, the price drops to \$5.50. These would make great Mother's Day surprises. Maybe even browse through the cookbook and mark your favorite recipe for Mom to make for you. No, no, that's not the way it works. You should make it for Mom.

We also still have a few utensil crocks left. These nice crocks are yours for the low, low price of \$33 including shipping. Magnets are available for \$2.00.

Once the 100th Anniversary merchandise has been sold, we will be able to entertain ideas for new merchandise. So buy up people so we can get some new stuff.

Please send your merchandise orders to Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049-8616. Call me if you have any questions about the merchandise at 515-724-2124. Or send me an e-mail at R.Heston@yahoo.com.

Iowa Honey Queen

Hello everyone!

I'm pleased to say my life as queen has been getting busier. A few weeks ago, I had the

pleasure of attending the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association meeting at the Bonanza Steakhouse in Des Moines. The group organized for Mary Harris to come as a speaker. She talked a lot about how the dust created while planting treated seeds affects honeybees. Her information from recent studies gave solid proof that the dust is a serious problem for bees.

On February 8th, I attended Pat Ennis's beginning beekeeping class where I had the honor of being a speaker. I talked to the group about how I became Honey Queen, my experiences working at Fassbinder Apiaries, and how honey bees communicate through waggle dances. The group was wonderful, and asked a lot of really good questions. I look forward to giving many more presentations.

On February 9th, I traveled to Ankeny to sit in on the IHPA board meeting. It was interesting to witness the immense amount of thought the board members put into the activities of the club. I most enjoyed learning about the youth scholarship program since I love to see kids involved in beekeeping.

This month, I've been working on ways to spread information about beekeeping. For this purpose, I created a blog which can be found at BeeEnlightened.wordpress.com My idea behind the blog is for people to ask me questions or send me topic ideas they are interested in about bees and beekeeping, which I will then research and post my results on the blog. Questions or topics can be sent to HoneyBeeBelle@gmail.com

Please continue sending requests for me to make appearances. I love being involved. I hope you are all well and cheerful!

Gabrielle Hemesath

State Apiarist

Hi All.

We had a pretty warm day here yesterday (Feb. 13th), and I made it out to one of my yards. I was half afraid to head over there, thinking what I might find

could potentially ruin a beautiful day. Yellow bee poop all over the snow even fifty yards from the hives was a wonderful sight. Sounds funny maybe, but you all know exactly what I mean. Last I'd looked in on them was right after Christmas. That was a whole lot of harsh weather ago. The bees have eaten a lot of stores in the last 6 or 7 weeks, but the clusters were all pretty strong, which means I'm pretty happy. This is just one small yard, but it provided some optimism, rather than further anxiety. Here's hoping all of yours are doing as well or even better.

One of the many highlights of the San Antonio AHPA meeting was getting some news from the BeeInformed folks. Dennis VanEnglesdorp gave a great summary of some of their findings. Phil Ebert wrote about this in the last issue of the Buzz. Dennis' talk in a nutshell: "Treat for Varroa! They will bite you on the butt every time if you let them get ahead of you." BeeInformed gave a couple further presentations to our Apiary Inspectors of America group. Ed Levi (retired Arkansas State Apiarist and all-around neat guy) showed us some updates to their website and displayed some of their current findings.

BeeInformed works by collecting information from beekeeper participants from all over the US. The collected data is then piled up and analyzed to provide correlations related to success in wintering, productivity, etc. I.E., "beekeepers which did X, lost fewer colonies between October and April than those that did not"... I believe it's very interesting and potentially could be a big help to us all. If a given state reaches a certain number number of beekeeper participants recording their experiences, then the results can be specifically filtered / tailored to that state. This would be neat for Iowa, especially since we're among the very worst in terms of winter losses annually. I encourage you to check out the website and participate in their survey: www.BeeInformed.org. The window of time for the winter loss survey is typically late-March through mid-April each year.

I've had a couple questions about report-

ing winter losses in Iowa. The simple answer is we don't collect that info, but BeeInformed does!

If that's not enough "internet" for you, don't forget to check out the Better-BeesIowa forum. This is a young web forum for Iowa beekeepers I created a couple months ago. There are still only a handful of people who have signed up and contributed, but I'm hopeful that it will become something unique and helpful. <https://groups.google.com/d/forum/betterbeesiowa>

Nearly all of the IHPA beekeeping courses are underway. Each year they grow larger and larger. It really is amazing. We have about 60 people enrolled in the Ankeny course. Arvin has been a huge help with the instruction this year (thanks!). Pat Ennis and Tiffany Ingersoll have also come by and contributed. Phil Ebert is scheduled to come by in a week or so, as he does each year. I always appreciate the help, and the class really appreciates hearing from somebody other than me!

Spring's getting closer. Tell your bees to hang in there!
Andy

2nd Annual Buzz Quilt

Are you still interesting in making a block for the 2nd Annual Buzz Quilt? I know I am. This is the perfect time of year to be making a quilt. I will be purchasing the material for the quilt in the next couple of weeks, which means the fabric will need a good, temporary home. I have heard from some that want to make a block (or two or three...), but I don't have enough volunteers yet. Even if you already let me know that you wanted to make a block, would you get in touch with me so I can be sure I don't leave anyone off the list. As soon as the fabric is ready to go, I will send out with instructions. Thank you in advance to all who are volunteering. Beginning quilters, intermediate quilters, advanced quilters – all are welcome. Even if you aren't a quilter, but can sew a ¼" seam, we need you! Even knitters can sew. Contact Rhonda Heston, 515-724-2124 or e-mail

R.Heston@yahoo.com

Welcome New Beekeepers.

Please check the back of the Buzz to be sure your name is spelled correctly and your address is correct. I have added all the new Beginning Beekeepers to the membership list and some of the names were rather difficult to read. I made my best guess effort to get it all right, but I'm not sure I did.

Talk to other members in your class to find out if they are getting the Buzz. If not, please have them contact Rhonda Heston, 515-724-2124 or R.Heston@yahoo.com so I can everyone's information correct. I want to be sure we are staying connected with our existing membership and our new members.

COORDINATED EFFORTS EXPOND GROWTH FOR DUAL BEE CLUBS

IT'S BACK-TO-BASICS IN OS- KALOOSA WITH RED ROCK BEEKEEPERS OF KNOXVILLE THEY ADD GROWTH TO IOWA'S BEEKEEPING SKILLS

Keepers of the bees attending Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club and keepers of the bees attending Red Rock Beekeepers tie these two honey bee clubs together through cross attendance and cross leadership encompassing Marion County, Mahaska County and all surrounding counties – in fact, all Iowa counties as far as curious and interested beekeepers are willing to travel and as far as sound waves can carry shout outs – especially through social media. Since you have dedicated yourself as a reader of this Buzz today, you are within the realm of Iowa's beekeeping society. As such you are cordially invited to show up at meetings of each and both clubs to see what buzzing is really all about. Beekeeping skills and interests are shared through keepers who attend both clubs. The result is energized bees with energized buzzing resulting in energized participation.

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club and

Red Rock Beekeepers meet regularly once a month at their respective meeting places.

Back-to-Basics meets at the Mahaska County Extension Office located at 212 North I St. in Oskaloosa just off of Hwy 92 on the west end of town. Their meeting times are 6:30 on the second Friday of each month from September thru May each year. Red Rock Beekeepers meet at 6:30 in Knoxville the 2nd Tuesday of each month year round. The meeting room is next to the lunch room of the Knoxville Hospital which is on Hwy 14 just north of the interchange almost across from Wal-Mart. Jerry Murphy of Knoxville and Eve Vanden Broek are team leaders. Both received awards for distinguished service from the Iowa Honey Producers Association at their Annual Meeting in November. Ben VanWyk received the youth award for outstanding performance and participation in local and state activities. Eve's husband, Theo, joined Eve in being acknowledged for distinguished service as well. Craig Greene received recognition for his extensive education within local counties of Mahaska and Marion. He goes out and beyond these local counties throughout the State as well as has personal contacts beyond the State of Iowa reaching as far as California from which he exchanges information and knowledge. He has had international contacts. He's always available for assistance to all beekeepers. Jerry Murphy was pilot in organizing the Red Rock Beekeepers in his local city of Knoxville. The Red Rockers are in their 3rd year with growth to regular attendance of 18 to 28 beekeepers and guests. Back-to-Basics is a larger group with more structure so far as individual presentations and speakers from afar and may typically have 60 to 80 and upwards toward 100 in attendance with a smorgasbord of treats following the meeting from the good-will kitchens of beekeeper families, making their honey a well-known ingredient in all kinds of recipes. There is group participation with Q&A with lots of one-on-one discussions following the meetings.



The Red Rockers are on a somewhat different scale. Being in a smaller group and in a smaller room, their format is more like a focus group often with a focal topic incorporated with an outside speaker or a demonstration of equipment by local individual beekeeper. Always, there are discussions on the current seasonal colony activities. They have more round-table-like discussions and have a lot of input from individuals in attendance. It's interesting to attend both of the two different clubs. The two clubs feed on each other for energy, ideas, and assistance. It is a wonderful convenience to have the Red Rock Beekeepers and the Back to Basics bee clubs in bordering Marion and Mahaska Counties. Many keepers of the Red Rockers also attend meetings by the Back-to-Basics and likewise reverse the same. In that way, we exchange ideas, topic suggestions, speaker information, and a lot of just plain *Honey Bee* talk. The two clubs join together for events such as field days. The configuration of the two clubs makes it doable and convenient to cover a large territory for the convenience of venue and date choice. Beekeepers feel 'connected' for mentoring and assistance.

Round-table discussions often arise from a special speaker presentation such as Andy Joseph, our State Apiarist, who gave presentations for both clubs on a variety of topics. Steve Hanlin with the USDA in Agricultural Research Service



Steve Hanlin with the USDA in Agricultural Research Service located at Iowa State University in Ames gave an eye-opening presentation about research relating to different species of insect pollination. Nov 8, 2013. Back-to-Basics. With Eve Vanden Broek, leader.

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located at Iowa State University in Ames gave an eye-opening presentation about research relating to different species of insect pollination for specific plants at Back-to-Basics. Craig Greene and Elaine Finarty harvested Elaine's honey in Craig's all-purpose bee trailer which he also uses to haul bees to and from California. This happened in the back parking lot at the Knoxville Hospital for the Red Rock Beekeepers in September. Very interesting and, of course, we had an excellent turn out from letting Back-to-Basic beekeepers know about this exceptional harvest time. Just taking a tour of Craig's bee trailer alone is quite an interesting experience as he has it designed to regulate the air flow and temperature at all times. While out on the road he is prepared for most any

kind of situation or hazard. He usually (maybe always?) has a second driver along so there is no stopping for anything but fuel and sandwiches to go. Jerry Weldon was honored with such an opportunity, which was a most rewarding and educational experience for Jerry.

Dell Nelson takes 5 minutes at each meeting for Back-to-Basics to demonstrate bee management equipment. A beekeeper will

share experiences with bee keeping also at each Back-to-Basics meeting. A Back-to-Basics potluck was held as a kick off to recover from the absence of



Andy Joseph, our State Apiarist, keeps Back-to-Basics and Red Rock Beekeepers updated on a variety of topics. Nov 2013



Del Nelson and Eve Vanden Broek showing the use of some beekeeping equipment.

meetings during June, July, and August in Oskaloosa. Suggestions were made for topics to cover for the coming year and a planning meeting was scheduled with a list of left over topics filtered to the Red Rockers. Lots of ideas and topics were put on the table for possible exploration and for locating outstanding speakers. Success for educational meetings depends on participation by many beekeepers. And let me tell you, some exceptional speakers were located as a result of active input from beekeepers. The leaders thank and appreciate, as well as, invite everyone to participate. Energy flows back and forth. How great it is to protect Honey Bees.

Hats off to all the beekeepers who attended the 101st Iowa Honey Producer's Association Annual Meeting November 1st and 2nd in Marshalltown. A lot of discussion was initiated from that meet-



Craig Greene and Elaine Finarty extracting honey.

ing at both club meetings. George and I missed out by not attending that meeting. Obviously there were outstanding speakers. Well, at any rate, let's all look forward to the 102nd Annual Meeting. Randy Oliver, from Grass Valley, California, a scientific beekeeper and well-known journalist of the American Bee Journal was a keynote speaker at the 101st. The name Randy Oliver has become a *beehold* name (get that as in "household"). *Bee-hold* some distinct differences in the management of colonies between large producers with 1,000 colonies and the small hobbyist with up to 50 colonies. Let it be repeated by me from some unknown who made the original statement: "It is *us*, the small beekeeper, who will eventually resolve the

issue of varroa mites." Nice thought for the day! We, the small beekeeper, have the time to put forth in working with, experimenting with, as we attempt to stay away from toxic chemicals or at least keep at a minimum in an attempt to control varroa mites. The large commercial beekeepers must compress their labor hours and be as cost effective as possible as they are in the business to not only make a living for their families, but to assist California and other states with the pollinations of trees and plants. Another interesting point I picked up is that there are only two commercial producers in Iowa who do not transport their bees for the purpose of pollination to other states. What a difference between a beekeeper with 1,000 colonies and a beekeeper with 12 colonies. Interesting is to share and learn of the varied interests and goals of the different beekeepers. Most interesting is that beekeepers within the full spectrum owning 2 hives to 1,000 plus hives mingle together at meetings and other gatherings and share experiences and education. There is utmost respect within this range of bee colony keepers. One outstanding difference mentioned was the attitude toward replacing queens every couple of years versus the attitude toward "Let's give the bees a chance to supersede through their natural process and see what they will do." Typical within the clubs is the education of manipulating hives and colonies by splitting colonies and putting two colonies together. Then there is the "How about raising our own queens?"

My greatest interest as of this writing is to encourage donations and contributions toward our youth scholarships. As I see these youth developing within their families and among their peers through the clubs, I cannot emphasize enough what it means as community development, family unity, education, protection of our environment – the list goes on. What greater thing can we be doing for our communities? All because a youth is awarded the support and means to tickle their interest in bees, the bee industry and environment benefit long term. Write a check, make a note stating to whom you would like to donate, and mail or hand carry to the Marion

County Extension Service. Through your conversations with businesses and community leaders, you could spread the word about our scholarship program and the availability of tax deductions through contributions doubling as an encouragement to benefit our youth. Mention the benefit of free advertising by way of the recognition for having made such donation. Here and again, the two clubs worked together and exchanged ideas for successful scholarship programs.

Please read on to my next article titled "The Beekeeping Experience - Scholarships For Our Youth."

A configuration of these two types of meetings within reasonable distance of each other, makes for more Healthy Honey Bees. Craig Greene and Jerry Murphy have been instrumental in configuring this opportunity for "The Honey Bees" – and *they* didn't even realize the scope of what was happening. Thank you, Craig and Jerry. A shout out and a big thank you with congratulations to the Weldons and the Kleins for working together and taking on further responsibilities such as instructing classes and organizing the Red Rock library. "Look at our library now." Proof that the Rockers have burst with growth. Thanks Sheila and Shelly and to YOU who are donating the books – you know who you are. From the view point of Beekeeper

Marilyn Jackson,
jacksmarily@hotmail.com

THE BEEKEEPING EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OUR YOUTH

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club & Red Rock Beekeepers

Back-to-Basics awarded four scholarships in early spring of 2013 at the conclusion of classes instructed by accredited and experienced beekeepers within the community. The Red Rock Beekeepers awarded one scholarship. These five scholarships equate to introducing five families in the community to the world of beekeeping. Thus, scholarships



promote protection and growth of healthy bee colonies and at the same time encourage our youth to be involved with their families. A scholarship as is known by the beekeepers of Back-to-Basics and Red Rock Beekeepers is the offering of beekeeping equipment and bees appropriate to start and maintain a new colony for a year. It goes to a youth who has either not had experience with keeping bees or has had little experience with bees and is typically between ages 12 and 18. The criteria for qualifying for a scholarship is designed by the respective club's beekeepers. Within the award, a volunteer beekeeper mentors the youth and his or her family throughout the bee season. As the honey bee season draws to final preparations for wintering bee colonies, the scholar gives presentations displaying his or her experiences of tending the scholarship colonies throughout the season.

A typical scholarship is valued at approximately \$400 worth of equipment, bees, and other amenities. In the past special funds have been available, along with donations from interested community leaders and donations from beekeepers. No longer is there access to special funds. Therefore clubs are dependent on funds from community leaders and donations from beekeepers. We certainly welcome donations from any parties--beekeepers or any community and civic-minded persons interested in furthering healthy development of our youth. There has been nearly a 100% success rate for these scholars in spending family time and growth together in their individually developed bee yards. Meetings and classes become quit the family affair. These youth are often in 4-H and FFA where they can also use their bee projects. For myself on a personal basis, there is nothing more rewarding than to watch the young people attend meetings with their parents and siblings and then give impressive presentations. They do as 4-H members do: take lots of pictures, keep records, do research, engage in adult assistance, make posters, and ultimately take the clubs through slide shows which show exactly what they have done, where they started, where they are now, and always

answer the question: "What do you enjoy most about your experience with raising your colony of bees." Yes, and some even participate at the State Fair in selling honey and rolling bees wax candles. They set up goals for the coming year and dreams

for the future. There is no better project for a parent/youth/family relationship with healthy family development at the same time as learning about the ecosystem and the part honey bees play. Bottom line is that all these young adults are experiencing and developing leadership and social skills. The VanWyk family from Otley are leading the way as peers in being among the best in developing leadership, education, and being family-wise.

Several outstanding presentations have been made. One youth scholar gave an exceptional presentation and slide show using Power Point covering her first year of bee management. Sarah Herz and her Mother, Janet, each started a new colony when Sarah was awarded her scholarship by Back-to-Basics. Sa-



Sarah Herz and her Mother, Janet, each started a new colony when Sarah was awarded her scholarship by Back-to-Basics. Sarah's father, who was present for her presenta-

rah's father, who was present for her presentation, says the bee management and decisions are a 'mother/daughter' thing. They have his full support especially when it comes to equipment needs. They had some very interesting and unusual experiences from which they learned more than they ever expected for first year beekeepers and ended the summer with three colonies, having lost one colony yet gaining two. They kept very busy in deed.

We need to keep the youth scholarship program active in the interest of bee protection and growth for the future -- not only growth of healthy bees, but growth in family and community development. If you would like to make a contribution or donation or if you wish to talk to business and community leaders, there is a way to use a donation as an income tax-deduction. Recog-



Joy Westercamp our South East Iowa queen doing a presentation on the life cycle of the honey bee at the Jefferson county extension office. She has been a beekeeper for 4 years and has helped teach classes for the past 3 years.

Submitted by
Vern Ramsey

dition of donors will be made, so figure another advantage is for the advertisement of a product or service being marketed by the donor. Give us a line or two which we can mention at the time of recognition to let people know who the donors are and what products or services the donor has available.

Bee clubs coordinate with local county extension services as a resource to keep up to date regarding honey bee status, county and state fairs, 4-H and other activities and concerns. The county extension service often provides the venue for monthly club meetings and classes. The Marion County Extension Service has been approved as a non-profit organization under Chapter 501(c)(3). Checks can be made payable to the Marion Co. Extension Service, along with a note indicating where you would like the extension service to use your donation. They have no problem forwarding funds outside of Marion County and to the club of your choice. The address and phone number for the Marion County's Iowa State Extension Service is 210 North Iowa St, PO Box 409, Knoxville, IA 50138 – (641) 842-2014. As yet, Mahaska's Iowa State Extension Service has not made available the opportunity to accept donations as tax deductions which can be forwarded to local bee clubs. Any questions regarding donations or equipment contributions may be directed to Craig Greene at 641-842-2112 or cgreene@windstream.net. From the view point of Beekeeper

Marilyn Jackson,
jacksmarilyn@hotmail.com.

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper of the month is Peter Jakes. He is a participant in the IHPA mentor group. Peter is in the ninth grade and is home schooled which he says is great because he can go to school in his pj's. His mother, Amy, helps him some with his bees and his father, John, is the pastor of a small church. He also has three younger sisters and the family lives at Indianola, Iowa.



Peter enjoys computer gaming, some hunting and beekeeping for hobbies. He is an active member of the Indianola Panthers 4-H group as well as a group of high school 4-Hers who plan activities

for younger 4-Hers and a banquet for all the clubs. He says he doesn't have many future plans for now because he is just trying to survive high school.

Dan Dixon is Peter's mentor. He says he has had a good experience beekeeping so far aside from the usual strings. He had a blast helping at the IHPA booth at the state fair. Peter was first inspired to check into beekeeping because of the possible cash flow the project could produce, but the more he learned and watched them the more fascinated he became. One of Peter's favorite stories about beekeeping happened while he was away at camp. His mother decided to open his hives for a quick look without the smoke and ended up having to leave the hives open and walk away for a while. She thinks the problem was because Peter wasn't there. In the future he is thinking about splitting his hives and putting some in his grandmother's yard and a friend is also interested in a hive.

Thanks for your story and keep learning.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Trivia Answer: When a colony of bees that is susceptible to mites if left untreated, the mite population will build up during the summer. When the bee population begins to decline in the fall and drone production ceases, mated mite female's move to worker cells to reproduce. When a high level of worker cells become infested, the morale of the colony diminishes, and in extreme cases, the entire adult population, many with one to three mites adhering, will abscond, leaving a colony with only brood(and little of it), and no adults.

These adults will fly to a nearby colony that does not have a big mite population and move in, along with their mites. So a colony that had some level of resistance, or had been treated and had a low level of mites, suddenly has a huge population of mites. These mites immediately move into any worker brood available to reproduce, so in a very short time all the brood in that colony is infested, and many of the adults still have mites clinging to them. The colony, if not doomed, is certainly compromised. This is a varroa bomb.

Source: Better Beekeeping by Kim Flottum, Page 139



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