



The Buzz



Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers:

May flowers are popping up everywhere. It is a good thing that we did receive some April showers. We could do without so much wind and the many storms that have come through the state. I received an e-mail from Dr. Mary Ebert, the IHPA secretary, that her home did not get any damage, but that her clinic did receive some damage from the storm that went through Iowa City. I hope that other members are fairing well.

How is the package installation and colony splitting going? I had heard that packages were delayed because of weather in other parts of the United States. Hope all is going well and we will have a great crop. Speaking of a great crop, the bid sheet is included in this issue for the Iowa State Fair sales booth. It is not too early to be thinking about the fair. The tickets have been ordered and paid for, the stage has been reserved for beekeeping educational presentations and I need to start on getting workers. I have had some volunteers from the new beekeepers that took classes this winter. It takes lots of bodies to make the promotion and sales go smoothly.

Make plans to attend the Summer Field Day. Pat has put lots of work into making this an educational, fun-filled relaxing day. It will be a great learning experience and of course, feature wonderful food. Mark Saturday, July 8th on your calendar now while you have time and don't forget to travel to the Iowa 4-H camp by Madrid. It just so happens that the Farmers' Market that I attend on Saturdays is not going to be open on the 8th, so I can attend and not feel guilty. Besides, my sister lives a couple miles from the camp.

If you have a local promotion don't hesitate to ask Iowa Honey Queen, Liz, to help you. Contact her early to see if she has time in her schedule. People love royalty! It attracts attention and also helps your sales or gets the word out that you are in the area.

If you are interested in helping people get rid of honey bees or other flying insects from buildings or to retrieve swarms, contact the local extension office, police department, fire department, the town council or county supervisors in your area. If you really want to work at it, take out an ad in the local paper or put up flyers. I get lots of calls from people, you could even let me know if you are interested so that I can pass on your name.

I received thank you notes from the Mississippi Beekeepers and the Texas Beekeepers for the money that the IHPA sent to help repair the beekeeping businesses damaged by the hurricanes. The notes will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting business meeting.

May will surely go by as quickly as the other months have so far, so work fast to get everything done that needs to be. Enjoy time with your families and remember what Memorial Day stands for.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms,
IHPA President



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 Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762

Dates to BEE Remembered:

May 18 2006 6:30 -8:30 PM

Iowa State Fair Entry Class
Iowa State Fair Aug 10- 20 2006

Want to boast you have Blue Ribbon Honey? Come and learn how to enter your honey and bee products into the Iowa State Fair. Whether you're a hobbyist or a commercial beekeeper, if you have not participated in the State Fair or haven't won at the fair, this class is for you. Learn how to enter your honey and bees wax in the Iowa State fair, how to prepare an award winning exhibit and get the details on carpooling entries from Cedar Rapids area to and from the Fair in Des Moines.

The place to be is the Honey House at the Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids Iowa, May 18 from 6:30 pm till 8:30. This learning experience is free to anyone interested.

Indian Creek Nature Center
6665 Otis Road SE
Cedar Rapids IA, 52403
319-362-0664

July 8th, 2006

Summer Field Day

July 8th, 2006

IHPA board meeting, following the Field Day

July 23-28, 2006

The 9th International Pollination Symposium. Scheman Building,
Iowa State University.
www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/plantbee/home.html

Aug. 10-20, 2006

Iowa State Fair

To add an important date to the list, contact the Buzz by email at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com
Or by mail at the address listed on the front cover.

FOR SALE: Stainless Steel Boganshut Uncapper \$2,000

Contact:

Dick Blake
2133 E. Ave.
Shenandoah, IA 50601
(712) 246-3412

FOR SALE: Clean four gallon buckets with lids and gaskets. They originally had corn syrup in them. \$1.50 each.

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



Corrections and Updates

The Never Ending Month of March

Some careful readers noticed that last month's issue of the Buzz was printed as being the month of March, again. Perhaps this was a subconscious wish for more time to prepare for the honey season.

IDALS Contact Person

As noted in last month's issue, Becky Ohrtman is no longer the contact person at IDALS. The new contact person at IDALS is Maury Wills. (515) 281-5783 maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us

A Year With Honeybees

This video has proven to be popular available on either VHS tape or DVD. It follows beekeeper Dick Blake through an entire production season. It starts with spring feeding and ends with the barrels of honey being loaded on the truck.

There is good information here for beekeepers of every level. Available from the Iowa Honey Producers for \$20. That includes shipping within Iowa. It may be slightly higher elsewhere. Make checks payable to the Iowa Honey Producers and send to one of the addresses below.

The Buzz
c/o Phil Ebert
14808 102nd Ave. E.
Lynnville, IA 50153

Margaret Hala
1988 Vine Ave.
Marshalltown, IA 50158

**Do you need to reach Iowa beekeepers?
Create a buzz of your own!
Place an ad in *The Buzz Newsletter* today!**



2" x 1/2 page	\$6.00 per month
1/4 page	\$15.00 per month
1/2 page	\$30.00 per month
Full page	\$60.00 per month

**Please contact Gordon Powell at
(515) 278-1762 or iabekeepr@earthlink.net**

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Stuart E. Mitchell. He and his wife Martha live in Des Moines, Iowa. Stuart's business is Springer Services / Springer Pest Solutions.

Guess what? Stuart doesn't keep bees, and says, "As an entomologist I train and advise pest management professionals regarding mandatory precautions pursuant to pesticide usage, drift, and the potential hazards to domestic Honeybee populations. In addition, I consult many people and organizations on the agriculturally economic significance of pollination services and extensive products that Honeybees render. Finally, I train and advise many pest management professionals regarding the significance of preserving Honeybee populations; removing populations from structures for relocation, rather than destroying said populations."

Stuart also says, "I promote the preservation and significance of Honeybee populations as well as the services and products Honeybees provide. My satisfaction is served as an advocate for Honeybee preservation and propagation." He plans to continue educating pest management professionals, the public and those interested in the many benefits and services Honeybees provide.

Thanks for your help for the beekeeping industry. I am sure beekeepers everywhere are better off due to your vast knowledge and promoting the preservation of the Honeybee. If some of you would like to contact Stuart, his email address is:
docmitchell@hotmail.com

Thanks for the support Stuart.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Bee Inspectors

To my amazement, I had two people respond to my request for potential inspectors. One was from Kellogg and the other from Iowa City. Maury Wills says there is money to hire another inspector so maybe we can get something done. We could really use someone else down in the southern tier of counties and/or southwest Iowa. Respond to the Buzz if you are interested. We can't make it happen if we don't try.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



AUSTRALIAN HONEY CAKE

2 eggs
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup oil
3/4 cup honey
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp cloves
2 tbsp cocoa
1 cup self rising flour
1 cup flour
1 cup boiling water

VARIATIONS:
1/2 tsp mixed spices
1/2 tsp cinnamon

WEAVER'S famous QUEENS and Package Bees

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The R Weaver Apiaries, Inc.
16495 CR 319, Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-2333 Fax: 936-825-3642

Email: rweaver@tca.net www.rweaver.com

Yard Registration

I think this is the final story on yard registration for this year. You need to get a PIN and a password as stated last month. If you have more than one yard per county, you need to contact Maury Wills and have him open up the slots. Multiple registration blocks will then come up on your computer screen. You need the Range and Township number as well as the section number for the registration. If you need help with the actual registration or lack computer access, you have to go to your local Farm Service Office to register your yards. If you need to contact Maury, his phone number is (515) 281-5783 or e-mail him at maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us Don't be afraid to call, he is willing to help. Good luck!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). For convection oven, preheat to 350 degrees F. (180 degrees C.) Mix eggs with sugar.

Add remaining ingredients in the following order: oil, honey, soda, cloves, cocoa and flour.

Lastly, add boiling water.

Bake for 1 to 1-1/4 hours.

After about 1/2 hour, lower heat to 350 degrees F. (180 deg. C.)

For last 10 to 15 minutes, lower heat to 325F (300F if using a convection).

NOTES: It is a wonderfully aromatic and deliciously moist cake, and keeps very well stored in an air-tight cake tin.

Recipe from cooks.com

The Buzz

The rainy and windy days of spring have left and summer is just around the corner. Summer is my favorite season for many reasons; one being that school is finally out. Besides that, the days are long and the sun sets around 9:00. Crickets can be heard chirping through the night in a nearby thicket joining the chorus of bull frogs. The sun filled days are passed with the sound of friends laughing, dogs barking, and the buzzing of busy bees; the honey season has officially started. With the flowers in full bloom, the bees are wasting no time to take action. While the field bees are flying about collecting pollen and nectar, the house bees are busy cleaning up the hive for new larva and food. To help kick start their season, you should take a day or two and clean the hive. When doing this, choose a day that is warm, sunny, and calm. Also, try to clean it during the early afternoon when a majority of the bees are out of the hive, trust me, I have learned from a past bad experience. Several things can be done but some basic focuses include: clearing the edges of the frame and inside of the supers of any excess wax, larva, or other build up, checking to see if you actually have a queen and making sure there is enough space for the bees to grow. It is always interesting to see how your hive made it through the winter or how much honey they used and what can be improved upon for next winter but there are a couple months left before you have to think about that. Until September, your main goal is to help your hive be the best it can be and hopefully you are not only successful but had an enjoyable season along the way.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Macken
2006 Iowa Honey Queen

I can be contacted at home by:
319 - 279 - 3892
or by email at jemsj@netins.net.

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers Meeting

Friday evening, March 30th, 26 members of the Southwest Iowa Honey Producers gathered in Atlantic at the Feedlot Steakhouse for their annual meeting. Following a delicious meal, a new SW Iowa Honey Queen was named. Diane Jurchen of Cumberland is the new Southwest Iowa Honey Queen for 2006. Diane was crowned and presented her sash and flowers by her sister Teresa. Teresa is the 2006 American Honey Princess. Diane and Teresa are the daughters of Linda and Jeff Jurchen of Cumberland. Diane is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to help promote honey and the beekeeping industry.

During the meeting several new members to the Iowa Honey Producers paid dues. Information was passed along concerning the hive registration and discussion was held on mite controls.

A new DVD from the IHPA was given as a door prize. Dick Blake was the one who made the original video and presented it to the IHPA to use as a training tool for new beekeepers or information for presentations. Dick is a longtime member of the SW Iowa Honey Producers and the Iowa Honey Producers among other beekeeping organizations.

A great evening was enjoyed by all.

Submitted by Donna Brahms

FFA Convention

The IHPA had a booth at the FFA State Convention April 10 and 11. The convention was at the Scheman Center on the Iowa State University campus in Ames. Teresa Jurchen and her sister (whose name escapes me) were at the booth both days. Vern and Doris Ramsey helped on Monday. Phil Ebert was there on Tuesday. The Tuesday session was only a half day. Teresa had made a nice display board highlighting the youth mentoring program and fundraising through honey sales. There

was also an observation hive and various handouts. The video "A Year with Honeybees" was playing on Teresa's laptop.

We contacted a lot of students and their advisors at this event. Time will tell what kind of impression we made. Things never quite go as planned. We had planned to survey advisors to find out who was interested in incorporating honey sales into their fundraisers. This didn't go over well. Still, the interest is there. It's going to take some effort by the individual beekeepers to contact their local chapters. Remember that you would be selling on the wholesale level. The FFA, as with most fundraisers, wants to make 40% on what they sell. If you sell them a bear for \$1.75, they are going to retail it for \$2.75 to \$3.00.

We handed out information on the youth mentoring program to a lot of students. There were several who expressed interest. There is no way to know how many will follow through. We are hoping to get several applicants.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



News Flash!

Tim Laughlin's queen has gone home. If you have been reading my column, you know I have been nursing Tim's queen through the winter. She survived three observation hives last fall. There were three good frames of bees in her box at the beginning of March. When Tim picked her up at the beginning of April, they had dwindled down. There were still bees on three frames but together they probably made one good frame of bees. Tim planned to put her with some bees that had gone queenless. It will be interesting to see how long she lasts.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

May Is A Wonderful Month

May is a wonderful month whether you are a beekeeper or not. If you keep bees you look forward to the gentle rains and the plants that start the summer of blooms for the bees to harvest nectar from so that you can make a wonderful honey crop. May is also the time of year that families usually have their first picnic of the year. May is the month for reflections of the past and time to look to the future. May has the first major holiday that people in the northern states can get out and celebrate and enjoy. That holiday is Memorial Day. This is a time to remember all of your friends that are no longer near and family members that you have dear memories about. I think of all the beekeepers I have known in the past thirty-five years that are no longer with us; and I realize how few of them are remembered for their devotion and dedication to the Honey Industry. I know that if I try to name everyone that I can a present remember, I am sure to leave a name or two off the list. I am going to list all that I can recall from memory and sometimes it does fail me, so if you recall anyone that should be remembered, please let me know and also send the name to the editor for future times.

1. Mr. Biddle
2. Mrs. Leona Eckerts
3. Mr. Harold Partello
4. Mr. Kyle McCracken
5. Mrs. Helen Partello
6. Mrs. Blanche McCracken
7. Mr. Francis Henkleman
8. Mr. Leo Stattelmann
9. Mr. Erwin Glew
10. Mr. Joe Sueper
11. Mr. Frank Katzer
12. Mrs. Frank Katzer
13. Mr. Henry Hansen
14. Mr. Byron Crispin
15. Mr. Lloyd Stanley
16. Mrs. Lloyd Stanley
17. Mrs. Gladys Stanley
18. Mr. Bronnenberg
(Curt and Randy's father)
19. Mr. Roger Snider

If you were ever at a meeting with any of these people, you may not have agreed with them or their ideas, but if they had not forged ahead and blazed the trail for those of us that follows the Iowa Honey Producers Association and the Central Iowa Beekeepers Associations would not be the leaders they are today. We owe these people and others like them a great deal of thanks. So on Memorial Day this year why don't you give a flower to someone in their memory.

Thanks,
Gordon Powell



Copper Gluconate

After reading a French study touting the effectiveness of copper gluconate on Varroa mites, I asked Marion Ellis about it. Marion said that it would kill mites but had never proven effective in commercial applications. The kill rate wasn't high enough. Here is the abstract of the French study, which was done in 1993.

ABSTRACT: For three years, about 1500 hives were surveyed for Varroa mites, following feeding tests using cupric gluconate and cupric lactate in sucrose syrup. Three to five litres per hive of 0 to 2.8g of copper metal per litre of sucrose syrup were given in spring and/or summer. Bee and mite mortalities were recorded for up to four years without significant toxicity being noted. By contrast, up to 91% of the mites were killed in a dose dependant manner by gluconate. Lactate was remarkably less active than the glucon-

ate. Copper gluconate in sugar syrup was as attractive, if not more so, than pure sucrose. The copper concentrations in honey at the time of harvest were unchanged. Efficacy of the treatments were not brood dependant. Cupric organic salts, therefore, provide a safe way for preventing the infestation of hives and the development of mite over long periods.

The study is a little ambiguous about the amount of copper gluconate needed. It indicates from 1.5 to 7.5 grams. I figured the cost using 6 grams. 55 lbs of copper gluconate delivered to Lynnville would cost \$800. 55# is about 25 kg. There are 100 grams/Kg. That makes 2500 grams total. Dividing by 6g/colony shows us there are about 416 treatments. That's roughly \$2 per colony for a treatment. The salesman I talked to was pushing a treatment of 1.5 grams per colony, which would make it economically viable if it worked. It will be interesting to see the results of Dr Geels work. If anybody wants to see the study, they can contact me.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

COCONUT - HONEY FRUIT DIP

16 oz. cottage cheese
1/4 c. vanilla yogurt
1/4 c. honey
1/4 c. shredded coconut
1 tsp. grated orange rind

Any fruit cut up in bite-size pieces. Place cottage cheese in blender. Cover and whirl at low speed until smooth. Stop and scrape down sides. Transfer to medium size bowl. Stir in yogurt, honey, coconut and orange rind until well mixed. Cover; refrigerate until well chilled; at least 1 hour. Transfer dip to small serving bowl and put on large serving platter with assortment of fruit cut up into bite-size pieces around the dip.

Recipe from cooks.com

2006 BID SHEET FOR HONEY AND PRODUCTS TO BE SOLD AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR SALES BOOTH

Bid on any or all items (state quantity you **will** supply and bid price)

<u>1 lb. Jars--light honey.....</u>	<u>12 oz. Bears--light honey.....</u>
<u>2 lb. Jars--light honey.....</u>	<u>24 oz. Bears--light honey.....</u>
<u>5 lb. Jugs--light honey.....</u>	<u>1 lb. Skep--light honey.....</u>
<u>Gallons--light honey.....</u>	<u>50 or 60 lb. Pails (for lemonade).....</u>
<u>4 oz. Antique Jars.....</u>	<u>Comb Honey.....</u>
<u>8 oz. Antique Jars.....</u>	<u>Honey Stix.....</u>
<u>Hard Honey Candy(assorted).....</u>	<u>Creamed Honey-regular.....</u>
<u>Creamed Honey-flavors.....</u>	<u>Beeswax Candles.....</u>
<u>Other Beeswax Products.....</u>	<u>Beeswax Bars(1 oz., ½ lb., 1 lb.).....</u>

NOTE: We need a substantial supply of comb honey in plastic boxes and section comb honey. This item is usually in short supply and thus bidding doesn't make sense. We will accept cut comb in plastic boxes and wooden and round section comb containers. Quality standards for all comb honey are: clean cappings and all cells capped. Cut comb in plastic boxes must be well drained with little or no liquid honey. We will pay **\$4.00** per unit for cut comb in plastic boxes or section comb honey which weighs at least 14 ounces. We will pay **\$3.25** for comb honey in round containers that meet quality standards. Honey from all suppliers must be 2005 crop, Iowa honey with 18.5% of less moisture content and excellent overall quality. All of the containers need to be at a uniform fill line and free from foam. The IHPA booth manager has the right to refuse any containers not meeting this standard. Winning bids will be based on price, quality and ability to provide required quantity of product for the entire fair. All winning bids will remain in effect for the duration of the Iowa State Fair.

Bids must be received by June 30, 2006.

Please sign the bid sheet and provide address and phone numbers. Suppliers of State Fair Honey will use their own business label on products supplies for State Fair Sales. Labels must be attractive with preprinted wording, which includes name and address of the supplier and net weight of item supplied. Include one sample of your label with the bid sheet.

NOTE: Arrangements need to be made to pick up any unused product between 9 p.m. & 10 p.m. Sunday, August 20 or 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, August 21, 2006.

Your signature _____ Name(printed) _____

Address, City, Zip _____ Phone &/or Cell _____

Return to: W. John Johnson 2426 Hamilton Dr. Ames, IA 50014-8202

Remember: This is the major money making event for the Iowa Honey Producers!!



Mid-West Master Beekeeping Workshop

When: June 22 -June 24, 2006

Where: Agricultural Research & Development Center (near Ithaca and Mead, Nebraska)

Cost: \$100 per person, includes 5 meals, refreshments, training manual, and cap.

Pre-registration is required by June 12, 2006

Lodging: Lodging is available in Lincoln and Wahoo.

Program - The program will begin at 8:30 AM each day at the ARDC Education Center. The schedule includes classroom training in the mornings followed by hands-on training in the afternoons. Hands-on sessions will be in small groups with opportunities for active participation. Participants should bring their own protective gear. Master beekeeper certificates will be awarded to participants who complete the training, demonstrate a range of practical skills, complete the take-home exercises, and fulfill the service unit requirement. A list of activities that will fulfill the service unit requirement will be provided. Enrollment is limited to 60 participants.

Thursday, June 22, 2006

8:30 Welcome, Dan Duncan, ARDC Director
8:45 Bees and Mankind.....Marion Ellis
9:15 What is a Bee?.....Nick Aliano
9:45 History of Beekeeping.....Larry Connor
10:15 Break
10:30 Form & Function - Tiffany Heng-Moss
11:30 Anatomy Lab.....Jeremy Wagnitz
12:15 Lunch

1:30 Afternoon Workshops Participants will rotate every 30 minutes.

Swarm Biology.....Cecil Sweeney
Queen Introduction.....Larry Connor
Dividing ColoniesSteve Tipton
Removing Honey.....Cecil Sweeney
Feeding BeesCharles Simonds
Wintering Bees.....Larry Connor
Package Bees.....Jeremy Wagnitz
Moving Bees.....Steve Tipton
Pollen and Propolis Collection.....Joli Winer

6:30 PM Cookout - Apiculture Lab
Team problem solving.....L. Connor

Friday, June 23, 2006

8:30 Honey Bee Pheromones.....Paul Timm
9:00 Honey Bee Behavior.....Marion Ellis
9:30 Dance Language.....Jeremy Wagnitz
10:00 Break
10:15 Brood Diseases and Pests.....L. Connor
11:00 Adult Diseases and Parasites....N. Aliano
11:45 Africanized Bees.....Larry Connor
12:15 Lunch

1:30 Afternoon Workshops Participants will rotate every 30 minutes.

Wax Processing.....Joli Winer
Honey Processing.....Steve Tipton
Comb Honey Production.....Cecil Sweeney
Brood Disease Detection.....Larry Connor
Varroa Detection.....Nick Aliano
Varroa Control.....Marion Ellis
Queen Rearing.....Jeremy Wagnitz
Drone Congregation Areas.....J. Matczyszyn

6:30 Cookout - Apiculture Lab
Team problem solving.....Larry Connor

Saturday, June 24, 2006

8:30 Mgmt. For Honey Production.....M Ellis
9:15 Pollination Biology.....Larry Connor
10:00 Break
10:15 Creamed Honey.....Joli Winer
10:45 Mead Making.....Paul Timm
11:15 Judging Apiary Products....Larry Connor
12:15 Lunch
1:15 Value-Added Products - Becky Tipton and Joli Winer
3:00 Break
3:30 Marketing Hive Products - Becky Tipton and Joli Winer
4:00 National Honey Board.....Warren Nelson
4:30 Youth Presentations.....Becky Tipton
5:00 Problem Solving.....Larry Connor
5:30 Adjourn

Workshop Presenters:

Dr. Marion Ellis, University of Nebraska
Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss, University of Nebraska
Dr. Larry Connor, Wicwas Press
Nick Aliano, Graduate Student, Univ. of NE
Paul Timm, Graduate Student, Univ. Of NE
Jeremy Wagnitz, Student, Univ. of NE
Julienne Matczyszyn, Student, University of NE
Warren Nelson, Nebraska Beekeepers Association
Ms. Becky Tipton, Kansas Beekeepers Association
Mr. Steve Tipton, Kansas Beekeepers Association
Mr. Cecil Sweeney, Mid-Con, Olathe, Kansas
Ms. Joli Winer, Mid-Con, Olathe, Kansas
Mr. Charles Simonds, Honey Bee World

IHPA Master Beekeeping Scholarship

We have had two applications for the Master Beekeeper scholarship being sponsored by the IHPA. Take advantage of this opportunity and apply today. Include your name, address, phone number and/or e-mail along with a one or two paragraph bio about yourself.

Send to :

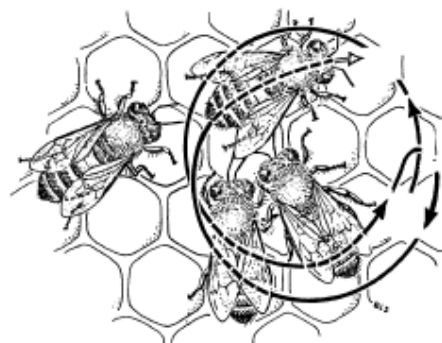
Phil Ebert
c/o The Buzz
14808 S. 102nd Ave. E.
Lynnville, IA 50153

If you prefer to register for the Master Beekeeping Workshop directly, send your registration to Dr. Marion Ellis at address below. Either way this is a great program. You can find directions to the Agricultural Research & Development Center at the Entomology Department's webpage:

<http://entomology.unl.edu/beekpg/>

Send Master Beekeeping Registrations to:

Dr. Marion Ellis
Department of Entomology
202 Plant Industry Bldg.
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0816
Email: MELLIS3@unl.edu
Phone: (402) 472-8696
Make check payable to:
University of Nebraska



THE BEEYARD REPORT

April 2nd, I received a phone call from the guy hauling my package bees. He said, "I'm near Cheyenne, Wyoming. We'll be there in 13 or 14 hours and, by the way, you are going to be 127 packages short". My blood pressure immediately spiked. My load was 25% short. What were we going to do? The only solution was to spread the pain and cut everybody.

We finished unloading the truck around 7:00 AM. Within the hour, people were starting to show up. We still didn't have things worked out. We made it up on the fly. There was no way to make it entirely equitable. What made it really hard was that I got more 3# packages than I had ordered. The shortage was all in 2#. I had to switch some of the 2# orders to 3#, which of course cost more money.

I had planned to load my truck immediately and haul packages to Kalona and then on to Illinois, but it took us all day to get a handle on what we were doing. There were a number of calls to Illinois while we tried to get everybody in the loop about what was happening. The customers took it better than I did.

I am always amazed at how much heat packages can generate. The packages come in racks of five and we stack them six high in our garage. The temperature was in the mid forties but there was a sharp wind that made the day feel cold. It got so warm in the garage that we had to open the doors and windows so the breeze could blow through the building. It was still hot. We finally hosed the packages down with the garden hose.

We had planned to do a video on package bees. We got footage of the truck coming into the driveway and getting unloaded but that was all. There weren't any packages left of us. A package arriving in early April has plenty of time to develop. I had planned to hive a few and then pull some brood out to them at the end

of May and make some additional colonies. I think I would still have gotten enough bees to make a crop by the latter part of June if we kept them in a single brood box. Maybe we can try it next year.

I knew the weather had been bad during almond pollination but I didn't realize it had continued on through March. Brood rearing in California pretty much shut down. There just weren't enough bees when it came time to shake packages.

Our bees look pretty good. We are building nucs to sell and new colonies for us that will be run as singles. We started on the 13th and have only been at it for a couple of days. Most of the first day was spent getting organized. We have 30 nucs and 20 singles done so far. We are averaging two frames of brood from each colony. It will be higher in another week until we get to the three lame yards that we have.

It has been warm enough that there haven't been a lot of bees on the brood frames. This isn't a problem with the colonies that we are building for singles but it is a real problem for the nucs. We have to get frames well covered with bees. We can still get some chilly nights and need enough bees to keep the brood warm. To get around this problem we shake extra bees into the boxes we are hauling the brood in. We don't look for the queens but we see them once in a while. When we have a populous colony where we happen to find the queen, we shake three or four frames of bees into the brood box. We leave all the brood behind so the colony can regenerate quickly.

Spring work wears me down a lot more than it used to. That may be because there is a lot more of it than there used to be. Age surely doesn't have anything to do with it.

I hope everybody has a productive spring.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



Honey Prices

Honey prices climbed about twenty cents in a two week span in early April. There are several loads out of South Dakota that brought \$1/lb. I'm never sure what drives these price surges. The Argentine crop was 30% to 40% short but there are some big U.S. producers that are sitting on two years worth of honey. The legislation to close the bonding loophole has made it out of committee and is attached to other legislation. It is unknown if and when it will actually pass. If it does pass, Chinese honey immediately goes over \$1/lb. Prices on the Mid America Honey Hotline range from 87 cents to one dollar. These prices pertain only to large lots. If you are selling in local markets you should be getting a lot more. There is a lot of empty equipment in California. Bees are hard to get. Colony numbers will probably be down this year. Things could get interesting.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Apple and Honey Pizza

1 chilled pie crust
1/4 c. honey
1 c. thick applesauce
2 c. thinly sliced apples
1/3 c. ground nuts
Cinnamon & nutmeg

Roll pie dough into flat 12 inch circle. Place on buttered foil. Fold over edge of dough to make rim. Prick pastry and brush with honey. Cover with applesauce and apple slices. Sprinkle with nuts, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes or until crust is browned. Serves 6-12.

Recipe from cooks.com

**SUMMER FIELD DAY
JULY 8TH
IOWA 4-H CENTER**

1991 Peach Avenue
Madrid, Iowa 50156
(515) 795-3338
www.extension.iastate.edu/4hcenter

Morning Schedule:

- 8:30** Registration
9:00 Welcome, Announcements, Introduction
9:15 Varroa Mite, what to do.....David Vander Dussen

10:30 BREAK

- 10:45** IOWA BEE INSPECTIONS.....Boyd Palmer
11:00 Mite-Away II tm.....David Vander Dussen

12:00 LUNCH BBQ CHICKEN OR A BBQ PIG

1:15 BREAK OUT IN FOUR GROUPS:

- ONE.....David Vander Dussen
TWO.....William Eickholt
THREE.....Boyd Palmer
FOUR.....Pat Ennis

Each group will open up two hives, on one we will do either a powdered sugar or ether roll and the other will have a stick board to do a mite count.

3:15 QUESTIONS

**HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME, AND HOPE TO SEE YOU
AT THE FAIR.**

We will be trying to get someone to come in and make homemade ice cream or malts. We hope all will bring a dish to pas and spend time with friends.



Summer Field Day

Don't forget the summer field day coming up July 8th at the Iowa 4-H Center near Madrid. From Hiway 30, take Hiway 17 through Luther to county road E-57. Go west on E-57 for 2.6 miles to the third road going south. Turn onto Peach Ave and follow the road to the 4-H Center. If you are coming from the south, take Hiway 17 and go through Madrid. North of Madrid you will come to E-57. Proceed west on E-57 as before.

David Vander Dussen has a product to promote but he also has a lot of good information on the population growth rate of Varroa mites. You need to understand this if you hope to control them. If you wait too long, it doesn't matter what you treat with. The bees are going to die. Bill Ruzieka calls this "Missing the cue". I have always liked that term.

The main course and drinks for lunch are being furnished by the Association. We hope everyone will bring a dish to share for pot luck. Get your registration sent in. We hope to have a good crowd. Fees will be \$10 for members and \$15 for non members. Non members will be able to receive the Buzz for the remainder of the year.

Send your registration to Pat Ennis, 1040 Union Ave, Goodell, Ia, 50439
Pat's phone number is 641-444-4767

Submitted by Phil Ebert



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4012 54th St.
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Central Iowa Beekeepers
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30390 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA; 50134
(515) 228-3060

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
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210 E. Kirkwood Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50315

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Southeast Iowa Beekeepers
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Fairfield, IA 52556
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National Honey Board
www.NHB.org

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Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals**
rhaxton@dia.state.ia.us

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org