



# *The Buzz*

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



December 2012





January 27th—IHPA Board Meeting, 3:30 pm  
March 15th & 16th Dadant 150th Anniversary Celebration



**FOR SALE:** 2 or 3 pound packages of Italian bees with Queen. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, Iowa in April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. All orders must be received by February 28 and full payment due by April 1st.

Call Douglas Child 319-634-3682 2/13

**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 in late January. We can take orders prior to that if you put down a deposit.

Contact Phil ehoney37@netins.net  
641-527-2639 or  
Alex alex.ebert@eberthoney.com  
641-821-9648

**FOR SALE:** 50 frame stainless steel Root extractor in good working order with side dump. The extractor is located in Illinois.

Call Phil Ebert  
for info. 541-527-2639 or e-mail  
ehoney37@netins.net

**FOR SALE:** 38mm white Snap Caps with inner seals-8 cents each in boxes of 1800. Smaller quantities are slightly higher.

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



**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.

\$0.08 each in boxes of 2000 or \$160  
\$0.10 each for 500-1999  
\$0.12 each for less than 500

Curt Bronnenberg  
1433 Hull Ave.  
Perry, IA 50220  
(515) 465-5939  
CBronny823@aol.com

**FOR SALE:** The following items were acquired from an estate. All items are in new condition. 400 sheets of deep, wax coated Plasticell foundation-60 cents each; 400 deep frames-unassembled-50cents each; 54 deep hive bodies-\$12.50 each; 10 pro Max feeders (2 Gal) with caps and ladders-\$6 each; 24 moving screens-\$2 each; 1 box with 184 24oz bears with caps-\$50; Partial box of honey bee containers-\$25; 34 cases of 9 oz hex jars with lids-\$6/case; 140 sheets of 4 1/4" wax coated Plasticell foundation-50 cents per sheet.

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

**FOR SALE:** 300 used 4 way clip pallets #1s \$8.00, #2s \$3.00.

3 Walter Kelly 72 frame, slotted extractors with newer motors and speed controls, all run good \$1250.00 each.

Brood & singles for sale in May near Sioux City.  
Cell 605-310-3248  
Lyndo Ruyter  
1221 10th St.  
Hawarden, IA 51023

**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 crystals 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

**FOR SALE:** Pamphlet on Successful Management available:

Ten Pages \$12 including postage.

Contact:  
Glen L. Stanley  
2615 Aspen Road #1  
Ames, Iowa 50014  
TELE> 515 292 3243

### 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. 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

## Honey Bee Research at Iowa State University: Nutrition, Viruses, Behavior, and Colony Health

By Amy Toth, Assistant Professor  
Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology  
Department of Entomology  
Iowa State University  
[http://www.public.iastate.edu/~amytoth/Toth\\_lab/Home.html](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~amytoth/Toth_lab/Home.html)

Beginning in 2011, Iowa State University is supporting a new bee research program. The laboratory of Amy Toth is a collaborative group that includes 4 postdoctoral research associates, three graduate students, two lab technicians, and several undergraduate researchers. Our laboratory is involved in numerous different research projects researching the behavior, genetics, physiology, and health of honey bees and paper wasps.

With generous contributions from EEOB and ISU Research Farms, construction of a new "Bee and Wasp Research Facility" was completed in September 2012. The new 1200 square foot facility is located at the ISU Horticulture Research Station in north Ames, and will serve as a field research lab for studies on bees, paper wasps, and other insects. The facility includes storage space for apicultural supplies, a microscopy area, and honey extraction equipment, as well as a temperature-controlled area for rearing bees. There is also a room set aside for a future rest room that will serve the bee and wasp team as well as other Hort Farm users. *Not enough funds yet for a bathroom, but if anyone would like to donate to this worthy cause, we will name the lab after you!* The lab is located adjacent to two research apiaries managed by the Toth lab, currently consisting of 16 active hives. **Visitors are welcome.**

We have been lucky enough to receive funding from both the National Science Foundation and the United States

Department of Agriculture for some exciting new research, including a project on the importance of nutritional stress and viruses on honey bee health. Disturbingly, the number of honey bee hives in the U.S. has declined sharply in recent decades, from 6 million after World War II, to 2.4 million today. In fact, pollinators are in decline worldwide, creating a pollination deficit for agricultural production. On top of the existing pollinator crisis, since 2006 huge numbers of U.S. honey bee colonies have been lost to the enigmatic "Colony Collapse Disorder" (CCD). This disorder is diagnosed by colony abandonment by adult worker bees. Since the onset of CCD, annual colony losses have doubled in many areas of the U.S., creating a new urgency to the pollination crisis faced in agriculture.

There have been many recent studies that have attempted to identify the causes of CCD. Collapsed colonies turn out to have numerous problems, including more diseases (including fungus, bacteria, and viruses), parasitic mites, and pesticide residues. CCD is more likely to occur in colonies found in disturbed urban or agricultural landscapes, rather than in open land habitats with abundant and diverse floral food sources. However, despite all the research, there is still no "silver bullet"—no study to date has been able to pin down the actual cause of CCD. In fact, the only thing researchers can agree on is that CCD must be caused by a combination of several factors.

We have assembled a team of researchers to test a new hypothesis for CCD. This involves virus experts Prof. Bryony Bonning (Iowa State University, Department of Entomology) and Prof. Allen Miller (Iowa State University, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology) and two postdoctoral research associates, Dr. Adam Dolezal and Dr. Jimena Carillo-Tripp.

Our hypothesis focuses on the negative effects of two critical factors to bee health—infection with multiple viruses

and nutritional stress. We hypothesize that bees under nutritional stress leave the hive in search of food, but are unable to return due to negative effects of being infected with viruses, such as paralysis. When bees fail to return to their hives, their colonies produce new foragers, who may then meet the same fate. This cycle of bees leaving the hive and failing to return could quickly lead to the sudden "disappearance" of worker bees, the diagnostic symptom of CCD.

We will use a combination of laboratory and field-based studies to examine the effects of three viruses and nutritional stress on worker bees and their colonies. We will determine whether these two negative factors together can cause the symptoms of CCD. We will be specifically looking for higher loads of viruses, hive abandonment behavior, diagnostic patterns of gene activity, and ultimately, hive death.

### Change of Address

Please send membership dues and merchandise orders to your new Treasurer, Rhonda Heston, at 52735 187th Avenue, Chariton IA 50049. She can be reached at 525-724-2124.

Are your Membership dues current?

Please check the back of this Buzz to see the date your dues are paid through. If the date is December 31, 2012, your 2013 membership dues are now due.

Remember, the 2013 membership dues are \$20 for an individual membership and \$5 for each family member living in your household.

Please send your membership dues and renewal form to:

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
Attn: Ronda Heston  
52735 187th Avenue  
Chariton, IA 50049

## Iowa Honey Queen

Season's Greetings Beekeepers!  
It has been a delightful year and I couldn't be any more honored to have served as the Iowa Honey Producers 2012 Iowa Honey Queen during our 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary!

My family's story with honeybees starts in 2007. Greg and I were just named as bee scholars in the youth mentor program, which was the ignition of our curiosity and fascination with these little creatures. We couldn't have done any of it without our amazing mentors, Jack and Ev Trowbridge, who helped nurture us in the direction of success! Soon our interest turned into a hobby (as one hive suddenly became two which soon expanded to five), which became a family passion, and that passion propelled me into my current position as the 2012 Iowa Honey Queen.

I've met beekeepers from all over the great state of Iowa, speaking about the value of the honeybee, endorsing the beekeeping industry, and promoting the consumption of honey. From the

southeastern tip in Fort Madison, to the far reaches of the north, in Mason City, I've loved every minute of my travels! Connie Bronnenberg, my fabulous queen chair, was absolutely perfect in helping me get everything scheduled and for offering her continuous support – I couldn't have asked for anyone better! Additionally, I have thoroughly enjoyed *everyone* who has aided me in my journey and all the friends I've made as a result of it.

I would like to thank you all for the wonderful experiences I've had in this amazing, very quick year. So many of you have helped make my year a success! I would like to extend my thanks to each of you who invited me to events, encouraged me throughout this wonderful year, and in general, for offering your overall support. I want you all to know that this has been a year of tremendous honors.

In case you didn't attend the annual meeting in November (you missed a great one!), I just wanted to update you on where my life is headed. I'm sure many of you are wondering, what's

next? When I accepted the position of 2012 Iowa Honey Queen as a senior in high school, I had no idea how much my life could change in a year. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Northern Iowa studying psychology (I can't believe in one more semester I'll already be a junior!). I was extremely fortunate to begin this semester as one of ten people honored to have been selected for the prestigious College of Social and Behavioral Science Scholarship. Additionally, I was further humbled to have been inducted into the University Honors Program.

Due to these unexpected honors, I've had to make a very difficult decision. Last year I expressed an interest in running for the American Honey Queen and have been in contact with the current American Honey Queen and Princess. The time commitment required to serve in either one of these capacities inhibits my ability to function adequately in my roles as both a student and potential spokesperson for the honey industry on a national level. Furthermore, I am unable to take a leave of absence from school, as my scholarship and obligation as an honors student are only applicable to continuously enrolled students. Thus if I took a year off, I would be forfeiting my position to another student. In light of that, though I won't be vying for the title of American Honey Queen or Princess, I'm happy to say that I am looking forward to my continued involvement in the Iowa Honey Producers Association. I still love talking about my bees and I'm sure you'll be able to find me giving presentations somewhere!

I continued to stay crazy busy in college, volunteering with the Black Hawk County Extension Office, playing for the University of Northern Iowa Women's Rugby Team, as a member of Collegiate 4-H, the College of Education Book Club, Psychology Club, TWLOHA, and the University of Northern Iowa Student Theater Association. I'm still adjusting to living in the city full-time and love coming home to see my cows! :)



**Renae stands in front of the wonderful bee themed quilt at the 2012 Annual Meeting Banquet. The quilt was one of many great items auctioned to raise money for the Queen Program. The funds are used to support the Queen's travels and appearances across the state promoting honey, beekeeping, and of course, the Iowa Honey Producers Association!**

In conclusion, I'd like to thank you all again for this fantastic experience. I would especially like to thank my family. Our entire involvement with the bees has most definitely been a family affair, and even though I got to wear the crown, they all really deserved one, too! I couldn't have done it without their support.

Thank you, Iowa Honey Producers, for a very memorable year. I am proud to have been your 2012 Iowa Honey Queen!

Have a Happy Holiday Season, enjoy your family, stay safe, and don't forget to "Bee Happy"!

Sincerely,



**Renae Michelle Beard**  
2012 Iowa Honey Queen



## State Apiarist

Hi everyone.

December 11<sup>th</sup> and it's warm out there as I'm writing this. This has been a fall season of easy-going winter preparations. Hopefully all your colonies are in great shape. Something strange is going on, though, this season. I've had conversations with several Iowan beekeepers and there's been a good amount of discussion across states about CCD-like occurrences. These are examples of the "now-classic" symptoms: strong colonies quickly dwindling to tiny clusters which can't survive a cold night dying leaving plenty of honey and brood of all stages.

...happening to small- and large-scale beekeepers, in urban and rural areas. No one has any real answers as to why this is happening. A common thread across states and Canada this year is lots of Varroa. I wouldn't want to blame the mites entirely for what we're experiencing, surely there's more to it, but they're probably playing a part.

There's a lot of room for improvement in our mite control techniques. Timing of treatments is critical, and we need to keep better attention / measurement of how well the miticide products we use are actually working.

There's a new miticide product being registered for emergency use (Section 18) at the individual state level, called Apivar. The active ingredient is amitraz which is delivered through plastic strips which are inserted between frames (similar to the old Apistan and Checkmite+ strips) according to the label. Amitraz has been around for years for hogs and beef & dairy cattle, but hasn't been labeled for use in honey bee colonies in the US since 1993. Canada has had this now for a while and it seems to work well at killing mites while being well-tolerated by the bees. Several states have already received EPA approval. As I'm writing this though, the approval process hasn't yet begun in Iowa. In speaking with many of you, I know the demand will be high here and I hope the product will be available for us by this coming spring.

Other recently available mite control products have been met with limited success and some controversy. We could really use something which works well, is easy on the bees, is safe in regard to contamination of honey and wax (and the beekeeper), is cost-

effective, and is easy to apply. ...a Christmas wish...

We had another great IHPA Annual Meeting. It was good to see many of you there. Thank you to Pat and everyone who worked hard to make it happen. I enjoyed being part of the committee which met with and interviewed the youth applying for IHPA beekeeping scholarship and am looking forward to a great year with them.

Usually, I have the IHPA Beginner Beekeeping Course listings by this time. I don't yet have the details from some of the locations across the state. There will be several more courses offered this year. The classes have been very well attended in recent years – bigger each year! They offer a great way to get some local insight into keeping bees here – from purchasing your first equipment to getting your bees properly sent into their first winter with you. I'll have the listings in the next Buzz, but check out the IHPA website ([www.abuzzaboutbees.com](http://www.abuzzaboutbees.com)) for details in the meantime – I'll have the details loaded into the website's calendar and also available as a blog post.

If you haven't yet checked out the IHPA blog, it's worth a look. You can subscribe to the blog feed, which will notify you by email whenever anything new is posted, or you can just check it periodically by visiting the page. You'll see the "IHPA BLOG" tab towards the top of our website's homepage. Same thing for the calendar feature. Both are great resources for getting the most current info from our association.

See you. Don't let your bees get hungry. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year.

Andy Joseph  
State Apiarist



## We Want to Hear What You Have to Say,

A number of board members gathered recently to discuss on how to get "The Buzz" out in a timely manner. We know this is a concern for many of our membership. Please be patient as we try to resolve this issue.

One of the items of concern was the lack of articles and information submitted, and as the due date approached, with not enough information present, leaving Alex to fill the empty space.

So in light of this, we are asking for articles about beekeeping from our beekeeping membership to submit to "The Buzz".

Everyone has a story about beekeeping; how did you get started, a humorous happening, a learning experience, some beekeeping wisdom, a story from a youth, your experience as a mentor, an event you attended. A picture you wish to share, or a favorite honey recipe. Your article needn't be a page long, unless you wish, but a paragraph or two would be great. So please help us out and share your stories by submitting your beekeeping articles.

**\*\*\* Please note the due date for articles is now the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month and not the 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Please send them to:  
thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com or  
alex.ebert@eberthoney.com

We look forward to hearing to what you have to say.

Peggy Ennis, IHPA Historian  
2/13

## 2013 Iowa Honey Queen

I cannot believe the annual meeting of the 2012 Iowa Honey Producers Association has come and gone. Celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary was full of fun and excitement as the 2012 Iowa Honey Princess. I enjoyed traveling the state promoting honey for all the hard working beekeepers, and of course, honey bees. I got to fulfill my goal of educating youth about honey bees, when I participated in both Ag Safety and Education Days in Mahaska County and Van Buren County. It feels remarkable when I talk to about a 1,000 elementary and junior high school students, and then see some of them start coming to different club meetings throughout the area.

On November 16<sup>th</sup> my reign as the 2012 Iowa Honey Princess came to a bitter sweet end. I was crowned 2013 Iowa Honey Queen for the Iowa Honey Producers Association. I was ecstatic to say the least. I was honored to hand my princess title to Miss Rachel; I know she will have just as much fun as I did traveling the state promoting honey, honey bees, and beekeepers. I am looking forward in participating in events together.

Let me introduce myself a little bit to those of you who do not know me. My name is Hannah Lynn VanWyk; daughter of Neal and Cathy VanWyk, and sister to Benjamin VanWyk of Otley, Iowa. I recently graduated from Pella Community High School in May of 2012. Currently I am a student at Kirkwood Community College located on the southeast side of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There I am double majoring in Parks and Natural Resources and Soil Conservation Management. My goal is to receive my A.S degree and transfer to either University of Wisconsin at Steven's Point, or South Dakota State University to further my education. I still have honey bees on the mind when it comes to education, and who knows what the future holds. I might be like Katie Lee and attend the University of Minnesota to work with commercial migratory beekeepers

while earning a spot on the Midwest Bee Team. All I know is that I will keep promoting honey bees, honey, and the beekeepers where ever I go.

At this time of year when our bees are getting ready to cuddle up and get cozy for the winter, I am working with my advisors at Kirkwood to introduce honey bees to campus in the spring of 2013. With horticulture students, culinary students, agricultural students, and a small winery; honey bees will give these students an advantage in education on how our plants and food get pollinated.

One of my goals this next year is to keep promoting honey bees to the youth. Since our hobby is not in the top 100 hobby charts, I want more people to get involved. Attending more honey promotions and activities throughout the state will be high on my goals list, also acquiring more radio, TV, and newspapers to promote honey bees. If any of the members have something locally coming up that would be an opportunity to promote honey, honey bees, or beekeepers, do not hesitate in contacting the Queen Chair Connie Bronnenberg at 515-480-6076 or cbronny823@aol.com or me directly at

rabbittshooter93@yahoo.com .

Thank you for your time and support for me this past year. I promise I will not let down this organization.

Here is a sneak peek into the 2013 Iowa Honey Queen's favorite honey recipe book. This is one of my favorite breads to make during this time of year, Pumpkin Honey Bread.

## Pumpkin Honey Bread Ingredients

- 1 cup - honey
- 1/2 cup - butter or margarine, softened
- 1 can (16 oz.) - solid-pack pumpkin
- 4 - eggs
- 4 cups - flour

- 4 teaspoons - baking powder
- 2 teaspoons - ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons - ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon - baking soda
- 1 teaspoon - salt
- 1 teaspoon - ground nutmeg

### Directions

In large bowl, cream honey with butter until light and fluffy. Stir in pumpkin. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until thoroughly incorporated. Sift together remaining ingredients. Stir into pumpkin mixture. Divide batter equally between two well-greased 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pans. Bake at 350°F for 1 hour or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Let loaves cool in pans for 10 minutes; invert pans to remove loaves and allow time to finish cooling on racks.

Safe Travels and Happy Buzzing,  
Hannah L. VanWyk  
2013 Iowa Honey Queen



### Honey Queen Chair

I would like to thank all of you that donated items for our Queen Auctions and for all who bid on these items to make this a very successful fund raiser for the Queen program. We raised \$3831.00 from the silent auction and live auction at the Annual Meeting held in Marshalltown on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November. A special thanks to Rhonda Heston for all your help setting up the silent auction tables and keeping track of all the money from the auctions. The money raised from these auctions is there to benefit members by having our Honey Queen or Honey Princess attend their special activities such as Farmers Markets, Craft Shows, Grocery Store Promotions, etc. The money raised will pay for their ex-

penses to attend your events.

Again we had two very qualified candidates for Honey Queen this year and Hannah VanWyk was crowned our 2013 Iowa Honey Queen! Hannah is the daughter of Neal and Cathy VanWyk of Otley, Iowa. Congratulations to you Hannah! Hannah has grown since she was crowned our 2012 Iowa Honey Princess and I feel that Rachel can grow from the experience of being the princess as well and that the program could utilize both of these young ladies again this year, as it will be our 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary!

Rachel Stika was crowned our 2013 Honey Princess. Rachel is the daughter of Ron and Elaine Stika of St. Cresco, Iowa. Congratulations to you Rachel! If you would like the Queen or Princess to attend your activities, please give me a call at 515-480-6076 or e-mail me at cbronny823@aol.com and we will get something arranged.

I would like to thank Renae for her year with us as 2012 Iowa Honey Queen, and as I said at the Banquet—what a Great Honey Queen she has been! She attended every event asked of her, even if it was the day of her Senior Prom! She made it work, not many young ladies would do that...not even my own daughter. We all had a great time at the Iowa State Fair. Renae's presentations were on our Youth Program, which is how she became involved with Bees and the Iowa Honey Producers. She also did some cooking with honey and made Honey Scotcheroos...Yum! She had two television interviews and one radio interview.

She helped at the Kids and Bee Expo, the Sales Booth, Sold Honey Lemonade, Rolled Beeswax Candles, gave Tattoos, and Talked about the Observation Hives. She had many entries in the Apiary division, candles, gift basket, honey, photography, and received 2<sup>nd</sup> place on her window display. Renae was also involved in many other activities during the Iowa State Fair. She worked as an Iowa State 4-H Youth

Council Volunteer for the 4-H Beef and Hog showmanship shows. Showed hogs and modeled in the 4-H Award-robe Fashion Show. She did an excellent job balancing all of her activities and managing her busy schedule as well as getting ready to move off to college. We can't forget the State Fair Parade with both Renae, riding in her Aunts convertible and Hannah on the float.

I would also like to thank Hannah for her year as Iowa Honey Princess. And what a Good Choice we made there to have a Princess for our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She attended the Iowa State Fair every day. She worked at the Sales Booth, Sold Honey Lemonade, Rolled Beeswax Candles, gave Tattoos, Talked about the Observation Hives, Helped Donna Brahms with presentations, Helped with the Kids and Bees Expo, had one radio interview with Van and Bonnie, and Educated my 12 year daughter Ciera and her friend Star on Rabbits.

There is one thing that I learned at the Iowa State Fair this year and that is if you are Young, Pretty, Wear a Sash and Crown you can get a ride from Parking Lot P to the Ag Building! I look forward to another successful year with our new Queen and Princess and getting to know Rachel. I would like for our 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary to be just as fun as our 100<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to stay in touch with Renae and encourage her to continue to stay involved with the IHPA. Thanks Again Renae!

Connie Bronnenberg  
Honey Queen Chair

### The Russians are coming The Russians are coming The Russians are coming

Your are invited to join the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association January 19th @ 1:00pm at the Bonanza

Family Steak House, 5029 NE 14<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, IA to learn more about these Russian Honey Bees. We will show a informative short DVD about Russian Queens and then our speaker Manly Bigalk, Certified member of the Russian Honeybee Breeder Association, will give a message about his experience with Russian Honeybees and then answer any questions you may have.

#### **HISTORY:**

The Russian Honeybee stock was imported from the Primorsky Krai region in East Russia by Dr. Tom Rinderer (USDA Honeybee Breeding, Genetics & Physiology Laboratory Baton Rouge, LA} in 1997. Russian Honeybees are both resistant to Tracheal and Varroa mites. These Russian Honeybees had been exposed to Varroa Mites for approximately 150 years. 100 Queens were first imported to Grande Terra Island, 25miles off the cost of LA and 17 bloodlines were developed for use by commercial Queen Breeders. Mr. Bigalk is one of those queen breeders. Russian Honeybees are more than twice as resistant to Varroa Mites than other honey bees. Hybrids are only partially resistant to mite and fade with subsequent generations and are somewhat defensive.

#### **CHARACTERISTS:**

- Russian Honeybees are very good honey producers.
- Russian Honeybees overwinter very well. (Russian rarely starve during winter).
- Russian Honeybees are good pollinators.
- Russian Honeybees are breed for gentleness.
- Russian Honeybees are not a race of honeybees, but a combination of Italian, Carniolan, Caucasian, and German Black Bees.
- Russian Honeybees are less inclined to rob other colonies.

**Please join CIBA Jan.19<sup>th</sup>** to learn how these Russian Honeybees may fit in your operation.

Sincerely,

Arvin Foell, CIBA president

#### **THE BEEYARD REPORT**

I needed to get this done before the annual meeting but it didn't happen. The meeting has come and gone and I am way past deadline. I don't seem to accumulate any free time. I had to make a couple of trips that cut into my time. I made a run to central Nebraska to pick up some wax. We were out of syrup at the time. I didn't want to have 25,000# of syrup sitting in the tanks all winter so I brought back nine barrels of syrup, also. That will be enough to get us

years old. We are going to send it to Cedar Rapids where it won't have to work so hard.

Alex and Adam made the trek down to the boot heel to pick up the truck. I don't know what time they left home in the morning but they made the trip in one day. The fuel gauge proved to be inaccurate. Alex ran out of fuel on the way home. He was about an hour east of Lynnvile. I got a call about 11:00 PM. They had split up in Iowa City. Adam had gone home and Alex headed for Lynnvile. After Alex stalled out, he called Adam.

Andria was part of the rescue party, also. They got some fuel in the truck but couldn't get it started. I am not sure how helpful my advice was. The fuel

system is set up differently on the new truck. Andria has the internet on her phone. She found a video that showed how to bleed the fuel system. When I went to bed, I anticipated having to go get the truck. When I got up and looked out the window the next morning, the truck was sitting in the driveway. I felt relieved.

The bees are in bed for the winter. I don't know how many we are going in with. I'm guessing

around 800. I know we had to make a lot of new entrance blocks and insulation boards for the lids. I am anticipating a significant death loss. I haven't seen many of the yards but the ones I have seen don't look right to me. I can't quite put my finger on what it is.

The loose bees that come in with the honey boxes invariably collect in the upper left corner of the screen that takes the place of the roll up door in the summer time. We don't use queen excluders so eventually we bring in a queen. It happens every year. When the queen arrives, the bees move up above the screen and begin to build comb against the vertical beams of the building. This year it became quite extensive. I wanted to remove the bees from the building so I borrowed Del Nelson's

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through until spring. Then I had to haul a few barrels of honey into the Chicago area. I could have shipped them but it was a new account. I like to know my customers. I also wanted to be sure I got paid. I was impressed with the company. I hope to retain them as customers.

I dodged the bullet on the third trip. We bought a bigger truck. I found it down in the boot heel of Missouri. I test drove it on the telephone. I listened to it while the guy was driving down the road shifting gears. I was a little nervous about it but was well satisfied in the end. It met my criterion. It is a 2001 F-450. It has a 7.3 diesel and a standard transmission. It was also a Georgia truck so it hasn't been exposed to salt. Our old truck still runs great but it has 250,000 miles on it and is almost 20

bee vac. It really worked slick. I may have to build one of my own.

A lot of our work is of a janitorial nature. I think of myself as CEO/Janitor and it's heavy on the janitor end. Alex got the extracting line cleaned up. I have the warehouse in pretty good shape. The shop and the garage, where we do our woodwork, still look like Fibber MaGee's Closet. We will keep pecking away at it.

Business has been really good. Honey sales are way up and the wax business has picked up. I have a big order from my Japanese customer. Prices are way up but people keep buying honey.

My horse never seems to gain any weight no matter how much she eats. The pony is another matter. I think she could look at food and gain weight.

She has been packing on the pounds despite rather poor forage. She also puts on a lot of hair in the winter time. That makes her look even larger. Every time I look at her, I think "wooly mammoth".

I hope everyone is ready for winter. I am looking forward to some downtime and a trip to San Diego for the AHPA meeting.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

### Calling All Quilters (and everyone else)

During the Annual Meeting several quilters were talking about their second favorite pastime - quilting. The question was asked how many people would make a quilt block if they were provided the fabric and asked to make a block of their choice.

The current line of thinking is that eve-

rybody interested would be provided a group of fabric, you would be asked to make a block of of a certain size, using only the fabric provided. When the block is complete, it would be returned and a quilt would be made.

When the quilt is complete, it would start it's journey around the state with the Iowa Honey Queen and Iowa Honey Princess. While on the journey tickets would be sold to have the opportunity to take the quilt to your house. The drawing would be held during the Iowa Honey Producer's Annual Meeting in November 2013.

The proceeds of the ticket sales would benefit the Queen program. If you are interested in making a block, please send an e-mail to Rhonda Heston at R.Heston@yahoo.com. The results will be posted in an upcoming issue of The Buzz.

### Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper of the month is Elaine Finarty. She lives at 57636 317th Trail in Columbia, Iowa. Five or six years ago, Elaine started going along on swarm calls and bee removals. She enjoyed watching, helping, and learning about bees and started thinking, "I can do this, maybe! There is so much to learn. They are such amazing creatures." Now she has 15 hives and sells liquid honey at her business named Hickory Hill Honey.

Elaine says, "Although there are days I still have to psyche myself up to get into my hives, there is such a feeling of satisfaction once I do. Hopefully, I can do my small part to better this old world." She plans to participate at the county fair, help her granddaughter, learn about bees, and do bees-wax creations.

Elaine is a member of the Back to Basics Beekeeping Club in Oskaloosa. The group meets the second Friday of the month. They sponsor youth scholarships, have an educational booth at the Southern Iowa Fair and Nelson Pioneer Farm, and conduct tours. She is also a member of the Iowa Honey Producers Association.

Thanks for your story Elaine!

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Elaine Finarty holds up a large chunk of brood comb.

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# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
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**IDALS website**  
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

**National Honey Board**  
www.honey.com

**American Beekeeping Federation website**  
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