

# *The Buzz*



May 2016



REMEMBERING EVES CADWALLADER P. 5  
BEEKEEPER OF THE MONTH. P. 7





## Advanced Beekeeping Class

Through many requests, the IHPA is again offering Advanced Beekeeping Class's in two locations. Requirements are having a minimum of least two years' beekeeping experience. These classes will be 'hands on'. Please bring your bee suit and veil.

The two classes are both offered on "Splitting Hives and Diseases".

The first class will be April 30th, at Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry. The second class will be May 7th, at the Mahaska county extension Office in Oskaloosa.

The time is 9:00-4:30 for each class. For noon break, we will have a pot-luck. Registration will be limited to 25 people.

Pre-registration is required. No walk in's please.

The cost is \$75 per class.

To register please contact:

Rhonda Heston

52735 187th Ave

Chariton, IA 50049

r.heston@yahoo.com 515-724-2124

Profits from both classes will go towards helping support the IHPA Youth Mentor Programs throughout the state and with education.

BEE HAPPY!!

Pat Ennis



### FOR SALE:

Reasonably-priced new and used beekeeping equipment & supplies.

Also offering bulk sugar @ 1-500 lbs @ .35

501-1,000 lbs @ .30

or .20 by the tote (1,800 – 2,000 lbs)

Also offering honey, beeswax and bottling supplies.

P & P Honey & Bee Supply, Goodell IA

For more information,

please call Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

### FOR SALE:

4&5 frame **nucs**—call for pricing.

**Corn syrup**- 5 gal \$23—your bucket.

Used telescoping **lids**--price varies with quality.

**Queens** for pickup only in mid-April in Lynnville-\$30 each.

Queens can be picked up or shipped from Mt Vernon. For queens to be picked up or shipped from Mt Vernon contact Adam Ebert-319-430-3514.

100-gal. Kelley stainless steel **storage tank** with strainer screen and lid--\$100.

30-gal stainless steel **Kelley tank** with attached gate--\$50.

New heavy-duty 5-gallon buckets with lids for sale at \$6 each.

We also have **honey** for sale in buckets or barrels. Call for price, since it varies with amounts.

We will have a limited number of **nucs** for sale in mid-May.

**Honey** is available by the bucket or by the drum. Price depends on volume

Contact Phil Ebert 641-527-2639

(or ehoney37@netins.net) or Alex Ebert 641-821-9648 in Lynnville or Adam Ebert 319-430-3514 in Mt. Vernon.

**Nucs for sale: \$140.00**

5 frame 9 5/8 nuc includes in disposable box. 1 marked queen (Carniolan/Russian cross)  
 5 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life) Our bees are breed for Honey produc on and Iowa winter hardiness.  
 Nucs will out produce 4 or 5 lb. package bees.

**For Sale - 9 5/8 9 frame wooden box with 1 marked queen & bees : \$175.00**

9 frame 9 5/8 box includes (no lid or no bottom board) In a 10 frame hive.

9 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)  
 I specifically select for mite resistance (not mite proof) Our breeder queens are VSH (Varroa sensitive hygienic) and daughters are tested for the best hygienic and also for Iowa winter hardiness and for honey production.  
 You may add a lid, inner lid, and bo om board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

**New Complete assembled painted Hive Kit \$290.00**

Includes 2 - 9 5/8 hive bodies  
 20 - 9 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell  
 2 - 6 5/8 supers  
 20 - 6 1/8 frames with founda on Waxed Rite-Cell  
 Telescoping cover with inner lid  
 Bottom board with reducer (NO BEES) AND How to Get Start-ed FREE.  
 (You will want to get this so you are ready when your bees arrive.)

Bees will be available 14th 2016 (depending on weather)

Deposit of \$75.00 when you place order.  
 (Place order early before we're sold out)  
 Curtis Barnhart  
 PO Box 70  
 Monticello IA 52310

**Package Bees for Sale**

3-lb packages with an unmarked Italian queen. Load scheduled May 11. Call 319-321-2494, website [www.kalonahoney.com](http://www.kalonahoney.com) or by email [kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com](mailto:kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com).  
 1-9=\$115/ea; 10-99=\$110; 100+= \$105; (no cage deposits or refunds)  
 Extra mated queens= 1-9 \$30 ea; 10-99= \$30 ea; 100+= \$25 ea.  
 Tim Wilbanks, West Chester

**BREAKING NEWS.....****COOKBOOKS ARE IN,  
COOKBOOKS ARE IN!!**

I gave the final approval on the cook-book on March 30th and just received notice today (April 13th) that the cookbooks are ready for pick-up!! The company we worked with was incredible!!

Here's the deal.....the cost of the cookbooks are going to retail at \$10.00 per book. An IHPA member can buy a case of 30 books for \$150.00. Anything less than 30 books will be at full retail of \$10.00 per book. So with buying a case you are getting the books at \$5.00 per book. What a deal!!

Connie and Kurt Bronnenberg and Jodi and Roy Kraft will have boxes of books available. The books will be available at the Summer Field Day in Goodell, Iowa on June 11th, if you would like to pick them up there. If you need a full box of 30, contact Connie and Kurt Bronnenberg or Jodi and Roy Kraft. (see back page for contact info).

Hope you enjoy the NEW IHPA cookbook!!





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Greetings beekeepers, members, and friends.

As I sit in my truck waiting to load pigs, I will get started on my May message. I can't help but look at the extended forecast for the rest of April here, (it is April 6th as I write this) and believe we may see a very cool and wet start to the 2016 beekeeping season. I sincerely hope I'm wrong. What I do know is I'm finding more mites than I can believe, for my hives seem like they are doing what they should do, but I wish I knew where these mites come from. I'm forced to treat all this spring. I'm confident that Hop Guard 2 will make a huge difference. It really turned around a lot of nucs last year for me. My advice: you just got to do some ether rolls and know where your mite levels are.

I am very excited for the spring, summer, and honey extraction this year as a lot of stuff happens, like summer field day, new cook book, Iowa State Fair, and all the honey--I can't believe it all sells but it disappears off my shelf. I for the first time have had honey to sell in the spring and it seems people want it in spring just like the fall. My sales have been good and it makes it easier to purchase some much-needed supplies when cash is flowing in too!! I hope you are experiencing the same. Seems the BBQ people are making their sauces and honey is a foundation ingredient.

May puts us just a few weeks away from summer field day. It's June 11th!! Get signed up!! I will let you in on a secret: just think "new cook book"!

Just beyond that is Iowa State Fair. Now's the time where we members need to start planning to contact Heidi, and get our names on the times we can volunteer for the IHPA booth. My wife and I were planning a Canadian fishing trip this September; however, things are not working out to do that so it has been canceled. I am hoping I will be able to be at the fair more. I'm still working on that. Please don't wait till last minute to sign up as this makes us all have too many headaches! There are some changes the board and I are going to implement this year. I will let the committees tell this. You will just have to read The Buzz to find out what they are. The state fair can be a fun place to help out making lemonade, giving samples or just sacking purchased goods. I almost forgot: talking about bees at the observation hives! Wow, please don't ask me where my favorite is as I really enjoy working here, there, and around, and seeing all of us come together for this common cause. If you are new and really don't know if you should or not, sign up, and we will make you feel right at home. You have never seen a lemonade stand like this one!

The month of May brings us to the start of swarming season. I try to start my first queens in May. I will be working with my nicot system more this year and purchasing more equipment to give this a serious try. I plan on

class and to post. Watch Facebook, and maybe I can squeeze some in here.

May can be a great time to review all the classes at the state fair to show some honey, comb, wax, and start planning what you can do. There is time yet to get a comb honey super ready. I still have many yet to prepare, an observation hive can still be built and bees put in for the fair. Quit wondering if I can, JUST DO IT. Folks, it is like this, you are only a first-year show person for one year! I cannot put to words all I have picked up because I showed honey and other stuff at the state fair. The friendly competition between friends is just pure clean fun. That's why I'm writing about it because we need more pure, clean fun in the world today.

I had a dream of mine last Saturday night come true I have been working on for several years. The Boone River Beekeeping Club started. We had our first meeting in Fort Dodge. I am grateful for Yvonne McCormick for not only being my secretary for my class but for stepping up and keeping everyone informed with email. Yvonne, thank you for helping here. I believe we had around 20 people and we will be meeting every 3rd Saturday night. Keeping it simple and informative are big issues for this club. Meetings are not real long--like 90 minutes or so. Fun to go to, that's what we will be. I'm very happy about what happened and can't wait for another one to come around. See us on Facebook, we are there.

I will draw this to a close, but I want to say again, check your mite levels this spring. Spending some money on eradicating varroa in the spring will, I feel, make you more money than just about anything else you can do. Read about the new discoveries about them. They are causing more issues than we talk about. Getting aggressive in the spring before hives explode their population makes a lot of sense, I feel. Treating a very small hive is cheap and I think more effective. Just my opinion. I'm a beekeeper speaking from what I did last year and I will do it again because I was happy with the results.

It has taken all day for me to write this with all my interrupting calls, loading, unloading, driving, and once again it's time for some sleep. You all sleep good as I plan to. More next month!

Roy Kraft, IHPA President





## Membership Dues

Our membership year is January through December. If your Buzz has an expiration date of 12/31/2015, this could be your last Buzz Newsletter.

Membership dues are \$20 for the first beekeeper in the house and \$5 for each additional beekeeper. One Buzz Newsletter will be mailed per address. A membership with multiple members is considered beekeepers living at the same address.

All payments received as 2/15/2016 have been posted and reflected in this mailing. If you believe your dues have been paid, please contact Rhonda Heston at [R.Heston@yahoo.com](mailto:R.Heston@yahoo.com) or leave a message at 515-724-2124.

## Remembering Eves Cadwallader

by Del and Fern Nelson

Eves Cadwallader of Oskaloosa, IA passed quietly away on March 2, 2016. Our first memory of Eves was when we attended a Back to Basics bee meeting in the basement of his church in Oskaloosa. Eves had started the club originally around his and his wife Lola's dining room table. We were impressed with all the information gleaned from beekeepers just sitting and talking about bees. Eves could always ask the right questions to keep the conversation going and on track. It was an enjoyable and enlightening experience. He mentored many new beekeepers giving constant encouragement and praise. Never boastful - his love of beekeeping was contagious.

Back to Basics out grew the church basement and is now at the Extension building in Oskaloosa. When his health was failing, Eves handed over the gavel but faithfully attended every meeting still asking questions and giving praise.

While living in the farm house where he was born, Eves continued beekeeping and proudly purchased a four wheeler to assist him tending his hives. Del would inspect his hives and tell him what the bees looked like, where was the queen and how they were doing. (Eves always asking questions!) Lola would graciously invite him for lunch or cookies.

During our visit to the farm last summer, we found Eves and Lola picking from their nearby garden and loading the bounty one by one to the precious four wheeler. We shared pressure cooking and canning stories and as always - beekeeping. A memorable last visit to their home.

In remembrance of Eves, we invite everyone to keep his



Joy Westercamp sends in this picture showing how interested little ones are when they get to see bees up close and personal. Joy is the Southeast Iowa Honey Queen. She and her mentors, Vern and Doris Ramsey, spoke to over 400 school kids at Cardinal Elementary School Ag Day. The topics they covered included basic honey bee biology, equipment and protective gear, pollination, and honey production.



## A FEW NOTES FROM THE ALBUQUERQUE MEETING

In a nutshell, the main focus of this meeting was Varroa mites and insecticides. Dennis Van Englesdorp characterized the fall increase in Varroa population as the “Varroa Bomb.” They are blaming the high mite counts on mite-carrying bees migrating in from colonies that are crashing because it doesn’t meet the model they have on population development. This may be but we have been seeing this fall mite jump for years. Most of our yards are in areas where there are no other beekeepers. Whatever the cause, the mite load will jump exponentially in the fall. If you do not control this, your bees will die. The rule of thumb for some years has been that half of the mites are in the brood. It can be much higher than that. Researchers now acknowledge this. If you hit a cycle where 80% of the mites are in the brood, your mite count can jump from 3% to 15% in the time it takes for the brood to emerge. That’s from day 9 to day 24 if you include the drone brood. The likelihood of saving that colony is pretty remote.

Conventional wisdom now says that your bees will die if the mite load gets over 5%. While it has been my goal for some years to stay below that level, it didn’t happen this year. Our load ran 5% to 6% through the fall. We got the mites knocked down but it took three treatments. We fed syrup and protein supplement and they brooded up after the final mite treatment but we don’t know if we have enough young healthy bees to get through the winter. We will know when we tally the death loss in the spring.

It has been found that high levels of CO2 can be detrimental to mites. Confined winter clusters can raise the CO2 level to 6% or 7%. Bees can withstand 8% but may die at 12%. There was a story about a beekeeper driving his loader into a winter storage building to take the

bees out. The loader died because there was not enough oxygen left in the air. The bees were okay, though.

A researcher at BYU is looking at phages as a possible solution to

American Foulbrood. AFB is caused by bacteria. A phage is the worst enemy that bacteria has.

It was described as looking like a microscopic lunar lander. It attaches itself to the bacteria and kills it. Each phage will only attach itself to specific bacteria. The research is in the early stage but it does work. Honeybees have a proventriculus behind their honey stomach that can filter out some of the foulbrood spores. When the spores become too numerous, they wind up getting fed to the larva and foulbrood results.

There were reports of neonics being found in surface water. This was no big surprise since they are water soluble and move with the ground water. At the present time, insecticides are not my major problem. Down the road, it is my fear that we are creating a toxic cocktail in the ground. I am not against insecticides but I think we need to be lot smarter about how we use them.

Jonathan Lungren was a presenter at the meeting. He worked for the USDA in South Dakota (note past tense). His research suggested that neonics posed a threat to pollinators. He gave interviews to this effect. This made him a bad boy in the eyes of the USDA. Harassment began. In the end, he walked away from his job as a lead scientist. He has instigated a whistleblower case against the USDA. This was all covered in an article in the Washington Post.

Jonathan also worked with farmers to produce an environment favorable to pollinators and improve soil health. These farmers were able to increase their revenue per acre. He is now trying to raise funds to continue his work on a private basis. Check him out at [www.bluedasher.farm](http://www.bluedasher.farm) or [www.ecdysis.bio](http://www.ecdysis.bio). He is a very dynamic guy. Jonathan’s fate is similar to what befell Jeff Pettis. Jeff was asked to resign as the head of the Beltsville lab. It was another case of getting the “wrong” results..

The last session of the final day covered what was happening with honey prices and the flood of imported “honey” coming into the US. Annual US consumption is somewhere north of 400,000,000 pounds. Imports will probably exceed that amount in 2016 if the present rate continues. This is in addition to a US crop of somewhere around 140,000,000 pounds. If you are a big producer with a warehouse full of honey, you have a problem. Good local honey can still bring top dollar, though.





Featured Beekeeper of the Month

I never thought I'd be a beekeeper. Now I can't imagine doing anything else. My name is Diana Bucklin and I have worked for Ebert Honey about 5 years.



One of my favorite times of the season is coming up.

PACKAGED BEES!!! When it's spring, and bees are in the air!



I like getting to see everyone and hearing their tales. Beekeepers are a unique and genuine group. I love hearing the "ole timers" giving "newbies" advice. Whether you're a hobbyist or run a large apiary, our goals are the same: keeping bees alive.



## T-Shirts, T-Shirts, T-Shirts

How does your IHPA T-Shirt look? Getting a little worn around the neck, a little faded or have bee specks all over it because you wore it to check on the girls without a veil?

We have T-Shirts! We have the yellow traditional shirts in all sizes from youth small to adult 3XL. These have the small IHPA logo on the left front with the large IHPA logo on the back.

We also have Keep Calm and Keep Bees t-shirts. We have these sizes and colors in stock:

Youth – Yellow and Gray - small to med (we have large on the way)

Adult – Yellow and Gray – small through 3XL

Adult – Hot Pink – small through 2XL

Adult – Lime Green – small through 2XL

Adult – Black – small through 2XL

Adult – CAMO – very limited number Adult Small, Adult Medium, Adult 2XL.

The shirts are priced as follows:

Youth	\$10
Adult small through XL	\$12
Adult 2XL & 3XL	\$15

CAMO shirts are \$17 each for adult small and medium and \$20 for 2XL. For each shirt please add \$5 shipping.

Mail your check with the size and color to: Rhonda Heston, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049. Please call 515-724-2124 for availability of the CAMO shirts or with any other questions.

## Are you missing a jacket?

One was found after the annual meeting in Marshalltown in November. It has “Holiday Express Corp” printed on it. If this is yours please contact Rhonda Heston by phone or email. She will make arrangements to get this to you. — r.heston@yahoo.com. Ph. 515-724-2124



## A Tour of a Magazine

I got finished putting together the May Buzz, and I had some space. What to do? I decided to jot a few lines about something I think is really important—reading!

Beekeeping is a hobby that requires some reading, I find. Years ago, I subscribed to a bee journal, and then I let that subscription expire and paid for another subscription, and I finally settled on the American Bee Journal, supported by the Dadant folks. Now I look forward to its coming each month, and I learn SO much each month.

So the point of this little article is to encourage beginning beeks to get a journal coming to your house. And then take some time to study it for a while.

Warning: Some of the articles in any magazine are rather scientific. Don't like science? I don't, but I need to know stuff about my little girls. So I read the articles and sort out the stuff that's needful to keep bees better. One topic that better be at the top of your list of must-reads is anything about varroa. We all have to become experts at killing these little curse-of-the-earths. Just read the summaries at the end of each article if you like, but learn all you can about varroa, and then go out and treat those hives!

Meanwhile, the rest of the ABJ is chock full of fun stuff about other beeks. Some very entertaining, but all teaching you helpful information. Jerry Hayes answers any question in The Classroom, and is always patient with the most basic question. Jamie Ellis and Keith Delaplane will teach you a few new words, and Randy Oliver will take you up a level in beekeeping every time. I even love to read the ads, because I hate to shop in stores...

So if you're one of the many, many new beeks that are starting this marvelous hobby for the first time, get connected with a magazine and get that coming to the house. Read it. Keep each issue on a closet shelf, because the info is so important. It's a great investment!

So READ! Because the lives of our girls depends on it!

Ron Rynders, Editor.



## Hello Everyone!

Update on the IHPA quilt.

Thank you to EVERYONE who took packets of material at the November 2015 Annual Meeting. Blocks were to be made and sent in to Jodi Kraft by March 1st or shortly thereafter.

As of this writing (March 30th), the quilt is half made, I will be finishing the quilt top in the next several weeks and getting it to the volunteer to quilt.

This has been fun to see what blocks people created and where they all fell into the quilt top. Looking forward to seeing it quilted and at the Annual Meeting in November of 2016.

Once again at the Annual Meeting this next year (2016) we will have packets ready to go again for 2017 quilt, so be ready to sew!!

Thank you again everyone!!

Jodi Kraft

IHPA Quilt Chairperson

## DISTRICT 6 REPORT—DAVE KORVER

Another major outbreak in Northwest Iowa again. Not chicken flu this time, but bee fever! Yes, it's been confirmed. It's bee fever, and it affects mostly the age group from early teens to late 70's.

For me, it's very good knowing that I am not the only one with the disease; there were 43 confirmed cases and more soon to come. Hopefully this will spread like wildflowers. As one of the members on the board, it was very good seeing so many people catching it from each other.

The first meeting of the Siouxland Beekeepers met on the fourth Tuesday of March, and we'll meet every 4th Tuesday going forward at the Extension Office in Orange City. One of our members, James Strickland, summarized our purpose: "We need to be a diverse group of bee enthusiasts teaming together to improve the health of bees in our region, allowing everyone in Siouxland to benefit from this amazing part of creation." All the people in the group are trying to learn from each other and work together for one goal: strong healthy bees. We want to partner with the area farmers for a cleaner environment where all of God's creation can live and flourish together.



## Hello IHPA members,

I wanted to give an update regarding the cookbook.

Here's what I know....Everything is currently (as of March 30th) at the cookbook company!! They will be printing soon. This cookbook has 464 recipes. Yes, I said 464 recipes!! It will be spiral bound, with mylar-coated dividers. Final pricing will be done as soon as we see the printed copy and will let you know in a future newsletter what that pricing is. As in the past, if you buy a full box, your pricing gets better. We know several people do this for selling at Farmer's Markets and elsewhere. More on that once again when we get the books.

Hope you plan on picking up your copy at the IHPA Summer Field Day in Goodell, IA the first part of June. If you want to pick up your box (boxes) of recipes at the Summer Field Day, bring your checkbook and please let Roy (515-293-2458) or Jodi Kraft (515-293-2476) know how many so that the supplies may be brought to you then. Connie and Curt Bronnenberg will also have boxes at their store after Summer Field Day for sure.

I want to give a huge THANK YOU!!! to everyone who submitted recipes. From 1 to many were submitted. I was truly in awe of the response from so many. I want to give a Thank You to Alex Ebert for running it in the Buzz for as long as he did because as the time got closer to March 1st deadline, we needed the reminder and it helped a lot.

There were incentives for submitting recipes. Watch your mailbox for those who were drawn to receive an incentive prize. Rhonda will be taking care of this soon.

Once again thank you everyone for submitting recipes!! Also to my committee Connie Bronnenberg, Becky Elsbernd, Heidi Love and Rhonda Heston. It's been an interesting adventure but one that I thoroughly enjoyed. Thank goodness for doing things via the computer, saved so much on postage, mileage, etc.

Jodi Kraft, IHPA Cookbook Chairperson



## Hello, Beekeepers!

Just a quick reminder that our April meeting is quickly approaching! Remember, we switched this month to Thursday, April 14th, at 6:30 pm at Lime Creek Nature Center! This is so we could better accommodate our wonderful state Apiarist, Andy Joseph, who will be our featured presenter. Andy will be talking about diseases, pest control, inspections, rules and regulations and a myriad of other topics. We are so pleased he could join us this month and we hope to see everyone there!

Also, this will be our final meeting for the season. If you're still looking for a "buzz" to get your beekeeping fix, don't forget about the Iowa Honey Producers Association Field Day, that is coming up on Saturday, June 11th, 2016! Registration begins at 8:30 and the program runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Greg McMahan, aka "The Bee Guru", from Colorado and Iowa State Apiarist Andy Joseph will be the featured presenters!

The event will start off at the Goodell Community Center, which is located at:

315 Broadway Street

Goodell, IA 50439

Some of the activities will also take place at the home of Pat and Peggy Ennis, which is just east of Goodell a few miles. Cost for the event is \$35.00 for IHPA members if registered before May 28th and \$40 thereafter. The cost is \$40.00 for non-members if registered before May 28th and \$45.00 after.

Lunch is provided along with bottled water, soda and honey lemonade! Everyone is asked to bring a dessert item to share and don't forget to bring your bee suit!

Next, I want to correct a significant error on my part. When I sent out the recap of last month's meeting, my fat fingers inadvertently typed the name wrong of the new editor of The Buzz. The new editor's name is RON RYNDER. Sorry for the misprint and thanks to Roy Kraft for noticing so we can give credit where credit is due!

Along with that, the new IHPA website is up and running! In case you missed it, the new website is now [www.iowahoneyproducers.org](http://www.iowahoneyproducers.org) ! As before a link to "The Buzz" can be found at the top of the page! The new website name will make our parent organization much easier to find for web surfers and will ultimately give us a better online presence with a name that is much more representative of the association. Hats off to Ron and the IHPA Board for their efforts!

Lastly, with the weather slowly getting better for bees, I hope everyone's bee yards are "buzzing" with activity and everyone has a bumper honey crop this year! We hope to see you all this Thursday, April 14th, 6:30 pm at Lime Creek Nature Center!

Until then, Keep Calm and Keep Bees!

Respectfully,

Peter J. Bieber, Secretary/Reporter

North Iowa Beekeepers Club



## Greetings from your Vice President,

This month I am starting with a quote which says, "Honey bees must tap two hundred flowers to make one drop of honey...Remember: The sweetest rewards come from the hardest struggle." ~Nina (not sure who Nina is but am thinking she must be a beekeeper who understands)

If you are a 'newbee' to this honey bee adventure, then you may be facing some struggles. You may be wondering...

...Am I doing this right? ...What do I do next?...Will I ever be able to see an egg?...Was that the queen or just a drone?...Am I opening the hive too often?...Is there enough food in nature to feed all these bees?...What are those extra boxes for?...When do you add the honey super? ...Loving the looks of that lime green frame. Maybe I should add some of them! (Please don't!)...Etc. Etc. Etc.

Let me assure you that you are not alone in this grand adventure. You may feel as if you are struggling, but with anything new, that is just fine. All of us have had the same questions, , whether we remember our early years in beekeeping or not! And, we survived and still thrive. That doesn't mean we don't still struggle. Beekeeping is not an exact science. What we did last year or the year before is probably not exactly what we are doing now. But, just like the bee keeps going from flower to flower to make just one drop of honey, we keep going too. Sweet rewards follow the struggle.

If I could offer any advice for you 'newbees' out there, it would be to get yourself a mentor. Find another beekeeper who will offer you some advice and encouragement. Veteran beekeepers, find a 'newbee' and help them. When you get the call, say "YES!" We have learned so much from our mentors (and still do!) and we love sharing with others. Both being a mentor and having a mentor are very important to us and have been so beneficial. Another piece of advice is to take advantage of every opportunity you can to further your beekeeping education.

One such upcoming event for you to learn from fellow beekeepers, have hand-on exposure to bees, gain some tricks of the beekeeping trade, and hear inspiring speakers is coming. The IHPA Summer Field Day is an opportunity for you to learn, learn, learn. We have Gregg McMahan coming from Colorado to share his expertise with us as a beekeeper and swarm catcher. He is known as 'the Bee Guru' and will enlighten us with his knowledge in the morning. In the afternoon, you will be able to get into some hives with Pat Ennis and do a thorough hive inspection. Andrew Joseph, our very own state apiarist, is going to open up hives and help you identify the Varroa Destructor Mite and discuss the various treatment options.

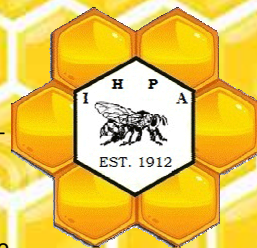
To top it all off, you can learn what to do with the wax you have been storing all these years with Peggy Ennis. This all happens in Goodell, Iowa on Saturday, June 11th. Registration is at 8:30. Lunch will be provided but you do have the option of sharing a delicious dessert if you wish. Take advantage of learning from others and getting hands-on experience with someone else's bees!! Mark your calendar, fill in that registration, and get it sent in!

While you are in your calendar, mark November 11th and 12th at the Iowa Honey Producers Association Conference and Annual Meeting in Cedar Rapids. This is another exceptional opportunity for you to learn from some of the best. James Tew and Jennifer Berry are the keynote speakers and will be inspiring all of us. Check them both out online, in the Bee Culture, or the American Bee Journal.

Finally, just bee yourself and enjoy this adventure. There is a reason so many of us keep coming back for more year after year after year! It is FUN! Frustrating at times, but, oh so fun. Yes, it can be a struggle but if you believe in yourself, read, research, rely on others, and relax (take a deep breath!), you'll bee fine! In reality, the bee has a much tougher job than we do and they do it in such a dignified way. Let's just follow their example and keep on buzzin'! The rewards are sweet!

Until next time, 'Bee' grateful, 'Bee' blessed, and 'Bee' a blessing,

Mary Wiltgen



## Save the Dates

### *IHPA Summer Field Days*

*June 11, 2016*

*Goodell, Iowa*

### *104<sup>th</sup> IHPA Annual Meeting*

*November 11-12, 2016*

*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

## Legislative update:

In March, I relayed information on a few bills that were related to bee keeping and honey production. As of April 6, 2016, only one remains live in the Senate.

SF 2290, a bill related to pesticide drift incidents, would enact online reporting (the internet takes reports 24/7!) and move field sample testing to the State Hygienic Lab. The background I was given was that currently, IDALS Pesticide Bureau conducts drift investigations, and drift reporting must be done via phone during business hours. Analysis of field samples takes 6 - 8 months, which can amount to an entire season, devastating the income for food crop producers such as IHPA members.

My understanding is that the State Hygienic Lab currently performs the same or similar analysis for the Depts. of Ag in the states of Missouri and Nebraska and gets results sent in 2 - 3 weeks. This is a large contrast to the service that the state gives to its own residents. It is also being pitched as a revenue savings, as the Pesticide Bureau and Hygienic Lab offer redundant services. [I thought it was fun to contrast the Hygienic Lab website [www.shl.uiowa.edu](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu) and to that of the Pesticide Bureau <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/pesticides.asp>.]

SF 2290 began as SSB 3125 on Feb. 9, 2016. If you tracked this bill, you will see that it moved from being a Senate Study Bill (SSB) introduced to the Natural Resources and Environment committee (Schoenjahn (Chair), Zumbach, Kinney), moved to subcommittee, then voted to pass on to Appropriations under Senate File SF 2290 in about two weeks' time. It was recorded as follows, which I include in the hopes that you care about the bill enough to contact those involved:

Recommendation: APPROVED COMMITTEE BILL.  
Final Vote: Ayes, 8: Dearden, Brase, Bolkcom, Kinney, Petersen, Ragan, Schoenjahn, and Seng.

Nays, 5: Rozenboom, Behn, Johnson, Shipley, and Zumbach. Absent, none.

Ways and Means then moved SF 2290 to Appropriations, which is where the bill sits as of this writing. Appropriations is waiting for input from both the Hygienic Lab and the Pesticide Bureau before taking further action. It seems fair and makes sense to me to give the players a say in how changes may occur.

How can you track and learn about bills on your own? My personal path was through forming personal relationships. I reached out to state legislators, my own and those working in my areas of interest. You can do this any way you wish, as the legislators are overall quite accessible. They simply wish to meet you where you are at, be it over the phone, in person, or by email. I believe that old fashioned letter writing is effective only in the off-season. Things move so very, very quickly during legislative session that paper isn't useful. Some legislators have Facebook pages and Twitter accounts. A few are my Facebook "friends." Once I connect to my people, I ask them to support things that I support. They might respond with a share (talk to so and so, who is the head of that subcommittee or sponsor of that bill) or send you to the internet for bill tracking:  
<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

Julia McGuire



## 2016 IHPA State Fair Bid Sheet

Bids must be received by Thursday, June 30, 2016. All liquid honey must be from 2016 harvest. Honey must be no more than 18.5% moisture. All glass honey containers and creamed honey must have a protection seal. All plastic containers must have a pressure seal. This includes all large containers. All bottled, liquid honey must be free of foreign materials, with no foam, sticky jars and even filling. All products must show proper labeling – i.e. name, address and net weight. All beeswax products, candles, ornaments, blocks, etc, must be packaged to maintain cleanliness and for presentation.

The following items will be paid a flat rate:

12 oz honey bear	\$ 3.37
24 oz honey bear	\$ 5.45
1 pound plastic	\$ 4.20
1 pound glass	\$ 4.50
2 pound glass	\$ 7.60
5 pound jug	\$15.30
12 pound jug (Gallon)	\$32.50

MINIMUM QUANTITY IS 24 BOTTLES (ONE CASE) OF ANY PRODUCT

Cut comb must be in a sealed plastic box, well drained without liquid honey. The following quality standards will be used (clean capping with all cells capped). We will pay \$5.50 per unit of cut comb, which weighs at least 14oz.

Clamshells meeting quality standards will be paid \$5.00 per unit.

Ross Rounds meeting quality standards will be paid \$4.00 per unit.

Lip balms, lotions and soaps – please provide your bid price per item and the quantity you will be able to provide. As you may not be able to provide enough for the entire fair, the booth may use several suppliers based on the number of items supplied.

Please remember, you are able to bid on any items, but you must show the quantity of each item you are able to supply and your bid price.

You must deliver products to the booth. Please plan to deliver your products between Sunday and Wednesday. All products must be received prior Fair opening at 9:00 am Thursday morning. Please provide an invoice when product is delivered. Please make plans to pick up unsold product on Sunday evening between 9:00 10:00 pm or Monday between 8:00 and 12 Noon. Any items not listed on the bid sheet or specialty items you wish to bid, is up to the discretion of the booth manager, based on counter space and the ability to supply. (i.e. buckwheat honey, bee related items, etc.)



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

for some upcoming IHPA meetings/events in 2016:

**Advanced Beekeeping Classes** April / May if enough interest

**Annual Field Day**, Summer 2016, IHPA Board Meeting following Field Day Activities June 11th, 2016

Bids due for **Iowa State Fair**, June 30, 2016

Iowa State Fair, August 11-21, 2016

IHPA Board Meeting, September 25th, 2016

**IHPA Annual Meeting**, November 11-12, 2016

## The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to [rrihpa@gmail.com](mailto:rrihpa@gmail.com)

Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250

**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.



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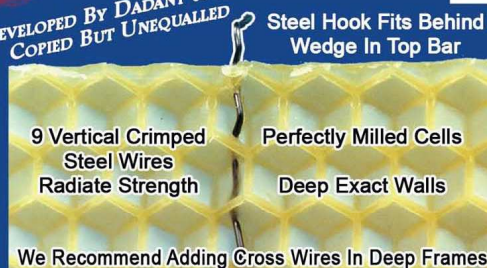
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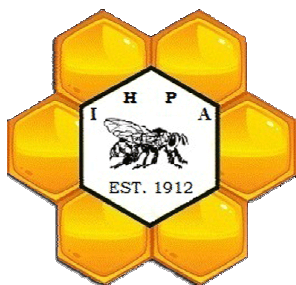
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# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
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## Iowa Beekeeping Clubs

### Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

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[marshalljt@wildblue.net](mailto:marshalljt@wildblue.net)

### Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

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Home phone 515/597-3060  
Cell phone 515/450-9494  
[alfoell@huxcomm.net](mailto:alfoell@huxcomm.net)

### Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Julia McGuire  
515-988-1828  
[desmoinesbackyardbeekeepers.org](mailto:desmoinesbackyardbeekeepers.org)

### East Central Iowa Beekeepers

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2254 S. Riverside Dr.  
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### Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa

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### Great River Bend Beekeepers

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### Loess Hills Beekeeping Association

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### North Iowa Bee Club

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### Red Rock Beekeepers

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National Honey Board: [www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com)

American Honey Producers Association: [www.ahpanet.com](http://www.ahpanet.com)

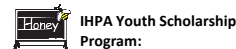
American Beekeeping Federation: [www.ABFnet.org](http://www.ABFnet.org)

## IHPA Programs



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