



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



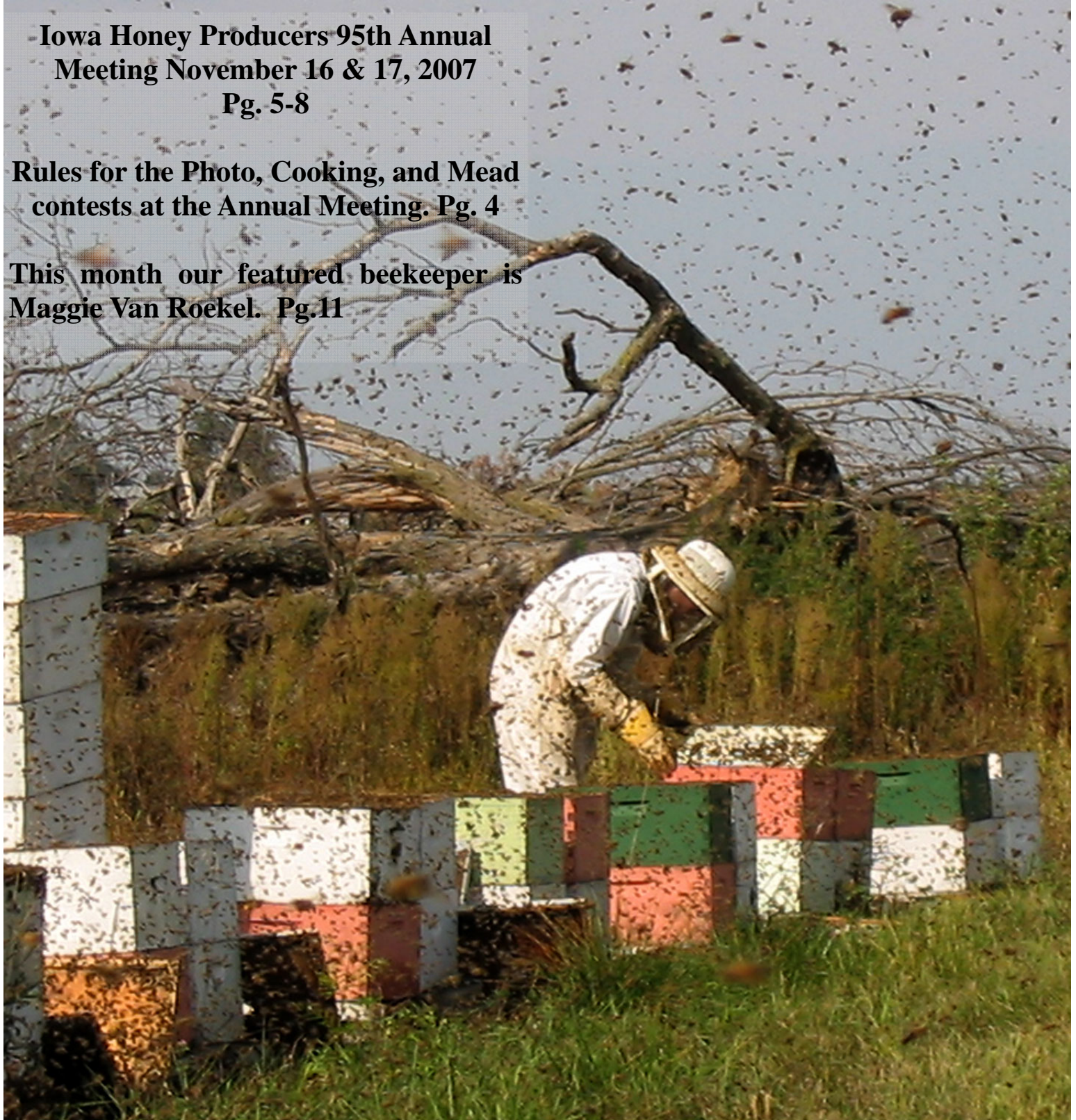
November 2007

**Iowa Honey Producers 95th Annual
Meeting November 16 & 17, 2007**

Pg. 5-8

**Rules for the Photo, Cooking, and Mead
contests at the Annual Meeting. Pg. 4**

**This month our featured beekeeper is
Maggie Van Roekel. Pg.11**





Dates to BEE Remembered:

November 15th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
IHPA Board meeting at the Best Western Regency Inn in Marshalltown

November 16th & 17th, 2007
IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA

January 9-12, 2008 in Sacramento.
National Beekeeping Conference

To add an important date to the list, contact the Buzz by email at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

For Sale: Maxant 1400P Radial Extractor. Holds 10 deep or 20 shallow frames. Large cappings tank to match extractor. \$350 for both.

Galen Eiben
30867 235th Street
Shell Rock, IA 50670
319-885-6264

For Sale:
Two-Story Hives; \$120.00 ea. this fall
6 5/8 Supers; \$13.00 ea.
Queen Excluders; \$3.00 ea
1973 Ford F-600 with new 12' bed plus tailgate lift; \$4,000.00

Richard Blake
2133 E Ave.
Shenandoah, IA 51601
712-246-3412
njb1@swiowa.net

FOR SALE:

A. I. Root 2 frame extractor,
Hand crank, galvanized

Contact Louie Ferguson at
712-792-5104 or e-mail
ferguson5104@msn.com

For Sale: Corn syrup for fall feeding--by the bucket or by the barrel. Call for pricing. Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

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

For Sale: Clean 5 gallon buckets with lids--1-9, \$1.75 each; 10+, \$1.50 contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639

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

IHPA T-Shirts (*These are membership prices. Non-member prices are available on request.*)

The t-shirts are a bright yellow shirt with brown lettering.

Youth	size (S) (M) (L) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$ 8.50	\$ _____
Adult	size (S) (M) (L) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$ 9.00	\$ _____
Adult	size (XL) (XXL) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$10.00	\$ _____

Shipping is \$3.00 per shirt, or
\$5.00 for two shirts.

Shipping \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____



*An IHPA t-shirt makes
a great gift for bee
enthusiast of all ages!*

Make checks payable to:
IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Send form and check to:
J. Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer
4012 54th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310-1815

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

This year has flown by just like all of our honey bees have been flying because of the nice weather. They have been frantically looking for nectar, but finding none, we have been feeding them. The weather has been so unpredictable, nice one day, but fierce the next. We sure hope that Phil Ebert has been able to get his fall work completed with the unexpected tornado that touched down at his home.

Last month I told you about Mike's adventure of forgetting to put the new queens into the nuc boxes, this time I have to tell you about my "mess". I was putting a box of filled honey jars into my car during a downpour of rain, trying to balance the umbrella and an overflowing box of honey when I successfully opened the car door, set the box on the front seat and watched the gallon of honey on the top of the box topple over onto the floor on the driver's side of my "new" car. I probably said something I shouldn't have and walked around the car to pick up the honey. I was really soaked from the rain when I cleaned up the mess! The lid had broken when it hit the gear shift and honey streamed out of the container. So much for the new car. It ranked right up there with the deer trying to jump over it a few weeks ago. I have hoof scrapes down the drivers side. At least there wasn't significant damage.

Last month I was so positive that we would have a State Apiarist by this time. I was actually excited and able to think that I would not have to field as many questions and find out answers for people that I didn't even think about the possibility that not one of the 29 applicants for the job would be qualified. I talked with Maury Wills and found out that only one had any experience with honey

bees and that person decided not to relocate. The other applicants just thought that the job would "be interesting". IDALS is re-posting the position and let's just hope and pray that someone applies for the job that is qualified this time.

The State Apiarist position, or should I say lack of a State Apiarist, has caused me some extra time and energy to identify people to fill the requests. I should explain that I get lots of requests for people to capture swarms, look at homes or buildings that contain honey bees and tell the home owners what to do about the bees taking up residence in their home, people want to purchase local honey or to put local honey into stores, people want to start beekeeping, etc. I have asked in the past for a list of members that would be willing to do these things. I have to look through the membership, decide who is closest to the caller and then find out if they would be willing to work with these people. We need members to identify themselves to the board so that we can successfully match up these requests. Please consider letting us know what it is that you would be willing to help us do to fill these requests. I know that Iowa isn't as large as some states, but when we need someone to get to a swarm or help a person out, it is hard for me to identify who would be interested by looking at a list of people. I am sorry, but I don't know everyone personally and I can't identify everyone by a name all of the time. A name doesn't tell me how long you have been a beekeeper, whether you have the time or desire to do these things or not. Please let a board member know if you would be willing to help out. Let's talk about this at the annual meeting and get a list going. We don't know if we will have a State Apiarist in the near future or not and that person is going to need a list to

start with anyway. We have had such a renewed interest in beekeeping because of all of the publicity recently that we can't afford to let these people down and not fulfill the requests unless it is absolutely necessary.

I hope everyone is able to attend the Annual Meeting in Marshalltown on November 16th and 17th at the Best Western Regency Inn. The registration form has been in the past issue and the meeting looks to be a great one. Let's support OUR organization, the Iowa Honey Producers Association and have a wonderful turn-out.

The first year of Youth Scholarship winners will receive certificates if they have successfully completed the terms of their agreement at the banquet during the annual meeting and we have a new group of scholarship winners to identify. The youth program is the future of our great organization. Let's support them in any way we can.

We will also award some recognition to some hard-working individuals and long-time members and also say good-bye to a very wonderful Iowa Honey Queen, Chelsa Bronnenberg. She will crown a young lady to carry on the tradition of having stellar representation in the honey queen program. Come to find out who will be receiving awards at the banquet.

I hope everyone has a truly THANKFUL Thanksgiving season with family and friends. Let's start the holiday early by attending the Annual Meeting to show our appreciation for this organization and the officers and board members who work so hard for you.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President



Rules for the Photo Contest at the IHPA Annual Meeting

Photos must be matted but not framed. Any size photo will be accepted for this competition. Please put your name on the backside of the photo.

Categories to be submitted will include:

Bee On Flower
General Beekeeping
Marketing or Promotion
Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey
Swarms

Rules for the Cooking with Honey contest at the IHPA Annual Meeting

Honey is to be the only sweetener. Please submit your recipe with your entry (Judges will keep recipes to be included in the BUZZ). Put your name on the back of the recipe card.

Categories to be submitted will include:

Desserts
Bars or Cookies
Drinks
Cakes
Breads
Appetizers or Snacks

Entries could be judged on:
(Judges reserve the right to determine how best to judge the entries)

Presentation of entry
Best use of honey
Amount of honey used (compared to other entries in category)
Flavor of entry
Overall appearance of entry

Mead Contest for the IHPA Annual Meeting

Supply at least two bottles of Mead. Mead will be judged on the rules of the State Fair.

Bring extra bottles of Mead to share at the Wine and Cheese Party by the Pool.



A Word From the Iowa Honey Queen

It seems that the days are flying by. Annual Convention is right around the corner, and then I will be flying to Sacramento, California to compete for Nationals. After the National Convention I will be helping my parents work their bees in the almond groves. I am planning on having my marketing presentation prepared so I can present it at the annual meeting. I have been working on my scrapbook, and am looking forward to showing everyone in Marshalltown. It has been fun scrapping the photo's.

I have been busy promoting the beekeeping industry. Since the last time I wrote I have attended the Central Iowa Beekeepers Meeting in Des Moines. I also was invited to Honey Fest in Cedar Rapids, and I was interviewed by Channel 7 news, and talked to visitors at the Indian Creek Nature Center about all the aspects of beekeeping. I

had the opportunity to go to Donnellson, Iowa and help Vern and Doris Ramsey sell their products at Kathy's Pumpkin Patch. The Patch was a good opportunity to express to people how important pollination is. I explained to several visitors that without honeybees, that Kathy would have not been able to provide 125 varieties of pumpkins, gourds, and squashes. She had an awesome display, along with a 10 acre corn maze. I also went to the Covered Bridge Festival, and helped Pat Randol sell her products. Throughout this next month I am speaking to the elderly, at the Rowely Memorial Masonic Home in Perry about Beekeeping. I will also talk to all the second graders about honeybees, and plan to take an observation hive, along with bee equipment, and products from the bees, I am excited. I always like to talk to the younger age groups. I am going to present information to the Perry Rotary Club about the importance of honey bees, discuss pollination, and Colony Collapse Disorder. I am now currently enrolled in the Reg-

istered Nursing Program at DMACC, in Ankeny. Please do not hesitate to ask me to still help you at an event you are planning. Remember that the Queen program is something that the Iowa Honey Producers raise money to fund, and when you invite a queen to help you, it is at no cost to you. The purpose of the program is promote honey and the beekeeping industry in any way possible. Everyone should take advantage of this program. If you are planning an event, don't hesitate to give me a call, and I would love to assist in any way possible. Contact me by phone at (515)210-1027, or email at Chizel2004@aol.com.

Until Next Time,
Chelsa Bronnenberg
2007 Iowa Honey Queen.



Don't Forget the Queen Auction!



If you're planning on attending the IHPA Annual Meeting, don't forget the silent and live auctions benefitting our Honey Queen Program. These auctions are a great place to find unique bee items and collectables. You'll find everything from t-shirts and handbags to note pads and stationary, from glassware to beekeeping equipment. Also, we have some talented woodworkers in our group who generously share their work with us. Bring something to share and take something home. It's sure to be a fun time for all!

Regina Jager



IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 95th ANNUAL MEETING MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA — NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2007

It's meeting time again! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producer's Association will be held Friday, November 16th and Saturday, November 17th, 2007 in Marshalltown, Iowa at the Best Western Regency Inn located at 3303 South Center Street.

Rooms for the event are available at the Best Western Regency Inn at the rate of 1 adult for \$67.50 or 2 adults for \$72.00. The rooms need to be reserved by October 25th to get the convention special rate and please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms. The telephone number to call is: Best Western (641)752-6321 . The Super 8 Motel's number is (641) 752-3137

We have a full schedule planned as usual. Make plans to enter the photo contest or the foods made with honey contest to show off your skills. There will also be a home mead contest for all of you mead makers.

Some of the speakers for this year include T'Lee Sollenberger , Chuck Norton and Rick Hellmich from ISU to speak on the CCD session held during the Pollination Symposium.

Make your plans now to attend the annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producer's Association on November 16th and 17th, 2007.

**SEE YOU IN MARSHALLTOWN NOVEMBER 16TH AND 17TH FOR FUN,
FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING!!!**



IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 95th ANNUAL MEETING

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA — NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2007

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Phone: (____) _____ County: _____

No. of Colonies: _____ Years Beekeeping: _____ Company Name: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

NOTE: PREREGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING DEAD LINE NOV. 10TH. NO EXCEPTIONS:

Individual:	Registration at meeting will be \$16.00	\$14.00	\$ _____
Family Rate:	Registration at meeting will be \$30.00	\$28.00	\$ _____
BANQUET - Friday night 7:00 P.M.(per person)	Number of tickets _____ X	\$27.50	\$ _____
Lunch on Saturday - (per person)	Number of tickets _____ X	\$18.50	\$ _____

YEAR 2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Iowa Honey Producers Association	includes subscription to "The Buzz"	\$10.00	\$ _____
2nd Family Membership same address	Name: _____	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
3rd Family Membership same address	Name: _____	\$ 5.00	\$ _____

(Year 2008 membership required to vote at Business Meeting)

COOKBOOKS:	<u>QTY</u>	<u>1-9</u>	<u>10 or more</u>	
Iowa Honey Producers Large Green Cook Book	_____	\$4.50	\$3.50	\$ _____
			TOTAL	\$ _____

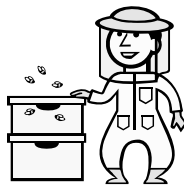
Make Check payable to: Iowa Honey Producers Association
Send Form and Check to: J. Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer
Please fill out form completely: 4012 54th Street Des Moines, Iowa 50310-1815

THE ANNUAL MEETING PREREGISTRATION IS THE SAME PRICES AS LAST YEAR.

THE BANQUET AND LUNCHEON PRICES HAVE INCREASED DUE TO PRICE INCREASES BY THE RESTURANT AS THEIR COST HAVE INCREASED OVER LAST YEAR. THE MEAL COST IS STILL VERY REASONABLE FOR THE FOOD AND THE USE OF THE MOTEL FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING.

NOTE: MEMBERS ARE RESPONSILBLE FOR SENDING IN THEIR OWN MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2003

When sending in your magazine subscription or national association membership be sure to inform them of your membership with Iowa Honey Producers Association and give them the name of the Treasurer. There will be printed magazine ordering forms at the meeting. This should speed up your renewals and still give you the association rate on the magazines. There is no discount on membership to the national associations.



**95th ANNUAL MEETING
IOWA HONEY PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 16 & 17, 2007
BEST WESTERN REGENCY INN
MARSHALLTOWN, IA 50158
641-752-6321**

Friday, November 16th

Morning schedule:

8:00- Registration & silent auction items are due. Must be present in room for door prizes.
(Visit vendors in room E)

Meeting will take place in rooms A & B

8:30- Call to Order and Welcome.....Donna Brahms, President of the IHPA
Introduction of IHPA Board Members and Announcements

-Cooking with Honey & Photo Contest entries due in room F at 10:00

-Silent Auction

8:45- Meet the new State Apiarist.....

9:00- Secretary of Agriculture.....Bill Northey

9:40- Marketing Magic.....T'Lee Sollenberger

10:40- **BREAK - Make a bid on the silent auction items & visit vendors in Rm. E.**

11:00- **Door Prize**

11:05- Africanized bees, are they coming.....Vern Ramsey

11:20- NHB UPDATE.....Lee Heine, Dadant WI

12:00- LUNCH (on your own). You can eat at Mr. G restaurant here in the motel.

Queen Luncheon in Mr. G's. GET TO KNOW THE QUEEN

Afternoon Schedule:

1:00- **Door Prizes**

1:05- Annual Business Meeting (We will have an agenda for the members)

2:45- Cooking Contest Results.....Donna Young, Doris Ramsey Carol Wehr
Photo Contest Results.....someone!

3:00- **BREAK - Make a bid on the silent auction items & visit vendors in Rm. E.**

3:20- **Door Prizes and meeting the Honey Queen candidates**.....Regina Jager

3:40- **What is new on CCD**.....Richard L.Hellmich

4:30- State Fair Exhibitor's (meet in Rm. F)

Silent Auction ends for today – pick up your merchandise.

5:00- **Wine & Cheese welcome (by the pool)**—Time to visit – Compliments of the Marshalltown Convention
& Visitors Bureau (If you made Mead, bring samples.)

6:30- **Banquet (located in rooms C & D)** – The banquet will feature two entrees- BBQ Chicken and Sliced Roast beef, Tossed salad, Marinated Pasta salad, Fresh fruit, Irish parsley potatoes, Glazed Carrots, and Apple Dumpling with Ice cream for Dessert. The cost will be \$28.00 per person with the tax and gratuity included.

Banquet Program:

Introduction of Queen Candidates, Parents and Sponsors.....Regina Jager,
Honey Queen Chair
Awards Presentation.....Donna Young, Chairman of the Awards Committee
Thanks from the Iowa Honey Queen.....Chelsa Bronnenberg
Auction.....Bill Van Roekel
Something is funny about bees.....Chuck Norton
Queen Coronation.....Regina Jager

Good Night!!!!!!



Saturday, November 17th

Morning Schedule

8:00- Registration

Note: Vendors will be packing up around noon today.

8:30- Announcements and Door Prizes.....Pat Ennis
Introduction of IHPA Board Members
Bee inspection report
8:50- Getting Good Queens'Chuck Norton
9:50- **Break - Make a bid on the silent auction items & visit vendors in Rm. E**
10:10- Door **Prizes**
10:15- 2 + 2 + 5 Way's to Improve Your Honey Sales.....T'Lee Sollemberger
11:15- Good Russian Queens.....Chuck Norton
12:00 –**Lunch (\$19.00 tax and gratuity included)** – Roast Pork with Sage Dressing& Gravy, Tossed Salad,
Wild rice, California Blend, and freshly Baked Roll
1:00 – **Silent Auction Ends – collect your treasures!**

2007 Beekeeping Workshops (Rm. A & B)

1:00- – The Good and Bad of Russian Queens.....Manley Bigalk
2:00- - Bug Out! How to organically produce honey products using Integrated Pest
Management Techniques.....T'Lee Sollenberger
3:00- – **OPEN**Someone
4:00- **Adjournment**

Note: There will be a short meeting of 2008 board members and officers in Rm. B
Thank you for coming and Drive Safely!!!!

LET ME SPEND YOUR MONEY



You may think this is a funny name for an article in the Buzz, but that's what I'm doing! I'm spending the money we made at the state fair to try and help educate the beekeepers of Iowa.

Last year, only about 50 to 60 families showed up to enjoy the meetings and to have an enjoyable time. I think we should have more people at the meetings, and thought that it might be my fault that we didn't have more because of bad speakers or poor planning. So I had you all fill out an evaluation form to get some helpful ideas. Some of the things you wanted were less expensive meals, a more central location for the convention, and better banquet choices.

So I started out by contacting the Des Moines and Ames Visitors and Convention Bureau. And guess what I found! We could easily have the convention in Des Moines I received a lot of letters from prospective locations. The bad news is it's not cheaper, not even close. We would have to pay 40 dollars more for your motel rooms, another 12-16 more for fewer choices for the banquet, and have the Iowa Honey Producers pay almost double for renting the rooms used. And unless we are willing to eat at a McDonalds, the price paid for the banquet (which includes seconds if you like) is more than a fair price. Our registration fee, meals, and all that we do, is actually a great deal. If you check out the costs of joining other associations in Iowa you will see that our fees are not that far off. As far as the speakers we get, if you look to Bee Culture and American Bee Journal, and at conventions through out the US, you will see that we are indeed getting

good speakers.

Some of the individuals I have spoken with think that it is too far of a drive to get there, or they can not afford it. I guess I look at this as a way to increase my knowledge of bees, associate with friends, and try to make new ones. And sometimes I just have to sell a little bit more honey to do this, either that or adjust my price to fluctuate with the market. I've heard a lot of people say that they would like to see new board members. But not many of them are willing to participate by volunteering to take on the positions. They are too busy or too far away, etc. to help out. All the members of the IHPA have jobs, lives, and families; but they still can find the time to help out when and where it is needed. So far, I have Pat Randol to run for District 5, Larry Boernsen to run for District 6, and Melanie Bower to run for Treasurer. Good luck! And Congratulations! For showing the willingness to help out. If you know anyone else or are willing to help yourself please let me know.

I apologize if it sounds like I am complaining about the people, but the Iowa Honey Producers isn't just 25 to 30 people. We need all five to six hundred beekeepers in the state to help any way possible. We have enough problems with CCD, chemical resistant pests, etc. We need to try and work together to make the bee industry work and be able to enjoy what we love to do...keep honey bees!

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE
CONVENTION AND BEE HAPPY!!**

Pat Ennis

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DO,
IT'S HOW YOU DO IT**



Design Contest



The IHPA officers and board members recently authorized a contest for the membership. The canopy area above the Iowa State Fair product booth is in need of a design to designate to the public what is in that area. The fair attendees that are downstairs in the Ag. Building can see the white canopy, but there is nothing to indicate what is in the booth.

We do have signs that say Iowa Honey Producers Association in front of the exhibit area and signs that say the beehive on the sides of the canopy and banners that announce the honey lemonade, but nothing in front and visible from the lower floor.

We are opening up a contest to help us find a design to display there. It could be a slogan, honey bees, words and graphics, artwork, etc. The creativity of the entry, the feasibility of the board to implement the design and workmanship will be considered. The winner will receive a \$75.00 cash prize. Please submit your ideas to

Mike Brahms
65071 720th Street
Cumberland, IA 50843

The entry deadline is January 15th. The area to be covered with a design is approximately 10 feet by 33 feet and is the large area above the sales counter at the Iowa State Fair booth located in the Ag Building.

THE BEEYARD REPORT

We sold some queens during the last half of September. This gave me enough extra bees to put the rest of our queen mating nucs into full size boxes. We have over 40 colonies that we made up out of this yard. We'll have to see how many of these are alive in the spring. This is starting to look like a good way to make increase.

Several times this year, I have noticed queen cells in colonies that obviously have a new queen already. I don't know if this is a new phenomena or if I have just never noticed it before. We tried Russian bees a few years ago. They build queen cells constantly. We may still retain some of this in our gene pool.

Alex pulled the last yard on Sept 28. This is the first time in years we have had all our honey off before the middle of October. Testing the mite load early on with sticky boards was a good thing. We got most of our mite treatments on in time. There are, however, two yards with mega mites. They have lots of deformed wing and we could see multiple mites on individual bees. The initial load estimate in both of those yards was 5%. That is our treatment threshold but it took us three weeks to get back to the yards after the test. By then the mites were on a roll. The other yards look excellent. The three yards of package bees have bees rolling out of the boxes. The problem there will be getting enough syrup down them. I used to think it wasn't possible to get those Italian queens through the winter but it's just a matter of getting enough feed in them. Some years back, I visited Al Baldwin in Darlington, Wisconsin. He had some really big feeder buckets and was having good success. It is expensive, though.

High fuel costs have meant fewer trips to the yards. This has resulted in a few colonies being sacrificed to the

wax moths. There is no doubt in my mind that low queen vigor contributes to CCD. Some of the queens we buy in the spring only last two or three months. We try to keep close tabs on the yards close to home but the ones a long way off only get a visit once a month at best.

Some of our yards got a great flow after Sept 20. We visited some of our yards east of Lynnvile with the truck loaded down with syrup only to find we didn't need it. The only thing blooming at that time of year is the little white asters. I've had a number of people tell me that

ple brought food. I feel pretty fortunate. Much worse damage occurred at farmsteads to the west and east of us. The building where we used to park our loader had four sliding doors on the south side. A neighbor found two of them 80 rods away in his corn field. We still don't know where the other two are. Picking corn proved to be quite a challenge with all of the debris in the field.

Thanks to everybody who called to check on us.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

WEAVER'S *famous* QUEENS and Package Bees

★ Buckfast

★ All-American

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

Almost Perfect Day

Fern and I went on the Back to Basics Beekeeping Club apiary tour at Ottumwa. We met 16 other beekeepers at Gerald and Pat Bradley home. We checked out Gerald's bees. Gerald winters most of them in one deep box. We looked at Gerald's extractor and how he sets up in his garage (Pat does the extracting).

this is really poor honey to winter bees on. We have had good luck with it in the past. If it is a problem, we must get it mixed in with enough other stuff to make it work.

On Sunday, October 2nd, a tornado went through our place. My barn and the chicken house were leveled. Several windows were broken on the house along with some other minor damage. Most of the trees were heavily damaged. Two storage buildings across the road received heavy damage. The remains will be torn down. The honey house only received minor damage. Monday morning, I was standing around trying to decide what to do first when people started to show up. The tree damage is cleaned up. Vermeers came with their chipper and cleaned up everything we had piled in the yard. They even hauled away the chips. We salvaged our hay and were able to store it in the barn of a neighbor. Lots of peo-

Most of the honey is sold at there house, there customers call ahead, Gerald and Pat have the honey ready for them to pickup. From there we went to Greg Bairds home. All of Greg's 34 hives are around his house so he can take care of them. Inside of Greg's basement he has a room for extracting and drying of the honey. After the tour Greg and his wife had refreshments and honey tea for everyone.

Then Fern and I drove to Indianola to Mike Wyatt's retirement party. Mike plans on doing more beekeeping now. We got to see the room he is setting up for extracting and bottling. After a meal and more refreshments it was 6:30. By that time I was too tired to go to the CIBA meeting so we called it a day and went home.

Submitted by Delmar Nelson

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Maggie Van Roekel. She is one of 8 youth participating in the Youth Beekeeping Partnership Program sponsored by the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Maggie is the daughter of Marianne and Marty Van Roekel and lives at 1164 Hwy 22, Wellman, Iowa 52356. Maggie has two younger brothers and one younger sister. Her parents are involved in operating the family business, Reha Greenhouses, near Wellman. Maggie attends Mid Prairie Middle School and is in the 8th grade. She is involved in band, choir, track, basketball, volleyball and future problem solvers. She is a member of the Limecreek Limelights 4-H club in Washington County and shows livestock, agriculture, and home economics projects at the county fair. This year she showed goats and sheep at the Washington County Fair as well as the Iowa State Fair. She plans to go to Iowa State University and major in a science or agriculture field.



(left to right) Marty, Maggie, and Ron Van Roekel checking on the bees.

Maggie and her father took the beekeeping class at Kirkwood Community College in Washington, Iowa and I, Ron Wehr, am their mentor. Maggie says she wanted to learn to keep bees because her family rented hives for pollination of their pumpkin patch and she liked watching the bees. She is even planning to get her brother involved in the project and increase to 5 or 6 colonies. Marty is her chauffeur and has two colonies. Maggie says so far she has not been stung. She has built and painted her hive, fed and taken good care of her bees. The colony is very strong and should make it though the winter. She is doing a great job with her first summer experience at keeping bees. I'll be interested to see her produce her own honey next year. Thanks for our story Maggie.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

Questions and Answers on Beekeeping

Q. What are the indications of a failing queen within the colony?

A. The first signs are that of irregular brood. Over areas of brood there will be one sealed cell surrounded by several empty cells. There will likely be additional cells expanded to drone size and hundreds of drones already hatched.

Q. Without seeing the queen, how do you determine if the eggs being laid are those of laying workers?

A. First, you will note that the eggs being laid are not deep within the bottom of the cells and possibly three of four eggs along the walls of the cells. That is the work of laying workers. They are unfertile eggs and will hatch only drones.

Q. What about colonies of bees becoming disoriented and disappearing?

A. It was obvious from the time it was first reported of the extremely heavy losses of bee colonies throughout the country that it was likely do to stress on colonies and the environment. Stress, may and possibly include many factors. The constant movement of colonies may be a factor, plus the environment. Honeybees are the first to detect and be affected by bad air and water. Along with all that, a major factor for the problem could be the diet that is forced upon the bees. Apparently 99% of colonies in the U.S. are fed supplement food. None of such foods furnish the bees with the perfect diet as does honey. Soon after beekeepers began feeding Isomeroose (corn syrup) to colonies. Bob Meloy, chemist for Sioux Honey, said that a major portion of it was junk to the bees. Cane or beet

sugar is also fed when establishing new colonies on foundation. Corn sugar syrup should never be used. In the 1940's, we were told that bees hatched on sugar syrup lived ten days less than those raised on honey. Back in the 1940's, tons of sugar were fed to bees. Beekeepers became the Sugar Industries best customers. Fifty-eight years of beekeeping without buying any supplement food is good proof it can be done successfully without the expense and problems of supplemental feeding. All the various chemicals that have been used to control mites certainly have taken its toll on the bees too. Bees cannot survive unless the mites are controlled and it is difficult for them to survive all the treatments of various chemicals.

Submitted by Glen L. Stanley
Iowa State Apiarist, Emeritus

2007 IOWA STATE FAIR

I would like to thank the Iowa Honey Producers, the Iowa Honey Queen, Chelsa Bronnenberg, volunteers in the booth and everyone who had entries in the 2007 Iowa State Fair. Your participation is what makes the Apiary Division such a success.

Thanks also to Donna Brahms, Mike Brahms, Steve Brahms, Jerry Kern, and Duane Bower for their work on renovating the apiary area. They spent a long, hot Saturday working on those changes. One of the results is that we are now able to provide some security for the entries once judging has been completed. Also, people are able to get closer for a better view of the exhibits.

Listed below are the results of the judging for the Apiary Division for 2007. There were 31 exhibitors with a total of 129 entries:

CLASS	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
1 observation hive	Ellie Johnson	Mark Tintjer	Brian Powell	Tim Laughlin	Patricia Stewart	
2 6 white comb honey	Tim Laughlin	Donna & Mike Brahms	Mark Tintjer			
3 6 comb honey, hard plastic box	Mark Tintjer	Phil Ebert	Dennis Nielsen	Pat Randol	Patricia Stewart	
4 6 queenline jars white honey	Mark Tintjer	Tim Weese	Marlene Mogle	Melissa Laughlin	Tim Laughlin	Wicker Van Orsdel
5 6 queenline jars light amber honey	Patricia Stewart	Mark Tintjer	Richard Veit			
6 6 queenline jars amber honey	Mark Tintjer	Donna & Mike Brahms	David Laughlin			
7 6 queenline jars dark amber honey	Tim Laughlin	Mark Tintjer				
8 3 square wide mouth jars of honey	Mark Tintjer	Phil Ebert				
9 6 plastic bears	Melissa Laughlin	Tim Laughlin	David K. Cook	Mark Tintjer	Pat Randol	Douglas Hutchison
10 6 hex jars, creamed honey	David Laughlin	Tim Laughlin	Donna & Mike Brahms	Pat Randol	Mark Tintjer	Patricia Stewart
11 6 hex jars, flavored creamed honey	Pat Randol	Patricia Stewart	Melissa Laughlin	Mark Tintjer	Donna & Mike Brahms	
12 frame of honey	Mark Tintjer	Donna & Mike Brahms	David Laughlin	Melissa Laughlin	Marlene Mogle	Fred Mogle

13 extracted frame	Mark Tintjer	David Laughlin	Melissa Laughlin	Phil Ebert	Pat Randol	Donna & Mike Brahms
14 3 lb beeswax block	Bob Wolff	Mark Tintjer	Phil Ebert	Donna & Mike Brahms	Brian Powell	Ellie Johnson
15 beeswax art	Mark Tintjer	Donna & Mike Brahms	Ellie Johnson	Brian Powell		
16 photo, general beekeeping	David Runnels	Curt & Connie Bronnenberg	Alex Ebert	Tim Laughlin	Dennis Nielson	Ellie Johnson
17 photo, specific sub.	Alex Ebert	Bob Wolff	Donna & Mike Brahms	Deb Nielson	Leonard Larsen	
18 2 dipped candles	Mark Tintjer	Bob Wolff	Donna & Mike Brahms	Brian Powell	Ellie Johnson	
19 2 beeswax candles	Donna & Mike Brahms	Mark Tintjer	Phil Ebert	Ellie Johnson	Brian Powell	Pat Randol
20 gift basket	Mark Tintjer	Donna & Mike Brahms	Ellie Johnson	David K. Cook	Kay Riehl	
21 window display	Curt & Connie Bronnenberg	Donna & Mike Brahms	Pat Randol			
22 youth, 3- 11lb jars extracted honey	David Laughlin					
23 youth, photo	David Runnels	David Laughlin				
24 youth, 2 beeswax candles	no entries					

Special awards:

Sweepstakes Plaque awarded by the Iowa Honey Producers: Mark Tintjer
 Dadant & Sons Award: Mark Tintjer
 Iowa Honey Producers Award to top twelve place winners, marked queen in hive:
 Ellie Johnson, Mark Tintjer, Brian Powell, Tim Laughlin, Patricia Stewart
 C. F. Koehnen & Sons Award: Ellie Johnson
 Drapers Super Bee Award: Mark Tintjer
 B & L Plastics Award: Melissa Laughlin
 Herman Bickle Award: Mark Tintjer
 Lapp's Bee Supply Award: Mark Tintjer

Please contact me if you have any suggestions or comments about the Fair and the Apiary Division.
 See you next year at the 2008 Iowa State Fair.

Melanie Bower
 Apiary Superintendent,
 Iowa State Fair

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8 ounces	24	1 (48 mm)	M001952	10	\$11.92
1 pound	12	1 (58 mm)	M001962	8	\$7.60
1 pound	24	1 (58 mm)	M001972	14	\$13.99
2 pound	12	1 (63 mm)	M001982	12	\$10.15
4 pound	6	(G70)	M001992	10	\$9.99

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