



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



July 2015

The 2015 IHPA Annual Meeting will be held at the Clarion Inn in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



**Help Needed for the IHPA Fair Booth Pg5
Beekeeper of the Month Pg 6&7
IHPA Donation Submissions Pg 8&9**



Dates to be Remembered

Iowa State Fair—August 13th—23rd
Annual Meeting—Nov. 13th & 14th
Clarion Inn, Cedar Rapids, Iowa



2015 IHPA Annual Meeting Nov. 13th & 14th, 2015 Notice!

The 2015 IHPA Annual Meeting is being held at the **Clarion Inn in Cedar Rapids, Iowa** this year.

The IHPA Annual Meeting is our yearly opportunity to get together and discuss the wonders as well as mysteries of beekeeping. This meeting is open to anyone interested in beekeeping or honeybees. We have a variety of guest speakers from across the US come to speak on their expertise in the beekeeping world. For current beekeepers this is a great time to hear what is new in beekeeping or ask questions of those with a greater number of years experience. Those who are thinking about getting started in beekeeping will have numerous chances to ask, "what's it like to keep bees?" There will be no shortage of answers. Beekeepers love to share the stories, fun, and enjoyment they have found in beekeeping.

Nucs for sale: \$140.00

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

For Sale - 6 5/8 9 frame wooden box with bees : \$163.00

9 frame 6 5/8 box includes 1 marked queen (Italian/Carniolan/Russian cross) (no lid or no bottom board) in a 10 frame Hive.

9 frames 6 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life)

Our bees are bred for Honey production and Iowa winter hardiness.

You may add a lid, inner ild, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

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)

Our bees are bred for Honey production and Iowa winter hardiness. You may add a lid, inner ild, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

Queens for sale \$37.00

1 marked queen
(Italian/Carniolan/Russian cross)

New Complete assembled painted Hive Kit \$350.00

Includes 2 - 9 5/8 hve bodies
20 - 9 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell

2 - 6 5/8 supers

20 - 6 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell

Telescoping cover with inner lid

Bottom board with reducer AND How to get started FREE

No Bees (You will want to get this so you are ready when your bees arrive.)

Bees will be available April 15th 2015

(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, Iowa 52310

319 480-4209

autum49@yahoo.com



For Sale: Honey Equipment, etc. Boiler

Honey Production Equipment

Work table 107 1/2 x 35 x 31

Steel rack 53 1/2 x 53 x 42

Steel rack 40 1/2 x 28 x 48

Steel rack 64 x 32 x 48

Flash heater 36 x 36 x 14" deep

Food grinder (2) peanut butter

Tank SS Kelly double boiler

Omega in-line digital thermometer

Creamed Honey Equipment

Honey packer automatic Api Electron-ic

ETRAC XFC series Microinverter

Gear drive portable mixer (NSPG)

Nettco

SS table SS Top 36" x 14 deep

2 inline filters Dadant

SS piping 1 1/2" diameter assorted lengths with valves and connections

Cash drawer, pole display, monitor,

keyboard, printer

Cranberry

Racks and Misc Equipment

6 basic shelf type display racks

Display shelving 1 6', 1 5'

1 table 35" x 2 Butcher's block

1 counter top 74" x 18" x 35"

1 counter top 42" x 25" x 30 1/2"

1 rolling ladder 4 x 60 x 50 1/2

2 chrome carts

3 gorilla racks

6 chrome racks

1 verifone cc machine

Powder Inventory

Blueberry, Cranberry, Apricot, Jala-

peno Powder, Jalapeno 1/8", and

Raspberry Powders

Contact:

Ann Garber

200 E. South St.

Corydon, Iowa 50060



IHPA VP Message

Fellow beekeepers,

I sincerely hope your year in beekeeping is going good. I am having a great year, my splits and hives are just booming! Whatever I do just seems to work and have had very little go wrong. Life is just great when it all works out.

Speaking of working out, our summer field day was a great day. Our rain seemed to move just out in time to head to Phil's and see some bees. Leo Sharashkin was a great speaker. Top bar hives I have a lot of questions about as how one would fit into my operation but, I bought one of his books as he sparked interest in a couple of areas.

We had a little magic entertainment from a young worker Phil employs. He did a great job. (He may have found his way out of working for Phil) I think the young man has quite a future with magic.

The summer is here and state fair is upon us. Hope you all can get a spot to work at the booth, and got your fair stuff ready to show. The work at the booth is a fun time for me seems I always see a lot of people that I haven't seen for a while. Hope to see a lot of you there as well.

Annual meeting will be around the corner as well. I will be doing something new this year. I will be hosting a round table with, guest Phil Ebert, Bob Fastbinder, and Meghan Milbrath. The subject we are going to talk about is "wintering bees in cold climates". These 3 people have a lot of experience wintering bees. I feel the round table format I will be doing we all can learn how we can be better at wintering our Bees. I would like your help. If you have a question about wintering bees in a cold climate, please email it to me and I will try and get it asked. I don't know all the questions to ask and very much don't know all the answers either! Your name will not be mentioned, nor will I be taking questions at the time of the round table. When you think of a wintering question email it to me kroyster.rk@gmail.com. I myself have really struggled in this area. I want to learn more and become better at wintering over my bees. Let's hope this wonderful honey

flow we have had continues for a while, I need to sign off and do other things so that's all for now and I look forward to your questions.

Roy



New IHPA Cookbook

It's time for a new cookbook!

Please submit your new Honey recipes, the Iowa Honey Producers Association is doing a new cookbook that will be available at the 2016 Iowa State Fair.

We would like to have as many NEW recipes in this new cookbook as possible, so bring on your newest tried and true delights. Submit all the categories you can think of including soap and honey mead.

We have the form available online through the Buzz, in the hard copy of the Buzz newsletter or available for pick-up at the 2015 Summer Field Day in July and at the 2015 Annual Meeting in November. Our cut-off date for the cookbooks to get prepared will be March 1, 2016.

We do have some incentives for you, the more recipes you submit, the better for you, stay tuned for those incentives in a later Buzz article.

Please submit recipes to:

Jodi Kraft
IHPA Cookbook Chairperson
P.O. Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542-0001

or my committee members: Becky Elsbernd, Connie Bronnenberg, Rhonda Heston and Heidi Love.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing your new recipes for the 2016 Iowa Honey Producers Association Cookbook.



IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION COOKBOOK

This recipe is being submitted for: Iowa Honey Producers Association (2016 cookbook)

Name of Recipe: _____

Submitted by: _____

INGREDIENTS: (List **all** ingredients in their **proper** order: 1, 2, etc. **Please type or print neatly.**)

#1 _____

#2 _____

METHOD: (Be sure to include: *Size & type of container *Time *Temperature *Yield)

COMMENTS:

Please send form to: Jodi Kraft, IHPA Cookbook Chair

P.O. Box 1, Goldfield, IA 50542-0001

These cookbooks will be available at the 2016 Iowa State Fair, please submit by March 1, 2016.

If necessary, continue on back of sheet. (Please mark the bottom of this sheet "over".)

We need your help at the Iowa State Fair booth!



Dear Beekeepers,

I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair, however Spring is here and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching; August 13 -23. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building 2nd floor; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fund raising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success, by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc. Each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a FREE pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2014 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone's support to make this event a success.

We have three shifts daily, 9am-1.30pm, 1.30pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 13-23, we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear off slip below, or email the same details to bhlove5@aol.com, or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 18488 E Ave, Dawson, IA 50066. Cell: 515-729-1761

1st person: _____

2nd person: _____

3rd person: _____

Childs name & age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone no.: _____ Email address: _____

You can check the IHPA website www.abuzzaboutbees.com to see which time slots are available.

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you.
(Fair dates August 13-23.)

We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date: 9.00-1.30pm 1.30pm-6.00pm 6.00pm-9.00pm

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Date: 9.00-1.30pm 1.30pm-6.00pm 6.00pm-9.00pm

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month AJ Crow Schrader is our featured beekeeper of the month. AJ and his brother, Jeret are both participants in the IHPA's youth mentor program. Read next month's Buzz for Jeret's story. AJ is the oldest of three boys in the family. June and Adam Schrader are his parents and their family operates a meat goat and sheep herd outside of Marion, Iowa.



AJ Crow Schrader



AJ Crow Schrader extracting honey at Honey Fest.



AJ Crow Schrader helping with the Iowa Honey Producers booth at the Iowa State Fair.

They have 60-100 head of goats depending on the time of year, 8 head of sheep and a few ducks. AJ attends Linn-Mar High School in Marion and is in the 10th grade. He is involved in FFA at Linn-Mar. His hobbies include building custom remote controlled trucks, showing his meat goats and sheep, and running a diesel pulling truck with his uncle in the summer. He is a member of the Whittier Willing Workers 4-H Club and the Linn-Mar FFA. He plans to use his bees as a Supervised Agricultural Experience for FFA. The Universal Technical Institute for Diesel Technology in Lisle, Illinois is his goal upon graduating high school.

AJ found out about the mentor program at the IHPA booth at the State Fair. Larry Spina is his mentor. He learned that it is difficult to spot the queen when trying to look for her in the hive. He is motivated to keep bees to be able to produce his own honey and try to raise bees since they live in the country and the bees would help him grow pink pumpkins for a 4-H citizenship project.

Stories about a beekeeper, who had bees on his grandparents farm years earlier, and how much honey he gave them every year, keeps AJ challenged. AJ says he learned that raising bees is a lot like raising his other livestock. You have to feed them and medicate them too. He took his training at the Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Six pounds of honey is all AJ harvested from his aggressive, grouchy hive, but he says it tasted great.

AJ helped at the IHPA booth at the State Fair and volunteered at Honey Fest at Indian Creek Nature Center. He also helped Dennis Nielson sell his honey there and helped show people how to extract honey. He and his brother also loaned some of their bee equipment to an orchard to use to give presentations



AJ Crow Schrader at Honey Fest with the Iowa Honey Queen and his brother Seth

for visitors on field trips in the fall.

While working his bees with Dennis Nielson the two removed swarm cells from his hive and a new queen popped out of one cell. They re-queened his younger brother Seth's hive with her.

His future plans include doubling his colonies, continuing to raise bees throughout his high school career and pollinating pink pumpkins for his 4-H club to sell at the orchard. He is also planning to help the orchard start an observation hive for field trip visitors next year.

Thank you for your story AJ. Read the Buzz next month for the rest of your family's story.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



AJ Crow Schrader bottling honey at Indian Creek Nature Center



2015 IHPA Donation Proposal Form



The Iowa Honey Producers Association supports honeybee and beekeeping research through donations to research projects during the IHPA Annual Meeting.

Starting in 2014 the IHPA Donation Proposal Form will need to be submitted during the Submission Period prior to the Annual Meeting. The IHPA Board will review the stated use of the donation to confirm the use is in line with the goal of promoting continued research in honeybees and beekeeping. This review will allow the board time to request additional information if needed and ensure total proposed donations do not exceed the association's budget for research donations.

With acceptance by the IHPA Board, the Donation Proposal will be brought to the floor during the Business Meeting of the Annual Meeting for a vote by the members. Donation Proposals can be made by anyone with a current IHPA membership. Members are encouraged to help the association to identify research projects that will continue to work for the benefit of honeybees, beekeepers, and the honey industry.

Submission Deadline: October 1st, 2015
Submission Period: July 1st – October 1st, 2015

IHPA Member submitting the Donation Proposal.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

Donation Proposal

Proposed dollar amount of the IHPA donation: \$ _____

Contact information for head researcher / project organization.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____

Please provide a description of how the proposed donation would be used regarding your research relating to honeybees, beekeeping, or the honey industry.

Please send Donation Proposal Forms to IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187th Avenue, Chariton, Iowa 50049

Thank You!

2014 IHPA Donations

Each year the IHPA donates funds to help support research and projects that aim to better our beekeeping. The donation submission period starts **July 1st** and runs through **October 1st**. The Donation Proposal Form is used to request that the IHPA donate funds to a particular program. These proposals are reviewed by the IHPA board before being voted on by the membership during the Annual Meeting. A current membership is required to vote at the business meeting. Below are some of the thank you letters returned from last year's donation recipients.

Dr. Amy Toth & the ISU Bee Research Team

Dear Rhonda & IHPA

Thank you so much for the \$2000 check and continued support of my bee research laboratory at ISU. Having the support of Iowa beekeepers really drives us to do excellent and relevant work. The \$2000 will be extremely helpful for purchasing research supplies this year. We have a big bee season planned and will be continuing our studies of nutrition, and will next look at the potential of honey bees to benefit soybean yield.

Looking forward to a busy season, a productive year, and to providing continued updates to the IHPA.

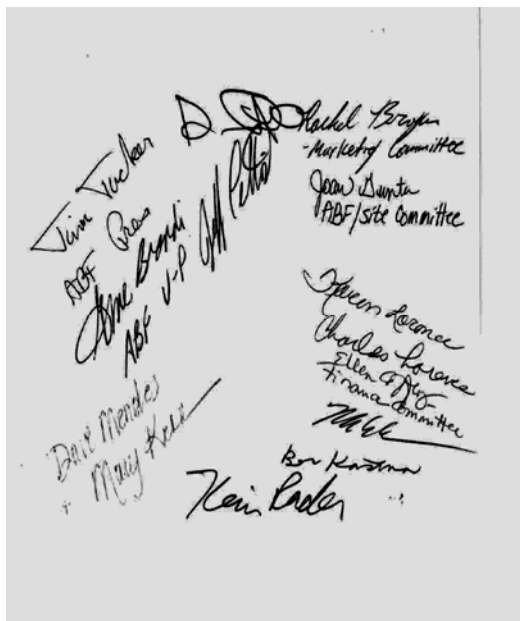
Keep Buzzing!

Dr. Amy Toth & the ISU Bee Research Team

Apimondia USA Bid

We appreciate your donation to Apimondia USA Bid.

Debbie Seib
Chairman



Marla Spivak, PhD

Iowa Honey Producers Association
Attn: Pat Ennis, President
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049-8616



Dear Mr. Ennis:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$3,000 to the Entomology Special Projects Fund for my research.

Healthy bees support healthy human populations. Bees provide vital pollination services for the fruits, vegetables and nuts that help meet our nutritional needs. Today, bee health is threatened by inadequate nutrition and a pesticide contaminated environment that challenges their immune systems, leaving them with fewer defenses against pathogens and parasites. Your gift is supporting my research at the UMN Bee Lab that targets these multiple challenges to bee health.

Again, thank you for your gift. It is making a difference.

Sincerely,
Marla Spivak, PhD
Distinguished McKnight Professor
Department of Entomology

*Thank you Iowa Beekeepers!
Your continued support is very appreciated. I can't wait to have you come see our new lab next year when it is completed.*

*Warm regards,
Marla*

Maryland Nonprofits

IOWA Honey Producers Association
52735 187th Ave.
Chariton, IA 500498616

Dear IOWA Honey Producers Association,

We gratefully acknowledge receipt on 3/10/2015 of your check in the amount of \$2000 to Maryland Nonprofits to benefit **Bee Informed Partnership, Inc.**, for which we serve as fiscal sponsor. We are very proud and pleased to be able to support BIP in its work, and thank you for this important gift.

Best regards,
Heather Iliff
President and CEO

Indian Creek Nature Center

Pat Ennis
Iowa Honey Producers Association
1040 Union Ave
Goodell, IA 50439-7542

Dear Pat,

Thank you for the Iowa Honey Producers Association's generous gift of \$500 to Indian Creek Nature Center. This contribution supports our beekeeping class series for adults, honeybee programs for children, and our annual Honey Fest. Please accept our gratitude to IHPA for spreading the word to Iowans about the vital importance of these pollinators and sharing how to respect honeybees and all they do for us, our food supply, and our natural world.

Most Sincerely,
John Myers
Executive Director

We continue to value our great partnership! Thank you for being an advocate we can trust!
John



And Bees Make Honey

www.mvtimes.com/2015/07/29/and-bees-make-honey/

Bees are in the news again, unfortunately.

Beeinformed.org, in collaboration with Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is reporting troubling statistics about seasonal and annual bee-colony losses. Over the past five years, these losses — 35 percent in 2010, 29 percent in 2011, 45 percent in 2012, 34 percent in 2013, and now 42 percent in 2014 — have been more than twice the “acceptable level.”

Despite these well-documented numbers, a recent op-ed on NationalReview.com claims, “Sorry to be a buzzkill, but honeybee colonies are at a 20-year high.” Apparently, NR reasons, beekeepers are getting better at repairing hive damage and fending off colony collapse.

Have environmentalists been overreacting? Is there a disinformation campaign funded by the agrochemical industry? Or are the bees dying off, and what is to blame?



Tim Colon checks on his bees. Photo by Michael Cummo

I decided to ask a couple of Vineyard beekeepers about the state of their hives.

Tim Colon maintains about 100 hives in multiple locations across the Island. He spends about 40 hours a week tending beehives in every town but Aquinnah. He says about 70 percent of them are honey-producing. Mr. Colon's Island Bee Co. is the largest honeybee-farming operation locally.

Another local beekeeper, Monica Miller of Skye Botanicals, tends about 20 hives. She thinks there may be as many as 30 or more mostly hobbyist beekeepers. “Check out all the local honey submissions at the Agricultural Fair. Of course, Andy Boass would usually win the top prize.”

Local hive loss

Monica Miller reports losing almost a quarter of her hives this past winter. Tim Colon says his winter hive loss is 20 to 35 percent, consistent with the Massachusetts average. In New Hampshire, bee-colony losses exceed 50 percent, and in Illinois more than 60 percent. And these reported losses may be understated, according to Mr. Colon: “Nobody wants to admit they are losing their bees.”

I asked Mr. Colon and Ms. Miller whether bee losses and the broader problem of colony collapse disorder were, in their opinions, due to neonicotinoids, also known as neonics, the dangerous pesticides banned in 2013 by the European Union and other countries.



You can't miss Monica Miller in her hot-pink bee suit.

Photo by Michael Cummo

“I've only experienced one big chemical kill on the Vineyard,” said Mr. Colon. “It was several years ago. Found all the bees

lying dead on the ground. They must have fed on water with chemicals in it.” Ms. Miller experienced a similar bee kill, and suspects that pesticides washed into standing water by the rain were responsible. Mr. Colon and Ms. Miller agreed that today’s agricultural practices are largely to blame, both for stressing the bees and for overloading their immune systems with toxic chemicals like the neonics. Ms. Miller feels strongly that pesticides are largely to blame.

Neonics are a very big business. The top three producers, Bayer CropScience (Imidacloprid), Syngenta (Thiamethoxam), and Sumitomo Chemical (Clothianidin), generate over \$2 billion revenue annually from neonics. The latest alternative to neonics from Bayer, flupyradifurone, “flupy” for short, is being marketed as bee-safe because, based on early trials, it kills bees so quickly they die before they can return to the hive and contaminate the colony.

Acknowledging that honeybees pollinate a third of what we eat and add over \$15 billion in value to our crops, President Barack Obama created a federal task force last year to address the problem. Last month his taskforce produced a weighty report on its “National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honeybees and Other Pollinators,” with a bottom-line goal to reduce winter colony losses to 15 percent nationwide within 10 years.

Today’s beekeepers have become adept at rebuilding their lost colonies. However, the taskforce recommendations are aiming primarily at prevention, rather than relying entirely on repair.

Anything but romantic

Beekeeping, according to Tim Colon, is hard work and anything but romantic, though many hobbyists get started because they think it will be an idyllic pastime. What’s the worst part about beekeeping? Not getting stung. Mr. Colon says it’s the ticks. You have to leave your clothes outside the house, because they are crawling with the little Lyme-infested parasites. And they get into your car or truck with you, and you find them crawling up your arm or leg as you’re driving to the grocery store or to your son’s baseball game.

The Vineyard buzz

Mr. Colon’s Island Bee Co. sells the honey that his bees produce at the West Tisbury Farmers’ Market and at his home. Mr. Colon also sells honey from other Massachusetts producers at the local grocery stores. “The honey we sell in stores is the same quality as ours, or as close as we can get. My wife Tricia spends a lot of time meeting with other beekeepers, searching out honey that meets our high level of quality. Always raw and unfiltered, and never heated.”

Ms. Miller, a longtime perfumer-flavorist, specializes in boutique honeys and, like Mr. Colon, sells both local and off-Island honeys, although both are clearly marked. “If it’s Island honey, the town it’s from is on the label,” she says. Ms. Miller markets her honeys at Alley’s, Bad Martha’s, Cronig’s, Healthy Additions, Juliska, LeRoux, Stop and Shop, and Vineyard Grocer. Among Ms. Miller’s flavored honeys are chai, chocolate, cinna-

mon, lavender, lemon ginger, pink grapefruit, and rose petal. Ms. Miller’s chocolate honey is made by the bees themselves, feeding on cacao that she places near the hives.

Healthy or just delicious?

One tablespoon of honey contains 64 calories, as well as 17.3 grams of carbohydrates — nearly all of them from sugar — and small amounts of iron, magnesium, potassium, zinc, niacin, and vitamin B-6. Raw honey also contains a variety of antioxidants from the local pollen.

Much of the honey sold in supermarkets is pasteurized and filtered to improve shelf life. Raw honey will harden into crystals, although it’s easy enough to liquefy by placing the honey jar in a warm pan of water. That’s the kind of honey that Tim Colon and Monica Miller sell. Raw, unpasteurized, unfiltered honey.

Many people swear by raw honey’s antibacterial and healing properties. Some claim it is the best remedy for a cough when mixed with hot water and lemon and maybe a little whiskey. However, infants and young children should never consume raw honey: According to Livestrong.com, raw honey contains a number of microorganisms, including the bacteria clostridium, which can cause infant botulism in very small children.

Bottom line, however, we need the bees

Whenever you eat an almond, it’s likely that bees were responsible for pollinating that almond tree. And not just almonds. Apples, avocados, blueberries, cherries, cucumbers, grapefruit, lemons, oranges, strawberries — and even pumpkins — all owe their fruiting to the honeybees. Think about that. No apple pie, no guacamole, no citrus fruits, no summer strawberry shortcake. And where would be Halloween and Thanksgiving be without the bees?

Restoring sustainability to the nation’s bee colonies will be a long-term effort, and may require the average family to use fewer pesticides and chemical fertilizers in their homes and gardens. Nothing worth having is entirely free. Ms. Miller believes it would be helpful for Island bees if we could plant and grow our crops entirely without toxic chemicals. “It’s important to nurture our Island ecology as much as we possibly can.”

Michael G. West, a year-round Island resident, also writes fiction. His novels include *Dutch Reckoning* and *Misfit Blues* (Tommy Shakespear Mystery series) and *XOC — The White Shark Murders* and *BUZZD — The Bee Kill Conspiracy* (Martha’s Vineyard EcoThrillers), all available in the *Bunch of Grapes Bookstore*.

www.mvtimes.com/2015/07/29/and-bees-make-honey/



State Apiarist Update

Hi All.

Here's hoping your bees are doing great. I've seen a lot of strong colonies recently. Very little disease, and in most places, lots of honey being made. Some have experienced some serious queen issues. There has been a lot of swarming – which seems to be continuing at a steady pace despite the fact that it's mid-July as I write this. Mite numbers are climbing, of course. I'm finding an average Ether Roll count coming in somewhere in the neighborhood of 12 mites per 300 or so bees. This will build to a level which will greatly reduce the bees' ability to live through winter on into next spring. Some hives treated successfully this spring are doing much better, but I've also seen a few colonies already crashing out from Varroaosis / "PMS". This isn't doom and gloom ... it's modern beekeeping. You absolutely can manage your way through nearly all the problems and issues we're seeing in inspections across the state. Overall, I think we're well set up for a good honey crop, which is a great thing both for those of us who gain income from our bee work, and for all the brand new hobbyists just getting their feet wet.

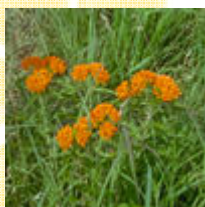
Andy Joseph
State Apiarist



U of M researchers study bee population at Belwin Conservancy

By [Amber Kispert-Smith](#)

Afton's Belwin Conservancy is the place to "bee" this summer. Belwin is the site of several research projects, being conducted by researchers from the University of Minnesota, on the behaviors of both wild and honey bees.



12 "A lot of people in my lab like bees because they're really diverse," said Morgan Carr-Markell, a graduate student

and lab technician at the University of Minnesota in the entomology department. "But I really like honey bees because they're social, they have all these amazing behaviors."

Researchers have been at Belwin since last summer.

"We were looking for big prairie sites," Carr-Markell said. "Belwin already does some research on the effect of bison on prairie so they were really receptive to having some other projects here."

The research projects currently taking place relate to honey bees and native prairie, stem nesting bees and native prairie and some bee surveying.

FINDING FOOD

Carr-Markell, of St. Paul, has been studying honey bee behaviors at Belwin since last summer.

The goal of Carr-Markell's research is to identify native prairie plants that can supplement the non-native plants on which honey bees feed.

"Minnesota is a big honey-producing state and the beekeepers here really need a lot of forage for their bees," she said.

"However, they were getting concerned that a lot of the plants bees have relied on in the past, like sweet clover, are non-native and sometimes people try to control them because they take over areas."

Carr-Markell is working with three large honey bee colonies.

Every two weeks Carr-Markell heads out to Belwin's Stagecoach Prairie, where the colonies are set up, to collect nectar and pollen in hopes of learning what plants the honey bees are gravitating towards.

"Are there particular prairie species that would be a good replacement for these non-native plants?" she said. "What is it that they're actually collecting near these sites?"

At this point Carr-Markell's research is still inconclusive except that the honey bees are collecting roadside weeds and some native prairie mint.

"We're still in the preliminary stages of identifying everything," she said. "We're working our way toward identifying things as species and then we'll be able to say better what species would be a good substitute."

Another component of Carr-Markell's, and her team's, research is the observation of the honey bee waggle dance, which is figure-eight dance that is performed to share information with other colonies about the direction, distance and location of good nectar sources.

"We're looking to see if they're recruiting to other prairie sites," Carr-Markell said. "It's a very cool behavior."

Carr-Markell will continue her research through the fall and then she might pick it up again in the spring before moving to

another prairie location.

"Can native prairies provide a large percentage of all the food that is coming into the honey bee colony?" she said. "If they can, what are the species that we can say are great?"

HOME SWEET STEM

Another research project currently occurring at Belwin is being conducted by St. Paul resident Colleen Satyshur, a staff scientist in the ecology department at the University of Minnesota.

Satyshur is specifically studying the nesting habits of wild bees.

"We know so little about the wild bees' ecology," she said. "This is unexplored territory so anything that I find is new."

Wild bees, which are native to Minnesota, generally nest individually either underground or in plant stems.

For her research, Satyshur has set up 19 species of native grassland plants in order to see in which plants the wild bees are most frequently nesting.

Every week Satyshur checks the plants to look for any evidence of nesting, specifically bee larvae.

Given that this is the first year that Satyshur has been researching at Belwin, her findings are still developing.

"There's no clear preference yet from the bees," she said. "I'm seeing bees in the stems, which is exciting."

BRINGING BACK BEES

In recent years there has been a renewed interest in protecting the bee populations because they are such an important element of Minnesota's ecology.

"We're starting to be more aware of where our food and our livelihoods come from," Satyshur said. "We're starting to focus on taking care more of where our food comes from and bees are so important for producing food."

Honey bees specifically have gained more attention because so much of the species died off during the winter of 2006-07, Carr-Markell said.

"That started us thinking about the implications of that," she said, "since about a third of the things we eat depend on pollinators of some kind."

When it comes to protecting the bee populations, both honey and wild, Carr-Markell said, the solution can hopefully be found in the plants.

"A lot of research seems to be pointing towards food as a really critical thing for bees," she said. "If they are well nourished, they can deal with a lot of other threats much better and that's why there's a big push to plant more for bees."

IHPA Membership



It's never too late or too early to renew your membership. Annual memberships are valid for a calendar year, January through December. The date of the back of this BUZZ Newsletter tells you when your membership expires.

Dues are \$20 for the first beekeeper in the house. Each additional beekeeper in the house is \$5. One BUZZ Newsletter will be sent to one address no matter how many members there are in the household.

No need to send your membership dues now, I'll remind you again closer to the end of the year. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Rhonda Heston, R.Heston@yahoo.com or 515-724-2124.



NEW FACTSHEET ON POLLINATION AND POLLINATOR PROTECTION

by Dr. Timothy Lawrence, WSU Extension. It is available as a free download at

<https://pubs.wsu.edu/ListItems.aspx?Keyword=fs174e>



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1 banana
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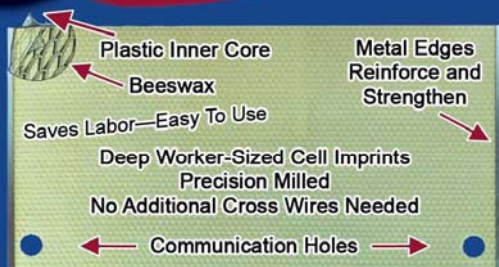
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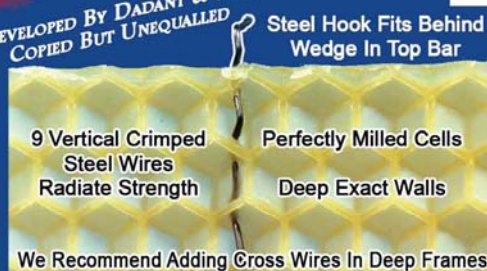
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The Buzz Newsletter

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