

Get a recap on the 2024 IHPA Convention on Page 6.

Meet the new IHPA Historian on Page 7.





Check out all of the Youth Scholarship recipients on Pages 12-14.

# The Buzz

The Buzz is a monthly publication printed by the lowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA). This is one of the many perks of being a member of the IHPA!

You may opt to receive an electronic version of The Buzz, as a donation to the IHPA. Please contact the editor at:

ihpaeditor@gmail.com

## IHPA Officer & Director News

#### Ramblings from the Russian Bee Guy President, Jason Foley

Hello and welcome to the December edition of the Buzz. If you attended the IHPA Annual Conference then you know this will be my last article as "president". If I keep up with writing articles for the Buzz, it'll be as "Past President" lol. I'm leaving the presidency in excellent hands with Chris Puetz.

Recently I have been seeing ads for the Midwest Honeybee Expo noting it as the largest Midwest trade show. NOOOOOOT TRUE.... It has 18 speakers with 21 talks being given over a 2 day period. Our IHPA Conference and Trade Show had 26 speakers doing 45 talks, a significantly higher number of opportunities for beekeepers to soak up the information they were wanting. And all of our speakers were there in person and not via zoom. All this to say that I am confident in declaring that the Iowa Honey Producers Association puts on the LARGEST conference and trade show in the Midwest! We also did it for a member price of just \$80 while their 2 day price is \$145! Proof positive of the savings IHPA provides for its members! I don't want it to come off like I'm poking fun at that convention, I'm just super proud of where our organization has taken our conference over the years. We had various attendees from out of state that actually rated our convention as probably the 3rd best they had ever been to, and that was comparing it on the same level as the national conventions that are numerous days in length. Our headliner speakers from across the country were also amazed at the high level of excellence our state is providing to the beekeeping community.

So what is going on for me at the moment of writing this article? I'm currently in Massachusetts at the Russian Bee Breeders Association's yearly meeting where I was promoted to their board as a voting officer and also was assigned to be their new webmaster lol. They have been in desperate need for a few years for a webmaster so since I already help several other groups with theirs', I figured why not also volunteer for them. Outside of my





### IHPA Officer & Director News

continued growth with the Russian Bee Breeders, I was notified this morning that my mother was hospitalized after suffering an injury and I'm coming home from this to crunch-time for shipping my bees out to California. When it rains it pours, oh-well lol. Just need to make it another 2 weeks and I can go on vacation for a bit. I've been looking forward to it for close to a year now. 1 week of laying on a beach in the Riviera Maya with an umbrella drink. Then I come back and have 8 units of lumber to cut down into bee hive boxes. That's a monstrous amount of work for me to pump out over those next 3 months. A friend needs 800 boxes, another one needs close to 400, and I need 400 to make up my hive kits for customers this spring. I used to look forward to this time of year and working in my woodshop when I just had a couple weeks worth of work to do. Now that I have multiple months of cutting lumber day in and day out... Well I've come to the point I despise the smell of pine lol. I shouldn't complain, I am my own boss and "could" take some time off. I just always feel the pressure and end up pulling long days and working 7 days a week.

For those of you that read my last article, we had just started selling our meads. Sales have been fantastic and we keep rolling out new types. By the time you read this article we will have a crisp apple cyser ready for sale. I'm also working on a semi-sweet blueberry, and a blueberry lemon. We also have a double blackberry that I just perfected where we run the mead process with a heafty amount of blackberries we source up the road from us at Edge Of The Woods Raspberry Farm. Once finished fermenting we do a 2nd heafty round of blackberries for a 2nd fermentation stage to infuse strong natural flavors of the fruit instead of just the fermented flavors. I have a version of this that I make into a dessert wine and a version that I bottle as dry. Oh-Buddy! It is so good. I wish I'd done the same thing with raspberries. Guess next raspberry season I'll get that type going. Stop out for a sample some time. We do free tastings for any customers who come in during our Saturday store hours, and hopefully soon you'll find our meads at a local Hy-Vee near you!



-Jason Foley-

### Letters from the WILDHILLS

Wow! What a great convention!

Seems a bit off that I'm just talking about the convention but the timing of these things just works out that way. I'm writing this from Tampa where I'm at for a work conference, it's 85 and sunny, but there's Christmas decorations up everywhere. It doesn't feel quite right...too warm.

First and foremost, to those who were there and could not be, thank you for your support and I'm honored to have the privilege to serve as your President.

I'm excited, and I hope you are as well. Let's build on the amazing conference we had and use the momentum to continue to grow our organization, welcoming more people into our community! I'm looking forward to getting out and about and meet-





ing more of our members having a chance to build our story as lowa beekeepers. While I can't be on the road every weekend, I'd love to hear from you if you're interested in having me pop in sometime and hear your story, walk through your yards, and learn a little about your why. Let's showcase what it means to be a local beekeeper in lowa.

As a hobbiest beekeeper or as I like to say... a wanna be commercial beekeeper, it's a stressful time of the year. It's winter, and we can all sit back and worry about...did I do everything necessary to keep my bees alive over the winter months? It's kind of a nail biter and something there seems to be a million and a half opinions on what to do. In the long run it really just comes down to having done my

## Letters from the WILDHILLS

mite treatments, made sure they have food and a little prayer. (The looks I got buying 300 lbs of sugar...)

As our State Apiarist Andrew Joseph stressed the other month at our club meeting, keeping bees alive in winter in Iowa is work, our weather just isn't constant and stresses the bees (Thanks for coming to talk Andrew). Sometimes we're crazy successful, sometimes we're not. I've had winters of 100% survival and 0%. It's gutting to see those losses.

I guess I'll rely on knowing I've done what I'm supposed to but in the end we're just humans living in a bees world...aka sometimes we can do everything right, and still it doesn't go well. Life happens. It's not a scapegoat, it's just acknowledging sometimes things go wrong and we take notes and make adjustments from years prior.

In other news. It's also time for Wildhills Honey to expand and I'm getting ready for my first vendor fair. I've learned I'm good at hoisting heavy boxes, getting stung, and harvest, but y'all.....being crafty. Wow. Now that's some work. Thank goodness I have a great partner aka Mom who's beyond crafty. It's exciting though, a chance to help me grow this little hobby turned small business and my goal is to grow in 2025. It's funny. Few years ago one of my mentors told me I'd be at 100 colonies before I know it. I laughed and said never, I'm happy with 8.....

There's a lot of energy as we head to the new year, lots of goals and I'm grateful for the opportunities to come.

On behalf of everyone on the IHPA team, we wish you the happiest of holidays.

All my best, Chris



Above, Chris adding his final round of Apiguard.



# 2024 IHPA Annual Conference and Trade Show

The 2024 IHPA Annual Conference and Trade Show is in the books. Thank you to the 350 people who attended, the 20 speakers, 13 vendors, numerous volunteers and a fantastic conference center staff who helped make this event the largest and (in my opinion) the best beekeeping conference in the Midwest, if not most of the United States.

The lowa Honey Producers is now considered a fairly sizable association conference in the state of lowa. As such there are not many venues that have the space and reasonably priced hotels rooms needed to host us. No conference centers that bid to host our event had our regular November dates available. I had some concern that moving the dates of the conference up two weeks into October would hurt the attendance but was pleasantly surprised that we had a strong registration in the last three weeks leading up to the event. We are returning to the Prairie Meadows Conference Center and Hotel for 2025 on October 24 and 25. Look for more information, speaker line up, sponsorship and registration opportunities coming in May.

People take away many different things when they attend our annual conference. Most people come to learn more about beekeeping and get answers to problems that have them scratching their heads in the bee yards. Some come to expand their knowledge of beekeeping and learn things that may trigger a desire to try something new (my trigger was queen rearing) and others come to stock up on discounted equipment and beekeeping supplies from vendors. The one thing that everyone has in common are the bonds of renewed and new friendships made during the two days of nothing but beekeeping. Watching the hugs and handshakes of old friends, the introduction of the new beekeepers knowing that they are about to learn more in two days from national speakers and the beekeeper sitting next to them is truly a special sight. My real-life job is entertainment and managing theaters, arenas,



stadiums and convention centers. I have booked and met some of the biggest stars on the planet. I am a beekeeper to escape and become one with my bees and find my "Zen." I do not get star struck easily, but this conference was special to me for I got to meet the beekeeper who brought the art of beekeeping to my level of understanding. David Burns was booked as one of our large speakers. I have followed David through YouTube and Facebook and was excited to finally get to meet my "Bee Idol."

This is why we host this conference, to connect, learn, mingle, meet and share our passion in ways that others may not fully understand without anybody saying, "How many times do you get stung?" We will see you in 2025!

By the way, David Burns joined and is now a member of IHPA.

H.R. Cook Annual Conference Event Co-Chair

#### IHPA Historian

# HISTORY OF IOWA BEEKEEPING\* F. B. PADDOCK, Ames, Iowa

neybee did not occur in the North American continent a supporation by the Nordics. It was introduced into the Use a part of the system of agriculture which was to be estably colonists. There were probably two points of introduced into the Use English in the New England section, and the other untry a little in advance of the white settlers. The Indicating the approach of the settlement of the white bees across the southern

Thank you IHPA membership for your vote at the 2024 Annual Meeting. I, Tina Marshall, am super excited to have been elected as your Historian. Would you like to know a little bit about me? I thought you might!

My husband, Jim Marshall, and I have been married for almost 30 years. We were practically neighbors growing up, but didn't know it. Our families intertwined but never us two shall meet, until I was a senior in HS. It really is an interesting story...for another day. Jim is an engineer by profession, and I studied my interest of psychology and sociology. (Ying and yang, right?!) After my college diploma, I worked a few years in child protective services, before turning my sights to home.

We live on a hobby farm in Mahaska County, where we have raised 4 marvelous children, two boys and two girls. Our oldest son is married to a beautiful soul, and they have 2 happy children, making us grandparents. Our second son proudly works for John Deere in another part of the state, enjoying his independence. Our oldest daughter is married and about ready to graduate university. The suspense of her next year has us all curious what the next steps will be. Our youngest is still at home and a very active sophomore in HS.

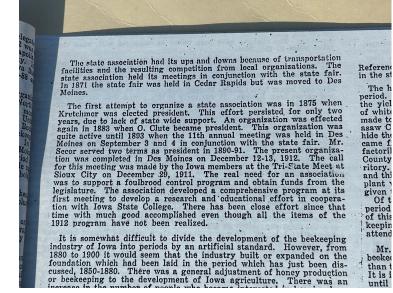
I have been a stay-at-home mom for the last 25 years. Idleness is not a defining factor in my days though. We have homeschooled all our children from preschool through their senior year. I also might be a little over involved in volunteer work, such as church ministries and 4-H, to name a few. My hobbies are many. Creativity can be a burden that way. Lately, though, my

passion is genealogy, restoring family gravestones at cemeteries, and trying to keep my sourdough starter alive.

Living on the bluffs of the Des Moines River for over half of my life has afforded us the pleasure of not only enjoying wildlife but being able to raise farm fresh eggs from happy chickens, a garden of bounty, and most recently honeybees. About 14 years ago, our boys applied for a local beekeeping club scholarship and received it. Beekeeping had been a "someday" item for my husband and I, and this is what ultimately launched that reality. Our early beekeeping years were blessed with the wisdom of Eves and Iola Cadwallader. Today, we run 5-15 hives, depending on the "weather."

I submitted to being the IHPA Historian because we live and breathe beekeeping, I thoroughly enjoy looking through old things, and I've been told I'm a gifted writer. I aspire to not only bring you some timely tidbits about the IHPA and beekeeping "history" but also organize and catalog the treasury. My articles here will be written with a stronger urge to entertain, than entice fact checking. (I'm definitely not an expert in the field, I just like finding historical nuggets and winding a story web around them.)

With that, here is your first timely little tidbit: HAPPY BIRTHDAY lowa Honey Producers Association! It's your birthday! Organized as the lowa Beekeepers Association on December 12, 1912.







# From the Honey House





A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

#### Winter is Here!

A common beekeeping lament sounds like this: "There's always next year."

- Didn't medicate properly; do it better next year.
- Didn't get much honey; there's always next year.
- You weren't prepared with your equipment, etc.; there's always next year.
- The moon and stars didn't align properly; there's always next year.

As beekeepers, I've noticed that most of us are ever hopeful. We should be doing some thinking about what we can improve on for next bee season. Review your hive notebook to compare it with previous years, and cross reference it with results. Always remember the variables in beekeeping. This year the bees were crabby early on, probably with the nonstop rain in June. With the hot and humid weather here in southeast Wisconsin in August, we had an explosion of hive beetles. Both of these were unusual for us. Write down some goals for yourself, possibly on the monthly calendar. Not the daily or weekly; remember that the bees have their own schedule.



December is a time to prepare and plan for next season. The bees are put to bed for the winter, your beekeeping work may be done, and it's time to relax. Beekeeping planning is always 60-90 days ahead, whether you have more than a few hives, or even one. Time passes quickly.

It's been a good honey year for us, with a 66# average per hive, and more than enough honey for our markets next year. We had a lot of mite problems, and lost a lot of hives going into winter. Our operation is changing some, with my son Scott working with me more. So, we have some planning to do.

Planning for us is important, to keep things moving in the winter. Things always come up at the last minute it seems, so building in some wiggle room has been working well over the years. Rehabbing empty boxes and painting them before adding more frames. Mixing available drawn and new foundation to encourage bees growing into the extra space. We will need additional feed pails. We need to evaluate our beeyards, to plan for some expansion.

We go through dead equipment frame by frame, culling old and bad frames. Sort deep and medium frames and arrange boxes for new splits, second deeps, and to put on partial foundation in supers in the beginning of the honey flow. Does your equipment need to be repaired, fixed, painted? Are you thinking about expanding your hives, or trying new things? Plan for it now. How about catching up on your reading and research. Attend some of the conferences around the Midwest this winter. Lots of possibilities. Always the goal is to be ready to go when the bees are ready to go this coming spring.

I wish everyone a merry holiday season, and a fun winter!

Andy Hemken, Bee Guy andy@hemkenhoney.com

## From the Beeyard

A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

#### Written by Phil Ebert

We finished extracting the last few supers that we were waiting for the brood to emerge from. Overall, it was a pretty poor crop. A generous allowance for Lynnville would be 30#/colony. Mt Vernon was less than that. Queen loss was abnormally high. It was mostly the new queens that we lost. They laid for a while and then went bad. After it reaches a certain point in the year, there is no point in trying to keep them going. We lost over 100 colonies to queen failure. We did have one box of no-name queens that were not good but the others came from people I consider reputable suppliers.

My favorite flatbed had to have some attention. The brakes were getting pretty spongy. I had already quit pulling the trailer with it. The brakes have a vacuum boost. It got to the point where it would not hold vacuum at all. I pulled off the vacuum hose on the booster and held my thumb over it. The pump was sucking so we replaced the booster. That didn't do the job, we had to replace the pump, also. Shortly after that, the starter went out. Alex replaced that. I spent 30 years looking up at the underside of trucks. I can still get down under there but getting back on my feet is a real issue.

Mite problems seem to be common. Our losses are mounting. I have talked to a number of people that have experienced high losses. I don't know what the final numbers are going to be. The bee roundup has started. We are going to Texas this year. I have mixed feelings about that. It can work but it can also inhale a lot of money.

The annual meeting has come and gone. Randy Oliver was the only presentation that I went to but I enjoyed seeing everyone. It was a busy time. I didn't hear what the numbers were but it looked to be well attended. I regretted missing the Friday night reception. I sold almost everything I brought by Friday afternoon. Being greedy, I went home Friday night for another truck load. I got back to the motel in Altoona about 11 p.m.

The weather has remained mild. It is Nov 8 as I write this. It is still possible to feed but winter prep, in general, should be finished. Entrances should be reduced or some kind of mouse guard put in. We always used to put a piece of R-Board under the lid for insulation. It prevented condensation from forming on the inner cover. Then we would drop a carton over them. We liked to get the total weight of the colony up around 120#. That figures out to be about 60# of food. When we started out 40+ years ago, we had a spring scale with a hook on it. The scale hung on a fulcrum arm attached to a stake that rested on the ground. We hooked one side of the bottom board and got a reading that represented half the weight of the hive. This was Stanley's system. It took the guess work out of it but after a few years and our numbers grew, it was just more things to haul around and we quit using it. Another way of looking at it is to have your top deep box 2/3 full of syrup/honey. One thing we noticed the last few years we wintered in lowar was that a lot of the colonies didn't want to store food at the top of the box. They kept putting it on the side. I don't know if that involved some kind of genetic change or if it was just one of those quirky things that happens for no apparent reason.

As usual, controlling the mite load is the key to winter survival. If your bees have made it this far and are looking good, you might want to think about a final cleanup with either an oxalic dribble or a vapor treatment. It needs to be warn enough for the bees to move around a little bit in the hive. Temps in the 40's are okay. Spring will be here before we know it.



# Recipes by Emma Ingram

As I sit here curled up under my fuzzy blanket, with a hot cup of spiced honey tea in my hand, I can finally breathe a sigh that my bees are happily snuggled in their beds and I am snuggled inside avoiding the chilly evening. Usually, this time of year I try out some new honey Christmas treat or tasty side dish to share with your loved ones at any family gatherings you may have. This year is a little bit different. It can be hard to incorporate all the unique and tasty drinks with all the amazing other things to try. This month, I am trying out one tasty drink that can be served hot or iced. While both are amazing, I am partial to the hot version this time of year.









#### Spiced Honey Tea (Pg. 167)

4 tea bags (I used black tea although some green teas may work too)

4 cup lemon juice

4 cinnamon sticks

20 whole cloves

Boil water, add tea, cinnamon, and cloves. Simmer for 5 minutes. Remove cinnamon and cloves. Stir in honey and lemon juice. Chill for 1 hour. Pour over ice and serve with a lemon slice.

**Emma's Notes:** This drink had a lot of flavors I wasn't sure would go together, but like the citrus in spiced cider, the lemon juice made the other flavors shine. The honey took the bite off the lemon juice and made a delicious blend of sweet and spicy (not hot spicy!).

Although the recipe says served over ice, I have also tried it hot and really enjoy it like that. For a single cup, I did one tea bag, ½ TBSP lemon juice, 1 TBSP honey, ½ cinnamon stick, and 3 cloves. Even serving it hot, it is best to remove the cinnamon and cloves after five minutes. Leaving them in can over steep them making the drink bitter. Although it does not specify, I believe the recipe makes about ½ gallon of spiced tea. Whatever amount you make, just make sure you keep the ratio of 2:1 honey to lemon.











# From the Editor

<u>Sara Sleyster, IHPA Editor</u> sarasleyster@gmail.com



Hello, everyone!

How is it already the end of 2024? My first year editing The Buzz went by so fast, and I've learned so much in the process. I appreciate all the patience given to me at the start of the year and all the help every edition.

There were a lot of "firsts" for me this year: first time eating a tenderloin at the Peru Bar and Grill, first time volunteering at the IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair, and first time trying a honey beer made from my stepdad's bees. In November, I got to sample Swarmin' Norman's Honey Ale at the Hot Air Brewery in Creston.

Brewer Jay Wilson made a small 10-gallon batch of the beer with Jeff's honey in late September. My son and I went to the debut party for it on Nov. 9. (Being underage, he didn't get to try it, but enjoyed some homemade sodas instead.) The ale was a golden yellow and tasted terrific. I hope they make it again and it becomes a seasonal offering.

The debut party also included a buffet of food and a live band. Jeff plays bass guitar and sings in several bands. That night it was Garrett Lee and the Relics performing some classic rock favorites.

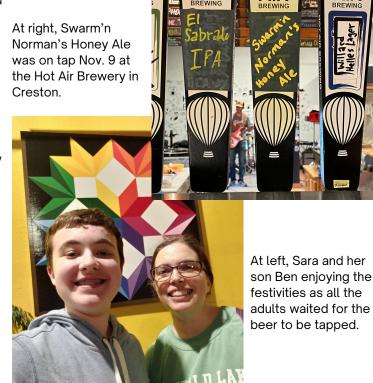
Next on my list of firsts is to get down to Honey Hollow and try some of Jason and Shannon's mead. The hardest part there will be deciding which flavor to get!

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Sara





Garrett Lee and the Relics with the Swarm'n Norman's Honey Ale prior to performing at the Hot Air Brewery in Creston.



#### Youth Scholarship Recipients 2024-2025

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who successfully completed their scholarship year. Each student attended conference in 2023, beginning beekeeping classes, and conference in 2024. They each worked closely with a mentor and completed all necessary paperwork.

2024



Student: **Jonah Arndt**Mentor: Fred Koch



Student: **Joseph Gonzalez** Mentor: Megan Haynes



Student: **Noah Janssen** Mentor: Jim Berkley



Student: Olivia Arndt Mentor: Fred Koch



Student: **Benjamin Gustoff**Mentors: Mike/Julie Sander



Student: Cater Knupp
Mentor: Raymond Knapp



Student: **Evelyn Barrett** Mentor: Tim Kimrey



Student: **Caleb Hill Mentors: Sara/Tyler Holton** 



Student: **Beth McCoy** Mentor: Shanna Duggan

#### Youth Scholarship Recipients 2024-2025

A special think you to our donors listed on the next page!

2024

If you want to be added to our list of mentors, or if you'd like to help the Youth Scholarship Program in any way please contact Stephanie!!



Student: Augustine O'Hagan

Mentor: Doyle Kincy



Student: Bailey Szurley

Mentor: John Bruilhler Mentor: Madison Rau



Student: Claire Neibergall Mentor: Jacinda Shafer



Student: Cameron Szurley

Mentor: John Bruihler Mentor Madison Rau



Student: **Daniel Powers**Mentor: Steve Hanlin



Student: **Isaac Williams** 

Mentors: Paulette/Jim Lynn

Not Pictured due to illness: Student: A**ddyson Wehrman** Mentor: Rachel Vauklich

Mentor: Tom Schutte



#### Youth Scholarship Recipients 2024-2025



Student: **Grace Christensen**Marshalltown



2025



Student: **Zenith Crum** Windsor Heights



Student: **Connor Kenyon**Madrid



Student: **Leila McCoid**Ankeny



Student: **Candra Oldfield**Montrose



Student: **Aubrey Rozycki**Cumming



Student: **Rumi Schumacher**Lone Tree







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1/8 page	25	250	2.7Tx4.1W	5.25Tx2.0625W
1/4 page	50	500	4.1Tx5.25W	5.25Tx4.125W
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You are still welcome and encouraged to send stories to ihpaeditor@gmail.com.

When sending photos please send them as separate files and not embedded in a Word document or Google doc.

#### Iowa Beekeeping Clubs

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**Cedar Valley Bee Club:** contact Ryan Dermody or Robert Stwalley at dermody.ryan@gmail.com and robert.stwalley@hawkeyecollege.edu

**Central Iowa Beekeepers Association:** contact Jamie Beyer at beyersbog@aol.com

**Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers:** contact Ellen Bell at ellenbell.ia@gmail.com



**Dubuque Swiss Valley Bee Club:** contact Paulette Lynn at pjlynn1@gmail.com

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**Loess Hills Beekeeping Association:** contact Chris Ruhaak at LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com

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**Pollinators Paradise Bee Club:** contact Dan Whitmore at Paddledan@gmail.com

**Quad City Bee Keeping Club:** contact Ron Fischer or Doug Dahlin at qcbeeclub@yahoo.com

**Southern Iowa Beehivers:** contact Mindy Butcher at msbutcher1@hotmail.com

Southern Iowa Hive Handlers: contact Scott Kent at clarkeccb@gmail.com

**Southeast Iowa Beekeepers:** contact Steve Hemphill at snwfarm@mepotelco.net

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Bee Ambassador

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If you would like to become more involved in the IHPA, we could certainly use your help!!!

Tyler Holton

The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association c/o Editor, Sara Sleyster 2233 E. Virginia Avenue Des Moines, IA 50320



The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society



Deadline for submissions to *The Buzz* is always the 10th of the month at 11:59 p.m. the month prior to when you would like to see information published.

If writing an article for *The Buzz*, submissions must be 800 words or less. Pictures are encouraged!

Deadline to submit information for the January Edition of The Buzz

December 10th at 11:59 p.m.

Please submit materials to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

