



The Buzz



January 2019

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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President's Message

Iowa beekeepers,

Our weather is changing as I write this on Pearl Harbor Day, a cold snowy December 7th. Most definitely time to get your hives where you need to have them for winter. Myself included, hopefully this weekend. By the time you all read this, Christmas will have passed and we all can start our dreaming process for our upcoming 2019 beekeeping season. Beginning classes start real soon or have already started. That's a fun time for me to talk bees and help others with plans to set up hives etc. However, take note: Some of the beekeeping supply stores may have a new name or might have gone out of business. This world keeps changing whether we like it or not! I'm hearing of merges and money issues too!!

I'm 24 hours away from having our budget for 2019 done. The treasurer and I have made a commitment to get this done ASAP. Might be good to get it done and reviewed for a bit before we print in the March Buzz. This will be a part of the January all-day meeting.

Here I am in the "office" to wrap up this January note. It's now the 9th at 11 P.M. Just parked for a quick 8-hour break and remembered I need to finish this. What a weekend! Got home on Friday afternoon to discover my kitchen sink plugged! Jodi had been doing what she knew how to get it going, but to no avail. Ok, we live in an old house with an unfinished basement. I have to get into the crawl space to get to the drain on the wall. It was an old galvanized pipe totally

full of kitchen, well you know what.....yuck!!! I have a commitment to the IHPA treasurer, that I'm not canceling, at noon to 4:00 Saturday in Story City (an hour away). Then the Boone River Bee Club meeting. Very important speaker coming and dinner at 5:30 I hope to be at. Meeting starts at 7 P.M. I'm pulling out in the semi, (back to the "office") sometime mid-afternoon Sunday. Now how to fix the drain? Jodi, my most patient wife, understands this even when sometimes I question myself!! We go part-buying first thing Sunday morning, a run to Fort Dodge, 35 miles away. I start in, things going good, old pipe out!!!! I'm happy... then I notice my pipe that I thought was 2-inch is an inch-and-a-half!! Not good. I need another part. Jodi goes on the mission and with great success, gets what is needed. I have the new one ready to start gluing together, (fittings, joints, elbows etc.) I need Jodi to help right when she appears. Ok, I'm back in the crawl space for the 5th time and announce with confidence this will be the last, only to discover my drain pipe is now too short!! I get out and make the second trip to hardware store 5 miles away. (It's now 1:30 P.M. Not too much time till departure.) I get the extension, make the 6th dive into crawl space, and succeed in fixing the drain. It's now 4 P.M. Jodi has cooked up some great food for me to take with me. She is a happy wife with a fixed kitchen sink!

I need to get this to editor so let's bee safe in the new year and get good sleep. What a weekend.....

Sincerely, Roy Kraft, IHPA President

PS: Don't ask me to fix your kitchen sink!



Let's Go to the Central Iowa Beekeepers' Event in Grimes This January!!

Our **January Winter Seminar** will be on **January 19, 2019** and our main presenter will be Marlene Boernsen from NW Iowa (Ocheyedan) and she will be presenting on How to Make (and add flavorings to) **Creamed Honey**. She sells her creamed honey at the State Fair and it is always a big hit. I have heard her present a couple years ago on this topic and she knows her stuff. Come prepared to learn and also to buy her creamed honey. She will have it to sell to us. I know she makes many different flavors .

Also, at this meeting I will be presenting an Update to **Swarm Trapping** or Using Bait Hives. I have learned a few more tricks to being successful that I will share. Also, this past summer, I caught 10 swarms in my traps but in addition, caught 7 swarms by other means. I was able to get some videos of the swarms that was an eye opening experience for me. One swarm video is of the bees showing up and actually entering a trap!!! Another is a swarm leaving a hive and clustering on a tree branch. Another is a swarm entering a hollow hole in a tree. And finally a swarm I followed for a half mile and clustering on a low tree branch.

Nature is a wondrous marvel that I am always in awe of but these videos takes nature to the highest level of wonderment and admiration. Be prepared to enjoy them.

This meeting will start at noon and finish up around 4 pm on Saturday January 19th.

It will be held at the Grimes Community Complex, **410 SE Main ST., Grimes, IA 50111**. There is NO CHARGE to attend the meeting but donations will be accepted. If you are on the fence about attending, remember this: **REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED!**

Here Comes the Queen!!

My name is Brooklyn Pardall and I live in West Point, Iowa. I am currently a senior at Central Lee High School but also take college classes through Southeastern Community College. I am currently finishing my Associates of Arts and Sciences degree from SCC. I am officially done with my degree in December and will walk the stage in May for both college and high school. I am already accepted into the honors program at University of Iowa for Cell and Developmental Biology and am extremely excited! After getting my Bachelors Degree, I plan to apply for medical school in hopes of later becoming a pediatrician.

I am very involved in both FFA and 4-H, as well as other clubs within my school, such as the varsity dance team. FFA has been one of my most active groups in high school, as I have held offices and gotten many awards through my work in the agri-science fair. I am known for my science project on bees, and currently hold the title of Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair champion. Through this involvement, I had the amazing experience of receiving an invitation to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). I was one of the five representative projects from Iowa, and had the honor of presenting about the importance of bees through my research. I talked to a man named Jay Evans there. He works for the USDA and serves as a contributor for "Bee Culture" magazine. He was interested in my project, and we talked and mingled at my project for about an hour. In the later months, he wrote about my project and the other bee-related projects

at Internationals. Out of them all, he dubbed mine Best of Show. I was extremely honored and very surprised, as there were so many amazing projects to view. Science fair has led me to become increasingly focused on my studies with the bees, and reminds me to always stay curious.

My personal goal for my final year with my project is to just have fun and educate as many people as possible, especially now as the Iowa Honey Queen. I'd really like to travel as much as possible this next year of my reign. I love meeting new people and sharing my project with them, as it is a passion of mine. Although there is much glory, I could have never done all this without my amazing family. My mother and father have been extremely supportive, helping me whenever I was busy in school and taking care of my bees when I couldn't. I'm also blessed with three amazing sisters: Courtney, Caitlin, and Haylie. Also, I have my brothers-in-law: Marcus, Gordon, and (soon to be) Dustin. From them I now have three nieces and a handsome nephew. And of course, there's also my boyfriend Kyler. We love spending time together as a family, even though we are the busiest of people. I truly have a passion for the things I do and cannot wait to experience this new journey as the Iowa Honey Queen!

Brooklyn Pardall, IHPA 2019 Honey Queen.

Editor note—Did everyone notice that I spelled Brooklyn's name wrong in the December Buzz? I apologized to her, and she was so gracious in accepting it. I'll be sure to keep getting it right now!

Or, Let's Go to the Siouxland Beekeepers Event in Sioux Center this February!

The Siouxland Beekeepers are following CIBA's lead and offering a Winter Bee Fest in Sioux Center in February. On the 23rd we'll meet in the new Dordt Stewardship Center just north of town on Hwy 75. (same location as Field Days were held in the past). We invited Randall Cass of Iowa State University to come and address us. He's an entomologist and his specialty insect is the honey bee. Come prepared to learn a lot about our little friends.

Also featured will be our very own IHPA President Roy Kraft. Roy loves to help his bees make comb honey. He'll teach us how he goes about it. He also makes his own queens using the Nicot system, and he'll bring that along and tell us how it's done.

Then comes a report from our local queen-rearing experts, John Anderson and Dave Korver. They will update us how things have gone since they received a grant from IHPA at the Annual Meeting in 2017. Both have successfully reared queens using different methods. Our entire club has a general goal of rearing northern queens who know how to survive, plus we want to select for mite resistance. We all dream to be free from buying southern-bred stock.

We'll also have bunch of displays--observation hive, long hive, sugar boards, winter covers, and many other clever designs. There will also be side-products available, from lotions to lip balms to candles, etc.

Plus, one never knows when the almond patties and other Dutch pastries will show up...

Come one, Come all! Registration at <https://goo.gl/forms/cHu2yFRr2pl3RW7v1>

A Report from our State Apiarist Andy Joseph!

Hello fellow bee people.

Quick cold fall, but a nicer, sunny day as I'm writing this. We never really got our Indian summer did we? Lots of syrup feeding this fall for many of us. And pollen sub sure does help keep queens laying.

Mite treatment was a little sketchy this season. Many beekeepers treated their hives this fall using trusted products and good timing, but still had trouble making the mites die. It didn't seem to be a resistance issue to any one particular product. Beekeepers who re-checked mite counts following treatment could at least give another dose or try again using a different product. And often these secondary treatments were more effective. Of course earlier is always better than later for killing mites, so we'll all see how well wintering goes.

Nearly all the bees headed out of state have been moved to their warmer locations. More and more smaller-scale beekeepers are participating in the almond pollination gold rush each year. I saw a lot of great looking, strong hives in these "Exit checks". I also saw a lot of still-struggling hives. Many hives just wanted to shrink. I had troubles with this in my own bees, more than I've ever experienced. A hive might look a little small and get put together with another, then a visit the following week might find it again to be on the small side, so another would be combined... If you had to deal with this dwindling, I hope your numbers have stabilized and your

bees are beginning winter with both strength and weight.

It won't be long til it will be a good idea to get out on that special sunny mid-40-degree day and pop some covers and heft some boxes. See if the bees have moved up to the top boxes. See if the boxes are still heavy or if they've burned through food stores. I believe these winter checks have become more important in recent years. If bees are upstairs and they've eaten quite a bit, you can always add more food. Feed "winter patties" or dry sugar or fondant or candy boards ... just be sure they have access to good empty calories. With the cost of bees as high as it is, saving even just a hive or two from starvation will likely cover your cost of this emergency winter feeding.

Winter is also prime time to fix up that aging empty equipment. Spring comes fast. My boxes are as ratty as any of the worst of yours, so this is mostly a note to myself. What I really should do is create a hive body burn pile and buy new ... instead what I hope to do is scrape and paint anything solid enough to withstand another few seasons of handling. Frames can be scraped. Greasy old black combs melted down or discarded. These winter chores are so easy to procrastinate, but it really is rewarding to get good and cold now and then.

Enjoy the winter. Come on springtime. See you all soon.

Andy

The Beeline is the monthly magazine of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Ass'n. Their editor sends me copy, and I in turn copy, with permission, this information on mites. It's the first part of a larger article, and I'll try to print the rest in February.

Biology of the Varroa mite: What you need to know to understand its population dynamics.

The following information is shared by Phil Craft and Veto-Pharma. We thank them for the opportunity to share it with you. Principal stages of Varroa's reproductive cycle

The reproductive cycle of Varroa takes place entirely in the capped brood cells, beginning with a single previously impregnated female individual, the foundress mite. Varroa multiply rapidly. One cycle produces:

- At least 1.45 new female mites in the worker brood
 - At least 2.2 new female mites in the drone bee brood, which is the most attractive for Varroa.
1. The queen bee deposits an egg into an empty brood frame.
 2. 8 days after the egg is deposited, the foundress mite enters the cell. This is 15 hours prior to the capping of the cell by the worker bees.
 3. 9 days after the egg is deposited, the cell is capped. Varroa foundress mite begins to feed on the lymph on the developing pupa
 4. 10-11 days after the egg is deposited the foundress mite lays 1 egg every 30 hours in to the cell (the first egg is male and then all are females).
 5. 12-20 days after the egg is deposited, young Varroa females are sexually mature after 5 to 6 days and are then impregnated by the Varroa male.
 6. 21 days after the egg is deposited, the young bees leave the cell parasitized by Varroa females. Male and immature are not viable and are eliminated during cleaning. Impregnated mature females, including the foundress, mite, exit the cell. Other cells may now be parasitized.

Continued on page 9-->

Our IHPA Youth Scholarship Chair is Ted Reeves. If any reader wants to learn more about the Youth Scholarship program because you know some young person who might qualify to get set up in beekeeping, please go to our website to learn more. If you have beekeeping equipment to sell, you might want to bid on supplying the IHPA with equipment and supplies. Bids must be received in writing by January 15th, 2019 to either the email address or mailing address on the form. Estimated shipping to each student needs to be included as part of the bid. All complete bids will be presented to the IHPA board at the January meeting for review and selection.

IHPA Youth Scholarship Bid Sheet

Count	Item Description	Price	Total
10	Hive Body Commercial Grade 10 Frame Langstroth (2 Deeps and 2 Supers)	_____	_____
200	9-1/8 Grooved Top Bar Frames	_____	_____
200	Plasticell Foundation for 9-1/8 Frames	_____	_____
200	6-1/4 Grooved Top Bar Frames	_____	_____
200	Plasticell Foundation for 6-1/4 Frames	_____	_____
10	Standard Bottom Board W/ Entrance_ Reducer	_____	_____
10	Tele Cover W/ Inner Cover	_____	_____
10	Economy Hive Tool	_____	_____
10	Smoker W/Shield	_____	_____
10	Division Board Feeder	_____	_____
10	Bee Brush	_____	_____
10	Leather Gloves (Sizes to be determined later)	_____	_____
10	Hooded Jacket/Veil (Sizes to be determined later)	_____	_____
10	Appropriate Nails for construction of hive bodies	_____	_____
10	Estimated Shipping Cost	_____	_____
Grand Total			_____

Shipping There will be 10 separate shipments to 10 addresses throughout Iowa. An estimated shipping cost needs to be part of the bid.

Each shipment will consist of the following:	
Count	Item Description
1	Hive Body Commercial Grade 10 Frame Langstroth (2 Deeps and 2 Supers)
20	9-1/8 Grooved Top Bar Frames
20	Plasticell Foundation for 9-1/8 Frames
20	6-1/4 Grooved Top Bar Frames
20	Plasticell Foundation for 6-1/4 Frames
1	Standard Bottom Board W/ Entrance_ Reducer
1	Telescoping Cover W/ Inner Cover
1	Hive Tool
1	Smoker W/Shield
1	Division Board Feeder
1	Bee Brush
1	Leather Gloves (Sizes to be determined later)
1	Vented Hooded Jacket/Veil (Sizes to be determined later)
1	Appropriate Nails for construction of hive bodies

Please submit your bid to Ted Reeves at beekeeper@reevestkd.com or mail to 17400 Illinois St. Ackworth Iowa 50001

******* All bids need to be received by January 15 2019*******

Emma Jakes' Recipes

Christmas has come and gone again, and with it another year is passing. The snow can now fall and keep us locked inside the house with a nice cup of cider and a big bowl of soup. Well, maybe we don't need quite THAT much snow, but curling up with a hot drink and warm soup does sound good after the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Again, I had two great recipes to try: spiced cider and a honey chili. They may not be the best for your New Year's diet, but they will make a great treat after the holiday sweets!

Honey Spiced Cider (Pg. 164)

5 cups apple cider	¾ cup honey
24 whole cloves	2 small navel oranges, quartered
7 (4-inch) cinnamon sticks	1 (4-inch) strips lemon zest
¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg	

Combine cider and honey in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Stir until the honey dissolves. Push 3 cloves into the rind of each orange quarter. Add to the cider along with the cinnamon sticks, lemon zest, and nutmeg. Bring mixture to a simmer. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer at the merest bubble for 20 minutes. Remove the fruit and spices with a slotted spoon and discard, Serve hot. Makes 8 servings (about 6 ounces each).

Emma's Notes: Yummy! I unintentionally used 4 cinnamon sticks instead of 7 but found that 4 was plenty for my family's tastes; we could still taste the cinnamon quite well without it becoming over powering. The quantity of ingredients other than the cider was enough to make 2 batches but I would use more nutmeg for the second batch. The cider should also be stirred thoroughly before pouring to ensure that the nutmeg is dispersed evenly. My family also agreed that this recipe is a "keeper."

Spicy Sweet Honey Chili (Pg. 62)

2 pounds ground beef	1 cup sweet onions, chopped
1 garlic clove, chopped	½ cup green bell pepper, chopped
1 ½ diced jalapeno peppers, chopped	2 (15 ounce) can chili beans
1 (15 oz.) can diced tomatoes	1 (46 oz.) can tomato juice or vegetable juice
1 ½ teaspoon chili powder	1 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon thyme	½ teaspoon salt
1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon	½ cup honey

Brown and crumble the ground beef, add onions, green peppers, and garlic, cook until onion is translucent/brown, drain grease, add all other ingredients except honey, stir and simmer 25 minutes, add honey stir again, add extra spices to taste. Enjoy! Serve alone, over rice or spaghetti. Serving with cheese and crackers is a must. Oh, and great with cornbread as well.

Emma's Notes: This soup was very savory. It was also easy to make and did not take a lot of time. As with most soups, letting the flavors mingle overnight increases the flavor but it was still delicious the first day. If I made this again, I would probably use a little more salt, but otherwise I would make no changes. I plan to make this chili for an upcoming chili cook-off at the end of this month and hope to add it to my regularly fixed foods.

Editor Note: I was talking to our President Roy Kraft the other day, and he mentioned how thankful he was that Emma always contributes to this magazine. I add my THANKS, and suggest that if anyone out there has another idea of a regular feature that would make our paper more informative, please volunteer to become a regular. We love regulars!!

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com

Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010

The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.



Changes in the Time that We've Been Beekeepers

As Jerry and I start thinking about teaching beginning beekeeping classes in the New Year, I'm wondering if we will continue to see the number of beekeepers increase. We've lived long enough to see other hobbies be popular for a while and then wane off.

We strongly encourage anyone considering beekeeping to **take classes prior to jumping into the hobby**. If nothing else, classes will help individuals know what they might be getting into. Beekeeping is not getting any easier.

We have always realized that forage is extremely important for our honeybees, but understanding the impact of weather on honey bee forage and on the honey bees is vital to beekeeping.

This past year was a prime example. In our area of central Iowa, we had a very cold wet spring. All of our hives survived last winter, but we did not do any splits due to the cold wet spring. We simply did not want to open up our hives and chill the brood. We decided to manage for honey and had a great harvest with limited swarming. Our summer was very hot and dry or, simply put, we had a drought. What I've learned about droughts is that timing of rains and soil moisture greatly impact nectar flow. Our drought wasn't quite as bad as the drought in southern Iowa, but it was a drought. We harvested honey in June and July and the honey bees were able to refill most of those extracted frames twice. Unfortunately, in our area, we had record-setting fall rains. Our fall was very cold and wet which limited time for honey bees to forage and our frequent rains washed out nectar.

Once again our honey bees used stored resources looking for fall nectar, so we again did fall feeding on those few sunny warm days. In fact, this year we put syrup jars on the hives after it warmed up and removed them later in the day as it cooled down. We never left jars overnight due to low overnight temps.

Last spring, we planted five seven sons trees/shrubs which did put out a few fall blooms. Hopefully, they will make it

through the winter and we will plant more next spring. Even if we had acres of these fall blooming trees, I'm not sure the bees would have got any nectar due to the cold weather and rains.

The first week of December we had a sunny day with temperatures in the 40's. Jerry quickly checked the hives, added partial winter patties and wrapped the hives. No losses so far all.

This past year we saw a few small hive beetles in our hives, but so far our hives have been able to control them. Unfortunately, we know more beekeepers are dealing with small hive beetle infestations as this problem moves north in Iowa.

I am concerned that a few years ago, I might have made it sound like beekeeping was somewhat easy and perhaps it was for a few years. Unfortunately, those easy years don't seem to come around too often.

What's a beekeeper to do? Remember **all beekeeping is local**. The timing and frequency of rains as well temperatures greatly impact nectar flow and whether or not the bees leave the hives to forage. I do believe that our weather is changing and will become more extreme.

We have lived on our little acreage over 30 years and have witnessed a tremendous loss of forage, trees and habitat in this area. On our property, we have lost old growth trees and still continue to lose trees for various reasons. We have planted trees throughout the 30 years that we have resided on this property, but it seems that the trees simply are not doing as well as we would like. We often forget that plants often get their nutrition from the air as well as the soil and today it simply takes a long time to grow an old healthy tree. I do believe that a large variety of honey bee friendly trees and shrubs are increasingly vital to the future of beekeeping. Trees and shrubs tend to fare better in those recurring droughts and rainy seasons.

A large blooming bee friendly tree is an acre of blooms in the sky.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weldon



Beekeeping is a continual process. The University of Montana maintains an education program some of you might consider. The course is all online, is set up in levels--Apprentice, Journeyman and Master. You might be content to just raise some bees and get some honey from several hives. But you might also glimpse the larger picture and want to educate yourself and the community you live in about the situation our pollinators face. It's getting harder and harder to keep bees, and it's more and more important that we have beeks in Iowa who are well-trained and prepared to lead us all into an uncertain future. If you can envision yourself getting educated to the degree that you might contribute effectively to the quest for better bees and a safer pollinator future, you might consider investigating this program. Go to <http://www.umt.edu/sell/programs/bee/about.php> and see what you think. Someday you'll lead us all!

Info from our Treasurer

Membership Dues are Due!

IHPA membership year is the calendar year. Check the back of the Buzz. If your Buzz shows an expiration date of 12/31/2018, it's time to renew.

Membership dues are \$20 for the first beekeeper in the household. Each additional beekeeper in the household is \$5. One Buzz will be sent to a "Family Membership" address. Your dues can be paid for multiple years if you prefer not to have to remember each year.

Please indicate if you wish to receive your Buzz in the US Mail or if you would prefer to read your Buzz online at the website: www.IowaHoneyProducers.org.

At this time, we cannot accept credit cards for your dues. Please complete the membership form in the Buzz or the one from the website, www.IowaHoneyProducers.org. Please send your check, money order or even cash payable to: Iowa Honey Producers Assn. or IHPA, to Rhonda Heston, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049. If you have any questions, please call 515-724-2124 or send an email to: IPHATreasurer@gmail.com.

PS – If you paid with your Annual Meeting registration, your expiration date should be updated by January 31, 2019.

Rhonda

Merchandise

In October we ordered another round of shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, hats and aprons. With the recent order, the prices increased slightly. With this said, we need to increase the price you pay to cover our costs. We want to be able to continue to bring you high quality merchandise.

Short Sleeve T-Shirts (Crew neck and V-neck)	\$10	
Long Sleeve T-Shirts	\$15	
Hat	\$10	
Sweat Shirts	\$20	
Hoodie	\$25	
Apron	\$15	
Cooling Towel	\$5	
Cookbook	\$4	
Cookbook (Case)		\$90

Website prices slightly higher. Shipping for one item will be \$7.50. All orders for more than one item will be billed for shipping costs. An email or text will be sent with this amount. Please send order requests to: IHPA, Rhonda Heston, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton, IA 50049. Questions please call 515-724-2124 or send an email to: IPHATreasurer@gmail.com.

Rhonda

Did you leave your coffee tumbler at the annual meeting? If so, I have it. However, I may have "ruined" the taste because I washed the cup and it's bright and shiny again. If this is yours, please contact Rhonda Heston, 515-724-2124 or send an email to: IPHATreasurer@gmail.com.

Thank you to each and every one of you that placed your trust in me to be your Treasurer for another year. I enjoy what I do for the association. If you have any questions on where or how the money of the IHPA is spent, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any board member, and we will do our best to explain.

Key Points-

Reproduction: Varroa mite reproduction occurs in honey bee brood cells, during the 12 – 14-day capped phase. Most female Varroa will carry out up to 3 or 4 successive reproductive cycles during their life by penetrating a brood cell just before its capping.

Phoretic phase: The duration of the phoretic phase (Phoretic Varroa = on adult bees) between 2 reproductive cycles is variable. An impregnated young female must necessarily mature in phoresy around 7 days (from 5 to 14) before it can infest a cell at the right stage and carry out its first reproductive cycle. However, the phoretic phase is not vital subsequently and depends mainly on the availability of nearby cells to be infested at the right stage of development.

Lifespan: The lifespan of the parasite is adapted to the bee's life cycle. A female can live for between 1 and 2 months in the summer and between 6 to 8 months during the winter in the absence of brood.

Survival: Only impregnated Varroa females, called foundress mites, can parasitize adult bees and survive outside the brood. Males do not survive after the young adult bee emerges (the same is true for non-impregnated females). They die of hunger (or dehydration) and are thrown to the bottom of the hive by workers when the cell is cleaned.

Infestation: In the beekeeping season, male brood cells are much more heavily infested than worker brood cells (8 to 10 times more). The impact and level of infestation are therefore less perceptible, except when the male brood is reduced, thus provoking a mass transfer of the Varroa population toward the worker brood, which has a sudden impact on a single age group and may lead to collapse when the infestation level is very high.

Spread of Varroa: Spread of Varroa from one hive to others (mostly due to the robbing of weakened colonies, but also due to drifting of drones or worker bees [returning to the wrong hive], or the reduction of worker population) plays an important role in the Varroa population dynamic. Various studies have shown large quantities of re-infesting Varroa that vary according to the season and colonies of up to 70 Varroa mites per colony per summer day⁹ or throughout the year from less than 200 to more than 4,000 mites per colony. Robbing may involve colonies more than 1 km away.

Swarming: Swarming causes a momentary stoppage in the Varroa population explosion, due to the broodless period of around 3 weeks linked to the emergence of the new queen, and the movement of part of the phoretic Varroa population departing with the old queen and its swarm. This reduction represents around 15 to 20% of the Varroa population present at the time in the original colony.

(to be continued in February)



Editor Note: The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association is a well-developed club. Of course, they've been around since 1947... There are several other mature clubs in Iowa as well, and all of us newer clubs can learn greatly from them. If you live in an area where no club is nearby, please contact your district director about getting a club started. Clubs are great service, information, and fun!



P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc.

Hive Kits Special

1 – 6 5/8 honey supers w/ wood frames and rite-cell foundation

Unassembled is \$35.00 or assembled & painted - \$45.00 (plus tax)

Pat & Peggy Ennis, 2105 110th St Goodell, IA 50439, 641-444-4767 pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com

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News from the Bee Yard, by Phil Ebert

Changes are underfoot in our operation. We sent a load of bees to California for the first time. I have no idea if we are doing the right thing, but it seemed necessary. The bees have had very little to work on thru the fall. We have had a few colonies starve to death before we started feeding. The weather has been wet and cold. We had no spring and very little fall. Winter bees need to have a high protein content in their bodies to enable them to make it thru winter. We have fed pollen supplement, but I doubt it has been enough to make much difference. The studies I have seen indicate that it takes a shovel full to make any difference. We have only put in a couple of pounds. We have consistently been working bees with our insulated overalls on and temps in the 20's and 30's. That feels really strange.

Adam made the California arrangements. I didn't have anything to do with it. Alex helped Adam load. We have two Bobcats but neither one of them has a mast. I was a little concerned that it might be difficult to get the hives packed tightly on the trailer, but everything went well. They loaded and had the nets on in three hours. I thought that was pretty good for rookies. It is mouse weather in California with temps in the 40's and 50's so we left the entrance reducers in.

Taking over Draper's container business is proving to be a bit more involved than I anticipated. We are going to run this out of Mt. Vernon because there is plenty of space for a new building. The weather has delayed construction, however. The concrete is poured and the poles are up but completion is not scheduled until early January—weather permitting. We need to be up and running Jan 2. Andria had to rent storage space in Mechanicsville. I am anticipating a slow start, but we still have to be ready to serve customers in a timely fashion.

We have a variety of winter projects underway. We have to

melt out the leftover wax from the comb honey frames and load them with new wax. This is not a small project. We have 150 of those supers so we are talking about 1400 frames. We have a lot of division board feeders that have been filled with comb. That makes them difficult to fill. We need to clean those out. We also have a custom bottling job that requires 6 ½ barrels of honey. Our aging fleet needs attention. We have a 1995 flatbed that is turning over 300,000 miles. Our "new" truck is a 2007 pickup that is just ready to turn over 200,000. I bought an old flatbed in Texas that had low miles and was advertised as having a little rust underneath. I thought, "Texas—how bad can it be?" It turned out to be pretty bad.

The frame had rusted thru behind the cab and broken. They had spliced a couple pieces of angle iron on to it. I didn't like the look of that. I ran it down to the local welding shop and they put a sleeve on the inside of the frame. It is a good repair. I also bought an old 4WD pickup at an auction. It is old but only has 100,000 miles on it. That's pretty new to us. It has a few problems but we will have it straightened out by spring. There are plenty of other day-to-day activities that keep us busy. We used to have some down time in the winter but not anymore.

The complexity of the business has increased dramatically. In the old days it was just me and one or two sons depending on the year in question. Now, we have five full-time people plus part-time help. We are dealing with health insurance, Workman's Comp and a lot of other really fun stuff. I could never leave the house and still stay busy.

Alex and Adam will be going to the AHPA Meeting in Phoenix in January. I didn't feel like there was enough money in the budget for me to go with them. They are the future of the business so they are the ones that need to go. I wish you all a belated Happy Holidays and may your bees be alive in the spring!!



Reserve this Date!!

The IOWA HONEY BEE DAY is going to happen on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019. We will gather in the Iowa State Capitol, Room 116, between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity to meet your legislators and other beekeepers and talk about bees and beekeeping in Iowa. We certainly hope you are able to attend. It's all about the bees, since the success of pollinators in Iowa is important to us all!!
Jamie Beyer and Linn Wilbur



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FOR SALE: Buckwheat honey—I have a small quantity available for \$8 per pound. Shipping is available. Contact Phil Ebert at ehoney37@netins.net or call 641-527-2639

Beginning Bee Keeping Classes:

Cherry Glen Learning Farm
3989 NW 94th Ave. Polk City, IA 50226
Ray Meylor, 515-450-1207 cherryglenfarmiowa@gmail.com
Saturdays, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
Hands-on with bee equipment in each session. Field day in spring at Cherry Glen Learning Farm.
Cost: \$10/session. \$40 for all. Free for veterans.
Sign up at: www.CherryGlenLearningFarm.org or FB: Cherry Glen Learning Farm
Can pay on the website or at the session.

Foley's Russian Bees FOR SALE:

Starting January 1st at 10 a.m. you can begin placing your order for Russian Nucs and Queens via our website.
5-frame Russian nucs \$152 each. Russian Queens \$38 each with discounts on larger orders. 2 & 3-pound Carniolan packages available for preorder starting mid-January.
Complete hive kits and hive components also available.
To place an order, please visit us on the web at www.RussianBee.com

FOR SALE: Package bees, nucs and singles. Prices will be set in late January. Contact Phil Ebert in Lynnville at ehoney37@netins.net or 641-527-2637. Adam Ebert in Mt Vernon at adam.ebert@eberthoney.com or 319-430-3514

For Sale in spring 2019

We will have packages, nucs, a few singles, and queens. Prices for bees will be set in January.
We also have syrup, pollen patties, mite treatments and bee equipment.
P & P Honey and Bee Supply, Inc.
Pat and Peggy Ennis Goodell, IA
pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com 641-444-4767

The Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa (FBI) will be holding their 2019 Beginning Beekeeping Classes starting January 24th, Thursday nights for 7 weeks. WE WILL BE USING THE SAME POWERPOINT AS LAST YEAR. THE CLASSES ARE FREE. COST OF BOOK IS 8.00. TO REGISTER CALL JUDY SPENCE 515-988-8397, DOYLE KINCY 515-710-4752 OR ERIC KENOYER 515-490-2477. Classes will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, 2708 N Jefferson Way, Indianola, IA 50125. 6:30-8:30 pm.

North Iowa Beekeepers' Club Auction

The North Iowa Beekeepers' Club is having an auction of beekeeping equipment and poultry equipment!

Location:

P & P Honey and Bee Supply Inc
Pat & Peggy Ennis
2105 110th St, Goodell, IA 50439
Date: Saturday, April 27th, 2019 / Starting @ 10:00 am / Auctioneer: Roy Kraft

We're looking for new or gently used beekeeping and poultry items!
We all have some stuff in the shed or barn we don't use that would be of great benefit or value to someone else. So now is a great time to dust it off, repair, paint and bring it to the auction!
All combs to be sold will be inspected before the auction.

To consign your items, and for a list of items being consigned, please call or email Pat @ 515-293-2601 or email to pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com.
Consignment rate: Before April 1st, - 10% / After April 1st, - 15%

All auction proceeds will benefit the North Iowa Beekeepers' Club and the youth with the purpose of educating and promoting the craft of beekeeping thru speakers and events to all the beekeepers throughout North Iowa.

Restrooms will be available (port-a-potties)
Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Bottled Water and Rolls, Baked Goods will be available for a donation/purchase.





Iowa Honey Producers Association Annual Membership Form



First Membership: \$20

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
County: _____
E-mail Address: _____
Phone: _____

\$20

I wish to receive my monthly newsletter by:

Website (pdf)
USPS (mail)

May we publish your information in the Association members booklet?

Yes
Not

Second Family Member (Same address, \$5)

Name: _____

\$ _____

Third Family Member (Same address, \$5)

Name: _____

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Only one copy of The Buzz Newsletter is sent per address.

TOTAL: \$ _____

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Iowa Honey Producers Association

Rhonda Heston, Treasurer
52735 187th Ave
Chariton, IA 50049

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. See the back of The Buzz Newsletter to find your expiration date. Above your name will be the expiration date.



BUZZ Expires: 12/31/2018

Example: John Smith
1234 Honeybee Lane
Beautiful City, IA 50000



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- www.eberthoney.com
- @eberthoney
- 1090 Highway 1 North
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14808 South 102nd Ave. East
Lynnvile, Iowa 50153

Editor note: Valerie Just sent me a very helpful article on various trees that are excellent for pollinators (read: they produce a lot of nectar). I think this sort of information is very important for beeks to know, since we are not just keeping bees for the present, but for the future as well. Think ahead. Plant with pollinators in mind. But mind you, the BeeBeeTree is not going to flourish up here in the north. It's only for far southern Iowa--Zones 5 to 8. I'll include more of Valerie's submission with information on more trees next month.

Korean Evodia Tree (Bee Bee Tree)

Last August, my husband, John, came home and told me there was a tree in our neighborhood that was flowering, and when he stood under the canopy, the hum of the honey bees was very evident. We have been beekeeping for the last three years, and had never heard of a tree that was in bloom in Iowa in August; however, any plant that is blooming at this time of year, and one that the honey bees will visit, is enough to pique my interest. We are typically experiencing a dearth of nectar and pollen during this time of year!

The bees were everywhere - thousands of bees. I had brought my camera, so I took several pictures and I sent the pictures to the extension office with Iowa State University. Within an hour, I was advised that the tree was a little-known tree called a Korean Evodia, sometimes referred to as the Bee Bee Tree.



I tried to call a couple of nurseries in Des Moines to see if they had this tree, but none of the nurseries carried the tree. The tree was for sale on the Internet earlier this year, probably as a bareroot specimen. If I decide to plant this tree, I will probably hold out for a more mature tree, as it takes six to seven years before the tree blooms; I want to get a tree that has a start on growth so I'm still alive to see the bloom!!! It is a real boon to our bees to find a blooming tree during this time of year!

Information from the [Forest Service, Fact Sheet ST-242 November 1993](#) and on the Maryland Grows blog – [The Buzz About Bee-Bee Tree: A New Invader in Maryland](#)

Korean Evodia is a little-known but highly desirable small, deciduous tree, often seen at 15 to 25 feet high with an equal or greater spread but is capable of reaching 50 feet in height (Fig. 1). Specimens reaching 50 feet tall are rare. The pinnately compound, dark green leaves cast a light shade below the tree and remain attractive and disease-free throughout the summer. The leaves often drop in autumn while still green, though some trees have been known to provide a display of clear yellow fall foliage. In early summer, many showy, flat-topped flower clusters appear, the white, fragrant blossoms attracting a multitude of bees. Following this gorgeous display of blooms is the production of ornamental, red to black fruits.

This tree can be slow-growing, and requires pruning to develop a strong structure. It is susceptible to breakage either at the crotch, or the wood itself is weak and tends to break. On unpruned trees, it can form a beautiful multi-trunked effect, similar to a shrub, but can be pruned to develop a clear trunk which is suited for planting close to the curb along the street.

Bee-bee trees are either male or female; that is, the male or female flowers are on separate trees. Both produce large, clustered flower heads. The female flower heads turn a wonderful red as the seeds ripen for a second decorative show. The seeds resemble dark black BB pellets and each female tree produces thousands of seeds. This leads to thick dark stands of bee-bee trees under which few other plants will grow.

In an article on a Maryland Grows blog, the author comments: *The seedling crop is so dense that you can't move without stepping on seedlings. It is important to know that this tree can be invasive, particularly if planting on a woodland acreage. It may be a magnet for bees, however it is suppressing and outcompeting the native plants that our native bees and insects need to survive.*

It will be important for each person to consider their land situation, and determine if this tree will add value.

Save the Date: The Northwest Iowa Beekeepers Ass'n will host a Beekeeping Intensive Weekend on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday Feb. 10 from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a snow date of Feb. 16/17. This will happen at the Dickinson County Nature Center, 22785 Nature Road, Okoboji, IA.

They also will sponsor Next Steps in Beekeeping for 2nd and 3rd year beeks on Saturday March 9, from 9:00 to 4:30 with a snow date of March 16. Same location.

2019 Beginning and Advanced Beekeeping Courses to be offered Across the State of Iowa.

For more information, please to the web site: @ www.iowahoneyproducers.org of the Iowa Honey Producers Association.

* "To Be Determined" (TBD), the class information at print date wasn't finalized. Please feel free to contact them to register for a class or for more information.

City and Time	Start Date	To Register
Adel, Tuesday evening	TBD	ISU extension, Aleta Cochran @ aleta@iastate.edu / 515-993-4281
Ankeny, Thursday evenings	Jan 24-Feb 28	Andrew Joseph:
Albia, Tue. evening	TBD	Sheila @ 641-891-2268 / Jerry @ 641-891-4071
Altoona, Mon. evening	Jan 14-Feb 18	Altoona Public Library https://Altoona.libcal.com/event/4224921
Boone, Thurs. evening	Dec 7, 2018	ISU extension Alex Merk @ alexmerk@iastate.edu / 515-432-3882
Calmar, Tue. evenings	Feb 5-Mar. 12	NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380
Cedar Rapids, Indian Creek Nature Center,	Jan. thru year	To register: 319-362-0664 or indiancreeknaturecenter.org/
Council Bluffs Sat. mornings	TBD	Iowa Western Comm. College 712-325-3255
Davenport, Thurs. evenings	Feb 21-Mar 28	Eastern Iowa Community College
Des Moines, Tues. evenings	Jan 22- Feb 26	https://dmps.revtrak.net/Community-Ed-Classes/#/list
Des Moines, Wed. evenings	Jan 23- Feb 27	https://dmps.revtrak.net/Community-Ed-Classes/#/list
Fairfield, Thurs. evenings	TBD	Jefferson Co Extension / Coleen @ 641-472-4166
Indianola, Thurs. evenings	Jan 24-Mar 7	Judy Spence: 515-988-8397 / Jespencejr44@gmail.com
Iowa Falls, Wed. evenings	Jan 30-Feb 27	Rachael Koehler: 1-800-284-4823 / 641-752-4645
Keosauqua, 1 day class	March	Van Buren Co Extension / 319-293-3039
Knoxville, Tue. evenings	Jan 17-Mar. 14	Jerry Weldon @ 641-842-5888 / Sheila 641-842-5888
Marshalltown, Thur. evening	Jan 31-march 7	Rachael Koehler: 800-284-4823/641-752-4645 / Room 612
Mason City, Sat. morning	Feb 5-Feb 26	NIACC Continuing Education: 641-422-4358
Mt Pleasant, Thur. evening	Feb 7 -Feb 28	Henry Co Extension Office: 319-385-8126
Nevada, Mon. evening	Dec 10, 2018	ISU Extension: Katie Williams @ kwillia@iastate.edu /515-382-6551
Okoboji, Sat.-Sun.	Feb 9,10	nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com / 507-227-5919
Okoboji, Advanced -Sun.	March 9	nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com / 507-227-5919
Okoboji, Sat.	TBD	nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com / 507-227-5919
Oskaloosa, Fri. evenings	Jan 18-Mar 8	Tina / Jim Marshall @641-660-0983
Ottumwa, Tue. evenings	TBD	Great Prairie Area Ed. Agency - Jen Daugherty 641-682-5491
Peosta, Thurs. evenings	Feb 7-Mar 14	NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380
Polk City, Sat. mornings	Feb 2-Feb 23	Ray Meylor 515-619-9014 / cherryglenfarmiowa@gmail.com
Sioux Center, Thurs. evening	TBD	712-441-0784 or duanebajema@dordt.edu
Sioux City, Wed. evening	Jan 16 - Feb 4	712-441-0784 or duanebajema@dordt.edu
Sioux Falls SD, Tue. evening	Feb 26 -April 4	712-441-0784 or duanebajema@dordt.edu
Toddville, Mon. evenings	TBD	Wickiup Hill Learning Center @ 319-892-6485
Toddville, Fri. evenings	TBD	Wickiup Hill Learning Center @ 319-892-6485
Toddville, Advanced	TBD	Wickiup Hill Learning Center @ 319-892-6485
Toddville, Queen Rearing	TBD	Wickiup Hill Learning Center @ 319-892-6485
Washington, Thurs. evening	March 5 - 26	Kirkwood Comm. College, 319-653-4655
Waterloo, Wed. evenings	Jan 16-April 13	Hawkeye Comm. College, 319-296-4290
Webster City, Sat. afternoon	Jan 19 - Feb 9	515-835-9326 or e-mail: Yvonne@iastate.edu

Please note that not all of these courses are sponsored by the Iowa Honey Producers Association, and the information presented by the instructors is not necessarily endorsed by the IHPA. Additionally, none of the courses are sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship and the information presented by the instructors is not necessarily endorsed by IDALS.

This is the third installment of the History of
Dadant and Sons.

The Third Generation

Three out of seven children born to C.P. were sons. They each graduated from the University of Illinois, Louis in mechanical engineering, Henry in civil engineering and Maurice in business administration. They all returned after college to help their father with the business. The business had been named Charles Dadant and Son. They were in the process of changing the name to Charles Dadant and Son and grandson when Charles died in 1902. They eventually altered it to Dadant and Sons as each son began to return to join the business. In 1924, they moved the business off of the original family farm into a tire factory in town where the company continues to house its corporate office today.

They incorporated in 1948. Louis spent a number of years managing the bees and plant production. He later turned his attention more to sales of beekeeper's supplies and the purchase of crude beeswax for comb foundation. Henry devoted his attention to plant problems and development. In 1921, he invented crimp-wired foundation. This foundation was received enthusiastically, and the business grew to new levels. Maurice devoted his time to The American Bee Journal and the business in general. All three worked closely with bees. Under this generation came the introduction of the Dadant hive, and many advances in the business of selling and providing beekeeping supplies. In following with the custom in France and with their father and grandfather, each of the three agreed they would bring a son or son-in-law into the business. It was during this transition that the business added the line of candles for the Catholic Church. The introduction of gilt-edge foundation and the necessity of manufacturing woodenware also became apparent in this era.

The Fourth Generation

The first of the fourth generation to appear was Henry's son-in-law, Roy Grout. The second was the son of Louis, James, and later the oldest son of Maurice, Robert Dadant. After World War II, James found other interests and the second son of Maurice, Charles, joined in 1946. This era saw the firm emerge as a modern and complex industry with a wide variety of interests. In 1963, as part of their Centennial celebration, a plastic-base foundation, Duragilt, was introduced along with a new revision of The Hive and the Honey Bee. In 1966, Charles Dadant assumed his position as president of the company. "Chuck" was a visionary and loved to try new products and methods of marketing. Under his tenure as president, the company grew with the addition of 10 branch locations, a metalware plant in Dallas City, IL., a woodenware plant in Polson, MT and a new candle factory in Kahoka, MO. In the early 1950's, he encouraged his good friend and co-worker Dr. G.H. (Bud) Cale to develop a hybrid bee breeding program which successfully developed the first commercially available hybrid queen bees known as the Starline and Midnite Hybrids. In 1990, Charles turned the leadership over to his nephew Tom Ross and his two sons Tim and Nick Dadant. A good friend and beekeeping associate once described Chuck as someone who spoke softly but was listened to carefully. He was known to not take big jumps, but wisely a step at a time.

Submitted by Dianne Behnke, of Dadant



Poem Time:

“Flyover Country” is a new collection of poems by Austin Smith. He grew up in the Midwest but as an adult has spent time in cities on both coasts. In this new collection, he reflects upon many aspects of his rural, simple and pure Midwestern roots. His poem entitled “Drone” is one all of you will connect with and I hope enjoy. I heard Austin read this poem on the NPR show “Here and Now” and when you hear it read directly by the poet, I feel you truly understand how the poem was intended to sound. Imagine the music from The Flight of the Bumblebee playing lightly in the background and you’ll think you are sitting right outside one of your hives in the middle of July on a bright, sunny, hot afternoon ... a wonderful place to bee. -->

Drone

Defined as:

To make a sustained deep
Murmuring, humming, or buzzing
Sound; to talk in a persistently dull
Or monotonous tone; to live
In idleness like a drone
Bee (the male of the honeybee
That develops from an unfertilized egg,
Is larger and stouter than the worker,
Lacks a sting, takes no part in honey-gathering
Or care of the hive, is of use
To the colony only if a virgin queen
Requires insemination); to pass or proceed
In a dull, drowsy, or uneventful manner;
To utter or pronounce with a drone;
To pass or spend in idleness or in dull
Or monotonous activity; an unmanned
Aircraft or ship that is guided remotely.
Rhymes with:

Zone,
Phone,
Hone,
Shown,
Lone,
Flown
Blown,
Stone,
Bone,
Moan,
Sewn,
Prone
Condone,
Unknown,
Atone.

Submitted by Past President Eve Vanden Broek



As you review these pictures, please consider being present in person November 2019 for the Annual Meeting. It's a fine chance to learn a lot in a short period of time, to celebrate achievements, to meet old and new friends, to improve your skills at maintaining our pollinator habit, and in general to promote the activities of our state organization. The Iowa Honey Producers is a fine group of dedicated individuals!



The Iowa Honey Queen candidates are featured here with the 2017 Queen Joy Westerkamp. L-R: Cameron Vannoy, Brooklyn Pardall, Kendra Robbins with Joy Westerkamp



And here is Brooklyn receiving the crown. Wear it well!!

There are also awards presented to deserving beeks throughout the state. Keep this in mind for November of 2019--Which worthy candidate might you nominate?

Please note that the editor labeled pics wrong last month--P&P Honey (Pat Ennis) got the Sweepstakes award, and that other picture was of Roy Kraft giving Curt and Connie Bronnenburg a Lifetime Membership to the IHPA. Here are several more:



2018 Distinguished Service Award presented to Marlene Boernsen by IHPA



2018 Distinguished Service Award presented to Eric Kenoyer by IHPA



2018 Pioneer Award presented to John Johnson by IHPA

The IHPA Queen program begins at the club level and progresses to the state level and eventually Iowa queens compete nationally. Please consider installing a queen program into your local club program.

The Awards Program includes awards for Distinguished Service, The Lifetime Award, the Sweepstakes Award, and the Pioneer Award. The IHPA also awards lifetime memberships at various times. Curt Bronnenburg maintains this program, and much thanks to him for his work. Keep thinking of people to nominate for next fall! Get in touch with

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Connie [515-480-6076](tel:515-480-6076). Curt [515-480-6075](tel:515-480-6075)



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The Buzz Newsletter

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