



# *The Buzz*

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



November 2013

**2014 Beekeeping Courses Pg 4-6**

**Updated Annual Meeting Speaker Bios Pg 8-9**

**2013 Annual Meeting to start at 8:30am**





**October 31** IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm at Marshalltown prior to the Annual Meeting  
**November 1 & 2** IHPA Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, IA



**FOR SALE: Honey Styx**

I sent 2 barrels of honey to Oregon to have put into styx, so these are Iowa honey. Good flavored light honey.

\$0.09 each in boxes of 2000 -  
\$180.00

0.12 each 500 - 1999

0.15 for 1 - 499

Curt Bronnenberg  
14405 Hull Ave.  
Perry, IA 50220  
(515) 465-5939  
CBronny823@aol.com

**I'm Continuing  
Draper's Wax Operation!**

If you've ever used Draper's Super Bee wax, you know the quality of their filtered wax. I have purchased their wax operation and will continue to uphold their standards! Call or e-mail me if you have cappings to sell or want to buy wax!

Royce Blackledge  
Black Cat Acres  
66435 270<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Nevada, IA 50201  
(515) 979-6585  
[royce.blackledge50@gmail.com](mailto:royce.blackledge50@gmail.com)

**Wanted:** William Lambright is looking to buy medium honey supers and a radial hand crank extractor.

Contact by mail:  
1053 Fair bank Amish Blvd.  
Fair bank IA 50629.

**FOR SALE:** Approx 18 cases of new 9oz hex jars with lids-\$6/cs or \$5/cs if you take them all. Also for sale: 4cs of new 12oz hex jars--\$7/cs with lids included.

Contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or e-mail [ehoney37@netins.net](mailto:ehoney37@netins.net)

**UTENSIL CROCK**

**100th ANNIVERSARY HIVE TOOL**

**COFFEE CUP WITH SPOON**

**MAGNET**

**COOK BOOK**

1-9 BOOKS

10 OR MORE

**IHPA BALL CAP**

**IHPA VISOR**

**T-SHIRT**

YOUTH S,M,L

ADULT S,M,L,XL

ADULT 2X, 3X

**POLO SHIRT**

ADULT S,M,L,XL

ADULT 2X, 3X

	BUZZ (includes shipping)	NEW BUZZ PRICE (includes shipping)
UTENSIL CROCK	\$36.00	\$33.50
100th ANNIVERSARY HIVE TOOL	\$20.00	\$20.00
COFFEE CUP WITH SPOON	\$17.00	\$12.50
MAGNET	\$2.00	\$2.00
COOK BOOK		
1-9 BOOKS	\$6.50	\$6.50
10 OR MORE	\$5.50	\$5.50
IHPA BALL CAP	\$8.15	\$6.65
IHPA VISOR	\$15.00	\$13.50
T-SHIRT		
YOUTH S,M,L	\$15.00	\$11.00
ADULT S,M,L,XL	\$15.00	\$13.00
ADULT 2X, 3X	\$17.00	\$15.00
POLO SHIRT		
ADULT S,M,L,XL	\$35.00	\$29.00
ADULT 2X, 3X	\$37.00	\$29.00

**I H P A Merchandise**

I know that is early, but not too early to be thinking about the holidays. IHPA merchandise makes Great Gifts! Merchandise can be picked up during the annual meeting or mailed you. The price in the Buzz includes shipping/postage costs. If merchandise is picked up at the Annual Meeting you will save on the shipping/postage costs. See the list online

Please call Rhonda Heston, 515-724-2124, for availability of crocks, honey pots and hive tools.

We are out of some items and running low on others. We have a few 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirts in large and x-large only.



**The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions**

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex` Ebert by email to [TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com](mailto:TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com) (also [alex.ebert@eberthoney.com](mailto:alex.ebert@eberthoney.com)) or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **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.



## President's Message November 2013

I don't know about you, but the time just seems to "bee" flying by, it seems like I just wrote the October President's message. By the time you read this in November, I hope you've got your varroa mite counts numbers under control, treated if needed and feeding if needed also. If you have not treated for Varroa Mites, or are not feeding your hives, I'm sure your bees will have a much harder time of surviving through our Iowa winters. I know we have many problems facing our honey bees, some we don't have much control over, but varroa mite is one we do have some control over. According to the **Bee Informed Survey** in the September Buzz, (pgs 11-13) "Beekeepers who used a known varroa control product lost 23.3% fewer colonies than those who did not use a known varroa mite control product. Beekeepers who reported treating with a known varroa mite control product between April 2011 and March 2012 reported 6 fewer overwintering colony deaths per 100 managed colonies than those who did not report using a known varroa mite control product. In other words, beekeepers who reported treating for varroa mites lost 23.3 % fewer colonies than those who did not report such use. Sixty-one percent of beekeepers reported that they did not use a varroa mite control product". I guess where I am going with this is, the beekeepers' enemy #1 is the Varroa Destructor, it causes more problems for the beekeeper than I care to think about! But I have to think about it if I want to keep beekeeping! I like to learn new things about beekeeping and one day I found information about the life cycle of a varroa mite @ [www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2vg59Snt6c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2vg59Snt6c) – starting at about minute 3:05 is where the varroa mite part starts, and you can learn a lot about the mites from this video. It was created by Jeff Harris of the Agriculture Research Service. Please take the time to check it out.

Hopefully you were able to attend the annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers in Marshalltown. The meeting will still be fresh in our minds as we read this Buzz issue. We had a great

line of speakers and I hope you enjoyed them, gleaned valuable information to apply to your operation. Congratulations to the youth for 2014 to start beekeeping and the youth from this year, I hope you had a successful year and will keep beekeeping for years to come!! It's great to see young people excited about beekeeping!! And **thank you** to the mentors for the youth. I know I have gained great friends being a mentor for the youth. If you would like to be a mentor, please let Mike Swett know, the experience is very rewarding and I highly recommend it!! Also **thank you** to our IHPA members, who brought items for judging, donating or purchasing items supporting the Queen Auctions, helped out at the registration table, behind the scenes, or by attending by being a part of the IHPA meeting and to Eli for her work in organizing the meeting. We appreciate our members and you are the reason we do this.

If you have not wrapped your hives for the winter, this is a good time to do so before it gets colder. Just remember, don't over wrap, the hive still need to breath. Try to have an upper entrance as well as the bottom entrance so they can get air movement and are able to fly in mid-winter when the temperature is favorable to do so. The upper entrance is vital if we get large amounts of snow blocking the bottom entrance, and as a side note, the hive should be set up for spring melting or rain to drain out the front and not collect in the hive.

Winter is a time to slow down with the bees for me and with my bit of free time I like to find a beekeeping book to read or catch-up on past issues of bee magazines. If you're thinking about increasing your hive numbers, make your plans now. Order your queens and package bees early. Last year there was a shortage and the late orders were not able to be filled.

There is a group of people here in Iowa who are trying to get a queen rearing program going. We are having a slow go of this, but this was our first year and we are moving forward - making headway. I know we're all busy, but we have some great beekeepers interested in this and if you would like to help or be a part of this, give me a call. Some of the criteria we are looking for

in the queen breeding program are: over wintering well, having low mite counts, and good honey producers. Arvin Foell, with the Central Iowa Beekeepers is trying to find people to go in on a buying a part of a Breeder Queen from Sue Cobey. The Queen is a Caucasian which they re-established from germplasm from the Rep. of Georgia (a part of Russia, making it a cold climate bee). I hope to see more people willing to help do this because it will be good for all of us.

See you next month  
**BEE HAPPY!!**  
Pat

**Trivia Question:** Why is honey good to bake with? Answer on page 13.

## 2013 Annual Meeting Summary of Talks & Events: (\*\* Subject to change, not listed in any order\*\*)

### **Friday Nov. 1st** **Registration at 8am,** **meeting starts 8.30am**

Randy Oliver (*Keeping Bees Healthy*)  
Jackie Park-Burris  
(*Insight into Commercial Queen Breeding*)  
Andy Joseph (State Apiarist Report)  
Cheese & Wine, followed by  
banquet and auction  
Business Meeting

### **Saturday Nov. 2nd** **Registration at 8am,** **meeting starts 8.30am**

Randy Oliver (*Pesticides and Honey Bees and What's New in Bee Research*)  
Jackie Park-Burris (*short insight into commercial queen breeders operation and information about her collaboration with Sue Colby and new genetics*)  
Amy Toth in conjunction with Adam Dolezal (*Honey bee research at IA State University*)  
Inger Lamb  
(*Plants that attract honey bees*)  
Joy Williams  
(*What is going on in the road-sides?*)



# Beginning Beekeeping courses to be offered across the state of Iowa, 2014

\* TBD (To Be Determined)

City	Start Date	Course Time	Meeting Location	Contact	Fee
<b>Ankeny</b>  6-8 pm	Jan. 21 – Feb 25	Tuesdays for 6 weeks	Iowa Lab Facility, DMACC Campus, Ankeny, DCI Conference Room	Andrew Joseph: 515-725-148  <a href="mailto:Andrew.Joseph@iowaAgriculture.gov">Andrew.Joseph@iowaAgriculture.gov</a>  2230 S. Ankeny Blvd Ankeny, IA 50023	\$30
<b>Cedar Rapids</b>  7-9 pm	Jan. 17	8 sessions through out the year	Indian Creek Nature Center	Jean Wiedenheft: 319-362-0664 - more information at <a href="http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org/basic-beekeeping/">www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org/basic-beekeeping/</a>  6665 Otis Rd SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52403	Member: \$55 Nonmember: \$85 Partner: \$10
<b>Knoxville</b>  6:30-8 pm	Jan. 21 - March 4	Tuesdays for 7 weeks	Marion County Extension Office	Craig Greene: 641-842-2112  210 N Iowa St Knoxville, IA 50138	\$30
<b>Indianola</b>  7-8 pm	Mid - January- Call for details	Thursdays for 6 – 8 weeks	<b>*TBD</b>	Judy Spence: 515-988-8397 Mike Wyatt: 515-961-0357  5912 155 Ave Indianola, IA 50125	Class free - Fee for book
<b>Council Bluffs</b>	Feb. 25	Wednesdays for 4 weeks	IA Western Comm. College	Iowa Western Comm. College 712-325-3255 2700 College Rd Council Bluffs, IA 51502 Instructor: Clarence Sealy	\$59
<b>Glenwood</b>	Feb 13	Thursdays for 4 weeks	The Gathering Place in Glenwood	110 S. Vine St  Instructor: Clarence Sealy: 712-310-7410	\$30
<b>Davenport</b>  6-9 pm	Feb. 5	Wednesdays for 6 weeks	Nahant Marsh Ed. Center	To Register: 563-323-5196 4220 S Wapello Ave Davenport, IA 52802 Instructor: Phil Crandall: (309)799-7420	\$85
<b>Chariton</b>  6:30-8-pm	Jan. 24- March 7	Fridays for 7 weeks	Lucas Co. Extension Office	Craig Greene: 641-842-2112  48293 HyVee RD Chariton, IA 52577	\$30



<b>Oskaloosa</b> 6:30-8 pm	Jan 23 – March 6	Thursdays for 7 weeks	Mahaska County Extension office	Craig Green: 641-842-2112  212 North I Street Oskaloosa, IA 52577	\$30
<b>Marshall- town</b> 7-9 pm	Jan. 22- Feb. 26	Wednesdays for 6 weeks	Iowa Valley Com- munity College	Sandy Supianoski: 800-284-4823  3702 South Center St Marshalltown, IA 50158 Instructor: Phil Ebert	\$35
<b>Marshall- town</b> 9am - 12 noon	Feb 15 – March 8	Saturday for 4 weeks	Grimes Farm & Conservation Center @ 2349 233 <sup>rd</sup> St Marshalltown, IA 50158	To Register: 641-477-8521 or <a href="mailto:fieldstonefarms@netins.net">fieldstonefarms@netins.net</a>  Instructors: Dale Fields & Eli Kalke 1445 165 <sup>th</sup> St Clemons, IA 50051	\$35 (includes 3 hands-on field days)
<b>Peosta</b> 6-9 pm	Jan 23 -	Thursdays for 6 weeks	Northeast Iowa Community Col- lege	NICC Continuing Education: 563- 557-0354 8342 NICC Drive Peosta, IA 52068 Instructors: Bill & Louise Johnson	\$30
<b>Washing- ton</b> 6-8 pm	Feb. 3 -	Mondays for 4 weeks	Kirkwood Comm. College; Washington Cen- ter	319-653-4655 111 West View Dr Washington, IA Instructor: Ron Wehr: 319-698-7542	Class -\$39 Material-\$15
<b>Spencer; Beginning Beekeeping</b> 9 am-4 pm	Jan 18 or Feb 15	Saturday (one day class)	Sunshine Center, Spencer	712-320-1907 1106 East 9 <sup>th</sup> St  Larry or Marlene Boernsen: 712- 320-1907	Single \$40 / Family \$45
<b>Spencer; Advanced Beekeeping</b> 9 am-4pm	March 15 or March 22	Saturday (one day class)	Sunshine Center, Spencer	712-320-1907 1106 East 9 <sup>th</sup> St  Larry or Marlene Boernsen: 712- 320-1907	Single \$30 / Family \$35
<b>Mason City</b> 9 am – 12 noon	Feb. 1- Feb 24	Saturdays for 4 weeks	North Iowa Area Community Col- lege	NIACC Continuing Education: 641- 422-4358 500 College Dr Mason City, IA 50401 Instructor: Pat Ennis	\$39

<b>Ottumwa</b> 6:30-8pm	Jan 23- March 6	Thursdays for 7 weeks	Wapello County Extension Office	To register-Stacie @ 641-682-5491 <b>BEFORE</b> January 16 <sup>th</sup> 214 E Main St Instructors: Jerry & Sheila Weldon 641-842-5888	\$40
<b>Fairfield</b> 6-8 pm	Feb 6- Feb 27	Thursdays for 4 weeks	Jefferson County Extension Office	641-472-4166  2606 W Burlington Ave Fairfield, IA 52556 Instructor: Vern Ramsey	\$5.00
<b>Keosau- qua</b> 6-8 pm	March 10, 17, 31 and April 7	Mondays for 4 weeks	Roberts Bldg - in cooperation with Van Buren County Extension.	319-293-3039  Hwy 1 north Keosauqua, IA 52562  Instructor: Vern Ramsey	\$5.00
<b>Sioux City; Beginning Beekeeping</b>  Time - *TBD	Jan 11  or Jan 25	Saturday (one day class)	Contact Mike Divis for class location	Mike Divis @712-899-8117 Sioux City  Instructor: Mike Divis	Single \$40 / Family \$45
<b>Sioux City; Advanced Beekeeping</b>  Time - *TBD	Feb 8  or Feb 20	Saturday (one day class)	Contact Mike Divis for class location	Mike Divis @712-899-8117 Sioux City  Instructor: Mike Divis	Single \$30 / Family \$35

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.





# What's the Best Bee for Me?

Part 1

By Kim Flottum

Do your bees die most winters because they run out of food?

Before we can answer that question for you, you have to answer some simple questions for yourself.

First, where do you live?

Second, what kind of beekeeper are you?

And finally, what do you do with your bees?

Let's start with where do you live, because the absolute fact of life is that all beekeeping is local. So, up north, down south or somewhere in the middle? Are you in a crowded city with questionable food supplies or out in the country with abundant resources? Do you have long hard winters with lots of snow and cold, or is winter simply a cooler summer? It is hot and dry like Arizona or this year's Texas, or is summer more like it should be, with moderate rain, wind and temperatures? Does fall come fast and early every year it seems, and are there predictable summer dearths in July or so? Is spring late every year, or does it go from winter to summer with no spring at all? Do you have lots of neighbors or none at all? And what about kids, pets, birdbaths, swimming pools and picnics? And generally, what are the weather extremes wherever you live? Do you have a handle on the whole season?

Once you are comfortable with where you are and the environment you are bringing bees into, you can move on to the next question.

What kind of beekeeper are you? Were you a two colony beginner last year, or have been a backyarder for a couple of decades? Are bees in the middle of almost everything you do, or just something out back you like to fool with once in awhile? Are you handy with tools, look forward to spring starting in October, or kind of get around to stuff

by May? Is swarm control the hottest item on your to-do list, or do they swarm every year because you are always a month or more behind?

Do you keep really good records every year, or start strong and by June don't know where that record book is? Do you have all the equipment you'll need next season ready now, or are you waiting for the new catalogs? Or, what catalog? Do you harvest several times a year so you have several varietal crops to sell, or is last year's crop still out there? I think you see where this is going. When you evaluate your beekeeping habits be honest and thorough. Basically, are you a beekeeper, or a beehaver? Don't get me wrong, both are fine, just understand yourself and your habits so when you make the choice of what bee is best, you make the decision based on your skills, intensity and goals, which brings us to the last question, what do you do with your bees?

Are you serious about making a honey crop every year? Is honey why you keep bees, to sell and make money to pay for not only the bees, but kids, bills, school, as a necessary second income? Do you raise queens for yourself or to sell to make money? Maybe you are, or want to make nucs to sell—either spring splits or over wintered nucs from this summer for next year, with your queens or queens from somewhere else.

Do you pollinate, or want to start? Is the crop early like almonds, later like cukes, or late like pumpkins? Or do you have all kinds and need strong colonies all summer? And what about that honey crop? Can you juggle both a crop and a contract? Or will one or both suffer because of the way you keep bees, or because of the bees you keep? Figure that out first.

Some beekeepers focus not on honey or pollinating, but on harvesting pollen, maybe even honey bee venom, and propolis is a commonly collected and profitable crop. And, what about 'natural' beekeeping? Are you looking for bees with mite and disease resistance or tolerance? Are you a NO chemical, NO feeding, and NO interference bee-

keeper?

OK, now, if you are honest about your answers to all of these questions, making the right choice about what kind of bee you should be raising will be easy. You can fine tune your operation by making a good choice. Keeping bees will be easier, more fun, more profitable, safer, and just plain more of what you got into bees for in the first place if you choose the right bee for you. Think of it like this, you don't use an 18 wheeler to move a beehive a couple of miles, and you won't use a pickup to haul 500 colonies to California. There's a right truck for the job, and a right bee for your style of beekeeping.

Your assignment this month, should you choose to accept it, is to go through one or two beekeeping magazines and note how many kinds of bees there are for sale. Note all kinds and styles and breeds and names and attributes and claims and types. Write them down and have your list ready for next time—the last time I looked I easily came up with over 20 on my list—which one is best for you?

Next month: Italians, Carniolans, Caucasians, Russians, Hygienic, Natural, Resistant, All American, 3 Banded Italian, Russian Hybrid, New World, Mixed, Big Island, VSH, Cordovan, Survivor, Fresh, Old World Carniolan, Instrumentally Inseminated, Gentle, Buckfast, Malka, and more. Which bee is right for you?

Kim is the Editor of Bee Culture magazine and the author of The Backyard Beekeeper, The Honey Handbook, and Better Beekeeping.

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## GUEST SPEAKERS

for our

# 101<sup>st</sup> Iowa Honey Producer's Association Annual Meeting



**Randy Oliver** owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage about 1000 colonies for migratory pollination, and produce queens, nucs and honey. He has over 40 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biological Sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world in order to not only broaden his own depth of understanding and knowledge, but to develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he then shares with other beekeepers through his various articles in bee magazines, his speaking engagements worldwide, and on his website: [www.ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://www.ScientificBeekeeping.com).



**Jackie Park-Burris** is a second generation queen breeder from Northern CA. Her Uncle Homer Park, started playing with honey bees at a very early age; he later became one of the most prolific queen breeders in the country. In 1960 he helped his youngest brother Jack start his own bee business. Jackie purchased the queen rearing portion of her parents business after her father's untimely death.

Jackie markets her Park Italian Queens throughout the US while also chasing honey production and pollination contracts in CA, OR, and MT. She is currently serving as Chairman of the CA State Apiary Board. Jackie has been on the CA State Beekeepers Association's board of directors for over 20 years and is currently the Legislative Chairman. She has served as President of the CA State Beekeepers Association, CA State Bee Breeders Association, and the Shasta Beekeepers Association.

Jackie is a proud member of the Bee Informed Tech-Transfer Team that was a vision of Dr. Marla Spivak. The Bee Informed Team has come to be through a great collaboration with Dr. Dennis VanEnglesdorf and many other great researchers. They have been doing continuous monitoring of her outfit for mites, nosema, viruses and other bee diseases. They also help her with hygienic behavior testing of breeder queens in the very busy spring time. All of which helps her with her quest to produce the healthiest queens possible with the diverse challenges the bee industry has today.





**Amy Toth** - Amy is an assistant Professor IA State University – Dept. of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology and Entomology. She received her PhD in 2006 from the University of Illinois program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology working in the lab of Gene Robinson. She then continued her work in the lab as a postdoc at the Institute for genomic Biology at the University of Illinois. Then was a USDA Postdoctoral Fellow with Christina Grozinger at Penn State University. She joined the faculty of the Dept. of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology at Iowa State University in 2010.



**Inger Lamb** - loved all things related to plants since she was a child growing up in Flint, Michigan but frequently visiting the family farm in western Iowa. She eventually received a PhD in plant physiology from the Ohio State University, and inherited the century farm. During a stint as at-home Mom she volunteered at the Missouri Botanical Gardens for three years. This involved work at the Shaw Nature Reserve collecting, cleaning, growing and planting prairie species in both the reconstructed prairie areas and a home native landscaping demonstration area. She describes realizing native plants could be used in her perennial beds (and not require irrigation!!) as an enormous “aha” moment. After moving to Iowa in 1999 Inger expanded her prairie and native landscaping horizons by volunteering at an outdoor classroom prairie, becoming president of the Iowa Prairie Network, and organizing an annual native plant sale. Today as owner of Prairie Landscapes of Iowa LLC she uses knowledge gained from 15 years of prairie experiences when consulting on both small and large scale prairie establishment and management projects. She consults with public and private, urban and rural landowners, providing enthusiasm, advice, and hands-on assistance to make sure the end result is an attractive, sustainable landscape filled with native plants.

**Joy Williams** - agronomist for the Iowa Department of Transportation. She has worked with the departments integrated vegetation management program for the past 17 years, providing training and technical support for weed and brush control on 178,000 acres of roadsides along state highways in Iowa. She has a strong personal interest in bees and is an avid supporter of enhancing pollinator habitat in roadsides.





**101st Annual meeting of the  
Iowa Honey Producers Association  
November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013  
Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA**

It's meeting time again!! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association will be held Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Marshalltown, IA at the Best Western Regency Inn (641-752-6321), located at 3303 South center Street.

**Room rates are:** The Best Western Regency Inn for double occupancy is \$73.00 plus tax.  
The Super 8 is \$60.00 plus tax.

**To get the above convention special rate, these rooms need to be reserved by October 10<sup>th</sup> (please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms).** The telephone numbers to call are: Best Western (641) 752 6321, or Super 8 (641) 753-3333. For best availability, advisable to book early.

Our speakers this year are: **Randy Oliver**, commercial beekeeper, researcher and well known columnist in the American Bee Journal. **Jackie Park-Burris**, queen breeder from northern California and member of the Bee Informed Tech-Transfer Team; **Dr Marla Spivak** was instrumental in forming. **Amy Toth**, assistant Professor, *Iowa State University, Departments of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology and Entomology.*

Please think about entering our photo contest, cooking with honey contest, mead contest, or bringing items for the queen and silent auction! Consider attending the banquet, enjoying fellowship with your fellow beekeepers.



***Rules for the Photo Contest:***

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

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Bee on Flower
2. General beekeeping
3. Marketing or Promotion
4. Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey

***Rules for the Cooking Contest:***

- Honey is to be the only sweetener
- Please submit your recipe with your entry
- Judges will keep recipes to be included in the "Buzz"
- Put your name on the back of the recipe card

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Desserts
2. Bars or Cookies
3. Drinks
4. Cakes
5. Breads
6. Appetizers or Snacks

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

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

***Rules for Mead Judging Contest:***

- Supply at least two bottles of Mead
- Mead will be judged on the rules of the State Fair
- Mead will be judged on alcohol strength, sweetness, carbonation, temperature, taste, and presentation

**Categories to be submitted will include:**

1. Traditional Meads
2. Molemél (Fruit Meads)
3. Metheglyn (Spiced Meads)

Bring extra bottles of Mead to share at the "Wine and Cheese" party by the pool Friday night.



## We Laugh About It Now

More on stings from our readers compiled by Camilla Bee, Editor  
When something goes terribly wrong, it is always good—although sometimes it doesn't occur until much later—when you can say, "We laugh about it now." This month we've compiled some of those chuckling insights readers have shared. Camilla Bee, Editor Kelley Bees News

### Bad Temper in Bees

Kork and I were remembering a stinging incident just the other day. Happened back in the 80s, in the

Lucas yard in Perry Mills, New York. We were reversing hives at dandelion bloom—beautiful weather, good flow on, bees in a good mood. We had two trucks in the yard, sideboards and equipment spread out on the ground. We were both in t-shirts, no veils. The yard was almost finished, when the first colony reversed, fell over. As it hit the ground, the boxes separated and the frames fanned out, spilling the colony's guts out across the grass. Instantly, a cloud of angry bees erupted from that hive. Did you ever ride a motorcycle? Have a stone fall off a truck up ahead of you? As you and the stone approach each other, the stone seems to travel in slow motion—until it hits you. Then it's going full speed—wham! Well, those bees erupted out of that hive in slow motion in a cloud that engulfed both of us. I never had a chance to take a step in any direction. They were on me like—every inch had a stinging bee. I tried to wipe them off, and they were back twofold.

We looked at each other—did you ever see horses' eyes when they're freaked out? Well, Kork had horse eyes. I ran for one truck and Kork the other. Bees filled the cab of my truck, stinging everything—in my nose, in my ears, on my face and arms; even stinging the truck. We met down the road in a turn-off and

pulled stingers. I could certainly never forget how my whole body buzzed—beyond pain. Eventually, I was able to drive the hour to home, but couldn't touch anything—lean back in the seat, or put my elbow on the window opening: just my hands on the steering wheel. We laugh about it now.  
—Michael Palmer, Vermont

I have only been stung about five times this spring. I started spraying myself, pants, shirts, and back of my gloves with Deep Woods® Off. It seems to work well. I don't have a full bee suit, just a veil and gloves.

With three of the five stings there was no issue, but on two occasions I had some serious swelling going on. Once I was not even working bees and was not wearing a veil—this bee came out of the woods and without warning nailed me on my forehead. The next day I looked

entrance feeder was empty. Wearing just shorts and a t-shirt, I did what I've often done. I lifted the jar out of the feeder, refilled it, and replaced it with no problems. But when I looked at it before leaving, it looked like I hadn't screwed the lid on properly. I reached down and pulled the jar back out of the feeder. Big mistake! In the brief time since I had replaced the jar, the bees had crammed themselves into the space below the feeder lid. When I removed it, they came boiling out after me. By the time I reached safety inside my house, I had been stung twelve times. I took Benadryl® and the pain was short lived. I just hope the lesson learned is long lived. Let me end this email so I can resume scratching those stings.

—Chuck Pourciau, Shreveport, Louisiana



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like a Klingon from Star Trek. The other sting where I had large local reaction I had a bee on my pants (the reason I now spray them with Off) and accidentally brushed her with my exposed hand. My entire hand looked like it belonged to a cartoon character; it was huge.  
—Larry

Had it confirmed yesterday, a 3910 Ford tractor can't outrun a \*#&\*-off bee. Got me on the neck on the first pass by the hives. Never bothered them before, upset 'em this time!  
—Jim, Georgia

I noticed the jar on my Boardman

My wife, also a beekeeper, is always telling me to tuck my pants into my socks or someday a bee will crawl up my leg and sting me some place real sensitive. Every time I work bees (without tucking in my pants) I think of her words—but I never do anything different. I was working our backyard hives recently when I felt a bee crawling around on my shin. And then my knee. And then my thigh. I froze.

That bee worked her way up into the crotch of my pants and I knew this might not end well for either of us. I realize now that what I did was really stupid, but at the time all I was thinking about were that honeybee was, and not the several thousand bees in the hive. So, standing right there between two hives, what I did was ever-so-slowly remove my gloves, and then unfasten my belt, and then drop my pants. I didn't see her on my body so I knew she was still in my pants somewhere. I stepped away from the hives and shook the pants real well for a while, and then inspected each leg before I put them back on. The good news is I didn't get stung.



The bad news is my neighbor and his daughter were out in their yard, and were awfully curious about me in the apiary in my skivvies.

**Source: Kelley Bees News: Modern Beekeeping | Issue 40, October 2013**

**These are a lot funnier when they happen to someone else!  
Historian, Peggy Ennis**



## Losing Land Fast, Faster

Lyons, Nebraska... Recently released USDA Farm Service Agency data demonstrates a rapid conversion of non-cropland to cropland. Center for Rural Affairs analysis of the 2012 data reveals the importance of inclusion of a national Sodsaver provision in the Farm Bill that would help address the significant loss of grasslands by ratcheting down subsidized crop insurance on cropland converted from native prairie.

"This data shows grassland and other newly broken land converted to cropland in 2012 totals nearly 400,000 acres across the country. Nebraska led the way with over 54,000 acres of new land broken out for cropland," Traci Bruckner, Assistant Director of Rural Policy, Center for Rural Affairs.

According to Bruckner, the Senate version of the Farm Bill includes a national Sodsaver provision. The House version includes a Sodsaver provision as well, but it is limited to the portions of five states that are in the Prairie Pothole Region of the Northern Great Plains.

"This data could not be more timely for the farm bill debate, nor could it more clearly make the case for a national Sodsaver

provision," noted Bruckner. Bruckner continued, "Of the five states with the most acres of land converted - Nebraska, South Dakota, Texas, Florida, and Iowa - only two Nebraska and Iowa, have a small portion of the state in the Prairie Pothole Region, most of the states near the top of the list, and a majority of converted acres are outside that scope."

Bruckner's analysis concludes that limiting the Sodsaver provision to the five state Prairie Pothole Region would provide inadequate protection for native grassland.

To view full copies of the USDA Farm Service Agency Data go to: Conversion by State:

<http://files.cfra.org/pdf/noncropland-cropland-state.pdf>

Conversion by County:

<http://files.cfra.org/pdf/noncropland-cropland-county.pdf>

Conversion Map: <http://files.cfra.org/cropland-conversion-map.JPG>

According to information released by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), in 2012 they began collecting data, for the first time, on "new land broken out" or "new breakings," referring to land that is part of a farm operation that was not in the prior year classified as "cropland," which includes land that is currently being cropped and land that was cropped at some time in the past and is still capable of being cropped.

For more information on FSA data go to the following link:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=foi-er-fri-dtc>

Although this definition includes land other than native grassland (i.e. woodlands or land underlying and surrounding an old farmhouse or out-building that is converted to cropland), it does exclude pasture and wooded land that was previously cropped. Therefore, the data on "new land broken out" relates directly to and more closely approximates native grasslands covered by the Sodsaver provision in the Senate Farm

Bill than any other data available.

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## 2013 Annual Meeting Vendors

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## Time to Pay your 2014 Membership Dues

As the seasons change this means it is time to start getting the bees ready for winter. With the bees all nestled down for the winter you will still want to be informed about what is going on in the organization and with bees in general.

To keep you up to date, it is time to renew your Iowa Honey Producer Association membership for 2014. The dues are \$20 for the first person living in your household and \$5 for each additional person. Your membership dues will bring you a Buzz Newsletter on a monthly basis, an opportunity to vote for Board Members and Directors, and to receive discounted fees for the Annual Field Day and Annual Meeting and discounts for some of the major bee magazines. Please ask about the magazine discounts when you renew your dues.

If you are unable to attend the annual meeting (which I hope you will be able to attend), please complete the membership form on the internet ([www.abuzzaboutbees.com](http://www.abuzzaboutbees.com)). I would like to ask you to complete the form in its entirety so our membership list can be current. We have a few members that have not been receiving the Buzz as we do not have the current address. If we have a current e-mail address or phone number, we could contact them to get the right information. I know that not everyone has an e-mail address, but if you do, please include this as well. We will not send you e-mails unless there is something of great importance that

needs immediate attention.

Please mail your check and completed form to Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187<sup>th</sup> Ave, Chariton IA 50049. Please call Rhonda at 515-724-2124 if you have any questions.

## **Monsanto Announces Clinton Global Initiative Commitment on Honey Bee Health**

*Investment Launches Coalition to Research the Challenges Facing Honey Bees*

Monsanto recently announced its [commitment to honey bee health](#) at the [2013 Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting](#) with support from the Keystone Center, The American Honey Producers Association, The American Beekeeping Federation, The World Wildlife Fund, and Project Apis m. (PAm), plus several commodity groups.

A significant decline in the honey bee population is posing a threat to agricultural sustainability and food security, as well as to ecosystem health and biodiversity, thus the coalition will have four priority areas of focus: 1) improving honey bee nutrition; 2) providing research investment in novel technology for varroa and virus control; 3) understanding science-based approaches to studying pesticide impacts on honey bees and increasing awareness of pesticide best management practices among growers and beekeepers; and 4) enabling economic empowerment of beekeepers.

Monsanto has been involved with bee research since 2011 when it acquired [Beelogics](#), an organization focused on researching and testing biological products to provide targeted control of pests and diseases in order to provide safe, effective ways to protect the honey bee. Monsanto also has collaborated with PAm to assist in forage projects in order to provide more nutritious food for bees, and is doing extensive research on the varroa mite.



**Joy westercamp our South East Iowa queen helped Vern and Doris Ramsey promote honey at Farmville Farms at Donnellson Iowa.**



**Joy Westercamp helped Vern and Doris Ramsey promote honey at Farmville Farm at Donnellson Iowa where they feature pumpkins, corn maze, horse drawn wagon rides and all types of garden produce.. and also at Morris park at Stockport Iowa one of the destination of the Van Buren County scenic drive... thank you Vern and Doris**

**Trivia Answer:** Hygroscopicity (honey's sugar fructose property to readily absorb moisture) is a positive force in helping to keep baked products made with honey moist. Even after baking the fructose retains its character in this regard. As a result honey is often sought by those in the baking trade who may gain some additional shelf life from a product by using honey as one the ingredients in place of corn or table sugar.

Source: ABC and XYZ of BEE CULTURE, pg 234



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# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
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