



# *The Buzz*

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



May 2014



**Summer Field Day Pg4  
Iowa Honey Queen Bio Pg8  
Beekeeper of the Month Pg9**





**April 12th** CIBA Annual Auction Perry, IA 10 am

**May 4th** IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm Ankeny DMACC location.

**Iowa State Fair Honey Booth** : Just a reminder that the bids for the sale items at the IHPA booth will be due in June. There will be the 1 lb jar category again this year so if you would like to see your honey for sale at the fair and can supply at least 24 jars then plan now to send in your bid sheet! The bid sheet will be printed in an upcoming issue.



**For Sale:** Medium and Deep boxes with frames (no foundations) \$35.00 each. Also have Bottoms, Lids, and other misc. for sale. Also have Top Bars at 30 bars large, very nice, \$375.

Andrew Jenkins  
Tipton, Iowa  
Call 563-889-2632

**For Sale: Package Bees**

The package will consist of bottom board, 9 5/8 - 10 frame hive body with bees and 9 frames, entrance reducer, insulated inner lid and metal outer lid. New Italian queen. This is new equipment. The total for this hive package will be \$195.00 This same package with used equipment will be \$160.00 It is painted used equipment in good condition. I will need a \$45.00 deposit when you order and the package will be ready for you to pick up mid May at Monticello Iowa barring weather conditions. We also have 4 frame nucs with new queen for \$98.00. Deposit of \$30.00 required. (No frame exchange) Our bee yards are inspected by Iowa Bee inspectors. I will only be selling 20 package hives this year. I have 40+ years experience in beekeeping.

Send deposit to Curtis Barnhart, P. O. Box 70, Monticello, IA 52310 with your name, address and phone number that you can be reached at. I am out of town until March 24. You can call and leave a message 319-480-4209 Or [autum49@yahoo.com](mailto:autum49@yahoo.com)

Thank you., Curtis Barnhart

**FOR SALE: PACKAGE BEES**

3lb Carniolan package bees with mated queen available in late April for \$92.50 (discounts on bulk orders). Pick-up in Des Moines, Iowa at Foley's Russian Bees. To order go to [www.russianbee.com](http://www.russianbee.com)

**FOR SALE: AROMATIC RED CEDAR HIVE KITS**

Foley's Russian Bees is taking pre-orders on a limited run of handmade cedar hive kits that will be completed on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>, and available for pick-up in Des Moines. Pricing and product details online at [www.russianbee.com/store](http://www.russianbee.com/store)

**FOR SALE: 5 frame Nuc w/Italian queen - \$125.00.**

Also a few singles w/Italian queen - \$150.00

Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up May 10<sup>th</sup> from Goodell, Iowa. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601

**FOR SALE: I will have Queens's available mid-April.**

Pick-up is in Goodell. For more information, call Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601

**FOR SALE: Beekeeping Equipment and supplies - Goodell IA**

Offering reasonably priced new and some used beekeeping supplies and equipment. For more information, please call Pat @ 515-293-2601



**FOR SALE:**

**3 lb. Packages with marked Italian Queens for Pick-up only in West Chester, IA (no deliveries)**

Pick-up will be the week of May 12, 2014 (actual date will be determined based on weather in GA)

**\$95/pkg. (\$90/pkg. for orders of 10+); extra marked queens = \$26/each** Email number of packages and contact info. to:

**[kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com](mailto:kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com)**

or visit our website

[www.kalonahoney.com](http://www.kalonahoney.com) and click on the "package bees" tab or contact Tim Wilbanks cell: 319-321-2494

**FOR SALE: Beekeeping Supplies @ Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry IA,** is offering a fairly complete line of new beekeeping supplies available February through June from their showroom. No set business hours, so call with your needs. 515-465-5939 or Connie @ 515-480-6076

**FOR SALE: Husky 10 cu ft. 2 wheel wagon,** used very little, \$80.00 (new \$140) Great for moving bee equipment around, avoiding heavy lifting over variable distances. Contact [fieldstonefarms@netis.net](mailto:fieldstonefarms@netis.net) or 641-512-4728 for more details.

**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.

**FOR SALE:** 4 frame nuc with your choice of Italian or Carniolan queen for sale, will be available in May. Pick up north of State Center.

Contact [fieldstonefarms@netis.net](mailto:fieldstonefarms@netis.net) or 641-477-8521 for more details.

**For Sale:** 4 drums of honey. Also several buckets @ \$2.10/lb.

Contact Jeremy Van Donselaar  
Cedar, Iowa, 641-672-9598  
or [jktl7@hotmail.com](mailto:jktl7@hotmail.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! Currently in need of cappings. Please call or e-mail me if you have any cappings to sell or would like to reserve an order of wax as soon as it becomes available.

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

**For Sale:** 8 beehives reconditioned; some new parts, 90% complete, new paint, state inspected.  
3 bee smokers  
1 honey extractor

Call Dave at 319-331-6590

**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.

### "I ♥ Iowa Honey" merchandise bags

If you cast your minds back to last year's IA State Fair, you may recall we were using a new style bag at the cash registers. They are yellow and have "I ♥ Iowa Honey" written on one side. These are great for marketing your honey products and would like to make these available to our members. We estimate the price for a box of 1,000 bags would be \$160 (0.16/bag). If you don't want a whole box, maybe you know someone who would be willing to split the box with you.

If you are interested, contact Eli Kalke at [fieldstonefarms@netins.net](mailto:fieldstonefarms@netins.net) or 641-512-4728 and let her know what you would like by **May 30<sup>th</sup>** at the latest.

### Help Make the IHPA Booth a Success Once Again in 2014!

The IHPA is once again planning for the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines and are inviting you to be a part of this wonderful calendar event! The dates for this year's fair are August 7-17.

For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building (balcony above the butter cow); selling honey products, honey lemonade, added value products such as, lotions, soaps, lip balms, beeswax items, promotional merchandise etc. This is our main fund raising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members, friends and family to help make this event a success, by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, stocking shelves etc.

If you like talking to people and lending a hand, this is a great oppor-

tunity for you to help support the IHPA and also meet fellow beekeepers. The fair runs for 11 days with 3 shifts each day to satisfy anyone's schedule. Everyone is welcome; IHPA members, beekeepers, bee clubs, friends and family and each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a **FREE pass to get into the fair**, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth. J

More details will be available in the June Buzz edition.

Keep on buzzing!

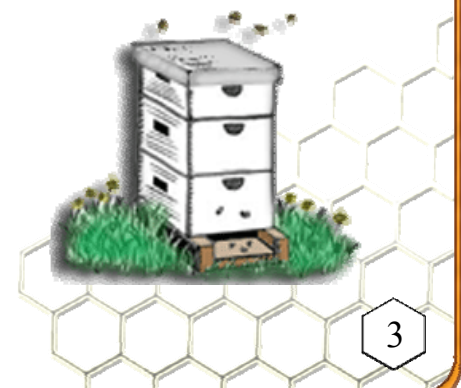
Eli Kalke  
641-477-8521  
[fieldstonefarms@netins.net](mailto:fieldstonefarms@netins.net)

### IHPA Membership

Are you reading this issue online as your membership has expired? If so, it is time to renew. The dues are only \$20 per year for the first person in the household and each additional person with the same address is only \$5. We will send only one Buzz newsletter to each address.

Please send your renewal membership dues to:

Rhonda Heston  
IHPA Treasurer  
52735 187th Ave  
Chariton IA 50049-8616  
[R.Heston@yahoo.com](mailto:R.Heston@yahoo.com)  
515-724-2124

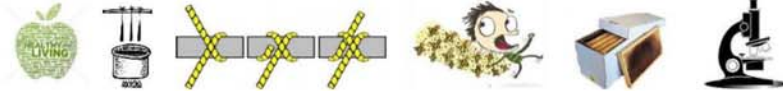


# IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION SUMMER FIELD DAY

Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 2014

at Spring Valley Honey Farm, 14405 Hull Ave, Perry, IA

*Registration at 8.30am. Activities begin 9.00am – 3.30pm.*



## Field Day Topics:

Simultaneous demonstrations, how-to and tips on promoting honey as a healthy sweetener, marketing your products, make beeswax candles, best knots for securing equipment in transit, catch a swarm, create a nuc, practice how to mark a bee using drones, mini lab to dissect bees and identify Nosema spores.

Field sessions with live bees, including IPM techniques, will be done in small groups (bring your bee suit). Latest apiary report from Andy Joseph - State Apiarist.

Please bring a potluck dish to share. IHPA will provide chicken, potato chips, tableware, bottled water and coffee.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Early Registration (by 7/1/2014)	Walk-ins at field day (7/12/2014)	No. of people	\$ Amount
Single person (member)	\$25	\$35		
Single person (non-member)	\$35	\$45		
** (No refunds will be given after July 1 <sup>st</sup> ) **			TOTAL:	

**Return this completed form, together with your payment to:**

Please make checks payable to IHPA.

Rhonda Heston  
Iowa Honey Producers Association - Treasurer  
52735 187<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Chariton, IA 50049

Any questions about the IHPA Summer Field Day, please contact Eli Kalke at [fieldstonefarms@netins.net](mailto:fieldstonefarms@netins.net)  
or call 641-512-4728.

R.4/14





## 2014 Field Day Location

There will be a change to the venue for this year's IHPA Summer Field Day, due to the Clemons school recent announcement, that it will be closing its doors at the end of this school year.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg of Spring Valley Honey Farm in Perry have kindly agreed to host the Summer Field Day at their place.

I thought I would try something different this year and have a number of workshops repeated throughout the morning, which will give attendees the flexibility to choose which ones they want to participate in. The afternoon session will be spent in the bee yard, going through some Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques and other hive management aspects.

Any questions let me know.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Eli Kalke (IHPA-VP)

## Iowa Honey Queen

Hello Beekeepers!

Spring is here, and I am excited! This will be my first spring with my bee-hives. Although I've been involved in many springs at the apiary where I work, there is something different about watching my bees specifically. I want to tell you a little about my girls. I have two hives. If you haven't heard already, I named them Brooklyn and The Bronx because I love New York, but naming a hive Queens would be too cheesy. I'm encouraging everyone to name their hives because, in my opinion, it fosters unity between the bees and the bee-keeper. Plus, it's a great way to differentiate between hives if you have a few. Let me know if you jump on the band-



wagon and decide to name your hives!

I have been busy this past month with queen events.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, I was a presenter in Tripoli for an environmental class. A lot of the people in attendance were not beekeepers, but it only took a few minutes for them to be drawn into the fascinating world of honeybees.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, I traveled to Forest City where I promoted honey in Bills Family Foods Supermarket with Pat and Peggy Ennis. To my surprise, the 1958 honey queen was shopping that day, and I was able to talk to her for a while about her experiences as honey queen.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, I was in Washington D.C., so I jumped on an opportunity to teach kids about honeybees in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. The museum has a large observation



hive, so I showed the kids the different castes of honeybees and the different jobs they were performing.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, KWVL aired a segment about my life as Iowa Honey Queen. My main focus during the interview was to explain how honeybees, through pollination and honey production, have a huge impact on human life. My favorite fact to tell a large audience is that 1/3 of food in the U.S. is linked to honeybee pollination.

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, I had a Skype interview with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class in Iowa City. They are making a documentary on honeybees. I was amazed by how much they have learned and how passionate they are about their topic.

My Facebook page, Iowa Honey Queen Program, has been getting more popular. I currently have 381 followers from 45 different countries. If you haven't already, I encourage you to go give it a "like". I post information on the events I attend and facts about honeybees and honey in general.

Thank you to everyone who has been contacting me for events!  
Happy Spring!  
Gabrielle Hemesath



## Iowa Honey Princess



Top of the Day Iowa Honey Producers!

On a beautiful St. Patrick's Day I had the wonderful opportunity to market honey to over 4000 people plus the televised audience as one of the 100 units in the 39th annual Cedar Rapids St. Patrick's Day Parade. My rescue dogs dressed as bees and I promoted honey while riding in a green Audi convertible.

My theme was "St. Patrick's Day is sweeter with Iowa honey." As the Irish say "May luck always find you and laughter always cheer you."

Sweet regards,  
Jeralyn Westercamp  
2014 Iowa Honey Princess

## South East Iowa Honey Queen



Joy Westercamp South East Iowa honey queen assisted Vern and Doris Ramsey as they had beekeeping classes in Keosauqua and Fairfield also ag day at the cardinal community school in Eldon where we had 15 presentations for 350 students. What a day! Vern Ramsey

## What Makes Good Beekeeping Associations?

That is a matter of personal opinion, and may vary according to your own ideas. But here are a few ideas.....

- ◆ Welcomes all beekeepers, new and existing members.
- ◆ Helps new members learn how to start beekeeping.
- ◆ Is a good place to share advice, ideas, tips and contacts, and to attend informative lectures and receive helpful news on anything from keeping bees, purchasing bees and to buying equipment?
- ◆ Is a place where matters can be discussed and different methods of beekeeping can be embraced without prejudice, and experience shared for general interest?
- ◆ Has a good outreach programme that inspires people about bees, and overcomes fear of bees in some members of the public, as well as put them in perspective.
- ◆ Encourages the people and local councils to go 'bee friendly' with regard to gardening and planting schemes, and the avoidance of pesticides.
- ◆ Absolutely cares about the welfare of bees themselves – not merely honey bees, but also other bee species.
- ◆ Represents beekeepers to enable them to take advantage of discounts and offers for the purchase of equipment.
- ◆ Listens and respects the view point of all members, and ensures all of their views are taken into account e.g. through a proper 'one beekeeper, one vote' system.
- ◆ Unites with other relevant bodies to protect bees in the environment, and ensure they are not exposed to unacceptable harm – such as via neonicotinoid pesticides.
- ◆ Ensures fair systems and support exist for bees and beekeepers at government level – such as proper recording and action taken for poisonings or malicious harm, as well as appropriate compensation and insurance. Ensures beekeepers are well informed in such areas (e.g. how to take action, how to identify poisonings etc).
- ◆ Supports good husbandry practice and

training, such as disease identification and risk minimization.

- ◆ Promotes responsible beekeeping in the community (and responsible behavior by beekeepers generally), and advocates the right to keep bees within local councils (unless for sound reasons).
- ◆ Ensures beekeepers are properly informed about issues that affect them, such as fairly and accurately as possible conveying information about the latest research, changes in law, relevant government and environment reports etc.
- ◆ And finally....

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- ◆ Quite simply, beekeeping associations that keep in mind that beekeeping should be enjoyable, and the bees themselves should be properly cared for and cherished - surely that's what all beekeepers want from their group?

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[WWW.BUZZABOUTBEES.NET](http://WWW.BUZZABOUTBEES.NET)

### Merchandise

How does your Iowa Honey Producer T-Shirt look? Is it getting a little worn? A little faded? Stains all over it? Oops – a hole? When the girls emerge from the hive, you want to look your best don't you? Of course you do. You know you want to impress the ladies. How about getting yourself a new T-Shirt for Spring? We have all sizes. We have also have IHPA 100th Anniversary Polo Shirts. These are very attractive shirts. If you really want to impress the ladies, this is your fashion statement garment for 2014. All shirts available for immediate shipment. Youth T-shirts are \$11,

Adult T-shirts are \$13 (all sizes) and Collared Polo shirts are \$22. These prices include shipping.



I know your 100th anniversary IHPA hat needs to be replaced. It's been 2 years after all. \$11 will get you a new hat or if your head gets too hot, a visor. This includes shipping.

What is your favorite hot beverage this time of year? Coffee? Tea? Cocoa? Or something a little "spicier"? Don't you think your hot beverage deserves a new vessel? Heck with your beverage needing a new vessel, you deserve a new one! How about an 100th Anniversary Mug with spoon for only \$11, including shipping.

It's cool enough (cold enough) to have the oven going this time of the year. There are some GREAT recipes from some GREAT cooks in the IHPA cookbook. These are available for \$6.50, shipping included. If you want more than 10, the price drops to \$5.50. These would make great Mother's Day surprises. Maybe even browse through the cookbook and mark your favorite recipe for Mom to make for you. No, no, that's not the way it works. You should make it for Mom.

We also still have a few utensil crocks left. These nice crocks are yours for the low, low price of \$33 including shipping. Magnets are available for \$2.00.

Once the 100th Anniversary merchandise has been sold, we will be able to entertain ideas for new merchandise. So buy up people so we can get some new stuff.

Please send your merchandise orders to Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049-8616. Call me if you have any questions about the merchandise at 515-724-2124. Or send me an e-mail at [R.Heston@yahoo.com](mailto:R.Heston@yahoo.com).



## 2014 IHPA Honey Queen Bio

Gabrielle (Belle) Hemesath is the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen. Daughter of Russell and Mary Hemesath, the 17-year-old was raised in Northeast Iowa.

Belle's love for bees began in 7<sup>th</sup> grade when she first started working at Fassbinder Apiaries. While working, Belle is involved in maintenance, tending hives, spinning honey, bottling honey, and completing various other tasks. She most enjoys spending sunny days outside in the bee yards. Recently, Belle acquired two hives of her own which she greatly enjoys observing and working with.

Attending North Fayette Valley Community School, Belle is a very involved student. She is a representative on both the student and executive councils. In addition, Belle is an active participant in art club, business club, drill team, golf, chamber choir, and drama.

Outside of school, Belle is the president of an anti-drug group called Students Okay without Drugs and Alcohol (SODA), teaches kindergarten Sunday school, and sings in the church choir.

Belle strongly believes in the importance of honeybee pollination and the health benefits of honey. She enjoys teaching the public about bees and spreading awareness about struggles bees are fighting to survive.

Check out Belle's blog at [www.BeeEnlightened.wordpress.com](http://www.BeeEnlightened.wordpress.com) She will research and write about any bee/honey suggested topics.

Belle can be contacted to make appearances at [HoneyBeeBelle@gmail.com](mailto:HoneyBeeBelle@gmail.com) Or contact Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg, at [cbronny823@aol.com](mailto:cbronny823@aol.com) or (515) 480-6076



**Gabrielle (Belle) Hemesath is the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen.**



**Belle loads extractors to spin honey.**



**Belle loves working outside with the bees.**



**Belle's love for bees began in 7<sup>th</sup> grade when she first started working at Fassbinder Apiaries.**





## Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Seth Johnson is our IHPA mentor youth of the month. His parents, Paul and Linda, and three sisters live near New Hartford, Iowa. Their family performs in a small orchestra called the Johnson Strings where Seth plays cello. They present about 70 concerts a year and are now renovating a 100' by 33' barn into their event center to use for concerts as well as meetings and a place to sell his honey. Seth is home schooled in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. He likes fixing things, construction, playing his cello and beekeeping. He is also interested in engineering and after graduation he may decide to get a degree in that area.

Friends from Bemidji were the first people to introduce Seth to beekeeping. He became more interested in bees after he met Pat Ennis who told him about beekeeping along with some funny stories. Pat suggested the IHPA scholarship program. The details were figured out and Kim Junker became his mentor. HE attended his beekeeping classes in Marshalltown with Phil Ebert as the instructor, and he also did one important thing, that was read First Lessons in Beekeeping. Over the year he made a screened bottom board, learned how to test for mites with powdered sugar, and extract



**Seth holds up a great bottle of his honey, the sweet reward for successfully keeping bees. Good job Seth!**

honey.

Seth tells about his experience removing honey from his hive. He says he didn't have any chemicals to drive the bees down from the supers. After he brushed the bees off a few frames there were so many bees on him and in the air he

walked away to give the bees a chance to cool down and also clear them from the inside of his tie veil. After the first super was removed, his two beekeeper friends who were to help extract tried to get the second super off. The bees were still riled up and as soon as they were knocked off the frames they were back on. At this point the hive was put back together and they walked around 20 minutes until the bees quit swarming them. That evening 25 pounds of honey were extracted from the first super. The next morning Seth made a bee escape board. After waiting about 4 hours he went back to take the second super off and found the escape board made the job easier. He was able to extract another 12 pounds of honey, a good amount for first year bees. In the future he plans to have 25 hives and sell his honey locally.

Good story Seth. Good luck this year.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



**Seth Johnson working with his beehive. Seth plans to have 25 hives in the future.**



## REGIONAL REPORTS - WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS "WAS COUNTRY" ...

A big *THANK YOU* to all the regional reps for your reports. Every single one of you responded to the request (a first!), with excellent reporting and some very interesting news. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Please excuse necessary editing to fit space. Editor

[http://ucanr.edu/sites/was2/WAS\\_Journal/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/was2/WAS_Journal/)

**Part I (The second part of this article will be printed in the June issue of The Buzz)**

### Alberta Happenings - Bob Keenan

Quick facts about Alberta beekeeping (from Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada report Nov 13/2013): 800 beekeepers; 282,000 colonies; 40,520 lbs production in 2012 or 45% of all Canadian production; 85% of Canada's honey is exported to USA. These 800 beekeepers are commercial producers and represented by the Alberta Honey Producers Co-op. In the larger cities hobby beekeepers continue the North American trend of increasing numbers. The Calgary Beekeepers Club has about 40 active members with colony numbers ranging from 1 to 200. Most would have 3 – 10 with sweet clover, both yellow and white varieties, an abundant roadside food source. 2013 members report bigger yields than last year, from 45 to 55 lbs per colony. A long warm fall produced a continuing honey flow. An agricultural newspaper reports an Ontario researcher studying compounds made from plant products have shown a greater efficacy against nosema ceranae than Fumagilin B. While nosema ceranae is present in Western Canada it has so-far been controlled with Fumagilin, according to Dr. Medhat Nasr. The compounds showing the greatest efficacy are made from broccoli, oregano and citrus fruit. Another researcher with Alberta Agriculture found three previously unseen viruses present in leaf cutter bees but it is not yet known what the impact will be. One is sacbrood and the other two are still being identified. Leaf cutter bees are important pollinators in Southern Alberta's alfalfa fields.

### British Columbia - Ian Farber

More cities and municipalities in BC are allowing beekeeping within their boundaries. There is strong interest in backyard beekeeping and in native bees, especially *Osmia*, or the Blue Orchard Bee, as viable urban pollinators. There is a healthy and growing interest in people attending beekeeping courses throughout the province. A recent course was offered by the Ministry of Agriculture and the BC Honey Producers' Association to certify instructors who teach

to meet this demand. There is always a scramble to obtain early nucs, packages and queens for pollination purposes. Open field mating does not usually happen here until May. Most local clubs schedule field days and picnics in the spring to provide seasonal tips and advice on splits, requeening, etc. and have ongoing projects and public education events throughout the bee season. In the colder areas of the province with lots of snow the bees are sometimes wrapped for extra insulation or simply left in the fields. With sufficient honey stores and proper ven-

tilation, they usually survive the very cold winters in the north and the interior of BC. On a provincial scale, wintering losses were reported

at 18% last year. Wasps were a province-wide issue this year, both for beekeepers and the general population, one of the cyclical years when wasp and hornet populations soared. Many beekeepers reported robbing by wasps and the death of weak colonies. Calls to remove bees from yards, trees and houses were almost always wasp and hornet related. Research into the use of pesticides and their effect on native and honey bees is ongoing. No decision has yet been made on the use of neonicotinoids.

### Saskatchewan - Alvey Halbgewachs

A year ago, the winter and spring was very harsh and beekeeping was off to a late start. Hive losses were higher than normal and forage crops were late flowering. As a result, production was delayed and honey yield reduced. Despite these challenges, we had a decent crop but not nearly as high as the record-breaking yields in cereal crops.

The Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association continues to focus on research that will support local beekeepers in hive management. The 2013 research projects were completed and new projects are being developed for the 2014 season. The Regina and District Bee Club continues to educate students and the general public at Canadian Western Agribition and other requested venues. Our focus in 2013 was education about pollination. *At the time of writing, Alvey was in hospital for what looked like an extended stay. Thanks to Doreen Bradshaw for sending in the report. Our best wishes to Alvey and hopes that he'll be home soon.*

### Alaska - Dr. Joe Carson

Hello from Alaska. We had a fantastic sum-

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[www.blplasticiowa.com](http://www.blplasticiowa.com)

beginning beekeeping. This should ensure that new beekeepers receive important (and accurate) basic information. Membership in the BCHPA is growing steadily. Honey yields last year varied considerably. Some areas benefited from spring rains and got bumper crops. Others were down due to a very hot summer with little or no rainfall. The provincial average was in the 60-65 pound per hive range, total crop 2.56 million pounds. There is growing demand for pollination units in the Fraser Valley for blueberries, cranberries, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries and other crops that benefit from honey bee pollination. Colonies are being imported to BC from other provinces



mer in 2013 - great weather, adequate moisture and tons of sun. Production was great as well due to the fireweed being able to grow in the warm 'midnight sun'.

Many of the larger beekeepers in the Northern area have gone out of business due to the past years' poor weather and honey production. Lower 48 beekeepers have tried to make inroads into Alaska due to the high honey prices we command but have found that the trials and tribulations encountered on the road to "success" are very rough and costly. Shipping bees to Alaska via airlines has been dramatically restricted. If you have not been a "known shipper" and have a consistent history of shipping bees into Alaska, they will not do business with you. The only other option is via air freighters which can take many days to complete the journey north from Sacramento. The autumn bee chores went without a hitch because the rains held off for longer than usual. Most Alaskans are hobbyist beekeepers and still kill their bees after extracting the honey rather than trying to overwinter them. The early snow came as usual in small amounts and then we had a cold snap to set the bees for their long winter nap. But also as usual, we had a Chinook wind blow through and the temperature rose to over 40 degrees, it rained and ruined the snow insulation before the bottom dropped out of the thermometer again. -40 F. temperatures have been recorded in many parts of Alaska during December. Snow has returned to most of the state and looks to remain until springtime in April. If everything remains true to past experience we will see average honey production in 2014 as we generally have a fantastic honey year and then an average honey year followed

by a catastrophic year. Such is the life of the Alaskan beekeeper.

#### Arizona Update - Zack Funke

In the midst of winter here in Arizona we don't see temperatures dip like many of the surrounding states. In the "Valley of the Sun", Phoenix, at 1170 ft. morning temperatures are 48 degrees today, Jan 9th, and increase up to 68 degrees by late afternoon. This means our bees are getting a later start in the day and have to exert more energy to keep the brood warm. The bees have slowed honey, wax, and brood production at most sites around the valley during this time of year. Walking the grounds at the Desert Botanical Gardens I observed Chuparosa and rosemary flowers, but our big nectar producers mesquite, ironwood, saguaro, and creosote are dormant until late April, when the vegetative life comes alive with expressive flowers. We have to wait until the grapefruit and oranges start blooming, beginning in

February and March respectively, for the next honey crop. I observed a grapefruit tree blooming in Tucson, at 2643 ft, two weeks ago so their honey production season begins a bit earlier in the Southeast of the state. The largest bee club in the Phoenix area is the Beekeepers Association of Central Arizona and meets every third Thursday. There are approximately 30-40 attendees each meeting, ranging from hobbyists to commercial operations.

**California - Archie Mitchell Note** - *this article is re-printed with permission from author Dr Gordon Wardell.*

Beekeeping today is in an age of contradictions, much like Dickens' Tale of Two Cities'. It is the best of times, and it is the worst of times. It is an age of wisdom and it is an age of bewilderment, a season of honey production and a season of starvation. We have one year of heat and drought followed by one of wet and cold. We have new mite control products, but not enough control of the mites. While today we are learning more about bees than we have ever known in the past, we still have few answers to the horrible losses we see every year. Recently, the Bee Informed Partnership reported a 9.2% increase in winter mortality over the 2012/13 winter. That is a 42% increase over the previous year, and while staggering, the losses were on par with winter losses over the past six years, averaging 30.5%. When asked what the respondents considered an acceptable winter loss they replied that 15% was acceptable, but 70% of the respondents experienced losses greater than that. Coming out of almonds this past year, the bees were heavy with honey and populations were strong. Late-season almond nectar was plentiful and the colonies were able to bulk-up, making for good splits following almond pollination. Despite the heavy rains that moved through the Northeastern part of the country, the bees also came back from blueberries and cranberries in good shape — then summer set in. Reports from the upper Midwest indicate a lighter than normal honey year in 2013. Some beekeepers reported less than half of their normal yields in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Montana. Cool wet weather was holding the colonies back, a stark contrast to last year's drought in the upper Midwest. In general, if the bees aren't making honey they aren't making brood either; meaning a lot of supplemental feeding in the fall. On a good note, most beekeepers are reporting that they are able to get the Varroa mites under control this year. Beekeepers across the country continue to report heavy queen losses and supercedes, not to mention queens in colonies that fail to respond to stimulation.

Some report queen losses as high as 50%. Queen replacement has never been higher. In the recent past a queen would be good for two years but many commercial beekeepers are now going through two queens/colony/year just to assure that they have optimum populations in California for almond bloom. While no one has been able to identify the causes of such heavy queen mortality, we all have our suspicions (the usual suspects -- mite control products, viruses, Nosema, pesticides or a synergism of any or all of these). PAm is currently funding research to investigate these problems. Until we have answers we need to be monitoring queens more carefully and replacing non-performers. After last year's tight bee supply for almond pollination, many growers have gotten their contracts out early and there are reports of multi-year contracts being signed. Almond pollination contracts paid to the beekeeper (broker fees aside) are averaging \$150 to \$175 depending on what part of the Valley we are talking about. Prices tend to be higher north of Fresno. It is still too early to predict what the supply will look like for almond pollination this season.

#### Colorado - Miles McGaughey

Hello from colorful and cold Colorado. The Colorado State Beekeepers Association annual winter meeting was held Saturday, November 9th at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock, Colorado. Dave Mendes was the featured speaker, on the life of a migratory beekeeper and honey bee nutrition. Michele Colopy from the National Pollinator Stewardship Council gave a presentation on protecting pollinators. After a great meeting at the WAS gathering in Santa Fe in October it was wonderful to see Colorado beekeepers and pass on what we had learned there. Many beekeepers in Colorado, myself included, face substantial losses from the flooding in September and this meeting provided much needed diversion and fellowship. Priorities for the upcoming year include finalization of the 501c tax exemption status for the state beekeeping association, several plans to improve bee forage over the state, and a proposal for a Colorado queen stock improvement plan. A business meeting was held and voting conducted on the logo and theme for our largest undertaking for 2014 - The 125th anniversary of the Colorado State Beekeepers Association! This will be monumental and great interest was shown by all present. Celebrations will be held all over the state.





## 2014 IHPA State Fair Bid Sheet

1. Bids must be received by June 30, 2014.
2. All liquid honey must be from 2014 harvest.
3. Honey must be no more than 18.5% moisture.
4. All glass honey containers and creamed honey must have a protection seal and plastic must have a pressure seal, this includes all large containers also.
5. All beeswax products (candles, ornaments) need to be packaged to maintain cleanliness, presentation.
6. Cut comb must be in a sealed plastic box well drained with no liquid honey. The following quality standards will be used (clean capping with all cells capped). We will pay \$5.25 per unit of cut comb at least 14 oz and \$4.00 for Ross Rounds meeting quality standards. Booth manager has right to refuse any containers not meeting this standard.
7. All bottled liquid honey must be free of foreign material, with no foam, sticky jars, and even filling.
8. All products must show proper labeling i.e. name, address and net weight.
9. You must deliver products to the booth as scheduled, Sunday 12pm-7pm, Tuesday or Wednesday before the Fair or by appointment.
10. Remember you are able to bid on any items, but you must show the quantity of each item you are able to supply and your bid price.
11. Include a sample label with your bid sheet.
12. We are paying a flat rate on 1lb glass jars, to encourage smaller bidders. It is offered at \$3.50. A minimum quantity to supply is 24 jars / case. You may bid to supply as many cases as you wish.
13. Lip balms, lotions and soaps was added as a new category in 2013. To offer these products you give us a bid price for each item and the quantity you can supply. Since you, as a bidder, may not have enough product to supply the entire fair, the booth may use several suppliers based on the number of items supplied.
14. *Any items not listed below or specialty items you wish to bid on - is up to the discretion of the booth manager, based on counter space and ability to supply. (i.e. buckwheat honey, bee related items, etc.)*





BID ITEMS	Quantity estimates from 2013 State Fair	\$ Bid	Quantity
4 oz antique (muth) jars			
8 oz antique (muth) jars	66		
Hard honey candy (assorted)			
12 oz bear (light honey)	429		
24 oz bear (light honey)	312		
1 lb plastic (light honey)	244		
1 lb skep (light honey)	79		
2 lb glass (light honey)	175		
5 lb jug (light honey)	88		
Gallon jug (12lbs) (light honey)	55		
50 lb or 60 lb pail for lemonade	1,740 pounds		
Honey Stix	36,253		
Creamed honey - regular	400		
Creamed honey - cinnamon	250		
Creamed honey - flavored	1,358		
Other Beeswax products: Beeswax candles	362		
Beeswax bars (1oz, ½lb, 1lb)	111		
Lip Balm	759		
Lotion	276		
Lotion Bars	271		
Soap	225		

SPECIALITY ITEMS BID AT THE FAIR	\$ Bid	Quantity
Bug Repellent	91	
½ lb Bee Pollen	122	
1 lb Bee Pollen	82	
Wooden Honey Dipper	35	
1 lb Buckwheat	186	
Other:		
Other:		

NON-BID ITEMS	Quantity estimates from 2013 State Fair	PRICE	Quantity
1 lb glass	264	\$3.50	
Comb Honey	591	\$5.25	
Ross Rounds	302	\$4.00	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

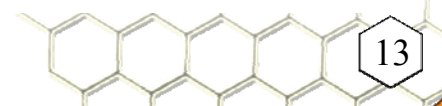
Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Dale Fields, 1445 165<sup>th</sup> Street, Clemons, IA 50051 641) 477-8521 E-mail [fieldstonefarms@netins.net](mailto:fieldstonefarms@netins.net)

**NOTE:** Arrangements need to be made to pick up any un-sold product on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm OR Monday August 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

**Thank you for providing product for the IHFA State Fair Booth!!**





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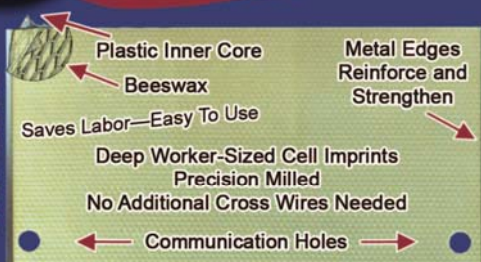
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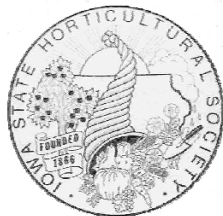
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# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
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