



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



March 2013



State Apiarist Pg. 4
Back to Basics Beekeeping Club Pg. 8
Featured Beekeeper of the Month Pg. 13



March 3rd IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm at DMACC/Ankeny
March 15th & 16th Dadant 150th Anniversary Celebration
June 15th IHPA Field Day; Clemons, IA
June 15th IHPA Board Meeting following the Field Day events
September 29th IHPA Board Meeting, 3pm at DMACC/Ankeny
October 31 IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm at Marshalltown prior to the Annual Meeting
November 1 & 2 IHPA Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, IA



FOR SALE: 2#, 3# and 4# packages. The 4# can come with one or two queens. Your choice of Italian or Carniolan queens. We are getting two loads in April. Prices available in late January. We can take orders prior to that if you put down a deposit.

Contact Phil ehoney37@netins.net
 641-527-2639 or
 Alex alex.ebert@eberthoney.com
 641-821-9648

For Sale: Kelley stainless steel grocers tank including valve. 3 yrs. old. \$250.00 (Kelley new price is \$485 without valve.

Contact: Galen Eiben
 222 W. Main St.
 Shell Rock, IA 50670
 (319) 885-6264

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.

\$0.08 each in boxes of 2000 or \$160
 \$0.10 each for 500-1999
 \$0.12 each for less than 500

Curt Bronnenberg
 1433 Hull Ave.
 Perry, IA 50220
 (515) 465-5939
 CBronny823@aol.com

For Sale: Pre-orders for Russian Nucs, Russian Queens, and 3lb Carniolan packages for April. Nucs and Packages have to be picked up in Des Moines, Iowa.

Visit Russianbee.com to place your order.

FOR SALE: Package Bees
 We will be shaking 2 & 3 pound packages from our bees here in Iowa starting the 1st week in April up until the last week in April.

Carniolan or Italian
 2 pound with queen \$70.00
 3 pound with queen \$80.00
 Queenless package \$20.00 cheaper

I will supply 1 gallon corn syrup and 1 # protein patty for \$5.00 extra.

Call:
 515-465-5939
 Connie cell 515-480-6076
 Pat Ennis cell 515-293-2601

FOR SALE: UNASSEMBLED commercial grade hive bodies and honey supers.

ASSEMBLED 9 1/2" AND 6 1/4" frames with waxed Plasticell foundation.

Contact: Phil at 641-527-2639 or ehoney37@netins.net

FOR SALE: Pamphlet on Successful Management available: Ten Pages \$12 including postage.

Contact: Glen L. Stanley
 908 N. Highway 69
 Huxley, Iowa 50124
 TELE: (515) 597-2555

BASIC HIVE KIT - UNASSEMBLED

2 DEEP BROOD BOXES.....\$25.00
 20 PLASTIC FRAMES.....\$38.00
 1 INNER COVER.....\$ 6.00
 1 COVER (W/METAL COVER)...\$22.50
 1 SCREEN BOTTOM BOARD.....\$22.50
TOTAL \$114.00

BASIC HONEY SUPER KIT - UNASSEMBLED

1 QUEEN EXCLUDER.....\$ 7.00
 2 - 6 5/8 HONEY SUPERS
 BOXES\$23.00
 20 PLASTIC FRAMES (6 5/8).....\$35.00
TOTAL \$65.00

TOTAL OF BOTH KITS \$179.00

(This price does not include shipping or postage) All equipment is new. Items can be picked-up, or shipped.

All items can be combined or ordered separately @ same price.

Please call for arrangements and for information.

Pat Ennis
 515-293-2601 or
 Flat_lander@lycos.com



The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex` Ebert by email to **TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com** (also alex.ebert@eberthoney.com) or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd 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, February 2013

It's February 11 and old man winter has been very kind to us – so our bees are or should be having a good winter. If they have made it alive till now, don't let them die so close to spring. Try to get out there and have a look and see what they need. By the first part of March it should be warm enough to feed sugar syrup without worrying too much about adding moisture, but if you're not sure, you can feed them a candy board - just do something to keep the hive going - spring is just around the corner.

The trip to California to check the bees went fairly well, an un-eventful trip, weather was fair and traffic in California is nuts - and I am glad to be back home. We go through the hives before they are placed into the almonds for the pollination. The first six loads, looked really good – but the last load was a little short of bees, we're not sure why or what happened, but our guess was that the truck driver spent too much time stopped in a warm area than he should have, but we really don't know for sure, we just know that load was very short of bees. The good part of this is there is a shortage of bees in California and more are needed. So for this year, if there are bees in a hive, they will be rented for the almond pollination.

IDALS is working on getting a Section 18 for approval for use of "Apivar" for Iowa's beekeepers. Gretchen Paluch from the Pesticide Bureau is hard at work with this, asking for letters of recommendation from some of our IHPA members. I hope "Apivar" is approved because I am thinking it will work well on killing the mites.

In mid February, a group of Iowa beekeepers gathered with Andy Joseph in Ankeny to explore the possibilities of starting and organizing an group of queen breeders from Iowa with the goal to produce Iowa queen's to survive our winters - produce ample amounts of honey, - to display a hygienic behavior to help reduce some of our diseases we have in the hives. We have six people so far and we are looking for more to

join in and participate. You don't need 100's of hives to be part of this. If you are already raising queens for better stock and would like to help by trading some of your queens for some of someone else's, you will be developing some good local stock with the main objectives of Iowa winter survivability, high hygienic behavior with mites, (for the goal of reduce treatment/or possibly no treatment), and honey production. We are excited to pursue this and hope others will join in and help to develop this. Please give Andy Joseph or myself an e-mail or call if you're interested.

Till next month, keep an eye on the "girls" and BEE HAPPY!!
Pat

Trivia Question: In 1863 Charles Dadant started the "Dadant Company" in Hamilton Illinois. This year Dadant and Son's are celebrating their 150th year.

When and where was Charles Dadant born?

Answer on Page 13.



Iowa Queen Bees

A small group of Iowa beekeepers recently met to discuss developing a group of local Iowa queen producers to improve a local survivor stock of bees. Are there others out there who are producing queens and would be interested in sharing local sock. we plan to be using the 'Soft Bond Test' and nitrogen freezy hygienic testing also among other standards. We'll be meeting again in April and if your interested in becoming involved and would be able to produce 12 queens to trade with others contact: Dan Dixon 515-979-1742 or telemarkdude1@yahoo.com

Dan Dixon
Never Stop Exploring!!

2013 Membership Renewal



What is the date printed on the back of this Buzz? Is it 12/31/2012? If so, it is time to pay your 2013 dues. If it is 12/31/2013, you can ignore this article.

April 2013 will be the last issue of the Buzz that will be mailed to members who have not paid their 2013 dues.

The first membership for 2013 is \$20.00 and \$5.00 for each additional family member that would like a membership and is living at the same address.

If you have paid your dues and 12/31/2013 is not reflected on this Buzz, please contact me at the information below. Also, please check the spelling of your name, as I have added many new members and I may have misspelled your name accidently.

Rhonda Heston, Treasurer
52735 187th Ave
Chariton IA 50049-8616
Phone: 515-724-2124
E-Mail R.Heston@yahoo.com

Quilt Blocks

The fabric for the Queen Program Quilt has been mailed to the volunteers. Please have all completed 12 ½" quilt blocks returned to me by March 15th, but no later than April 1st. The sooner I get the blocks back, the sooner I can get the sashing added and get the quilt top completed and ready to be quilted.

If you are a machine quilter and would be interested in quilting the quilt, please let me know at the address / e-mail below.

Thank you to all that volunteered to make blocks. I can't wait to get the blocks back and get them together.

Rhonda Heston, Treasurer
52735 187th Ave
Chariton IA 50049-8616
Phone: 515-724-2124
E-Mail R.Heston@yahoo.com



MARK YOUR CALANDER FOR THE ANNUAL AUCTION!

The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction
*will being held on April 20th 2013 at 10:00 a.m. on hwy 141,
1 block west of the
hospital in Perry, Iowa.*

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have graciously offered us the use of their "in town honey house" again this year. There will be food, hot coffee, etc. available and restrooms.

WE ARE IN NEED OF CONSIGNERS AND BUYERS!!

Now is the perfect time to clean, sort, and sell your extra equipment, or come to buy good beekeeping equipment!

Please email me your list of items you would like to consign. Items consigned in time will be listed in "The Buzz". If you would like to have a list of the consigned items, please email me after April 1st, and I will send you what I have.

Consignment fee is 10% if consigned before March 9th, and 15% thereafter. All drawn comb will be inspected. There will be signs posted on Highway 141.

Pat Ennis
515-293-2601
Flat_lander@lycos.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!



State Apiarist

Hi all.

Well, it's about 20 degrees outside with snow in the forecast as I'm writing this. Hopefully, you're reading this in March and your bees are flying.

I just have a couple quick items to share this month. The first is an update on the **Hopguard** and **Apivar** registrations I've written about over the last couple months... Good news! Both products are available for this season. The more we learn about Varroa and its role in spreading viruses & generally harming your bees, the more we realize just how essential is good mite control. This goes "double" for springtime control. It's now been clearly shown that spring mite control has more of an impact on the winterability of your bees than does a treatment in fall. Getting the colony cleaned up and in good shape prior to the buildup and honey flow reduces several stressors and overall virus load which in turn, helps the bees enter fall and winter with better health and strength. That's not to say that late summer Varroa control isn't important – of course it is. The recent studies are just demonstrating that good mite control in springtime has a whole-year-long positive effect on colony health.

Secondly, I'd like to encourage all of you to participate in the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) survey this spring. Basically, Bee Informed is working to collect information from large numbers of beekeepers, so that the "data" can be compiled and analyzed in order to sort out "what works" from "what doesn't". It's a great program that I believe has a lot of potential for helping beekeepers (of all scales) become more successful – but, it'll only be meaningful if beekeepers participate in the first place. Every beekeeper is strongly encouraged to participate in the survey, but there's a real push right now for increasing the participation of our larger operations (they are currently under-represented in the survey). Please take the time to check out the BIP website and consider taking a few minutes to complete the survey. The website is found at www.BeeInformed.org.

The window of opportunity to be included in this year's survey is March 29 through April 15.

And, finally (for now), I'd like to advertise some upcoming field days. This isn't the IHPA Summer Field Day – that's on a whole different scale... These are field days largely associated with beginner beekeeping courses with one being held by the Back 2 Basics group. They provide a great opportunity, especially for newer beekeepers, to go through some hives and work through all the basic points of an apiary visit from lighting the smoker through the inspection, mite check, etc. There will be more field days held through the season in different locations (watch the IHPA Blog for posts with further details), but here are a couple worth adding to your calendar:

May 4th – Fieldstone Farms in Clemons (Marshall County) hosted by Eli Kalke & Dale Fields, 1PM – 4PM – Dale at 641 477 8521 for details.

May 18th – Pella – Back 2 Basics Field Day – Contact Craig Greene at 641 842 2112 for details. ...He doesn't get enough beekeeping-related calls. ...Ha!

June 1st – Bondurant – Ankeny Bee Course Summer Field Day - 11AM – 2PM – Contact me at 515 326 5765 for details.

August 31st -- Bondurant – Ankeny Bee Course Fall Field Day – 11AM – 3PM – We'll go through some hives, pull some honey, and demonstrate extracting. Contact me at 515 326 5765 for details.

Thanks. Have a great spring!
Andy

The Fun Side of Beekeeping, March 2013

Last month I touched a little on the type of queens you use, but this month I would like to talk more about producing queens. Most queen producers have one

goal – and that is to sell queens. Some just produce queens by the 1,000's, some are good quality and some are bad. I know that if I buy 100 queens this year - 10 will be dead by mid-summer – 10 will be the best queens or the super boomers –and 80 will be average queens. If you buy 10 or 1,000, the average is the same. The question is why? Is it that hard to produce a queen? The bees do it all the time. And it seems that most of them are good ones. Try to work with your bees and rear some queens from your best hives. Some of you may be saying at this point:

1. I can't do this – it's too hard to do.
2. I'm happy with the queens I get and

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I'll just keep doing that.
3. Maybe you're right. For the last 3 or 4 years I buy new packages each year and they don't always do well or are dead by the end of winter. But for 2 years, I have that one hive that is still alive and I think I am going to try to produce queens from them. So then the question is how will I do this?

To help you succeed in this, you need two things. The first is a good - easy to read and understand book.

Here are three:

1. Scientific Queen Rearing by G. M. Doolittle
2. Queen Rearing Essential's by Lawrence John Connor
3. Rearing Queen Honey Bees, second edition by Roger A. Morse

A little more in-depth book is: Contemporary Queen Rearing by Harry H. Laid-

law Jr. Whatever book you get, spend a little time and do some open minded reading.

The second thing you need or might like to have is someone who has done this before. Next month I will walk you through some different options you have for producing queens whether you would like just one or two queens or if you need them by the 100's. I will use some of Lawrence John Connor's information from "Queen Rearing Essential's" with a goal of producing a better queen for Iowa.

Keep reading and have some fun with whatever you do with the bees.

Submitted by Pat Ennis

THE WEATHER & BEEKEEPING!

Glen L. Stanley.
State Apiarist (emeritus)
908 N. Highway 69, Huxley,
Ia.50124.

As I write this on a great Winter's , January 17th day with a lot of sunshine and a promise for even higher temperatures tomorrow that will definitely be a break for all bees to have a cleansing flight. It occurred once before about the 11th of January.

We can't predict , or control, the weather but it has a great deal to do with what happens to and within colonies throughout the year. It becomes difficult at times to figure out just what the bees do under certain conditions.

Last Summer , under exceptionally dry conditions and seemingly a shortage of blossom most colonies produced an unusual amount of surplus honey. It seems this happens every time we have an exceptionally dry Summer . Where queen excluders were used it made it possible for the bees to keep their brood chambers well supplied for later. Even then, many colonies would need additional honey to weigh up for



Winter.

The additional weight is easily provided by adding well filled combs of honey. If sugar syrup is added to make up the weight then it should be either Cane or Beet sugar syrup (never corn sugar syrup).

These occasionally warm days allow the bees to have cleansing flights which reduces the possibility of creating some dysentery. In most colonies there is some amount of Nosema spores and if dysentery occurs Nosema spreads like wild fire. In such cases, at least one round of Fumidil B should be fed early in the Spring. That seems to be one treatment of colonies that has no bad effects.

There will likely be the usual , unnecessary number of extreme losses of colonies, then comes the scramble for packaged bees and queens. The demand is always so great it is difficult for the producers to keep up with orders. Good Luck!

THE KILLER INSECTICIDE!

I recently received another article on the effects of the use of Clothianidin in Europe. Europe's Leading Food Safety Authority has labeled this Insecticide an unacceptable danger to bees.

It is killing colonies in great numbers where ever used in Europe. Quite some time ago Italy was having great colony losses all because of this insecticide being used. This is happening in the UNited States and is the major factor in what we call Colony Collapse.

So this prompted me to once again contact the IPA asking that take take action and ban its use immediately. They are aware of the problem so there is no need for delay of action.

Glen Stanley



30 Frame Comb Honey Box

Four years ago while I was inspecting for the state I came across this comb honey box. The box and frames were new and still in the shipping box from Draper's Super Bee. I took it home and put all 30 4"x4" frames together. Only 1 top bar was missing . I had an old top bar and I cut it to fit. This comb honey box has been sitting because I use 8 frame hive boxes and it was made for a 10 frame hive box.

This past summer I ran short of 8 frame hive boxes so I got my 10 frame boxes out for splits and swarms. So this summer I will try this 30 frame comb honey box.

I want to thank Ann Garber for the box.

Delmar Nelson



Bee Insured!

How many hives do you have? What do you have invested and is it enough to consider insuring the investment. From what you might ask? Vandals, weather, someone getting stung multiple times (ie more than we do) enough to be hospitalized, shipping bees from point A to B, long distances, locations for winter or pollination. State Farm has some options available, for example:

- A straight liability policy for around \$200/year, but only at your location. In addition to this, there is a miscellaneous

additions article which will cover your woodenware at any location. Generally your trucking company has the necessary insurance for transit. This *additions article* is a blanket policy negotiated by you in increments, say \$5,000, \$10,000, \$15,000 etc. If you have hives in multiple locations and it's for instance 20 hives in a location, at \$217/hive (determined by insurance company) you could have \$5,000 coverage for all locations, since having a claim for more one location would be unusual. Instead of having to carry insurance for all. I don't know all of the rates for this, but \$15,000 is about \$200/year and \$20,000 is around \$275/year. Remember this

policy would only cover a loss on your woodenware and not any bee loss. Just something to consider as your apiary grows.

Other locations to find insurance are:

The American Bee Federation (ABF) offers insurance for members. Texas Insurance and Financial Service. Risk Management Agency through the USDA has a pilot program for honey production.

There are also some independent agencies that offer similar services.

Submitted by Dale Fields

THE BEEYARD REPORT

Just before I left for San Diego, I thought my horse had reached the end of the line. She had trouble keeping her rear end under her. The next day was departure time. She was a little better but I told Alex to call the vet and put her down if things got bad. Amazingly, she seems to have come out of it. Her time is limited, though. I have had that horse for 25 years. It is going to be emotional when she passes.

San Diego was too much fun. I arrived late Monday afternoon. I was in the hotel lobby talking to Wisconsin beekeeper Al Baldwin when Steve Coy came over. Steve is the only large scale commercial guy I have talked to that has made Russian bees work for him. They sure didn't work for us.

As I tell the students in my class, the right bees are the ones that work for you in your location. Steve and his two brothers run bees in the Mississippi Delta and up through Arkansas. They have around 12,000 colonies. I think he told me they send 15 loads to the almonds. I could be off on that. Any way you count it, it was a lot of bees. They don't have to feed a lot of pollen supplement. They have red maple pollen in Mississippi in January. Their inputs

were manageable. They weren't shooting for boomer colonies either. They wanted a 6 frame average. They get more colonies that way. They tried 8 frame but went back to 6.

Tuesday I went to tour the aircraft carrier Midway with Al and another Wisconsin beekeeper, Mark Gilberts. The Midway was commissioned in 1945.

The most impressive thing about it to me was that it was built in 18 months, on budget, on time and mostly by women. That would never happen today. We got back to the hotel in time to hear Bob Danka talk. His subject was selecting bees resistant to Varroa mites. In its simplest form, you build 100 nucs and let them develop without using chemicals.

You then monitor the mite load and select breeders from the hives that carry the fewest mites.



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Wednesday we went to the zoo. It cost \$44 to get in. It was a really good zoo but I think Omaha might be better. Thursday was spent at the meeting where I learned a few things. There is going to be an improvement to Hopguard strips. The design of the strip is being changed so that it will resemble a one sided piece of cardboard. It will hold more material so it will become a nine day strip. This sounded good to me. We have seen queens laying eggs underneath the strips. Many mite treatments repel the bees. Those strips appear to be very benign. They also work at colder temperatures.

A pollinator defense fund is being established. Most bee kills are not reported. Hence, the EPA has no idea how big the problem is. In reporting bee kills, it is

important to collect samples of both the bees and blooming plants in the area. It is not illegal to kill bees. It is illegal to spray blooming plants. Steve Coy and Brett Adee are two of the several people involved in this project. They want to raise funds and hire an administrator. I donated a little money.

Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman from the Tucson lab talked about the effects of fungicides. Her findings concluded they are not harmful to bees but in combination with insecticides they are quite deadly. This had been known for a while but we have to get lab verification before we can make an issue of it. While fungicides may not be immediately lethal to bees, I think they may have long term effects. Bees have fungi in their gut

to ferment pollen to make bee bread for the larvae. If fungicides deplete the fungi, then the larva will starve or, at best, be malnourished.

Jeff Pettis has been working on the reasons for the high failure rate in commercial queens. Up to 50% may supercede or turn into drone

layers.

The assumption has been that they were not well mated along with a host of other reasons. He has found that many these queens do not necessarily run out of sperm. The problem is that up to 60% of their sperm may be dead. He doesn't know why this is. He suspects Amitraz and other chemicals are at the root of it.

I spent Friday morning at the meeting. In the afternoon, Al and I went over to the Coronado Hotel. It's on an island across the bay and sits right on the beach. It was built in the 1880's and has quite a history and is still a top of the line hotel. It is built in the Queen Anne style with lots of turrets and towers. I didn't know what the Queen Anne style was until I read about it in a book. We walked around the hotel and the beach



and then ate lunch in the hotel. I got a huge charge out of the hotel visit. I still haven't figured out what made it so exciting.

On a completely unrelated subject, the squirrels have chewed their way back into my attic. This seems to happen every winter. There is a gable in my roof that used to have a window in it. The hole is boarded up but there are some small gaps around the edges. I have covered them with pieces of wood, screen wire, hardware cloth and pieces of tin. Nothing seems to deter the squirrels. It is starting to irritate me.

There was an Iowa connection at the meeting. I ran in to both Dave Hayes and Tony Schmidt. Dave is an Eastern Iowa beekeeper and Tony is from Smitty Bee in Defiance. The Packers and Dealers were meeting at the same time as the AHPA. Tony was there for that.

As I write this, we are probably about two weeks away from getting into some of our yards. We will begin to get a handle on our death loss. I think it is going to be significant. Here's hoping for a good spring!!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert

A.B.F Convention

Another A.B.F. convention has come and gone. Along with all the vendors showing off their new products and all the meetings to attend there wasn't much time for anything else.

The most important information was the fact that congress didn't pass a new farm bill. They simply extended the old one which didn't include any new requirements for honey or honey bee benefit. Also the F.D.A. stated they will not institute a honey standard as corn syrup will not affect any ones health. That means any honey standard will have to be passed through the house and senate or through the farm bill.

Our best hope for any of this happening will be through the A.B.F. lobbyist. We need to contact our state representatives about this

issue.

There are only eleven people from Iowa that belong to the A.B.F. So we are allowed only one seat at the state delegates meeting. This does not represent out state very well. However we had seven people from the state attend. Next year's convention will be held in Baton Rouge next January. We hope to see a better representation from the state next year. More to come next month.

Bill Johnson



BACK TO BASICS OF OSKALOOSA SPEAKS

December 14, 2012

I just got home from another excellent bee club meeting - Back to Basics of Oskaloosa. Eve Vanden Broek opened the meeting with special thoughts sent to the families, the city, and the State of Connecticut for the tragic incident today (Dec. 14, 2012) at Newton. Tina Marshall gave a very thoughtful prayer extending our energies to all affected by the tragedy. Eve and Craig Greene kept the well-organized meeting moving along with five exceptional presentations.

Congratulations to Hanna Van Wyk for selection as the 2013 Iowa Honey Queen at the recent Iowa Honey Producers Association's (IHPA) 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting. Hanna gave a report of her enthusiasm as Queen and her intentions to further educate and increase awareness of the need to protect and increase the survival of honey bees, especially among school-age children. Hanna has just completed her

first semester of college. She was the reigning 2012 Iowa Honey Princess.

The Back To Basics bee club was well represented at award time at the 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting of IHPA in November. They were Pioneer Award: Eves and Iola Cadwallader; Promotions Award: Chris and Angie Sutton; and Education Award: Craig Greene. Craig is now a District Director.

Ben Van Wyk gave an interesting and educational presentation on collecting venom from honey bees. He used 'You Tube' videos direct from the internet and presented a narrative from his own additional research to introduce the videos. He covered the parts of the bee which make the venom, from how it is produced in the bee, through collecting the venom, to the uses of venom.

George and I presented a 14-minute silent movie from my collection of photographs representing the Red Rock Beekeepers from their inception in June 2011 thru September 2012, highlighting some of the activities and especially how the Knoxville club has grown from 8 members in attendance to 22 members within a year. Along with the growth of the Knoxville club, the movie showed how the Jacksons, George (Bud) and I have grown from one colony to five from May 2011 to June 2012. I'd rather not mention that through the dry summer and as of October, we are down to three colonies heading into winter. We have two strong colonies and one mediocre. The mediocre needs attention and additional feeding during the winter. Each of the strong colonies has three full supers of honey.

Presentations geared up from small private beekeepers to commercial apiarists who are board members of the IA Honey Producers Association. We were delighted to have as guests

Curt & Connie Bronnenberg. Curt is now the past President of IHPA and Connie is in charge of the Iowa Honey Queen Program. Pat and Peggy Ennis were special guests also from IHPA. Pat is the new current President and Peggy is Historian. Guest speaker Curt talked about how he handles his bees in getting them to California for pollination and back. His apiary, Spring Valley Honey Farms of Perry, Iowa, recently sent seven trucks loaded with 408 colonies each to California. Five people will be going to California in January to inspect, feed, and attend to any problems. In 3 or 4 days, the crew of five, inspects 2800 colonies and then head home. He explained about taking off the honey for extracting which reduces the total weight of the hives before sending down for the winter and which does provide a product to sell. Of particular interest to me was his discussion on nutritional value and his feeding methods. Interestingly enough, nutritional value for honey bees was brought up on Tuesday at the Red Rock Beekeepers as a need to study and apply. I relate to Pat Ennis, who followed Curt as a guest speaker, when he referred to his learning curve by doing a lot of reading. I do a lot of reading myself and enjoy the expanded knowledge immensely. In my reading I have found special emphasis on nutritional value. Keep the bees well-fed and strong is the best way to manage mites and diseases. as supported by Curt & Pat. Pat talked about the times we didn't have to care for the bees so extensively because there were not the mites and disease problems and the heavy use of insecticides and chemicals which we have today. Pat started his beekeeping in Wisconsin where there are many bears and with only a hand book, a few tools, and a high drive for raising bees. He learned a lot the first year by purchasing used equipment

with diseased bees. He did it without bee clubs or mentors. When he came to Iowa, he had no trouble getting a job with Curt at the Spring Valley Honey Farms.

Curt and Pat emphasized the importance and the part all bee clubs play within the IHPA. The IHPA has a board for serving as a voice to meet the needs of bee keepers in improving the survival and health of honey bees. The board and the IHPA are a strong voice for all beekeepers and bee clubs by working with governing bodies to further and protect the beekeeping industry within the State of Iowa. For example, they had voiced the need to bring back the position of State Apiarist which proved effective. The IHPA plans to get out to bee clubs to see how and what they are doing and to assist them in any way they can. This is an excellent plan. They also encouraged individuals to take an interest in participating at the State level.

Special thanks to the valued workers and owners of commercial apiaries for the part they play in our club. Also, **Thank You** to the State IHPA leaders and officers who traveled long distance to meet with our members at our meeting on Dec. 14, 2012. Thanks Ben for your excellent research. Good job.

Back to Basics bee club meets at the Mahaska County Extension Office, 212 North I St. in Oskaloosa and is open to everyone. We meet on the 2nd Friday of every month, except June, July, and August, at 6:30 pm.

Editor, Marilyn Jackson of Melrose

Bee-Havior

What Goes On Inside a Winter Hive?
In cold weather, honeybees, one of the few insects who survive winter as a hive, cluster in a well-defined manner to

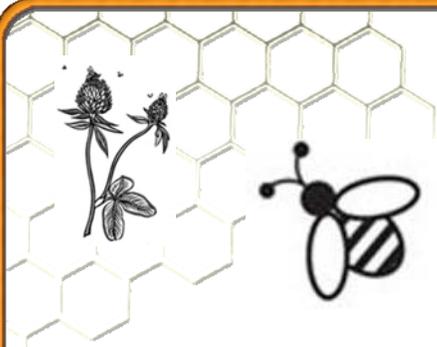
keep warm.

A cluster begins with an interior temperature in the mid-fifties, and contracts and expands as the temperature falls and rises. But, how does this work? What happens in the cluster? We turned to Master Beekeeper Kent for answers, along with a few other sources.

Bees create a cluster around the queen, her survival is critical. The bees within the cluster move about freely—in cold weather there is an almost constant circulation in the cluster. At the core of the cluster are the “heater” bees, who will have their heads in the cells on each side of the comb, and will be working their thoracic (flight) muscles in a method different from flight (the muscles contract against each other, not against the wings.) Heat is created. The next layer of bees will be the “replacement” bees who are either returning from, or going to, the food source. These bees will next replace either the “heater” bees, or the “insulator” bees. The outer layer of the cluster is comprised of the “insulator” bees. These bees strive to maintain a temperature of 48-75° F.; the inner cluster ranges from 64° F. to the low 90s, largely depending upon whether brood production has begun. The insulator bees do not participate in working their muscles to keep the hive warm—they are strictly insulation. If, these on outer ring, their thorax dips below 48° F., they can no longer activate their flight muscles. Inevitably they fall into a coma, and fall off the cluster where they likely perish.

Source: By Kent, Master Beekeeper
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800.233.2899 | www.kelleybees.com





The Red Rock Beekeepers of Knoxville

Viewed Video Relating to Organic Beekeeping 101 And Demonstration of Created Edible Art!

The Red Rock Beekeepers of Knoxville met on the 2nd Tuesday of January, January 8, 2013, with 11 interesting beekeepers in attendance. Jerry Murphy, Leader, had offered an interesting and easy to follow video: *Organic Beekeeping 101* with (Ms.) Randy Sue. The forward was by Michelle Flenniken Ph.D. We watched the first half which reviewed basics (some simple--some complex) of beekeeping from where to place hives, particularly on small lots in town, the requirements and what to consider, to building a stand for two hives and assembling brood boxes and supers with frames. We look forward to the last half of the video on February 12. It will cover the caring of the colonies after assembling the hive, extracting and the use of products from the hive. There were lots of good tips such as attaching a small strip of foundation with melted bees wax. She is letting the bees build their combs the way they want rather than using solid foundation to fill the frame. She made a nuc out of tape and a cardboard box to hold 5 frames to use in catching a swarm. There's more at www.organicbeekeeping101.com.

Craig Greene demonstrated his piece of "Edible Art" to begin creation by the bees using a glass jar in which the bees will make honey. Craig created his own arrangement of foundation in the jar as compared to Morris Ostrofsky's jar in "Glass Jar Beekeeping, Creating Edible Art" in the Bee

Culture of May 2012, page 57. This would be a fun experiment for the beekeeper yearning to advance his/her experiences and skills of beekeeping. This could be a very interesting eye catcher in a booth at the fair. A part of the fun with "Edible Art" is being able to lift the top cover and watch the bees at work in the glass jars which, by the way, does not disturb the bees. The author suggested that a new swarm may be good to use as they would get right to work on making honey. Start with an inner cover with cut holes the size of the neck of the jars in which the jars with rings are placed neck down. Include a hole to feed a jar of sugar syrup. But I don't get that one about feeding syrup when we hopefully will be eating the honey!

Neil Van Wyk talked about his process of making patties to feed the bees. The intent of the patties is to up the protein to make healthier bees. It was felt by the experienced beekeepers that his recipe -- well, not his, but passed on to him -- could be a good one.

Don't miss the Feb 12, 2013, meeting of Red Rock Beekeepers to finish out the movie on *Organic Beekeeping 101*.

Please scan down to the Reminders at the end of the *Back to Basics Learning Curve*.

Thought for your bee club: Take an interest in *Working Together for Habitat - pollinator habitat!*

Read on.

Editor, Marilyn Jackson, jacksonmarilyn@hotmail.com

Home Invasion

We live in a small two bedroom home in four acres of woods next to the Rock Creek Lake State Park. Kids are gone. It's peaceful and quiet. Time to enjoy nature, tend the flowers and garden, and go fishing. Our retirement home.

It started rather innocently. Tried to grow a few fruit trees without much luck. Del thought pollination was the problem and maybe a beehive would help. That was about 10 years ago. Fruit trees died but we now have

20 to 25 hives depending on the season.

Beekeeping took on a life of it's own and the invasion began. Not just the hives, boxes, smokers, extractors and bee suits but in the house and yard as well. Pull into the driveway where two antique smokers are framed next to the garage door. Step out of your vehicle and you are greeted by a cute bee sporting a "Welcome" sign. A "Welcome" bee flag flutters in the breeze by a bee yellow bench and "Bee Happy" ceramic plaque.

In the kitchen, the invasion doesn't seem obvious but behind cupboard doors lurk the bee skep cake pan, bee cookie cutters and glass beehive honey lemonade dispenser. The counter is loaded down with a collection of honey cookbooks. Our sideboard displays antique comb honey dishes and beeswax candles. Houseplants share pots with decorative bees. Bee stationary and wrapping paper, bee jewelry and bee fabric blouses are put away in the closets. Bookshelves are filled with beekeeping and craft books. Del even made flower planters from old bee boxes for the deck.

When does the invasion end? You know how it goes. Maybe this is just "beeing happy"? "Oh, did you see that cute bee lamp over there?"

Next month: **The Curse of the Bread**

By Fern F. Nelson

BACK TO BASICS On the Learning Curve January 11, 2013

There are over 4,000 different species of insects to pollinate crops, food, flowers, etc. However, many of those insects only pollinate specific plants or trees. Bees are one of the more versatile pollinators as they can pollinate a larger variety of plants, grasses, and trees. In a good year there is always something blooming for the bee. (Please, we need a good year!) Some one was creative and aware to call on Eric Sytsma who is a Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist. He had a booth at the 100th Annual Meeting of

the Iowa Honey Producers Association. He works in partnership with Pheasants Forever, Quail Forever, DNR and NRCS of USDA for Habitat to promote and enhance wildlife habitat for the private landowners. Eric talked about the various plants as well as programs available to improve our bees' environment. He gave advice on 'Good Wildlife Mixes' to make good pollinator habitat. We can start appreciation in maintaining and managing pollinator habitat as it requires diversity of plants which is good for our bees. It's good conservation and contributes to our efforts in balancing our environment. How do we know we have a good mix of grasses? Stand in the plot and look down. See the soil?? Yes! Interesting! Pollinator habitat would be a good topic for our youth to develop for 4-H, FFA and fair projects using posters and samples of grasses. Of particular interest was the depth of the grasses' roots as compared to the strength and height of the above-ground foliage. The great depth of the roots is what allows the grasses to come back after a burn of the habitat. Our youth could illustrate this and make it an outstanding project. Basically Eric covers Poweshiek and Mahaska Counties, but he is willing to help anyone who seeks his assistance. The education Eric has to offer is changing the way we look at things and advances us toward working in the new world. He does have posters and information available which may be of interest to us. He is at esytsma@pheasantsforever.org or 641-673-3476.

Gerald Bradley, Meet Your Fellow Beekeeper, gave an interesting scenario of his many years of beekeeping. He retired 20 years ago and started with bees 35 years ago with one \$20 hive. He now uses a 12-frame extractor. Wife, Pat, was ill this evening; however, she is quite involved in working with Gerald. He brings in the honey for his "Honey" to do the extracting! They both enjoy their parts in caring for their bees.

We have received a very warm Thank You card from Iola & Eves Cadwalader.

Reminders:

I. Don't forget to register your apiary locations with the State of Iowa. Previous registrations expired on December 31st.

II. The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction will be held on April 20, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. on hwy 141, 1 block west of the hospital in Perry, Iowa. You will find details elsewhere in this Buzz.

III. Bee classes for the Counties of Marion, Mahaska, and Lucas started the week of January 15.

IV. Back to Basics is preparing to give four scholarships to youth ages 12 to 17 and Red Rock Beekeepers is prepared to give one to the most eligible youth who is able to attend monthly meetings in Knoxville.

V. Dadant is having a 150th Anniversary Celebration at the Sullivan Auction site, 1066 E, Hwy 136, Hamilton, IL, March 15th & 16th, 2013. Find more information in this Buzz.

VI. Members of Back to Basics and Red Rock Beekeepers are welcomed to visit Board Meetings. Get acquainted, as your skills grow so do you?

My desire! Surprisingly I have found the study of Drones as interesting as the study of Queens. Drones get knocked out of the hive. Not just by workers, but by humans. We need drones to help our neighbors. Teach me ☺☺ THAT ONE.

Editor, Marilyn Jackson,
jacksmarilyn@hotmail.com



Iowa Honey Producers Association



100th Anniversary Merchandise

Yes, we are now into our 101st year of the Iowa Honey Producers Association (or the First Anniversary of our 100th Anniversary) and we still have IHPA 100th anniversary merchandise available for purchase. The price list is as follows:

Merchandise:

\$22.00 Honey Pot
\$36.00 Utensil Crock
\$20.00 Hive Tool
\$17.00 Coffee Cup w/spoon
\$ 2.00 Magnet

Hat/visor:

\$15.00 Hat
\$15.00 Visor

T-Shirt:

\$15.00 Youth: small, medium, large
\$15.00 Adult: small, medium, large and x-large
\$17.00 Adult: 2x-large and 3x-large

Polo Shirt:

\$35.00 Adult: small, medium, large and x-large
\$37.00 Adult: 2x-large and 3x-large

The above prices include shipping and handling fees.

Please send your order with payment to:

Rhonda Heston, Treasurer
Iowa Honey Producers
52735 187th Ave
Chariton IA 540049
Phone: 515-724-2124
E-Mail: R.Heston@yahoo.com

*** Photos of the 100th Anniversary Merchandise can also be viewed on the IHPA website:

www.ABuzzAboutBees.com

The history of the “Honey House” a.k.a. “The Honey Barn” in Goldfield, Iowa

In 1940, Raymond Jones built a “Honey House” north of his home on Lincoln Street in Goldfield, IA. Design



The quilt shop is in an old barn that's been very nicely renovated right on the edge of Goldfield, Iowa. Originally built and used as a working “honey house”.

and construction of the barn shaped structure was done by Raymond Jones, Dewey Beissel, Elah Jones and his son-in-law.

House Fills Government Honey Requests:

Due to sugar rationing during World War II, a 25% increase in honey production and a boost of 50% in beeswax are the goals the USDA has asked the apiarists of the nation to meet. The increase in honey production is to be used primarily for the table in place of sugar, while the additional wax will serve the war effort in 250 different ways. Beeswax is used for everything from waxing

a soldier's boots to streamlining a two-ton block buster (high-explosive bombs ranging in weight from 500 pounds to 4,000 pounds — the so-called two-ton “cookies” used in World War II). Several factors will make the increase asked by the government difficult to attain. Shortage of labor is one serious hindrance, but a greater one is Mother Nature herself. The cold & wet summer of 1942 produced only one-third of a normal year's crop which failed to give the bees enough winter food. The cold winter also affected the hives. Jones estimated that 50% of his colonies were winter killed. An order of 350 bee colonies from the southern states will put his stock back up to the 750 par, although 400 colonies in considered a fair number for one man.

Many photos were taken of Raymond Jones in the spring with his truck loaded with hives on the way to Missouri for the “starter season”. The warmer temperatures meant an early start for the beekeepers. It took two trips to get the “suppers” and hives that they needed. One queen bee was in every set of hives and there was a food supply for the bees in the hives also. Raymond & his family stayed in Missouri during the “starter” season and then returned to Iowa. Everyone worked when the bees came in. For Jerry, who was only 7 years old when his dad passed away, remembers he, too, had a job of moving the “supers” or small hives on a cart. Jerry said his mom, Vivian, was allergic to bees.



The old rafters of the barn are still visible, and owner Melinda Petersen, has some beautiful quilts and unique displays.

available in the spring.

To process the honey, they would “hot knife” the sides of the honey combs, which were in the top level of the honey house and it would drip down to the lower lever into a large tank. It would be drawn into 5 gallon rectangular buckets for shipment to the Sioux Bee Company in Sioux City, Iowa.

Raymond Jones was also a fireman on the railroad during the days of the steam engines. Years later, the building that was once the “Honey House, was owned by Robert Campbell II, Lyle Askvig, Bev Steffenson and now *Quilting Sisters LLC*, and is now known as: “The Honey Barn”.

Thank you to the “Honey Barn” and to Jodi Kraft of Goldfield, who is employed by the “Honey Barn” for the information and letting the IHPA borrow the “Barn's” black framed pictures during our 100th celebration in Marshalltown. If you're in the area, stop in the “Barn”@ 412 Lincoln St, Goldfield, IA (515) 825-3942



Many times the bees were killed off in the fall as it was too expensive to feed then thru Iowa's winter. Mr. Jones would either kill all the bees or none of them. This depended on the supply of bees that would be

Peggy Ennis, Historian

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Ethan Hellweg, who is a participant in the IHPA mentor program. He is an only child and lives near West Point, Iowa with his parents Larry and Rita Hellweg. Ethan's mother is employed at the Keokuk Area Hospital and his father is employed at Pinnacle Food.

This year Ethan is a freshman at Central Lee High School and is involved in several activities including basketball, football, and youth group. Trap shooting, fishing and hunting are some of his additional interests. Ethan has also been involved in 4-H for 5 years and FFA for 1 year. He shows sheep and rabbits at the county and/or state level. Upon graduation he is planning to become a veterinarian.



Ethan Hellweg and David Tull prepare a package of bees for installation into the hive body.

Ethan says he got interested in beekeeping through a science fair. This last year was his first year keeping bees, and David Tull is his mentor. He says he enjoys keeping bees and has learned a lot about them, like how to put bees in the hive, when to put a new super on and when and how to treat them for mites. He told me he learned bees will crawl through holes in your gloves. Lessons learned. He also helped the Iowa Honey Producers at the Iowa State Fair booth. In the future he plans to get more colonies and teach others about beekeeping.

Thanks for your story Ethan.

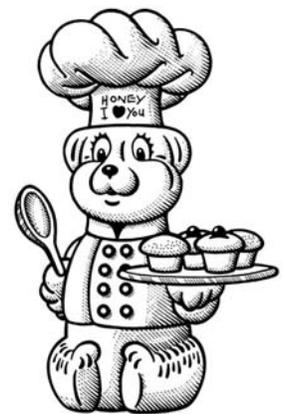
Submitted by Ron Wehr

APPLE AND HONEY PIZZA

Printed from COOKS.COM

- 1 chilled pie crust
- 1/4 c. honey**
- 1 c. thick applesauce
- 2 c. thinly sliced apples
- 1/3 c. ground nuts
- Cinnamon & nutmeg

Roll pie dough into flat 12 inch circle. Place on buttered foil. Fold over edge of dough to make rim. Prick pastry and brush with honey. Cover with applesauce and apple slices. Sprinkle with nuts, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes or until crust is browned. Serves 6-12.



President's Message Trivia Answer: Charles Dadant was born in France in 1817

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The Buzz Newsletter

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