



The Buzz



Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers:

As I sit at the computer composing this article, the honey bees are flying fast and furious to the water in the backyard. They are searching for food, water and taking cleansing flights. They have been out flying the past two weeks when the weather is warm and not too windy. Make sure you check your hives and feed the bees as needed. This has been another unusual winter and the stores of honey are being used up quickly. It is a very critical time of year for our hives. Do your part and provide the necessary food for them to make sure they will survive the rest of the winter.

CONGRATULATIONS, TERESA!! Teresa called us Saturday evening as we were returning home from the Central Iowa Beekeepers Assn. meeting in Marshalltown to let us know that she had been chosen as the 2006 American Honey Princess. We are very excited for her and know that she will do an awesome job representing the honey industry as a spokesperson. Thanks go to Regina for the help and guidance she has given to Teresa over the past year. Hope both women enjoyed the trip to Louisville. I'm sure we will hear more of the details later.

I know this is a beekeeping article, but we always get asked about our family when we are at meetings. Here is a quick update. As of January 12th, 2006, Mitch is out of the Army. His belongings are enroute to Cumberland and should arrive around the 24th. I'm sure there is going to be a big adjustment period. He has been in the Army since 1997. Shawn is stationed in Kuwait and doing convoy recovery into Iraq driving a wrecker to recover broken equipment. His wife, Meladee and sons, Michael and Vincent moved to Massena over Christmas vacation from Fort Sill, Oklahoma. It is great having them close by. Another big adjustment. Steve, Emma, JoAnn(2 years) and Jack(3 months) helped me move Meladee and the boys along with my sister, Cindy. What an experi-

ence! Please remember that we still have lots of troops deployed all over the world and keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

There is still time to get some winter work done before Spring gets here for real. Clean up your hive bodies, install any new foundation that you need, paint and do a general inventory of what is going to be needed for the new season. Now is also a great time to read any magazine articles that you missed over the busy summer. Plan to attend the joint meeting of the Missouri and Kansas beekeepers to be held on March 3rd and 4th in Kansas City to get lots of ideas and even pick up any ordered equipment from the vendors that will be attending. I'm quite sure that Draper's and Mid-Con will be in attendance. See the article on the meeting in another section of the BUZZ edition.

The IHPA officers and board of directors are working hard to get several new programs going for the benefit of our membership. We will keep you posted on the outcome. We are working on several proposals. These things take time, but we hope they will be of great service to our members.

Keep checking the bees for food. They use up so much this kind of weather. Let's see if we can help them all that we can. Bee Sweet to your family and friends this Valentine's day and throughout the month.

Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President



Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.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 15th 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. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer, 4012 54th St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762

Dates to BEE Remembered:

Jan.; Feb.; Mar., 2006

Beginning Beekeeping Classes

Feb. 10 & 11, 2006

Mead Fest (Boulder, CO)

Mar. 3 & 4, 2006

Joint Spring Meeting with Kansas & Missouri

March 25, 2006

North Iowa Bee club field days, March 25 Helping new beekeepers put bee equipment together. From bottom board to cover, and where to find good used equipment. Class will be from 1pm to 4pm. We will even have a smoker starting contest, **COME AND HAVE FUN AND LEARN.**

April 29, 2006

North Iowa Bee Club field day, April 29 from 1pm to 4pm. We will be working with the bees (weather permitting) to help new beekeepers learn to find the queen, workers, drones, pollen and any thing we can think of that will help them. Bring bee suit and any protective cloths you want, not responsible for stings.

Aug. 10-20, 2006

Iowa State Fair

To add an important date to the list, contact the Buzz by email at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com Or by mail at the address listed on the front cover.



Wanted: Old crop honey for use in bread baking business. Contact Kirsten @ 712-359-2277 or incrediblepulch@gmail.com.

QUEENS FOR SALE:

Queens from B. Weaver Apiaries of Navasota, Texas. Pickup/delivery at the CIBA Auction on April 22, 2006 at Harry Hunter's---2781 S.E. 70th St. Pleasant Hill. Or by other arrangement. Buckfast, Bee Weaver All Stars or Beesmart queens---\$18.00 each.

I've told several people that they are \$17.00 each, it was my mistake. I forgot to add on shipping costs when I quoted the lower price. I need order and payment by March 18.

Margaret Hala
1988 Vine Ave.
Marshalltown, IA 50158
641-752-2981
mhala@marshallnet.com

HELP WANTED I need four to six people to help me do a field day with new beekeepers who have probably never looked into a bee hive.

QUALIFICATION'S- Must be willing to teach and learn, to show someone the art of beekeeping. Pat Ennis 1040 union ave Goodell Iowa 50439 641 444 4767

flat_lander@lycos.com

A Year With Honeybees

This video has proven to be popular available on either VHS tape or DVD. We have sold 41 of them. It follows beekeeper Dick Blake through an entire production season. It starts with spring feeding and ends with the barrels of honey being loaded on the truck. There is good information here for beekeepers of every level. Available from the Iowa Honey Producers for \$20. That includes shipping within

For Sale: Package Bees—2# and 3# packages with queens. On the first load you may have your choice of Carniolan or Italian queens. The first lot is expected to be here by the first week in April. This load is normally full by mid February. The second lot will be here in the second or third week of April. This load will have only 2# packages with Carniolan queens. Usually, we have bees available on this load until mid to late March.

Call Phil Ebert for price and availability. 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

FOR SALE: 2 or 3 lb. packages of Italian bees with queen. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, Iowa the first part of April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. All orders must be received by Feb. 28,2006. Contact Douglas Child 319-634-3682

For Sale: Package bees with Queen; 2# pkg for \$50; 3# pkg for \$60. These are gentle Italian Bees from Ward/Banks Apiaries in California. Orders must be booked by February 28.

Gordon Powell
4012 54th Street;
Des Moines, IA 50310
Ph: 515-278-1762

For Sale: Corn syrup for spring feeding. Available by the bucket or by the barrel. Contact Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

Iowa. It may be slightly higher elsewhere. Make checks payable to the Iowa Honey Producers.

Contact "The Buzz" for your copy.

The Buzz
c/o Phil Ebert
14808 102nd Ave. E.
Lynnville, IA 50153



CONGRATULATIONS TERESA!

Our 2005 Iowa Honey Queen, Teresa Jurchen, has been crowned the 2006 American Honey Princess at the American Beekeeping Federation Convention, January 11-14, 2006 in Louisville, Kentucky. Theresa was chosen by a panel of three anonymous judges based on her application, marketing presentation, interview, and her ability to communicate with beekeepers throughout the convention. As her chaperone, I am very proud to say that Teresa did an excellent job representing the IHPA. I received too many compliments to count on how impressive and professional she is. Her marketing presentation, which you may have seen in November at IHPA convention, was a crowd favorite. I'm sure Teresa will work as hard for the ABF this coming year as she did for the IHPA in 2005. Most of her national traveling and promotion will be in the fall, so feel free to invite Teresa to your spring and summer promotions. Be sure to let her know how proud we are to have her representing our industry once again!

2006 Iowa Honey Queen Crowned

The Iowa Honey Queen Program is proud to announce that Elizabeth Macken of Readlyn, Iowa was crowned the 2006 Iowa Honey Queen in November at the IHPA

Annual Convention. Elizabeth is the daughter of Jerry and Susan Macken and was sponsored by the newly formed Northeast Iowa Beekeepers and her parents. She is a senior at Wapsie Valley High School where she is involved in FFA, Dance Team, Golf, Volleyball, and National Honor Society. Her hobbies include dancing, clothing design, art, photography, and travel. Liz has been a beekeeper with her parents for two years and has had several interesting experiences so far. She is eager to learn more about bees as she helps you promote your product. Liz is available to attend local beekeeping meetings, fairs, festivals, farmers' markets, and other honey promotional activities. To arrange for Liz to assist you with your promotion, please contact Regina Jager at (641) 660-0772.

Regina Jager,
Iowa Honey Queen Chairman

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month Ellie Johnson is our featured beekeeper. She is Gordon and Beverly Powell's granddaughter and lives with them in Des Moines. Ellie says she has a boyfriend but put a question mark, so lets just say she has friends who are boys.

Ellie tells us she has been keeping bees ever since she can remember. Grandpa Gordon helped her get started. Currently she has 2 hives and helps Gordon with 15 to 20 colonies. She markets bottled honey, candles and packaged bees.

Ellie says she finds beekeeping satisfying because she gets to work with other beekeepers and learn their ways. In the future she plans

to have a nice sized business and acquire a vast education in beekeeping.

Ellie is a member of CIBA. The group helps promote beekeeping. She is also involved in IHPA where she is the head of awards committee and also a member of the Katrina committee. The Katrina committee distributes money IHPA designated to help beekeepers in the hurricane stricken areas in the Southern United States.

Ellie doesn't seem to be afraid of anything, but says she used to be extremely afraid of honeybees. However now that she has held a bee and felt it and learned to know its behavior, it is a thing of beauty to her.

If we can recruit more young members like Ellie, Iowa Honey Producers have a bright future. Thanks for your story Ellie.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

And the Prize Goes to...

At the IHPA board meeting held January 21st, the 2006 American Honey Princess, Teresa Jurchen, picked Tim Laughlin's name to receive the free registration certificate (valued at \$20) for the 2006 annual meeting. The names were those members completing evaluations at the end of the 2005 meeting.

Congratulations, Tim



AHPA Meeting in Houston

I attended the American Honey Producers Convention in Houston from January 10-14. There were around 150 beekeepers in attendance. It appears there is going to be a surplus of bees for almond pollination. At the time of the convention, there were about 100,000 extra colonies in California. Lyle Johnston thought most of this initial surplus would disappear when beekeepers went through their colonies after the convention. Still to come were many semi loads from Florida and other southern locations. Some of the almond growers are coming back to their pollination providers seeking a fee reduction. They are also seeking bees from off shore locations for future pollination.

There were some scary numbers on the number of queens that supercede within six months. There are a lot of bad drones out there. A well mated queen needs a sperm count of around 5,000,000. The other problem is the environment the queens are introduced into. They have found that a queen with nosema may only last about 30 days. Tracheal mites also lead to early supercedure. Tracheal mites target young bees. In a mating nuc, the virgin queen is the youngest bee available. So she is a likely target. Varroa mites will ignore queen cells. They don't have time to mature in those. They can target the mated queen later.

While tylosin has been approved for foulbrood treatment, there are going to be residue problems if it is used indiscriminately. It doesn't break down like TM does. Be careful if you use this.

There have been some positive results using oxalic acid on Varroa

mites. The mix is one litre of water with one kg of sugar and 75 grams of oxalic acid. This treats 25 colonies. The researchers were applying the acid with a 60 ml plastic syringe at a rate of 5ml/frame. If the weather is cold trickle the acid on the top bars. Otherwise, trickle it between the frames. Most of the commercial operations that were using oxalic acid were applying it with a garden sprayer. Research showed a 70% kill with the acid.

Diana Summantaro had tested Sucroside using a rate of 3 tablespoons per two gallons of water. It didn't work at this rate. She was planning to try it again in a higher concentration. There were some positive results using Apigard on Varroa mites. None of the Varroa remedies they are working on kill as well as the strips did when they were working. This will translate into the need for more frequent monitoring and probably more frequent mite treatments.

It was as fun meeting and I learned a lot.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



Summer Field Day

Some preliminary arrangements have been discussed for the summer field day. We want to improve the quality of this event. We expect to hold the event at either the 4-H camp or the Iowa Arboretum. Both of these locations are near Madrid. The date will be either June 24th or July 8th. There will be a potluck meal with the association furnishing the main course and the drink. Prospective speakers will be contacted soon.

Please Welcome the 2006 Iowa Honey Queen Elizabeth Macken!



January 2006

Another year has come and gone along with the Annual Meeting held in Marshalltown. All of those who attended can attest when I say it was a weekend worth while. Many ideas were tossed around and tips passed down including the reign of the Iowa Honey Queen. During the banquet, I was crowned the 2006 Iowa Honey Queen. For those who don't know me, I will give you a brief background.

My name is Elizabeth Macken and I live on a small acreage outside of Readlyn. For those who care to know, our town phrase is "857 Friendly People and 1 Old Grump"! I attend Wapsie Valley High School where I am currently a senior. During the school year I am involved in various activities including dance team, golf, FFA, class Vice President, and working the sports concession stand for athletic events. Outside of school I am involved in piano, youth group, LYO board member, and the Rainbow Clovers 4-H club. I also work at the local Boy Scout camp during the summer

and at the Iowa State Fair. After graduation I plan to attend college during the fall either at the University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, or Central College majoring in Anthropology.

I began raising bees in May 2004 as an SAE project through FFA. After learning some intriguing facts about these insects, I was hooked. I bought a single hive from Ken Nuss. He and Al Buenning have been influential mentors through out this whole process. They taught me a lot about bee keeping basics but that wasn't enough. There are some things that can only be learned through trial and error such as preventing swarms and remaining calm after being stung. Though things didn't always go as planned, there were never any terminal problems, thank God. By the end of my first season I extracted 37 pounds. Looking back, even though it was not a lot of honey, I am just glad it was a pleasurable learning experience that I was able to earn some money from.

The winter season passed smoothly and the next honey season was about to start. My original hive had become so strong that I decided to make a split, not once, but twice. My dad also got into the beekeeping business. On our acreage, we had a combined total of four hives, two each. At this time I joined the newly formed NE Iowa Honey Producers club and was also elected to represent the NE District. It is nice to be able to have a "support system" especially if you are a newbie. To say the least, this past year wasn't the most pleasant when it came to working with my hive. It was definitely a learning season focused on how to work with an aggressive hive. Though the bees weren't the

most fun to work with, I was amazed at how well they did at the end of the honey season. By the time I extracted, I collected 151 pounds from only my original hive.

Beekeeping is a hobby or career where one can never know what to expect or know all there is to know. I am excited to be able to represent Iowa as I continue to learn more from others and share what I have learned. I look forward to seeing you through out this upcoming year. Until then, keep warm and enjoy this short break.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Macken

If you would like to contact me for any reason, reach me at: 2853 260th Street, Readlyn, IA 50668
Home # = (319) 279 - 3892
Cell # = (319) 269 - 7212

February 2006

Winter is almost over so it is time to start taking an inventory check which includes plans for the upcoming season. This was one of the topics of discussion at the NE Iowa Honey Producers meeting. It was the first meeting of the year for this new group and 28 people showed up. Of them, there were several people who came to see if beekeeping was something they would be interested in starting. Ironically enough, the topic that we talked the most about was disease. That's a sure fire way to get their attention!

After thoroughly confusing our guests, the focus of the meeting switched to starting up a new hive. We were taught several ways to which a queen can be introduced along with the pros and cons of each method. They even provided us with a visual demonstration of

how it should be done.

Various subjects came up and many of the long time beekeepers shared what they found worked for them over the years. As you may well know, no one had the exact same way of doing things. This goes to show that you can guess and plan what your hive will do under a certain situation, but you will never really know the outcome until it happens. Most of the time, the outcome is the complete opposite of what you expected. For all of the new beekeepers out there, including myself, try not to let this discourage you. Simply think of it as yet another challenge. So as you go out to check your equipment and prepare for the spring, think of all of the exciting challenges you are about to face.

Sincerely,
2006 Iowa Honey Queen
Elizabeth Macken



IHPA Board Meeting Scheduled for 2006

March 11, 2006

Regular Meeting Des Moines
1:00pm

November 16, 2006

Regular Meeting Marshalltown
7:00pm

November 17 & 18

Annual Meeting Marshalltown

The meetings are usually held at Immanuel Methodist Church located at 2900 49th Street in Des Moines. (49th & Urbandale Road)



Recipes from P & P Honey

Peanut Butter Honey Cookies

1/3 C. Butter or margarine
 1/2 C. Brown sugar
 1/2 C. Honey
 2/3 C. Peanut butter
 1 Egg
 2 C. Flour
 1 tsp. Baking powder
 1/4 tsp. Baking soda
 1/2 tsp. Salt
 1/2 tsp. Vanilla

Mix butter, sugar, Honey, peanut butter, and egg thoroughly.

Measure flour by sifting. Blend dry ingredients.

Stir into butter mixture. Refrigerate for several hours.

Heat oven to 400°, shape dough and place 1" apart on a greased baking sheet.

Bake 8 to 10 mins.

Add chocolate stars.

Honey Butterscotch Crispies

1 Pkg. Butterscotch chips
 1/2 C. Honey
 1/2 C. Peanut butter
 5 C. Crispy rice cereal
 1 Pkg. Chocolate chips

In a small pan, combine butter-

scotch chips, honey and peanut butter. Cook on low heat, stirring until chips and peanut butter are melted.

In a large bowl, combine cereal and butterscotch/honey/peanut butter mixture. Toss to coat.

Pour into a greased 9x13 pan. Press evenly. Sprinkle chocolate chips over top and place pan under oven broiler and heat until chocolate chips are soft enough to spread.

Spread melted chips evenly over cereal mixture. Let cool before cutting.

Mary's Apple Cider

1 Gal. Apple cider juice
 1/2 Gal. Cranberry juice
 1 Pkg. Cinnamon red hots (more or less to personal taste)
 12 oz. Cinnamon creamed honey

Combine ingredients and heat over low heat thoroughly, stirring occasionally until red hots and honey are dissolved.

Serve warm. A 24 or 32 cup coffee pot works well.

Submitted with permission of Mary Krany.

Recipes Submitted by Pat Ennis



Blueberry Coffeecake

Submitted by Donna Brahms

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 cup Iowa Honey
 2 eggs
 1/4 cup milk
 2 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice
 1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon peel
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 6 tablespoons butter, melted

Blueberry Topping:

2 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen (partially thawed)
 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
 1/2 cup Iowa Honey
 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Place blueberries in bottom of greased 9-inch round cake pan: distribute evenly. Sprinkle with flour, drizzle with honey and lemon juice. Set aside.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; set aside. In medium bowl, combine honey, eggs, milk, lemon juice, lemon peel and vanilla; beat with fork until well mixed.

Add flour mixture; mix well. Stir in melted butter; mix well. Pour batter over blueberries in pan; spread to cover evenly.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean.

Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Invert cake onto large plate; cool completely.

Makes 8 servings.

**Three Queen Bees and a Drone
Kansas' Honey Producers Association &
Missouri State Beekeepers Association
Spring 2006 Meeting**

Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4

Overland Park Marriott

10800 Metcalf, (I-435 & exit 169 Highway--Metcalf)

Room rate \$75.00 plus tax (\$85.14), Make reservations by February 9th,

Call 800-228-9290, group code: mkbmkb

Thursday night, March 2nd:

Board meeting for the Missouri State Beekeepers, 8:00 p.m., Sunflower Room

Board meeting for the Kansas State Beekeepers, 8:30 p.m., Boulevard Suite, 922

Friday, March 3rd

7:30-8:30 Registration & coffee & tea (Silent Auction Set-up)

8:30-8:45 Welcome & announcements, President Monte Richardson

8:45-9:30 **“Accurately Sample Colonies for Mites—A New Method”** Dr. Marla Spivak

9:30-10:15 **“House Hunting by Honey Bees”** Dr. Tom Seeley

10:15-10:45 Break

10:45-11:30 **“Mite Management”** research update from the USDA Bee Labs Dr. Diana Sammataro

11:30-12:15 **“Organic Certified Honey: Can it be done?”** Dr. Nancy Ostiguy

12:15-1:15 Lunch on your own

1:15-2:00 To be announced

Workshops – choose 3:

“How Viruses Change Beekeeping,” Nancy Ostiguy

“Plastic Foundation: Good for the beekeeper. Good for the Bees?” Tom Seeley

“Drone Selection” Marla Spivak

“Pollination” Diana Sammataro

“Nutritional Analysis of Honey & Honey Products” Jackie Rowan

“Dealing with Small Hive Beetles”

“Installing Package Bees”

“Making Nucs” Chris Gibbons

“Making Mead” Robert Burns

“Putting Together Gift Bags & Gift Baskets”

“Soaps & Salves”

2:05-2:45 Workshop 1

2:45-3:15 Break, visit vendors & bid on silent auction

3:15-4:00 Workshop 2

4:05-4:50 Workshop 3

6:30 Banquet & Entertainment

Presentation of Missouri Beekeeper of the Year Award

Coronation of the Kansas Honey Queen

Program and speakers subject to change

Saturday, March 4th

- 7:45-8:15 Registration, coffee
8:15-8:30 Welcome & announcements, Tim Tucker
8:30-9:15 **“The Beehive as a Honey Factory”** Tom Seeley
9:15-10:00 **“Breeding Bees—News from the Minnesota Ivory Tower”** Marla Spivak
10:00-10:30 Break
10:30-11:15 Diana Sammataro (topic to be announced)
11:15-12:00 **“Pesticide Residues in Honey and Beeswax”** Nancy Ostiguy
12:00-1:00 Lunch on your own or Deli Luncheon (paid with registration)
Vendors will be packing up at this time
1:00-1:45 TBA

Workshops, choose 3:

- “How Viruses Change Beekeeping,”** Nancy Ostiguy
“Plastic Foundation: Good for the beekeeper. Good for the Bees?” Tom Seeley
“Drone Selection” Marla Spivak
“Pollination” Diana Sammataro
“Pollen Collecting”
“Preparing Honey for Shows” Kristi Sanderson
“Insect Photography” Betsy Betros

- 1:50-2:30 Workshop 1
2:35-3:15 Workshop 2
3:20-4:00 Workshop 3
4:00- Door Prizes & Drawings,

Program and speakers subject to change

Our guest speakers are excellent—Three Queens and a Drone!

Dr. Marla Spivak is at the University of Minnesota, Department of Entomology. She is part of the Minnesota Extension Service. She has been instrumental in developing bees with hygienic traits so that we can use fewer chemicals in our hives. She has written several books “Successful Queen Rearing” and “Beekeeping in the Upper Midwest”

Dr. Diana Sammatara is with the USDA Bee Lab in Tucson AZ. She has written the book “The Beekeeper’s Handbook.”

Dr. Nancy Ostiguy is at Pennsylvania State University. Her interests are in the area of sustainable and organic agriculture. The current focus of my research is in the area of environmental consequences of pest control strategies, including non-pesticidal approaches to pest control (IPM), pesticide residues in foods and other products.

Dr. Tom Seeley is a professor of Biology in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. He teaches courses in animal behavior and does research on honey bee behavior. He recently has had articles in Bee Culture magazine.

The two slots for “to be announced” we have asked speakers but have not gotten the ok yet.
The dinner entertainment will also be fun –but we haven’t nailed that down yet!



Kansas' Honey Producers Association & Missouri State Beekeepers Spring 2006 Meeting Registration Form

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____
 PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____



Pre-Registration Fees: registration must be received by February 24th, 2006

Member -- 2-day, per person \$17.00 _____
 Or Member -- 1 day, per person \$12.00 _____

(This rate is for Husband-wife, parent-child, boyfriend-girlfriend, etc.)
 Member Family— 2 day \$25.00 _____
 Or Member family— 1 day \$20.00 _____
 For name tag fill in names _____, _____

Non-member -- 2-day, per person \$24.00 _____
 Or Non-member -- 1 day, per person \$15.00 _____

Registrations made after February 24th:

Member -- 2-day, per person \$21.00 _____
 Or Member -- 1 day, per person \$16.00 _____

Non-member -- 2-day, per person \$28.00 _____
 Or Non-member -- 1 day, per person \$20.00 _____

(No family discount on late registrations)

Friday Night Banquet & Entertainment: Honey-orange chicken, rice, salad, vegetable, dessert

Adult - \$20.00/person (\$20.00 x _____) = _____
 Child - \$10.00/person ages 4 and older (\$10.00 x _____) = _____
 This is Lent if you prefer fish tell us how many _____

Saturday, Deli Plate Lunch

Adult - \$15.00/person (\$15.00 x _____) = _____
 Child - \$7.50/person ages 4 and older (\$ 7.50 x _____) = _____

Membership for Kansas' Honey Producers Association: Renewal New \$15.00 _____
Youth Membership '06 KHP (18 years of age or under) Renewal New \$7.50 _____

Membership 2006 Missouri State Beekeepers Assn. Individual: Renewal New \$10.00 _____
Membership 2006 Missouri State Beekeepers Assn. Family: Renewal New \$15.00 _____

Donation \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **Kansas' Honey Producers Assn** or **KHPA**. Send to Robert Burns, 7601 w 54TH Terr. Overland Park, KS 66202 913-831-6096 email rburns@kc.rr.com (Registration will not be accepted by email) *If you pre-register and then can not attend, your registration fee will be considered a donation and no refunds will be made. If you pay for meals and we are able to sell them you will be refunded for those.*

IHPA Board Meeting of January 21, 2006

The Iowa Honey Producers board of directors met in Des Moines on January 21st. It was voted to spend \$50 to pay for a booth at the Master Gardener Conference in Cedar Rapids on June 16 and 17. Preliminary plans call for Larry Spina and Bob Wolf to staff the booth. Teresa Jurchen was present and reported on her trip to the ABF meeting in Louisville, KY where she was named American Honey Princess. We need to check on Apigard to see if it requires a section 18 approval. Marion Ellis though it required a Section 3. So far, Donna has not been able to contact Chuch Eckerman. Likewise, she has been unable to contact Becky Ohrtman. We need to get together with Becky to determine what the mechanism for yard registration is going to be. Earlier indications were that it was going to be electronic registration only. We are not sure where this is at. We also need to discuss the status of apiary inspection with her. The initial plan was to only inspect beekeepers with fifty or more colonies. If this is to be the case, we need to set up some kind of mentoring system to provide smaller beekeepers with the tools to keep their colonies healthy.

Alex Ebert submitted a proposal for producing a video on detecting foulbrood and estimating threshold levels for Varroa mite treatment. The board approved production of the video. The timeline calls for the video to be completed next fall.

However, completion will de-

pend on how long it takes us to find colonies with foulbrood and various levels of mites. Gordon reported that over 400 copies of "The Buzz" were sent out in January. This includes everyone he has on the rolls. The February mailing will be scaled back to only include paid up members.

Gordon said the Hurricane Relief Committee was still working on the dispersal of the funds approved for relief. He had contacted the state of Mississippi and was told that the people that had lost their bees had

also lost their houses. They were more concerned with getting their dwellings restored than getting their bees replenished. Gordon was still waiting to hear from Tom Randol to see what Tom found out about Louisiana.

The board also further discussed a youth mentoring program. We started discussing this at the last meeting. Teresa Jurchen reported that they had been very successful with this program in Texas. We might be able to partner with the Farm Bureau for this program. Youth beekeepers between the ages of 12 and 17 would be given bees and equipment for one hive. They would also be partnered with a mentor. After one year. The equip-

ment and bees would become the property of the participant after one year. There would be some kind of agreement they would have to adhere to. We hope to have this program off the ground for the spring of 2007

The next meeting will be March 11th 1pm.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Strawberry Angel Food Cake

1 package angel food cake mix
1 1/4 cups strawberry-flavored soft drink
1/4 cup Iowa Honey

Prepare cake mix according to package directions, except substitute strawberry soft drink and honey for the water. Bake as directed. Cool and remove from pan. Spread top with Strawberry Glaze (below), allowing some to drizzle down sides. Serve with fresh strawberries that have been sweetened with 1/4 cup Iowa Honey per pint.

Strawberry Glaze
1/2 cup butter
2 to 4 T. strawberry-flavored soft drink
2 cups powdered sugar
2 to 4 drops red food coloring
Melt butter in microwave. Blend in powdered sugar.

Stir in soft drink, 1 tablespoon at a time until desired consistency is reached. Stir in food coloring.

Submitted by Donna Brahm

WEAVER'S famous QUEENS and Package Bees

★ Buckfast ★ All-American

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Greetings Iowa Beekeepers!

As I write this, I have only been home a couple of hours from the ABF Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. It has been my honor to spend the last week representing you, and I am excited to announce that I will be spending the next year continuing my service to the industry as the 2006 American Honey Princess.



Regina Jager and Teresa Jurchen attended the ABF Convention in Louisville, KY.

I could have not reached this point without the encouragement and support of many, and I wish for you

to know that every person I came in contact with this past year can share in this success. Specifically, I would like to thank Mike & Donna Brahms for being my mentors and friends. I would also like to thank Regina Jager. She has never stopped supporting me, and her friendship means a great deal. I would also like to thank the mem-

bers of the board for all of the work they do for this organization. Last, but certainly not least, I thank each of the members. Thank you for inviting me to your events and sharing your knowledge with me.

I am excited for the work ahead, but I am also very excited for you to meet our new Iowa Honey Queen, Liz Macken. She is fantastic, and I look forward to working

with her. I hope that you will show her the kindness and support that you have shown me. Remember that the Honey Queen Program is a service to you. We promote the product that you produce, so please allow us to work for you and your business in any way that we can.

Since the whole experience of convention has not completely sunk in yet, I must say that this whole thing still

feels a bit surreal. This last year has been so wonderful that it is hard to believe that I have been given the opportunity to spend one more in service to an industry that I have grown to love more than I could have ever imagined. With Liz's help, I plan to continue to try to spend a great deal of time promoting here in Iowa, so if there is anything that I can do please feel free to contact me. As always, I can be reached at (712) 779-0321 or tjurchen@iastate.edu.

Thank you again for everything, I

look forward to our continued partnership.

God Bless,

Teresa Jurchen

2006 American Honey Princess

2005 Iowa Honey Queen

Beekeeping Classes Are Underway

Beginning beekeeping classes are underway. Two classes started Jan 17th. Pat Randol has nine in her class in Winterset. The DMACC class got underway with an enrollment of 17. There has been one additional enrollment since then. DMACC has also expressed interest in having a continuing relationship with the Iowa Honey Producers. Ron Wehr and Vern Ramsey have a class scheduled to get underway Jan 24th in Washington. So far, there are only three enrolled for that one. Still to come are Iowa Valley in Marshalltown and NIACC in Mason City. The Iowa Valley class will start Feb 2nd and the Mason City class is March 3rd and 4th. The Mason City class is set up for one weekend but Pat Ennis has two field days scheduled at his house to supplement the class. We will be offering a Spanish language section in Marshalltown in addition to the regular class. I'm encouraged by the turnout for the classes.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



Dordt College Update

Last month in "the Buzz" we reprinted an article about a grant Dordt College had received from the National Science Foundation. The following e-mail was sent to me by Dr, Edward Geels outlining the project. The basic project is to treat bees on small cell foundation with copper gluconate and monitor the effect on Varroa mite development. At the AHPA meeting in Houston, I met the salesman from Jost Chemical Company who handles copper gluconate. He provided me with a study done in France using copper gluconate for mite control. I'll report on the study next month.

Here is the e-mail which is being reprinted with Dr Geels permission.

Phil,
This should be a 5 year project if I keep teaching that long. I will be 66 in a couple weeks and have been teaching at Dordt College for 41 years now. I'm familiar with the Lusbys (and Allan) from their postings on the Organic Beekeepers list but they are not the only ones going to small cell. There is a fairly large group of people doing it including several commercial honey producers. The demand is large enough that Dadants are now going to offer not only 4.9 wax foundation but I've heard that they now also have the wired version available. The present commercial cell size is actually an artificial size which began with U. Baudoux in Belgium who proposed in 1891 to increase the size of cells so as to increase the size of the bees reared in these cells. His theory was that these larger bees would be healthier, have more

capacity to carry nectar and also because of increased tongue length would be able also to forage on flowers whose nectar was out of reach of the shorter tongue of the smaller bees. Professor Baudoux documents these changes in both bee size and cell size with a paper on the influence of cell size in 1933 [Baudoux, U. (1933) The influence of cell size. Bee World, XIV, 37-41.] I also have other references in my research proposal to the increase in cell size which began in Europe about 1900 and spread to the U.S. by the 30's to 50's. Feral bees which have been isolated from commercial beekeepers can still be found in remote areas with this small cell size and they also survive of course without any chemical treatments even though there are some of the varroa mites present in their hives. I will try to keep in touch and let you know how its going.

Ed

P.S. The copper ion seems to be a systemic poison which doesn't affect the bees as several of my references suggest (I'm not completely convinced about that however which is why I'm trying the research on that aspect) but does have a negative biological effect on the metabolism of the mites. Several bee suppliers sell a product called "Bee Healthy" which contains copper as well as other ingredients. I'm sure Dee Lusby wouldn't approve of that however. I've notice that when I treat new supers with the wood preservative copper naphthenate it does seem to keep the mites down for a while but the bees cover up the wood on the

inside with propolis and the effect soon diminishes. Copper gluconate is also available in pharmacies as a human food supplement so in small amounts apparently it is not harmful and as a biochemist I know that the copper ion is present as a co-factor for several enzymes.

Dr. Edwin J. Geels
Professor of Chemistry
Dordt College
712-722-6284

Submitted by Phil Ebert

IT'S TIME TO DO WHAT?

Just because it's winter don't think you can sit back and hibernate waiting for spring and the bees and flowers to take off. You need to be making preparations for the new honey season, NOW.

NOW, is the time to be melting all those frames you took out of your hives last summer/fall and need to get cleaned up/repaired. It's also time to get new frames made, hive bodies made or repaired and painted, ready to go when needed. It's still too early to get foundation shipped, but you can make a note of what you need when it warms up. It's not time to install foundation yet, but get everything located so you don't have to spend time hunting when that time comes. Foundation or drawn comb will shatter if handled and moved at winter temps.

NOW is the time to get out and check the weight of your colonies and get food on them if they need it. Wait for an above freezing day when the bees are out on a cleansing flight and go check to see how many are alive and how many need more stores to survive till something blooms. Actually last month

was perfect temps for that, but many of the colonies that were heavy enough last month now need fed. More colonies starve to death between now and dandelion bloom than die from other causes all winter.

NOW is the time to get feed to your colonies if they need it. Sugar/water in a 1 to 1 ratio or high fructose corn syrup in a 4 to 1 ratio with water is even better (cheaper). If you have honey to feed the bees, DO NOT dilute it with any water. It will cause dysentary in the bees. You can throw the undissolved sugar on the top bars in the hives if necessary. It's not the best way, but it will help them survive.

NOW is the time to order packages or queens if you need them for this coming summer. Don't wait till April/May to think about this as it will be TOO late to get anything soon enough to help you.

March is when you can order foundation and start installing it when it's warm. Most bee supply places won't ship till it's warm enough, but you can certainly contact them in March and place your order.

Make a friend of another beekeeper and call them when you have questions. I did. It helps.

Submitted by Margaret Hala

The Beeyard Report

With 50 degree weather in mid January, the bees have had a chance to get out and dump their load. I could almost hear the collective sigh of relief. It's pretty stressful when you have to hold it for a long time.

The dozen or so colonies that I have around my house all look good. One of them has the queen and bees that Tim Laughlin used in his observation hive at the state fair.

I picked up Tim's displays after the state fair was over. He had a nice queen in his observation hive so I put her in a nuc box. When it came time to go to Mt Pleasant, I didn't have any mated queens in our nuc boxes. We had been producing queens all summer but I still ran out. Tim said I could use his, so she got to spend another week in an observation hive. Then, later in September, she was in a third observation hive for a local show we have in Lynnville. I put her back in the nuc box and didn't look again until late October. To my surprise, the box was full of bees. I put them in a hive body, gave them some pollen supplement and two gallons of syrup. They may die but they look good right now. If they live, I think I'll charge Tim a boarding fee.

I traveled to Houston for the American Honey Producers meeting. I sold a few buckets of honey to a guy in Dallas. It wasn't a big sale but I made gas money and a little extra so it was worth driving. The meeting is always interesting. The really big beekeepers live in a world of semis and forklifts. While I have no desire to live in this world, it's fascinating to see how they do it. Richard Adey had a picture of forty semi loads of bees spread out around a valley. Lyle Johnston described this as feed lot beekeeping.

One of the practical things I picked up at the meeting involves queen breeding. I was talking to Bob Cox early in the meeting and he told me I should introduce some SMR genes into my gene pool. Bob Danka talked about this later in the meeting. The idea is to create SMR colonies and then bring them back as drone mothers. By doing this, the queens impregnated with SMR se-

men may produce as many as 50% of the worker bees with SMR traits. Sounds good doesn't it. I wonder if the real life outcome will be as good. We also hope to start testing for hygienic behavior. I think Adam is going to be busy.

Package bee prices are up considerably from last year. They are a lot higher at the point of origin and the fuel to haul them is a lot higher. If you are a hobby beekeeper, a \$50 package isn't much of a deterrent. For those operating on a bigger scale, it's an economic obstacle. Our survival has been good enough the last few years that we haven't had to use any packages ourselves. I think I am going to keep a few this year and see if I can split them at the end of May. The first lot usually shows up at the beginning of April. If I can get them going, that will give them almost two months to develop. The boxes should be full by then and we should have a few queens from our own production to put in the splits. I'll report later on how this turns out.

I have never regarded beekeeping as a very good economic engine. For sure, it's a real scary way to make a living. My earnings would probably be regarded as sub par but it's enough for me and my sons are making a good supplemental income. As I look at the things we have planned for the upcoming year, I'm optimistic--even with all the problems we face. In today's economy, there are very few chances to be independent and work with your family at the same time. I feel fortunate.

Submitted by Phil Ebert



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