

The Buzz



Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

November 2010





Dates To Bee Remembered

November 4, 2010 Board Meeting 7 pm Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA

November 5th & 6th Annual Meeting Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown



For Sale: Pine Hive Components. 9 5/8" Boxes \$16, 6 5/8" Boxes \$14, reversible screened bottom boards \$14 (solid bottom boards \$13), telescoping cover \$16. Painted, handholds, and bee space compatible with commercial woodenware. Glued with Titebond II and screwed, simple butt joints.

Contact: Josh Sommers (641) 658-2213

For Sale: Freeze Dried Fruit and Jalapeno pepper. Used in making honey cremes.

Apricot powder in 5 lb bags.

Blueberry powder in 7.5 lb bags.

Cranberry powder in 5 lb bags.

Jalapeno powder in 1,5 lb bags (6 cups)

Jalapeno pepper 1/8" in 1. lb bags (6 cups)

Raspberry powder in 5.5 lb bags

Ann Garber at Bus Phone 641-873-4119 Cell Phone 641-870-2119

Buzz Newsletter

In order to have an Iowa Honey Producers newsletter, the members of this organization need to help with the articles. I am in need of beekeepers who would like to be a featured beekeeper

of the month or know of someone who would like to be featured. Please contact: Ron Wehr, 2270 Juniper Ave., Keota, Iowa 52248 or call 319-698-7542. Thank you.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Emergency Beekeeping Education

This is a picture of our meeting with Washington Fire department there were about 40 present from different departments around Washington county, Ron Wehr set up this meeting for us and also helped with the presentation.. this was the first (and only) help I have gotten from other beekeepers so it was much appreciated. Submitted by Vern Ramsey

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

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 Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

Wow, I am really enjoying this weather so much more than last year. We have had fun activities going on at the orchard almost every week-end and the weather is helping bring people to enjoy them. The honey bees have been treated, given supplemental feedings, the fall garden radishes are great, the fall work in tall of he gardens is almost finished, the last of the apple crop is harvested, the garlic planted, so things are going well.

Hope everyone is planning to attend the 98th Annual Meeting of the IHPA. Pat Randol has lined up some great speakers and has lots of great fellowship on the agenda.

Remember that this is your organization. Please support the activities.

Amber Connett, the 2010 Iowa Honey Queen has done a fantastic job representing the industry here is Iowa.

Please help us continue the program by bringing items for the silent auctions and for the larger live auction during the banquet. The money received from these activities helps pay for the Iowa Honey Oueen to travel across Iowa promoting honey and beekeeping.

One of the highlights of the annual meeting is the friendly competition in the honey cooking, photo and Mead contests. Bring your favorite photo, foods or mead to share with fellow beekeepers. The rules have been sent to you, it is up to you to join in the fun!

One of the items to accomplish for 2011 is to promote the 100th Anniversary of the IHPA. Several members have submitted logo ideas to be used for promotional items celebrating the accomplishments of those 100 years. The membership attending the meeting wanted at the time it occurs. will have the opportunity to offer sugand directors select the winning design. all of your blessings. Take time to

The artists are eagerly awaiting the se- count them and tell others in your life lection of their entry.

Fall is the time to take inventory of Sincerely, your equipment. Look at your equipment, assess any repairs, additional items needed for next year and jot them down so that this winter when things are a little bit slower, decisions can be made on replacing items, repairing items or increasing items. My memory isn't what it used to be, so I need to keep a list of things to be completed. At the annual meeting talk to your fellow beekeepers about what works for them and maybe something will work 1/4 cup honey for you also.

We have another great group of youth applications. The program is certainly adding beekeepers to the membership. Make sure that you introduce yourselves to the youth and encourage them to keep up the great work. If you would like to be a mentor, please contact Mike to let him know.

It is great to spread the work among the membership instead of just relying on a few to handle the responsibilities. The mentors are getting as much out of the program as the youth. Help us continue to provide leadership to our new beekeepers.

Our computer got hit by lightning even with a surge protector on and the computer turned off. I am using our son's computer to write this article. It is not the same as mine, but hope things turn out fine on it. Our computer still works for my programs, but we can't connect to the internet. We have both computers on one desk and it seems to get a bit crowded. Please have patience if I haven't returned your email. It might Cook for about 20 minutes, until the have been lost in the shuffle. I know that I am used to things going the same way all the time, change is not always

gestions on the kinds of promotional Have a great Thanksgiving holiday items you want and to help the officers with your family and "bee" thankful for

that they are precious to you.

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

Whipped Sweet Potatoes and **Bananas with Honey**

Recipe courtesy Tyler Florence foodnetwork.com

5 medium sweet potatoes, scrubbed 4 bananas, unpeeled 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature Kosher salt 1/2 cup all-purpose flour 3/4 cup dark brown sugar 1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Prick the sweet potatoes all over with a fork, put them in a roasting pan and roast for 30 minutes. Toss the bananas into the pan and continue roasting for 10 to 15 minutes, until both the bananas and potatoes are very soft. Remove the pan from the oven but don't turn the oven off.

When the potatoes are cool enough to handle, scoop out the flesh into a large mixing bowl. Peel the bananas and add them to the bowl along with 1 stick of the butter, and the honey. Season with salt and beat vigorously with a wooden spoon until everything's well combined and the mixture is fluffy. Spoon into an oven-proof serving bowl and smooth the top.

In a separate mixing bowl, use your fingers to rub together the remaining stick of butter, the brown sugar, flour, and pecans untilthe mixture is the consistency of coarse crumbs. Sprinkle the crumb mixture over the sweet potatoes and return to the oven.

crumbs are golden. Serve hot.





Iowa Honey Queen November

Greetings fellow bee enthusiasts! know very cheesy opening but you try writing articles every month and think of something catchy to say, ha ha. Well I hope you are all as excited as I am for the month of November. Most The Varroa mites made a resurgence. it's a good thing. By the end of the seaof the honey is harvested, the bees are

medicated, and of course the best part about fall besides football and Thanksgiving, its IHPA annual meeting time! This year the meeting lands on November 5th and 6th, and I encourage everyone to attend. It's a great way to learn new things about beekeeping, meet new people and catch up with old friends, win equipment, talk to industry providers, and if for no other reason to come why not come and see myself and the crowning of the 2011 Iowa Honey Queen! I hope I see vou there!

October was a slow month for events. I did the rolling beeswax candles event at Living History Farms on the 2nd and 3rd. There were so many kids I had to leave early the first day and spent the second day mostly talking about beekeeping to people because I ran out of supplies! It was really fun and I enjoyed it! I have an event scheduled for November with a Kiwanis group in Ames. They said a beekeeper from the area and many other people who had heard me speak talked highly of me and suggested that I come do a speech for them. So I do have one event in November planned. Since the meeting is ever is going on in there. coming up that means I will no longer

her to have a fantastic year! Make sure when they winter right under the lid. you schedule her to come speak to your The great aster flow is going to save us groups. I'm not sure if this is my last a few bucks on syrup. article as queen or not but if it is I want We never come out just right. We only to let you all know it was a pleasure need about 300 gallons to finish but I'm representing you and I am very grateful going to have to buy ½ a tanker load to that I was able to become a part of this get it. I hate to have all that money sitassociation and wish you all the best in ting in the tanks through the winter. It's everything you do! Take care and have not all bad, though. It is sometimes a Happy Thanksgiving!

Amber Connett I aconnett@iastate.edu (515) 460-9199

THE BEEYARD REPORT

We treated in August and September in son there are huge amounts of bees in

hard to get a tanker in here in the spring if it's wet. I won't have to worry about

Adam is going to buy a place south of Cedar Rapids. The queen operation is going to move that way. This creates some logistical problems but, overall,

> that yard. Our present queen vard is just over the hill from our extracting facility. If the bees don't have anything to do in the fall, they tend to come for the building. It can get ugly.

> He's planning to add 100 mating nucs to the queen yard. This, along with everything else, depends on what our winter survival is. It takes a lot of bees to load those boxes since we want to do it on full

not great but much better that the two what we need to fill our market.

know it. The schedule is set for my Marshalltown class. That will start in be queen. I am sad to no longer repre- The bees are beginning to drop toward late January. I am looking forward to sent the IHPA as the queen but I wish the bottom of the boxes. That's a good going to Galveston in early January. I the new queen good luck and want thing. They can eat up. I get nervous think I am going to drive and come

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most of the yards. The first trip back size frames. through, two weeks later, we were see- The queen business is only marginally ing 2 to 8 mites on ether rolls. I thought profitable for us but the colonies we get brood rearing was about over. That at the end of the season are quite sigwould limit the number of mites. Then nificant. Of course, we have to keep we hit the good weather of October. them alive over the winter for the Both pollen and nectar was coming in. whole thing to work. Brood rearing began anew. By mid October we were seeing 20 to 40 on ether We did make 80 barrels. I am not sure rolls. We had to treat a 2nd time in how many producing colonies we had. most of the yards. Most of the bees If it was 650 we averaged almost 80#. look decent even with the increasing If it was 700, it was closer to 70#. It's mite levels. However, some are declining syrup even though they are not that previous years. It still not even close to heavy. Those will die--probably in the early winter. They won't die fron lack of food but lack of vigor due to what- We will be deep into winter before we

school system there.

The chaos of fall is beginning to return to some sort of order but there is still a lot to clean up. I mowed the yard first the first time in, what must have been, at least two months. It looked pretty ragged. There was even too much for the horses to eat down.

A number of you have sent me friend requests for Facebook. I accepted a few at first but I'm just not a Facebook sort of guy. I never looked at the pages of the people I did accept. Maybe I'm just too private to appreciate Facebook. Anyway, please don't be offended if I fail to respond to your Friend requests. Facebook just doesn't work for me.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Beekeeper's **Record & Journal**

The following was reprinted with the permission of the estate of Richard Taylor. The material is from the book, "Beekeeper's Record & Journal", text by Richard Taylor, and designed and illustrated by Cynthia Diamond. This book (among other items) was graciously donated to the youth scholarships' during the 2009 IHPA annual meeting in October at the Best Western Regency Inn in Marshalltown. After the meeting, this book was not taken and is now the property of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, Historian. I have enjoyed reading it, and thought the membership would also. As stated by Kim Flottum, Editor of the Bee Culture; "We have a Gem".

Peggy Ennis, IHPA Historian

October

back through Garden City, KS. An- mostly a shambles, basking in a soft and the piles of supers seem to diminthony is still teaching music in the and fading light, a few melons still ish so slowly, but it is doubtful whether struggling in vain to ripen, many toma- any harvest is as rewarding in its outtoes succumbing to the few remaining come. It is the culmination of the cold, wet slugs, corn stalks crisp and year's work, what you finally have to straight, and here and there gigantic show for all you have done. weeds that finally, from final neglect of them, reach their triumph. It is a somber time. Soon the frost will silence the few remaining insects, and the woodchucks will withdraw to wait out the The beehives are a forlorn sight, their cold within the protection of their incredible fat. The geese overhead, in and the wait has hardly begun. Still, repeated processions, announce already bees will sometimes fly forth and bring the impending cold, Sometimes they back pollen on a rare warm day in Noare almost too high to be seen, but their vember, even in northern latitudes. honking, in the case of large flocks, still reaches the earth. And sometimes there is no trace of a living plant anythey are so close, just starting their where. great ascent from the lake nearby that you want to reach out to them.

> even an occasional warm fall day a few at a time, and broken frames rehardly stirs them once the golden rod stored to use. If your shop has a wood has turned grey and dead. This hap-burning stove you are doubly lucky, for pens sometimes long before the first you have a sense of closeness to the frost. A few days of cold, wet weather elements that is quite lost by any other puts the goldenrod down for good. A way of keeping warm. It is hard to get few bees still bring pollen, from the along without the bees, but the thought few remaining asters, or from the heads of being back in the bee yard, and hearof goldenrod that have survived, but for ing the low droning hum of the honey the most part the bees are already gatherers, keeps the spirits up. marking time. There are a few drones haps if we were not briefly deprived of left now. Nature has no use for them, these pleasures, by the enforced soli-And the worker bees still emerging in tude of winter, we would enjoy them the combs have the miserable destiny less when we finally return to them. In of merely making it through the interminable winter, in the cold and darkness of the hive, just until new generations can arise and begin the new cycle. be built, is in some ways more pleasant Of course the hive will retain the than seeing the same super filled with warmth necessary for its survival, honey, months hence, for the joy of drawing upon the stored honey as its anticipation is added to the sense of source of heat, but it will still be just achievement that can come, even in barely enough to sustain life.

If you are a comb honey beekeeper your crop is long since in and most of it Richard Taylor was born 1919 and honey house may keep you busy to the York. He earned his PhD at Brown very end of the month. The work has University and taught principally at moved from outdoors to in, and can Brown University, Columbia, and Uni-October is like the evening of the year, sometimes seem endless if you have versity of Rochester. the last desultory stirrings of life before many hives and little help. It can be American Philosopher, renowned for the long sleep of winter. The garden is onerous, as it goes on hour after hour his dry wit and his contributions to

November

occupants have nothing to do but wait, Where they find it is a mystery, for

A beekeeper with a warm shop has no great difficulty waiting for spring. Let's enjoy the coming winter season!!! The bees have become languid, and Comb honey supers can be assembled, any case, seeing comb honey supers piling up, fitted out with the new foundation on which a new honey crop will November.

Richard Taylor

sold, but if you spin out the honey your passed away October 30, 2003 in New

Metaphysics. Although it is well known he was a philosopher – he was far better All cells from bacterial to human have known as a beekeeper. It is often said – DNAas their genetic material. Viruses "I have never met a beekeeper who has have either DNA or RNA (a chemical not heard of Richard Taylor". owned 300 hives and from 1970 pro- rial. Viruses thus far associated with duced mostly comb honey. His signifi- CCD have been of the RNA type. The cant contributions to beekeeping are - insect iridescent virus that we have corauthoring many books on beekeeping - related with CCD is a DNA virus, a among these are the two; "The comb fundamental difference and takes CCD Honey Book" and "The Joys of Bee- research in a whole new direction. It keeping", and regularly writing articles also caused us to seek out experts in for bee journals. honey stand at the roadside in front of team. his country home operated on the honor system, secured only by gentle solicita- The size, shape, and stacking of these tions to honesty posted on its walls.

To "bee" continued next month



A new suspect on the trail of CCD

Condensed from a report by Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk, Montana State University

In 2007, a team composed of Montana bee specialists and fungal pathologists, and a group of virologists and chemists at the USArmy Edgewood Chemical Biological Center was formed to search for the cause of Colony Collapse D i s o r d e r. Later, specialists in insect viruses from Texas and Mexico were added.

Using mass spectrometry-based proteomics, a technique modified by the military for screening samples for pathogens, we found an insect iridescent virus (IIV) in bees from CCD colonies that is new to the U.S -though similar to an IIV first reported in India 20 years ago -- as well as to an IIV found in moths. It probably arrived in North A m e r i c a in infected bees, or it crossed over to bees from another insect.

He variant of DNA) as their genetic mate-His near legendary these viruses, who quickly joined our

> DNA viruses inside cells alters light in a way that causes iridescence. Viruses and infected host tissue may have a bluish green or purplish hue. Insect iridescent viruses have also been shown to contain a protein that causes host cells to self destruct in a process called apop- Finally, in a bee collapse in the tosis which can be a viral attack mechanism or a host defense strategy. In addition, there is a significant statistical link between CCD, the iridescent virus and a fungal parasite of the genus Nosema. We don't know if (1) these two pathogens cause CCD or (2) whether CCD colonies are more likely to succumb to these two pathogens. We are trying to isolate the specific strain of iridescent virus in U.S. bees so that we can characterize it alone and in combination with Nosema.

There are more than two dozen known insect iridescent viruses. Generally, the impact of these viruses is variable, ranging from covert infections with relatively minor effects to highly virulent and lethal ones in some cases. This lethality is one of the reasons that this group of viruses has been scrutinized as potential biopesticides for applications such as mosquito control. This is not good news for beekeepers. In India, an iridescent virus, called IIV-24, has been implicated in high losses of honey bee colonies.

We know that in an Asian honey bee, Apis cerna, a combination of parasites and pathogens co-exist, including: (1) Nosema ceranae, (2) an iridescent virus, (3) parasitic and predacious mites, and (4) two other RNA-type viruses, Kashmir and a Sacbrood virus. Kashmir bee virus and Nosema ceranae have been in North America a decade or more. How similar is the CCD strain of iridescent virus to the IIV-24 from A. cerana? It is possible that US bees acquired IIV from the Asian bee along with Nosema ceranae and Kashmir bee virus or it may be a variant of a strain prevalent in other insects..

Once fully identified and proven to be linked with CCD, the potential exists to use IIV presence as an indicator of CCD. With an inexpensive and rapid assay, we'd then have the ability to screen for IIV. In the short term, the possibility of developing treatments against the IIV seems remote.

northeastern part of the U.S. some years ago, an IIV was seen in varroa mites that prey on bees. Varroa may act as a vector for the dispersal of the virus among bee colonies, just as mosquitoes transmitWest Nile virus or malaria to humans. Varroa is known to increase damage caused by other viruses, and beekeepers who fail to control varroa levels are likely to sustain high colony losses. In all cases, management practices that reduce Nosema and mite loads and try to reduce long term exposures to cool, damp environmental conditions are likely to reduce colony susceptibility to IIV. The entire paper is published in the online Journal Plos One at http://www.plos one.org/home.action

Western Apicultural Society November 2010

Hints for Successful Backvard Beekeeping

Eric Mussen, Extension Apiculturist, Entomology Department,, UC Davis. CA

Beekeeping can be an interesting and pleasant pastime. However, besides the enjoyment, beekeeping comes with responsibilities. Beekeepers should have

the best interest of their colonies in mind and do what is necessary to keep their bees healthy and productive. Beekeepers must also keep their neighbors in mind. Similar to pets and livestock, beekeepers should do whatever is possible to prevent their charges from creating a nuisance for neighbors. Before obtaining colonies, potential beekeepers should check on federal, state, and municipal ordinances. While being extremely devastating to many beekeeping operations, colony collapse disorder (CCD) has generated public concern for, and better acceptance of honey bees. Now would be an ideal time to try to loosen restrictions on beekeeping, as has been done in New York City (and, apparently, Washington, DC!).

Regardless of where honey bees are kept, they have the same basic needs that have to be met. I call these the basic fundamentals of beekeeping that I learned from my former PhD advisor, Dr. Basil Furgala. The fundamentals are:

- 1. a young, prolific queen
- 2. a quality hive
- 3. adequate water and food
- 4. freedom from diseases and parasites.

Meeting these needs is the goal of quality colony management. The heart and soul of the colony is the queen. Even though she serves at the will of the workers, it is her genetic makeup that determines the size, productivity, and behavior of the colony. For the sake of the beekeeper and the neighbors, the prime consideration is how defensive the bees are. It is bad enough to have unpleasant bees, but when they chase the neighbors around their yard, it definitely is time to requeen.

November

The most dependable queens usually can be purchased from long-time, established bee breeders. They have been selecting for "gentle" bees for decades. Queens in swarms, feral colonies or

queens from supercedures may have mated in the back alley with disreputable drones and can produce difficult to manage colonies. Beehives come in a number of sizes and materials. All will work well in the hands of experienced beekeepers. The most important concern is maintenance of the "bee space" so that the frames can easily be removed for inspection without injuring many bees or the queen. Although exterior dimensions of standard Langstroth hive boxes from various manufacturers are identical, the frames and rabbets are cut to different dimensions, so that they do not work well mixed together. Once you select a beekeeping supply line, stick with it.

Although the outside appearance of the hive(s) means little to the bees, it means a lot to your neighbors. Neat, freshly painted hives suggest an attentive and caring beekeeper. That is the image you wish to project. Besides, hives with extra entrances increase numbers of guard bees significantly and tend to keep the colonies on alert most of the time. Also, extra entrances contribute to faster death through robbing by neighboring colonies.

In climates where summer rains are infrequent or non-existent, honey bee colonies can suffer from lack of water. Water or nectar is used to dilute honey and glandular secretions before they are fed to the brood. Water or nectar is used to liquefy pollen pellets so that the nurse bees can drink the pollen grains. Water is used to maintain the proper humidity in the brood nest. Bees fanning over droplets of water, strategically placed in the hive, produce evaporative cooling to prevent melt downs on hot summer days. In desert locations, honey bees forage only for water at temperatures much above 100° Fahrenheit.

They can use nearly a gallon of water a day. Honey bees tend to collect most of their water from the nearest acceptable source. If it is likely that water foraging may inconvenience the neighbors, get your supply of fresh, shaded water in

place BEFORE the bees establish watering holes elsewhere. Leaky faucets, water gardens, fish ponds, dog dishes, cattle troughs, hanging laundry, irrigated lawns and foliage, and swamp coolers are just a few of the places where honey bees will collect water. Around swimming pools, honey bees will collect water from wet footprints on the pool apron, along the edges of floating objects, and along the water line. The bees do not stand in or on the water. Bees found in the pool water usually are spent foragers that have fluttered into the pool as they ran out of gas. However, they can and do sting swimmers who contact them.

Providing adequate nectar and pollen is often impossible if blooming plants are not within flight distance of the bees. Feeding sugar syrup and pollen substitutes may be essential. Those topics are too extensive to be covered in this article.

Information on these topics can be found at various sites on the Internet, including my Bee Briefs at (no www) entomology.ucdavis.edu/faculty/ mussen.cfm. Each colony of honey bees has its own level of defensive responses to stimuli. You can't do muchto tone down their natural level, but many things can make the colony much touchier. Nightly visitations by skunks; daily visitations by yellow jackets, vandals or overly-zealous beekeepers; continuous commotion around the hive entrance; contact with insecticides; inspecting colonies without the use of smoke; and clumsy or careless, rough hive manipulations all set the bees on edge. Manipulating the hives and frames without gloves encourages beekeepers to be more careful. If the hives are kept way out in the open, a strategically placed flag or two will keep the bees used to a little movement in front of the hives.

You are likely to be a successful beekeeper if you keep the welfare of the colony and the concerns of your neighbors in mind. Treat your neighbors to some locally produced

working the bees or harvesting the crop. Be sure they are properly protected!

(Editor's Note: Dr. Mussen can be contacted at ecmussen@ucdavis.edu or at (530) 752-0472. His web page is at: (no www) entomology.ucdavis. edu/faculty/mussen.cfm.)

Western Apicultural Society November 2010

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month I decided to be the beekeeper of the month. I am Ron Wehr from near Washington, Iowa. I live with my wife, Carol and farm for a living. We have 2 adult boys, Sean and Bryan, and raise sheep, honeybees, corn and soybeans.

Ron and Carol Wehr stand amongst some of the colonies used for pollination in a wintering yard.

honey and invite them to join you when About 25 years ago I needed a different project so I started beekeeping with 2 colonies purchased from Paul Goossen. I now manage around 280 colonies. Carol helps me and we market extracted honey, comb honey, sell nucs, queens and do pollination for melon and truck gardens in the area. We also spend time catching swarms now and then.

> After I learned how to manage colo- east Iowa Beekeepers. We have 45 nies, my next goal was to learn to raise members. Our group meets in March queens. I felt the need to learn how to and has three field days during the sumraise queens because the ones I pur- mer. Field days seem to be one of the chased had to travel many miles in best ways to teach new beekeepers the changeable weather and endure lay- art. I hear and I forget, I see and I reovers in post offices so they arrived member, I do and I understand what stressed. Also a number of them are works for us. There are many years of superseded shortly after they reach their experience and a wealth of information new colony. I feel raising queens from to be exchanged at our group meetings my strongest surviving colonies that and we want to teach and stay on top of produce a good crop of honey might be things. We have been mentoring several my answer to better and stronger colo- kids who want to learn about beekeep-

> > weren't quite good and exchange ideas. enough to graft so I use them in the spring States. as we work with colosome work, but you can save money and Submitted by Ron Wehr get a lot of satisfaction doing it.

I help out the Iowa Honey Producers at the State Fair booth and attend the Annual Meeting in Marshalltown.

I am the secretary, treasurer of the South



nies. Of course by the ing, helping them out with equipment time I took time to put and information to get them going. Our things together to start field days end with a potluck meal and the project, my eyes more time to get to know other families

talked Bryan into do- I have been teaching a beginning beeing it for me. Bryan keeper class through Kirkwood at hates bees, but does a Washington, Iowa. Vernie Ramsey great job of grafting. helps out and sometimes we have Tim Now my goal is to Wilbanks speak. He is from Georgia over-winter my sum- and the son of Reg Wilbanks one of the mer queens so I can largest bee producers in the United

nies for the new sea- I guess one of the greatest satisfactions son. Raising queens in beekeeping is the challenge of workrequires timeliness and ing with and for mother nature.





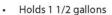
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