



The Buzz



Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers:

We just can't seem to get away from beekeeping. While on our recent trip to Florida, it amazed us how many references to bees, honey and beekeeping we noticed. As we traveled we crossed several bodies of water with the names of *Bee Creek* and *Honey Creek*. Several roadways had the names of *Beeline Expressway*. We even noticed a motel sign with the name of *Honey Tree Inn* complete with a honey tree and a bear reaching for the honey. As we left Florida on the turnpike, we were passed by an unusual vehicle. The car had a set of ladders mounted on the top, a toolbox mounted on the back complete with several bee crossing signs and on the back window was printed the website for the business: *WillieTheBee-man.com*. We specialize in bee removals. Driving through Arkansas we spotted some beekeepers working some hives and drove passed them on the road so I could take a picture. We even saw a town in Arkansas named *Bee Range*. There were lots of signs in that town concerning bees, the water plant, the school, a café, etc. I even found some beekeeping souvenirs to bring home from the shops or flea markets that we scoured.

Speaking of traveling, we also attended the National Honey Board meeting held in Houston, TX. Lots of interesting research, marketing ideas and promotions were discussed. Lee Heine will attend our IHPA Annual Meeting to give us the updates on the National Honey Board. I even survived all the walking with my "bum" foot. The shuttle ride was one I'll never forget!

I know this is the November issue and letter, but if you receive this before the election, please, please go vote. Remember that the best person for the job of Secretary of Agriculture is going to be someone who is going to listen to the entire population of Iowa and is not influenced by "big" money and the larger commodity groups. We need to remember that the honey bee pollinates for everyone and doesn't pick and choose just the larger operations to help. Please read up on the candidates and place an informed vote.

As a note of interest, Denise O'Brien, one of the candidates for Secretary of Agriculture was written about in the New York Times. A copy of the article is included in this issue.

It is time for the Iowa Honey Producers Association Annual meeting. Time flies doesn't it? I hope everyone has reserved a room and sent in the registration fee to attend. There is something for everyone included in the meeting. Place your orders for supplies with the loyal beekeeping suppliers that will attend our meeting. They will bring your orders to the meeting. Those attending will be Draper's Super Bee, Dadant from Sioux City, B & B Honey and B & L Plastics. There may be more, check with your supplier to see if they will be attending.

The photo contest and cooking with honey contest is a great way to share with fellow beekeepers interesting hobbies that you may have besides the actual "hobby" of beekeeping. There are rules listed in another article elsewhere in this issue. Don't forget to bring any of your homemade Mead to share during the Marshalltown welcome party before the banquet. Bring your auction items to benefit the Iowa Honey Queen program also. There will be silent auctions both days and a live auction during the banquet. Most importantly bring your inquisitive mind to absorb all the information, beekeeping news, workshop ideas and to enjoy the fellowship and ideas presented by your fellow beekeepers in the state of Iowa.

A new and very exciting addition to our meeting this year will be the implementation of our new Youth Scholarship program. Coordinator, Teresa Jurchen, has received lots of applications from interested youth. Judges at the meeting will interview the candidates and choose four participants to be sponsored by the IHPA and one youth to be sponsored by the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association. What a great way to get younger beekeepers going in the state.

Shawn is to arrive back in the States on October 28th. We are moving his family back to Lawton, OK to be with him. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that his unit doesn't get an extension of duty in Iraq. We will also get to report at the Annual meeting, November 17th and 18th about our newest grandchild, scheduled to be born on our birthday. We will wait to see how close the due date is. Have a bountiful and truly thankful Thanksgiving holiday with your family.

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., Lynnvile, 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:

Board Meeting

Thursday, November 16th, at the Best Western Regency Inn in Marshalltown at 6:30 p.m.

IHPA Annual Meeting

November 17th and 18th.

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.



The Buzz Picture Contest

November

This picture was sent to us by Joanne Barnes. This picture of her grandson Martin is this month's winner of the Buzz Picture Contest. Congratulations! Martin, on the right, was the honey gate keeper. Martin and a neighbor boy kept close watch over the freshly extracted honey.



Remember that "The Buzz" is offering \$10 for one picture each month. I know some of you will have good photo opportunities during the summer months. Entertain your fellow beekeepers and make some money at the same time. This offer does not pertain to pictures printed with articles. Submit your photo via e-mail to the Buzz at thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com

A Farm Race in Iowa

New York Times Editorial

Published: October 10, 2006

There is a governor's race going on in Iowa - Culver vs. Nussle, a tossup - but the race to watch is the one for secretary of agriculture. Both candidates support ethanol production, and who wouldn't when ethanol has given Iowa the lowest fuel prices in the nation? But otherwise they are about as different as it is possible to be and still be an Iowan for agriculture. Bill Northey, a Republican, farms corn and soybeans and has been endorsed by the Farm Bureau. His Democratic opponent is Denise O'Brien, who raises poultry, apples and strawberries. She and her husband farm organically, and her campaign vehicle is a green

biodiesel school bus. two candidates concerns the ability of counties and towns to restrict the siting

The candidates capture a real split in the farm world - in Iowa and the nation as a whole. Mr. Northey proudly represents the industrial vision of farming that has turned Iowa into the land of the two-crop, corn-soybean rotation, a place where the chance to produce corn-based ethanol looks like diversity. Ms. O'Brien has been unfairly accused of belonging to "fringe" groups, and she is clearly not the Farm Bureau candidate. "Organic" is anathema to the Farm Bureau. But she is a reminder that Iowa would be better off with greater agricultural diversity, stronger communities and a greater emphasis on the health of its natural resources.

of feedlots and farm operations that concentrate huge numbers of animals. Mr. Northey believes in a single set of regulations across all of Iowa's 99 counties. Ms. O'Brien argues that factory farms should be regulated by the state but that communities should be able to voice their concerns too. After all, they are the ones who have to live downwind.

Iowa Farmers Union
PO Box 8988
528 Billy Sunday Rd
Ames, IA 50014
800-775-5227
iafu@isunet.net
www.iafu.org

The sharpest difference between these

BEEKEEPING:

"Then & Now."

By Glen L. Stanley

The honeybee has been in existence since early biblical days. The Romans used them as a weapon of war. As the enemy approached the fort, colonies of bees were thrown over the side near the enemy and the angry bees soon caused the warriors to retreat. There were no honeybees in the western hemisphere in the early days after the discovery of America. The first bees were brought to the western hemisphere in the early 1600s, about 1620, the first known date of their arrival. It would be interesting to know just what kind of container or confinement they were kept in while making the many day trip over the ocean.

Years went by and as people that arrived in America migrated westward so did the honeybee. They were helped by the people because they had learned of the value of bees for their production of honey. That was a sweet that was readily available as soon as the bees had produced it. At that time bees were kept in all sorts of containers called hives, homes, or houses anywhere they could be kept where it was available to the owner to get some of the honey. It was 128 years after the discovery of America until the first bees were brought here from Italy and Germany. It was another 233 years until Dr. Langstroth designed the removable frame hive. That came about in 1853. The German bees were black and quite aggressive stinging at every chance and this made it quite difficult for the beekeepers. That bee continued to be used for many, many years. The last of that sort died out about the late 1930's or early 40's. The Italian bee was of yellow color and reasonably gentle. Some strains of the Italian bee were quite a golden yellow. The Italian honeybee is or has been the most popular bee kept throughout the United States for all these years. In the early 1900's a breed of bees was brought to the U.S. from the Caucas Mountains of

Russia known as the Caucasian. They are of grey color and quite gentle.

Following all that we now have mixed breeds and some crosses between the various breeds. Our scientists some 35 years ago discovered a means of artificial insemination so now we not only have the advantage of different breeds of bee, but also bees that are more gentle and bread for various uses. For EXAMPLE: Some are better pollinators while others are better at gathering an abundance of honey.

There is no official record, as far as I know, as to when honeybees were first brought into Iowa. We do know that in 1856 or 150 years ago, the Henry Stanley family came to homestead in Ringgold county Iowa near Beaconsfield. Again we have no knowledge of just what kind of home or hive they may have had for the bees. That having been just three years after the advent of the removable frame hive, it is doubtful they had modern hives. Years later Wendle Stanley, the son, kept bees in numbers of 40 or 50 colonies. After that, the beginning of the next generation, Orin Stanley, son of Wendle became of age and began beekeeping as a business. His main objective was to produce a quantity of quality queens to sell to other beekeepers, most of which were hobbyist. However, many large orders of the queens were sold through the A.I. Root Company's branch office in Council Bluffs.

I worked with my father as he went about his work producing queens, then after that the bees were moved to Gilbert, Iowa in 1936. In 1938 my brother Lloyd upon returning from a hitch in the Navy, joined Father in beekeeping. In the late 1930's and early 40's we operated 1300 colonies and it just happened those were the golden years of honey production in Iowa. In 1942 I joined the Armed services and returned in 1946. After that Lloyd and I continued keeping a few hundred colonies of bees and we did so until 1996.

Following that I managed a few colo-

nies for a friend until three years ago. They were sold so now I am keeping only a couple of colonies. It is a great hobby which I enjoy but it is all together different than managing a few hundred. With many colonies there is always that advantage of shifting bees and equipment where necessary BUT with only two it is all together different. Fortunately I have been able to get bees that are so gentle I seldom bother to put on a veil. The last ten years of our partnership the bees were nearly as gentle and what a pleasure it is to work bees of that nature. Beekeeping has come a long way when we think of how important bees are to our every day living. Many problems face the beekeeper today the mites being the major problem.

This is my 77th year among the bees. Maybe it's time to give it up.

Glen L. Stanley

Pollination Services Wanted

The Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association would like a listing of all the available beekeepers that do pollination. They are featuring a speaker from the Iowa Honey Producers Association at their meeting in January and want a listing of the pollination services available in the state. Please send your name, name of your beekeeping business, address, phone number, e-mail address, and the areas of the state you would be willing to pollinate. Please indicate the number of colonies you have available for the pollination services. We can discuss this at the annual meeting also and we will compose this list and have it ready for distribution at their meeting which is also held in Marshalltown.

Maury Wills

Bureau Chief

515-281-5783

maury.wills@idals.state.ia.us

Also check out the Agricultural Diversification and Market Development Bureau website at:
www.agriculture.state.ia.us/agdiversification.htm

The Buzz – November 2006

Things are starting to come to an end as winter quickly approaches but that doesn't mean there aren't any beekeepers events to which can be attended. In September, I mention that I had the chance to visit Iowa's largest county fair, the Clay County Fair but I also visited the 8th Annual Honeyfest at the Indian Nature Creek Center by Cedar Rapids. It was a beautiful fall day; the sun was shining warm rays through the vibrant leaves on the trees, the smell of autumn and honey was in the air. It was a fun filled day for all those who attended. There were various stations situated around the grounds that focused on different areas of beekeeping, honey, and bees. One station gave samples of different flavors of honey while another would explain the hive setup. An important feature provided for kids was the hands-on, interactive projects some including potatoes sac races, dip your own beeswax candle, and trying to wrestle your fingers out of the treacherous Chinese finger trap. Throughout the day songs from the live band rang into the air. There was also a play presented about the little know Honey War which took place on the Iowa, Missouri border in the early 1800s. Who know that cut-

ting down three honeybee trees would cause such a dispute; I guess that is a warning to all not to mess with Iowa! I think that one of the highlights of the day was the bee beard. The day came to an end after several hours of conversing and learning. I would recommend you attend this event, not only are there many fun things to do and see but you are taken back to 1905 through pioneer costumes when beekeeping first became common.

As many of you know the Annual Iowa Honey Producers Association meeting will be held on November 17 and 18 in Marshalltown. From what I have heard this should be a very educational couple of days; they have a few speakers coming helping both beginners and the experienced with any questions they may have. During the banquet part of the meeting I will also have the honor of



A Brownie Scout troop was able to visit for the day.

crowning the 2007 Iowa Honey Queen followed by the queen action. It will be a busy but beneficial weekend and I hope to see many of you there.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Macken
2006 Iowa Honey Queen



Participants and volunteers for the day in 1905 costumes.



The GIANT Queen Bee with me.

Chicago program offers ex-convicts a sweet chance at a new life

By TARA BURGHART, Associated Press
Writer Sun Oct 8, 12:19 PM ET

CHICAGO - Before heading into the yard to work, Tony Smith pulls over his head a white hooded jacket with stiff veiled netting that protects his face. He tugs yellow leather gloves beyond his wrists and makes sure his pants cover the tops of his tennis shoes. Not the kind of uniform most people wear to work and certainly nothing like the Illinois Department of Corrections garb the 30-year-old Smith wore nearly half his life. Three months after he was paroled, Smith is a beekeeper.

With Sweet Beginnings, a program providing ex-convicts with work experience and the start of an employment history, Smith tends to hives and helps produce upscale beauty and consumer products from the resulting honey. Smith was nervous when he first considered the job. Now he talks of the importance of the tools of the trade — he uses a smoker to calm the bees and carries a flat-bladed tool to pry the hives apart, in addition to wearing his beekeeper suit. Sporting tattoos on both forearms and diamond hoops in his ears, he said he can recognize when bees are "having a bad day."

"The program is a good experience, because you're learning respect ... You have to get used to the bees' attitudes and adjust to their emotions," he said. "It's like dealing with people — you have to learn to respect their space." As unusual as the beekeeper program is the spot where the hives are — a scrubby urban lot surrounded by a chain link fence. It has about as much dirt as grass and lies just blocks from an expressway. The 18 hives vary in height, but they each resemble a stack of small dresser drawers. They are grouped in a semicircle in the lot, and up to 35,000 bees make their homes there. Sweet Beginnings is located in the North Lawndale neighborhood, on the city's west side, a spot devastated by riots that followed the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and the closing of large factories and businesses in the following decade, including International Harvester.

The area has long wrestled with poverty, unemployment, drugs and crime. The North Lawndale Employment Network — the nonprofit group behind Sweet Beginnings — hopes to change that by providing local people with jobs and economic advancement.

The group's executive director, Brenda Palms Barber, realized that the neighborhood's high

unemployment rate — triple the Chicago average — was directly linked to the effects of incarceration. Fifty-seven percent of the area's adults have been involved with the criminal justice system, according to a report commissioned by the group five years ago.

Ex-convicts can be hard to fit with jobs and so are often bypassed by social service agencies, Palms Barber says. By not finding them productive work, she submits, "you only leave them to go back to their old habits." Hoping to employ people recently released from prison and to generate income for the network, she first considered a delivery service but figured its target consumers, senior citizens, wouldn't want former inmates in their homes. Then she lunched with a friend who mentioned her husband's hobby, beekeeping. Suddenly, Palms Barber had an "off the wall" project that met her criteria: It was inexpensive, could employ those with little education, and offered transferable skills — in this case, landscaping, food processing and retail sales. There was no shortage of vacant lots in North Lawndale. And she learned that honey produced in cities is valued for its flavor and texture, given that urban honeybees often have access to a wider variety of blossoms than their country cousins.

Even in an urban area, there's little danger to the neighbors, she said, since honeybees are interested in seeking nectar and pollen, not human interaction. Still, early concerns were eased by giving out lots of free honey in the area. And the few times neighbors have blamed Sweet Beginnings for bees in their back yards, a professional bee keeper was called in and determined the bees were not honey bees at all, Palms Barber said.

The first batch of honey, labeled Beeline, came out in 2004. It was a hit at farmer's markets, and a high-end restaurant created a menu around it. The employment network generated \$30,000 in sales, though organizers found it hard to make much money in honey. Employees are paid between \$7 and \$9 an hour. So for the past two years, Sweet Beginnings has focused on creating and perfecting "value-added products" containing the honey from its hives. Also marketed under the Beeline brand, these include a body scrub, lip balm, lotion and candles.

That change in direction is something Palms Barber was advised to do by Jennifer Henderson, chairman of the board at Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc., who has volunteered to help Sweet Beginnings. Also helping have been people who've worked at Boeing Co., Pepsi Bottling and McDonald's Corp. Return on investment on honey is 12 percent, but for honey-based personal products, that return

shoots up to 80 percent, Henderson said. A business plan due in November will include financial projections for coming years as well as estimates on how many people Sweet Beginnings might employ, she said. And the products are expected to be re-launched, with new packaging and formulations in January. "We have to make sure the product is excellent, but also make sure the numbers work. And make sure the social mission happens and the story gets out and builds goodwill in the public — creating a consumer base," Henderson said. Those employed by Sweet Beginnings first go through a program called U-Turn Permitted, which offers them job readiness training, mentoring support and classes in such subjects as anger management. Seventeen ex-convicts have completed the program since 2004. None has returned to prison. This year's harvest is already under way, with each of the hives expected to produce about 65 to 70 pounds of honey. On a recent warm day, three Sweet Beginnings workers were painting the hive boxes a pleasant light green color, an upgrade from their dull mix of gray, white and yellow. Joining Tony Smith, who served time for home invasion and armed robbery, was Shelby Gallion, a 22-year-old fresh out of a nine-month prison stint on drug charges, and 49-year-old Gerald Whitehead. Out of prison now for nearly nine years, Whitehead had spent most of his adult life behind bars for everything from robbery to assault. This day, the three moved among the hives, scattering the bees with smoke. They explained how they encourage sluggish hives with the addition of a queen bee and sugar water. Whitehead used a flat-bladed tool to pry loose one of the hives' frames, exposing the butter-colored wax that sealed the honey.

He noted he's working in the same area where he once ran with gangs. That led to prison, and when he got out his record as an ex-con made it hard to keep jobs. Also holding him back was his inability to read and write. He used to take his wife along on job interviews so she could fill out applications. Now he's taking literacy classes and hopes to land a job working with his hands, such as plumbing or landscaping. Noting he once didn't expect to live this long, Whitehead turns reflective.

"At one time, I'd see a bee and kill it. Now I've got love for bees," he said. "They got a language of their own, they know when to mate, they know when to feed each other, they know when to be aggressive. They know when someone's invading their territory, so they know how to defend themselves. They're sort of like people in the streets."



**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 17TH & 18TH 2006**



It's meeting time again! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association will be held Friday, November 17th and Saturday, November 18th, 2006 in Marshalltown, Iowa at the Best Western Regency Inn located at 3303 South Center Street.

Rooms for the event are available at the Best Western Regency Inn for the rate of 1 adult for \$64.80 or 2 adults for \$69.30. These rooms need to be reserved by October 26th to get the convention special rate and please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms. The telephone number to call the Best Western is (641)752-6321.

The Econo Lodge is now a Super 8. The Super 8 had not returned a price at the time of this printing. You may contact the Super 8 at (641) 752-3137.

Mark your calanders for November 17th and 18th!! The Annual Iowa Honey Producers fall meeting is coming up and it will be held in Marshalltown at the Best Western Regency Inn. One of the speakers will be Zachary Huang of Michigan State University. Check out the cover photos on the American Bee Journal for July and August. Zachary took those! Check out more of his photos or him at www.beetography.com or www.cyberbee.net.

Jamie Ellis will also be there. He is the associate professor of entomology at the University of Florida. He is one of the leading experts on the small hive beetle, and the beetles are now in Wisconsin. Come and support the IHPA. We hope to see you in November!

To register, please fill out the pre-registration form on the following page and return it to Gordon Powell, the IHPA Treasurer.

Rules for the Photo Contest at the IHPA Annual Meeting

Photo must be matted but not framed.

Any size photo will be accepted for this competition.

Please put your name on the backside of the photo.

Categories to be submitted will include:

- Bee on Flower
- General Beekeeping
- Marketing or Promotion
- Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey



Rules for the Cooking with Honey Contest at the IHPA Annual Meeting

Honey is to be the only sweetener

Please submit your recipe with your entry

(Judges will keep recipes to be included in the BUZZ)

Put your name on the back of the recipe card

Categories to be submitted will include:

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



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

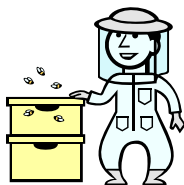
Presentation of entry

Best use of honey

Amount of honey used (compared to other entries in category)

Flavor of entry

Overall appearance of entry



**94th ANNUAL MEETING
IOWA HONEY PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 17 & 18, 2006
BEST WESTERN REGENCY INN
MARSHALLTOWN, IA 50158
641-752-6321**

Tentative schedule (speakers and topics subject to change)

Friday, November 17th

Morning schedule:

8:00- Registration & silent auction items are due.

(Visit vendors in room E)

Meeting will take place in rooms A & B

8:30- Call to Order and Welcome.....Donna Brahms, President of the IHPA
Introduction of IHPA Board Members

8:50- Announcements.....Pat Ennis, Vice-President IHPA

9:00- Inspector's report/IDALS.....William Eickholt, Inspector and Maury Wills, IDALS

-Cooking with Honey & Photo Contest entries due in room F at 10:00

-Silent Auction

9:15- Honey bee pheromones and their relevance to beekeeping.....Zachary Huang

10:30- **BREAK** (visit vendors in Rm. E)

10:45- **Door Prize**

10:50- NHB UPDATE.....Lee Heine, Dadant WI

12:00- LUNCH (on your own). You can eat at Mr. G restaurant here in the motel.

Queen Luncheon in Mr. G's. GET TO KNOW THE QUEEN

Afternoon Schedule:

1:00- **Door Prize**

1:05- Closing in on an international most wanted: Incarceration (and other short stories) of the world's most notorious melittophile (this is my SHB talk).....Jamie Ellis UNG

2:30- Cooking Contest Results.....Donna Young, Doris Ramsey Carol Wehr
Photo Contest Results.....Ed Siems

2:45- **BREAK** (visit vendors in Rm. E)

3:00- Thanks from the Iowa Honey Queen.....Elizabeth Macken 2006 Iowa Honey Queen

3:20- Meet the Honey queen Candidates.....Regina Jager, Honey Queen Chairman

3:45- Nosema disease, Should you worry about it? Zachary Huang

4:30- State Fair Exhibitor's (meet in Rm. A)

Silent Auction ends for today – pick up your merchandise.

5:00- Wine & Cheese welcome (by the pool)—Time to visit – Compliments of the Marshalltown Convention & Visitors Bureau (If you made Mead bring samples)

6:30- **Banquet** (located in rooms C & D) – The banquet will feature two entrees- Carved Ham, Baron of Beef, Tossed Salad, Pea Salad, Chop Chop, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, freshly baked rolls with butter and coffee/tea. The cost will be \$22.50 per person with the tax and gratuity included.

Banquet Program:

Introduction of Queen Candidates, Parents and Sponsors.....Regina Jager, Honey Queen Chair
Awards Presentation.....Ellie Johnson, Chairman of the Awards Committee
Youth Beekeeping Partnership Program.....Teresa Jurchen
Auction.....Bill Van Rockel
My life as a bee aficionado (or ramblings from someone who has been stung too much).....
.....Jamie Ellis UNG
Queen Coronation.....Regina Jager



Good Night!!!!!!

Saturday, November 19th

Morning Schedule

8:00 Registration

Note: Vendors will be packing up around noon today.

8:30- Announcements and Door Prizes.....Pat Ennis
Introduction of IHPA Board Members
8:45- Local Association Reports..... Donna Brahms
9:00- Is varroa IMP economical?.....Jamie Ellis UNG
9:45- **Break** - Make a bid on the silent auction items & visit vendors in Rm. E
10:00- Annual Business Meeting – (Will have agenda for members)

12:00 –**Lunch (\$13.25 tax and gratuity included)** – Swiss steak, served with tossed salad, mashed potatoes
an gravy, vegetable and roll

1:00 – Silent Auction Ends – collect your treasures

2006 Beekeeping Workshops (Rm. A & B)

1:00 – (A) – Fall Queen Replacement Pat Ennis
(B)- Disease Control and Detection..... Phil Ebert
1:45 – (A) - Photography of Honey Bees.....Zachary Huang
(B)- Where to find new Honey Queens.....Regina Jager
2:30- (B) – Question/Answer about diseases and disease recognition, honey bees, ECT.
with the guest speakers, Zachary Huang, Jamie Ellis and Lee Heine.
3:15- Adjournment

Note: There will be a short meeting of 2007 board members and officers in Rm. B

Drive Safely!!!!

THE BEEYARD REPORT

The mite population in our yards has taken a huge jump. Even the yards that tested low in mid September are getting up into the 10-12% range. I knew early on that I was going to have trouble in four or five yards. I was getting forty to fifty on the ether rolls. It was too hot for Miteaway so I used some Checkmite strips I had left. Three weeks later, I found they hadn't worked. The mite load had actually gone up. We did some creative things and the bees still look good but I don't give them much chance to survive.

We got the honey cleaned off all our yards during the first week in October. Now, it was a race to kill mites. I had purchased 500 Miteaway pads but we have put out less than 150. It was too hot to use them in early October. Then, daytime highs dropped below 50 degrees. Formic pads don't work below that temperature. Compounding our problem was the fact that a lot of our colonies were very light. Formic acid pads push the bees down for the first week or so. The bees won't go around the pads to get to the syrup buckets. I didn't have time to wait.

I had one yard where I really needed to use the pads so we put in division board feeders so the bees wouldn't have to go around the acid pads. I considered open feeding in barrels but that doesn't work at low temps. What we finally did was give Miteaway pads to the colonies that were fairly heavy and shot oxalic acid on the rest. The ones that got oxalic were given feeder buckets. Do we want them to die from mites or stave to death? It was a tossup in my mind.

The oxalic acid knocks down some of the mites. We have yards that were testing in the 25 range that are down around ten. This is only a knockdown treatment. It has no effect on mites in the brood. I was forced to use this in colonies that had brood and it didn't

seem to hurt anything. When they were broodless, I went back and gave them another dose.

No matter how much testing we do, something always jumps up to bite us. I had done several ether rolls in one of my yards and they were all in the single digits. I decided to wait until they were broodless before treating. When we went to apply treatment, about 25% of the colonies had crashed. The rest look good but sometimes they test low on mites and look great but seem to die for no logical reason.

constructing these. He knocked out 300 of them. After you install the spacer, you have to take the pad out of a plastic bag before you install it. The bees will greet the installation of the pad with a pronounced buzz. Don't cut the blue tinted bag that holds the actual pad. I did that on the first one. It's a bad deal. Remember that the hive is a fumigation chamber if you are using these pads. Any holes or cracks need to be plugged up. Red Green would have been proud of the job I did.

If your bees are in the back yard or somewhere close to home, Miteaway pads would probably be fine. Driving around the country with a truckload of spacers doesn't appeal to me. Going back to take the pads out if it gets over 80 degrees appeals to me even less.

It is impossible to predict our winter loss at this point. I don't think it's going to be catastrophic but it is going to bite pretty hard. It's hard to imagine there is anything wrong when you go into the yards. Most of the colonies have masses of bees boiling around the top bars. Then we do the mite test and know we are sucking wind. Normal highs for late October are in the 60's. Temperatures in that range make everything work. Temps may yet moderate but today is October 21st. We are on borrowed time from here on out.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

WEAVER'S *famous* QUEENS and Package Bees

★ Buckfast

★ All-American

The R Weaver Apiaries, Inc.
16495 CR 319, Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-2333

Fax: 936-825-3642

Email: rweaver@tca.net www.rweaver.com

I finally got back to the first yard I found with the mega mites after three weeks. This was in the second week of October. The oxalic acid had knocked them back but they were still in the 25-30 range on a 300 bee sample. There were still a lot of bees and the brood appeared to be good. There were no perforated cappings or rotten larva. There was, however, some deformed wing. I think these colonies are candidates to die in March but I decided to try the formic acid pads just to see if they would kill efficiently at this population level. The main thing I have heard about formic acid is that it is a slow killer. If mite population is building the acid doesn't kill them fast enough to hold the population down. We'll see.

Acid pads are very expensive and also time consuming. You need a spacer to make room for the pad and a couple of cross bars to hold the pad up off the top bars. Alex can tell you all about



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Size of Jar Honey Capacity	Number of Jars Per Carton	Lid* Style (see below)	Order Number	Ship Weight Per Carton lbs.	Price Per Carton 1-99 Cartons
8 ounces	24	1 (48 mm)	M00195	8.5	\$10.99
8 ounces	24	2 (48 mm)	M001952	8.5	10.65
1 pound	12	1 (48 mm)	M00196	8.5	6.62
1 pound	12	2 (48 mm)	M001962	8.5	6.42
1 pound	24	1 (48 mm)	M00197	12.5	12.80
1 pound	24	2 (48 mm)	M001972	12.5	12.32
2 pound	12	1 (63 mm)	M00198	10	9.26
2 pound	12	2 (63 mm)	M001982	10	8.84
4 pound	6	2 (G70)	M001992	9	8.79

Lid Styles: (1) Metal lids (2) White plastic lid
(glass not shipped by UPS)

*We are phasing out metal lids. Please substitute appropriate plastic lids.



* 8 oz. and
2 lb. bears
are also available.



M00255

Honey Bears



M00255CPN

M00255 12 oz. Regular Bears
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(All Ship Wts. 12 lbs. per carton.)

(Ship Wts. 3 lbs. per carton.)

Call for Pricing on 100+ Cartons

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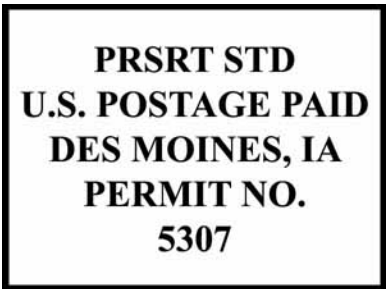
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8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
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The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
4012 54th St.
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American Beekeeping Federation website

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