



# The Buzz

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



September 2007

**“Chelsa did a great job representing the IHPA at the Iowa State Fair.”  
-- Donna Brahms, IHPA President**



**IHPA Award Nominations are due  
September 30th. Pg.4**

**IHPA Annual Meeting is getting  
closer. Information on page 7.**

**Beekeeper of the Month features  
Jodie and Jeff Miller of Dumont, IA.  
Pg.8**



## Dates to BEE Remembered:

**September 22, 2007** IHPA Board Meeting, 1:30pm, in Des Moines.

**September 22, 2007** CIBA Meeting See pg. 4 for details.

**September 23, 2007** 9th Annual Honey Fest, Indian Creek Nature Center, Cedar Rapids, IA

**November 16th & 17th, 2007** IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA

**For Sale:** Honey Extractor 20 frame variable speed. 3 settling tanks. Cowan uncapper, steam heated. Steam generator. uncapping tank, sump and pump, small air compressor, 6 5/8 supers with new light drawn comb, 6 5/8 & 9 5/8 supers with foundation, pallets, queen excluders (metal & wood bound), bottoms, tops & inner covers. Other miscellaneous.

Contact: Albert Andrianno  
Cummings, IA  
515-981-0360.

**For Sale:** Super clean granulated beet sugar in 2,500lbs totes. Price is 24.5cents per pound. Have loads available. One truckload has about 22 totes. If interested contact

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FAX(309)385-1036  
mwi@midwestingredients.com

**FOR SALE:** Queens from high producing Carniolan stock that has survived an Iowa winter. Available from late June to early Sept. Marked queens are \$12.50 each. Shipping and insurance on small lots runs \$7. Shipping to most points in Iowa is overnight.

Contact Adam or Phil Ebert  
at 641-527-2639 or  
e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

**FOR SALE:** Clean 5 gallon buckets with lids and gaskets. 1-9, \$1.75 each; 10+, \$1.50 each. I also have about 20, 4 gallon buckets with lids. They need the dust rinsed off of them--50 cents each.

Contact Phil Ebert at 641-527-2639 or  
e-mail ehoney37@netins.net

## IHPA T-Shirts ( *These are membership prices. Non-member prices are available on request.* )

The t-shirts are a bright yellow shirt with brown lettering.

Youth	size (S) (M) (L) <i>circle one</i>	_____ qty. X \$ 8.50	\$ _____
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Send form and check to: **J. Gordon Powell, IHPA Treasurer**  
4012 54th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50310-1815

## 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. 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 54<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, IA 50310 Phone : (515) 278-1762



## Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,

Wow, another hot Iowa State Fair is in the record books for the IHPA. The new renovations seem to have worked out great. We had lots of comments from other vendors, the customers and beekeepers about the new and improved area we use in the Ag building. Most people thought that we had added several more spaces, but the space used is the same, it just looks so much more streamlined that it appears larger. We put all of the exhibit areas together and moved the sales area to the end closer to the water with the new larger sink and hot water heater. We also added a couple storage areas to keep the honey stock for sale so that we didn't have a cluttered pile behind the counter. Even though the fair officials are saying that about 10,000 fewer people attended the 2007 Iowa State Fair, the Iowa Honey Producers Association had record sales. The preliminary gross income for the IHPA was up around \$10,000 more than any previous year. We were running low on creamed honey by Thursday evening. We ran out of pretzels on Saturday evening, but with not much to sample, we didn't get any more. We also were running low on the lemon juice needed for the lemonade. The Des Moines Register helped us with sales by putting in an article about fair bargains and included the honey lemonade. I will have facts and information for you at the annual meeting during the state fair report.

THANK YOU to Mike Brahms, Steve Brahms, Melanie Bower, Duane Bower and Jerry Kern for helping make the changes possible. The grant money sure made things

easier. THANK YOU also to all of the people that helped set up and take down the booth area and especially to all of the workers. We, the IHPA, couldn't do this without the help of all of you. I, as sales booth manager, really appreciate you taking time to come and help make this possible.

I want to THANK Melanie Bower for the superb job she has done as Superintendent of the Apiary exhibit for the past couple years. The exhibits looked great. If you have any suggestions for changes to the rules for the apiary exhibit, please contact Melanie.



How are your bees doing? Get your honey off so you can treat for mites. With all of the CCD publicity the question, "Are your bees dying?" was the number one topic of conversation at the fair. We need to make sure that we are doing everything possible to ensure the health of our colonies. Hopefully, we will have some expert advice soon. The Iowa State Apiarist job has been let and there have been several applications sent in. Let's keep our fingers crossed (and our toes) that a qualified candidate is located and we can have the expert help that is needed. We received several new members and gave out numerous applications

to prospective beekeepers at the fair.. Many are interested in taking beekeeping classes. Lots of people have noticed that there aren't as many honey bees and are wanting to do something about ensuring the pollination in their gardens and orchards.

Don't forget about having Chelsa Bronnenberg, the 2007 Iowa Honey Queen help you with any promotions. Chelsa did a great job representing the IHPA at the Iowa State Fair. No doubt you heard some of her interviews on the radio or television or you got to speak to her at the fair. She did several presentations at the stage area located in the Ag building. She answered many questions from the public while explaining beekeeping and about honey bees in general by the observation hive display. Thank you Chelsa for a wonderful job at the fair.

The Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Please consider attending. Pat Ennis has a great line-up of speakers and we will be discussing the CCD problem and hear from people that attended the Pollination Symposium held in Ames in June. There will be information elsewhere in this issue [pg.7] concerning the Annual Meeting November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> to be held at the Marshalltown Best Western Regency Inn.

Get your honey extracted and enjoy some of the nice cooler weather that Iowa has in September. Stop to smell the lingering flowers and enjoy the company of those you love. Sincerely,

Donna Brahms, IHPA President

## IHPA Award Nominations

It is time to think of who should receive one of the Awards that the IHPA presents at the Annual Meeting banquet. Please review the categories and submit your suggestions along with a short letter explaining why you feel that this candidate should receive an award. The categories that we present are as follows:

1. **Pioneer Award**- for having been involved for 50 years or more and still active in beekeeping.
2. **Distinguished Service Award**- for assisting other beekeepers, willing to share information, and /or serving the association.
3. **Education Award**- teaching beekeeping classes, speaking at service clubs, giving presentations to school children or speaking about beekeeping on radio or T.V.
4. **Promotions Award**- for promoting honey and beekeeping, promotions for the state association or promoting their own product.
5. **Friendship Award**- for being a friend of the association. This could be someone who has displayed at the annual IHPA trade show, a state official who has assisted or encouraged beekeeping, someone outside our industry of producing honey.
6. **Youth Award**- for a young person who has shown commendable involvement in such things as helping the state fair, successfully keeping bees for at least one season including wintering, writing, making a float for a parade, speaking, etc.

If you would like to nominate someone, please send the information to me by the deadline of **September 30th.** :

Donna Brahms  
65071 720th Street  
Cumberland, IA 50843  
(712) 774-5878  
mbrahms@netins.net

## Iowa Code Includes Beekeeping

Did you know that beekeeping in Iowa is included in the Iowa Code? The Iowa Code is the listing of the laws that the legislature has passed concerning every topic imaginable. Beekeeping is included. If you are interested you can go to the Iowa Code web page and look for beekeeping references. <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Code.html>

There are listings for the State Apiarist duties and requirements, the exemption of honey from the food code inspection process for sales of honey to grocery stores, the interstate travel of honey bees, (you need to have your hives inspected to remove them from the state) and there are rules governing the sale of frames of wax to try to control the spread of diseases from one beekeeper to another. If you are selling hive bodies and they contain drawn comb, the comb needs to be inspected. These rules are in effect to protect the beekeepers of the state and to control the spread of diseases such as American foul brood from one beekeeper to another. That is why there is an inspection program administered by the Agriculture Department. If you have any questions concerning the inspection rules, please contact Maury Wills at IDALS.

Maury Wills  
Ag. Diversification & Mkt. Dev.  
Bureau & Organic Program  
Iowa Dept. of Ag. & Land Stewardship  
502 E. 9th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Tel: 515-281-5783  
Fax: 515-281-6178

## CIBA September Meeting

Please join us for the September meeting of CIBA on **September 22** at Ryan's Family Steak House, 1900 NW 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Clive, IA.

We will meet at 6:00pm for dinner followed by a short meeting and a program featuring W. John Johnson talking about "Back to Basics of Over Wintering Honeybees". Your participation in our discussion would be greatly appreciated.

## Youth Scholarship Applications are available now.

If you know of a youth who would like to become a beekeeper, please have them get an application from our website, ABuzzAboutBees.com, or by contacting the Youth Scholarship Chairman, Mike Brahms at (712) 774-5878.

**The requirements are:**

**Be a youth between the ages of 12 and 17.**

**Be from a non beekeeping family.**

**Send in the completed application by September 15th to:**

Mike Brahms  
65071 720<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cumberland, IA 50843

We had five of our current youth beekeepers and their families work the sales booth at the Iowa State Fair. All of the current youth scholarship winners are doing great and the mentors are reporting that they are becoming quite proficient in beekeeping.

## Del's notes

How do I do it get more projects to do than I can possibly do? I only mowed 3 times this summer because it was so dry. That was OK but I had to pump water out of the creek in to a pond by the house then my wife would pump it up to the garden. I only had 1 pump so I would carry the pump down the creek bank then up the creek bank every day. Then I would carry 6 five gallon buckets up the hill to the fruit trees the pump would not go that far. After all the buckets the shallow supers do not seem to bad now.

My bees started slow both the bitty bees and my regular size bees. All but one of my hives requeened themselves at least once and some two or three times. When I have been out inspecting there were a lot of queenless hives. I combined some weaker hives they all look good now, hope to get a good goldenrod flow I am seeing a lot of it near me.

After reading and rereading all the information on CCD I have more questions and no answers. Many beekeepers indicated that their hives were under some form of stress at least 2 months before the first incidence of CCD. Stress could include poor nutrition ( due to apiary overcrowding, pollination of crops with low nutritional value, or pollen or nectar death ), limited or contaminated water supplies, possible exposure to pesticides or high levels of Varroa mites. The loss of bees is disturbing, the amount of press and attention given to honey bees presents a great opportunity to educate the public about the importance of honey bees and all pollinators.

As you take your honey supers off call me to have your hives inspected before you wrap them for winter. My home phone is 641-526-8866 cell 641-990-3040 and e-mail [laserink@partnercom.net](mailto:laserink@partnercom.net)

Submitted by Delmar Nelson

## A Word From the Iowa Honey Queen.

Hello Beekeepers!

I would like to give all of you an update, since the last time I wrote. I have promoted honey, and beekeep-

News. I sold honey lemonade, honey and a variety products at the IHPA booth.

I have several events planned for these next few months. I want everyone to know I am available whenever, my work is very understanding and flexible with my hours. I am currently on the waiting list at DMACC in Ankeny for the Registered Nursing program, so I will not be taking any classes until they contact me. Please contact me to help you with any event you are planning.

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I can't believe how fast my year is going. Before we know it, we will be attending the annual meeting in November. I would like to announce that I am planning on Nationals, if you can think of anything to help prepare me for the next step, please let me know.

You can contact me by my email at [Chizel2004@aol.com](mailto:Chizel2004@aol.com), or by phone at (515) 210-1027.

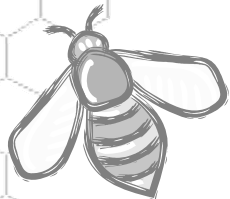
Sincerely,

Chelsa Bronnenberg  
2007 Iowa Honey Queen

ing in a variety of ways. I would like to give you a brief overview on my experiences. I was invited to talk about honeybees at a preschool in Ft. Madison, and was also featured on the front page for the town paper. The observation hive that I brought was a big hit for the kids. I was also at the state fair on August 9-19th. IHPA made it possible for me to present information on general beekeeping, do cooking demonstrations, and hands on activities with kids at the stage of the 1st floor of the Agriculture Building. Meeting Hillary Clinton, Rudy Giuliani, and Fred Thompson was definitely one of my highlights at the State Fair. WHO radio with Van and Bonnie in the morning hosted me to discuss beekeeping, along with an interview from Channel 8



# 9th Annual Honey Fest 2007



Indian Creek Nature Center  
Sunday, September 23  
1:00 to 4:00 PM



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## **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IOWA HONEY PRODUCER'S ASSN.**

It's meeting time again! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producer's Association will be held Friday, November 16th and Saturday, November 17th, 2007 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 at the rate of 1 adult for \$67.50 or 2 adults for \$72.00. The rooms need to be reserved by October 25th to get the convention special rate and please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms. The telephone number to call is: Best Western (641)752-6321 . The Super 8 Motel's number is (641) 752-3137

We have a full schedule planned as usual. Make plans to enter the photo contest or the foods made with honey contest to show off your skills. There will also be a home mead contest for all of you mead makers.

Some of the speakers for this year include T'Lee Sollenberger , Chuck Norton and Rick Hellmich from ISU to speak on the CCD session held during the Pollination Symposium.

Make your plans now to attend the annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producer's Association on November 16th and 17th, 2007.

**SEE YOU IN MARSHALL-  
TOWN NOVEMBER 16TH AND  
17TH FOR FUN, FELLOWSHIP  
AND LEARNING!!!**

## **September is National Honey Month!**

Don't forget September is National Honey Month. Not that anyone needs an excuse to sample the sweet taste of honey, but why not try out a new honey recipe and share with family, friends, and neighbors!

Need a new recipe? Take a look at what the National Honey Board has to offer. Online recipes can be found at:

<http://www.honey.com/consumers/recipes/recipes.asp>

Enjoy!

### **TM Resistant Foulbrood**

TM resistant foulbrood is in Iowa. We have seen it in our operation and I know others who have it. Some time in July, I was checking a couple of colonies that were lagging behind. They just had a few spots of foulbrood. I thought I could clean them up. Two weeks later, after a couple of TM treatments, they were a lot worse. I gave Del Nelson a call. He came over and took a comb sample and sent it to Beltsville. Their test confirmed that it was TM resistant.

I have reservations about using Tylan. It leaves a residue in honey. There is an acceptable level that has been established for honey. Nonetheless, I don't want to use it. I think we are on the edge of some real food purity issues. There is already plenty of junk in our food. We don't need any more.

If you do decide to use Tylan, the instructions on how to mix it are pretty vague. Some of the instructions I have seen say to use 100 milligrams of Tylan (the contents of one container) to 200# of sugar. This is grossly incorrect. They got an extra zero in there. It should be

20# of sugar. This is described as 500 hundred treatments. What they don't tell you is that this is supposed to be administered in three applications one week apart. The total dosage for all three treatment should be between 6oz and 7oz depending on whose data you are using.

For smaller doses, mix 2 1/2 teaspoons with 2# of sugar. This is a tiny amount of Tylan compared to the amount of sugar. I have some concerns about getting it evenly distributed. The people at Mann Lake say not to use powdered sugar from the store because it has starch in it. Starch can be bad for bees. They have sugar that is pure sucrose with no additives. I bought some just to see what it looked like. It looks like very finely granulated table sugar. After almost 30 years of administering TM mixed with powdered sugar, I'm not too worried about the ill effects of the small quantity that goes into the hive with the meds.

After you get your Tylan mixed, I was instructed to administer two heaping tablespoons per colony. That was supposed to be about 2oz. I weighted it out and it took me three heaping tablespoons to get slightly over 2oz. Remember the total treatment has to be over 6oz.

I decided to try it out. I infected a colony that I had at home with foulbrood. I treated them with Tylan. So far, they look okay. If you have scale in your combs, it doesn't matter what you treat with, the foulbrood will come back. Baring some huge outbreak, we are planning to go with the New Zealand control method.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

## Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeepers are Jeff and Jodie Miller from Dumont, Iowa. Their business name is Miller-Bee Honey. Jodie tells me they bought their first hive in 1995 from John Johnson. She was a little

store and looking into expanding to a second store as well.

Jodie says beekeeping is a "sweet job". Bees are fascinating, addictive and you can never fully figure

them out. She wishes she had more time to just sit and watch them. Since Jeff and



**Charlie (one of our boys) showing off our great catch :)**



**Jodie Miller with a few of the family hives.**

Jodie have 8 children to help them, great. Bees... aren't they wonderful?!"

Thanks for your story Jodie and Jeff, and I'll tell Phil your debt is paid.

concerned in the beginning because she has been severely allergic to stings since her early childhood. She says she's getting better with age, because she has been stung several times and has experienced major swelling, but it appears the allergic reaction is no longer life threatening. Jodie's thankful because she says wearing a full metal armor would have been a bit hot, however, she does keep her emergency EpiPen kit close.

Jeff and Jodie presently have 8 colonies and are planning a slow expansion. They are marketing 12oz. bears, 6 oz. bears, and quart jars. They filled their largest order of 500 12oz. bears around Christmas and do want to thank Phil Ebert for helping them complete that order. At this point Jodie says they are marketing honey at the local grocery

a lot of fun for the whole family.

To the question asking about interesting experiences Jodie states, "On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 we learned that a queen in her second week of laying eggs can fly 50 feet away from her hive into a hayfield with 18" tall alfalfa. What a horrible sight that was. We could only watch in frustration and horror. Thankfully she apparently returned to her hive because on August 3, 2007 eggs were

Submitted by Ron Wehr



**Jeff and Jodie on a bee retrieval call :)**



## THE BEEYARD REPORT

We have sold around 150 queens. This wouldn't make a pimple on a queen producers behind but it's quite a few for us. It pays for operating the yard. It's rather picturesque when everything is in bloom. It's in an open area at the bottom of a slope. There is a nice stand of trefoil and dutch clover intermingled with some crown vetch. The mating nucs are set up like a letter "D". There is a straight line of them along the fence line on the left. The the loop on the letter "D" is on the right. There's a lane for the horses to run through so they can go to the top of the hill and snort at me to show me show me who is boss. This time of year the ragweed takes over. It's not very attractive.

It looks like we are going to have a decent honey crop. After having two once in a lifetime years back to back, anything less is a come down. We have pulled 1/3 of our yards and have 35 barrels extracted. We have pulled the best yards . The others won't yield as much. We are anticipating something around 70 to 80 barrels. The first ten barrels were some of the lightest honey we have ever had. Then it started to darken. We have four barrels that look like root beer that came from a yard near Montezuma. I have no idea what the floral source is. Once we got into another area the honey lightened up but it's still a lot different in flavor from what we usually get. I'm not sure how much basswod honey we got. Sometimes I could smell it in the boxes we were extracting but it didn't come through in the flavor of the honey.

The bees are now working the common ragweed that grows around the buildings on our home place. In years past, I have only seen bumble

bees on it. This year there are no bumblebees and the honeybees are all over it. They will work it immediately after rain and will start on it as soon as it's full daylight.. We have another common plant on the edges of our yard that I can't identify. It grows 2' to 4' tall and has spiny tips around the leaves. It has small yellow flowers about the size of a nickle. The stem is fleshy and the horses like to eat it. I always look at the weed display at the fair but it wasn't one that was included. I was able to learn the difference between velvetleaf and cocklebur.

I was on the balcony at the Ag Building one day during the fair. I happened to look down to the lower level and saw Chelsa Bronnenberg getting her picture taken with Hillary Clinton. It looked like Hillary had a huge crowd following her. As she moved away, some of the people followed her but most of the lineup was waiting to see the butter cow. Hillary is fairly close to me politically but I can't get very excited about her.

I ran into Taylor and Crystal Petersen when I was strolling past the FFA building. They were in the beekeeping class that Margaret Hala and I taught in Marshalltown last winter. Taylor had a notebook on display that chronicled her beekeeping experience. I was impressed. There were also a couple of other beekeeping displays that had been FFA projects.

Be alert to the possibilty of small hive beetles in your operation. They are in the state. It's just a matter of time until they get spread around.

Summer is drawing to a close. Anthony has returned from his summer in Yellowstone and is student

teachng already. Alex and Adam made a trip to Colorado Springs where Alex threw the discus in an event like the Iowa games except it was on a national basis. They took in the local attactions and had a good time. Eric spent his time in summer school in Iowa City. I pretty much stayed on the old homestead. I hope everyone had a good summer.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

## Annual Meeting Cost

Every year there is talk that the annual meeting needs to move out of Marshalltown. It has been a topic at several board meetings. The bottem line is that Marshalltown is a very economic place to have a meeting and it is centrally located. We get a lot of extras that we don't have to pay for. The staff at the meeting site knows what we need and they take care of it. It takes a lot of stress off the person running the meeting. Booking a location in Des Moines or somewhere comparable would cost over twice as much. All the booking gets us is a meeting room. If we want vendor space we pay extra. We have to pay extra for tables and other amentities. We have book a higher number of meals for the banquet. You, the members, would be looking at higher registration fees and a much higher banquet cost. If you look at the cost of meetings in adjoining states, ours is pretty economical. We still get a lot of complaints about the cost.

If there is someone out there who wants to look into having a meeting at some other location, put together a package and present it to the board. Personally, I would be happy to go someplace new but I don't want to shoot the IHP in the financial foot to do it.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

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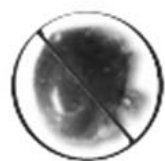
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Foil tray shown on brood frames.

### **To Use Apiguard**

Place the dosing tray or pad centrally on the top of the brood frames gel side up. Be sure to allow at least 1/4" of spacing between the top of the tray and the cover using spacer boards or empty supers as needed. Apply the second dose 14 days after the first. Screened bottom boards should be closed while Apiguard is being applied.



# Dadant

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# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
4012 54<sup>th</sup> St.  
Des Moines, IA 50310

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### American Beekeeping Federation website

www.ABFnet.org