



The Buzz



March 2018

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

Barb and Dean Johnson with their Eight Frame Observation Hive. This hive visited three county fairs in summer 2017 and informed hundreds of visitors about bees. Thanks for your efforts! (Page 15)



Here's Troy Pratt, one of Dean's younger friends, who helped Dean communicate with bees. Thanks for promoting beekeeping to the next generation! (Page 15)

President's Message – Keep the Articles Coming

I told you in February that I spent time looking at many states' beekeeping websites. I learned a lot and brought pages of information to our planning meeting, more than the board cared to read ... information overload in deed! A click here and there and I soon discovered several state associations produce a newsletter, bi-monthly or quarterly being the norm. I learned not all newsletters have a name but those that do are aptly named. To see how The Buzz compares, I checked out the newsletters below. I'll be honest, I have a bias, but I really do think the IHPA produces one of the best yet, and we produce a MONTHLY newsletter. If you have time yet this winter, I encourage you to read some of these newsletters:

Bee Buzz – North Carolina State Beekeepers Association.

Cappings – Kansas Honey Producers Association.

The Bee Buzzer – Northeast Kansas Beekeepers Association.

The Bee Line – Maine State Beekeepers Association.

The Bee Times – California State Beekeepers Association.

The Newswy Bee – Delaware Beekeepers Association.

The Stinger – Alabama Beekeepers Association.

The Producers – Empire State Honey Producers.

But while we're on the topic of newsletters, do you enjoy receiving The Buzz every month? Do you find the content interesting or entertaining? Are you kept informed about the state of beekeeping in Iowa? Do you learn something from the articles? Do you feel your fellow beekeepers share helpful information? While I hope you can answer 'yes' to most of these questions, I think we can do better. So how do we do that? The answer is simple and straight forward: **We need YOUR input.** I don't like seeing a lot of white space in our newsletter; it's wasted space and space we pay for. It is so easy to cop out and say, "I can't write" or think someone else will do it. Through my volunteer efforts over the years, I have found these are the folks who are the first to complain about poor newsletter content or event organization. To them I say,

the newsletter or organization is only as good as those who put forth an effort. Time is always an issue. Believe me, I understand. It's simply a matter of making the time. It's a new year and we're all in this together.

What can you contribute? The slate is open. What beekeeping topics interest you? What have you found intriguing? Maybe you've read an article in Bee Culture or The American Bee Journal that truly captured your attention. Tell us about it. Did you attend a conference in another state? What did you learn and why do you feel it was important? Did you travel to another state or abroad and visit an apiary or talk to a local beekeeper? Are their practices similar? Have you found a great website with statistics? Maybe you want to interview your mentor? A few questions to them with their answers and a photo of the two of you and voila, you've got a great piece for The Buzz. Is your club planning an activity and you want to invite others? What has been your experience with farmer's markets? How about your experience with making soaps and lotions? Do you have tips to offer? Do you have a great photo to share? Though in The Buzz it will be in black and white, on the website it will be in beautiful color. Want to crow about your beekeeping success or tell us what not to do? Please share! We all can learn from one another. These are only a sampling of topics. Now it's time for you to put pen to paper. Rest assured, if there are grammatical or spelling errors, we can fix things up to make you look like a pro.

The effort you put forth is most appreciated. Without quality, interesting and informative articles, our newsletter wanes and before long it ends up in the trash before it is ever opened. That's not our aim and it would be a waste of money. With a membership above 1,000 and 19 Iowa bee clubs, we should be able to put 14 pages of quality articles and photos together monthly for years to come. What's stopping you?

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President

We heard you, Eve!

This is where someone's contribution will go in April!

(just send it to Ron by March 10)


State of Iowa
Executive Department
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

P R O C L A M A T I O N

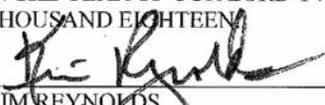
- WHEREAS,** honey bees and native insects are important as pollinators for a third of the food we eat. Honey bees are vital in production of over 90 crops grown across the nation, many of which are in Iowa. Honey bees contribute to a healthy Iowa environment by assuring availability of fruits, vegetables, nuts and flowers for wildlife and all Iowans.
- WHEREAS,** Iowa has over 4,500 beekeepers representing hobbyists, sideliners as part time businesses and full time commercial beekeepers. Hobby beekeepers have as few as one hive; commercial operations have thousands of hives.
- WHEREAS,** traditionally, beekeeping occurred in rural areas of Iowa. Now, beekeeping increasingly occurs in urban areas with the rising interest of hobby beekeepers for keeping beehives in Iowa cities and towns.
- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa has an active apiary inspection program to protect honey bees and beekeepers from introduction and spread of apiary diseases and pests.
- WHEREAS,** honey bees face serious threats from invasive pests, decreasing bee friendly forage, variable climate and increasing pesticide and herbicide pressure:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim March 14, 2018, as

IOWA HONEY BEE DAY



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE
HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND
CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE
OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES
MOINES THIS 22nd DAY OF FEBRUARY
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO
THOUSAND EIGHTEEN


KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:


PAUL PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Hear! Hear! The Queen Speaks:
Joy Westerkamp, IHPA Honey Queen

Greetings again!

I have had several opportunities to visit different parts of the state to give presentations and talk to my fellow beekeepers. I really enjoy being able to share about my experience producing comb honey, running a treatment-free operation, and how beekeeping has been a big part of my life since 2011. I am super excited for many upcoming appearances and you can keep up with me at the Iowa Honey Queen Program Facebook page! Thanks to everyone who has supported me in my role as the 2018 Iowa Honey Queen so far! I cannot wait for new opportunities to spread the work about honey bees and beekeeping!

Marking Queens

A few years ago the IHPA Summer Field Day was held at Spring Valley Honey Farms. One of the afternoon breakout sessions focused on how to mark queens. Given the queen is royalty and far too expensive to use for practice, the lonely drones were put to use. Slower and unable to sting, they made for great stand-ins. The process was not difficult, grabbing the drones by the legs and a quick a dot of color on the thorax with a marking pen and you were done. Once you got the knack of it, you gained confidence. (They make useful, one-handed tools for catching and holding the queen, available from suppliers, when you get to handling the real item!)

But why do beekeepers mark their queens or buy marked queens? They do so primarily to keep track of the age of their queens, but also to more quickly identify the queen amongst all the other bees. Did you know there is a unique color coding system used by beekeepers worldwide?

WHITE for queens born in years ending in 1 or 6
YELLOW for queens born in years ending in 2 or 7
RED for queens born in years ending in 3 or 8
GREEN for queens born in years ending in 4 or 9
BLUE for queens born in years ending in 5 or 0

A simple system indeed, but how do you remember?
That's easy. Commit this five-word phrase to memory:
Will You Rear Good Bees?

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President.

Bee-musings from Mary,
Are YOU Important?

READ, Read, read the whole Iowa Honey Bee Day Proclamation which our Governor will be signing in late February. YES, get through all the 'whereas' and 'therefores' to the words behind the mumble jumble and legalese!---Are YOU Important?

YES, YOU ARE! Every one of the 'whereas' in the proclamation tells you why, and it is pretty easy reading. You will most likely even connect or feel personally involved with most, if not all, of them. YOU are needed as a beekeeper and as a supporter of this Iowa Honey Bee Day Proclamation in our grand state.

Facts are facts everywhere and don't lie. This proclamation speaks the truth about our beekeeping industry, what we do, why we do it, and how it benefits our state, our environment, and truly, our world. YOU matter. What YOU do is so vitally important and getting this out to the public through our Iowa Honey Bee Day is a great way to support something you love. Mark your calendars and plan on spending some time with fellow beekeepers and our elected representatives on...

Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 7-9 AM in Conference Room 116 in our State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT!!

And, now onto District 3 News...

I apologize for not realizing that the Tama County Bee Keepers is in District 3. If you are near Tama and looking for a bee club, join it. Jim and Penny Dolezal are the contacts with phone numbers and address in The Buzz and on our website at www.iowahoneyproducers.org. Once again, my apologies for not recognizing this club.

If you live in the northern part of District 3, a new bee club is forming. An organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, March 8th at the Extension Office at 720 7th Ave SW, Tripoli. Thank you to those who have contacted me with comments and offers of help. If you would be interested in helping with this endeavor in any role, please contact me at tmwiltgen@gmail.com. Please include "bee club" in subject line so I can retrieve it quickly. If you'd rather, call or text me. Hoping to see many of you at our inaugural meeting. Seriously, if you don't want to do anything other than helping us come up with a name or where we meet, come!!! J Spring is rapidly approaching with so many topics of possible discussion. Come share your ideas of what you need and would like to hear about at our club meetings. This club is for YOU. YOU are important in making this a possibility. See you on the 8th!

From Henry Ford ~ "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." This quote makes me think of how the bees work together and the success they have had for millions of years. Is that how? By working together? If so, let's use their example and become that 'super-organism' that will help all of us survive!

'Bee' grateful, 'Bee' blessed, and 'Bee' a blessing,
Mary Wiltgen, District 3 Director
tmwiltgen@gmail.com 563.920.9628

Bee Hive Strong



Building strength for our future.

2018

Save the Date for the IHPA 2018 Annual Conference!

Our Annual IHPA Conference dates and location have been set. Please join us November 9-10, 2018 for the IHPA's Annual Conference – Bee Hive Strong 2018, at the Shemann Building in Ames Iowa. Sneak Peak: The Mead Contest is back, start brewing! More details will follow in the upcoming months.

If you have wanted to become more involved with the events during the Annual Convention, please send an email to beehivestrong@gmail.com or call me @ 319-360-4913 (FYI email or text messages are often best). We are looking for members to help with the silent and live auctions, registration, IHPA store, vendor relations, competition judging and coordination, and the other many tasks before and during the convention. We have a need and a place for all that would like to assist. A huge thank you in advance to all of you that volunteer. Without you we would not be able to host these events.

Erin Miller, IHPA Vice President

Editor Note--Here is an example of the way Iowans can submit interesting articles to the Buzz. Thanks, Sheila!

Today is January 22, 2018 and I just finished watching the first episode of "Rotten", a Netflix Original 6-Part Docu-Series about food corruption in our world. Episode 1 is "Lawyers, Guns, and **Honey**" and the name is a play on the name of Warren Zevon's song "Lawyers, Guns and Money" though I would say that "money" could very well be the root of a lot of food problems on this planet.

Episode 1 is only 54 minutes and a must watch for Beekeepers or anyone interested in learning more about our food supply. You will not be disappointed. It's very well done and explains many of the problems with keeping bees and fake honey. Many of us know that honey is often adulterated, but I was surprised by the variety of products used in the process and by whom. It was interesting to see

the effort that's being made to identify adulterated honey and get it out of the market as well as the effort trying to stay ahead of those who continue to adulterate honey. Honey production is decreasing and consumption is soaring. Perhaps, this may be explained by a quote from the first episode, "Right out of the drug dealer's playbook, cut pure product with inexpensive filler to increase volume." Our relationship with food has become a little dysfunctional and our choices have the power to enable or dismantle a lot of corruption.

There's a lot of TV out there about crime and food; however, these food crimes impact an extremely large number of people. It may not be a problem for you if you don't mind these fillers in your food, but it should be on the label and safe! As beekeepers, we need to be aware of these problems and support those organizations who are dealing with these issues.

Sheila Weldon

Thank You to the Central Iowa Beekeepers!

Were you able to attend the Winter Seminar on January 20 sponsored by the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA)? It was a fine program featuring three of Iowa State's stars in the honeybee world: Dr. Amy Toth, Alex Walson, Post Doc graduate student, and Randall Cass, Extension Entomologist. This event was FREE and included refreshments. If you read my president's message in the January Buzz, you know I mentioned the winter months are the perfect time to indulge in education. The Winter Seminar was a prime opportunity. Thank you to Jamie Beyer, Vice President of CIBA for his work to put this program together. Thank you to CIBA for sponsoring the event and providing the refreshments, and thank you to Ann Wilbur for baking for such excellent cookies.



IOWA HONEY BEE DAY

March 14, 2018

7-9 AM

Conference Room 116

Iowa State Capital

Des Moines, IA



Meet with Iowa Legislators to discuss the importance of honey bees to Iowa and the role we play as beekeepers in their success.

How Can I Help?

Have you ever wondered that question when thinking of your honey bees. You are a beekeeper because of your love for bees, your love of honey, your desire to help our environment, to pollinate your garden, etc. Can this be taken one step farther? Is there anything else you could do to help the honey bees here in Iowa?

**YES, there is and YES, YOU CAN HELP!
Wednesday, March 14 is IOWA HONEY BEE DAY!**

Celebrate this day with fellow beekeepers at our State Capital in Conference Room 116 from 7-9 AM. Enjoy visiting with your legislators about the importance of the honeybees, the difficulties faced by honey bees and beekeepers, the role of honey bees in our environment while enjoying some honey and honey treats.

**YES, You Can Help! Be a part of IOWA HONEY BEE DAY
Wednesday, March 14, 2018
7-9 AM (Yes, Eaaaarly)
Conference Room 116 in our State Capitol**

For further information contact your IHPA District Director or:

Linn Wilbur
lwilbur50201@gmail.com
515.382.4882

Jamie Beyer
beyeersbog@aol.com
515.231.0215

Sponsored by the Iowa Honey Producers Association

2018 Iowa Honey Producers Association

Summer Field Day

Saturday, June 30, 2018

Dordt College

498 4th Ave NE, Sioux Center, Iowa

Registration: 8:30

Field Day: 9:00 – 4:00



Field Day Guest Speakers include an ALL IOWA line-up featuring: Curt Bronnenberg, “Evaluating and Splitting Your Hives”; Phil Ebert, “Wintering your Bees in Iowa”; Bob Fassbinder, “Queen Rearing”; and Andy Joseph, Iowa’s State Apiarist, will provide an update on the state of Iowa’s honeybees. Also meet Joy Westerkamp the Iowa Honey Queen and hear her speak. This will be a full day of knowledge exchange for beekeepers of all levels. IHPA District 6 Director Dave Korver will be placing hives at the college in early spring.

Please mark your calendar and remember to bring your bee gear.

A delicious lunch will be provided. Bottled water, honey lemonade, and coffee will be available throughout the day.

Cut here ----- Cut here ----- Cut here

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE:(____) _____ CELL:(____) _____

EMAIL: _____

Registration:

Amount

Single (member): \$30 before June 1, 2018
Number attending: _____ x \$30 = _____

Single (non-member): \$35 before June 1, 2018
Number attending: _____ x \$35 = _____

Walk-ins (members and non-members) \$45

Walk-ins on June 30, 2018 welcome however lunch maybe unavailable.

Space for this event is limited to the first 200 registrants.

Return this completed form together with your check payable to IHPA, by Friday, June 1, 2018 to:

Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049

Got questions? E-mail Erin Miller at: erinmiller722@msn.com and put “Summer Field Day Question” in the subject line or call 319-360-4913.

No calls after 9:00 p.m., please.

2018 Beginning and Advanced Beekeeping Courses to be Offered Across the State of Iowa.

For more information, please to the web site: @ www.iowahoneyproducers.org of the Iowa Honey Producers Association

* "To Be Determined". (TBD) These locations are having a class, but class information isn't finalized to date.

Please feel free to contact them to register for a class

City and Time	Start Date	To Register
Ankeny, Thursday evenings	Jan 25 – Mar 1	Andrew Joseph: 515-326-5765 (call / text) or Andrew.Joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov
Albia, Tuesday evening	Jan 30-Mar 20	Sheila @ 641-891-2268 / Jerry @ 641-891-4071
Calmar, Tuesday evenings	Jan 30 – Mar 6	NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380
Cedar Rapids, Indian Creek Nature Center, 6-9 pm	Yearlong starting in Jan.	To register: 319-362-0664 or indiancreeknaturecenter.org/
*Council Bluffs Sat. mornings	April -May	Iowa Western Comm. College 712-325-3255
Davenport, Tuesday evenings	Feb – Mar	Eastern Iowa Community College
Des Moines, Tues. evenings	Jan - Feb	http://commed.dmschools.org/programs/adults/
Des Moines, Thu. evenings	Jan - March	http://commed.dmschools.org/programs/adults/
Des Moines, Wed. evenings	Jan – Feb	http://commed.dmschools.org/programs/adults/
Dubuque, Tues evening	Jan 30 – Mar 6	NICC Continuing Ed: 563-557-8271, ext 3
Fairfield, Thursday evenings	Feb – March	Jefferson Co Extension / Coleen @ 641-472-4166
Fort Dodge, Saturday morn.	Jan 13-Feb 3	Yvonne @ 515-835-9326 or e-mail: Yvonne@iastate.edu
Fort Dodge, Sat. Advanced	Feb 3	Yvonne @ 515-835-9326 or e-mail: Yvonne@iastate.edu
Fredericksburg, Saturdays	Jan 20 - Jan 27	Mary Wiltgen @ 563-920-9628 / tmwiltgen@gmail.com
Indianola, Thursday evenings	Jan 25-Mar 15	Judy Spence: 515-988-8397 / Jespencejr44@gmail.com
Iowa Falls, Tuesday evenings	Jan 23-Jan 20	Rachael Koehler: 1-800-284-4823 / 641-752-4645
Keosauqua, Monday evenings	March	Van Buren Co Extension / 319-293-3039
Knoxville, Tuesday evenings	Jan 25 Mar 15	Jerry Weldon @ 641-842-5888 / Sheila 641-842-5888
Marshalltown, Thur. evening	Jan 24-Feb 28	Rachael Koehler: 800-284-4823/641-752-4645 / Room 612
Mason City, Saturday morning	Feb 3-Feb 24	NIACC Continuing Education: 641-422-4358
Mt Pleasant, Thursday evening	Feb1 –March 1	Henry Co Extension Office: 319-385-8126
Newton; Tues. evening	Jan 23	ISU extension: John Krzton-Presson 641-792-6433
Okoboji, Saturday-Sunday	Feb 10-11	nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com / 507-227-5919
Okoboji, Advanced –Sunday	May 6	nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com / 507-227-5919
Okoboji; Sunday	TBD	nwiabeekeepersclubresearch@gmail.com / 507-227-5919
Oskaloosa, Friday evenings	Jan 19-Mar 16	Tina / Jim Marshall @641-660-0983
Ottumwa, Tuesday evenings	Jan 16-Feb 27	Great Prairie Area Ed. Agency - Jen Daugherty 641-682-5491
Peosta, Thursday evenings	Jan 25-Mar 1	NICC Continuing Education: 563-557-8271, ext 380
Polk City, Saturday mornings	Feb 3-Feb 24	Ray Meylor 515-619-9014 / cherryglenfarmiowa@gmail.com
Sioux Center, Thurs. evening	Feb 1-Feb 22	712-722-6275 or duanebajema@dordt.edu
Toddville, Monday evenings	Jan 22-August	Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses@gmail.com
Toddville, Friday evenings	Jan 19 – August	Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses@gmail.com
Toddville, Advanced	March 3-4	Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses@gmail.com
Toddville, Queen Rearing	June 23-24	Shane Bixby @ 319-721-3493 or honeybeeclasses@gmail.com
Washington, Monday evening	Feb 5-Feb 27	Kirkwood Comm. College, 319-653-4655
Waterloo, Wed. evenings	Jan 10-April 18	Hawkeye Comm. College, 319-296-4290

Please note that not all of these courses are sponsored by the Iowa Honey Producers Association, and the information presented by the instructors is not necessarily endorsed by the IHPA. Additionally, none of the courses are sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship and the information presented by the instructors is not necessarily endorsed by IDALS.

Introducing one of our Summer Field Day speakers:



This is the time of year we all need to keep a watchful eye on our hives. Many hives will survive through the winter only to be lost in early spring. As spring approaches, it will start to warm, and your bees will become more active and seek food sources that are not abundant yet. Beekeepers must keep a watchful eye to ensure their colonies have the needed food sources.



If you would like to learn more about wintering your bees here in Iowa the IHPA Summer Field Day on June 30th in Sioux Center, IA will feature Phil Ebert from Ebert Honey, Lynnville, IA. Phil will speak on what is needed to successfully winter your hives here in Iowa.

Phil began Ebert Honey in 1980 with a small number of backyard hives and has grown into the 1000 hives he currently keeps, which no longer fit into his backyard. What started as a hobby became a family business. Throughout the years all the Ebert family has been involved in beekeeping, and today Phil's sons, Adam and Alex continue to work bees and to expand this family venture.

Honey is the main production goal of Ebert Honey producing over 180,000 pounds of honey each year which is sold in over 40 different grocery stores. Ebert Honey also offers honeycomb, beeswax, queens, and bees packages. For more information about this featured speaker can be found at eberthoney.com.

Erin Miller, IHPA Vice President

News from District 6--Dave Korver.

March is a big month. Like the old saying goes, "Ready, Set, Go!"

There are so many things a beek needs to have in order for spring. If you think about making splits in the spring, you have to have room for the bees you have, and you'll need a new location. If you are using a new hive body, or maybe a nuc box to start out in, you're going to need lots more frames. Another big thing to think about is do you have groceries lined up--winter patties, honey that they can get to, or fondant. Feeding sugar water too soon could be a problem in northwest Iowa (moisture buildup). That will come next month.

So you are getting ready for the race. One of the most important things to get ready is to start early to fight mites. They start slow and can build up very fast, so you need your mite treatment ready to go in as soon as you can. I can't help wondering, if we keep our mite loads down all summer, what would our bees would look like going into Fall, and how much honey can they put up? My goal is to finish first in the race against mites. Get the jump on those little buggers.

There is another aspect to beekeeping that we sometimes neglect as we run our race. Trees and forage sources are so important in the Spring. As a bee club in Northwest Iowa, one of our goals could be planting more trees and floral plants. Our club is working on partnering with groups like Pheasants Forever and Farm Bureau to find roadsides and other strips of land to plant into wild flowers so that our bees have spots to fuel up.

If our bees are going to win and get the Gold Medal (or should I say Gold Honey), we beeks have to start early to help them prepare. We have to encourage them to fight hard during the middle of the race this summer, and we have to help them after honey harvest to go into winter strong. Let's win against mites!

Dave Korver, District 6 Director



Thanks from Dave Korver, District 6 Director

So a woman calls the pharmacy and asks how to weigh the newborn baby.

The pharmacist says, "Often the mother holds the baby, steps on the scale, then lays the baby down and weighs herself, and then subtracts."

"That would not work," says the caller. "I'm not the mother. I'm the aunt."

I wonder if you could adapt that to a beginning bee class wondering how to determine the weight of a hive...



IOWA BEE CLUBS:

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

Contact: Jim & Tina Marshall
2923 Jones Ave
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641)-660-0983
marshalltmf@gmail.com

Boone River Beekeeping Club

Contact: Roy Kraft
(515) 293-2458
kroyster.rk@gmail.com or
Yvonne McCormick
(515) 835-9326
ISU Extension Office
217 S. 25th St
Ft. Dodge, IA 50501
Yvonne@iastate.edu

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

Contact Mike Sander
1104 Scenic View
Altoona, IA 50009
(515) 707-9951
masander3@gmail.com

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Ellen Bell
ellenbell.ia@gmail.com
10458 SE Vandalia Drive
Runnells, IA 50237
(515) 707-9951 or
Joe Villines
myascape@gmail.com

East Central Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Dave Irvin
2254 S. Riverside Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 351-6205

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa

Contact: Judy Spence
12839 Carpenter Trail
Carlisle, IA 50047
(515) 988-8397
jspencejr44@gmail.com

Great River Bend Beekeepers

Contact: David Hayes
1749 110th St.
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060
(563) 678-2862
prairiecreekfrm@netins.net

IowaBClub

Contact: Shane Bixby
Wickiup Hill Learning Center
10260 Morris Hill Rd.
Toddville, IA 52341
(319) 721-3493
IowaBclub.org

Loess Hills Beekeeping Association

Contact: Chris Ruhaak
15104 Pine Terrace Dr
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
402-681-8170
OLHBA@LoessHillsBA.com

North Iowa Bee Club

Contact: Randy Elsbernd
19050 Thrush Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 420-7297
randlejd2210@gmail.com

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Larry/Marlene Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, IA 51354
(712) 320-1907
Lm5kbees@gmail.com

Omaha Bee Club

Contact: Linn Danzer
235 E. Orchard Ave
Council Bluffs, IA
(402) 321-3754
upsbeeman@gmail.com

Quad City Beekeeping Club

Contact: Doug Dahlin
3504 Telegraph Road
Davenport 62804
(563) 340-7498
qcbeeclub@yahoo.com

Red Rock Beekeepers

Contact: Jerry/Sheila Weldon
210 N. Iowa St (Extension Off)
Knoxville, IA 50138
(641) 891-4071 or 891-2268
weldonjs@windstream.net

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Vernie Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535
(319) 498-4355
Vdramsey@netins.net

Southern Iowa Hive Handlers

Contact: Scott Kent
100 South Main
Osceola, IA 50213
(641) 414-1600
clarkeccb@gmail.com

Southwest Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4256
mbrahms@netins.net

Siouxland Beekeepers

Contact: Ron Rynders
890 13th Ave SE
Sioux Center, IA 51250
(712) 449-5010
rrihpa@gmail.com

Tama County Bee Keepers

Jim & Penny Dolezal
1460-370th Street Tama, Iowa 52339
(641) 751-2985 or 751-2566
busybeeacres@yahoo.com

Our Iowa Honey Queen:

Joy Westerkamp
joy@honeywarbee.com
Cell--[319-677-0514](tel:319-677-0514)

MERCHANDISE

We still have shirts, hats, cookbooks and aprons available for sale with some GREAT prices.

Adult T-Shirts \$5. Your T-Shirts \$2. IHPA Hats \$5. IHPA Apron \$8. Individual IHPA Cookbook \$4. IHPA Cookbook case (30 books) \$90 – that’s only \$3 per book. It typically costs about \$22 to ship a case to you. That is only **\$3.73** a book. These can be sold anywhere between \$5 and \$10 – with the profit going to you. What a great addition to your table/booth at upcoming farmers’ markets.

Postage for the T-Shirts is \$5 for one shirt, \$7.50 for two shirts, and \$10 for three shirts. For larger orders, we can e-mail you an invoice with the exact amount of postage once your order has shipped.

E-mail Rhonda at IHPATreasuer@gmail.com or send her a note with the sizes and colors. Remember, we may not have all sizes in all colors. So give us a 2nd choice in size and color.

Rhonda Heston, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton, IA 50049-8616

	IHPA T-Shirts Keep calm and Keep Bees Lime Green w/ black lettering _____ Yellow w/black lettering _____ Black w/ yellow lettering _____ Ash Grey w/black lettering _____ Pink w/ black lettering _____	Traditional Yellow with Black lettering _____ CAMO - with Blaze Orange lettering _____ VERY LIMITED ADULT SIZES Cookbook (1-29) \$4.00 _____ Hat \$5 _____ Cookbook (Case of 30) \$90.00 _____ Apron \$8 _____
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	Youth Sizes: (S) (M) (L) circle a size Qty. _____ X \$2.00 = \$ _____	
	Adult Sizes: (S) (M) (L) (XL) circle a size Qty. _____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____	
	Adult Sizes: (XXL) (XXXL) circle a size Qty. _____ X \$5.00 = \$ _____	

Won't you please join me?

Yes, you've likely noticed, there's a special day coming up this March. March 14 has been set aside as Iowa Honey Bee Day. This is a designated day when we can honor and appreciate this gentle insect and of course revel in their wonder.

We know their importance to our environment. We know their value to our food sources. We know their plight. Let us share our knowledge and passion with those in our legislature and members of the public. I would like to invite you to join me and other members of the IHPA board as well as other beekeepers as we proudly gather at the Iowa State Capitol in Conference Room 116 from 7 to 9 a.m. Check the Iowa Honey Producers Association website for a map of where to park and where to meet. Did I mention there will be Iowa State Fair honey lemonade and honey snacks available?

My fellow beekeepers, I cannot stress enough how important this event is for all Iowa beekeepers, whether you're a commercial beekeeper, a sideliner or a hobbyist, whether you are a member of the Iowa honey Producers Association or not. Linn Wilbur and Jamie Beyer committed hours to the creation of the proclamation and then saw it through for the benefit of the honeybee and you, the beekeeper. I hope you will join me at this important event.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President.

The IHPA Board Meeting will take place on Saturday, March 10 from 1 – 4 PM.

Location: Bankers Trust, Ruan Center, 453 7th Street, Des Moines.

Street and ramp parking available. All members are welcome.





Iowa Honey Producers Association



First Membership (\$20) Includes a one-year subscription to The Buzz Newsletter.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ - _____ County: _____ Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Number of Colonies: ____ Number of Years Beekeeping: ____ Company Name: _____

Additional Family Member (Same address, \$5)

Second Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Third Name: _____ Last Name: _____

To see when your IHPA membership expires, check the mailing label on The Buzz Newsletter. Above your name will be the month and year your membership is set to expire.

Example:

Buzz Expires: 12/31/17

John Smith
1234 Green Grass Rd.
Wonderful, IA 54321

Make checks payable to: **Iowa Honey Producers Association**
Send form and check to: c/o Rhonda Heston, Treasurer
52735 187th Avenue
Chariton, IA 50049
Phone: 515-724-2124

Total \$ _____



____ I prefer to read the paper copy, mailed to my house.

____ I prefer to read my copy at the iowahoneyproducers.org website

LAST BUZZ

Don't let this be your last BUZZ Newsletter.

Check the back of this Newsletter what is the expiration date printed above your name? Did your membership expire on 12/31/2017?

IF so, this will be your last newsletter, unless I receive your check by 2/28/2018. Annual dues are \$20 for the first beekeeper and \$5 for each additional beekeeper with the same mailing address. One Buzz Newsletter will be mailed per family membership. Please send your check and membership renewal form to Iowa Honey Producers' Association, c/o Rhonda Heston, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049-8616. The membership renewal form is quite important as this provides your current information for a new IHPA member directory that we want to produce prior to the Iowa State Fair.

Please email Rhonda at IHPATreasurer@gmail.com or call 515-724-2124, if you have paid your 2018 dues, but your newsletter doesn't reflect the expiration date of 12/31/2018.

North Iowa Beekeepers' Club Auction

The North Iowa Beekeepers' Club is having an auction of beekeeping equipment and poultry equipment!

Location: P & P Honey and Bee Supply Inc. Pat & Peggy Ennis
2105 110th St, Goodell, IA 50439

Date: April 28th, 2018, starting @ 10:00 AM

Auctioneer: Roy Kraft

We're looking for new or gently used beekeeping and poultry items! We all have some stuff in the shed or barn we don't use that would be of great benefit or value to someone else. So now is a great time to dust it off, repair, paint and bring it to the auction! All combs will be inspected before the auction. To consign your items, please call or e-mail Pat @ 515-293-2601 or pphoneyandbeesupply@gmail.com.

For a listing of items consigned to date, please call or e-mail Pat at the same.

Consignment rate: Before April 1st, - 10%; after April 1st, - 15%.

All auction proceeds will benefit the North Iowa Beekeepers' Club, with the purpose of educating and promoting beekeeping thru speakers and events to all the beekeepers throughout North Iowa.

Restrooms will be available (port a potties)

Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Bottled Water and Rolls, Baked Goods will be available for a donation/purchase.

Winter Blues Remedy

Are you experiencing the winter blues but don't want to spend an arm and a leg at a fancy spa? How about simplifying the experience and make your own herbal honey and sugar scrub? The almond oil and essential oils required can all be found at Wal-mart in the vitamin aisle (top shelf); rosemary and lavender in the spice aisle (plan to grow your own in the spring for future use). You'll have enough to share with a friend or family member.

Herbal Honey & Sugar Scrub

2 cups sugar

2/3 cup honey

1 tablespoon sweet almond oil

½ teaspoon rosemary essential oil

½ teaspoon lavender essential oil

2 tablespoons dried lavender

1 tablespoon dried rosemary

Mix the sweet almond oil, sugar and honey together. Add the essential oils, then herbs and mix together. Spoon into small craft jars. Tie a ribbon around lid and share the experience with someone you know.

If for yourself, smooth over face gently in a circular motion, forehead to chin and neck; let soak in for 15 minutes or longer, then splash off with warm water. Why not really enjoy the moment and soak your feet in hot water and lavender scented Epsom salt. Maybe you light a few candles, turn on some soothing music (Nora Jones for me) and sip on a glass of wine. Ahhh, sounds like a fine time to me ... and you don't need to wait for the weekend.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The Summer Field Day date and location has been set. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 30th at Dordt College located in Sioux Center, IA. We will be featuring an ALL IOWA line-up of speakers. Join Commercial Beekeepers Curt Bronnenberg, Phil Ebert, Bob Fassbinder, and our State Apriarst Andy Joseph. We will also be featuring our Iowa Honey Queen, Joy Westerkamp.

Dordt College is located at 498 4th Avenue NE, Sioux Center. We will be located in the Science, and Technology Center. Local lodging includes: Holiday Inn Express 712-722-3500, the Econo Lodge 712-722-4000, and camping at the Sandy Hollow Recreation Area (reservations: www.mycountyparks.com/county/sioux/asp). If you are interested in camping, camping sites fill quickly and should be able to be reserved soon. More details and registration information to come in the following months.

Erin Miller, IHPA Vice President

Annual Meeting & Conference – Friday & Saturday, November 9 & 10, Scheman Building, Ames, Iowa

If you are an IHPA member and have a bee club meeting or event you would like added to our event calendar, please send your detailed information to iha1912@gmail.com

Emma Jakes' Honey Recipes:

Most of those beekeeping classes are now in full swing and if your class is anything like mine, you all love those yummy cookies, bars, brownies, and nice hot drinks. So why not make some delicious honey peanut butter cookies for all those hungry beekeepers? And for all those days when you're snowed in and can't make it to class, why not have a delicious skillet full of fried apples all to yourself? (I am not saying I condone hoarding all the apples just for you... although you might want to and I won't tell anybody if you do.)

Honey Peanut Butter Cookies (Pg. 77)

1/2 cup shortening or butter	1 cup peanut butter
1 cup local honey	2 eggs, lightly beaten eggs
3 cups all-purpose flour	1 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt	Preheat oven to 350 degrees

In a bowl, mix shortening, peanut butter and honey. Add egg; mix well. Combine flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder and salt; add to peanut butter mixture and mix well. Roll into 1 to 1/2 inch balls and place on ungreased baking sheet. Flatten with a fork dipped in flour. Bake 8-10 minutes or until set. Remove to wire rack to cool.

Emma's notes: Yum! My club said that the cookies were "Very good". 8 minutes will keep the cookies soft but not under-cooked. 10 minutes will make the cookies crisper. They would also be very good with chocolate chips or raisins added. This recipe also works well with whole wheat flour or half white and half wheat. Try it and share with your family, friends, club, or just eat them all yourself!

Fried Apples (Pg. 124)

5 to 6 apples (peeled, cored and sliced)	1 tablespoon margarine or butter
1-2 tablespoons honey	1/4 to 1/3 cup red hot cinnamon candies

Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add prepared apples, honey and red hot candies. Cook apples until tender and red hot candies are dissolved. To speed cooking cover and stir occasionally. Serve hot or cold.

Emma's notes: This recipe was really fast to make. It took about 15 minutes to cook and dissolve the candies. Different apples will soften at different rates. I had a mixture of several different kinds of apples and I had some that had turned to mush while others were still pretty firm. Also, different apples have different sweetnesses so for some kinds they may taste

Baking with Honey

--Emma Jakes is not only known in the state of Iowa for her excellent reviews of delectables made with honey, she's now reached the national level! You go girl! If you are in the kitchen this winter and want to give one of your favorite recipes a try, you can substitute honey for sugar in most recipes. You'll want to keep the following in mind:

--Use 1/3 to 3/4 cup of honey for each cup of sugar called for in the recipe.

--Reduce the liquid by 1/4 cup for each cup of sugar replaced.

--Reduce the baking temperature by 25 degrees. Note: honey will make your baked items brown more easily. Keep an eye on your pie.

--If the recipe does not call for baking soda, add 1/4 tsp for each cup of sugar replaced. (lowers the acidity to ensure a good rise).

--Will using honey versus sugar affect the flavor of a recipe? Yes, but it will likely be minimal if you use lighter flavored honeys such as clover or tupelo. If you are looking for a stronger flavor for your breads, consider using buckwheat or chestnut.

--If your cookies, pie or bread is gone before you know it, hang on to the recipe and consider using it as an entry in the cooking contest at November's Annual Meeting and Conference.

Eve VandenBroek, IHPA President.

Beeks of the Month (March)

I first got an interest in keeping bees when I saw beekeeping supplies in Bomgaars along with a flyer with questions and answers about keeping bees. Seeing bees at the Plymouth County Fair in an observation hive got the buzz going a little bit more. Talking to a co-worker at work, I found out his brother used to work at Dadant and a phone call got me in touch with Jim there who shared a catalog and information on Beginning Beekeeping classes at Dordt College.

I'm a big reader and had been reading nothing but bee books for 9 months. One of the things I read was to talk to your neighbors before you got bees. Living in the country, I didn't think neighbors would have any problems at all. When I talked to one neighbor lady at a church event down the road from our place about this, she said, 'We have bees in the church here. Talk to the pastor about them.' This turned into a cut out with another beekeeper from LeMars in April after my wife, Barb, and I had taken the class at Dordt College. What an amazing feeling to get your hands down into a hive under the choir loft floor boards that were 16" wide by 12" deep and 8 1/2' long! Cutting out honey comb and brood comb that had been in there for years was very thrilling!

I've enjoyed building my own equipment - hive bodies, frames, bottom boards and covers. The bees don't seem to mind how these things turn out. Building an 8-frame observation hive became more of a challenge. With the help of perfectionist, Jeff Fylstra, another beekeeper I work with, the observation hive turned out great. It has been to several schools and county fairs in northwest Iowa.

I always enjoy showing the bee hives to anyone who is interested. Troy Pratt is an 8-year-old neighbor who came to help do an inspection one day. I told him that the bees communicate by smell and that the smoker we were using helped to disrupt that communication. As he puffed the smoker when needed, he kept saying he was communicating with the bees. He enjoyed handling the frames and even taking some inside and extracting some honey to take home. His mom says she would like to have bees someday.

Two full years of beekeeping, many jars of honey, lots of stings and all the sharing of knowledge about bees with family, friends and other beekeepers has been part of a wonderful journey in this life that God has provided for us.

Dean Johnson, Adaville Honey Company, Merrill, Iowa

Quiz Time:

1. How much honey does a bee make in her short lifetime?
 - A. 1 tablespoon
 - B. 2 tablespoons
 - C. ½ teaspoon
2. One pound of honey is made from the nectar of how many flowers? .
 - A. 2,000
 - B. 2 million
 - C. 20 million
3. One pollen granule, what you see the worker bee bringing into the hive, contains how many pollen grains?
 - A. 5,000 to 10,000
 - B. 10,000 to 50,000
 - C. 100,000 to 5,000,000
4. An apitherapist is:
 - A. Someone who represents the beekeepers of their state
 - B. A trained professional who administers bee stings to a patient
 - C. A practitioner who will help diagnose diseases of the hive

Answers located on the bottom of Page 16.



FOR SALE:

2 or 3 pound packages of Italian bees with queen "bred-to-be-gentle" from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. Great for beginners. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, IA in mid-April. All orders must be received by February 28, 2018. Contact Douglas Child at phone [319-634-3682](tel:319-634-3682) or at childbees@gmail.com.

Russians For Sale: Foley's Russian bees is now taking orders for the 2018 season

Russian Queens 1-9 are \$38 each, discounts for larger orders

5 frame Russian nuc \$152 each

3 pound Carniolan packages \$121

2 pound Carniolan packages \$100

Complete hive kits \$220

To place an order, visit us on the web at www.RussianBee.com

For Sale:

5-frame medium nucs, local and anklebiter blood lines, limited amount. Available 1st of June. Also, complete hives—8-frame, mediums, with bees included. June 1st. Pick up in Decorah, Ia. Phone-[563-419-0877](tel:563-419-0877) or gmhunter@neitel.net

FOR SALE:

Package Bees—2#- \$99 to \$93 depending on quantity plus tax and cage deposit; 3#-\$123 to \$117 plus tax and deposit. Nucs \$155; Single story colonies \$180. Package bee pickup is in Lynnville. Nucs and singles can be picked up in either Lynnville or Mt Vernon. We also have new boxes and assembled frames for sale along with syrup, protein patties, hive tools and veils. Used 3/8 Steelply Plywood. 3x6 sheets-- \$3.50 each. This stuff lasts forever. Check our website www.eberthoney.com Contact Phil at [641-527-2639](tel:641-527-2639) or ehoney37@netins.net Contact Adam at [319-430-3514](tel:319-430-3514) or fiddler171j@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

Will have a few nucs for sale in the Spring. The nucs will have locally mated survivor queens.
Rhonda & Steve Heston South 6 Apiary [515-724-2124](tel:515-724-2124)

For Sale: Iowa Overwintered Five Frame Nucs (Limited Quantity) **Five-frame nucs** with young laying queen, brood, honey and pollen--\$160. \$60 deposit required. \$100 balance due at pick up in May at our farm located in Waterloo Ia. Pre-order 2018 Queens for \$35. Information and questions please contact us at <https://www.facebook.com/silverlakefarmwaterlooia/> Please include your name, address, telephone number, # of nucs and/or queens, type of Queens and whether marked or not. You can pay with the cad on our website Silverlakehoney.weebly.com or with the check by mail: Silver Lake Farm and Honey 11 Silver Lake Dr. ,Waterloo, Ia 50702

P & P HONEY AND BEE SUPPLY, GOODELL, IA

Packages: 3 # packages w/Italian queens. \$116.00 each +tax & dept. Pick up in early to mid April in Goodell, IA.

Nucs: 5-frame nucs w/Italian queens, ready for pick up from Goodell, mid May, weather permitting.

Queens: We will have California queens available mid April, \$32.00 ea.

We will also have our own, Iowa raised queens, from June – September, \$40.00. VHS/Ankle Biter traits.

Corn syrup: .40/lb, 500 lb for .35/lb

Pollen patties: \$2.00 ea / \$70.00 case

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Beekeeping Equipment: our own, sturdily made, bottom boards, inner covers, and covers, plus all your beekeeping needs.

To order or info, please contact or text Pat and Peggy @ 641-444-4767 or pphoneandbeesupply@gmail.com

We're on Facebook too!

For Sale:

Northern California 2lb. and 3lb. packages with unmarked Italian, Carniolan, or Buckfast queens

2lb. Price: Qty 1-9= \$107/ea, Qty 10-99= \$105/ea, Qty 100+= \$101/ea (plus IA Sales Tax)

3lb. Price: Qty 1-9= \$126/ea, Qty 10-99= \$122/ea, Qty 100+= \$117/ea (plus IA Sales Tax)

Georgia 3lb. packages with unmarked Italian queens—Price: Qty 1-9= \$122/ea, Qty 10-99= \$117/ea, Qty 100+= \$112/ea (plus IA Sales Tax)

*No cage deposits or credits

5-frame nucs from Northern California (Italian or Carniolan queens) arriving approximately April 21st—Price: Qty 1-9= \$160/ea, Qty 10-99= \$150/ea, Qty 100+= \$140/ea (plus IA Sales Tax)

Pick-up in Iowa City, IA or Sullivan, WI

Loads arriving weekly from late March through mid-May (specific dates are weather dependent)

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timwilbanksbees@gmail.com

www.heritagehoneybee.com

Quiz Answers--

1. C

2. B

3. C

4. B

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Email: busybeeacres@yahoo.com

Facebook: Busy Bee Acres

March is a big month. Like the old saying goes, "Ready, Set, Go!"

There are so many things a beek needs to have in order for spring. If you think about making splits in the spring, you have room for the bees you have to have a new location. If you are using a new hive body, or maybe a nuc box to start out in, you're going to need lots more frames. Another big thing to think about is do you have groceries lined up--winter patties, honey that they can get to, or fondant. Feeding sugar water too soon could be a problem in northwest Iowa (moisture buildup). That will come next month.

So you are getting ready for the race. One of the most important things to get ready is to start early to fight mites. They start slow and can build up very fast, so you need your mite treatment ready to go in as soon as you can. I can't help wondering, if we keep our mite loads down all summer, what would our bees would look like going into Fall, and how much honey can they put up. My goal is to finish first in the race against mites. Get the jump on those little buggers.

There is another aspect to beekeeping that we sometimes neglect as we run our race. Trees and forage sources are so important in the Spring. As a bee club in Northwest Iowa, one of our goals could be planting more trees and Fall plants. Our club is working on partnering with groups like Pheasants Forever and Farm Bureau to find roadsides and other strips of land to plant into wild flowers so that our bees have spots to fuel up.

If our bees are going to win and get the Gold Medal (or should I say Gold Honey), we beeks have to start early to help them prepare. We have to encourage them to fight hard during the middle of the race this summer, and we have to help them after honey harvest to go into winter strong. Let's win against mites!

Dave Korver, IHPA District 6 Director



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Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to rrihpa@gmail.com

Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250 Cell 712-449-5010

The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

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The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
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