



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



March 2012

Summer Field Day
June 16th 2012



Featured Beekeeper of the Month Pg5
CIBA Annual Auction Pg6
IHPA Summer Field Day Pg8 & 9



March 23rd— Southwest Iowa Beekeepers Meet
April 21st—CIBA Annual Auction.
May 6th—IHPA Board Meeting, 2pm.
June 15th—Master Class Twilight Meeting
June 16th—IHPA Field Day (Board meeting to follow.) **New Date!**
August 9th-19th—Iowa State Fair
September 9th—IHPA Board Meeting, 2pm.
November 15th—IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm.
November 16-17th—IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA



FOR SALE: Package Bees for Sale
Spring Valley Honey Farms 2 pound or 3
pound Italian or Carniolan.

We will be shaking packages out of our
own hives with California Queens from
April 5th through April 30th depending on
weather and Queen Availability.

Also we will bring in a load Mid April
from California. Prices are not set but ap-
proximately \$75.00 to \$80.00 No deposit
to book packages or on cages.

To book packages call
Home 515-465-5939
Curt 515-480-6075
Pat 515-293-2601

Beekeeping Supplies
Spring Valley Honey Farms will be keep-
ing a fairly complete line of Beekeeping
supplies from February through June. No
set business hours so call with your needs.
515-465-5939

For Sale: 5 frame Nuc with an Italian
Queen - \$100.00 Also a few singles
also with an Italian Queen - \$135.00
Nuc and singles will be ready for pick
up May 12. Koehnen Queens \$22.50
available mid April pick up at my
house, For more info, call Pat Ennis @
1-515-293-2601. 4/12

Help Wanted

Energetic person Full or Part time
willing to work with lots of bees.

Contact Curt Bronnenberg
@ 515-480-6075

FOR SALE: Package bees We will
have 2#, 3# and 4# pkgs with your
choice of Carniolan or Italian queens.
The 4# can come with either one or
two queens. Available in April. Check
our web site for dates and current pric-
ing. www.eberthoney.com

Call 641-527-2639 or e-mail
ehoney37@netins.net

For Sale: Local built, complete bee
hives, with screened bottom boards w/
entrance reducer, 2 brood chambers,
20 deep frames, 1 honey super, 10 me-
dium frames, 1 inner cover, 1 outer
cover with metal covering, \$160.00.
Individual components or custom parts
available. We build queen rearing
components to your specs, or we can
build what we use for you. Also,
weather depending, we will be offer-
ing local raised queens around the be-
ginning of June. More information and
orders can be made @ 319-400-4228,
ask for Paul Gardner or
PreciousBeesFarm@aol.com
Paul Gardner
1828 Y Ave.
Homestead, Iowa 52236. 6/12

FOR SALE: Small steam generator
without heating element. Also avail-
able--the inner tank for a 20 frame
Betterway Wax Melter.

Contact Ike Pfantz in Newton
641-792-6032

For Sale: New unassembled brood
boxes--value grade and commercial.
Contact us for pricing.

Available in both
Lynnvile (641-527-2639 or
ehoney37@netins.net) and
Cedar Rapids (319-430-3514 or
fiddler171j@gmail.com).
We also have some used brood boxes
for sale in Lynnvile.

PART TIME JOB: The position is at
Iowa State. The main activities will
involve:

- driving around to about 3-4 bee yards
- setting up new hives, including in-
stalling packages
- feeding bees and other basic hive
maintenance
- monitoring hives and doing mite
treatments
- sampling bees using forceps (inside
the hive) and bee vacuums (outside the
hive)
- collecting brood frames and incubat-
ing them for experiments
- paint marking bees

The job will be about 15-20 hours a
week, starting in April and going
through August. Pay will depend on
previous experience.

If interested, contact Amy Toth at ISU.
Her e-mail is amytoth@iastate.edu

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Alex W. Ebert by email to TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102nd Ave. E., 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 Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

Greetings from the President

Hello Everyone, The milder weather seems to be holding on for the most part. We have had a couple of nice snows and some rain that will help a little with the ground moisture. In Iowa, with the deep fertile top soil, a dry year is much better than a wet year for honey production. Soil types are obviously different in other areas of the state and areas with sandy soil, such as south of Iowa City and the Muscatine area probably suffers more in the dry times. Dry weather and heat have brought on the best honey flows in my area anyway.

I tip up the top box of my one Iowa colony on these nice sunny days and it is very light and the cluster is shrinking. Even on the very warm days the bees are not touching the syrup in the feeder and they are not interested in the pollen patty, so I'm thinking they are probably Queenless. So far I haven't taken the time to light a smoker and actually check for the brood because there is really nothing I can do except wait till spring.

I started having second thoughts about a question and answer section because many beekeeping questions require some fairly complex answers. So many variables can affect the answering process. Different attitudes and management schemes need to be considered as well as weather conditions, genetics of queens, location of the colony and the list of variables could go on and on. I didn't receive any comments or disagreements on last month's answers but also didn't receive any questions for this month. I guess I'm off the hook for this month but I am still willing to give each question my best shot. You can E-mail questions to cbronny823@aol.com in the subject line - Buzz Questions and Answers.

Bob Wolff mentioned to me at the last board meeting that he wanted to Issue a challenge to see which Regional Iowa Bee Club could have the most State Fair apiary class entries this year.

Hopefully more information on the challenge will be out soon. Pat and I are going to offer a three frame nuc to each observation hive entry that is accepted up to the point the space is filled. I felt the need to offer this because it is tough on a hive to pull the queen. This nuc will give the entrant an option to re-queen the queenless hive. I would like to come up with some more incentives that could be offered to get more people interested. Andy Joseph suggested possibly giving one of the stainless steel 100th anniversary hive tools to each person who has an entry, or possibly a minimum of 3, or even 5 entries. It's still in the planning stage so far but we will keep working on it. That "Questions" email address can be used for suggestions if any of you come up with any brilliant ideas. Actually they don't even have to be brilliant. I'm happy to listen to any suggestions or ideas. Pat has been busy getting the field day lined up for June 16th so plan ahead and put that date on your calendar. There will be an advanced beekeeping class Friday evening, the day before the field day. We'll try to have plenty of information for both the beginner and the more seasonal beekeeper. We are planning some interesting activities for the afternoon (bee beard) and even hope to get some media attention. Spring is coming so be ready!

Curt Bronnenberg

IHPA Committee Chairs

Here is a list of committee chairs, so if you see a committee you are interested in contact the chairperson and participate. Chairs listed below.

Youth Mentoring Chair

Mike Brahms

100th Anniversary of IHPA Chair

Donna Brahms

Promotions Chair

Julie Swett

State Fair Sales Booth Chair

Donna Brahms

Annual Meeting & Field Day Chair

Pat Ennis

Membership Chair

Melanie Bower

Historical Chair

Peggy Ennis

Honey Queen Chair

Connie Bronnenberg

Legislative Chair

Bob Wolff

Awards Chair

Curt Bronnenberg

Bee Emergency Chair

Vern Ramsey

For Sale: Package Bees

The package will consist of bottom board, 9 5/8 - 10 frame hive body with bees and 9 frames, entrance reducer, insulated inner lid and metal outer lid. New Italian queen. This is new equipment. The total for this hive package will be \$195.00 This same package with used equipment will be \$160.00 It is painted used equipment in good condition. I will need a \$45.00 deposit when you order and the package will be ready for you to pick up mid May at Monticello, Iowa barring weather conditions.

We also have 5 frame nucs with new queen for \$98.00. Deposit of \$30.00 required. (No frame exchange) Our bee yards are inspected by Iowa Bee inspectors. I will only be selling 30 package hives this year. I have 40+ years experience in beekeeping.

Send deposit to Curtis Barnhart, P. O. Box 70, Monticello, IA 52310 with your name, address and phone number that you can be reached at. I am out of town until March 24. You can call and leave a message at my office (American Supply)
Or autum49@yahoo.com
Thank you.
Curtis Barnhart
319 465-6655

6/12

Southwest Iowa Beekeepers Meet

January 27th the Southwest Iowa Beekeepers met in Atlantic. We have started meeting quarterly and it seems to work great for beekeepers. A beginning beekeeping class is being held in Glenwood with over 60 people attending. Andy Joseph was the speaker. He answered many questions and presented helpful tips for beekeepers for the coming spring. Our next meeting will be on March 23rd in Atlantic at the Feedlot Restaurant located at the intersection of Highway 83 and Highway 71. For any information contact Mike or Donna Brahms.

2012 IHPA Membership and The Buzz

To be included in the 2012 IHPA Membership Directory, your 2012 dues must be paid by March 1, 2012. The membership list will be sent to the printers shortly after that date.

April 2012 will be the last issue of the Buzz that will be mailed to members who have not paid their 2012 dues. The expiration date is located above your name on the Buzz.

The first membership for 2012 is still \$10.00 and \$5.00 for each additional family member that would like a membership and is living at the same address.

Membership dues for 2013 will be \$20.00 for the first membership and \$5.00 for each additional family member that would like a membership and is living at the same address.

Please send your dues to: IHPA, Melanie Bower, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, Iowa 50315-5227.

Melanie Bower
Treasurer

THE 2012 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE IHPA

I think it would be nice to have a Beekeeping Question and Answer section in the Buzz, so if you would like to submit a Question please e-mail to cbronny823@aol.com and use the Subject line Buzz Question and Answer. It will help me with ideas for subjects to write about for my Presidents Column.

Thank You.
Have Fun, Work Hard,
and Bee Involved.

Curt Bronnenberg

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March Update: New IHPA Cookbook

The "new" Iowa Honey Recipe cookbook was created in 1999. Many great honey cooks have joined our membership since that date. It is time to publish a new cookbook. The sales of the current cookbook have increased dramatically, so a new cookbook seemed like the thing to do.

The past several issues of the BUZZ have had the recipe submission form printed in them. To date, we don't have enough recipes to complete a new cookbook. It isn't quite spring yet, so if every member would take the time to submit just one recipe (or more!) we would have a great selection to produce the cookbook. Don't worry about the submission date of five days on the form. The forms come from the pub-

lisher and it was printed on it. Don't wait too long we would like to have this book ready for sale at the state fair. Please send your recipes to Donna Brahms, Deb Nielson, Peggy Ennis, Julie Swett, Regina Hoy or any officer or board member. Our addresses and emails are listed on the back of the BUZZ. Please help us make this cookbook a book of the entire organization by submitting your favorite honey recipe. We would like to have them by the end of March.

Please use this form to submit your recipes for use in the New IHPA Cookbook. The form can be downloaded from the link below, make copies as

needed. Send completed forms to: Donna Brahms, 14922 535th Street, Griswold, IA 51535, (712) 778-4256, mbrahms@netins.net

THE BEEYARD REPORT

Days in the 60's--unbelievable for January!! Alex went through several yards at the end of January and beginning of February. One yard had five colonies that were either dead

or going to die. The others have none dead or one dead. The colonies Adam had made up from his queen yard were 10% dead. That is to be expected. It is very difficult to get the right age distribution in those when we combine the bees from the mating nucs. It is still early. March is when the bees really start to die but I am hopeful.

We are preparing equipment for the potential upside. We have repaired about 100 brood boxes that have been stacked up around here for the last couple of years. We have a pallet of honey boxes left to go through. We have ordered 2500 preassembled frames with foundation and some new brood boxes. Pallet building is on the schedule. If things continue to look good, we will have bees to load our mating nucs much earlier than normal. I have already booked a number of nucs and am

going to book some more. I hope things don't crash. I have had other springs when things fell apart late. This whole business is like going to the casino. We roll the dice every year.

All of the colonies we treated with MAQS are still alive and looking good. I may get those strips used up yet. If you recall the cover photo from last month, that is what the MAQS colonies look like. The colony on the far right was queenless after treatment. I gave them a new queen soon after treatment. They appear to be doing well. March is the month that tells the tale. Bees don't live as long as they used to. Quite often colonies that look good at the end of February are dead or near dead by the end of March. Given the winter we have had, I am hopeful this will not happen this year. The bees have had minimum stress. We have seen no spotting at all. The ones we pulled frames on at the end of January were beginning to brood up.

I visited recently with Jim Long who runs bees in the North Platte area. Their numbers are up and they have only lost 20% since splitting last spring. That's pretty good. Our normal cull in the fall is 15% to 20%.

I had some trouble with irregular heart beat during the holidays. I spent Christmas in the ICU at the Grinnell hospital. My Christmas turkey is still in the freezer. After being on meds for a month, they zapped my heart with an electric shock and got me back into rhythm. I am still on meds but am feeling good for the present. I found it somewhat ironic that Lee Heine and I had problems at approximately the same time. I don't know how old Lee is but we have to be close.

I had a visit from the Iowa Chapter of the Institute of Food Technologists on Feb 16. There were about twenty five in the group.

There were a number of students from Iowa State and their professor. The rest of the group was made up of people from various companies.

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

My name is Kelsey Martin and I go to Gladbrook – Reinbeck High School. I love to draw, read, and listen to music. My favorite subject by far is anything dealing with art, I love it. I have a sister - Hannah, mom - Malissa, and dad - Matt. My hobbies include drawing, being an active member as president in our local 4-H group, and playing soccer and cross country.



Kelsey Martin suited up and checking in on her honeybees.

Last summer I worked at the beekeeping stand at the Iowa State Fair, it was a neat experience and I got to hear many stories from some of the people I worked with. I plan on going to Iowa State University to study interior design. Beekeeping has been a new and interesting thing that I have learned thanks to my amazing mentor, Tim. He has helped me so much and I know it would have been a lot more difficult to do this without him. Beekeeping has been really cool and awesome experience for me and I cannot wait to do it again this year, hopefully I get even more honey than last time!

Submitted by Ron Wehr

Be ready for spring. Preparation time is at hand!!

Submitted by Phil Ebert



CENTRAL IOWA BEEKEEPER'S ANNUAL AUCTION

The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction

*is being held on April 21st 2012 at 10:00
a.m. on hwy 141, 1 block west of the hospi-
tal in Perry, Iowa.*

*Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have gra-
ciously offered the use of their "in town
honey house". There will be food, hot cof-
fee, etc. available and restrooms.*

We are in need for consigners and buyers!!

*Now is the perfect time to clean, sort, and
sell equipment and make a few bucks, or to
buy up some good beekeeping equipment!!*

*Take a look around and please email me
your list of items you wish to consign.
If you would like to have the list of the con-
signed items, please send me your email
and I will email the list to you in mid April.*

*Consignment fee is 10% if consigned before
the date of March 20th, and 15% thereafter.
All drawn comb will be inspected.*

There will be signs posted on Highway 141

SOLD! Pat Ennis
515-293-2601
Flat_lander@lycos.com



HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!!

CENTRAL IOWA BEEKEEPERS AUCTION - APRIL 21 2012

PERRY IOWA @ 10:00 AM

CONSIGNER 1

12 DEEP BOXES; 20 6 5/8 SUPERS AND OTHER
MISC. STUFF

CONSIGNER 2

MANY 1 GAL FEEDERS; 2 PALLETS OF DEEP AND
ILLINOIS WOOD FRAMES; 20 ILLINOIS SUPERS;
ROSS ROUND SUPERS W/FRAMES; MANY INNER
COVERS -COVERS - BOTTOM BOARDS; A FEW
DEEP BOXES AND NUC BOXES; 2 BRAND NEW
COMPLETE HIVES INCLUDES: 2 DEEPS W/PLASTIC
FRAMES AND FEEDER - 2 ILLINOIS SUPERS W/
PLASTIC FRAMES - INNER COVER AND COVER.

CONSIGNER 3

50 EMPTY DEEPS; QUEEN EXCLUDERS; EMPTY
NUCS BOXES; BOTTON BOARDS; INNER COVERS
AND COVERS; MUCH MISC EQUIPMENT; HOT BOX
FOR LIQUIFYING BARREL OF HONEY, INSULATED
(4 X 4 X 8).

CONSIGNER 4

20 INNER COVERS; 20 COVERS; 20 BOTTOM
BOARDS; USED 4 FRAME HAND CRANK EXTRAC-
TOR.
2 USED HIVE KITS INCLUDING: 2 DEEPS WITH A
DIVISION BOARD FEEDER AND 18 WOOD FRAMES
W/FOUNDATION, INNER COVER, COVER AND BOT-
TOM BOARD & 2 SHALLOW SUPERS W/WOOD
FRAMES AND FOUNDATION.

COSIGNER 5

2 HIVE BODIES; 2 COVERS; 3 SUPERS W/NEW
FOUNDATION; 10 PAILS AND MISC.

CONSIGNER 6

60 + USED DEEP WOOD FRAMES W/PLACTIC
FOUNDATION; 60 + USED MED WOOD FRAMES W/
PLASTIC FOUNDATIN; 100 + USED MED WOOD
FRAMES; 1 REFRACTOMETER; 1 MANN LAKE
PLASTIC UNCAPPING TANK.

CONSIGNER 7

48 6 5/8 NEW SUPERS WITH 10 FRAMES W/WIRED
WAX FOUNDATION READY TO GO.

**THIS IS A PARTIAL LIST TO DATE, HOPING TO
ADD MORE AS THE AUCTION DATE NEARS.
THE LIST WILL BE UPDATED ON THE 19TH OF
APRIL, E-MAIL PAT ENNIS IF YOU WISH TO
HAVE ONE.**

Iowa Honey Queen

On a frigid morning in February, thirty some honeybee enthusiasts, some on their second year, packed into a North Iowa Area Community College classroom to learn from one of the most vivacious and passionate beekeepers in Iowa. At the head of this class? None other than Pat Ennis.

It is obvious to all that Pat Ennis not only likes his job, but that he loves it and lives it every day, and the people are absolutely captivated by him. Held bright and early on each Saturday morning, people rush to get a good seat, as seating quickly turns into standing room only. Energetically and enthusiastically, he conducts an interactive class, geared toward the 'newbee', while also skillfully including more advanced course work for the experienced beekeeper.

Off to the side, beaming proudly, one can find Pat's sweet, supportive wife, Peggy Ennis. "The brains of the operation," as Pat would say; Peggy, though she doesn't personally help teach the class, has a very active role in the classroom. Her addition to the class is manifested in the clever, informative decoration around the room, fabulous cooking, and helpful personality.

Whether she's passing around photos or helping people with door prizes, it is clear that Peggy is an irreplaceable asset to the class.

Pat, fully capable of teaching the class himself, happily and generously shares the spotlight with a variety of different beekeepers during the class. Eli, Dale, and Jim shared their insight, offering helpful perspectives and friendly responses. Additionally, Nathan, an active 4-H member and honeybee advocate, also added to the class's environment by conducting a honey experiment. He prepared two different types of bars, one with honey and one without, to prove the baking benefits of honey by having class members judge the bars on their taste, appearance, and flavor. And not only did Pat include these beekeepers in the instruction of the class, but also me, the Iowa Honey Queen, a novice beekeeper myself, having only five years of experience. My mother, Jackie, and I, had a fabu-



At the head of this class? None other than Pat Ennis.

lous time. The people in the class were fantastic and welcoming, chatting with me during breaks and making me feel welcome. I had the opportunity to give a presentation about the Bee Scholar Youth Mentor Program and my experiences through it, and also about becoming the Iowa Honey Queen and the adventures I've had thus far.

If you're ever in the Mason City neighborhood, driving by NIACC, drop by and catch Pat and Peggy Ennis' excellent bee class – it's an opportunity you won't want to pass up!

I hope you're having a delightful month, Iowa Beekeepers! Again, please do not hesitate to contact the Queen Chair, Connie Bronnenberg to schedule me into one of your events. If there was any way I could come and "bee" helpful, I'd love to do so! I hope to see you around the state! Please keep me in mind.

Bee Happy and Stay Safe!

Renae M. Beard
2012 Iowa Honey Queen



Pat Ennis and 2012 Iowa Honey Queen Renae Beard

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100th Year Anniversary 1912-2012

Summer Field Day June 16th 2012

Spring Valley Honey Farm

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Perry, Iowa 50220

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www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com

“Feature guest speaker Larry Connor Ph.D.”

www.wicwas.com, speaker and teacher of intermediate and advanced beekeeping, a writer for “Bee Culture” & “American Bee Journal” as well as many of his own books,

Field Day Topics:

Queen Rearing introduction, Keys to Wintering Bees, Hive Products & Field Session with Live Bees! (Bring your bee suit) Larry Connor will also have his new book, “Bee-sentials” here!

We will also have a “bee beard” live demo!!

Come join us for the fun starting with registration at 8:30 am, and the field day starting at 9:00 am until 3:30pm.

A noon potluck will take place, please bring a dish to pass. The IHPA will provide BBQ chicken, tableware, honey lemonade, bottle water and coffee.

Registration information:

Registration cost will be \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members.

Pre-registration to:

Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasure, 207 S. E. Diehl,

Des Moines, IA. 50315

Phone (515) 287-6542

Email: melrb@msn.com

You can also register at the field day.

Any questions, please contact Pat Ennis @ 515-293-2601

Iowa Honey Producers - Pollinating Iowa for 100 years

GREAT NEWS FOR THE SUMMER FIELD DAY!!!

Hello to everyone! Hope everyone is having a great spring. This mild winter has been great for the heating bills, and easier on the bees. Check your bees to be sure they have adequate stores of food. It's a sad thing to have the bees make it this far only to starve to death for lack of food this close to spring. By this writing, the brood rearing is well underway, and the bees will need a pollen and nectar/ food source.

I have great news for our Annual Summer Field Day!

NOTE THE DATE CHANGE TO JUNE 16TH

As I was working on speakers for our annual meeting, I contacted Larry Connor. He could not come to our annual meeting, but mention this summer possibly. To make a long story short, he will be coming to Iowa as our speaker/guest for our summer field day, and he also wanted to have a limited attendance advanced class for Friday afternoon/evening, June 15th! (See the details below). I am fired up about Larry's' coming to Iowa and this opportunity. What a great way to celebrated 100 years of beekeeping in Iowa!! I hope you take every opportunity to attend this event. Oh yea, don't forget about the "bee beard"!!! Do I see any volunteers??? YES I DO!!!!

BEE HAPPY!!!!

Pat Ennis VP, IHPA

“Master Class Twilight Meeting”

By Larry Connor, Ph. D. www.wicwas.com

Larry Connor will be holding a meeting/class Friday night, June 15th for a limited class size of 20 people on a first register basis. Requirements of 2 years beekeeping experience a must to register please. This meeting/class will be held at Spring Valley Honey Farms, 14405 Hull Ave, Perry Iowa, 50220. The registration will be at 4:00 pm, meeting will start at 4:30 pm until 8:30pm, with a meal. Topics: “Field” colony evaluation (bring your bee suit), making nucs, presentation report of the traveling beekeeper, and time for Q & A.

An autographed copy of Larry's new book, “Bee-sentials” for each person registered. Wow, what an exciting opportunity for learning!!

Cost is \$75.00

To register, please call or e-mail

Pat Ennis:
515-293-2601
flat_lander@lycos.com



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Fume boards 9 \$1ea \$9
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to move frames of brood 11 \$5ea \$55

Contact:

Ann Garber

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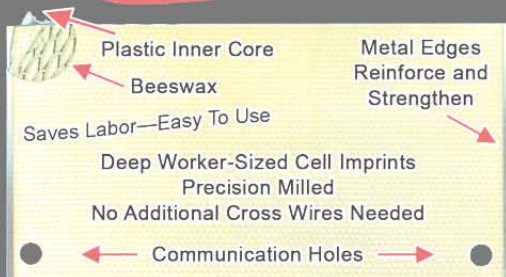
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Wedge In Top Bar



**CRIMP
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The Buzz Newsletter

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Additional Links and Emails

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