



# *The Buzz*



April 2018

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



**In this issue you will read about the Proclamation Day that was held in the State House where Gov. Reynolds signed the official declaration of Iowa Honey Day (March 14). You will also see a little about that day, just past at this printing. More in May!**

## Why Should You Join the Iowa Honey Producers Association?

Ok, so you are already are a member of two or three other clubs. Why should you join the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA)? Someone mentioned to me they heard another beekeeper say there's no reason to join the IHPA because you don't get much. To that I say, "Hogwash!" For a mere \$20.00 annual membership fee (individual - \$5.00 for another family member), you may not get a goody bag of tangible items or a laminated membership card to tuck inside your wallet, but there are some nice benefits you should know about.

First, let me tell you the IHPA is a 501(c)(5) nonprofit organization representing the needs and interests of the beekeeping industry. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in bees and beekeeping. You do not need to be a resident of Iowa nor do you need to own bees. All you need to join is to share in the passion.

When you become a member of the IHPA, you can enjoy these benefits:

- Honey industry promotion
- Networking opportunities with other beekeepers and honey producers
- Educational seminars
- Summer Field Day event featuring local and/or national speakers
- Annual Conference and trade show featuring local and national speakers
- Financial support for honey bee research
- Monthly newsletter
- Membership directory
- Advocacy for the industry relating to legislative issues
- Access to national beekeeping journals
- Membership in the Iowa State Horticultural Society
- Promotions at the Iowa State Fair
- Beekeeping classes/educational opportunities
- Youth scholarship/mentoring program
- Iowa Honey Queen/Princess program
- Close interaction with the State Apiarist
- Registration discount to Summer Field Day and Annual Conference
- Local help when you need it
- Website with up-to-date information, calendar, contacts, programs
- Opportunity to sell your honey and other hive products at the Iowa State Fair
- Vote for board members and district directors at the Annual Conference



Think about it, all beekeepers have some effect on one another. If your neighbor has healthy bees, the less likely you'll need to worry about his bees' diseases entering your hives. As a member of the IHPA and their many networking opportunities and outreach programs, you're helping your fellow beekeepers and in the end, yourself AND YOUR BEES. It's a win/win all around. And I feel it's worth repeating: the IHPA is run entirely by volunteers--our board members and district directors, our youth and queen program coordinators, our webmaster, our newsletter editor, and the Iowa Honey Queen. We also rely on beekeepers and other volunteers who are willing to share their time, resources, ideas and voices in order to keep this century-old organization moving forward to serve tomorrow's beekeepers. That's the big picture.

Your \$20.00 membership goes a long way in the support of the IHPA's mission. I encourage you to spread the word that membership IS important and dispel the notion it means little. If you're already a member, thank you for joining. If your membership has lapsed, send your renewal check to IHPA treasurer, Rhonda Heston. A strong membership is our goal and we value your support. Let's BEE HIVE STRONG ... the theme for our Annual Conference: Building strength for our future.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President



## Iowa Honey Bee Day Proclamation Signing

Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed the IHPA sponsored Iowa Honey Bee Day Proclamation on February 22, 2018. Four Iowa legislators were in attendance as well as IHPA members and lobbyists. The Proclamation recognized March 14, 2018 as a special day to appreciate the honey bee, hive-related products and all the benefits the honey bee provides for Iowans.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA President, presented to Governor Reynolds and her staff a collection of Iowa honey products and honey-related items that were contributed by Iowa beekeepers, the Iowa Arboretum, and the IHPA. These items represented many hive products from beekeepers across the state. Governor Reynolds spent time examining each item and expressed appreciation to Eve both for herself and her staff. The "basket" was a converted shallow honey super that was hand decorated with a honey bee and flower theme: a one-of-a-kind item that displayed the many fine honey and honey bee items well.

By the time you read this, the IHPA will have sponsored an early-morning reception on Iowa Honey Bee Day, March 14, 2018, at the State Capitol. This event provided a time for Iowa legislators and government officials to meet Iowa beekeepers and discuss honey bees and the issues they face. As part of that celebration a second "basket" will be presented as a door prize to someone who attended the event. In the next issue of the Buzz we will have pictures of the event and further details of the day.



Iowa Honey Bee Day Proclamation signing, February 22, 2018 in the Iowa Governor's Office. (L to R) Senator Rita Hart (D, District 49), Representative Rob Taylor (R, District 44), Pete McRoberts (IHPA Lobbyist, The Capitol Group), front Mary Vannoy (IHPA Volunteer), Senator Kevin Kinney (D, District 39), Andy Joseph (IDALS and IHPA ex officio Board member), Will Taylor (Rep. Rob Taylor's son), Doyle Kincy (IHPA, District 4 Director), Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Eve Vanden Broek (IHPA President), Jamie Beyer (IHPA Lobbyist Chair), Senator Ken Rozenboom (R, District 40), Jim Obradovich (IHPA Lobbyist, The Capitol Group) and Bob Mulqueen (IHPA Lobbyist, The Capitol Group)



On the Proclamation Day, this basket of honey-based contributions was provided to the Governor. (Photo previous page) The “basket” is a shallow that Ann Wilbur stenciled (Lovely! Indeed). Another basket like it was presented to someone present at the Declaration Day on March 14 (photo next page). GREAT BIG THANKS to all those listed below who contributed to the baskets. The governor liked it so well she wants to know where she can get more:-)

### **3 SONS HONEY**

Eric and Keri Kenoyer  
Madison County, IA  
*12 oz honey bear*

### **BEYERS BEES**

Jamie Beyer  
Boone, IA  
*8 oz Muth honey jar*

### **BLACK CAT ACRES**

Ken, Deb and Royce Blackledge  
Nevada, IA  
*2 oz honey bears*  
*roll-on lotion bar*

### **BOERNSEN BEES**

Marlene Boernsen  
Ocheyedan, IA  
*1 lb cinnamon creamed honey*

### **EBERT HONEY COMPANY**

Phil, Adam and Alex Ebert  
Lynnville, IA  
*1.5 lb chunk honey and liquid honey*

### **ELIZABELLA FLOWER FARM**

Beth, Ann and Linn Wilbur  
Nevada, IA  
*10 oz boxwood comb honey*  
*Bee embroidered tea towels*

### **IOWA ARBORETUM**

Boone, IA  
*12 oz cut comb honey*

### **IOWA BEE WAR**

Joy Westercamp  
Farmington, IA  
*Ross round*

### **IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

*Honey cookbook*  
*Apron*



### **KINCY APIARY**

Doyle and Cody Kincy  
Urbandale, IA  
*1 lb liquid honey jar*

### **MOENCK HONEY FARMS**

Darrell Moenck  
Lehigh, IA  
*1 lb creamed honey*

### **P & P HONEY**

Pat and Peggy Ennis  
Goodell, IA  
*Corn cob candle*  
*Tapered candles*

### **RANDOL HONEY FARM**

Tom and Pat Randol  
Winterset, IA  
*Beeswax lotion bar*  
*Lip balm*

### **SPRING VALLEY HONEY FARMS**

Curt and Connie Broonenberg  
Perry, IA  
*Honey sticks*





## Free High Quality Beekeeping Photos

For Jerry and me, this is our 5<sup>th</sup> year teaching Beginning Beekeeping Classes and we truly enjoy sharing what we've learned and the new things that we're discovering. We have met some fantastic people in this journey! It seems like I'm annually tweaking our power point presentations due to changes or something new that we want to share or make a little clearer either to students or our club.

For power point presentations, I've used my own personal photos, photos that others have shared with me or images that I've pulled off the internet. If you are seeking images related to beekeeping, Vita-Bee Health is one of the best resources available. <https://www.vita-europe.com/beehealth/>

Their images are easy to download and free as long as you use them for education and not for commercial gain or publish in any form (including web & newsletter publications). If you have any queries about usage, please contact them [info@vita-europe.com](mailto:info@vita-europe.com). They have an annual Calendar that may be downloaded in 3 different file sizes dependent on your need or internet connection. They also have a number of Infographics that may be downloaded regarding Varrora, Swarms, Asian Hornets, etc. as well as videos to watch; however, what I really enjoy using is their photo gallery. Their beekeeping gallery consists of photos of eggs, larva, different stages of brood, enemies, diseases, hives, honey, plants, pollen, pollination, queens, treatments, etc.

If you're a photographer and freely enjoy sharing your beekeeping images, this is a site where you might consider uploading your images. You might even win one of their photo competitions.

**NOTE:** In September 2017, on its twentieth anniversary, the honey bee operations of Vita (Europe) Ltd changed their name to Vita Bee Health. The new name emphasizes the company's ongoing commitment to beekeeping and healthy honey bee populations. Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weldon

## A Newbee's Diary--A Year of Observation

Where to begin? My fascination with bees started with a vegetable garden, especially the green beans. Bees were abundant on each stem and blossom, retrieving the nectar and as such assist in pollinating. Canning as a hobby made their efforts rewarding.

Twenty-some years forward in the winter of 2017 to an adult education class on Beginning Beekeeping that was offered in our area. Jim, my brother, who is also interested in bee behavior, attended the weekly course. The class was informative and especially enlightening in the complexity of the colony and benefits. Long story short, we began our quest to be colony hosts. We queried if any beekeepers would be willing to place a hive in my yard. Julia McGuire, an adult education instructor, was instrumental in pairing us with a delightful couple, Michael and Julie Sander, beekeepers. A series of emails ensued in February, with March a date for a site survey for placement. Bees wait for no one, and as such mid-March the concrete blocks were set and leveled. Not even twenty-four hours later, Michael and Julie had dropped off two nucs early in the morning, small temporary hives, anticipating transport later in the day of two hives. So it begins. March 19, 2017. Two nucs. They remained closed until the next day to settle down. I note that appropriately they were opened the First Day of Spring.

From here on I will refer to the bees as The Girls. The class noted the drones' function of mating but The Girls carry the load of colony work--Girl Power. Initially The Girls were slow to forage with cool temperatures, preferring the warmth of late morning the remainder of March. Water was provided in two bird baths and a terra cotta saucer with pebbles for footing. I should note here my ignorance of how incredibly poor swimmers they are and required numerous rescues through the summer.

Back to the house welcome of The Girls. They were quick to find the early flowering crocuses and water. I did notice prior to opening the nucs stray bees on and around the opening. Julie had said intruders from other hives could sense the honey-rich frames and they most certainly did congregate. The Girls made quick work of these marauders with numerous remains in front of the nucs.

The remainder of March had temperature swings which seemed to irritate them, causing my first encounter of bee bumping behavior.

April came as a rainy cloudy cool block of days. The eighth was moving day to the hives. The abode seems to fit them fine initially. They quickly settled into a single deep from the nuc. Late April The Girls took full advantage of sun and warmth and flowering trees and shrubs. I had to laugh: my brother, Jim, was visiting and several Girls took a shine to him, hitching a ride to which he responded by walking them back to their door.

The last of April to the first part of May two supers were added. May five was an exciting day--the beekeepers came and opened the front door wide and--oh, spring!

June fourth was my first experience seeing a beard. I must admit having to emergently referencing my test thinking initially a swarm. The weather has finally warmed the flowers--marigolds, lilies, peonies clematis--blooming--The Girls are busy!

Well, here it is July Fourth day and hot with the bird baths necessitating replenishing twice daily.

July eighth a nuc along with the two hives is established. The Queens are Carniolan so Julie told me they are named Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and London respectively. I have by now moved from the deck to seating in the garage watching their activity. The hives are now four boxes high with some harvesting of honey and honey comb. The beekeepers gave Jim and me a sample of honey comb. Wow! I freely admit to being a city slicker and never having tasted anything close to the richness of the honey. I need to be watchful of fall thieves or conflicts robbing honey. Hard to believe we are closing down the season, State Fair and all. Well, we now have honey robbers so our entrances are being blocked by reducers. Julie and Michael came to check the hives adding the extra protection. The Girls seem to sense time is short, streaming out of the hives with their assignments. September brings medication which is well-tolerated. I have been sharing photos and stories of The Girls activity finding others interested in hosting colonies, and taking beekeeping classes.

Fall in full force. The hives are reduced to two boxes high but The Girls are good, no extra nutrition needed. Alright!

Winter is cold, snow absent til after Christmas, but hives cleaned off of snow when present.

We wait for the first whispers of Spring!

Thanks to Diane Forristall for contributing this diary.

## Honey Heard Around the World

Just as there are many honey varietals, such as tupelo, acacia, sourwood, and buckwheat, there are just as many ways say 'honey' throughout the world. Have you travelled abroad and perused a grocery store aisle in search of honey? If so, you may have read one of these words on the label. Anyway you say it, honey is still sweet on the tongue in any language.

Bosnian	med
Cambodian	tukakhmoum
Chinese	mì tang
Danish	honning
French	miel
German	honig
Greek	meli
Hawaiian	kameli
Hungarian	méz
Icelandic	hunang
Indonesian	madu
Italian	miele
Japanese	hachimitsu
Korean	kkul
Latin	mel
Polish	miód
Portuguese	mel
Russian	med
Spanish	miel
Swahili	asali
Zulu	uju

## Let's Hear From the Queen!!

Joy Westerkamp has been busy! Sheila Weldon reports this about the Pella event: "Joy probably did close to 18 presentations to 4<sup>th</sup> graders from schools within Marion County who were bused to Vermeer's Global Pavilion in Pella. Farm Bureau sponsors "Ag in the Classroom" and this was the first year that beekeeping was included in the program. Individuals in the photo with Joy are Kelly Schloss, Tom Mulholand and Wendy Peffers who volunteered to work with Joy in Pella. They made a great team! "



Hello everyone!

I was super excited about the opportunities I have had to share my passion for beekeeping this past month! I would again like to thank the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers for getting me started and continuing to support me throughout the years. Our annual meeting is where I got started seven years ago and I loved the opportunity to share my experiences.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, I was a presenter for the Ag in the Classroom program for Pella 4<sup>th</sup> graders. I got to talk to approximately 450 schoolkids about honey bees and their life cycle! I have also taught beekeeping classes in Kahoka, MO and Iowa Falls, visited bee clubs in Okoboji and Mason City, and shared my love for beekeeping in my time as Iowa Honey Queen thus far!



To the left you see Jerry Weldon with Jacinda Shafer with the gift box she won at the State House on March 14. Jacinda is a first-year beek, and she kept her hive over the winter this first year! Not only that, but Jacinda is involved enough in beekeeping that she took the time to visit the Iowa Honey Bee Day event wearing her lovely pink IHPA T-shirt. Thanks again to all the contributors to the baskets we gave out, and thanks especially to Linn Wilbur and Jamie Beyer who work so hard with our legislators on behalf of beekeeping issues. We certainly live in exciting times!!



## **The Hum of the Bees is the Voice of the Garden**

If you're a beekeeper who also happens to be a gardener, you're no doubt busy planning for spring planting. There's so much to do! So many seed catalogs! Where do you start? But if you're not a gardener, don't have a lot of time to garden, or only want to start small, what can you plant to attract them? Rest assured, you still create a garden café for all bees. You do not need to plant your entire yard full of flowering plants, a few pots of flowering plants here and there will do fine. Add a tree or a couple of shrubs and you will be on the map for pollinators all season long. For Iowa, these are some suggestions to start your yard or garden humming:

**Spring and Summer Bulbs**--Purple flowering onions, Grape hyacinth, Siberian squill, Crocus

**Annuals**—Marigolds, Poppies, Sunflowers (pollen producing), Zinnias

**Shrubs**--Butterfly Bush, Heather, Honeysuckle, Sumac

**Herbs**—Chives, Borage, Mints, Lavender, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme, Catnip, Coriander, Fennel

**Perennials**—Clematis, Cosmos, Echinacea (coneflowers), Geraniums, Globe Thistle, Hyacinth, Roses, Russian sage, Sedum, Tansy

**Trees**—Alders, Basswood, Black Locust, Fruit Trees, Hazels, Linden, Magnolia, Maple, Tulip Poplar, Willows

**Vegetable Gardens**—Cucumbers, Gourds, Peppers, Pumpkins, Raspberries, Squash, Strawberries, Watermelons

**Weeds (let them grow!)**—Dandelion, Clovers, Birdsfoot trefoil

### **Provide Bee Friendly Habitat**

We all know if honeybees disappear so will many of the great foods we enjoy. To help not only the honeybees, let's also think about our native bees and other pollinators. We all rely and benefit from one another. Nature is wonderful. Nature is our responsibility. Nature is you and me. You can help by doing the following:

**Choose plants that attract bees** – Bees favor native wildflowers, flowering herbs, berries and many flowering fruits and vegetables. Some honeybee favorites include: mints, basil, sage, thyme, borage, oregano, lavender, chives, buckwheat, berries, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries, cucumbers, winter squash, pumpkins, melons, watermelons, flowering broccoli, crocus, snowdrops, jonquils, tulips, sunflowers, asters, dandelions, clovers, lilacs, wisteria, cosmos, black-eyed Susan, gaillardia, cup plants, goldenrod, loosestrife, bachelor's buttons, bee balm, sedum, peony and honeysuckle. If you have the space, planting any type of fruit tree is perfect and trees such as maple, willow, black locust and sumac are also good food sources for bees. Planting snowdrops or Siberian quill, small flowering bulbs, is a simple way for to provide an early spring food source for bees. These bulbs need only a small area and are perfect for those in towns and cities.

1. **Group the same plants together** - Plant at least one square yard of the same plant together to make a perfect bee attractor. If you are short on space, planting just a few wildflowers or herbs in a planter or window box is all that's needed to provide more foraging habitat for the honeybee.
  2. **Pick plants with long blooming cycles** - Choose plants with successive blooms. Deadheading, or the removal of spent blooms will encourage additional blooms all season long. This will ensure bees visit your yard again and again.
  3. **Let your plants flower** - Leave the flowers on your plants to allow the honeybees to get the pollen and nectar they need. If you grow herbs or vegetables, such as broccoli, harvest it but leave the plant intact; let it go to flower for the pollinators and leave in the garden until the flowers are spent.
  4. **Provide a fresh water source** - A bird bath with stones for bees to stand on; a shallow dish, pie tin, even an old Frisbee, with rocks or marbles will also do. Cabbage and broccoli leaves wonderfully collect fresh morning dew or rain, and newly watered potted plants with peat soil are favorite destinations for bees.
  5. **DO NOT use pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals in your garden** – Chemicals and bees do not mix. After all, you are trying to attract bees, right? Most chemicals are highly toxic to bees and have widespread effects which are detrimental to plants, beneficial insects and other native pollinators. This includes products you apply to your yard to make it look more like a golf course. If you don't want to read the volume of the small print on the package, just leave it off your yard. Educate your neighbors – politely - but respect their decision even if it isn't yours.
- Appreciate the beauty of weeds\*** - Redefine your relationship with weeds. Learn to appreciate the benefit of dandelions, clovers, trefoil, milkweed, goldenrod and other flowering weeds; they are important food sources for bees. Let them grow and flower in your yard and you will soon have your own personal honeybee sanctuary. (\* Plants out of place)

## News from one of the Scholarship Recipients at the Annual Meeting in Oskaloosa--Meet Abigail and Bethany!

Hello! My name is Abigail Kelly and I am a 2018 IHPA Youth Scholarship recipient. I live in Polk County. I am a sophomore in high school at Dassel Academy. I became interested in honey bees in 2016 when Mike and Julie Sander placed two hives on our property. The Sanders allowed my siblings and me to help inspect their hives. We learned a lot about honey bees through observation and asking questions. The Sanders told us about the IHPA's Youth Scholarship. My sister, Bethany, and I decided to apply for the scholarship in 2017 largely because it was the only way we could financially afford honey bees and all the supplies required to keep them. I ended up being a finalist, but because a second hive was offered to the Scholarship recipients we were able to get a second hive and equipment for Bethany.

I attended the 2017 Annual IHPA Conference. I really enjoyed Ms. Flemming Hayes' presentation on pollinator friendly gardening because I enjoy gardening. I also enjoyed all the Iowan speakers. As a Scholarship recipient, I attended a special session for the 2017 and 2018 Youth Scholarship recipient. I enjoyed the short introductions that the queen candidates gave. Also, Maia Jaycox, the 2017 American Honey Queen, shared how she got interested in bees. During this special breakout session, Carly Raye Vannoy, the 2017 Iowa Honey Queen, gave a presentation. Carly is an excellent speaker and I always learn something from the presentations she gives.

As a Scholarship recipient, I am required to attend an approved beekeeping class. I attended the FBI's beginner beekeeping class in Indianola. It was an interesting class and I learned a lot from the experienced beekeepers that taught the class.

In January, I received all my equipment and we built it, with the help of Mike and Julie Sanders who are my mentors, in February. It was a lot harder to build the equipment than I thought it would be. I am excited to get my honey bees which are due to arrive at the end of April.



Another requirement for the Scholarship recipients is to keep some sort of record of my year. I decided to do this a little differently than I have seen other recipients do it. I am keeping an almost real time blog. If you want to see what a Youth Scholarship recipient's first year looks like you can follow Our Honey Bee Adventure at Dassel Acres (<http://dasselacres.com/>). My sister Bethany is writing the blog with me.

This year I want take my hive from being a package to being a strong colony going into winter. It would be great to get honey, but I know first year hives are not supposed to have surplus honey. I am excited to make decisions and care for my hive. I am eager to learn from my mentors, Mike and Julie Sander. Thank you to everyone who has helped in some way to make the Scholarship possible. I am very thankful for this opportunity. I am really excited to begin beekeeping and hope you will share this adventure with me.

And here's another Scholarship recipient--Charlotte Bowden. It seems some young admirer knows the way to sweet talk her into going to the prom with him. Jerry and Sheila Weldon are her mentors, and as they were building boxes today, Charlotte showed this picture.

As editor of the Buzz, I so much appreciate Eve's help in writing that President's Report last month, and now these wonderful reports are rolling in from all parts of the state!

Thanks so much for bee-ing willing to tell us of your ventures and adventures. In this case, we know for sure that young beeks are getting ready to join our forces, and we know that the foragers are going to find good home with knowledgeable students.





### Let's hear from a professional commercial beek—Phil Ebert.

I used to write a regular article for The Buzz a few years ago. I am going to try it again. I haven't quite decided if it is going to be monthly or bi-monthly. I'll see how it goes. I can't tell you how to keep bees. I can only tell you how we do it. I will try to share our successes and failures. Over the long term, we have been successful but there have been a lot of bumps in the road. For those of you not familiar with our business, we run about 1200 colonies and have a bottling operation. We also sell package bees, nucs and buy and sell beeswax. I refer to it as my three-egged financial stool. My son Adam and his wife Andria have part of the bees in the Mt. Vernon area. The rest are around Lynnvile. We do not migrate at the present time. That is under constant review.

We have one overriding problem as beekeepers. It is Varroa mites. You have to be able to manage them. If you can't, the bees will die. Occasionally, a package might make it through the first year without treatment if it has very few mites to start with, but this is an exception to the rule. If you don't want to use chemical treatments, you need to employ other methods such as drone brood removal or a brood break. Splitting colonies heavily can help spread out the mites. Mel Disselkoen has an interesting system that involves splitting colonies after the summer equinox and letting them raise their own queens. It is called "On-the-Spot Queen Rearing." There is a brood break while the new queen is maturing. All of the mites are exposed when the new queen starts to lay. When new larva become available, the mites migrate into the new brood. According to Mel, you may find as many as 12 mites in one brood cell. That's too many for them to all survive. Most of them perish. I have not personally tried this, but I think the system has merit. I would like to try it on some level but have been unable to find time. Mel has a book that describes his system. I have one. It cost \$70. I would like to recoup my investment. The problem is that we start extracting about the time this is supposed to start. Spare time is scarce.

I used to tell my class that it was okay to let their bees die if

they didn't want to fool with treatments. For people with one or two hives, buying bees every year is not a huge handicap. I have changed my thinking on that. If you had sick livestock, you would, in all probability, call the vet. You wouldn't want the animal to suffer. Likewise, you wouldn't want to lose the income that animal could provide. Why let the bees suffer? You are also doing a disservice to your beekeeping neighbors if you do not control your mites. When colonies crash, those bees disperse for miles. Somebody studied this. I don't remember who talked about it, but it was the subject of a presentation at the national meeting two years ago. Graduate students marked a lot of the bees in colonies that had a high mite load. After the colonies crashed, the students toured the neighboring apiaries. The bees had dispersed over an area of several miles. They carried mites with them to other colonies.

If you don't test before and after treatment, you have no idea if your treatment worked. Sometimes they don't. Every year, I get calls—"My bees are dead and they had a box full of honey on top of them." My first question is always, "What was the mite load in the fall?" Almost always, the answer is "I don't know." We had trouble getting our mites knocked down last fall. Some yards got treated three times, but mite loads stayed constant. I don't know if there were just too many mites to start with, if mites drifted in from colonies that were crashing or if the treatments were simply ineffective. It may have been a combination of all three. We have to make some kind of adjustment in what we are doing. I am starting to question everything I thought I knew.

The issues confronting bees are complex but as beekeepers we can only do simple things. The number one thing is to control Varroa. After that, provide adequate space, supplemental nourishment and maintain vigorous queens. Sounds simple doesn't it? I wish!!



### Honey Bees and Butterflies – Seed a Legacy Pollinator Habitat Program

Craig Greene recently shared a web site that he knew I'd like. I'm now sharing it with all of you. Most beekeepers know that our honey bees suffer from a serious loss of habitat or lack of forage which contributes to poor nutrition. Last year I started sharing information regarding best plants for honey bees with emphasis on long term planting.

We're now discovering that there's more help showing up in the form of grants from various businesses (*including Bayer?*) and non-profits that will help toward bee friendly plantings.

If interested, check out their new Seed a Legacy Pollinator Habitat Program <http://beeandbutterflyfund.org/honey-bees-and-pollination>

Sheila Weldon

### Summer Field Day is coming!!

On page 14 is the registration for **Summer Field Day**. This will be a year when those who live in the Far West part of our Very Large State will get a chance to have Field Day in their back yard. Thanks in advance to all the Easterners who will get to trek out state. Hope you find a way to visit some vacation spots. Camping is available, but limited sites will be reservable in advance. We're working on that. I know this--once you get there, you'll be glad you came. We're working on a wonderful program.

BTW, our Dutch Bakery is to die for. Bring a cooler and take home frozen almond pastries and Pig-in-the-Blanket!!

From Roy Kraft, to the IHPA MEMBERSHIP concerning State Fair Entries:

It's time, believe it or not, to get your state fair product figured out for the 2018 Iowa State Fair booth. I have gone through this and increased prices of what the IHPA will be paying for product this year. We want your product at the fair! Take a look and review the rules as well. If you have any questions call me at 515 293 2458. Don't wonder, call me. I'm heading up the committee. LOOK AT THE DEADLINE--**June 15<sup>th</sup>**!! This year we are mailing them to 2 of the 3 people on the committee. YES, MAILING THEM. NO E MAILS. The committee will be meeting on June 23rd at 1 pm. This will be open to membership to witness. I will have in next months' Buzz where the place is.

The State Fair committee is:

Roy Kraft	Heidi Love	Doyle Kincy
Box 1	18488 E Ave	7304 Monroe Ct
Goldfield IA 50542	Dawson, IA 50066	Urbandale, IA 50322

From the Editor, summarizing some of the things IHPA membership should consider sending to the State Fair:

I'll include a more complete list in May, but for now, be thinking about competing in Sole Classes--24-oz. bear, 3-lb jug, 2-lb glass, 5-lb jug, 2-oz bear, 4-oz or 8-oz or 16 oz Antique Muth jar, 1-lb Buckwheat honey, 12-lb gallon jugs, or honey stix.

Also there is the Certified Kitchen Sole Classes--1-lb creamed honey, plain and flavored, and also a flavored honey class.

There are Sole Classes in Beeswax Products--1-oz, 1/2 lb, and 1-lb beeswax bars; Wooden Honey Dippers; 11-piece nativity set; Corn Cob Candles; 8" or 12" pair Dinner Candles; Hand-Dipped Pair Candles; Small Skep with Bear Candle; 12-pack tea lights; Round Pillar Bee; Pillar 6" or 10" Rolled Look Candle; Square Bee Candle; 4-pack Votive Candle; Turkey Candle; Lighthouse Candle; medium or large Skep Candle; 5-pack Fire Starter; 1/2-lb or 1-lb Bee Pollen.

And there are Case Lots (24 per case): 1-lb glass liquid honey; 1-lb plastic (light honey); and 12-oz Honey Bear (light honey); comb honey in clamshells and boxes; and Ross Rounds.

Finally, there is the honey for the lemonade production in 50-pound pails. (not a competing matter, of course.).

I'm sure that the organizers of the event would be glad to see some competitors that have never been to the State Fair with product before. If you need tips on how to present the blue ribbon item, you can call Roy (number above).

#### **Bee-musings from Mary Wiltgen, District Three Director**

"S-U-C-C-E-S-S! That's the way we spell success!"

Ok, if you didn't know, I was a cheerleader in high school and that was the beginnin's of one of my favorite cheers. Right now, I do feel like a cheerleader again as the District 3 Director. Our SUCCESS has come in the potential development of TWO NEW BEEKEEPER'S CLUBS in the northern part of my long and skinny district!

In fact, by the time you read this one of the clubs will have already had their first meeting!!!! WOW! I'm super excited about the leadership and direction the beekeepers near Calmar and the surrounding area have coming their way! To, the details -----This yet unnamed club will meet on the third Tuesday of the month in the basement of the public library in Calmar at 6:00 pm. They will enjoy round table discussions of bee issues and learn from guest speakers as they are arranged. Their first meeting was March 20<sup>th</sup> with the next being April 17<sup>th</sup>. If you live near Calmar and want to talk bees, come join us! Just to clarify, you don't need to be a resident of District 3! Any and all beekeepers are welcome!

The other club mentioned above is still in the working and discussion stages. I don't want to state anything that would jeopardize the development of it but do look forward to seeing it appear! Now, if that has left you wondering, keep checking in to the "bee-musings!" to see what does develop!

MORE SUCCESS to report! The first ever and hopefully annual Iowa Honey Bee Day is in the books. What a great honor for us beekeepers to be recognized at this level. We are important in our commodity and services our bees give. It is great to be honored and to be able to stress the importance of the honeybee.

I hope you have been successful in keeping your bees alive this winter. It is not an easy task. I'd do a cartwheel for you all who did, but, sadly to say, those days are gone and it wouldn't be pretty!!!! J

Let me conclude with a quote from Winston S. Churchill ~ *"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."* Better words could not describe the beekeeper and their journey. Success with one hive doesn't mean its neighbor will do the same! Frustration yes but not fatal! We continue with determination and courage to go for it again and every time we do...We are SUCCESSFUL! 'Bee' grateful, 'Bee' blessed, and 'Bee' a blessing,

Mary Wiltgen, District 3 Director [tmwiltgen@gmail.com](mailto:tmwiltgen@gmail.com) 563.920.9628



## RULES FOR 2018 STATE FAIR PRODUCTS BEING SOLD AT THE IHPA BOOTH



- 1.) There will be a 2-person committee, plus booth manager. Bids must be sent to 2 of the 3 on the committee, mailed only. Yes, 2 stamps, 2 envelopes. (No e-mail.)
- 2.) There will be a firm cut-off date of June 15, with the committee meeting on June 23.
- 3.) The committee will meet in a predetermined neutral place. The general IHPA membership will be allowed to witness.
- 4.) All liquid honey and comb honey is to be from 2018 harvest.
- 5.) All glass honey containers and creamed honey containers must have a protection seal.
- 6.) All plastic containers must have a pressure seal. This includes all large containers.
- 7.) All products must show proper labeling (i.e. name, city, phone number, and net weight).
- 8.) Any item not listed on the sheet or specialty items you wish to market at fair booth, is up to the discretion of the booth manager, based on counter space and the ability to supply. (ie. bee related items).
- 9.) Honey for the Honey Lemonade (50-pound buckets) will be a sealed bid only. Low bid takes it all. (This is the only true bid item.)
- 10.) Pollen must have a "US pollen" label.
- 11.) These rules will be reviewed yearly at the January board meeting.

### SOLE CLASSES

- 1.) There will be one person that will have a sole class of honey or item based on price list. For example: one person will have ALL 24 oz bears for the fair based on price list. If 2 or more want it, we decide by a draw, winner takes the whole class. Excluding "case lots"; see below on these. Draw order will be most numbers sold last year first to least. You will only be allowed to win every other draw, however, if you are the only one that entered you will get the class. You may enter consecutive classes.
- 2.) All beeswax products (candles, ornaments, blocks, etc.) must be packaged to maintain cleanliness and for presentation.
- 3.) Lip balms, lotions and soaps- this will be at committee and booth manager discretion. Please submit to us by June 15 a list of what you would like to market at the fair for 2018. Please include phone number as the committee may call you on meeting day.

### CREAMED HONEY RULES

- 1.) Flavored honey and creamed honey must come from a certified kitchen.
- 2.) A copy of the license must be on file with the booth manager and the booth manager must have with them at the State Fair.
- 3.) More than one wanting to bring a flavor, a draw will decide who brings the flavor.

### CASE LOTS

- 1.) The purpose of the case lots is a way for the small beekeeper to provide honey to the fair. (By participating in the Case Lot classes, you forfeit your ability to participate in the "Sole Classes".)
- 2.) If you participate in the "Sole Classes" you forfeit your ability to participate in the Case Lot classes.
- 3.) Case Lot classes are 1-pound glass, the 12-ounce bear and the 1-pound plastic.
- 4.) Case lots will be in case quantities of 24 bottles.
- 5.) You may bring no more than 4 cases of each class.
- 6.) Minimum is one case of 24 for a class.
- 7.) Clean-up rule: In the event the required quantity cannot be fulfilled through the case lot system those participating in "sole classes" will be encouraged to help supply the additional quantity needed of each class through a draw. (One person per class decided by draw if needed).

### CUT COMB AND ROSS ROUNDS

- must be in a sealed container
- well-drained without liquid honey
- quality standards will be used (clean capping with all cells capped)
- needs to weigh at least 14 oz.
- MUST be frozen for a minimum of 48 hours prior to arriving at the Iowa State Fair, subject to rejection, booth manager discretion.
- Cut comb and Ross rounds are not a "Sole Class" nor a "Case Class"; open to all IHPA members.

### DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS:

- You must deliver products to the booth.
- Plan to deliver your products between Sunday and Wednesday evening.
- All products must be received prior to fair opening at 9:00 am Thursday morning.
- Provide an invoice when product is delivered.
- Please make plans to pick up unsold product on Sunday evening between 9:00 and 10:00 pm or Monday between 8:00 and 12 noon.

## Growing California almonds takes more than half of US honeybees

**\*Note\*** Chuck Kutik and Ryan Cosyns are American Honey Producers Association Executive Board Members  
By Ginger Zee, David Miller, Kelly Harold, Andrea M  
Jan 16, 2018

It can be hard to see how important honeybees are to daily life. Just by looking at fully grown oranges, apples and almonds, the honeybee wouldn't necessarily get marquee credit for their growth. But, bees pollinate around 70 percent of the world's crops, according to Cornell University, and without them, there's no easy way to pollinate the fresh foods that need to be grown and harvested. The vast farming operations around the country keep bees in high demand almost year-round and it's up to commercial bee keepers to make sure farmers have their pollinators.

One of those beekeepers, Chuck Kutik, rents his bees out across the country, throughout the year. He said there's one crop that demands more bees than any other — almonds. In the winter, Kutik, and commercial beekeepers throughout the country, send the majority of the nation's commercial bees to pollinate almonds blossoms. Kutik loads his bees on flatbed trucks that hold 112 palates of beehives and sends them on a multi-day, cross-country journey.

Truck drivers have to continue moving throughout the day, only stopping at night, in order to maintain cool temperatures for the bees. If it's too warm they will be tempted to fly out of their hives. The bees will spend several weeks pollinating the bright white almond blooms. When they are done, they will be taken to the next farm, to a new crop on the east coast.

Almond farmer and beekeeper Ryan Cosyns tells us that the price of pollination rental for almonds has nearly doubled

since 2005, which is directly related to the increased acreage devoted to almonds. A single hive from Kutik's farm rented for as much as \$200 in 2017, to a California almond farmer. But as the demand for bees has gone up, keeping honeybees healthy has also become more and more of a challenge.

According to the USDA, between 2015 and 2016 the nation's beekeepers lost 44 percent of their colonies. "The consensus in the scientific community now is that it's not any single factor that is driving losses of bees," said Scott McArt, an associate professor in the Department of Entomology at Cornell University. "It's multiple factors." He said those factors can include pesticides, insecticides, loss of habitat and climate change. However, as honeybees are dying the overall population of bees has gone up. "This is something that a lot of people don't necessarily understand," said Emma Mullen, an associate in the Department of Entomology at Cornell University, "because if you do track the number of colonies that are in New York or the U.S., they do tend to increase. So what they'll do is they'll split their colonies and in that way they can continue to replace the colonies that were lost and grow their operation."

In the springtime, beekeepers can take a hive that is thriving and split them, creating two from one. Kutik predicted he would create 6,000 new hives in the spring.

When the bees return home to Kutik's farm, there is still more work to be done; that's when honey production starts. But farmers in the U.S. cannot produce enough honey to meet the total demand across the country. "We only produce, I don't know what it is, 120 million or 140 million pounds of honey in the U.S.," Kutik said. "I think the consumption is 300 [million pounds]. The consumption is way more than we can produce."

With so much work to be done by American beekeepers and their bees, can the industry keep up with demand?

### District 5 News

Hello everyone. I was just talking to a fellow beek the other day and he was asking me how my bees were doing this winter. So, with my head held up I told him better than last year. Losing half of a few hives is better than losing them all I told him. He proceeded to tell me that he had lost 75% of his hives. I feel bad that any beekeeper who spends so much time treating, feeding and caring for such an insect to turn and tell me of such great loss. "What are we doing wrong?" he asked. "Now there is a great question, but the key thing is to keep

your head up high and to stay with it. Don't give up. Warmer weather is coming and think of all the swarms we will catch and the cut-outs that need to be done," I said with a smile.

On another note, I would like to thank all the new beekeepers out there for taking a class and learning about such a great hobby. I know most of the classes are over or coming to an end, so if you are new to beekeeping, be sure to check out on the website about where to go for further education or by joining a local beekeeping club. Get involved and helping other beekeepers is fun as well.

Eric Kenoyer District 5 Director



## Update from Andy Joseph, Iowa State Apiarist.

Hello.

Spring feels like it's finally around the corner as I'm writing this. From what I hear, this winter has been pretty rough. I've gotten very mixed reports of winter survivorship. This wasn't an extreme winter by any measure, though we have had some serious cold from time to time. If the bees were of compromised condition last fall, they probably aren't around anymore, and it's time to try again. This seems to be more true each year. Maybe those who are having great winter successes are just afraid to speak about it out loud for fear of jinxing their strong live clusters!

I've been asked a few times already what I might recommend as a spring mite treatment. This is a common annual topic of conversation, and it's a good subject to think about. Some of you have dosed your hives a time or two over winter with oxalic acid, either in syrup or by vaporization. If done while the bees were largely broodless, you ought have had a great mite kill, and hopefully may be able to avoid coping with springtime mite treatment stress. If this is you ... take a mite count in order to KNOW this, rather than assume anything. For the rest of us, what's the "best" option?

Right now, I'm recommending Formic Pro. Have you seen this yet? It's the new version of MiteAway Quick Strips. The biggest difference between Formic Pro and MAQS seems to be its shelf life. If you've used MAQS, expect pretty much the same. The fiber pad material has been "upgraded" while the formic acid active ingredient remains unchanged. The biggest issue over years with a variety of formic acid treatments is the delivery. Too "flashy" and brood is harmed, maybe queens

too. Too slow / low of a dose and mites aren't killed effectively. So we're aiming for that sweet middle ground. MAQS has been a good product, though not without problems – particularly if used in hotter weather, or if used beyond its short expiration date. Hopefully this new version fixes at least one of those shortcomings.

Formic acid might be a good choice considering our short list of approved options. I'm not convinced an oxalic treatment is effective in spring, since bee brood is its Achilles' heel. I'm not a fan of Apivar in spring, since the treatment takes five weeks or so followed by a "cool down" period to avoid contaminating any honey for human consumption. Apiguard is far better as a fall treatment, given its minimum required daytime temperatures and its month long treatment period. Hopguard 2 has been squirrely, requiring multiple applications and struggling to control mites when colonies are significantly brooded up. Apilife Var is very similar to Apiguard, so I personally might save it as a late summer treatment option (and I wouldn't consider it to be a "rotation" opposite Apiguard). I don't really like Checkmite or Apistan due to both, resistance issues and chemistry. The list goes on ... and basically brings me to a formic acid product, either MAQS or Formic Pro.

Whatever you choose, give yourself a pat on the back / buy yourself a beer, because without live bees coming through winter you wouldn't get to make these fun decisions. Feed them! Get them treated! Build them up! Split them! And get ready for another awesome season.

See you. Andy



### Free High Quality Beekeeping Photos

For Jerry and me, this is our 5<sup>th</sup> year teaching Beginning Beekeeping Classes and we truly enjoy sharing what we've learned and the new things that we're discovering. We have met some fantastic people in this journey! It seems like I'm annually tweaking our power point presentations due to changes or something new that we want to share or make a little clearer either to students or our club.

For power point presentations, I've used my own personal photos, photos that others have shared with me or images that I've pulled off the internet. If you are seeking images related to beekeeping, Vita-Bee Health is one of the best resources available. <https://www.vita-europe.com/beehealth/>

Their images are easy to download and free as long as you use them for education and not for commercial gain or publish in any form (including web & newsletter publications). If you have any queries about usage, please contact them using [info@vita-europe.com](mailto:info@vita-europe.com). They have an annual Calendar that may be downloaded in 3 different file sizes dependent on your need or internet connection. They also have a number of Infographics that may be downloaded regarding Varrora, Swarms, Asian Hornets, etc. as well as videos to watch; however, what I really enjoy using is their photo gallery. Their beekeeping gallery consists of photos of eggs, larva, different stages of brood, enemies, diseases, hives, honey, plants, pollen, pollination, queens, treatments, etc. If you're a photographer and freely enjoy sharing your beekeeping images, this is a site where you might consider uploading your images. You might even win one of their photo competitions.

**NOTE:** In September 2017, on its twentieth anniversary, the honey bee operations of Vita (Europe) Ltd changed their name to Vita Bee Health. The new name emphasizes the company's ongoing commitment to beekeeping and healthy honey bee populations.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Weldon



## 2018 Iowa Honey Producers Association

### Summer Field Day

Saturday, June 30, 2018

Dordt College

498 4<sup>th</sup> 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 = \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto: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.



### Recipes with Emma Jakes

It's fully spring and Easter is here and gone in no time at all! It's really fun to make all kinds of tasty treats like cakes and cookies to welcome spring in and to have on hand for any "emergency". Why not try some new frosting recipes to decorate them with?

#### Chocolate Honey Sauce (Pg. 183):

4 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips

4 tablespoons water

¼ cup honey

2 tablespoons butter

Melt chocolate with water over low heat in a heavy-bottomed sauce pan. Simmer for three minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in honey and butter. Beat hard. Put sauce in air tight contained. Reheat but do not boil when ready to eat.

Emma's notes: Watch the chocolate carefully so that you do not burn it on the bottom! If you do burn it while stirring in the other ingredients, don't scrape the bottom of the pan so that you can avoid mixing in the burned chocolate. This is very good for things like hot fudge sundaes and pancake toppings!

#### Honey Butter Icing (Pg. 171):

3 tablespoons butter

3 tablespoons honey

2 cups powder sugar

2 teaspoons lemon juice

In a small sauce pan combine butter and honey. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat and pour over powdered sugar and lemon juice. Combine.

Emma's notes: This icing was rather thick, try heating just a little bit so that it becomes a bit more spreadable if you want to put it on a cake. It was also quite tasty!

### Inventory Blowout

The response has been tremendous to our Inventory Blowout specials. We still have shirts, hats, visors, aprons and cookbooks. When you send your order, please provide your first choice in size and color as well as a second choice, in case we are out of your size or color. With the response we have had to our Inventory Blowout, we hope to be able to have a new design by the State Fair, if not by Field Day.

Please send your order to [IHPATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:IHPATreasurer@gmail.com). Shipping is \$5 for one item, \$7.50 for two and \$10.50 for three. If you order more than three items, I will send you an email with the cost of the shipping. The shipping on a case of cookbooks runs about \$22. So, if you order a case of 30 cookbooks for \$90, plus the shipping, this equals \$122. Your cost per book is only \$3.73. This is a great price! The cookbooks make a great addition to your booth at your farmer's market.

Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer

### I need your help.

It's time to start putting together a new **IHPA Membership Directory**. The goal is to have one published prior to the State Fair.

I need your help. Please review your mailing label on the back of this issue of The Buzz. Is your name spelled correctly? Is your address correct? How about the zip code? Did you provide your email address and phone number when you renewed your membership? These are things that will be needed to produce a quality directory.

I try really hard to get everyone's name and address spelled correctly, but sometimes I miss. There were many membership renewals received without phone numbers or email address. If you want this information included in the Membership Directory, please email me the information at [IHPATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:IHPATreasurer@gmail.com). Please include "Membership Directory" in the Subject line. You can also call me with any changes at 515.724.2124. If I am unable to answer, please leave me a message.

I would like to have all information by April 30<sup>th</sup>, to allow time to compile the data for the new Membership Directory.

Thank you for your help.

Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer

## **This could bee the start of something big!**

Diane Forristal, one of our SW Iowa Beeks, writes in and asks a question or two. She keeps four hives in the country on a place surrounded by crops and a vineyard that gets sprayed on a regular basis. Please do as she did and ask questions; in fact, some of you may wish to answer this in fuller detail in the May Buzz—we all need to learn how and when to feed in the spring!

Diane has been keeping bees since 2004. Last year was the first year she made a split, doubling her hives from 2 to 4. She used to leave them on their own, and “wave swarms goodbye”, or she would lose her hives over winter and start over in the spring with nucs or packages. (Sound familiar?) She also watched some of her hives winter ok, and then in April there would be a cold snap and they’d perish. Of late, she has started using MAQS (Mite Away Quick Strips) in the fall, and she attributes her success to this treatment. Andy Joseph checked her hives in May of 2017, after she treated in the fall of 2016, and she had zero mites and lots of bees. She didn’t treat again until the fall of 2017 and things look good now.

This brings us to the present. She writes, “I checked my four hives on March 3 when the temps got above 60 degrees. All had a fair amount of bees cover the top bars, some more than others. Two colonies were new splits with queens from swarm cells and both were larger now than when I checked them late fall. All four queens were raised last year. On Jan 26<sup>th</sup> I had given all colonies winter patties above the top frames which are almost gone now. Do I give them more patties or wait and do a syrup feeding when it warms up? When I read the March Buzz, I noticed that Dave Korver warned us to wait a bit for feeding syrup because it might get cold

again. I’ll feed some more winter patties, depending on the weight of the winter stores. It’s hard to check the weight because I have insulation wrapped around the hives. I have a top feeder on that seems to collect moisture and keep bees dry. I could easily feed syrup but wonder if it’s too cold. When it warms up more I’ll take off insulation and do a full inspection.

“Back to the Jan. 26 event, I was surprised to see more bees in my two newer colonies. I’d taken an IR temperature gun to take a reading inside the entrance holes in each hive on Dec. 19, 2017. The larger hives read 58-66 degrees in the top deep while the newer colonies read 48 degrees. I didn’t make any attempt to rebalance and hoped I’d at least have two good hives in the spring. When I first approached the hives in January, there was a small amount of bees flying outside and assumed it was the stronger hives robbing the weaker ones. Turned out not to be the case. I was very surprised in January to see bees covering the top frames in the two new colonies. They were not as large, but still viable. I’d like to know more on pros and cons of rebalancing.

Thanks to Diane for asking a couple questions we’d all like the answers to. She is going to give each hive another patty and will start feeding when the temperatures warm up. She reminds us that spring is just around the corner, and that all of us are anxious to open our hives and perform a full inspection. That day cannot come soon enough!!

Thanks to all of you (in advance) for the responses you’ll be sure to send in with answers to Diane, and perhaps some questions of your own. Might we start a Q&A Column? Will you help with this?

Editor Ron



## 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 pphoneandbeesupply@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.

**Here are a couple events that the Northwest Iowa Beeks are sponsoring in the area of the Lakes.**

### Video Conferencing with Bolton Bees

Sunday, April 22, 2-4 p.m.

Location: Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279, 170<sup>th</sup> St., Okoboji, IA

Bolton Bees, [www.boltonbees.com](http://www.boltonbees.com), located near the Twin Cities, are successfully breeding Varroa mite tolerant/resistant and winter hardy bees. They are using requeening to manage the Varroa mite.

### The Big Event – 3 Events in One!

Sunday, May 6, 2-5 p.m. (Rain date: May 13)

Location: Dickinson County Nature Center, 2279, 170<sup>th</sup> St., Okoboji,

Fee: Free!

The Outdoor Classroom – Mastering Basic Skills in the Bee Yard (Bring protective bee clothing);

Making Double Nuc Summer Splits for Overwintering

Workshop (for beekeepers with a minimum of 3 years of experience);

Bee Equipment & Supplies Swap Meet

### Quilts Update:

Thank you to everyone who took a package of fabrics at the 2017 IHPA Annual Meeting. I believe I have all the blocks in my possession and I will start working on getting quilt tops together in March - April. The due date of February 1st came and went, and I didn't have all the blocks returned yet; but a phone call is all it took in order to get the remaining ones sent to me. Look for the quilts (One will be auctioned off and one will be raffled at the IHPA 2018 Annual Meeting in November).

**Thanks again!** ~Jodi Kraft

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The Summer Field Day date and location has been set.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:iha1912@gmail.com)



## **CIBA Annual Beekeeping Equipment Auction Saturday, April 21, 2018**

Accepting items starting 8:00 AM. Auction starts at 10:00 AM

The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Annual Auction will be **Saturday, April 21, 2018** at Spring Valley Honey Farm's Honey House in Perry, Iowa, right along Hwy 141. Follow the signs.

### **WE ARE IN NEED OF CONSIGNERS AND BUYERS!!**

Accepting items for sale at the auction site from 8 AM until auction start at 10

AM. All comb will be inspected by the State Apiarist or designees on day of auction. Consignment fee is 15%. A concession stand offering food and hot/cold drinks will be available.

If you have excess equipment, or if you are in need of equipment, come to the CIBA auction --or just come and visit with other Beekeepers and enjoy the food and company!

To consign equipment prior to the auction or for questions please contact:

Julie Sander [masander3@gmail.com](mailto:masander3@gmail.com) or Jolene Eriksen, [joleneeriksen@centurylink.net](mailto:joleneeriksen@centurylink.net)



## **Legislative News for Beekeepers:**

As I write this we have only a few days before Iowa Honey Bee Day on March 14 and it is shaping up to be a fun and informative day for Beekeepers as well as for Legislators. Linn and Ann Wilbur have done an excellent job of planning, inviting and getting things ready. Governor Kim Reynolds signing the Proclamation designating March 14 as Iowa Honey Bee Day gives momentum to recognizing what Honey Bees do for Iowa's economy--it is attention that is well deserved. After this year's event, the IHPA Board will discuss the options for having a Honey Bee Day next year. I will be report to you on the success of this day in next month's report.

As far as Legislation before our Iowa Senators and Representative, there are four bills that are still active in this year's session.

HF2371 – Municipal Liability for Bee Hives. This bill creates an exemption from liability for claims related to bee hives on public property against state agencies and municipalities. This bill passed the House on March 6 by a vote of 96-0. It has been sent to the Senate for their consideration. At present there appears to be no opposition to this bill.

HF2431 – Ag Theft Bill. This bill says that anyone convicted of a felony for theft of Livestock, a crop or honey bees be assessed an agricultural theft surcharge of \$2500. As of this date it is on the House debate calendar.

HF177 – Honey Bee Taxation. This bill provides an exemption from the sales and use tax on the sale of Honey Bees. Referred to the House Ways and Means committee.

HJR10 – Honey Bee as State Insect. The joint resolution designates the honey bee as the official state insect. It is in the House Natural Resources Committee.

If you would like to see any of these bills pass the Iowa Legislature contact your Representative and Senator. If you have any questions, please contact me and I can explain more about the legislation. It is vital for Beekeepers and the IHPA to have a presence in the Legislature and to watch and encourage good legislation as well as harmful legislation.

We have a new Iowa Ag Secretary, Mike Naig, who was appointed by Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds on March 1 to fill the recently vacated position formerly held by Bill Northey. We are anxious to meet with Secretary Naig to discuss the importance of Honey Bees to the state and its economy.

As part of our presence in the Legislature to watch for good or harmful legislation, IHPA now has a paid Lobbyist (Jim Obradovich) at the Iowa Capital and two volunteer lobbyists (Jamie Beyer and Linn Wilbur).

Jamie Beyer

[beyersbog@aol.com](mailto:beyersbog@aol.com) 515/231-0215

The Buzz editor went to Arizona and found out what bees do down there all winter. The tree this girl was working was also filled with hanging oranges, which taste Oh! So much better than the ones we buy in the store! I wonder what these poor things do in summer when it gets to 115 degrees down there?





## AHPA Report, submitted by Phil Ebert

We attended the American Honey Producers Meeting in San Diego. The attendance was smaller than expected but we still had a great time. Adam went with me this time. I was glad to have the company. We met old friends and made new ones. Adam is leaving his teaching job at Mt Mercy at the end of spring term. We need to establish a new revenue stream or increase current ones. We have some options. Almond pollination is one of them. I am not keen on this but it is a possibility. To that end, we spent a lot of time discussing the logistics of moving bees to California with several pollinators. We have looked at this several times in the past and always rejected it. I am unsure what will happen this time around.

The reports on the bees were mixed. The guys that were on top of their mite treatments seem to be in good shape. Others are not. Many of these guys are treating their bees up to six times. For sure, the mites are getting harder to kill. We are seeing that in our operation. They are expecting a slight shortage of bees for almond pollination. Part of this is due to the fact that they are not sure what is going to come out of Florida. The hurricane caused some problems. Projected demand for future years is 2.5 million colonies.

There were the usual reports about the state of the honey market and from the various labs. A researcher from Michigan State is working on a mite treatment with formic and oxalic acid using polymers. The combination produces a viscous liquid that they have been applying in a small tray set on the top bars. He says it works but it is years from being commercially available.

One of the interesting presentations was about Nuclear Magnetic Resonance resolution for honey testing. By looking at the profile produced by the test, it is possible to narrow down the source of the honey to the area it comes from—right down to the ZIP code. In order to accomplish this, they need a data base. They need a lot of samples to get this set up. There will be a general call for samples in the near future for those of you that want to participate. There is no charge for testing the samples. The program is being run by Jim Gewenis from the University of Missouri. He is in partnership with a German Company—Brucker Biospin who had representatives at the meeting. I have known Jim for 2 or 3 years. He is a pretty sharp guy.

There was emphasis on forming partnerships to establish pollinator strips. Matt O’Neal talked about this at the Iowa Meeting. It seems to be gaining some traction nationwide. It came up in several presentations. Keri Karstens, from Pioneer, talked about seed coatings. It turned out that she is the daughter of one of my former landowners and grew up eating my honey. She had a very informative presentation, but it raised a lot of questions in my mind. Nionics are part of the seed coating. It is my belief that they are part of a toxic cocktail we are creating in the ground. The half-life of most of them is several years. They don’t just disappear. They stay in the ground. They are water soluble and move with the ground water. Every plant in the road ditch has it. Are they better or worse than aerial spraying? I don’t know but for sure they are part of an overall problem involving land use. There was not time on the program for questions, but I cornered her after the talk. She is quite knowledgeable and proud of where she works. I was impressed but she did little to alleviate my fears. The Monsanto people have impressed me as well, but they talk you in circles when you start asking questions. We agreed to continue the conversation at a later date.

On a lighter note, I was trapped in an elevator for over an hour with 12 other beekeepers. It was not a bad experience. There was a lot of humor. Most of the people took selfies. One lady took a video and sent it to her son. He responded with, “Mom, you are with a bunch of wierdos.” Gus Rouse responded with, “We are beekeepers. What do you expect?” The hotel knocked a few bucks off my bill and gave a \$50 certificate to use in the restaurant. It was worth an hour of my time.

For those of you that used to read my articles and have wondered about my horse, I had to put her down a couple of years ago. An arthritic knee got the best of her. It was quite emotional. My pony is still doing well at over 30 years of age.

Phil Ebert



**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](mailto:childbees@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)

**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

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2 pound Carniolan packages \$100

Complete hive kits \$220

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We are moving from Muscatine and have the following for sale:

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Randy Elsbernd Mason City, IA [641-420-7297](tel:641-420-7297)

**For Sale in NW Iowa**

3# packages with Italian or Carniolan Queens on April 14. 4- or 5-frame nucs in May.

Call or text Marlene [712-320-1907](tel:712-320-1907)

**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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[www.heritagehoneybee.com](http://www.heritagehoneybee.com)

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**FOR SALE:** Nucs, queens, frames, boxes, syrup, protein patties, hive tools, veils, gloves—all that spring stuff. We also have 3/8 Steel Ply available in 3'x6' sheets for \$3.50 per sheet. Contact Phil at [641-527-2639](tel:641-527-2639) or [ehoney37@netins.net](mailto:ehoney37@netins.net). Contact Adam at [319-430-3514](tel:319-430-3514) or [fiddler171j@gmail.com](mailto:fiddler171j@gmail.com)

**For Sale:**

Near Sioux City—Singles for sale. (Full deep, 9 frames, feeder) \$180 with price break over 100 bought.

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Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to [rrihpa@gmail.com](mailto: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

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