



# *The Buzz*

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



April 2010



**IHPA Art Contest Pg.2**  
**Iowa Honey Queen Pg.4**  
**Beekeeper of the Month Zachariah Hicks Pg.6**





## Dates To Bee Remembered

**June 26, 2010** Field Day at Ebert Honey Lynnville, IA  
**August 12-22, 2010** Iowa State Fair  
**September 19, 2010** Board Meeting 2 pm Heartland Inn, Des Moines  
**November 4, 2010** Board Meeting 7 pm Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA  
**November 5th & 6th** Annual Meeting Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown



**For Sale:** new crop honey \$1.75 lb. in five gal. bucket plus new bucket exchange. Don't let your customers run out of honey, or they will get it from someone else.

Curt Bronnenberg (515) 465-5939 or [www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com](http://www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com)

**For Sale:** 9 5/8" and 6 5/8" hive boxes made out of cedar lumber. Simple butt joints glued with Tite-Bond II glue and screwed. \$12 and \$9 assembled. Also available in full one inch wood for cheaper. \$9 and \$7.

Call Josh Sommers 641-658-2213

## COFFEECAKE-- PINEAPPLE AND HONEY TOPPING

Printed from [COOKS.COM](http://COOKS.COM)

1 1/2 c. flour  
1/2 c. sugar  
2 tsp. baking powder  
3/4 tsp. salt  
1 beaten egg  
1/2 c. milk  
3 tbsp. melted shortening

### TOPPING:

1/4 c. butter, soft  
1/3 c. honey or Karo syrup  
1 c. crushed pineapple, drained  
1/4 c. coconut

Sift dry ingredients. Mix egg, milk and fat together. Add to dry ingredients. Mix until smooth. Pour into 8-inch square greased pan.

Cream butter and honey. Put pineapple over batter, then honey mixture and then coconut. Bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes.



## IHPA Membership and The Buzz

Please check your issue of The Buzz for your **membership expiration date**. **Dues for 2010 are now past due.** It is still \$10 for the primary member and \$5 for each additional family member at the same address.

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

Melanie Bower  
Treasurer

## Golden

Congratulations to Beverly and Gordon Powell on the celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The celebration will be held at Immanuel Methodist Church in Des Moines from 1 pm until 4 pm. Best wishes, Bev and Gordon for many more celebrations.

**FOR SALE:** Carniolan queens from Koehnens. Available in mid April. The price will be close to last year. Queens from our own production won't be available until sometime in June.

Contact Phil Ebert at [ehoney37@netins.net](mailto:ehoney37@netins.net) or phone 641-527-2639

**For Sale** Bees with one story hive: Painted used equipment in good condition. The hive will consist of one bottom board, 9 5/8 - 10 frame hive body with bees and 9 frames, entrance reducer, insulated inner lid and metal outer lid. The queen will be one year old or less. The total for this hive package will be \$125.00 a \$30.00 deposit is required. Ready to be picked up around June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Curtis Barnhart Monticello, IA  
319 480-4209

## 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](mailto:TheBuzz@ABuzzAboutBees.com) or by mail to The Buzz, c/o Phil Ebert, 14808 S. 102<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E., Lynnville, IA 50153. **The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.** The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society. IHPA Membership is only \$10 annually. To join IHPA and receive your complimentary member subscription to The Buzz Newsletter, please contact Melanie Bower, IHPA Treasurer, 207 S.E. Diehl, Des Moines, IA 50315, Phone: (515) 287-6542

## Greetings from the President of the IHPA

Dear Honey Producers,  
I am certainly surprised at how fast all of the snow disappeared in our orchard. Several weeks ago Steve, was walking around the trees pruning and some of the drifts were still knee high. It made for slow going. Now there is no snow, except in the ditches along the roads. Bees have been flying and some are bringing in pollen.

How many live colonies do you have? What do you suspect dead colonies died from over the winter? Did you have more colonies survive than expected? These are questions that should be answered by you, the Iowa beekeeper. There is contact information in another section of this issue for you to relay your colony survival rate so that Iowa is included in the survey on winter losses. Please take the time to submit your answers. Andy would very much appreciate your responses to this survey so that Iowa is included. Make sure that you check your colonies soon and begin feeding them promptly if needed. Register your hive locations this spring also. If you are doing mite treatments or other hive medications, get that done also.

Honey bee losses are still in the news across the country. Just opening a newspaper or magazine and you will likely find some mention of winter losses or the necessity of honey bee pollination for our food supply. We need to use those articles to reinforce the need to keep our state apiarist. Andy's position is safe until July 1st. There will be another round of cuts then. If you are so inclined, please contact your elected officials to inform them that Andy, the Iowa State Apiarist, is the only expert in the state. No university or college has beekeeping expertise and he is needed to help Iowa beekeeping stay afloat and viable. The more we promote this and keep beekeeping in the thoughts of others, the better beekeeping will be for it.

The youth equipment has been deliv-

ered. The new beekeepers are finishing up the beginning beekeeping classes and are anxiously awaiting their package of honey bees. Last year we chose the May delivery so that the weather would be warmer for the beginners to install packages. Lee Heine, who is donating the packages, will let us know which shipment and the approximate date. Be patient, they will arrive.

Thank you to Doris Ramsey, Vern Ramsey, Pat Randol, Matt Stewart and Mike Brahms for helping man the IHPA booth at the ISHS Horticulture Expo held in Ottumwa March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The IHPA depends on volunteers to make things happen. Thanks for the help.

Give us, the IHPA board, ideas for celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Iowa beekeeping. Iowa beekeeping as a group organization was started in 1902. We are sponsoring an art design contest and we would also like volunteers for creating a new honey cookbook. If you have an idea for our celebration, contact a board member. 2012 will be here before we know it.

June 26<sup>th</sup> is the Iowa Honey Producers Association field day. Mark your calendar to remember the date. It will be held at Phil Ebert's near Lynnvile this year. Tim Laughlin and Phil are co-chairmen of the event. More details will be available to the membership.

Spring is always a time when new beginnings are noticed. We get to see more sunlight, new life is evident in baby animals being born and grass begins to green up again. Spring is a busy time, but a welcomed time of year. Welcome the warmer sunshine, celebrate your family gatherings, have fun planting new gardens, and enjoy beekeeping chores. "Bee Hoppy" this month!

Sincerely,  
Donna Brahms, IHPA President

## IHPA Art Contest

The Iowa Honey Producers Association board would like to announce an art design contest to the entire membership. Someone in the organization could win \$100 for the winning design that will "bee" used for memorabilia to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iowa Beekeeping. The Iowa Beekeeping group was established in 1912 making it 100 years in 2012.

The winning entry could be used for print material, bumper stickers, belt buckles, ball caps, bolo ties, etc. Please submit your entries by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to Donna Brahms. We will have the design on display during the Iowa State Fair. Fairgoers will get a chance to vote on their favorite design August 12-22 while the 2010 Iowa State Fair is being held. Put your artistic thinking cap on and submit that winning design.



## 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. If you would be interested in helping create our new cookbook, please contact Donna Brahms. The board has suggested several names of people that might be willing to work on the cookbook, but we don't want to overlook anyone that would be interested in helping. The sales of the current cookbook have increased dramatically, so a new cookbook seemed like the thing to do. We will let you know the schedule, the categories, and the submission form as we progress with this committee. Start sorting your favorite honey recipes now.

## Iowa Honey Queen April

Most of the snow has finally melted, but in my area of the state is somewhat of a blessing and a curse. We're happy to see the snow gone because that means it's getting close to planting time, fishing time, and mushroom hunting time. But we know as it gets warmer the rain starts coming in, and boy does it like to flood where I am from. Hopefully the river stays where it needs to and this article finds all of you staying dry.

March sure was a busy month for me.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> I went to Mason City to speak to Pat & Peggy Ennis' Beginner Beekeeping Class at NIACC. I had a real good time with that group. There were about 25 people there, and 3 of the youth scholars were in this class. I presented to the group about myself, the queen program, why I wanted to and how I became queen, about the youth mentoring program, and my experiences with beekeeping. I think the group really enjoyed the "Forest Gump" reference in my story about the first time I got stung. This is a story that is better left to be told in person, so if it really intrigues you and you can remember, ask me about it at the annual convention later this year! In all though I thought the presentation went well and the group sure enjoyed it! I also got my first glimpse of my brochure at this event. I was so excited and they turned out really nice!

The day after getting back from Mason City, I got a call from Donna Brahms. She wanted to know if she and Mike could stop by Ames and drop off the bee equipment they had for me. I was so ecstatic!!!! In less than an hour there it was my bee equipment, of course to the untrained eye it looked like a stack of wood wrapped in plastic but I knew what was all there. Enough supplies for 2 supers, 2 hive bodies, a

queen excluder, bottom board, top cover (telescoping to be exact), frames, and foundation. Which I'm sure as many of you know, this equipment isn't light by any means. So I have to give thanks and kudos to Mike Brahms, for carrying that all the way up to my dorm, on the top (4<sup>th</sup>) floor of Oak Hall. With no assistance from an elevator, he sure got his workout for the day. When I showed the bundle of items to my friends and started explaining it to them what was all there, they just kind of looked at me like okay, but I don't think that's all there. But I proved them wrong. I assembled the hive right there in my itty bitty dorm room. I'm

Like, "So you're the Honey Queen. Sure sounds better than Pork Queen, doesn't it?" All of this was in preparation for my radio interview in the morning. I was glad to find out that it would be pre-recorded and then put on the air. I was extremely nervous for it, but everyone said I did fine. After the interview we headed over to the farmer's market in Dubuque. I was surprised to find out this market was year round. And for being a cold, rainy day, quite a few people showed up. I did a cooking demonstration where I made a chicken marinade, garlic bread, and a fruit dip. Everyone really enjoyed watching the demonstration and listening to me talk about honey and bees. The crowd really enjoyed the food, especially some boy scouts who had their eyes on the food from the start. One gal even grabbed the recipes and my brochure and said, "I know what I'm making for dinner tonight!" After the cooking demonstration and talking with many people, I helped the Johnson's with their honey booth. They had a lot of sales and I got to talk to quite a few people.

### WEAVER'S famous QUEENS and Package Bees

★ Buckfast

★ All-American

Order On-Line Now

Visit us on the Web at [www.rweaver.com](http://www.rweaver.com)

**THE R WEAVER APIARIES, INC.**

16495 CR 319, Navasota, TX 77868

Ph: 936/825-2333 [rweaver@rweaver.com](mailto:rweaver@rweaver.com)

probably the only student who can say they have put together a beehive in their dorm. So thank you to everyone involved in the mentoring program, and everyone who worked out this plan to get me equipment. It really made my year! I can't wait to get started again and show everyone my year in beekeeping!

On March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, I packed up my little car and headed for the Northeast corner of the state. On the 12<sup>th</sup> I left straight from class in Ames and drove about 3 hours to the town of Peosta, IA. Here I met with Louise Johnson and Regina Hoy for my media training meeting. They both taught me the basics of giving interviews with newspapers, radios, and television. They prepared me for questions about honey uses, honeybee diseases, Africanized honeybees, and those questions where, you're not ever quite sure how to an-

With March being such a busy and eventful month, I cannot wait to see what April holds! Hope you all stay dry and have a productive spring! And don't forget to contact the queen chairs or myself with your events! Tell them take care!

Amber Connett  
2010 Iowa Honey Queen  
[aconnett@iastate.edu](mailto:aconnett@iastate.edu)  
(515) 460-9199

### Beekeeper's Record & Journal

The following was reprinted with the permission of the estate of Richard Taylor. The material is from the book, "Beekeeper's Record & Journal", text by Richard Taylor, and designed and illustrated by Cynthia Diamond. This book (among other items) was donated



to the youth during the 2009 IHPA annual meeting in October at the Best Western Regency Inn in Marshalltown. After the meeting, this book was not taken and is now the property of the Iowa Honey Producers Association, Historian.

I have enjoyed reading it, and thought the membership would also. As stated by Kim Flottum, Editor of the *Bee Culture*, "We have a Gem".

Peggy Ennis, IHPA Historian

## April

Spring, and not just the foretaste of it, is finally, unmistakably, here. That doesn't mean winter has utterly abandoned the field. There will still be snow, perhaps a snow storm, but no one should take it very seriously. Winter hasn't any real chance against the earth's turning, as more and more each day it turns these latitudes towards the sun, the ultimate worldly giver of life.

Now the bees bring pollen to their hives in a crescendo, and the greatest array of plants, and especially wild-flowers, offer their nectar and pollen in exchange for the life-giving transfer of some small amount of it to the other blooms of the same species. The bees will give their attention to whatever flowers offer pollen in the greatest abundance, and nectar of the greatest sweetness; they make a hard and self-serving bargain. The pear trees will be scorned if the lowly dandelions beneath them have something better to offer. Still, no one species of plant, however generous and profuse, can fully satisfy the insatiable appetite of the bees. Less common or less generous plants – "minor sources," as they are known in the literature of beekeeping – will be visited too. The parade of bees into the hives therefore resembles a convocation whose participants rival each other in the garishness of their robes. Every color of the spectrum is seen, one bee with the orange of the

early dandelions, behind it one laden with the purple of tulip pollen, then the yellow of the willow, the rich brown of buckthorn, and the occasional white of the obscure anemone. The bees are now so busy plundering the blooms for miles around that they take no notice of the owner, the beekeeper who lays claim to them but to whom they are even more oblivious than ever. He can stand at the very gate of their hive without stirring their resentment, as they circle about in confusion until he steps aside, disclosing to them the familiar sight. Then they pour in as a tumbling confusion, in such haste that they haven't even time to avoid collisions. Now is when their spirits are high and they are above fault. They can hardly be goaded to sting, and they will not steal from each other even if invited. Even a comb of unguarded honey is likely to be ignored, as the bloom of the meadows beckons more urgently.

April is in some ways the best time to be alive. All the promise of a bountiful honey season is at hand. The setbacks are waiting, too, but optimism is hard to suppress in the midst of an apiary in April.

Richard Taylor

Richard Taylor was born 1919 and passed away October 30, 2003 in New York. He earned his PhD at Brown University and taught principally at Brown University, Columbia, and University of Rochester. He was an American Philosopher, renowned for his dry wit and his contributions to Metaphysics. Although it is well known he was a philosopher – he was far better known as a beekeeper. It is often said – "I have never met a beekeeper who has not heard of Richard Taylor". He owned 300 hives and from 1970 produced mostly comb honey. His significant contributions to beekeeping are - authoring many books on beekeeping - among these are the two; *"The Comb Honey Book"* and *"The Joys of Beekeeping"*, and regularly

writing articles for bee journals.

His near legendary honey stand at the roadside in front of his country home operated on the honor system, secured only by gentle solicitations to honesty posted on its walls.

To "bee" continued next month.....



## HONEY & GARLIC CHICKEN STIR FRY

Printed from COOKS.COM

1 lg. onion, sliced  
1 c. sliced celery  
3/4 c. thinly sliced carrots  
1/4 c. soy sauce  
1 tsp. crushed garlic  
1 tbsp. cornstarch  
1 c. water  
1 lg. bell pepper, sliced  
1 c. mushrooms, cut in half  
1 1/2 lbs. boneless chicken  
1/4 c. peanut oil  
3 tbsp. honey  
1/2 c. white wine  
Cut chicken into thin strips about 2 inches long and place in soy sauce; let marinate while cleaning and slicing vegetables.  
In a large skillet or Wok, heat oil and sear chicken over high heat. Add vegetables, wine, garlic, and 1/2 cup of water. Stir and fry until tender-crisp; add honey. Blend cornstarch with the leftover soy sauce and add to mixture to let the sauce thicken. Serve on hot cooked rice.



## Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper is Zachariah Hicks. He is another of our 2009 Iowa Honey Producers scholarship winners. Zachariah is the son of David and Trisha Hicks from Algona, Iowa. He is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and is home-schooled. He has a sister Hannah, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Mercy, who is in the first grade. Their family pet is Mocha, a pure bred Siamese cat.

Zachariah is president of the Teen Advisory Board at the Algona Public Library and in a Chess Club at Burt Library. His hobbies are chess, checkers, and remote control vehicles and robotics. His future plans are going to college to focus on an engineering degree.

Zachariah wrote, "Before I got the scholarship, I was interested in bees and I liked honey, so I read about beekeeping. My mother found out about the scholarship program so I decided to give it a try. I have learned a huge amount about bees and beekeeping since then and I find beekeeping totally amazing." Pat Ennis is his mentor.



**Zach had a good year with his two hives. He is looking forward to purchasing more hives to expand his beekeeping hobby.**

Zack and his parents helped at the Iowa Honey Producers booth at the State Fair. He has had an interesting experience with his bees. A tree nearly fell directly on top of his hives. Just a few

inches closer and the trunk would have crushed them. Zachariah and his father spent a lot of time clearing the tree from around his hives. He said the amazing thing was neither he nor his father got a bee sting the whole time they cut wood even when his father used a chain saw a few inches from the hives. After the job was complete they discovered only a scratch on the outer cover. Zachariah says on e Friday he put up a honey stand to open at 5:00 pm to catch people coming home from work. He was rewarded with a lot of business. The next morning he sat at his stand and sold all the honey he had for sale. He is hoping to have made some customers for next year, because he is planning to purchase more hives and continue his beekeeping hobby.

Nice story Zach, good luck next year.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



**Zach's Honey stand was a big success. Open while people where coming and going from work, Zach sold all of his honey quickly.**



## Location of Colonies

The locating of hives may not seem important BUT how it is done and where can make a difference. I recall from the time I was of the age to observe what was going on as my Father worked with his bees while producing large numbers of queens mostly for other beekeepers.

I noticed that all hives had the fronts to the South and if possible where the land sloped slightly to the South. I assumed the reasoning was, that when the sun hit the hive early in the morning the bees were more apt to begin foraging earlier. Maybe Father knew something I didn't know but learned later that was the correct way to place the hives.

Now to add to that, I find it to the advantage of the bees and beekeeper that all hives be placed on two 2x4s, 3 1/2 feet long. That accommodates two colonies. This prevents the tipping of the hives and keeps the hives from slipping off the bottom boards. If the ground does not slope to the South simply place shims under the 2x4 in the back.

WE found that it is best to place the bees in full sun. It is much easier to see what is necessary to see in the cells of the combs using the help of the sunlight. If by mid afternoon some shade is east over the hives that is OK.

NOW, why the front of the hive to the South. Some years ago a German scientist by the name of Dr. Lindower discovered that if we place a colony of bees in a circular object, with noting inside the bees will build the combs North to South. The honeybee is zeroed in on magnetic North as are all birds.

From experience we found colonies placed facing another direction did not do as well even though they were in the same apiary. If you install colonies on foundation and face them other than South they will build considerable bridge comb between the sheets of foundation.

Keeping the hives on the 2x4s will keep the bottom boards dry and lengthen the life of the bottom boards. Treated 2x4s is best. If you don't form them into an H frame just place them flat on the ground.

Glen L. Stanley  
2615 Aspen Road  
Ames, Iowa 50014

## \$44M in crops threatened by high honeybee deaths through winter

By Steve Bennish, Staff Writer  
[www.daytondailynews.com](http://www.daytondailynews.com)

GREENE COUNTY — Think the 2009 -10 winter was tough on you? Consider the state's honeybees.

An estimated 50 to 70 percent of hives kept by beekeepers died, said Cindy Kalis, spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

The losses are in keeping with heavy fatality rates experienced since 2006 — a year when 600,000 bee colonies in the U.S. mysteriously fled their homes and disappeared, said James Tew, Ohio State University's state honeybee specialist.

"The average person should care," he said. "Bees of all species are fundamental to the operation of our ecosystem." Without bees to pollinate vegetables like squash and fruits like pears, apples and blueberries — a third of the human diet — you'd be looking at a menu of wheat and corn, Tew said.

Bees annually pollinate Ohio crops worth \$44 million, including berries, fruits and vegetables. Honey sales yield \$1.4 million, according to Agriculture Department entomologist Barb Bloetscher.

Honeybees are under siege from many foes: Destructive mites, too many pesticides showing up in pollen, a mysterious disorder that causes them to abandon hives, stress from overwork to pollinate cash crops.

In the 1920s, Ohio beekeepers kept 120,000 colonies. Today, there are about 30,000.

"How low should these numbers go

before it's a crisis?" Tew asked. "Do you wait until you can't get vegetables? The public should be concerned."

## Sweet Honey on the Roof

April 4, 2010  
Editorial  
[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

Here's the best news we have heard in a while: keeping honeybees is now legal in New York City. The old rule was based on a misunderstanding. It lumped honeybees into a long list of wild animals that may not be kept in the city — outside a zoo — including the hippopotamus and elephant.

Honeybees will sting, if provoked. But their nature is so gentle, their honey sweet, and their moral character benign and enterprising.

The change has been a long time coming, and it is part of the groundswell in support of local agriculture. Honeybees are important pollinators for crops of all kinds, and rooftop hives are a good step toward greening the roofs of this city. There is a honey industry and a pollination industry, but bees really need more amateur beekeepers, the kind likely to be caring for city hives.

The more bees there are — and the more diverse the circumstances in which they are kept — the better for the welfare of the species, which recently has been threatened by two kinds of mites and a still poorly understood syndrome called colony collapse disorder.

City beekeepers will have to register their hives with the health department and make sure that they have ready access to water. Beekeepers are also required to be able to respond immediately to swarms, which is just normal good practice in keeping bees. As it happens, most beekeepers are also avid ambassadors from the domain of the hive. That is just what New Yorkers need in order to rest easy and accept honeybees as natural and highly beneficial neighbors.





The beginning beekeeper class sponsored by the Iowa Honey Producers was held at Kirkwood Community College in Washington, Iowa in February and March. There were 11 students. Tim Wilbanks, on the right of the picture, came and spoke to the class about his experience as a 5th generation package and queen producer in Georgia. The SE Iowa Beekeepers Association is going to mentor the 3 students on the left in the front row this year. They are Chance Nye, Alexander Ockenfels and Aaron Ockenfels.

Submitted by Ron Wehr

## THE BEEYARD REPORT

Eureka!!! The bees look great. I am trying not to be too optimistic but we have come through winter with the best looking bees we have had in a while. March is a critical month, though. If it is a poor month and the bees don't brood up well, they will go downhill. I am surprised at how light some of them are. I thought Alex was giving too much syrup last fall. I almost told him to stop feeding so much. Then I thought, "You aren't there. Stay out of it." It's a good thing I did. We have had some big colonies starve to death. Our death loss at the present time is around 15%. It could easily go to 30% if the weather doesn't allow the lame ones to recover. 30% is manageable for us. If it doesn't get worst than that, we can easily make up our death loss and still have some bees to sell.

It's difficult to get into the yards when there is so much snow. I've never

wanted a snowmobile but it would have been nice to have one to haul syrup into the yards. It takes a long time to walk into the yards and move honey around so all the colonies have access of food. Adam has been here the last two weekends. He and Alex have both been driving a truck so they can cover more ground. Some of the yards are close to the road. We have been able to give syrup to those.

I mentioned last month that I had seen a truck in Sacramento with Iowa plates. It turned out to be Dan Stiffler's. His mother called me to let me know. I had never talked to her before. We had a nice visit. Dan lives in the Edgewood area and migrates his bees to California.

There have been lots of geese moving north. I was fueling at the Coop one day when the geese started to come over. After a while, they extended in both directions for as far as the eye could see. It was the biggest migration

of geese I have ever seen with the exception of a place like DeSoto Bend. Some of the later flocks have had lots of snow geese. We don't normally see many of those.

Most of the piles of snow that formed the canyon walls along my driveway have melted. The bad part of that is that the water wound up in my basement. In the 23 years I have lived here, I have never had standing water in my basement. Imagine my surprise when I stepped into 8" of water.

February and March are the months for phone calls. We have sold lots of packages. It is the only time of year I get to talk to some of the customers. It's nice to get caught up on what is going on.

I moved the bird feeder further out on the limb so the squirrel couldn't get on it so easily. Now, he jumps up from the ground and catches onto the bottom of the feeder with all fours. In this upside down position, he cranes his neck up over the edge of the tray and partakes of the food.

A lot of people worry when their hives get buried in the snow. The reality is that it's the best thing that can happen to them. It's extra insulation. If you go to our web page [www.eberthoney.com](http://www.eberthoney.com) there are some pictures Adam posted on his blog of some colonies he dug out of the snow. They were completely buried. The only reason he uncovered them was so he could feed them. Check out the size of the clusters. There are also some pictures of brood frames that Alex took around March 18. They are from a different yard.

It is officially spring. Let's hope the weather continues to reflect that. The bees are bringing in pollen. I'm hopeful.

Submitted by Phil Ebert





# Your ONE and ONLY "in hive" Small Hive Beetle Treatment!

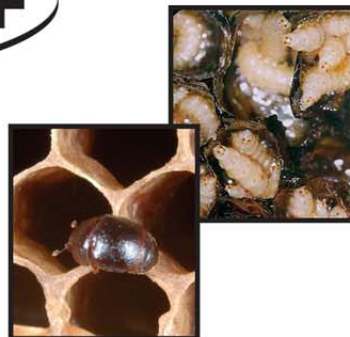


## Lowest Price Ever!

**CheckMite+™**

DC-800 CheckMite+™ 100 pack.....**\$150.00**

DC-810 CheckMite+™ 10 pack.....**\$ 19.95**



### Small Hive Beetle Treatment

- Use a ground drench in addition to CheckMite+™
- Use 1 strip cut in 1/2 then attached to a 5" x 5" corrugated square. Place square strip side down on bottom board.
- Remove strips after 42-45 days

### Non-Medicated 5" x 5" Plastic Squares

For use in application with CheckMite+™ in treating Small Hive Beetles.

DC-815 Black Squares 1 - 499.....\$.35  
500+.....\$.29

### GardStar®

It is important to use GardStar® as a ground drench when treating for the small hive beetle!



DC-825 GardStar® 4 oz. bottle.....\$ 26.95

DC-830 GardStar® quart bottle.....\$114.95

## Mann Lake Ltd.

Hackensack, MN - Woodland, CA

Order anytime at  
[www.mannlakeltd.com](http://www.mannlakeltd.com)

or call  
**800-880-7694**

Prices are subject to change without notice and do not include shipping charges.

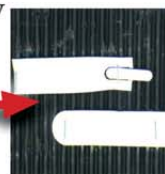
### SHB Life Cycle

Eggs → Larvae → Pupae → Adult

### Avoiding SHB Infestations

- Keep strong healthy hives by treating for disease and mites when appropriate.
- Feed syrup and pollen substitute to keep your hives strong when natural sources are not available.
- Use CheckMite+™ and GardStar® at the first sign of infestation.

**TIP:** To attract the beetles, spread a small amount of Bee-Pro® patty down the center of the square then attach the strip on either side of the patty



### Varroa Treatment



- Treatment is most effective when brood rearing is lowest
- Treat all infested colonies within the yard
- Use 1 strip for every 5 frames of bees
- Remove strips after 42-45 days

**For All Your Packaging Containers  
For Packing Honey**

**( No Order Too Large or Small )**

## **BL Plastic Containers**



**"We Built Our Business on  
Service, Quality, and  
Dependability."**

**Elmer C. Lynn  
405 Kimberly Lane  
Des Moines, IA 50327**

**Phone : 515-266-6112  
Fax : 515-266-1112**

## **LAPPS BEE SUPPLY CENTER**

**500 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
REESEVILLE, WISCONSIN 53579**

**Beekeeping & Candlemaking  
Supplies**

**FREE CATALOG  
1-800-321-1960**

**"Serving the beekeeper  
for 25 years"**



**Do you need to reach  
Iowa Beekeepers?**

**Create a buzz of your own!**

**Place an ad in *The Buzz Newsletter* today.**

<b>2" x 1/2 page</b>	<b>\$6.00 per month</b>
<b>1/4 page</b>	<b>\$15.00 per month</b>
<b>1/2 page</b>	<b>\$30.00 per month</b>
<b>Full page</b>	<b>\$60.00 per month</b>

**Please contact The Buzz Newsletter at  
[thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com](mailto:thebuzz@abuzzaboutbees.com)**



**32 YEARS SERVING USA BEEKEEPERS  
MAKE US YOUR SOURCE**

**BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT  
CANDLEMAKING EQUIPMENT  
SOAPMAKING EQUIPMENT  
PACKAGE BEES  
QUEENS  
UNIQUE CONTAINERS  
EXPERT INFORMATION**

**HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP**

**FREE CATALOG ON REQUEST**

## **B & B Honey Farm**

**5917 Hop Hollow Road  
Houston, Minn. 55943**



**Information 1-507-896-3955  
Order Line 1-800-342-4811  
Fax 1-507-896-4134  
Email [bbhoney@acegroup.cc](mailto:bbhoney@acegroup.cc)**



# Dadant Quality Suits & Coveralls



**Dadant Zipper Veil Suit**  
The Ultimate In Protection

*A Great Value  
for Your Money!*

**Dadant Clothing**  
"The Ultimate in Protection"

**Zipper Veil-Suit Combination** was designed by Dadants. We added all the features our beekeepers wanted for total protection and comfort for a full day's work in the bee yard. This Zipper Veil-Suit Combination offers the fine features of the Dadant Folding Veil and the Dadant Coveralls to provide total protection for the beekeeper. Zippered side openings allow full protection and easy access to trouser pockets. Easy slip on over boots or shoes with generous zippered bottom pant legs. The location of the veil zipper holds the veil in place, assuring perfect vision while allowing total freedom of movement. Easy on and off. We recommend using with the Dadant Plastic Sun Helmet. When ordering, state catalog number and size range. Because of numerous sizes, branch points may be temporarily out-of-stock of some sizes. Note sizes are based upon chest sizes. Ship wt. 4 lbs.

M01103 Small (36-38).....	\$62.95
M01105 Medium (40-42) .....	\$62.95
M01107 Large (44-46).....	\$62.95
M01203 X-Large (48-50).....	\$62.95
M01203X XX-Large (52-54) .....	\$66.95



**Snow-White  
Coveralls**

**The Best  
for Bee work**

*Polyester-Cotton  
Blend*

*Six Roomy Pockets*

*Full Front Zipper*

*Wide Variety of Sizes  
Available*

Dadant coveralls are snow-white, polyester-cotton blend. Snow-white because white is less annoying to bees than darker colors and they are less apt to sting. Full front zipper for easy on and off. Sturdy construction - all points of stress are bartacked for extra reinforcement. Six roomy pockets hold the tools you need. Side openings allow easy access to trouser pockets. When ordering, state chest size by item number. Wt. 4 lbs. per pair.

M01063 Small (36-38).....	\$38. <sup>50</sup>
M01065 Medium (40-42) .....	per pair
M01067 Large (44-46).....	\$40. <sup>70</sup>
M01121 X-Large (48-50).....	per pair
M01122 XX-Large(52-54).....	\$42. <sup>95</sup>
	per pair

## Dadant Zipper Veil Hooded Suit



*All the features and  
more that you are  
looking for in a  
Hooded Suit!*

**Classic Hooded Design...**

but with a difference! Our cotton polyester blend is double lined, 2 full layers, to protect the back of the head. Give yourself confidence, full vision and rugged Dadant quality with our newest Protective Bee Suit.

**Zipper Veil Hooded Suit** Note sizes are based upon chest sizes.  
Ship wt. 5 lbs.

V01180S Small (36-38).....	\$67.50
V01180M Medium (40-42) .....	\$67.50
V01180L Large (44-46).....	\$67.50
V01180XL X-Large (48-50).....	\$67.50
V01180XXL XX-Large (52-54).....	\$67.50

*Heavy Duty-Zippers*  
*Unobstructed Vision*  
*Relaxed Fit*  
*Elastic Waist*  
*Two Large Chest Pockets*  
*Rugged Quality*  
*Zippered Leg Cuffs*  
*Easy on & off*

### Dadant & Sons, Inc.

**51 S 2nd St • Hamilton, IL 62341**  
**Phone: 217-847-3324**  
**Fax: 217-847-3660**  
**Toll-Free: 1-888-922-1293**

**1318 11th St. • Sioux City, IA 51102**  
**Phone: 712-255-3232**  
**Fax: 712-255-3233**  
**Toll-Free: 1-877-732-3268**  
**www.dadant.com**

# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
207 S.E. Diehl  
Des Moines, IA 50315

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ISSUE 4 – April 2010



PRSRRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DES MOINES, IA  
PERMIT NO.  
4271



## Officers

**President :** Donna Brahms  
14922 535<sup>th</sup> Street  
Griswold, IA 51535  
(712) 778-4255 home  
(712) 778-4256 orchard line  
mbrahms@netins.net

**Vice President:** Pat Randol  
2505 Carriage Trail  
Winterset, IA 50273  
(515) 210-7445  
Pat.Randol@RandolHoney.com

**Secretary:** Mary Ebert  
705 Hwy. #1 West  
Iowa City, IA 52246  
(319) 354-6696  
Mebert@netins.net

**Treasurer:** Melanie Bower  
207 S.E. Diehl  
Des Moines, IA 50315  
(515) 287-6542  
melrb@msn.com

**Historian:** Peggy Ennis  
1040 Union Ave.  
Goodell, IA 50439  
(641) 444-4767

**Past President:** Curt Bronnenberg  
1433 Hull Ave.  
Perry, IA 50220  
(515) 465-5939  
CBronny823@aol.com

## District Directors

**District #1** Kristoffer Valleroy, Sr.  
1638 W 35th St.  
Davenport, IA 52806  
(563) 320-1488  
kvalleroy@yaho.com

**District #2** Louise Johnson  
34147 310<sup>th</sup> St.  
Guttenberg, IA 52052  
(563) 252-2340  
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

**District #3** Matt Stewart  
2956 170th St.  
South Amana, IA 52234  
(319) 662-4145

**District #4** John Johnson  
3422 Clinton Court  
Ames, IA 50010-4371  
(515) 450-5606  
wjohnnq@aol.com

**District #5** Jack Trowbridge  
20041 235th Street  
Decatur, IA 50067  
(641) 446-3123

**District #6** Larry Boernsen  
6724 200th Street  
Ocheyedan, IA 51354  
(712) 735-4205  
lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

## State Apiarist

Andrew Joseph (515) 725-1481  
andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov



## Queen Co-Chairs

Regina Jager (641) 660-0772  
Louise Johnson (563) 252-2340

## Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

### East Central Iowa Beekeepers

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

### North Iowa Bee Club

Contact: Pat Ennis  
1040 Union Ave.  
Goodell, IA 50439  
(641) 444-4767  
Flat\_Lander@lycos.com

### Northeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Louise Johnson  
34147 310<sup>th</sup> St.  
Guttenberg, IA 52052  
(563) 252-2340  
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

### Northwest Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Larry J. Boernsen  
6724 200th St.  
Ocheyedan, Iowa 51354  
(712) 735-4205  
Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

### Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Dave Oliver  
1603 200<sup>th</sup> St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-3916

### Southwest Iowa Honey Producers

Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms  
14922 535th Street  
Griswold, IA 51535  
(712) 778-4255

### Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

Contact: Eves Cadwallader  
2420 285th St.  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
(641) 673-3993  
weic@kdsi.net

### Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

Contact: Arvin Foell  
30930 530<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Kelley, IA 50134  
Home phone 515/597-3060  
Cell phone 515/450-9494  
ajfoell@huxcomm.net

### Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Frank Pering  
210 E. Kirkwood Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50315

## Additional Links and Emails

**IDALS website**  
[www.agriculture.state.ia.us](http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us)

**National Honey Board**  
[www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com)

**American Beekeeping Federation website**  
[www.ABFnet.org](http://www.ABFnet.org)

**Robert Haxton**  
**Food Processing Plants**  
**Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals**  
[rhaxton@dia.state.ia.us](mailto:rhaxton@dia.state.ia.us)