

The Buzz

Newsletter of the

Iowa Honey Producers

Association



July 2025

<https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**Sign up to be a volunteer at the 2025
IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair.
Get all the details on Page 8.**

The Buzz

The Buzz is a monthly publication printed by the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA). This is one of the many perks of being an IHPA member!



You may opt to receive an electronic version of The Buzz, as a donation to the IHPA.

Please contact the editor at:
ihpaeditor@gmail.com

Letters from the Wildhills

Hello Iowa Beekeepers (and our friends in other states)!!

I'm writing you all today on Memorial Day, for those who don't know me, I have been a CrossFit Coach for the past 15 years. Memorial Day is a big day. We always do a Hero Workout called Murph, 1 mile run, 100 pull ups, 200 push ups, 300 squats, and then another mile run. If you can, wear a 20-lb weight vest for the guys and a 14-lb weight vest for the ladies. It's a huge community thing done around the world on Memorial Day - not for the praise and BBQ, but to do something that creates a level of visceral pain to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms. My hand tore doing pull ups on the first 10, so the next 90 were a little spicy. But in the end, it's well worth it. My grandpa's were both in WWII as well as my great uncle, who was on the front lines of D-Day. While you will be getting this well after Memorial Day, and it's not technically Veteran's Day, I want you to know, I say thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

So what else is going on in my world? If you have been following along, work travel has been a bit much the past few months, to the point I needed to unplug and get away for a while. So I packed up, and my buddy from Texas and I headed out to Colorado for 8 days. I just got back from a vacation out at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Tent camping, bacon and eggs over the campfire each morning, and multiple 6-12 mile hikes, with a lot of elevation. It was a great break from the real world, and even came at a perfect time, learning the Honey Bee Tax Bill did not pass, yet again. There goes the old saying, "Third time's a charm." More to come on that later. Back to vacation, given there was talk of a nectar flow hitting in Des Moines, I was a little uncomfortable leaving for a week without working my hives. So imagine this, 5:30 p.m. the night before leaving, I'm out there in my office clothes with a bee suit, slapping some supers on hives just so I had a little insurance. The flow didn't hit here yet, so I was fine, but didn't want to let everyone just swarm while I was away.

Now that I'm back, it's back to work, and I placed 40 supers this weekend. I'm really excited, all but 4 of my hives are being complete rock stars, drawing fresh foundation (everyone got a few new frames this year) and building population like crazy. Some even had that beautiful white wax starting to form. We are supposed to have some rain tonight and tomorrow, I think that will be what it takes to get our Dutch clover popping. In the words of Shania Twain, "Let's go girls" Uncle Chris needs y'all to make some honey. Those four that are not being that great. Well,



Above: Chris before and during his vacation.
Below: Vacation photos from Great Sand Dunes National Park.



I believe they will get new queens next weekend. In the past I would just hope and pray that they would right themselves, and while hopes and prayers are great, they do nothing for underperforming hives and I'm going to be a bit more proactive than prior years. That said, I'm so happy with how they are doing already!

So that tax bill, it's turning into that one annoying bee that will not leave you alone despite walking away from the hive 5 minutes prior. You know that bee, the one that you just want to slap into next year ... yeah, that's what I'm talking about. Prior to diving into my thoughts, I need to take a minute to say thank you for emails and calls to your legislators. I'm not sure many are accustomed to getting emails from me, and I sent a few on this, so I appreciate it, a lot. I promise I won't continue to message you all. Well, from time to time I will.

Letters from the Wildhills

The legislative session this year was very contentious, and ran longer than normal. Lawmakers were done and at 6:31 a.m. May 15 they closed the session. There was a lot of debate on the budget, a lot, and cutting anything at that point seemed like it was not going to happen. And in the end, it didn't. I decided to take a small break on that project, just to reset and think of the angles we can take on it in future years such as how we can get ahead of the curve and get it on everyone's desk as soon as possible. I have invited multiple representatives to my apiary, so I can get some one-on-one time with them, talk about bees, talk about the law, and get them thinking about it well before the 2026 legislative session. Either way, trust the IHPA is not going to back down on this, or issues coming up with the Aerial Spray Applicators. They are asking we eliminate the bee rule, which just cannot happen. Tyler Holton and I have been working on this, with the assistance of Andrew Joseph, but in the end, it will come down to the IHPA to work on this matter. In comparison to the tax bill, this is much, much more urgent. Beekeepers need farmers, farmers need beekeepers, but we cannot agree to pesticide application on our hives. It just does not work. More coming on this, and well. You might hear from me via emails again on that. The IHPA is so much more than some meetings and educational. We are going to bat for Iowa Honey Producers. I've learned more about other state laws in the past few months than I ever thought possible, just so I have all the information needed.

So enough of me ranting on laws and rules, I always try to find the things that bring a little joy. Next week I start the construction on my commercial kitchen! I got one heck of a



deal on a triple basin sink from a buddy who does construction/restoration and could not say no. I have another buddy who is going to look at the room and give me a few quotes on how this can work. To say the least, I'm pretty excited to be able to have a room dedicated to honey extraction, and then bottling and creating things like hot honey and creamed honey. I'll share some pictures in the coming months!

If you were not able to make Summer Field Day, I hope to see you at State Fair and the Annual Conference. That's coming up sooner than we think! There are some AMAZING speakers being brought in for 2025. I cannot wait!

All my best, and remember bee real,
Chris Puetz
IHPA President



IHPA Officer & Director News

Ramblings from The Russian Bee Guy

Past President, Jason Foley

Hello and welcome to the July addition of the buzz.

Great-goggally-moogally did we get hit with a nectar flow in May and going into the first part of June. I literally have 4 boxes of capped honey on different hives and still have the rest of June and into part of July before it should peter-out. Those Hives with 4 full supers, I did manage to get around here one more time and they are now 5 and 6 high, but with brand new boxes and blank waxed



frames. So that'll really put a halt to the honey coming in as the bees will need to build wax. The main reason things got so out of control here around the Central/South of Iowa is because our main nectar flow hit, but then plants that usually don't bloom till weeks later, decided to also bloom and kept blooming. Additionally, for me living between Des Moines and Indianola there is a ton of black locust down the whole corridor. This was the one out of ten years that it bloomed and it didn't i



mmediately rain (it almost always rains the moment black locust blooms and rain basically washes the nectar out of it and messes the blossoms up). I got more than a week of good forage off it before any rain came along. I only even have half my hives set up for honey production this year as the other half were all broken down into splits and nucs early in the year and are building back to be double deeps. So half the hives, and I blew through all my drawn comb supers and ended up frantically building a ton



of new boxes. WHAT A YEAR! I still have a few pallets worth of new boxes in reserve just in case my splits start needing them or these girls end up filling the new boxes as well.



IHPA Officer & Director News



Things aren't all a monsoon of honey this year. I was on the phone this last week with a beekeeper in North West Iowa complaining that the bees still haven't brought in any real flow. That they haven't even filled their first super. This person relies heavily on a honey crop so I definitely feel for them. It's time like that that make me so thankful that my operation is diversified between; honey, queens, package/nuc sales, pollination services, and goods we produce. That way if one aspect of the business tanks, we still have the others to fall back on.

Speaking of queens, it's been a pretty good year. In the photos you can see one of my queen banks with extras off production. I like to joke around that the queen banks are my banking savings accounts lol. "Oops, time to make a withdrawal." Also in the pictures you'll see the new raised platform of land I made. I rented a track loader this spring right before the bees got back to Iowa and dug out fill from one part of our farm and layered it up so the hives are now up 3ft higher. I never want a repeat of the flash flood to happen to me again. Yes, ELAP helped me out, but I'd rather just have dry bees than calling up my local FSA office with news of pallets of bees getting washed away.

IHPA Historian

This picture illustrates my life perfectly at the moment. We had a little storm damage to the roof of our 1920 home early in May. A week later, when the crew arrived to help us do the repairs, we uncovered a nightmare. Revelations of problems snowballed for weeks. Eventually it led to demolishing several of our main living areas in order to shore up the entire structure.

This room was most recently our master bedroom. For weeks I fought tears as the horrors of our mess unfolded. This day (of the picture), while I paused for a drink and a breather, the similarity to our skep-raised honey bees living in the early 1800's came to mind. The feeling I was having of fear, madness, and uncertainty must have been exactly how they felt being ripped from their home, for the purpose of a honey harvest.

You've seen the beautiful and lush English gardens, with their artistic hand-crafted basket skeps under a sweet little roof. Or perhaps a stone wall of a grand home with intricate bee boles built into the side to protect them from the wet weather. It is quite a juxtaposition though to consider the rudeness that these same honeybees endured during harvest. Often the dripping sweet combs were just pulled from the domed basket, with no regard to the life of the honeybees. The baskets were perishable, as well as the honeybees. They could be rebuilt over the winter, and set out in the spring, in hopes a swarm would alight in them. Other times, the bees were smoked out by holding the skeps over the smoke of a sulfur fire. In some cases, the skeps were even put through a vise to squeeze out the honey, again bees and all.



(As a side note, beekeepers in these days enjoyed much more lavish forests and prairies. There was no doubt that a swarm would bless them each spring. Today, our honey bees are much more taxed and endangered. We should be treating each one with much more respect. When you know more, you do more.)

As I sit here, equally shaken and squeezed from my own happy home, I can fully appreciate the advancements that were made in the early 1850s. Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth, among others, were deeply observant of the honey bee (and bee keeper) habits. He is credited with the discovery of “bee space,” which ultimately led to further inventions of wooden hives with removable frames. If you get to reading online, there is some disagreement as to who discovered what, and why. Most believe however that these advancements were not merely made to save the bees from the harvest, but to allow inspection of the bees for their health.



While I am extremely romantic about history and its simple, beautiful, earned experience, I also enjoy the comforts that technology has lent us. I would absolutely relish the opportunity to weave a skep, but I know assembling a wooden hive is much quicker and effective. Overall, it is fair to say that bee keeping probably is much more complicated than it used to be. Technology sometimes works that way. But ... I think we can agree that it is much more humane.

So, whether you are experimenting with old or new hive formations or debating the pros of chemical treatment versus natural methods of IPM, know that your efforts are not only saving the bees, but adding to the future knowledge of how we do things. We never know when the next major invention will change the bee keeping world.

Tina Marshall, IHPA Historian
Waggle More – Sting Less

IHPA Officer & Director News

Iowa Legislative Update – A Sticky Situation

The Iowa Legislative session has wrapped up, but House File 1004—the bill to eliminate sales tax on honeybee sales in Iowa—remains parked on the sidelines, waiting for its moment to shine. Getting bills passed that aren't politically charged (think children, property, guns, etc.) can feel like herding bees—challenging, time-consuming, and sometimes requiring endless nudging. The good news? Not one committee or house vote has uttered a single “No.” The bad news? We just haven't buzzed to the top of the agenda yet.

But fear not! For the 2025-26 session, our bill is now sitting on the Senate floor, ready for a vote—meaning we don't have to start from square one. Fingers crossed that we finally get the sweet deal Iowa's honeybee enthusiasts deserve!

Fair Time – Where Bees and Butter Collide

By the time you're reading this, Summer Field Day will have come and gone, and the Iowa State Fair will be knocking at the door like a honeybee desperate for an open flower. The fair is our biggest revenue producer of the year, Supporting our scholarships, lobbying efforts, Summer Field Day, and Annual Conference.

Speaking of history, our Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) booth is one of the longest-standing attractions at the fair—dating back over 115 years! Running this iconic booth requires volunteers, and that's where you come in.

Love talking bees? Enjoy meeting fellow beekeepers who might be just as odd (or passionate) as you? Want free admission to the fair? If you can spare four hours, you're officially recruited! Just shoot an email to Heidi Love at ihpasecretary@gmail.com with your preferred dates and times. Next thing you know, you'll be knee-deep in beekeeping culture—literally standing above the famous Butter Cow in the Ag Building. 🐝

Mark Your Calendars – The Buzz-Worthy IHPA Annual Conference Speakers Announced

Summer is in full swing, but don't forget the IHPA Annual Conference and Trade Show, coming up **October 24-25** at Prairie Meadows Resort and Conference Center!

This conference isn't just great—it's become a must-attend event for Midwest beekeepers. In 2024, we saw over 400 attendees, 20 vendors, six national and international speakers (**in person, mind you!**), and **21 breakout sessions** covering everything from grafting and feeding to candle making and marketing. **2025 promises to be EVEN BIGGER and BETTER.**

Keynote Speakers for 2025 Include:

- 🐝 **Bob Binnie** – Blue Ridge Honey Company
- 🐝 **Amy Vu** – University of Florida Head of Entomology & State Extension Entomologist
- 🐝 **Dr. Judy Wu-Smart** – Head of the Bee Lab, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 🐝 **Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda** – University of Tennessee
- 🐝 **Dr. David Peck** – Director of Research & Education, Better Bee
- 🐝 **Arian Avalos** – USDA Research Geneticist (Bee Disease)
- 🐝 **Dr. Scott McArt** – Professor of Pollinator Health, Cornell University

Speaker topics are still being finalized, so if you've got a burning question or specific subject you'd love covered, send your suggestions to countryviewhoney@gmail.com!

Fun & Friendly Competition

What's a conference without some healthy competition? Alongside **over 15 vendors**, we'll be hosting exciting contests, including:

- 🎨 Hive body painting
- 🍯 Best honey contest
- 🍷 Mead competition
- 📷 Photography
- 🏆 Best honey label

And more!

Early Bird Registration is now open at www.iowahoneyproducers.org. Get signed up, spread the buzz, and we'll see you in October!

H.R. Cook
Legislative Rep for the IHPA



State Fair Volunteers

WE NEED YOUR HELP AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR BOOTH!! AUGUST 7-17, 2025

Dear Beekeepers,

I know it may be hard to start thinking about the State Fair; however, spring is here, and the Iowa State Fair is fast approaching: August 7-17, 2025. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building, 2nd floor, selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. We will still continue to schedule volunteers for candle rolling for the Queen Program. This is our main fundraising event, which is needed to help support our various educational programs. We ask our members to help make this event a success by volunteering their time assisting with cash register sales, bagging product, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, candle rolling, and offering honey samples, etc. If you get thirsty while working at the booth, you will be given free honey lemonade, a free pass to the fair, and the chance to enjoy the fair's entertainment before or after your shift.

We had a successful 2024 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had wonderful members, family, and friends volunteer their time, and we would love to see you again. We encourage new members, friends, families, and bee clubs to participate in this event too, because we need everyone's support to make it a success.

Every day, we have three shifts: 8:30 am-12:30 pm, 12:30 pm-4:30 pm, and 4:30 pm-8:30 pm, each requiring 11-14 people. We want to hear from you if you can volunteer for one or more shifts from August 7-17. All you need to do is mail the completed slip below, email the same details to ihpasecretary@gmail.com, or call 515-729-1761. If you need any clarification or have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 1180 H Ave, Scranton, Iowa 51462. Cell: 515-729-1761

Name of Volunteers: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone no.: _____

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you. (Fair dates August 7-17.) We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date or Dates: 8:30am-12:30pm 12.30pm-4:30pm 4:30pm-8:30pm

From the Beeyard

A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

Written by Phil Ebert

I am just out of the hospital after prostate surgery and not feeling the greatest. It did give me time to reflect on things—a common thing for old people. I am not an open enough person to tell you what I reflected on but, on the whole, my life has been pretty good.

Adam left for Texas on the 19th. It was time for the bees to come home—past time really. There is rain in the Dakotas. Those guys are happy. It has been very dry up there. It takes lot more moisture to make honey up there. In Iowa, it is rarely too dry. In fact, the drier the better.

May 20—I saw black Locust blooming. Rain came along with the bloom. It ruined the flowers. Black locust is pretty fragile. The rain has really brought the Dutch Clover on. I mow around the patches in my yard until it goes to seed. I have been doing this for years. When it blooms, the patches are pretty solid. Trefoil is in bloom and I am seeing quite a bit of yellow sweet clover. The white has not bloomed yet but I see it coming on in the road ditches. It needs to be hot for those plants to yield nectar.

I have an assortment of hives in my yard. There is a total of 15. Seven of them are ready to go and have supers on. The bees are in the supers but have not stored much yet. I have the original two that I split into nucs in April. I have another two that were nucs that were initially queenless. They were no good to sell so I kept them and put new queens in them. They have responded well. I also have two that came from extra packages. I caught two swarms in New Sharon. The others are swarms that moved into the stacks of empty combs that we had sitting in the lot. One of them had been there for quite a while. There were a lot of bees but the queen was laying mostly drones. After I killed her, I broke that colony down into three units. The other swarms vary in size. A couple are probably after swarms. They are very small—about two frames of bees. I combined some of them. I will leave them alone for a couple of weeks and see if good queens develop in them.

A lot of beekeeping is intuitive. We respond to the way

the bees look. They don't look the same to everyone. They look the best to me when I take the lid off and the bees are hanging in the feeder and roll over the side of the box because they are so full. Last month, I mentioned that some people seem to be afraid of a hive full of bees. Afraid in the sense they are going to swarm. Again, I have seen more chatter about this on the internet. It takes a lot of bees to make a big crop and, yes, they can swarm. The problem is that you need the big populations but if the weather goes bad, and you have a big hive sitting there with nothing to do, they may swarm. If you feel compelled to do something, pull out a couple frames of brood from the top box (assuming doubles here) and insert two frames of foundation between brood frames. That makes your set up—brood, foundation, brood, foundation, brood in the middle of the box. You don't want to separate the brood in the spring but in the summer, when it is warm, it does not matter. We commonly do this on cut comb colonies. We want the biggest colonies doing comb honey. It gives the bees something to do and gets them in the wax drawing mode. E. L. Seagrist wrote a book years ago called "Honey Getting." I think it was from the '40s. It is all about having big populations. Of course, flows were more consistent back then.

A number of the colonies that came back from Texas are smaller than I like. We will have to run those as singles. This is a little bit of a problem. The acid pads sit on top of the frames. The excluder goes on top of the pads. The acid is hard on the excluder. It eats the finish off. We may have to dese some type of strip to go between the frames. Years ago, we used to run the May splits as singles. We would throw on an excluder and a couple of supers when they had five frames of bees. There was a reasonable expectation of getting a crop. The expectation now is that 10-15% of the queens are going to fail and crop prospects are pretty sketchy.

Have a happy summer!!





From the Honey House



A collection of information from those with direct, personal knowledge about beekeeping

Small Hive Beetles

There are many reactions to finding a small hive beetle (SHB) in your beehive, from alarm to annoyance. We get some of our replacement bees from Florida in the spring, so we see small hive beetles often. Florida, being hot and humid, is a breeding ground for SHB. They can survive on rotting fruit, but have evolved to using beehives as their home. They have even adapted to coaxing the nurse bees to feed them. I wintered a number of hives in Florida some years ago, and had the opportunity to observe their behavior and damage first hand.

First off, small hive beetles do not kill bees or beehives. You may find one or more on the top bar of your hive as you take the cover and inner cover off. They are pretty fast, so you might miss them. They really don't like light, and will run to corners and crevasses. Unfortunately, beetles are in a lot of commercial bee operations, and as loaded trucks cross the country, beetles may hop off. They can smell a beehive miles away.

Small hive beetles are jet black and oval, can fly, and have little poofs on the ends of their feet and antennae. In the south they are about 3/8" long, but here in the north are about 1/4". The beetles themselves are an annoyance, but the problem starts when your hive is weak or collapsing. The beetles will lay lots of eggs, which hatch into larvae, and these have an appetite. While wax moth larvae are mostly looking for pollen and protein, the beetle larvae go through the honey as well. Wax moth larvae will move around, but the beetle larvae really wiggle and move faster. The beetle larvae are also more rubbery when you push on them. The beetle larvae will overwhelm and slime the hive, making it uninhabitable for the remaining bees. The slime is primarily fermenting honey from the larvae defecating. It can get really gross.

The life cycle is basically the beetle entering the hive and laying eggs. The larvae feed on hive goodies and grow, then leave the hive to burrow into the soil. There they pupate into a small hive beetle, and the cycle starts over. I like living in the Midwest, because the cold temperatures inhibit the beetles pupating, and wintertime takes out most of them. They can live in the overwinter bee cluster. We do see a few other types of local scavenger beetles and occasionally wood roaches on the bottom board, but these are pretty harmless.



I stripped a load of honey supers years ago, and put them in my hot room. Due to work travel, they sat for a week or two. When I took out the first stack of supers, I discovered thousands of beetle larvae in the honey. My hard lesson. We normally extract honey supers within 3-4 days of pulling, to avoid this mess.

The honeybees do attempt to corral them, and will propolize them into a little jail on the top bars. And every time you remove your cover, you let them go. There are a few commercially available controls, like beetle traps filled with oil and such. The simplest and cheapest that we found and used is to place an unscented Swiffer mop sheet on the top bars of the brood box. The beetles get their feet stuck. Of course, my favorite control is to simply whack the beetles with my hive tool.

If you see a beetle, don't panic. Keep your hives strong, and whack the beetles with your hive tool. I hope that everyone is having a good summer!

Andy Hemken, Bee Guy
andy@hemkenhoney.com



From the Editor

Sara Sleyster, IHPA Editor
sarasleyster@gmail.com



Hello, everyone!

Nothing ever goes away on the internet. If you're not careful, old events may seem like they have happened again. That was what I thought when I saw a social media post saying that thousands of bees had survived the fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Turns out the story was from 2019, but my interest was sparked (Sorry - no pun intended).

Nicolas Geant, who was the cathedral's beekeeper at the time, told news outlets that the three hives, which contained an estimated 180,000 to 200,000 bees, were unharmed. They were located on a roof above the sacristy, which was 100 feet below the main roof, where the extensive fire damage occurred. The hives would have been filled with smoke, but the heat from the fire was not enough to melt the beeswax and kill the bees.

After a little research, it turns out that rooftops in Paris are not an uncommon place to house beehives. There are an estimated 400 hives on Parisian rooftops including hotels, restaurants, and offices. Restaurants can then boast serving fresh honey on their menus.

Other notable Parisian bee spots include the Mayor's Office of Saint-Denis, Church of the Etoile, the Luxembourg Gardens, the Grand Palais, Louis Vuitton's fashion headquarters, and the Opera Garnier.

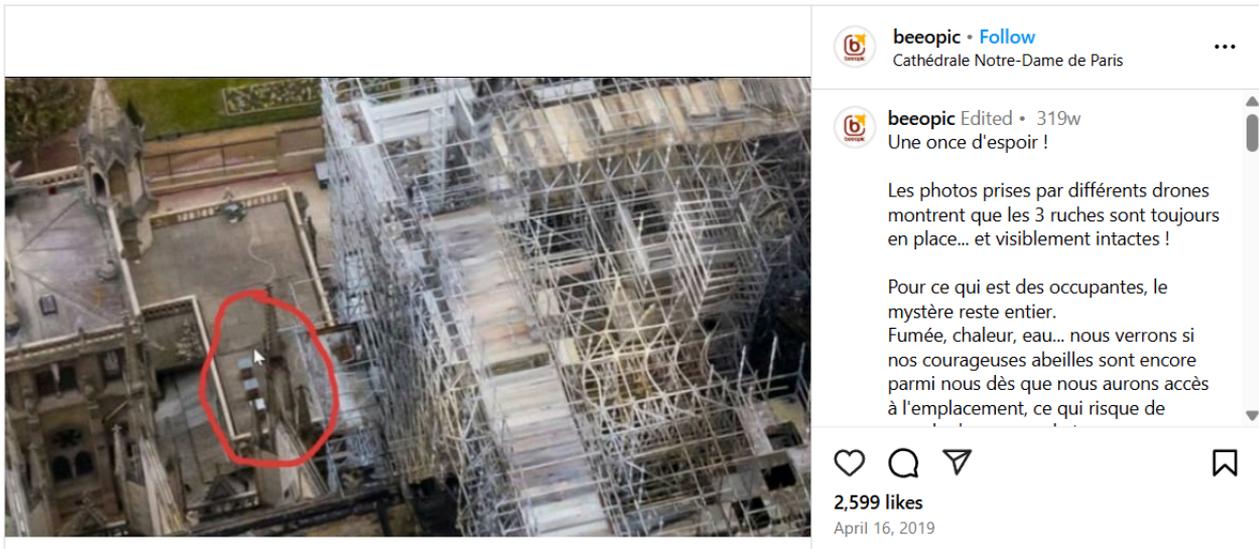


So if you're running out of space for your hives, you might consider the way of the French and get up on your roof. ;)

Bye for now!
Sara

Top right: A picture of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France.

Bottom right: An Instagram post from the beekeeper of the Notre Dame bees. It shows the beehives circled in red and the fire damage to the cathedral to the right.

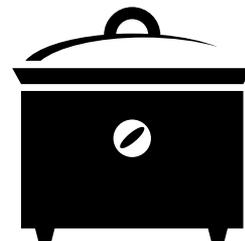




Recipes by Emma Ingram

As busy and hot as my summers get, I need quick and easy meals that can be ready when I get home after a long day. Crockpot meals are my summer go-to dinners. Seeing this recipe with so few ingredients and ready in 4-6 hours, I had to try it! I paired it with fried potatoes from the air fryer, and it was the perfect combination of a cool kitchen and filling dinner! Enough of my kitchen thoughts, now for notes on the roast!

Pot Roast (Pg. 52)



- 3 ½ pound round roast
- 1 package onion soup mix
- 4 tablespoons water
- ½ cup tomato juice
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 bay leaf

Place roast in Crockpot. Mix water and soup mix. Add tomato juice and honey. Pour over the roast. Cook on high for 4 hours or low for 6 hours.

Onion soup mix substitute:

- ¼ cup dried onion flakes
- 2 tablespoons salt
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon parsley flakes
- ¼ teaspoon celery seed/flakes
- ⅛ teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper



Emma's Notes: I was a little wary of the honey on a roast. I don't think sweet when I think of roast, but combined with tomato and onion, it created the perfect blend of sweet and savory. If you are anything like me and don't keep onion soup mix on hand, I also added the onion soup mix that I made for the roast, you can adjust the salt and other ingredients to suit your family! I really don't have many notes on this one, the recipe was easy to follow, and I have already shared it with other busy families. After that first dinner, I made the leftovers into quick and easy sandwiches and threw the left-over juice into some noodles for a quick beef and noodles. The honey and tomato juice made a subtle BBQ flavor and it had just the right amount of water to keep it tender for hours.

WINNERS OF THE 2025

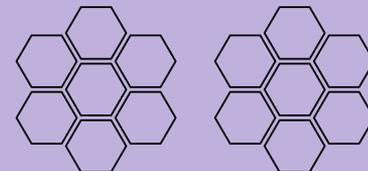
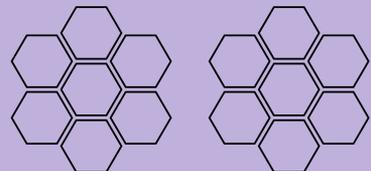
Memorial Scholarship

- Hailey Lander of Merville, Iowa
- Delaney Barber of Dewitt, Iowa
- Samuel Smith of Cedar Falls, Iowa
- Zack Morris of Union, Iowa
- Atiksh Hood of Urbandale, Iowa
- Katie Gomez of Logan, Iowa

The memorial winners will receive \$500 after successfully completing the first semester and proving they are registered for second semester. We select one winner per district in Iowa. We had good applicants from all districts. I want to say thank you to all the students who applied. Congratulations winners!
Roy Kraft, Memorial Scholarship Chair

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BEEKEEPERS**

BeekeeperSites.com



In Memoriam

Bernard (Bernie) Hala died in his sleep on May 23, 2025, at his and Margaret's new home in Illinois. Bernie had been in declining health due to dementia for several years, which necessitated the sale of their beekeeping business and equipment and move to Illinois. They have been living with their daughter and family since August of 2023.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret of 59 and 1/2 years, daughter Brandi (Jim) Callicott and a sister, brother, grandchildren and cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by son Lane, one sister, parents, in-laws with whom he was close and grandparents.

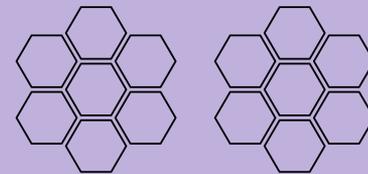
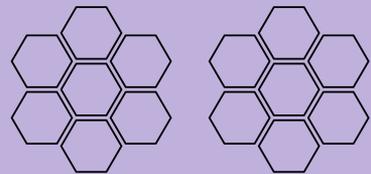
Buzzz...worthy items to WAGGLE about in July

Submitted by Jim and Tina Marshall



- Now is the time to take off your spring honey and get it extracted. Spring has its own unique floral sources, which can make for a lighter colored, and flavored, varietal.
- Urgent! Get your Iowa State Fair exhibit entries registered before July 15. Each entry is only \$2 (or \$4 for the window display). If you need more information about classes or rules, here is your link: [25_ifl_apiry.pdf](#) I'm as guilty as the next at saying "next year" I'm going to do it. Let this be the year. This is the link to do online entry. <https://www.iowastatefair.org/participate/competition/enter-iowa-family-living> Good luck!
- Preparing for fair exhibits or not, it is also time to check the inventory on bottling and labeling needs. Fall and final extracting is right around the corner.
- Do you know it takes honeybees 8 gallons of water to make 1 gallon of honey? That is why it is so important to make sure hives are located within a couple hundred yards of a reliable water source. It never hurts to add a clean, temporary source during this time of year either. It might also keep them out of the neighbors pool or the chicken water (where they'll become a tasty snack.)

- Hot sultry days in July call for homemade ice cream. One of my new favorite toppings for ice cream (or pancakes) is Nut Honey. I take a small mason jar and fill with chopped nuts, I like pecan or walnut, but walnut has a little extra love for me. Then cover slowly with your favorite varietal of honey. Let it seep into the crevices, and when full, put a lid on it. This can sit on or in the cupboard for quite a while. Usually I gobble it up before it crystallizes. Give it a try! A friend introduced this to me last year, and I've been smitten ever since.
- Put the Iowa July heat to work for you! Set up a solar wax melter. It is a safe and efficient way to melt bees wax without electricity or a dangerous heat source. It is a slow, controlled process, which preserves the purity of the wax. The even heat distribution takes minimal effort, and is easily portable anywhere the sun shines in your bee yard. It is a pretty cost effective way to harness all the extra wax that can come from burr comb and culled frames.
- Hot weather also means it is important make sure our hives have proper ventilation. Not that this will prevent bearding on those still, suffocating, late summer days, but it can aid. An upper entrance made between the brood chamber and the supers, with some roofing wood shingle wedges can be just the trick.
- A final thought for July, consider re-queening some hives. If you have some older queens this can be a good time to rotate her out. As a bonus to this, re-queening at this time of year can produce a brood break, which acts as a natural pest management technique. Due to the seasonal circumstances, you can also excite the worker bees to bring in the gold; in essence preparing the pantry for the new queen.



Who Knew?

Yesterday, we got June's Buzz Newsletter and it reminded me that I wanted to quickly share a conversation over Memorial weekend while visiting family in Indiana. An avid bicyclist from California shared that he and a friend had biked in the Almond orchards. I immediately asked "Were they blooming?" He replied "yes" to which I replied that must have been beautiful! He then went into more detail and said they could not stand the chemical smell and quickly left.

First, I love almonds, but I also love those little buzzing critters that we keep. I understand that large monocultures require spraying whether it be herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc. and the need for pollinators.

If humans are struggling with chemical smells in blooming almond orchards, what's happening to the honey bees? Are they getting acute and/or chronic chemical exposures as well as cocktails of different chemicals. I also wonder how would you know if the dosage amounts of products



being sprayed were done correctly or incorrectly?

This year the large number of dead honeybee colonies again made national news and I heard sad stories of migratory beekeepers going under. Migratory beekeepers know these risks better than anyone and probably fear the risks may be increasing. Are those risks increasing?

Respectfully submitted – Sheila Weldon



"Bee-utiful" Chainsaw Carving

Professional chainsaw carver Andy Klindt of Des Moines carved a honeybee into a stump for Shelley McGill of Colfax, Iowa. She owns and operates Beauty of the Beez, providing local honey.

If you'd like to see Andy create chainsaw masterpieces, you can catch him from July 23-28 at the Warren County Fair in Indianola, Iowa. Each day he will carve three unique pieces. At the end of the fair the pieces will be sold at an auction. The proceeds go to help keep the fair free for guests to enter and park.

For more information on the fair visit www.warrencofair.com.

Interested in learning more about Andy and his work, find him on Facebook at [Andy Klindt](https://www.facebook.com/AndyKlindt).

Iowa Beekeeping Clubs

FOR SALE: Approx 180 medium supers with 8 drawn combs per box. \$30 each. Contact Phil at ehoney37@netins.net or call 641-521-6361



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Type of Ad	Mo Price (\$)	Year Price (\$)	Size Horizontal	Size Vertical
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1/2 page	70	775	5.25Tx8.25W	10.75Tx4.125W
Full Page	90	1000	n/a	10.75Tx8.25W

If you would like to place an advertisement in The Buzz please send information to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

Back to Basics Beekeepers Club: contact Tina Marshall at marshalltmf@gmail.com



Boone River Beekeeping Club: contact Roy Kraft at kroyster.rk@gmail.com

Cedar Valley Bee Club: contact Ryan Dermody or Robert Stwalley at dermody.ryan@gmail.com and robert.stwalley@hawkeyecollege.edu

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association: contact Jamie Beyer at beyersbog@aol.com

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers: contact Ellen Bell at ellenbell.ia@gmail.com



Dubuque Swiss Valley Bee Club: contact Paulette Lynn at pjlynn1@gmail.com

East Central Iowa Beekeepers: contact Joseph Klingelhutz at jo.aloysius@gmail.com

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Omaha Bee Club: contact Pam Newell at AskOmahaBeeClub@gmail.com

Pollinators Paradise Bee Club: contact Dan Whitmore at Paddledan@gmail.com

Quad City Bee Keeping Club: contact Ron Fischer or Doug Dahlin at qcbeeclub@yahoo.com



Southern Iowa Beehivers: contact Mindy Butcher at mmsbutcher1@hotmail.com

Southern Iowa Hive Handlers: contact Scott Kent at clarkeccb@gmail.com

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers: contact Steve Hemphill at snwfarm@mepotelco.net



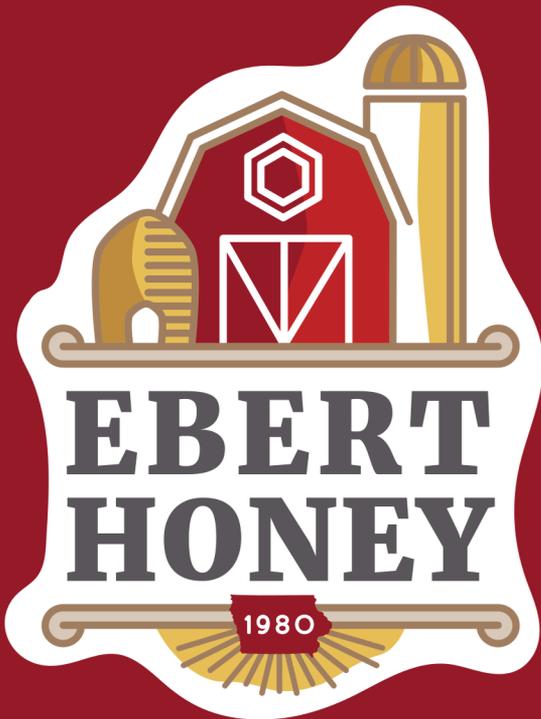
Southwest Iowa Beekeepers: contact Nathan Paulsen at southwestiowabeekeepers@gmail.com

Siouxland Beekeeping Club: contact Ron Rynders at rrihpa@gmail.com

Tama County Bee Keepers: contact Jim and Penny Dolezal at busybeeacres@yahoo.com

Crossword answers
from page 6:

Across: county, blue, summer, swarms
Down: honey, volunteer, nucs



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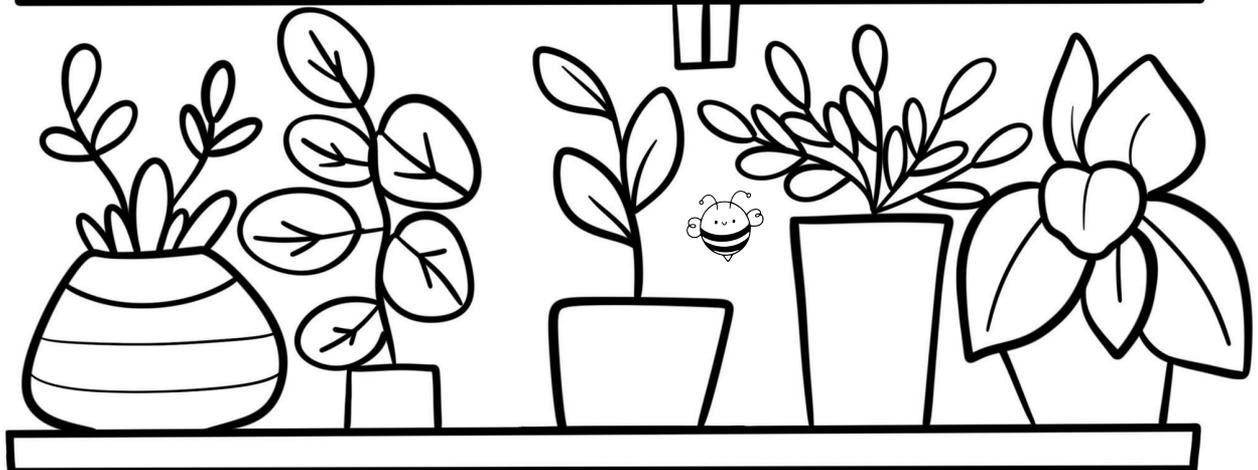
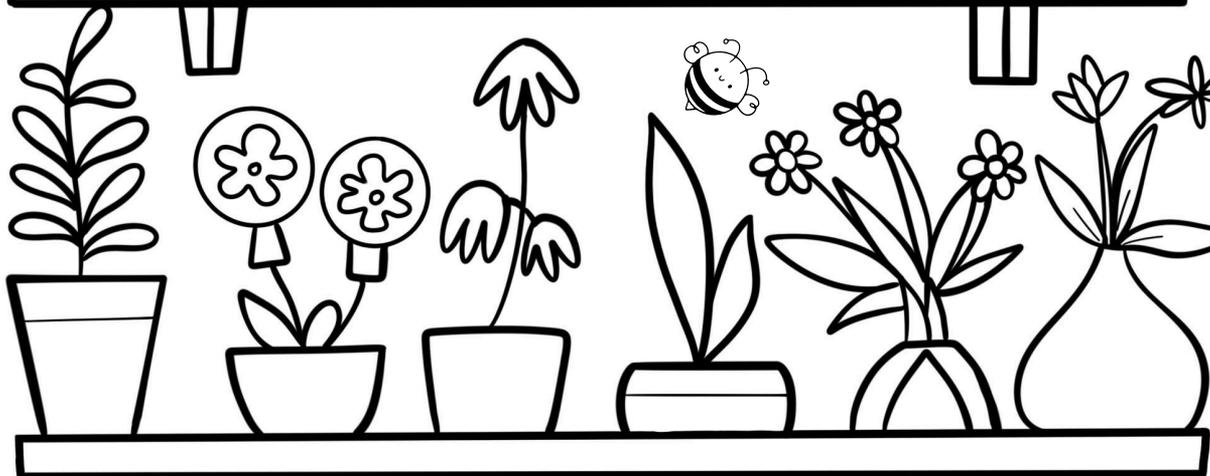
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Please email ihpa1912@gmail.com

The Buzz Newsletter

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Deadline for submissions to *The Buzz* is always the 10th of the month at 11:59 p.m. the month prior to when you would like to see information published.

If writing an article for *The Buzz*, submissions must be 800 words or less. Pictures are encouraged!

Deadline to submit information for the August Edition of *The Buzz*

July 10th at 11:59 p.m.

Please submit materials to: ihpaeditor@gmail.com

