

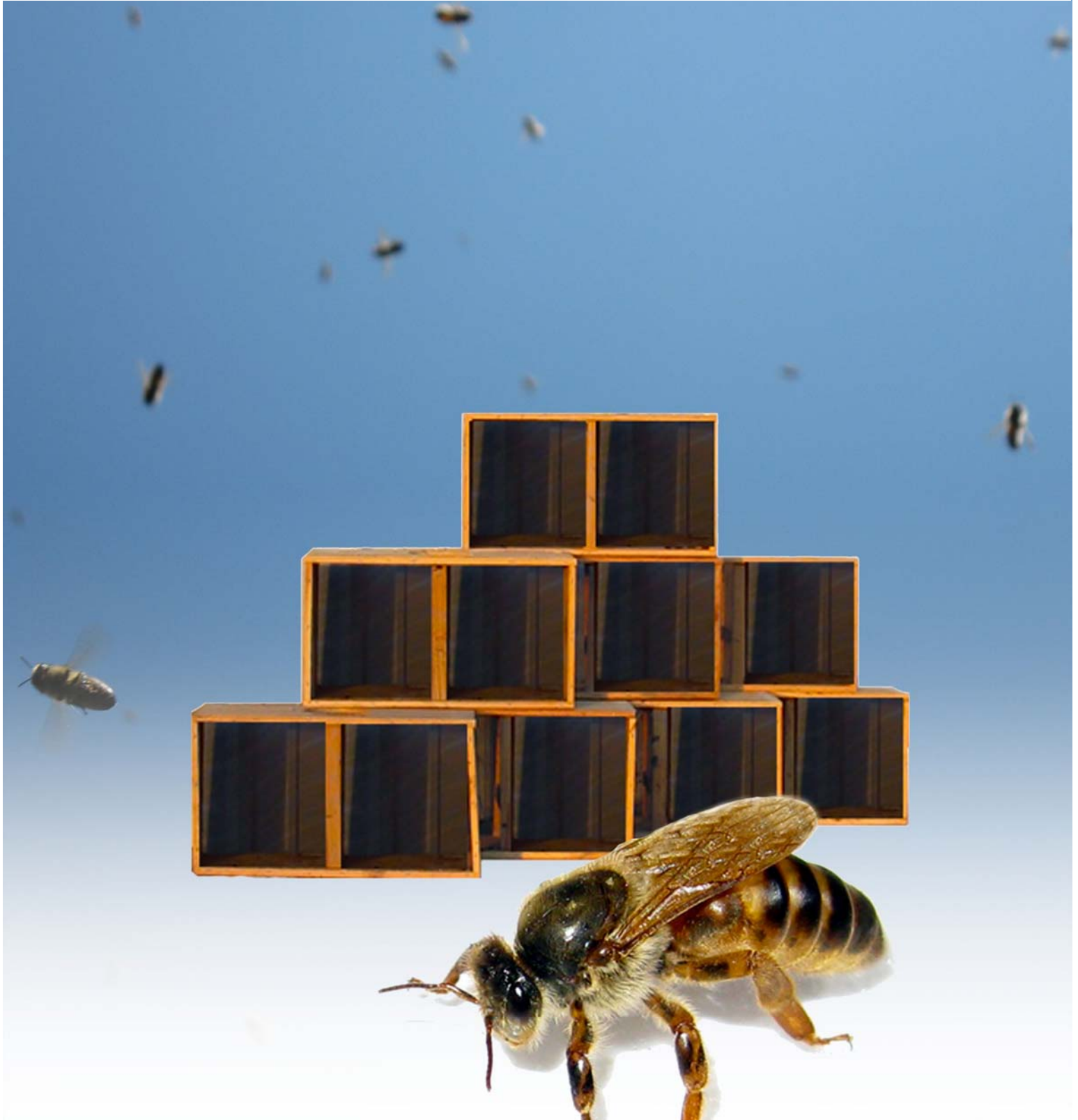


The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



January 2015





Dates to be Remembered

January 25th

IHPA Board Meeting ; 2pm
2005 N Dakota, Ames, IA

For Sale: Starting January 1st, We will be taking pre-orders for Russian Nucs and Queens through our website. Come early as we tend to sell out very quickly on the Russian girls. Starting mid January we will be taking pre-orders for 3lb Carniolan Packages, and starter hive kits in Pine or Red Aromatic Cedar wood. For concerns with the website or large volume orders you call us at 515-991-4666. Otherwise please visit us on the web www.RussianBee.com



FOR SALE: 3 # packages W/Italian queens- Price not confirmed yet
Pick-up mid-April in Goodell, IA
For more information, call
Pat @ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: 5 frame Nuc w/Italian queen – price set in January.
Also a few singles w/Italian queen – price set in January.

Nucs and Singles will be ready for pick-up around mid May from Goodell, Iowa

For more information, call
Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: I will have Queens's available mid-April, Carniolan or Italian
Pick-up is in Goodell.
For more information, call
Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767 4/15

FOR SALE: Beekeeping Equipment, honey, beeswax, and bottling supplies - Goodell IA

Offering reasonably priced new and some used beekeeping supplies and equipment.

For more information, please call Pat
@ 641-444-4767 4/15

For Sale: Package Bees. 2#, 3#, and 4# package bees arriving in April for pickup in Lynnvile, Iowa.

Choice of Carniolan or Italian.

Please visit our website for pricing:
www.EbertHoney.com

FOR SALE: 2 or 3 pound packages of Italian bees with queen. Picked up in Cedar Rapids or Aurora, Iowa in mid-April. Bees from Hill-Ward Apiary in California. All orders must be received by February 28.

Contact Douglas Child 319-634-3682

For Sale: Enough for 2 Hives plus \$242.95

2 Queen Excluders
2 Top Covers
1 Bee Brush \$3.00
1 Smoker \$15.00
1 Frame Grip
2 Hive Stands
1 Men's Medium 100% Nylon Bee Suit \$75.00
1 Pair Small Gloves \$10.00
1 Helmet \$5.00
1 Netting \$5.00
4 Frame Feeders \$4.00
1 Top Feeder \$15.00
Unassembled Hive Frames \$30.00
E

xtractor – Holds 6 Shallow frames, 3 medium, or 3 Deep (combination extractor, pail, screen & knife & electric knife) \$300.00

5 Gallon Pails with honey gate
Stainless Steel Double Sieve
1 Uncapping Knife
1 Electric Uncapping Knife

Or OBO
Please contact at:
Audrey Rex
5390 N 23rd Ave W
Newton, Iowa 50208
Hm: 641-792-9683

For Sale: 3lb. packages with unmarked Italian queen
Pick-up in West Chester, IA
Load 1: March 21, 2015 (experienced beekeepers only due to early install date)
Load 2: May 13th, 2015
Price: 1-9 \$110 each; 10-99 \$105 each; 100+ \$100 each
(no cage deposit or refunds)

Also available: complete cypress hive kits (fully assembled) \$225 each
Call Tim Wilbanks 319-321-2494 or order through website:
www.kalonahoney.com
Kalona Honey Co., 2104 Hemlock Ave,
West Chester, IA 52359

January's 2015 President Message

It's December as I sit down to write this. The New Year's just weeks away. All our bees are in California for the upcoming almond pollination. After the bees have arrived safely at their California destination, we take and enjoy some down time for couple of weeks, doing a bit of deer hunting, enjoying family for the holidays and catching up on the "honey do's" and lingering unfinished projects. This is also when I take a mental note, going over my notes on this past years' beekeeping performance, and how it could be better next year.

We moved into a new place this past mid-summer, about 5 days before the Iowa State Fair was to start. We got moved in, I ran to work at the fair and Peggy stayed home and unpacked boxes, and it feels like we have not slowed down since then, so I am looking forward to a slower pace. We painted the wall & such before we moved in, but since the fair, we've been in such a busy mode and we haven't put up a single picture on the wall yet. Peggy has a hard time putting in that "first nail" on her newly painted walls, but with the holidays and a slower pace we'll get around to it. I think you have to live it awhile to know where you want to put things.

January, as is December, is also a slower month for me, time to work in the shop, build bee equipment, finish honey do's and think about my upcoming beginning beekeeping class. Many of you are also doing the same as many beginning beekeeping classes start this month and in February. I believe there are 19 beekeeping classes throughout the state. Along these thoughts, it is with much sadness we lost a great friend and fellow beekeeper, "John Axon", as he lost his battle with cancer. His obituary is in this issue of the Buzz, It was at the IHPA annual meeting in Marshalltown in November that John was presented the "Education Award". John had a passion for beekeeping and teaching the craft, he was greatly involved teaching beginning beekeeping to a FFA class in Tripoli, and had plans to teach a beginning beekeeping class at the Bremer County Extension Office in Tripoli. I first meet John when he attended my beginning beekeeping class we offered in Mason City several years back. He attended several of field days Peggy and I offer from our class in North Iowa, he was passionate on learning all he could on being a better beekeeper and willing to pass that on. It was an honor to call John my friend.

If you can help teach a class that would be great, but you don't always have to be the person in front of the class. You can help by helping answer beekeeping questions, bring cookies, (treats are always good!) hands on bee stuff as; bee hive, frames, hive tool, etc. (new "bees" love touching, feeling, and smelling bee stuff!) Any of this is a great help with the class. The subject of an advance beekeeping class has come up at our board meetings and we do believe there is a need and want for this to happen by beekeepers. Andy Joseph, myself and others are considering this opportunity, and we are working on the how, what and where's for this to happen for the

spring of 2015. If this is something you would like to help with, please let me know, because these classes will most likely need 5 or 6 experienced helpers. So let's all share our bee knowledge to help others.



January is also a good time to sit down with a good book. There are lots of them out there. Peter Lindtner has one called "Garden Plants for Honeybees". People we talk to from the classes, markets, craft shows, ect, want to know what to plant to help out the bees. This book will make a good reference. Another is "Bee-Sentials" by Lawrence J Connor. It's been out a few years, but still a good read. Each year at the IHPA Annual Meeting in Marshalltown, I try to pick up a new book to read over winter, I've been keeping bees for 33 years and never tire of learning more about those bees!!

This is also the time of year to get ready for spring. If you didn't do all your fall work, like feeding and making sure your bees are healthy going into winter, you may wish to get your order in for bees. You may also, during this time, to work on some of your supers that need repair, make some new frames for expanding or to rotate out and replace 2 of the old dark combs with new in the spring. Doing that each year and in 5 years you will have replaced you frames, giving your bees a healthier hive to live and raise brood in, this method is a proven, non chemical way to increase the survivability and health for your bees. Marla Spivak, of the University of Minnesota, is also a great propionate of this.

Spring is also the time for the annual Central Iowa Beekeepers Auction. It will be held April 18, 2015 in Perry Iowa. This is a great chance to acquire or sell good used bee equipment. To list your items for sale, please e-mail me your list or call me. (See last page of Buzz for contact information) So if you're looking for good used bee equipment and people to talk about bees with, come to the auction, hope to see you there!!

Have a good winter, stay warm & healthy!

Bee Happy, Bee Faithful, Bee Yourself and Bee Grateful for another year, maybe this will be the year all our bees make it through the winter and we all have that record honey crop!

Pat

Trivia Question: With so many acres of soybeans grown in Iowa, do honey bees produce a honey from the soybeans?

Answer in the back of this issue.



Mark Your Calendar for the CIB Annual Beekeeping Auction!

The Central Iowa Beekeeper's Annual Auction
is being held on April 18th 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
The auction located is on Hwy 141 on the north
side of the road – just 1 block west of
the hospital in Perry, Iowa.

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg have graciously offered
the Central Iowa Beekeepers the use of their "in town
honey house" again this year. There will be a restroom
available, as well as hot coffee, hot chocolate, bars, and
rolls.

WE ARE IN NEED OF CONSIGNERS AND BUYERS!!

Now is the perfect time to clean, sort, and sell your extra
beekeeping equipment, or to purchase good beekeeping
equipment!

Please e-mail me your list of items you would like to con-
sign.

All items consigned will be advertised in the March and
April Buzz Newsletter. (Please have your list to me by Feb-
ruary 10 or March 10 to make the Buzz printing deadline)

To have an updated listing of the items being consigned,
please e-mail me after April 1st and I will have one sent to
you.

Consignment fee for members of the Central Iowa Bee-
keepers is 10% Consignment fee for non members of the
Central Iowa Beekeepers is 15%

All drawn comb will be inspected by our State Bee Inspec-
tors or State Apiarist.

For your convince, there will be signs posted on Highway 141.

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

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE
AUCTION!!



John Robert Axon

October 20, 1939 - November 29, 2014

Resided in Tripoli, IA

John Axon, 75, of Tripoli, Iowa passed away on Saturday, No-
vember 29, 2014 at the VA Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa follow-
ing a courageous battle with cancer.

John Robert Axon was born on October 20, 1939, the son of
Leonard and Marjorie (Eckhardt) Axon. He was born in Traer,
Iowa, prior to moving to Tripoli, Iowa during his high school
years, where he graduated in 1957. John then enlisted with
the US Marines, serving from June 3, 1957 until his discharge
on June 13, 1960. On May 14, 1961, he was united in marriage
to Glenyce Waschkat at Grace Lutheran Church in Tripoli. John
farmed in rural Tripoli until 1985. He then attended NIACC in
Calmar, Iowa, where he studied to become an electrician and
then started Axon Electric. He enjoyed bee keeping up and
until the time of his death.

He was a member of the Farm Bureau. John enjoyed sharing
his bee keeping expertise, woodworking and gardening. Most
of all, John enjoyed spending time with his family, especially
his grandchildren.

Survivors are his children, two daughters, Dawn (George) Ba-
zarko of Minnetonka, Minnesota and Kristie (Scott) Leistikow
of Tripoli, Iowa; two sons, Kevin (Sandy) Axon of Oshkosh, Wis-
consin and Craig Axon of Sumner, Iowa; six grandchildren, Mi-
chael (Jessica) Axon, Justin Ramthun, Amber Axon, Zachary
Newman, Jake Axon and Ariana Newman; his mother, Marjorie
Axon of Tripoli, Iowa; brother, Michael Axon; sister, Joyce



(Ron) Opfer and brother-in-law Don Buls. He was preceded in death by his father, Leonard Axon; his wife, Glenyce Axon and two sisters, Norma Jean Axon and Carol Buls.

- See more at: <http://www.kaisercorson.com/obituary/John-Robert-Axon/Tripoli-IA/1456793#sthash.sPtZQ6lC.dpuf>

2014 IHPA Awards

The 2014 IHPA Annual Meeting held November 14th & 15th was another great success. Each year during the banquet the IHPA recognizes individuals who have promoted honey and beekeeping. The following are the nominations submitted by members that were read during the awards at the banquet.

IHPA Education Award Nomination for John Axon



A simple phone call can change lives. As an agriculture educator, I am constantly looking for new ways to increase student interest in the field of agriculture. A trip to Tripoli's grocery store and purchase of a bottle of honey led to an incredible learning opportunity for 13 of our rural district's Introduction to Agriculture students.

My first thought was to have this local beekeeper visit my

classes as a guest speaker and talk about his beekeeping experience and the honey industry. He had another idea. We met in my classroom and spent hours discussing this amazing world of beekeeping and how it could be incorporated in the classroom. It was this initial meeting that I realized how lucky I was. You see this man possesses that glimmer in his eye, a hunger for knowledge and, even more exciting, his undeniable passion for beekeeping. I knew immediately that this would be a wonderful experience. With administrative, support and approval we began to plan.

Throughout the school year, frequent emails and phone calls became part of the process. Every two weeks our mentor came to class and brought the world of beekeeping to life as he shared his knowledge and experiences with the students. It has been a joy to witness the building of this project and see the relationship our mentor has with the students grow and develop. When our mentor arrived he was greeted with high fives and smiles. There is no doubt that he has made an impact on these young people.

We received support from school members and community members. The Industrial Technology students and instructor built our brood boxes and supers and the beekeeping class

assisted in painting. The lumber was paid for by a local banker who was intrigued by our mentor's classroom stories and project.



In March, we coordinated with our local Bremer County Extension Service to coordinate and host a "Fruit Tree Pruning and Beekeeping Workshop" where the state extension horticulturalist spoke and demonstrated proper pruning technique. Several beekeeping presentations were given by Gabrielle Hemesath, the 2014 Iowa Honey Queen, Jerry Macken, and our nominee along with several students from our class. Of the 30 attendees, 28 came solely for the beekeeping workshop. It was a fantastic experience for the students who participated.

Installation day was amazing. We had 100% participation from the students on a Saturday morning and multiple parents who took part in the experience as well. It was a beautiful day and I found myself completely immersed in the moment as students handled the bees. No fear, just fascination.

This individual supervised and checked on our class' colony throughout the summer. He would call on a particular student to assist. I witnessed a huge change in this young man as his interest in beekeeping grew. The student would check in with me and show me pictures of him helping with bee chores. It was especially evident as he demonstrated and instructed this year's students in the uncapping process. Students experienced the extraction process by using a hand crank, two frame extractor. Because of our mentor's assistance, our colony was incredibly productive producing 45 pounds of honey and filled 60 bear bottles to sell.

Five students attended the Iowa State Fair in order to volunteer for a shift at the Iowa Honey Producers' Booth. They had a fantastic time and asked me if we could do it next year only after a few hours of working.

Plans are in place to continue the project for the coming year and we hope to involve both the Introduction to Agriculture course as well as the Agriculture Business Management class in the incredibly fascinating, scientific, science of keeping bees. We want students to realize the value and importance of maintaining bees and the science that goes with it.

Our mentor is a role model. His work ethic, pragmatic approach, attention to detail, and high standards are obvious. His positive attitude and respectful nature are fantastic. Because of his dedication, selfless sacrifice of his time and resources, and his support of education I'd like to nominate my teaching partner and friend, Mr. John Axon for the Iowa Honey Producers Association Education Award.

Jennifer Dillon

IHPA Education Award Nomination for John Axon

I would like to nominate John Axon from Tripoli for the Education Award.

John has been a beekeeper for 6 years (I think that is the number of years!) and has been a very willing to share his knowledge and tales with anyone willing to listen. We came to know John through Jennifer Dillon, the VocAg teacher, at Tripoli. We were looking for a mentor to help us with our new venture. After calling him and talking for quite some time, we knew we had the right person for our mentor. As our educator, John has been available to us in person and on the phone innumerable times. We have appreciated the advise and wisdom we've gained from our time with John. We also appreciate the frugal and innovative approach to beekeeping.

As an educator for the Tripoli School District, John has taught a beginning class on beekeeping to students in a VocAg class. This was a year long venture which included building a hive, installing bees, supervising students during hive inspections, extracting honey and preparing the bees for winter. John even made arrangements for some of the VocAg students from Tripoli to help out at the Iowa Honey Producers booth at the State Fair.

John has been a great inspiration for us in our new adventure. Because of John's advise, wisdom, generous spirit and willingness to share, we have had a very successful 1st year of beekeeping and feel John would be an excellent recipient of the Education Award.

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions or if you need more. Jennifer Dillon would be able to fill in more of the school experience. Thanks for considering John for this award.

Tim and Mary Wiltgen

IHPA Distinguished Service Award For Eli Kalke and Dale Fields

I would like to nominate Eli Kalke for the Education Award. My husband and I took Dale and Eli's class last winter in Marshalltown. Eli proved to be very knowledgeable and a great contact for us in our first year as beekeepers. She was always quick with an email response to any questions I came across over this past year and always telling us to keep her updated. We really appreciated her dedication to helping us start up our hives.

Dale was also a great help with teaching the class in Marshalltown and assisting my husband and I start up our hives. We had a hive die out early Spring and Dale was very generous with us in getting that hive filled with more bees. Dale is a very crafty man, he was always sharing ways to create tools and



gadgets to make the life of a beekeeper just a little bit easier. My husband and I met Dale and Eli one afternoon to get advice on a failing hive of ours. We arrived at their house but found no one home so we waited on their front porch for a little while. Soon a big truck approaches the house with stacks of hive boxes strapped down on the back bed of the truck. Dale and Eli step out apologizing for not being

home. They both had the look of utter exhaustion on their faces. But they both gathered up the energy to assist us and spent the time helping us through our issue. My husband and I felt very lucky to have Dale and Eli as mentors our first year!!!

Eli and Dale both help educate about 25 plus individuals through that Marshalltown class we were in and helped us order packages, queens, and hive boxes. Hosted three Field Days. Invited us to the farm when we were in desperate times and visited our hives. Sent out emails to us to help keep us on the beekeepers calendar and get updates. Very generous and truly passionate to help out beginner beekeepers.

Tara Van Waus

IHPA Pioneer Award for Louis Ferguson



As a young man, this current beekeeper undertook a 4-H project with a hive of honey bees, mainly to provide honey for the family's use. When he went away to college he left the bees in care of a family member.

A few years later his wife developed sinus problems and they began searching for natural remedies. They discovered that **honey** produced locally was often very effective in solving this problem. It worked!

The hobby resumed, and when they moved to another location he had the opportunity to expand the undertaking. It was intended to provide some income, but that faced some problems.

The first location near a river, a wooded area, and crop and hay land was suitable for a few years. That is, until a small

black and white animal living in the area developed a taste for honey. Not only did it crave the honey, it discovered the guard bees made a tasty treat!

Efforts to remedy that situation failed and a new home for the bees was found in a nearby apple orchard. More hives were developed and prospects seemed favorable to not only provide honey for the family, but to actually make a small income.

However, this effort soon met a more formidable foe than the small black and white "critter". Experts hurried to provide possible solutions, but each spring almost all the bees had to be replaced.

How will this 50 year saga end? He hasn't given up his love of beekeeping, so each year he seeks more solutions, replenishes his colonies of bees, and keeps watch for any little "critter" with a sweet tooth.

June Ferguson



IHPA Lifetime Membership Award for Vern Ramsey

Vern started bee keeping in 1986, he had retired from John Deere and his garden and orchard weren't doing what he wanted. David Oliver who was already a bee keeper and a friend brought him 4 hives. That is when our life changed. He got every book or article he could about beekeeping and found beekeeping people and started going to bee keeping meetings.

Sometime later Ron Wehr asked him if he would come to Washington and help him with his bee keeping classes. Vern was a director and now has been President of the S.E. Ia. Beekeepers for 8 years .

In 2011 people in our area didn't want to drive to Washington for classes so Vern started classes with the Van Buren Extension office. We go to lots of schools , also to Nursing Homes and clubs with the observation hive with demonstrations and try to keep people informed about bee keeping. In 2007 and 2009 we (Vern and my name were on these) received the educational award and 2010 Vern received the Distinguished Service award. At our age we have had to slow down so haven't be out so much.

Doris Ramsey

IHPA Outstanding Youth Award for

Peter Jakes

Peter Jakes received



a youth scholarship at the 2012 Annual Meeting. He eagerly attended all the classes and was ready to begin his beekeeping adventure with one slight hitch. Peter lived in Indianola where beekeeping was "forbidden" according to city code. Even though he had

several offers of possible bee yard locations in the country, he wanted to keep his bees at home on the 1 3/4 acres his family lived on in town. He began researching other communities and their ordinances that allowed bees.

Peter scheduled a meeting with the city manager to see what could be done. The city manager was very receptive and offered Peter guidance in moving forward with drafting a bee-friendly ordinance. Peter visited with the mayor and spoke before the city council on behalf of his proposed ordinance. He attended every city council meeting from February through the beginning of May to be available to answer any questions the council might have. Peter's bees arrived as the new ordinance was being passed. Peter purchased a second package of bees and hive from IHPA from another youth scholar backing out of the program. His second package arrived in time for the May snow. The bees settled in and produced 18 pounds of honey their first summer.

Peter told about his bees and sold his honey everywhere he went, and was sold out by Christmas 2013. In 2014 he began taking his younger sister to the bee keeping classes offered by the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa. Both of his hives overwintered well and he was able to make a split for his sister in the spring. He worked for his mentor, Dan Dixon, and was able to earn a queen for the split. He continued to mentor his sister over the summer, and come fall they were able to harvest 110 pounds of honey. Peter has inspired a friend to apply for the youth scholarship. He attributes his success as a beekeeper to the support of his mentor Dan Dixon and all of the people in the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa club.

Amy Jakes

IHPA Outstanding Youth Award for Joy Westercamp Advertising Works!

In the spring of 2011, a small notice about upcoming beginning beekeeping classes was published in our local county paper.





Steve has always been interested in social insects, and I told him about the classes. He and our 11 year old daughter Joy Westercamp decided to attend the 4 week session. Joy attended the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers meeting, and she told them why she wanted to start beekeeping and be a mentor kid. The club got her set up with a hive complete with bees, a veil, gloves, and a smoker, and most importantly Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey as her

mentors! She also traded rabbits for used woodenware and purchased an Beemax hive and a package of Minnesota hygienic bees and a package of Carnolians her first year. For 4-H, Joy gave an educational presentation about honey bee castes. In September 2011, Joy gave a talk to the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers comparing and contrasting different types of beekeeping equipment.

She was so excited to learn all she could about bees, so the next year, Joy and I (her mom) took the beginning beekeeping classes again. She was down to two colonies in the spring of 2012, and through making splits and catching a few swarms, she built up her apiary to nine colonies and nucs. In June 2012, Joy was named the Southeast Iowa Honey Princess. She gave an educational presentation to her 4-H club, the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers, the county fair, and state fair called "Increase Colonies" explaining the advantages and disadvantages of swarms, packages, and splits. She earned a gold seal of excellence at the Iowa State Fair. She produced her first honey crop in 2012 – 28 sections of Ross Rounds comb honey. As Southeast Iowa Honey Princess, Joy helped the Ramseys sell honey and educate the public about bees, beekeeping, and honey at Harvestville Farms and at Morris Park, she volunteered for two days at the Iowa Honey Producers booth at the Iowa State Fair, she attended local parades; she volunteered at HoneyFest in Cedar Rapids; and she spoke at Mediapolis junior high and to Washington Elementary kids. In 2012, Joy also experimented with raising her own queens by the notched brood method.

In January 2013, Joy was promoted to Southeast Iowa Honey Queen. Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey asked Joy to help teach the beekeeping classes in Jefferson and Van Buren Counties. She loves giving presentations during the classes and answering questions. She lost 6 colonies over the winter, but she went on lots of swarm calls and increased her apiary to 10 colonies. As local Honey Queen, she participated in ag days at Cardinal and Van Buren Schools; walked in the Amana Parade with Iowa Honey Queen Hannah VanWyk and Princess Rachel Stika; promoted honey at Harvestville Farms and Morris Park; volun-

teered at the Iowa State Fair, and helped teach classes at the Ag Learning Center at the Iowa State Fair. She gave her "Life Cycle of the Honey Bee" talk to her 4-H club and the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers. She was also selected at her county fair to advance to the Iowa State Fair and earned a gold seal of excellence on her talk. She also did a working exhibit at the county and state fairs about beeswax candle rolling. Joy was also interviewed by Country Life magazine in 2013 to focus on her online public education and her enthusiasm for beekeeping. Nine out of ten of Joy's colonies survived the brutal 2013-2014 winter. She made several cut down splits so she would be ready for comb honey. She harvested over 120 sections this year. Joy helped Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey teach beginning beekeeping classes again in Jefferson and Van Buren Counties. She again volunteered at the Iowa State Fair booth for the Iowa Honey Producers and promoted honey at Harvestville Farms. Joy used a queen castle to hatch out several swarm cells so she was always ready to replace a missing or failing queen. She gave her educational presentation about varroa mites to the local beekeeping club, her 4-H club and at the county and state fair. Mr. Ramsey asked Joy to teach the 2015 Van Buren County beekeeping classes, so Joy is working on revamping some of the curriculum and preparing to lead the classes next spring. Joy's apiary is up to 24 colonies in 2014!

Vern & Doris Ramsey

IHPA Outstanding Youth Award for Gabrielle Hemesath



Belle came to work for us when she was in the 7th grade. She started out washing 100s and 1000s of feeder buckets, painting lids, bottoms, and hive bodies. She became a member of the extracting team her first year and soon became the energizing force on the team. To escape the boring life of the honey house she volunteered to do bee yard work and found a true love for the honeybee. She now has two hives

of her own and talks about beekeeping as a living. Belle has done about every aspect of beekeeping from raising queens to making nucs and harvesting honey. We know she will one day have a life of her own and we wonder how we will ever replace her.

Bob Fassbinder



2014 Iowa Honey Queen

Hello Everyone,

I've had a fantastic month serving as queen. On November 19th, I represented the IHPA at an Iowa Horticulture Society meeting. I gave a short report about the IHPA's annual meeting and some of the things the Association is working on. Here I am with the club's president, Gary Twedt.



Most of my free time is taken up by getting ready for the American Honey Queen competition. Right now, I am focused on finishing my scrapbook and perfecting my presentation on propolis.



I'm also updating my pamphlet with a new photo and mini biography. I had professional photos taken for all of my promotional materials, so I'm feeling competition ready. I'm happy to say I have a lot of people traveling with me in January to show support. I'll keep everyone updated during the competition through my Facebook page "Iowa Honey Queen Program".

Wish me luck in California!
Gabrielle



This whole month, I have been selling my honey. My hives made over 200 pounds between the two of them, and I had a great time packaging it all.

Connie Bronnenberg printed my first set of labels, and the customers poured in. Some even ask for their bottles to be autographed. My honey is sold out of my dorm room at Iowa State University, my mother's home office, and my father's workplace. It's been a family effort to get the honey to everyone who wants it.



BACK TO BASICS BEE CLUB MAHASKA COUNTY, OSKALOOSA Meets October 10, 2014



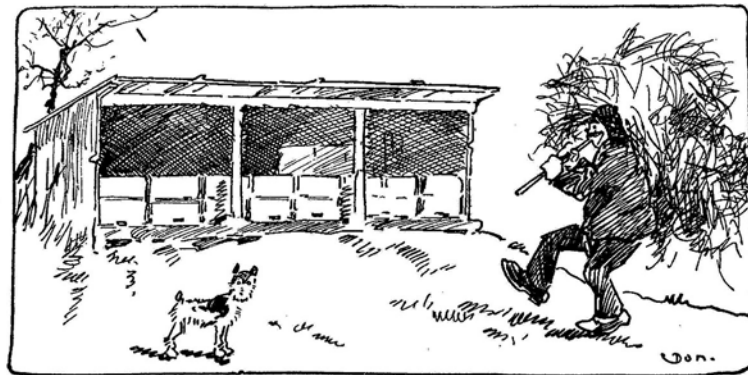
Jeremy Van Donselaar shared his current design for overwintering nucs following much experimentation throughout his recent seven years of beekeeping. He enjoys being creative, incorporating ideas from fellow beekeepers and internet exploration. Jeremy concluded with designing a cover from tar paper (the black/brown-looking form in photo) and a top wood frame (shown in photo) to hold the tar paper in place over 4 sets of nucs arranged on pallets. With this his bees are packed for cold

storage. So the big question: "So then where the cold storage?" His reply: "Just where I left it - out in the cold - for storage."



Back to Basics of Oskaloosa is having a good time sharing Jeremy's designs for overwintering nucs: Shelly Klein, Jeremy Van Donselaar, Eve VandenBroek, Nancy Place, and Richard Klein. The brown is tar paper formed to cover 4 nucs on a pallet for overwintering nucs.

With this, Jeremy's bees are packed for winter and his honey crop is sold. Following the intriguing hours of labor the leaves rattle and the wind is blowing cold, his trust in his 70 to 80 nucs are insured 'gainst freezing. What awesome self-satisfaction as Jeremy sits back to totally relate to the following writing which introduced his presentation:



When Bees are Packed for Winter.- By Bill Mellvir

When Bees are Packed for Winter.- By Bill Mellvir
(With apologies to Walt Mason.)

When the bees are packed for winter and the honey crop is sold, and the leaves begin to rattle, and the wind is getting cold, and the mornings crisp and frosty when a fellow leaves the hay, and the sun each day is lower, sending just a slanting ray, then I feel quite young and coltish since the season's work is done. Tho I've toiled and sweat and worried, I have had a lot of fun. And it's great to be a-living on a morning crisp and cold when the bees are packed for winter and the honey crop is sold. Say, this world sure is a dinger with its buoyant atmosphere, when the heat of summer's over and the bracing fall is here. So on frisky legs I'm prancing as I chant this lusty rhyme, for a voter should be happy when his work is done on time. Sure I'll miss the daily troubles and the humming of the bees; miss the big extractor's whirring and the little motor's wheeze. But I'm fit as any fiddle as my aching arms I fold when the bees are packed for winter and the honey crop is sold. Foolish ginks will put off packing, till the snow and ice are here. Some will let it

go all winter, paying for it mighty dear. Spring will bring great disappointment to the rusty shiftless jay who neglects such simple duties, loitering from day to day. Black remorse for things neglected, can not bring dead bees to life that have burned their lives out early in the deadly winter strife. I've insured my bees 'gainst freezing, and a policy I hold when the bees are packed for winter and the honey crop is sold.

The above prose "When Bees are Packed for Winter.- By Bill Mellvir" was published in Vol. XLIX, November, 1921, Number 11 of the Gleanings in Bee Culture by A.I. Root Company, Publishers, Median, Ohio.

This intriguing production was a gift from Jeremy's wife, Kristen, for Christmas after a vigilant search on Ebay. What a find! Do you have your bees packed for winter and your honey crop sold?

Thank you, Jeremy, for a most informative, fun, and interesting presentation.

Editor, Marilyn Jackson for Back to Basics, Oskaloosa.

jacksmarilyn@hotmail.com

BACK TO BASICS BEE CLUB MAHASKA COUNTY, OSKALOOSA Meets October 10, 2014



Tina Marshall offered some very good tips for fellow beekeepers who have honey and honey related goods to sell. She talked about displaying, communications, costs, weather,

rules, sales, and shared her enthusiasm at Back To Basics' October 10, 2014, meeting.

Tina claims to be new at being an entrepreneur in selling her family's honey, along with goods Tina has made by hand at home. However, Tina comes across as experienced and professional to her audience. Two weeks before the 11th annual National Dutch Oven Gathering (2014 NDOG) held September 11-14, 2014, in Monticello, Iowa (by C.R.), she was invited as a vendor to present her family's honey products in a booth setting at the Gathering. Tina took one glance behind her sofa sighting the party supplies from Son Lyman's high school graduation, which seemed to be stashed and trying to stay out of site while waiting for such an opportunity. She pulled them out, gathered Husband Jim and family to quickly extract honey from the hives, bottle it, gather honey products from around the house, packed all and off she was for Monticello for a pioneering experience. There was no time to think or plan, just do! How much fun this bee family had!

Never heard of the NDOG? Check it out and view photos at www.2014ndog.com.

Tina also displayed booths twice at the Farmers Market in Oskaloosa, one being Christmas in September and the other a regular fall farmers market. Since then, she has also been invited to participate in a Blue Zones Food Festival highlighting local food.

Jim and Tina have 4 children. Lyman (19) is now in college, studying Environmental Biology, with aspirations of working for the DNR. Kendal (16), Grace (12), and Brie (6) are home schooled. Jim works full time and Tina is a stay at home mom. They are both 4-H leaders and very active at church, in addition to many other volunteer activities. Kendal and Lyman received youth scholarships from the Back To Basics Beekeeping Club in 2010, probably two of the first recipients of the program. In addition to maintaining around 20 hives, the Marshall family also rescue swarms and perform honeybee cut-outs. Jim was elected to the IHPA Board as District 1 Director at the IHPA Annual Meeting in November 2014. The Marshall's will also be teaching the annual, local, beginning beekeepers class this next year. The same class that they took only a few short years ago. This follows my March 2014 article touting the rewards and values of youth scholarships and is testament to community bee growth resulting from youth scholarships. The family name is Marsh Hill Homestead Products & Services of rural Oskaloosa.

Editor, Marilyn Jackson, Back To Basics,
jacksmarilyn@hotmail.com, 641-726-3058





Beekeeping Club Articles

Thank you to Marilyn Jackson, editor of the Back to Basics newsletter for sharing the activities the Back to Basics Beekeeping club has been involved in during their meetings. The Oskaloosa club is quite active and has a very good attendance. I would like to forward an invitation for all our beekeeping clubs across the state to submit articles for publication in the Buzz about their club activities. The IHPA membership is in the neighborhood of 800 members to share your activities with! Beekeeping clubs are a great time to get together and share stories, plans, and ask questions. So let's share the fun, send in an article about what your club has been up to and even when you r next meetings will be for new beekeepers!

Alex Ebert
Editor, The Buzz Newsletter

IHPA Membership

Membership dues will be due by December 31, 2014. If you paid before or during the annual meeting, your next issue of the Buzz Newsletter will reflect your new expiration date. The membership dues are \$20 for the first person in your household and each additional person in your household is \$5. Each paid membership is entitled to one vote and the annual meeting during the election of officers.

Please send your dues to Rhonda Heston, IHPA Treasurer, 52735 187th Ave, Chariton IA 50049. Please call 515-724-2124 if you have any questions.

Why American Honey Importers Are Wary Of 'Turkish' Honey

BY DANIEL CHARLES

Originally published on Wed November 26, 2014 5:38 pm

An apiary on the outskirts of Chengdu, China, produces about 440 pounds of honey a day. American honey importers say

they suspect the uptick in honey coming from Turkey actually originated in China.

Turkey is a land of fine honey. Bees produce more of the sweet stuff in Turkey than in any other country except China. And Turkish consumers happily eat most of it themselves. Very little Turkish honey is exported. When it is, it usually commands premium prices.

But some American honey producers say they've observed something odd: cheap Turkish honey headed to the U.S. The U.S. producers think it's not really Turkish honey — and that it actually comes from a country farther to the east.

[True Source Honey](#), the industry group, says the U.S. imported more than 4 million pounds of honey from Turkey in 2013. That's a tenfold increase, compared with three years ago. But what really aroused suspicion was the price of that Turkish honey: only \$1.27 per pound, on average. When Turkish exporters shipped honey that year to the European Union, by contrast, the price was \$2.13 per pound, which is more in line with the rest of the honey market.

What's going on? Eric Wenger, chairman of the board of the True Source Honey organization, has his suspicions because he's seen this sort of thing before.

The [story](#) starts more than a decade ago, when American beekeepers complained that cheap imports of honey from China, the world's largest honey producer, were driving them out of business. The U.S. government investigated and concluded that China was "dumping" its honey on world markets. In 2008, the U.S. imposed tough duties on Chinese honey, effectively blocking it from American shores.

In the following years, large shipments of honey suddenly started arriving from other Asian countries, such as Malaysia. Further investigations revealed that this was really Chinese honey in disguise. Several Chinese and German honey traders ended up facing criminal charges for the fraud, and the Asian sources of illicit honey dried up.

True Source Honey was set up to prevent this from happening again, and Wenger now thinks it may be. He can't prove this, but he thinks Chinese honey has found a new route to the American market through Turkey. This would explain the odd discrepancy in the prices of Turkey's exports.

Shipments to the European Union are legitimate, top-quality Turkish honey. Shipments to the U.S., on the other hand, may include illicit product from China, and exporters have to knock down their prices to unload it.

In past examples of fraud, raw honey has sometimes been traced to its source through analysis of the pollen that it contains. For instance, if the pollen is from flowers that grow in

China, but not Turkey, scientists can show that the honey came from China. Wenger says that his group has not carried out such an analysis of these Turkish imports.

True Source Honey is advising importers and retailers to be skeptical of imported honey from Turkey and to consider steering clear of it altogether. It notes in a statement that U.S. companies can be prosecuted for fraud if they purchase honey that they know has been imported illegally.

Ordinary consumers, however, aren't directly affected. Even though imports from Turkey have increased dramatically, they still account for only 1 percent of U.S. honey consumption. Most honey in the U.S. is imported, much of it from Argentina, Vietnam, India, Canada and Brazil.

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The holidays are sweeter with Iowa honey. On Saturday December 6th, 2014 I was part of the Cedar Rapids Fire and Ice Parade. The parade route was lined with over 7500 people and was a televised event with five repeat telecasts. I will continue to promote Iowa honey.

Sweet regards,
Jeralyn Westercamp, 2014 Iowa Honey Princess



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Trivia Answer: Yes, many varieties of commercial soybeans are grown in the U.S. and they vary greatly in the quantity of nectar they produce. Since soybeans are self-fertile, honey bees are not necessary for pollination. Soybean honey is light in color, mild in flavor and is often used in blending, especially with stronger flavored honeys.

Source: ABC & YXZ of Bee Culture, page 424, Forty First Edition



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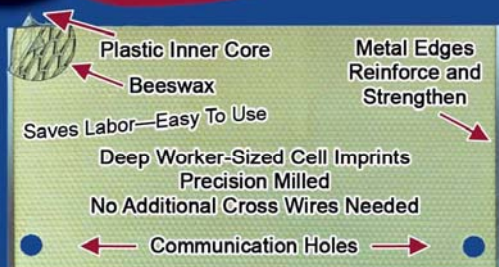
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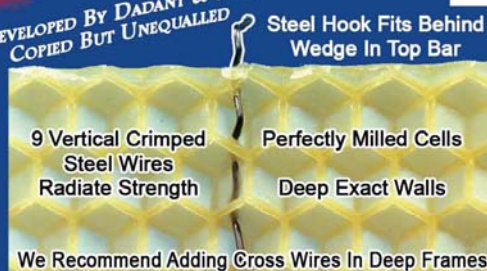
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The Buzz Newsletter

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