



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



September 2012



**100th Annual Meeting of the
Iowa Honey Producers Association
November 16th & 17th**

Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA
Hotel room discount registration deadline is October 22nd. Pg8
Preregistration Deadline is October 31st. Pg9





November 15th—IHPA Board Meeting, 7pm.
November 16-17th—IHPA Annual Meeting, Marshalltown, IA



For Sale: Honey Styx

I sent 2 barrels of honey to Oregon to have put into styx, so these are Iowa honey. Good flavored light honey.

\$0.08 each in boxes of 2000 or \$160
\$0.10 each for 500-1999
\$0.12 each for less than 500

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

FOR SALE: Approx 170 Shallow-5 3/4, and 20 Medium-6 5/8"-Honey Supers located in Vinton, IA.

All have 9 Frames of drawn comb. They are stored in my garage and have moth crystals on them. There is no moth damage. I would like to sell them to a honey producer.

I can be reached by phone at
319-472-3810
or by
E-Mail -- m.duncan@q.com

For Sale: Two Dadant 60 frame stainless steel extractors \$1,200.00 each (run good)

Contact: Lyndon Ruyter
1121 10th ST
Hawarden, IA 51023

712-551-2355 cell 605-310-3248
e-mail: ruyter@longlines.com

For Sale: Pamphlet on Successful Management available:

Ten Pages \$12 including postage.

Contact:
Glen Stanley
908 N, Highway 69
Huxley, Iowa 50124
TELE: 515 597 2555

For Sale: Heavy-duty plastic pallets for sale. Several varieties are available, including stackable and nestable pallets.

Resistant to insects, bacteria, and fungi. Perfect for using under bee-hives. Some have slight damage. All are in used condition. \$15.00 each.

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or msmccoy@juno.com.

Address: 11395 N.E. Hubbell Way,
Maxwell, IA 50161.

Pallets are located 10 miles NE of Des Moines.

For Sale: Freeze dried Fruit and Jalapeno pepper. Used in making honey cremes.

Apricot powder in 5 lb bags.

Blueberry powder in 7.5 lb bags

Cranberry powder in 5 lb bags.

Jalapeno powder in 1.5 lb bags (6 cups)

Jalapeno pepper 1/8" in 1 lb bags (6 cups)

Raspberry powder in 5.5 lb bags

Ann Garber at
Bus phone 641-873-4119
Cell phone 641-870-2119

FOR SALE: 50 frame stainless steel Root extractor in good working order with side dump. The extractor is located in Illinois.

Call Phil Ebert
for info. 541-527-2639 or e-mail
ehoney37@netins.net



The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

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



Notice for the Iowa Honey Producers Membership:

In honor of our 100th anniversary, we are looking for any historical articles or artifacts from our members who would be willing to bring them for display at annual meeting being held in Marshalltown IA., November 16th & 17th.

Please contact Peggy Ennis, Historian if you have items you wish to bring. It would be greatly appreciated.
Phone 641-444-4767

Thank you and see you at the meeting.

State Apiarist

Hi all.

Here's hoping you've gotten through your honey extraction, and that it was a lot of work to get through. Many around the state have had excellent crops this season. Hot & dry, every now and then, seems to really work out well in terms of a honey flow. For all the trouble many of our colonies went through earlier in the season, they (re) built up well. In most areas of the state, it seems that the honey flow started pretty late this year. I know I didn't get much of anything at all from yellow sweet clover. This observation seemed to be true in many of the places I visited around IA. It wasn't really until white sweet clover was coming on that I started seeing supers really filling. I'm curious to talk with people at the IHPA annual meeting to try to get a better estimate of the IA average. Surely, it'll be a good number.

The state fair went very well for us this

year. A lot of people worked a lot of hours in making sure the IHPA made waves in celebration of our 100th anniversary. I'm sure Donna Brahms will report the great numbers from the sales booth. I want to thank her again for the incredible amount of work she puts into coordinating it all each year. And, thank you to all of you who worked shifts in the sales booth, "talked bees" by the observation hives display, tattooed kids with the IHPA logo, exhibited fair competition entries (a list of apiary competition winners can be found here:

<http://www.iowastatefair.org/competition/results/competitors-buzzing-about-blue-ribbons-in-state-fair-competition/>

), and contributed to the great showing we made at the fair again this year. Melanie Bower (our Treasurer) worked endless hours as well, largely behind the scenes making all the "pieces fit together" successfully (and she was a huge help to me in getting me started with the apiary competitions). Warren Nelson did a great job with judging again this year. Honey Queen Renae Beard and Honey Princess Hannah VanWyk along with Connie Bronnenberg were wonderful representatives of the IHPA and beekeeping in IA. They gave a large number of presentations about honey and beekeeping around the fair and got a great amount of media attention (radio, print, and TV!) for our association. I've already received a packet from the fair folks gearing up plans for IA State Fair 2013.

By the time you read this, it'll be pretty late in the season, but I can't seem to talk bees without talking mites. This hot & dry summer has been great for the Varroa mites. ...Which is bad for the bees. I hope you've all kept an eye on this. Mite numbers have really rocketed recently. Colonies in which I had a hard time finding a mite back in May and early June now have counts in the 40s and 50s (per 300 or so bees in an ether roll). Obviously, it's very important to watch out

for this sort of thing and knock the mites back sooner rather than later when you see the numbers heading upward. Ideally, the mite treatments should be in hives in early September for most of the mite control products. You want to get the mite numbers under control so you'll have plenty of "healthy" brood and bees reared up in the generations heading towards winter. If you haven't already taken care of such business, please consider doing so. Too many colonies go into winter, sick and stressed from all this mite pressure. And they don't tend to make it through till spring.

Have you checked out www.BeeInformed.org yet? It's becoming the best place online for finding great beekeeping info combined with the project of collecting survey data from individual beekeeper participants, then working to process all that data into useful, practical "pictures of success". Katie Lee will be speaking about the beeinformed project (BIP) and other things at our IHPA annual meeting. I'm looking forward to hearing her speak. According to the website, the best successes in wintering last year were correlated with usage of Apiguard or ApiVar. And those who create winter upper entrances on their hives had about a 17% better survival success story than those who didn't use upper entrances. For further details, look here:

<http://beeinformed.org/2012/08/winter-preparation-national-management-survey-2010-2011/> .

See you. Andy Joseph
State Apiarist





THE BEEYARD REPORT

I have loaded barrels of honey into a minivan and thought that was the most unique vehicle for hauling honey. That was before we loaded buckets on to a motorcycle. I wasn't actually here when it happened. Alex took care of it. Bruce Eiselstine came on a cycle pulling a little trailer. Two buckets went on the trailer and one was tied onto the cargo rack. Beekeepers are a creative group.

I don't go to bed very early. Many years of working nights threw my body out of whack. It has been 12 years and I still haven't been able to adjust back to normal hours. I was reading a book one night about 11:30 when lights appeared in the driveway. It was Adam with a monster load of honey. He had finished pulling near Mechanicsville and then driven to Lynnville. He has had a huge flow. Some of his yards have been pulled three times.

This is going to be our best year since '05. As I write this, we have 103 barrels full of honey and 450 boxes in the warehouse waiting to be extracted. I don't know how many yards we have left to strip but it is quite a few. I'm guessing 13 or 14.

Our mite load has not been quite as high as I anticipated but we are in a hurry to get our treatments in. The most I have seen on an ether roll is 15 with many in the 3 to 5 range. There have been lots of mites in the drone brood we have found in the honey supers. This led me to expect counts in the 20 to 30 range. We are going to lose a

week while we are in Mt Pleasant. I expect mite counts will be much higher by the time we finish pulling in September. As the warehouse begins to fill up with barrels, it cuts down on the space for boxes needing to be extracted.

This limits what we can do. I have found the lack of space to be frustrating.

I spent three afternoons working at the State Fair booth. Sales were phenomenal. It was the first time I had been there where we needed someone to bag and another person to run the register. I thought we took a lot of comb honey

remove them. After being stored for a year, the acid is starting to separate from the strips. Alex used them in one yard. We haven't had time to go back to see how things turned out. We usually put the first mite treatment in when we pull. The MiteAway strips require as much time to install as it does to pull and treat an entire yard with something else. I thinking it may be time to give up and write them off as a bad investment.

Get those mite treatments in. Cold weather will be here before you know it.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

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REPLACING OLD AND DAMAGED COMBS!

Now as inspections follow the removal of the surplus honey combs that have darkened to a dark brown (or near black) should be replaced. The same with damaged combs that are beyond repair by the bees. As the combs darken through the years of hatching brood the cells become smaller.

Each time a bee hatches from the cell it leaves more fiber hence smaller sized cells.

Dr. Elbert Jaycox, former research Scientist at the University of Illinois, found the bees actually become 17 percent smaller, which means they can carry a lesser amount of nectar to the hive.

last year but this year it was even more.

Curt mentioned in his article last month that he had gotten a complaint about the Buzz being late. I have had a few of those. It's a problem but bear in mind that most of us who are contributors are running a business. We are totally buried in the spring and fall. Normally, when the deadline comes, Alex has no material. Then he starts hunting. I am quite often late getting my own article in. It is always in the back of my mind that I need to do it but other things take precedence. If you are among the group that would like to see the Buzz out on time, how about sending in some material or writing an article. It would be nice to have some new blood.

I was determined to use up our MiteAway pads but they are a major pain to put in and require a 2nd trip to



Year by year combs become more contaminated so renewing combs regularly helps eliminate and prevent disease. Combs completely filled with pollen should be removed as the bees will never utilize it.

After five years a constant process of renewing combs about two combs per brood chamber should be replaced. This is easier and should be done in the Spring. Place the sheets of foundation, one on each side of the brood and inside the combs of honey. NEVER in any case separate the combs containing brood. The bees will expand the brood area as needed and as the colony develops.

Caucasian and Carniolan bees tend to propolize a great deal so cleaning frame rests and frame ends require some scraping.

In the 1970's the Inspection service at the University of Minnesota ran a survey on NOSEMA disease. They asked for samples of bees be sent to them from ALL states. I sent them 5 samples of bees, two from our own colonies. All results came back showing they were infected with Nosema.

New combs drawn and filled with brood are a beautiful sight to any beekeeper. Occasionally a comb will be completely filled with mostly sealed brood.

In the 1970's the University of Minnesota (under the direction of Dr. Basil Furfala) ran a survey on NOSEMA disease. They requested samples from all states. I sent them five samples, two from our own colonies. The results were, all had some infection of the disease. We had just begun a system of replacing OLD, BLACK combs.

Two years later we had our colonies checked again but NO NOSEMA WAS FOUND. We hadn't treated as was the usual practice BUT I finally convinced, and Dr. Furgala and Dr. Jaycox conceded that our rendering of the old combs had actually eliminated the Nosema. More colonies have Nosema than is known. With any amount of it colonies keep attempting to requeen constantly and are difficult to actually requeen.

Glen Stanley
908 N, Highway 69
Huxley, Iowa 50124
TELE: 515 597 2555



Featured Beekeeper of the Month

This month our featured beekeeper of the month is Elaine Finarty. She lives at 57636 317th Trail in Columbia, Iowa. Five or six years ago, Elaine started going along on swarm calls and bee removals. She enjoyed watching, helping, and learning about bees and started thinking, "I can do this, maybe! There is so much to learn. They are such amazing creatures." Now she has 15 hives and sells liquid honey at her business named Hickory Hill Honey.

Elaine says, "Although there are days I still have to psyche myself up to get into my hives, there is such a feeling of satisfaction once I do. Hopefully, I can do my small part to better this old world." She plans to participate at the county fair, help her granddaughter, learn about bees, and do beeswax creations.

Elaine is a member of the Back to Basics Beekeeping Club in Oskaloosa. The group meets the second Friday of the month. They sponsor youth scholarships, have an educational booth at the Southern Iowa Fair and Nelson Pioneer Farm, and conduct tours. She is also a member of the Iowa Honey Producers Association.

Thanks for your story Elaine!

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Elaine Finarty holds up a large chunk of brood comb.



GUEST SPEAKERS *for our* *100th IOWA HONEY PRODUCER'S* *ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING*

Katie Lee; University of Minnesota

<http://beelab.umn.edu/>



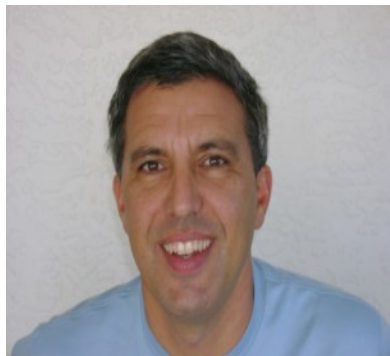
I'm a part of the Midwest Bee Team based out of the University of Minnesota. I work with commercial migratory beekeepers in North Dakota and Minnesota to help them monitor pest and disease levels. Before I was on the Midwest Team, I was on the CA Bee Team working for the Northern California bee breeders. I was introduced to honey bees during my last semester as an undergrad when I took a class on social insects with Dr. Marla Spivak. Marla asked me to work in the U of MN Bee Lab over the summer, and have been enthralled with bees ever since. My main interests are bee breeding, Varroa, disease ecology, and extension

work. I received both a BS in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior and a MS in Entomology from the University of Minnesota.

Check out my bee beard and other members of 'Bee informed' @

http://beeinformed.org/team-2/personnel/#Katie_Lee

David Mandes



I have been a commercial beekeeper since the mid 1970's. Home base is in Fort Myers, FL. My bees pollinate almonds in California, Blueberries in Maine, and Cranberries in Massachusetts. I currently operate between 15,000 to 20,000 hives with a crew of 40+ people. I am the most recent past president of the American Beekeeping Federation and am still active on the ABF Board of Directors. I am also a member of the National Honey Bee Advisory Board which has been tasked to work with USDA and EPA to address pesticide issues facing the beekeeping industry.

Lee Heine;*(pictured with wife, Nadene)*



In 1977 Lee began work as credit manager for Dadant's corporate headquarters in Hamilton, Illinois. Since 1984, I was Watertown Dadant's branch manager, where I met many wonderful people. I retired as of May this year after 35 years with Dadant. I was the past president of the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association. I served on the National Honey Board for 7 years and chairman of the Board for 3 years. I am currently the largest distributor of package bees in the United States, delivering 14,000 packages last year. I am a native of Iowa, originally from Parkersburg. I am a big supporter of the state and national honey queen programs by purchasing quilts at the auction of both the state and national conferences. In my home state of Iowa, my donation of bees to the youth in beekeeping has made it a program they continue to offer and all youth who began continue to keep bees.

We are very grateful to Mr. Lee Heine's generous support of the IHPA Youth Program.

Amy Toth; Assistant Professor, Iowa State University
Departments of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology and Entomology;



Amy received her PhD in 2006 from the University of Illinois' Program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology working in the lab of Gene Robinson. She then continued her work in the Robinson lab as a postdoc at the Institute for Genomic Biology at the University of Illinois. Then, she was a USDA Postdoctoral Fellow with Christina Grozinger at Penn State University. She joined the faculty of the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology at Iowa State University as in August 2010.

Bob Cox

Former state apiarist of Iowa, and with the USDA Honey Bee Research in Weslaco TX.



Iowa Honey Queen

Happy End of Summer!

I can't believe it's SEPTEMBER! I've already been in college for a month and it's practically my birthday! I am busy getting adjusted to University of Northern Iowa life, which is quite a switch from the farm. I'm a member of several new organizations, and enjoying my involvement there. I am also excited to announce I am on the UNI Women's Rugby team....and have currently been diagnosed with my first concussion – yay for contact sports! College life is crazy!



Renae hit the ground running the first day of the Iowa State Fair by giving an interview to Iowa Public Television.

This Iowa State Fair was my wildest, most fun adventure yet! It was also my fifth year working as an IHPA volunteer and I loved it. I felt like a true Iowa State Fair celebrity with the amount of photos I was asked to take, and I never got tired of saying YES!!! My state fair adventure actually began a



Renae was kept quite busy at the Iowa State Fair handing out IHPA temporary tattoos, rolling beeswax candles, and taking a whole lot of pictures.

few days before Thursday, August 9 when Mom and I lugged all of our exhibits up to the second floor of the Ag Building. We were excited to visit with other members as we entered the family's projects in photography, honey, votive candles, beeswax art, gift basket, and (Mom and I's personal favorite) the window display! After spending the evening getting everything set up just right, we were thrilled to be awarded second place!

Another addition to the IHPA Booth was my honeybee photo board. Drawing inspiration from Iowa Honey Producer Association Board Member, Juliet Swett's, original photo board (which many of you probably saw at the annual field day), I made one of my own. I had been borrowing Julie's for the Ames Farmers Market, but since I knew I would be moving to college, I decided to make one for myself, due to the distance. It proved to be a great family-collaborative 4-H project, as my grandparents, parents, and brother ended up providing input on almost every aspect of its creation. I would also like to take a moment to personally thank Julie for allowing me to use her idea, as it was an absolute hit at the

state fair, popular with both adults and children, and wouldn't have been possible without her initial creativity!

I was happy to make my first parade debut as the 2012 Iowa Honey Queen in the Iowa State Fair Parade. It was an amazing experience and I was thrilled to be accompanied by a couple close friends who were exceptionally good sports, agreeing to run several blocks with me in a prom dress, to avoid being late! I spent the first day of the fair greeting the public and enjoying a TV interview with Iowa Public Television. I was absolutely delighted to speak about beekeeping and loved knowing the large audience the IHPA touched through the use of the media. Additionally, I presented a program on Honey and Beekeeping that afternoon on the bottom floor of the Agriculture Building. I had a very interactive crowd and was happy to have an informal question and answer session following my presentation.

On the third day of the fair, I competed at the 4-H Awardrobe Event, where I modeled a dress I had constructed from my county fair ribbons. I had a fantastic day in Ames and was happy to con-



Renae also gave two Cooking with Honey presentations during the fair.

to the state fair for another presentation on Honey and Beekeeping. I was excited to, once again, find myself in front of a camera, this time with KCCI News Channel 8, speaking about the Iowa Honey Producers Association and beekeeping. They were incredibly receptive and I felt exceedingly fortunate to have had the opportunity to reach a wider audience with information about honeybees.

In the booth I enjoyed putting on IHPA tattoos, rolling candles with both adults and children, and speaking about my younger brother, Greg's, awesome bee beard photo. It proved to be a great conversation starter and I loved watching people point to it and being able to whisper, "That's my little brother!" I also had the op-

portunity to speak with the public about the observation hives and different honey products. One of my favorite memories of the state fair was putting on the Kids and Bees Program. We set up candle rolling, coloring, and my honeybee photo board and encouraged kids to come enjoy learning about bees. While I was helping some little kids roll candles, a young boy came up and shyly presented a colored picture of a honeybee addressed to The Huny Qen. It absolutely made my fair!

Since the Iowa State Fair, I'm super excited to report I attended my first ever Honey Fest, held in scenic Cedar Rapids! It was absolutely beautiful. The weather was perfect and there was an amazing crowd. They had a live band, activities for children, baked goods with honey, several educational booths, and a live bee beard display. I spent the afternoon putting tattoos on and talking with little kids while I face painted honeybees. I had a great time with the other Iowa Honey Producers there and was very happy I had the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful promotional event.

Renae Beard
2012 Iowa Honey Queen

nect with both new and old 4-H friends. The next day found me back at the fair, passing out samples and running the cash register. August 12th and 13th I switched nametags and sported my State 4-H Council polo to help conduct the 4-H Swine and Beef Showmanship. I was soon back in the IHPA booth, giving two Cooking with Honey presentations. My mother, Jackie Beard, and my queen chair, Connie Bronnenberg, were both incredibly supportive, mixing ingredients while I talked and holding the microphone. We shared the secrets to making Honey Butterscotch Crispies with a very appreciative audience. I also had the honor of an interview with the radio station KISS 102.5 promoting the Iowa Honey Producers Association 100th year!

I took off for a day from the state fair to run up and "move in" (i.e. drop off!) the essentials for college, then returned



Renae represented the IHPA during the Iowa State Fair Parade.

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2 pound	12	1 (63 mm)	M001982	12	\$12.60
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The Buzz Newsletter

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State Apiarist

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Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club
Contact: Eves Cadwallader
2420 285th St.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-3993
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Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
Contact: Arvin Foell
30930 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
Home phone 515/597-3060
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Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers
Contact: Julia McGuire
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Bee Emergency Information

Contact: Vern Ramsey
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Birmingham, IA 52535-8162
(319) 498-4355

Contact: Mike Divis
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Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

East Central Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Dave Irvin
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Iowa City, IA 52246
(319) 351-6205

North Iowa Bee Club
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Northeast Iowa Beekeepers
Contact: Louise Johnson
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Southwest Iowa Honey Producers
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
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Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa
Contact: Judy Spence
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IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
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