



# *The Buzz*



July 2017





President's Message:

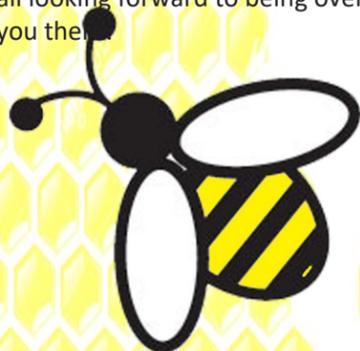
I sit here in my camper gathering thoughts. I just came home after a wonderful Field Day at northwest Iowa Dordt College campus. Duane Bajema and all who had a hand in this, my hat comes off. GREAT JOB.

Fellow beekeepers, these field days are the place to be to learn beekeeping. I was assisting some very good beekeepers who are willing to share their talents and for a very modest cost you can learn beekeeping at the level that fits you. However, you need to come to the event. Mark your calendar and get your space reserved, as Duane is putting on another one July 29<sup>th</sup> on the Dordt college campus. You will not be sorry you attended.

Buying packages or nucs can be expensive and you can learn how to split hives and raise your own queens and not have to buy bees. If I can figure it out, why can't you? It starts by coming to field days.

We all have a year we would like to forget once in a while. I had mine last year. However, I refuse to yield. It's a challenge I can handle. I'm very happy with a last-minute decision I made to purchase some queens and split down as far as I could. I now have five times as many hives as I started with in March. I figured out how to do it, and I challenge you to make a split, save that queen cell and put some bees with it in that 5-frame nuc, It may be July, but it still can become strong enough to over-winter, and next year that hive will be a great hive. Try it!

The IHPA Summer Field Day is just days away and so we're all looking forward to being over in eastern Iowa. Hope I see you there.



It's time for state fair as well. Have you got your tags to show at the fair yet? Now is the time to do that. Go to the Iowa State Fair web site and proceed there. Showing is fun and the ultimate challenge. Give it a try.

Do you have your space reserved to work at the fair booth? I thank you in advance for volunteering and helping. This is the IHPA's fund raiser for the year and it is successful because you all volunteer and make this fun, exciting, and the best lemonade stand at the fair! I'm happy to say we purchase your entry ticket to the fair if you volunteer for a shift. Hope to see you there.

There are a lot of cut off dates fast approaching. Young people who want to apply for a hive through the IHPA need to be paying attention as that date always gets away from us. Queen candidates, you as well have a cut-off date that always gets by me too. We have been blessed with some great young ladies that have applied for IHPA queen. I encourage them to reapply if they can. I'm glad I don't judge this.

Any one up for a cooking competition? We have one coming up in November at the annual meeting. I have heard in the past that participating in this competition is too hard since you have to travel and that damages what you fixed. I will be proposing to the board to "sweeten the pot". I hope to have some prizes good enough to make you want to participate. Can't announce yet, but you may want to break open that cookbook and start practicing! We have a great place for this competition this year. We have a large kitchen area at Gateway. I want this contest to stay strong. I hope to announce next month more details.

I have highlighted a lot of things in my message to you all. There is a lot going on and a lot coming up soon. We are a busy society these days and it seems we are just like the bees-- busy, busy and busier! A saying I like: "You have to make hay when the sun shines." I'm glad today I'm not making that hay. I sit in the camper with the air conditioner on. It is 90 plus already at 1 pm. It's a hot day. Hope your bees have good water source. I hope you are cool. I have more stuff to do today and need to get this to editor. So, I hope you are cool, hope your bees are making honey, hope to see you soon at an event. Bee a blessing!

Roy Kraft, IHPA President.

## A Day of Learning, Friendship, and Fun

**(Note: The picture on the cover is the hives we'll be working with at Wickiup)**

Shane and I are very excited and honored to be the host apiary for this year's field day at Wickiup Hill Learning Center. We had the privilege to partner with Linn County Conservation at the Wickiup Hill location a little over two years ago and have developed and implemented educational classes for beekeeping along with pollinator awareness programs for the Learning Center. Currently Shane and I keep five hives at this location just off the Savanna Trail for teaching. It will be a busy week for both Wickiup Hill and Shane and me, with Butterfly and Beekeeping camps planned throughout the week ending with the IHPA Summer Field Day. What a great way to spend the summer! Eve has planned a great field day with presentations from Dr. Dale Hill on honeybee nutrition, Jerry Weldon teaching equipment assembly, Marlene Bornsen teaching how to make flavored creamed honey, Kurt Rueber will explain the requirements for a certified kitchen, Bob Wolff demonstrating mite tests, Gregg and Susanne Lind showing how to perform a honey extraction, plus the Honey Queens Carly and Maia and much more.

A few personal words on the events of the day:

I first met Dr. Dale Hill last year during my last step in the University of Montana's Master Beekeeping Certification Program; he was one of my instructors in the honeybee nutrition section. What I learned from Dr. Hill has shaped and changed how I look at the health of our colonies. Make sure you bring a notebook because what Dr. Hill knows about animal nutrition is amazing and I know you will want to take notes. Also, a huge thank you to Dadant's for donating AP-23 pollen patty samples for our field day which Dr. Hill formulated.

Gregg and Susanne Lind have been beekeeping friends for many years and I am happy they will demonstrate how to extract honey for small scale beekeepers. Our bees have been hard at work and honey supers will be ready for July. The honey extracted will be donated to the Wickiup Hill Learning Center and sold under their label to raise funds for bee awareness and hopefully soon an observation hive.

Bob Wolff will demonstrate a few different ways to test for mites. Shane and I met Bob at the beginning of our beekeeping journey and have remained close ever since. Bob has a deep love and passion for bees which is contagious; we both caught

this deep passion and hope you will too.

Last year the beekeepers in our area, and I believe in Iowa, suffered higher than normal mite loads in their hives which caused many problems; for example, higher winter loss, deformed wing and sac brood to name a few. Over the last couple of years I have heard a lot of misinformation about this destructive pest and it is important to understand this killer to be able to overcome its devastation. Below is a brief overview of the Varroa Destructor but if you have additional questions, please reach out to your IHPA District Director and make sure you catch Bob's demonstration.

The Varroa Mite is an external parasite which originated in Eastern Asia and migrated to the United States with the first documented infestation occurring in 1987. Varroa depends on the honeybee for its sustainability and would die without them. A mite can remain on a bee for days to months, so simply breaking the brood cycle will not "fix a mite problem". Varroa will feed from the honeybees' fat bodies and hemolymph (blood) and acts as a direct vector for diseases. The founder (mother) mite will enter a brood cell just prior to it being capped (remember the cell is capped on day 9). This gives the mite 12 days or 228 hours to reproduce (21 days for a worker to emerge). Varroa will typically have three reproduction cycles--the first offspring will always be male, and then all the rest will be females. All mating must occur within the capped cell. Once the honeybee emerges from its cell the male and all the immature female mites will die. The founder mite along with all of her mature offspring will leave the cell to find a honeybee host or another cell for reproduction. If a mite problem is left untreated it can escalate quickly.

We look forward to seeing everyone in July!

Erin Miller – Master Beekeeper UMT and  
Bixby – District 2 Director

Shane



### Summer Field Day – Final Preparations

By the time you read these words it may be too late to register for the IHPA Summer Field Day. Registration cut off was Friday, June 30. As of June 7, however, 93 people have registered. **BUT WAIT... we have room for 125!** If you are still interested in attending, please contact either Rhonda or me to see if there's room. It could be that someone had to cancel opening up a spot or two. This event is guaranteed to be informative and fun and it is my aim to fill every last spot! Just because the calendar says July, we may still be able to accommodate you.

Eve Vanden Broek – [mrstheo@iowatelecom.net](mailto:mrstheo@iowatelecom.net) or 515-491-6760

Rhonda Heston – [r.heston@yahoo.com](mailto:r.heston@yahoo.com) or 515-724-2124

We need your help at the 2017 Iowa State Fair booth!

Dear Beekeepers,

The Iowa State Fair is fast approaching; August 10 -20. For those members new to the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA), we have a booth at the State Fair annually in the Ag building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; selling honey products, honey lemonade, lotions, soaps, beeswax items, promotional merchandise, etc. This is our main fund raising 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 products, pricing, mixing and serving honey lemonade, offering honey samples, etc. Each volunteer will be provided with free honey lemonade if you get thirsty while working at the booth, also a FREE pass to get into the fair, plus you get to enjoy the great entertainment at the fair before/after your shift at the booth.

We had a successful 2016 thanks to all those who participated! Over the years we have had some wonderful people volunteer their time and 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 this event a success.

We have three shifts daily, 9am-1.30pm, 1.30pm-6pm and 6pm-9pm (11-14 people needed per shift). If you are able to volunteer for one or more shifts during August 10-20, we would like to hear from you. All you need to do is mail the completed tear off slip below, or email the same details to [bhlove5@aol.com](mailto:bhlove5@aol.com), or call my number below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Heidi Love (IHPA Secretary) 18488 E Ave, Dawson, IA 50066. Cell: 515-729-1761**

1st person: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd person: \_\_\_\_\_

3rd person: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name & ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write below the date(s) you would like to work and circle shift that works best for you. (Fair dates August 10-20.)

We appreciate any help you can provide!

Date: 9.00-1.30pm 1.30pm-6.00pm 6.00pm-9.00pm



**2017 IHPA Donation Proposal Form**



The Iowa Honey Producers Association supports honeybee and beekeeping research through donations to research projects during the IHPA Annual Meeting.

The IHPA Donation Proposal Form will need to be submitted during the Submission Period prior to the Annual Meeting. The IHPA Board will review the stated use of the donation to confirm the use is in line with the goal of promoting continued research in honeybees and beekeeping. This review will allow the board time to request additional information if needed, and ensure total proposed donations do not exceed the association's budget for research donations.

With acceptance by the IHPA Board, the Donation Proposal will be brought to the floor during the Business Meeting of the Annual Meeting for a vote by the members. Donation Proposals can be made by anyone with a current IHPA membership. Members are encouraged to help the Association to identify research projects that will continue to work for the benefit of honeybees, beekeepers and the honey industry.

**Submission Deadline: October 15, 2017**

**Submission Period: July 1<sup>st</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>**

**IHPA Member submitting the Donation Proposal.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Proposal**

**Proposed dollar amount of the IHPA Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Contact Information for head researcher / project organization.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a description of how the proposed donation would be used in regards to your research relating to honeybees, beekeeping or the honey industry. (Please add additional page(s) as needed.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## STATE FAIR TIME COMING!!

If I were to ask you, "What pops into your mind when I say 'summer'? How would you respond? Would you say vacation, family reunion, roasting marshmallows around a campfire, fishing with the grandkids? **How about the Iowa State Fair?** Did you know the Iowa State Fair began in 1854? What is remarkable is Iowa only became a state in December of 1846. That means the Fair has been an annual event in Iowa for 163 years! It is one of the oldest and largest agricultural and industrial expositions in the world. With over a million visitors each year our state has a wonderful event to crow about. The Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) is very proud to have a booth prominently situated in the Ag Building just above the world-famous Butter Cow. Hmm? Honey + Butter = honey butter... mmm mmm good; bring on the buttermilk biscuits!  
Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA Vice President



## How Many Beekeepers Does it Take to Catch a Swarm in a Field of Poison Ivy?

On Saturday afternoon, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Jeremy and Kristen Van Donselaar in Cedar, Iowa, hosted the Back to Basics Beekeeping Field Day. Rain was forecast; however, surprisingly it held off for the field day and the temperatures were great. I know some individuals did not attend because we didn't anticipate opening hives, etc. due to the weather forecast.

We first gathered in Jeremy's large barn that also contains much of his beekeeping operation (harvesting, extracting, storage, woodworking and assembly of equipment). He maintains about 200 hives and countless nucs. He is definitely a very busy beekeeper who also has a day job.

We then went to his bee yards where he opened up a couple of hives in one location and we saw hives that were thinking about swarming (i.e. developing swarm cells). All I could think is good luck stopping them and I was glad that I didn't have to intervene on those hives.

After going into those 2 hives, we went to a larger yard and what should we see, but honey bees doing what they really like to do this time of the year – **SWARMING!** Jeremy really planned a fantastic beekeeping experience for all of us with truly perfect timing. As we entered the field with lots of hives, we saw honey bees leave their old home and gather nearby on a small bush in a field of poison ivy. Those of us who are sensitive to poison ivy stayed back and gave our advice. As always, we're seldom prepared for swarms and when they happen it usually means scrounging equipment, etc. in order to catch them. For many individuals attending the field day, this was their first time watching honey bees swarm. It was a nice size swarm that found a new home in a medium box and of course there was lots of discussion about how to catch the swarm.

Jeremy then checked a couple of hives in this same bee yard and all I could think is that's a lot of hives that want to swarm and I was glad that my husband and I didn't have 200 hives to manage. We gathered back at the barn where Jeremy & his family shared drinks and treats with us.

Thank You Jeremy & Kristen for a fantastic field day!

Submitted by Sheila Weldon

Hello Everyone!!

Summer is here and it's time to start preparing your recipes for the Annual Meeting in November. Let's get cooking, taking photos and painting those hives!

Below are the rules for the Annual Meeting contests. This year some great prizes are planned for all categories and contests so please stay tuned to the Buzz as the updates on these will come later.

Remember this year we are meeting at a new facility and the kitchen area will be to our advantage for the cooking contest. This year there will NOT be a Mead Contest. Due to the facility we are using, no alcoholic beverages will be on the premises, so please watch those recipes that call for "special" ingredients as these will not be permitted.

#### **2017 IHPA Annual Meeting Contest Rules**

Contest will be Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Entries need to be in place by 10:00 a.m.

This year there will NOT be a Mead Contest. Due to the facility we are using, no alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the premises.

#### **Rules for the Cooking Contest:**

- ~Honey is to be the only sweetener.
- ~Please submit your recipe with your entry.
- ~Contest coordinator will keep recipes to be included in the Buzz newsletter.
- ~Your name needs to be on the back of the recipe card.
- ~Bring enough samples for judging as well as tasting at the afternoon break on Friday.

Categories to be submitted will include:

- Breads/Jams and Jellies
- Breakfast/Main Dishes/Soups
- Candies/Cookies/Brownies/Bars/Desserts/Cakes/Pies
- Fruits/Salads/Vegetables
- Snacks/Appetizers/Beverages (Non-Alcoholic)
- This 'n That Edibles--BBQ and other sauces, dressings, marinades; Honey Butters
- Fruit Dips; Ice Cream/Sorbets/Fudge Pops

\*Note: Frostings and icings need to be included on a cake so will not be part of this category.

Entries will be judged on:

- ~Presentation of entry.
- ~Best use of honey.
- ~Amount of honey used (compared to other entries in the category)
- ~Flavor of entry.
- ~Overall appearance of entry.

*(Judges reserve the right to determine how to best judge the entries).*

#### **Rules for the "People's Choice" Photo**

##### **Contest:**

- ~Photo must be matted but not framed.
- ~Any size photo will be accepted for this competition.
- ~Your name needs to be on the back side of the photo.
- ~Must be a Honey Bee, not a Bumblebee or native Iowa Bee.
- ~Photo context will be judged by the Annual Meeting participants as a whole.



Categories to be submitted will include

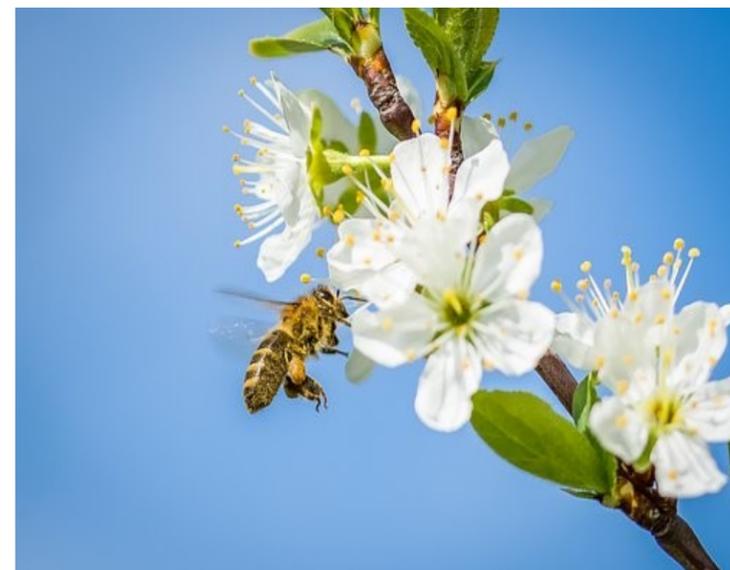
- Bee on a flower.
- General beekeeping.
- Marketing or promotion.
- Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey.

#### **Rules for Hive Body Paint Design Contest:**

- ~There are two categories:
  - \*Adult (16 years of age or older)
  - \*Youth (15 years of age or younger)
- ~Your name needs to be written on paper provided in the contest room.
- ~The use of stenciling is not allowed.
- ~Hand painted design to cover a minimum of one side of the hive body.
- ~Theme of your choice.

Remember special prizes are being offered. We need participation this year because if we don't have the participation, these contests will no longer happen. Time and work does go into setting this up so please participate.

Thank you!  
Jodi Kraft  
Contest Coordinator





### Notes from Andy Joseph, State Apiarist:

Hello.

It's June 5<sup>th</sup> as I'm writing. It's sunny and pretty hot and the bees are flying. The overwintered hives have already made quite a bit of honey around here. And the new colonies are building up nicely. Surprising, actually, how well a lot of the bees are doing, given the long wet cool spring. Things are looking good overall now!

If you wind the clock back a few weeks, I was seeing a lot of EFB, mostly milder infections, but the bees mostly have gotten past it now. Same for chalkbrood infections. Right around the time a lot of us were making splits and others were receiving their packages, we went through a couple cold rainy snaps, and I think this is what stressed the bees & triggered the infections. Even saw several dead packages, mostly due to not having access to food. These small colonies need that food right there where they are. They should be able to be in cluster and still have access to a feeder. This means a hive top syrup feeder of some sort and a pollen patty, and all should be well for the tiny new hives. Access to antibiotics has become frustrating and annoying, so help the bees fend off some of these infections by making your splits good & strong, and providing lots of supplemental nutrition.

I've received quite a number of calls and emails regarding small hive beetles (SHB). We saw more last year than in past years, for sure. Milder winter, very early warm up in spring and all the right conditions for them through the season = great reproductive success and extra generations of beetles developing in the season. They're all over Iowa. I'm still not scared of them. Keep your hives strong and healthy – get anything else taken care of ASAP. Make the size of the hive reflect the size of the colony – not too many extra boxes stacked up. Keep colonies in full sun. Keep grass trimmed down around them. Don't leave empty equipment / deadouts in the bee yard. You'll be fine. (Note that these guidelines mirror management against wax moths as well...) All this said, the great majority of calls & emails I've received this year about SHB, have not been SHB! There are several beetles commonly found in bee hives, and they don't tend to be pests. If you poke around in the debris on the bottom board, you're likely to find at least one species of beetle. They just scavenge around in the pollen, wax flakes, fungi, etc. If you find some beetles down on your hive bottom board that sort of look like small hive beetles, but are maybe a bit more slender and not

quite the right size, have no concern, they're not hurting anything. Scroll through an image search for “sap beetles” and you'll probably find a twin for your specimen.

Iowa State Fair! It's coming up fast. Please consider working a shift or two in the IHPA booth. It's a great time and really helps keep the IHPA rolling along! We had a good turn out last year in the Apiary Contests, following a couple “down” years. I exhibited in several classes for the first time last year, and now I can say with personal experience: It's a bit of work to get quality exhibits prepared – but it's definitely worth the effort! Please consider showing at this year's fair ... an observation hive, creamed honey, beeswax art, a window display, photography, an extracted frame of comb, there are all sorts of classes of competition. At the upcoming CIBA meeting, June 17 (if this note doesn't reach you too late), there will be a panel discussion featuring Ginny Mitchell, our Apiary Judge. Should be interesting, inspiring, and full of tips and tricks. If you think you may be interested in taking part, there is an upcoming deadline of July 14<sup>th</sup> – you must have ordered your entry tags by this date. You can do this online at [www.iowastatefaireentry.org](http://www.iowastatefaireentry.org). Tags are still only \$1 each for most exhibit classes. Also, note that you don't even need to declare what classes you'll be entering, just the number of classes you hope to enter. Hope to see you all there. We had a great display last year – I'm hoping for even better this year.

Andy Joseph, Iowa State Apiarist

Hey, all!

It's been an incredible reign so far, and it's been awesome getting to meet and know you all better through this journey! Thank you to everyone who has hosted me and my travelling companions while we were on the road, attended a program, given me contacts to help me achieve my goal of reaching all 99 counties, encouraged me personally, supported the Queen Program, and everything else you all do! Your support and encouragement has allowed me to share with thousands of people through over 200 presentations in more than 40 different counties across the state! I am so grateful for this opportunity to represent you as the Iowa Honey Queen. Be sure that you stay up to date with my latest travels by 'liking' the Iowa Honey Queen Program Facebook page as well as My Honey Queen Adventure! Thanks for all you do!

- Carly Raye, Iowa Honey Queen

## CLUBS ACROSS THE STATE

Seven Iowa beekeeping clubs were featured in June. I was hoping to feature several more in July, but I only have one. Our hope is to provide some info on the clubs, hoping to see each club represented in a gathering during the Annual Meeting in Oskaloosa in November.

The **NW Iowa Beekeepers Association** has existed for a decade to serve the needs of 100 regional beekeepers. In 2015, the focus of the Association began to coalesce around the mission, *“To equip NW Iowa & SW Minnesota beekeepers for sustainable beekeeping.”* The NWIABA is fulfilling the mission at the Association level, and in the bee yard.

This past January the Association held its annual meeting. The members attending the annual meeting elected the Association’s first Board of Directors. Over the next year the Board will organize itself, and prepare documentation for 501(c) (3) IRS nonprofit status.

To equip beekeepers for sustainable beekeeping the Association had designed a three level training model that focuses on the **Five Essentials of Beekeeping: Brood; Varroa; Nutrition; Winter; and Honey.** Training levels include: Level 1 Beginner; Level 2 Intermediate; Level 3 Advanced. The classes are supplemented with mentoring, weekly broadcast texting, and weekly “management tips” emails.

Thirteen Association beekeepers are engaged in a three year overwintering double nuc project. The intent of the project is to identify replicable management practices that provide for consistent overwinter survival in double nucs. Consistent overwintering is the first step for the Association to launch a *“Regional Queen Bee Breeding Cooperative”* in 2018. The cooperative will make it possible for hobby and sideliners beekeepers to invest in superior bee genetics. To equip beekeepers for grafting queens, this summer the Association is hosting a queen rearing workshop, the weekend of June 10, near Luverne, MN, just across the Iowa border. The sustainability goal is for the Association to meet the nuc and queen needs of its membership.

For more information, please check-out NW Iowa Beekeepers Facebook page.

## Annual Convention & Meeting –

### Hotel Update

It’s July. Who is thinking about November now? ME! As I mentioned in a previous article, I am keeping tabs on the hotel accommodations for the Annual Convention and Meeting in Oskaloosa. Sandy, from the, and I are on a first name basis. When I spoke with Sandy (EverSpring Inn & Suites) on June 7, she informed me most of the renovations have been completed. There’s a new front lobby, new carpet, new chairs and the new drapes are to be professionally hung. At the Super 8, new carpet has been installed and I hear it looks great. I plan to check out the upgrades at both hotels before the Summer Field Day. If I have time on July 15, I’ll let you know my thoughts.

If you haven’t yet made your reservations, here’s the low-down on room availability:

**EverSpring Inn & Suites** – 31 rooms available for Thursday, November 9; 24 rooms available for Friday, November 10; and 10 rooms available for Saturday, November 11. Contact: 641-676-6000

**Super 8** – 20 rooms available for both Thursday and Friday, November 10 and 11. Contact: 641-673-8481

Want to know more about what types of rooms are available? Visit the IHPA website where block room rates are also available. Note: Rates at the EverSpring Inn & Suites will vary per room type.

It’s early and I know you will think I sound like a broken record, but if you have any plans to attend the IHPA Annual Convention and Meeting this November, it would be a smart idea to book your reservations now. Each hotel has a generous cancellation policy, less than 24 hours, so if your plans should change last minute, you can do so without penalty, but only if you book under the block room rate.

Something to keep in mind--when the end of October arrives and you haven’t made your reservations and you discover all the rooms have all be booked, I will not be able to personally find you a room. I can assure you my hands will be full with final preparations for this event. Now is the time to tick this item off your to-do list.

Eve Vanden Broek, IHPA Vice President



### **Annual Meeting Changes (Eve Vanfden Broek)**

Summer is in full swing. The bees are busy collecting pollen and nectar and beekeepers and diligently keeping an eye on their hives. Who has time to think about the Iowa Honey Producers Association Annual Meeting and Convention? I do. It has been my focus since the conclusion of last year's Annual Meeting. There are so many things to organize and schedule, several people to contact, and countless details to iron out. To help keep me organized, I have a 4" binder filled to the brim with notes, e-mail communications, menus, ideas, contacts, etc. To say you have to be organized to fill the role of organizing this event is an understatement!

To organize an event of this caliber, you have to consider your location, preserve what worked well the previous year, recognize what could be improved upon and know your audience. It is my intention to offer something for every participant, regardless of age or level of experience, and do it all for an affordable price.

At this stage of game, I would like to update you on a few changes, and going forward, I will provide you with valuable information about this event. By the November edition of The Buzz, you will know exactly what you have signed up for and what to expect. Of course, the event takes on a spin of its own once it begins; I hope that spin is one of excitement, anticipation and enlightenment. The buzz of the event should spur more buzz so we can all walk away satisfied.

**Change #1 – No mead contest.** The Gateway Church of the Nazarene has a no-alcohol policy and we must be respectful of their requirement. I have looked at other options to continue the contest offsite but none are feasible. The number of entrants in this category has dwindled to a small handful thus I am hopeful this change will not be too much of a disappointment. At this point, the change is only for this year.

**Change #2A – No tickets for door prizes.** Yes, there will still be door prizes but you will not receive a ticket with your name badge at the registration table.

**Change #2 B – Door prize drawings to be done behind the scenes.** In order to provide our speakers sufficient time for their presentations and ample time for your questions, drawings for door prizes will be done during the speaker's presentation. Here's how it will work. The names of registered participants will be put into a hat (or basket), whether you registered in advance or at the event. Each door prize will have a number. When a name is drawn, it will be noted on a

whiteboard next to the door prize number. You can check this



board between speakers and then collect your door prize at a designated location.

The whiteboard will be centrally located. As there are TV screens available in the hallway, I am looking to post the names there as well. If a prize is not collected (by a certain time - yet to be determined), it will go back into the rotation. As always, you must be present to win.

**Change #3 – Incentives for contests.** In the February edition of The Buzz, I wrote an article to entice more participation in our various contests. Annual meeting evaluations from 2015 and 2016 mentioned few people participated in our contests; one even commented they were unaware of our contests. These comments prompted my article. The fact of the matter is simple: if no one takes the time to enter a food item, a photo or a decorated hive box, the contests will be discontinued. In fact, this will be the last year for the decorated hive box contest if participation does not increase. If this sounds like I am guiltily you to participate, you are correct. I am. Our contests are open to everyone; there is no age requirement and all abilities are welcome. We will still award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons. However, to tempt you further, we are looking to offer additional incentives. Whether the incentives will be monetary or a tangible prize is still in discussion. Like all contests, you cannot win if you do not enter.

**Change #4 – Banquet changes.** The banquet can run long so I have looked at ways to save time in order to conclude by 9/9:30 p.m. First, we will have two buffet lines which means four serving lines. Second, salads, desserts and water will be on the table when you enter the banquet room. Third, scholarship recipients will be seated closer to the front of the room and will be called up as a group but introduced individually. Rest assured, there will be plenty of time for the keynote speaker, awards and auction, the latter two in which I encourage substantial participation.

Aside the discontinuation of the mead contest, these changes will be implemented to enhance the experience for everyone. As I have mentioned here and in previous articles, past event evaluations with suggestions and recommendations have been read and considered. We won't know whether these changes are for the better until the event itself. Let's think positive.

Shortage of bee forage is something homeowners can do something about. We can plant our landscapes with purpose and design. We need not sacrifice beauty. Try this:

**Russian Sage** (*Perovskia*

*atriplicifolia*) Zones 4 thru 9 (in zone 4 must have good winter drainage and/or winter protection) Russian Sage – Okay, this isn't a tree nor is it from Russia and it's not a sage. It is a sub-shrub (dwarf shrub/bush) power perennial with rich blue/lavender flowers that bloom on new growth. There are lots of varieties and all seem to be bee friendly; however, we would suggest that you ask your vendor if **neonicotinoids** are used on their bee friendly plants. Neonicotinoids are a relatively new class of insecticides that share a common mode of action that affect the central nervous system of insects, resulting in paralysis and death. They are systemic and probably not labeled on plants as neonicotinoids. If the plants are labeled, they will list one of these chemicals: imidacloprid, acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. Labeling is still voluntary, but what better way to educate plant suppliers or vendors than to ask these questions? Who knew that our garden plants should be labeled for the safety of our honey bees today?

What makes this a honeybee worthy plant? Honey bees love it for its blue color, long bloom time from mid-spring or early summer to late fall or first frost making it worthy as a top plant for honeybees. In all probability, as the season progresses, the number of honey bees foraging on Russian Sage will increase as fewer plants are blooming. In addition, established plants are very drought tolerant and trouble free. Full sun and well drained, even dry soil of average fertility is needed so plants will thrive and don't become leggy.

Another nice thing about Russian Sage is that container grown plants can be set out throughout the growing season. Beekeepers are often very busy working bees in the spring, so taking time to plant may be difficult. You should also be able to plant fall blooming sedums throughout the growing season and they pair well with Russian Sage.

There are a number of cultivars available. 'Blue Mist' has paler blue flowers than the species. 'Longin' has a more upright, narrow growth habit. 'Little Spire' gets only about 2 feet tall, with an upright habit. The leaves of 'Filigran' are more finely dissected than the species, giving it an airier appearance. Planting diversity might improve the foraging season for honey bees.

Article submitted by Shiela Weldon.

**FOR SALE**

For anyone, especially new beekeepers, who are looking for some pre-owned beekeeping equipment, one of our club members - Rev. Jim Cherry - is looking to downsize his beekeeping activities for the rest of the year and on into 2018. As such, he has some equipment and supplies that he is looking to sell. He also wanted me to mention that he will have additional equipment available for sale next spring in 2018.

Here is a list of equipment that he currently has for sale:

- 5 – Comb honey supers with 2/3 box of the wooden splits, 2/3 box of the window cartons and thin foundation. \$100.00 for a total buyout as a single package
  - 10 – Pollen traps with a back-facing harvest drawer. \$25.00 each or \$100.00/5
  - 1 – 300# (25 gallon) Dadant SS Honey storage tank with standard honey gate and a cone filter. \$200.00
  - 65 – Wooden honey supers with drawn comb. \$25.00 each
  - 10 - Wooden brood boxes with frames/drawn comb. \$25.00 each
  - 6 – Deep brood boxes (high density foam type that provide winter insulation) with frames & drawn foundation. \$30.00 each
  - 10 – Honey supers (high density foam) with frames and drawn foundation. \$25.00 each
  - 6 – Screened bottom board/stands (high density foam). \$5.00 each
  - 6 – Telescoping covers (high density foam). \$5.00 each
  - 3 – Wooden 5-frame nuc boxes with frames, inner cover, telescoping cover. \$20.00 each
  - Gallon size division board feeders. \$2.00 each
  - Metal bound queen excluders. \$2.50 each
  - 5 gallon honey pails with lids. \$4.00 each
  - Frame spacers (8 and 9 frame size). \$0.25 each
- Queen rearing supplies. \$10.00

Club leaders are not managing this sale in any way. Anyone wishing to purchase any of this equipment may contact Rev. Jim Cherry directly by phone at [\(641-927-4428\)](tel:641-927-4428) or by email at [jimcherry@wctatel.net](mailto:jimcherry@wctatel.net).  
(submitted by Peter Bieber)

**FOR SALE:**

Iowa-raised queens and five frame nucs available. Carniolan and Italian VSH. Pickup only in Waterloo IA. Queens are \$35. If you want it marked add \$5. Five frame nucs with young laying queen, brood, honey, pollen and one extra frame \$160, no deposit. For more information and questions contact Mary and Eddie Miskich @ [319 504 3482](tel:3195043482) Thank you!  
Eddie and Mary Miskich  
Silver Lake Farm and Honey

Jacob Carlson is raising some queens. The first few rounds of queens this year will be daughters of a Michael Palmer queen. Mr. Palmer is from Vermont where he is a commercial, non-migratory beekeeper who keeps bees heavily influenced by Carniolan genetics. Email [jwcarlson1984@gmail.com](mailto:jwcarlson1984@gmail.com) or call [563-212-6356](tel:563-212-6356). She'll be marked (yellow this year) and caged (plastic JZBZ cage) with attendants and candy. Ready to be placed in your colony. Queens must be picked up at my house in Clinton, IA. Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/carlsonswarm/>

**For Sale:** Twenty five (25) 6 5/8 extracting supers with new foundation. Contact Boyd Palmer, [319-437-3751](tel:319-437-3751),

**For Sale:** 5-frame medium nucs. Ready early June and again in July. Local Queens for July. Pick-up in Decorah, IA. Phone- [563-419-0877](tel:563-419-0877). Gerald Hunter [gmhunter@neitel.net](mailto:gmhunter@neitel.net)

**For Sale:** Clear plastic uncapping tub (new in box) for **\$115.75** as well as a Speed King Electric Knife (NIB) for **\$75**. Both items are shown on page 75 of the current Dadant catalog and sell for \$140.75 and \$99.95 plus tax & shipping, respectively. **Both items (NIB) may be purchased for \$180.** Contact Jerry Weldon (641)891-4071, Knoxville IA. [weldonjs@iowatelecom.net](mailto:weldonjs@iowatelecom.net)

**FOR SALE:** Used Cowen Uncapper mounted on a stand with auger. Lots of new parts. Ready to work. Located in Lynnville. Contact Phil Ebert at [ehoney37@netins.net](mailto:ehoney37@netins.net) or phone [641-521-6361](tel:641-521-6361)

**FOR SALE:** Queens for pickup or shipment from Mt Vernon. \$32 each. Contact Adam Ebert at [fiddler171@gmail.com](mailto:fiddler171@gmail.com) or phone [319-430-3514](tel:319-430-3514). You may also order online at [www.ebertqueens.com](http://www.ebertqueens.com)

**Report on Wintering Losses, from Bee Informed Partnership**

From all of us at the Bee Informed Partnership, thank you for taking the time to complete our Annual Loss and Management Survey! Over 4,900 of you entered vital data that continues to enable us to track losses and management practices in the U.S. Please see below for the preliminary results of this survey. It is also available on our website, at [www.beeinformed.org](http://www.beeinformed.org)

**Honey Bee Colony Losses 2016-2017: Preliminary Results**

Note: This is a preliminary analysis. Sample sizes and estimates are likely to change. A more detailed final report is being prepared for publication in a peer-reviewed journal at a later date.

The Bee Informed Partnership (<http://beeinformed.org>), in collaboration with the Apiary Inspectors of America (AIA), conducted the eleventh annual national survey of honey bee colony losses.

For the 2016-2017 winter season, 4,963 beekeepers in the United States provided validated survey responses. Collectively, these beekeepers managed 363,987 colonies in October 2016, representing about 13% of the country's estimated 2.78 million managed honey producing colonies<sup>1</sup>. An estimated 21.1% of colonies managed in the United States were lost over the 2016-2017 winter. This represents an improvement of 5.8 percentage points compared to the previous 2015-2016 winter, and is below the 10-year average total winter loss rate of 28.4% (Figure 1).

Beekeepers not only lose colonies in winter (October – March) but also throughout summer (April – September). The 2016 summer colony loss rate was 18.1%. When all the survey results were combined, beekeepers lost 33.2% of their colonies between April 2016 and March 2017. This is the second lowest rate of annual colony loss recorded over the last seven years.

(Note: The accompanying chart was not reprintable in this newsletter, so please refer to the website for details. Ed)

**The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions**

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to [rrihpa@gmail.com](mailto:rrihpa@gmail.com)  
Or mail to The Buzz, c/o Ron Rynders, 890 13th Ave SE, Sioux Center, IA 51250

**The deadline for submissions is the 10th of each month** to be included in the following month's newsletter. The Buzz is a monthly newsletter published by the Iowa Honey Producers Association which is an affiliate of the Iowa State Horticultural Society.

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# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
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**Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers**  
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American Honey Producers Association: [www.ahpanet.com](http://www.ahpanet.com)

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

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