



# *The Buzz*

*Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association*



April 2016



**Package Bee Ads Pg. 2**  
**Greetings from your President Pg. 6**  
**Research Proposal, Wintering Nucs Pg. 10**

**Mark your calendars for  
some upcoming IHPA  
meetings/events in 2016:**

**Advanced Beekeeping Classes** April /  
May if enough interest

**Annual Field Day**, Summer 2016, IHPA  
Board Meeting following Field Day  
Activities June 11th, 2016

**Bids due for Iowa State Fair**, June 30,  
2016

**Iowa State Fair**, August 11-21, 2016

**IHPA Board Meeting**, September  
25th, 2016

**IHPA Annual Meeting**, November 11-  
12, 2016

**Package Bees—Sold Out!**

We had 3 lb packages with an un-  
marked Italian queens that were  
scheduled for March 22, March  
31, April 13 and May 11. These pack-  
ages are all sold out.

We still have Extra Mated Queens—  
Early mated queens are \$30 each.  
Locally mated queens are #35 each.

We have honey for sale. Amber in col-  
or. 5-gallon buckets for \$2.50/lb.

Call [319-321-2494](tel:319-321-2494),  
website [www.kalonahoney.com](http://www.kalonahoney.com),  
[kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com](mailto:kalonahoneycompany@gmail.com)  
Tim Wilbanks  
West Chester

**Wanted:** Bee suit for an 8-10 year old  
child. According to Dadant the sizing  
would be the age of the child.

Contact:  
Duane Dufoe  
Grinnell IA  
 641-236-3780

**FOR SALE:** 3 # packages  
W/Italian or Carniolan queens  
Price not yet confirmed, will be set in  
January

Pick-up in mid-April in Goodell, IA  
For more information, call  
Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

**FOR SALE:** 5 frame Nuc and Singles  
W/Italian or Carniolan queens.  
Price not confirmed, will be 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

**FOR SALE:** I will have Queens  
available mid April,  
Carniolan or Italian  
Price not confirmed, will be set in  
January  
Pick-up in Goodell.  
For more information, call  
Pat Ennis @ 641-444-4767

**FOR SALE:** Reasonably priced new  
and used beekeeping equipment &  
supplies.

Also offering bulk honey, beeswax,  
and bottling supplies.

P & P Honey & Bee Supply, Goodell IA  
For more information,  
please call Pat Ennis  
@ 641-444-4767

**For Sale:** Package Bees  
2#, 3#, and 4# package bees for sale.  
April delivery with pickup in Lynnville,  
Iowa. Choice of Carniolan or Italian  
queen. Prices are listed on our web-  
site [www.eberthoney.com](http://www.eberthoney.com)

Contact: Ebert Honey  
Phil Ebert  
14808 S 102nd Ave E  
Lynnville, Iowa 50153  
[ehoney@eberthoney.com](mailto:ehoney@eberthoney.com)  
641-527-2639

Alex Ebert @ 641-821-9648

**Foley's Russian Bees**

**For Sale:** 2 & 3 pound Carniolan pack-  
age bees with a mated Carniolan  
queen. We will begin taking pre-  
orders beginning in early January.  
Packages will be available to pick up at  
our Des Moines location the 4th  
weekend of April (the 23rd/24th) 3lb  
Packages start at \$112 and 2lb start at  
just \$94 each with discounts on larger  
orders.

**For Sale:** Russian mated queens.  
Help reduce your mite issues by re-  
queening your colonies with Russian  
bees. We are accepting pre-orders on  
our June, July, and August blocks of  
queens. Queens are \$30 each  
and come marked.

**For Sale:** Locally made Pine hive kits,  
just \$228 each. Kits are on pre-order  
basis and will be available for pick-up  
or delivery by April 1st. You can al-  
so request to have them held in the  
event you ordered bees from us, so  
you can get them at the same time.  
Kits include 2 deeps, 2 mediums, all  
the frames needed, inner cover, top  
cover, bottom, reducer, and division  
board feeder.

Visit us online to order,  
<http://www.russianbee.com/> 3/16

**FOR SALE:** Sugar for feeding bees—32  
cents/lb in your containers. Contact  
Phil Ebert 641-527-2639 or  
[ehoney37@netins.net](mailto:ehoney37@netins.net)

**FOR SALE:** We will have a limited  
number of nucs for sale in mid-May.  
Contact Phi Ebert 641-527-2639 or  
Alex Ebert 641-821-9648 in Lynnville  
or Adam Ebert 319-430-3514 in  
Mt Vernon.

**For Sale:** A Mann Lake 18-frame radial  
extractor with base + uncapping tank  
in new condition. 319-385-1553

Tom Phelps  
1723 Hilltop Rd.  
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641-8215

**Nucs for sale: \$140.00**

5 frame 9 5/8 nuc in disposable box. 1 marked queen (Carniolan/Russian cross)  
 5 frames (9 5/8) of bees (various stages of life) Our bees are bred for honey production and Iowa winter hardiness.  
 Nucs will out-produce 4- or 5-lb. package bees.

**For Sale - \$167.00**

6 5/8 9-frame hive body box with bees. Box includes 1 marked queen (Carniolan/Russian cross) (no lid or no bottom board) in a 10-frame hive.  
 9 frames of bees (various stages of their life).  
 I specifically select bees for mite resistance (not yet mite proof) Our breeder queens are VSH (varroa sensitive hygienic) and daughters are tested for the best hygienic and also for Iowa winter hardiness and for honey production.  
 You may add a lid, inner lid, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

**For Sale: \$175.00**

**9 5/8 9-frame wooden box with 1 marked queen & bees**  
 9-frame 9 5/8 box includes 9 frames 9 5/8 of bees (various stages of their life) (no lid or no bottom board) In a 10-frame hive. I specifically select bees for mite resistance (not yet mite proof) Our breeder queens are VSH (Varroa sensitive hygienic) and daughters are tested for the best hygienic and also for Iowa winter hardiness and for honey production.  
 You may add a lid, inner lid, and bottom board with an entrance reducer for \$47.50.

**New Complete assembled painted Hive Kit \$290.00**

Includes 2 - 9 5/8 hive bodies  
 20 - 9 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell  
 2 - 6 5/8 supers  
 20 - 6 1/8 frames with foundation Waxed Rite-Cell  
 Telescoping cover with inner lid  
 Bottom board with reducer (NO BEES) AND How to get started FREE.  
 (You will want to get this so you are ready when your bees arrive.)

**Bees will be available May 14th, 2016 (depending on weather)**

**Deposit of \$75.00 when you place order.**

(Place order early before we're sold out)

**Curtis Barnhart**

**PO Box 70**

**Monticello IA 52310**

[email: bee.cbarnhart@gmail.com](mailto:bee.cbarnhart@gmail.com)

~



**For Sale:** 5-frame 6 5/8 nucs with Carniolan queen. \$125.00.

10-frame: \$170.00.

Call Jeremy Van Donselaar, Cedar, IA 641-670-7468.

**For Sale: Package Bees**

**Nucs: Available April 25th through early June, 2016**  
**Package Bees Available April 15th through early June**  
**We do not ship package bees. We will ship Queens!**

**Prices:****Carniolan or Italian Queens****3-pound package with queen**

1-9 \$113.00    10-99 \$108.00    100+ \$105.00

**2-pound package with queen**

1-9 \$96.00    10-99 \$88.00    100+ \$85.00

There will be a \$7.00 deposit on cages.

**We have a supply of Italian & Carniolan Queens \$32.00 each**

**5-frame Nucs**

1-9 \$135.00    10-99 \$130.00    100+ \$125.00

**We will supply 1 gallon corn syrup and 1 # protein patty for an extra \$7.00 with purchase of a package or nuc.**

**Corn Syrup**

40# bucket \$18.00    50# bucket \$23.00

.40 per pound your container

500#s or more syrup .35 per pound

**Protein Patties**

\$2.00 each    Case of 40—\$70.00

**50# Bucket Honey \$127.00 (\$2.40 per pound + \$7.00 bucket)**

**Honey Styx for sale**

I sent 2 barrels of honey to Oregon to have put into styx. Good flavored light honey.

\$0.09 each in boxes of 2000 - \$180.00

0.12 each    500 - 1999

0.15 each    1 - 499

We will update website on any changes!

find us on Facebook

Connie Bronnenberg 515-480-6076

Curt 515-480-6075



## Greetings from the Vice President:

Spring has sprung and so has the fun. Hive bodies should be constructed, painted, repaired, set up, and ready for their new inhabitants. Be it a split, a new package, or you are eagerly waiting a nuc, I hope and pray your preparations are blessed with an abundance of bees and loads of honey this summer. And, I wish the same for all of your colonies that survived the winter. May the busy bee season begin!

It is just shy of two months before the **IHPA Annual Summer Field Day**. Preparations are underway, lists have been created, contacts have been made, and the day will be here soon. This is not a day that is created by one person. I have had terrific help and support. It takes a village to raise a child AND organize the IHPA Summer Field Day! I am so thankful for the village.

Please check out our guest speaker, Gregg McMahan. He is coming from Denver, Colorado where he is known as 'the bee guru.' His presentation is entitled "Read Your Bees, Terminate Your Mites." He will take us in the front door of the hive all the way through the brood chambers to the honey stores. Seeing and hearing another expert in the field share his knowledge is so beneficial.

Here is a complete bio on this fellow beekeeper:

Gregg McMahan (a.k.a. "The Bee Guru") has worked in sales, has been a contractor and managed a restaurant in Hawaii. At his own admission, he's worked just about everywhere until he met his true passion: all things bees.

As the principle owner of Rocky Mountain Bee Removal, Rescue and Education, Gregg spreads the word every day about Bee Magic – that feeling that comes over you when you get hooked on bees. Also known as The Bee Fever.

Gregg is called on frequently to rescue swarms and colonies of bees that have embedded themselves into houses, barns, offices – you name it. And instead of fumigating or exterminating the bees, Gregg finds

each colony a new home.

"There's nothing more greener than becoming a beekeeper", Gregg often muses. "It will be the urban beekeeper who saves the bees," says the guru. He doesn't mean one urban beekeeper keeping 600 hives. He means 600 people each keeping one hive. In fact, one hive every 2 miles in the urban setting would insure a healthy bee population and be a boon to urban gardeners. And lately urban hives are all the rage.

Gregg teaches beekeeping classes for young and old alike. He's unorthodox – and he keeps his student's attention. A bit of a rock and roller, Gregg can best be described as one part Elvis, a twist of Jack Nicholson and 100% extreme beekeeper. Suffering 8 or 9 stings to the face on a bee rescue is nothing to him. The Bee Guru is passionate and knowledgeable – and it shows.

The central figure in the film, Gregg takes the viewer on an enlightening yet highly entertaining journey into the wild world of Bee People.

Here is his website for you to look at if you wish to re-search him prior to our field day.

<http://www.rockymountainbee.com>

Don't forget to send in that summer field day registration form to Rhonda Heston (address on form). Please note the change at this **IHPA Summer Field Day. Lunch is provided on Saturday, June 11, 2016. There is a Dessert Potluck if you are in the potlucky mood and want to bring something to share with others on this table! We will begin registration at 8:30 and start at 9:00. End time is 3:30.**

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016** for our **IHPA Annual Meeting** at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Many more details to follow!

Finally, from Saint John Chrysostom, "The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others." A fine example for us to follow in our lives.

Until next time, 'Bee' grateful and 'Bee' blessed,

Mary Wiltgen

# 2016 Iowa Honey Producers Association

## Summer Field Day

**Saturday, June 11, 2016**

**Goodell Community Center and Pat & Peggy Ennis' Apiary**

(315 Broadway Goodell, Iowa)

(2105 110<sup>th</sup> St. Goodell, Iowa)

**Goodell, Iowa**



**Registration: 8:30 Field Day: 9:00 – 3:30**

Field Day Topics: Guest Speakers – Gregg McMahan, the Bee Guru, from Colorado and Andy Joseph, our state's apiarist. Afternoon sessions will include information on the Varroa Destructor Mite and various treatments, what to do with your wax, the need for pollinating plants and seed bombs, tricks of the trade from various beekeepers, and hive inspections (please bring your bee gear).

A delicious lunch will be provided except for the dessert. Please bring one to share! Bottled water, honey lemonade, and coffee will be available throughout the day.

cut here-----cut here -----cut here

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AD-  
DRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration: Amount

Single (member): \$35 before May 28, 2016

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

Walk-in on June 11, 2016 (member)

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

Single (non-member): \$40 before May 28, 2016

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

Walk-in on June 11, 2016 (non-member)

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed form together with your payment **by Saturday, May 28, 2016** to:

Rhonda Heston, IHPA treasurer  
52735 187th Avenue  
Chariton, IA 50049

Make checks payable to: IHPA

Any questions about the 2016 Summer Field Day can be directed to Mary Wiltgen at 563-920-9628 or email [tmwiltgen@gmail.com](mailto:tmwiltgen@gmail.com).

Please put "Summer Field Day Question" in the subject line.

## President's Message

### April, 2016

My friends, beekeeping family,

April is one of my favorite months of the year. When I proposed to my wife, I picked April as our wedding month and I let her pick the day. She looked at the calendar and decided the 15th. We set it in stone, and that will be 16 years now. Neither one of us remembered that it's tax day! I was not self-employed then but I am now. It puts another meaning on the 15th of April. I wouldn't change a thing. Happy anniversary to my love!

April also brings change to the IHPA. Alex Ebert, our editor for the past 12-plus years has decided it's time for someone new. He has assumed more responsibility in the family business, and with the current surge of new members, he feels that this is the time for a new editor and website manager. Alex is a very good beekeeper, and a very good photographer. I urge him to submit good photos to us, as most I've seen are very good. Alex, thank you for your service to the IHPA. (If I catch you at Jersey Freeze, we will flip the coin to see who buys!).

We have a new editor. His name is Ron Rynders. Ron lives in Sioux Center up in the northwest part of the state. He is a 20-plus year hobby beekeeper. Ron is a retired English teacher. He taught junior high English around various parts of the country. Although retired now from Dordt College, he is still working as a landscape maintenance person and has a love for pollinator plants. I am looking forward to meeting and working with Ron in the months to come. The address to submit articles for the buzz is [rrihpa@gmail.com](mailto:rrihpa@gmail.com).

The board and I have decided to separate the website from the editor. Ron will only be working with the Buzz newsletter. The board and I have also decided to create a whole new website and new domain name. (This could be old news by the time you read this.) Eric Kenoyer will have responsibilities of the web page. Eric also is a director, and our youth coordinator. Our new website is [www.iowahoneyproducers.org](http://www.iowahoneyproducers.org). This will replace [abuzzaboutbees.com](http://abuzzaboutbees.com). I'm not a web guy nor a editor, so hopefully I have this all right. The new web site will, I feel, set us up for the future better, and we are planning a lot here. I will let Eric tell this as this develops. What is being planned is very impressive to me and should be to all members. Eric tells me this will be a work in progress for the summer, but what I've noticed from Eric working with our youth program, when this man says it's going to get done, get out of the way folks, it will get done! What I've seen so far I like.

Speaking of things I like, brings me to food, or I should say cookbook? I just want to say that the membership really responded to sending recipes to Jodi. I will let her tell this, but we will be able to market a very nice book that came from IHPA members. This is something we can really be

proud of. Jodi is hoping they will be available early June at summer field day.

Speaking of summer field day, Mary, our VP, has quite a day planned. June 11th, in the small town of Goodell, Iowa will be where it will happen. Mark the calendar now. (Grab the smart phone and put it in there...) Pat and Peggy Ennis will be doing a lot here. I know they could use some people to help out with various tasks to pull this off. If you know you will be coming, and want to help call Pat and Peggy, Mary Wiltgen, or myself. The recruiting process is quite simple. I will let you in on a little secret, the helpers are usually the ones that learn the most! Or profit more! Myself, I'm very interested in the speaker! Do some research on him. I think this will be worth the money to spend the day in Goodell, Iowa.

Trying to wind down a bit to take a nap, I just found out about how short bees may really be this year. It's not too late to maybe build some 5-frame nucs and be ready to put that frame that has a good looking cell on it in the nuc and just see what happens. I strongly feel we need to raise our own queens. That good hive you have that produces a full size queen cell is becoming more valuable to you than you think. Give this a second thought. The beekeeper with one or two hives will be the one that is the most efficient at finding these cells. These beekeepers pull a lot of frames and always want to know what really is going on in the hive. As we get more hives it seems we pull less and less frames. Finding these very big and long cells are sometimes on the face and can be missed by not pulling frames. Hobby beekeepers can raise queens very easily by just putting the frame with the cell and bees, another frame of sealed brood and bees (make sure queen is not on these two frames) into a five-frame box with 3 other frames. This cell may hatch, the young virgin queen may fly out and mate, return and lay. This process is about 25 to 30 days long (may depend on when the queen hatches). The chance of this working out is about 60 percent. I purchased no queens in 2015. I have no queens on order for 2016. I plan to increase some. I have lost 9 hives out of 44 this winter. If I can do this you can. Maybe this is the year to try. The trade-off is time and money saved. But what about quality of the queen? I have some pictures of laying patterns from my queens. I had some very interesting things show up and you will just have to see a picture to believe. I will get it. Can you imagine how strong our bees may become if all urban beekeepers did this? Something to think about.

I'm tired and really need to sleep so I will sign off for April and send this so bee careful, bee courteous, and let's welcome back the bees from California that our migratory beekeepers send out to winter and pollinate almonds.

Roy Kraft, President IHPA

## Advanced Beekeeping Class

Through many requests, the IHPA is again offering Advanced Beekeeping Classes in two locations. Participants are required to have a minimum of least two years' beekeeping experience. These classes will be 'hands on'. Please bring your bee suit and veil.

The two classes are both offered on *Splitting Hives* and *Diseases*.

The **first** class will be April 30<sup>th</sup> at Spring Valley Honey Farms in Perry.

The **second** class will be May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Mahaska county extension Office in Oskaloosa.

The time is 9:00-4:30 for each class. For noon break, we will have a pot-luck. Registration will be limited to 25 people.

Pre-registration is required. No walk ins please.

The cost is \$75 per class.

To register please contact:

Rhonda Heston

515-724-2124

52735 187<sup>th</sup> Ave

Chariton, IA 50049

[r.heston@yahoo.com](mailto:r.heston@yahoo.com)

Profits from both classes will go towards helping support the IHPA Youth Mentor Programs throughout the state and with education.

BEE HAPPY!!

Pat Ennis

## New Bee's (Beginning Beekeeping Students)

Is this your first time to take a Beginning Beekeeping class? If so, you are entitled to a one-year free membership to the Iowa Honey Producers' Association. Please contact your instructor for the form. These forms could have been provided to you during class. You can also download the form from [www.iowahoneyproducers.org](http://www.iowahoneyproducers.org) and include where/who you took the class and then mail the form to Rhonda Heston at the address on the form.

## HUGE POLLINATION EVENT UNDERWAY



Just when I thought the year couldn't get any stranger - it does. The threat of a strong El Niño year has produced good snow pack in the Sierras but not much rain in the San Joaquin Valley yet. Last week a high pressure center parked itself over the region and temperatures soared to as much as 20 degrees above normal. Almond bloom came on so fast it was hard to comprehend. The warm temperatures make great flying weather for the bees which is important in a compressed bloom. Good flight weather and varietal overlap should set a good crop this year if everything holds.

Most beekeepers I have spoken with report that their bees are having problems of one sort or another this year. Holding yards are stacked with piles of equipment where the bees looked good early in the season but they started going backwards in January and just didn't make it to bloom. Reports of failing queens and colonies that just wouldn't brood up were common. Normally, bees from the South--and in particular Florida--have thriving populations and big brood nests for pollination. Not this year. Mites, hive beetles and inconsistent forage took their toll. Even with supplemental feeding, the bees didn't respond with the normal big brood patterns. When asked, it's hard for the beekeepers to put their finger on the cause. It is certainly a strange year.

In the last PAm newsletter, I prognosticated that the bee supply might be tight this year but should be sufficient. In the last couple weeks, I've given several talks at grower meetings, and at each one I asked if anyone had trouble finding colonies, nobody raised their hands. While there are reports of almond growers not able to find bees for their ranches, I would have to say it's the exception not the rule. The reports I've heard of shortages came from the central and northern part of the San Joaquin Valley. Neither the Almond Board of California nor Blue Diamond report growers calling to report their inability to secure colonies. Again we have to take our hats off to the American beekeepers who managed to provide colonies for the largest commercial pollination event in the world. Two million colonies in one place (California) at one time. Pollination is not something that can be outsourced; we can't rely on other countries to do this job for us, our borders are closed to bees on combs. All of those bees come from this great country. It's truly amazing when you consider the scope of the undertaking. While our beekeepers may have had difficulties with their bees this year, I'm certain they will identify the problems, bounce back, and continue to provide honey, hive products and pollination that is an inspiration to our agriculture industry and the world.

Fran Bach, Western Apicultural Society Journal and Washington State Beekeepers newsletter editor

# **Central Iowa Beekeepers Auction** **on April 23, 2016 Starting at 10:00 am**

Consignment listing to date: 3-12-2016

## First

6 steel queen excluders, ready to be added to your wooden frame

1 steel queen excluder, wood framed

1 fume board

1 outer cover

1 inner cover

1 smoker

1 knife

8 x 4 3/4" supers with metal strips on bottom edge

1 x 5 1/2" super

1 x 6 3/4" super

1 x 9 1/2" deep with metal rabbets

2 bottom boards

## Second

30 gallon stainless steel holding tank (very good condition)

## Third

1 new pine hive kit - 2 deeps, 2 mediums, cover, inner cover, bottom, reducer, all the frames, division board feeder, painted and ready for bees.

Used entrance feeders - 30 to 50

Various bee related signs etched into cedar and pine

A variety of other misc bee-keeping equipment-used

## Fourth

2 Complete Hives / (less the bees)

Misc equipment

## Fifth

Misc equipment

## Sixth

1 - Dadant M00 401 Ranger Power Extractor

1 - 5 gal. Bottling bucket (used)

1 - 6 gal. Bottling bucket (used)

5 - Inside Pro-Feeders (new)

1 - Dadant Smoker (new)

1 - Mann Lake Smoker (used)

1 - Master Model II Ele. Uncapping Knife

1 - Cold uncapping knife

1 - Dadant Plastic uncapping tank

3 - Plastic strainers-200-300-600 Micron-fits on bottling bucket

2 - 8 frame escape screens

2 - 8 frame fume bds.

1 - Frame perch

2 - Mesh helmets w/veils

2 - 8 frame steel Queen Excluders

1 - 10 frame complete hive (new)

2 - 8 frame top hive feeders (used)

2 - 10 frame telescoping covers w/ inner covers (new)

2 - 8 frame hives w/2 deeps, 1 medium-ready for bees

2 - Complete Nuc Boxes

40 - 6 5/8 drawn comb supers

2 - 10 frame bee hives w/2 deeps and drawn comb

## Seventh

8 nuc boxes in fair condition

20 6 5/8 Illinois boxes (no frames)

12 deep boxes (no frames)

Hi All.

Here's hoping your bees are doing great. This was a fairly easy winter, comparatively speaking. I've been getting out already conducting inspections – but most of these have been checking some deadouts and quite a bit of used equipment prior to sale. It won't be long until the real inspection season kicks in. As I'm writing this, on March 10<sup>th</sup>, the bees are bringing in maple pollen. My own colonies which wintered here came through pretty well and are starting to brood up. Most people's winter losses seem to be related to one of two simple factors: Varroa mites, and starvation. I don't have any real numbers yet, but I think our overall Iowa winter loss numbers will be down. Hopefully, considerably less than in recent past years.

Feed those bees, get the mites killed, and super up!

## **Let's talk Iowa State Fair.**

It's coming up ... or at least it will be here before we know it! I encourage you all to enter something from your bees this year. We always have great quality entries in the competitions, but the numbers were way down last year. Who wouldn't love to see the shelves filled with observation hives, all sorts of honey, wax goods, photography, and honey themed gift baskets & display cases? It only costs \$1 per entry. Again, it only costs one single dollar per entry. The only exception is the window display class, which costs \$4. Please note that the fair has requested the entry deadline be moved up a bit – Entries are now due on August 1<sup>st</sup>. You can do this quickly & easily online, or by mail. Please contact me if you have any questions. My contact info is printed on the back of this Buzz newsletter. If possible, email is best for me these days...

I hope to see you (and your exhibits) at the fair.

Andy Joseph, State Apiarist



## Important Upcoming Events

Plans have been made for our **IHPA Summer Field Day**. The date is set for **Saturday, June 11, 2016** at **Goodell, Iowa** (just south of Clear Lake). We will start with an 8:30 registration and 9:00 meeting at the Goodell Community Center in the morning and spend field time at Pat and Peggy Ennis' Apiary. All but the dessert for lunch will be PROVIDED. Please bring a DESSERT to share!

**Gregg McMahan**, the Bee Guru, from Colorado will be our guest speaker. Check him out online and youtube.com or his webpage, <http://www.rockymountainbee.com>. He has a pretty complete bio at <http://bee-people.com/gregg-mcmahan> also. He specializes in bee removal, rescue, and educating others about his passion - bees! Gregg also 'stars' in a movie/documentary entitled, *Bee People: Get Stung*. More to come about this event and our speaker to come in future newsletters but be sure to mark your calendar now.

Another event you'll want to mark on your calendar is the **IHPA 104th Annual Meeting on November 11-12, 2016**. Deciding a venue for this meeting is not an easy decision but I have decided to return to the Clarion Inn in Cedar Rapids. We will be making some logistical changes for our convenience in the hotel itself. The vendors will be much closer to the meeting area as well as the cooking, photo, hive box, and mead contest areas. The people at the Clarion have done an awesome job with brainstorming how to make this annual meeting even better than it was and how to more efficiently accommodate us.

We are hoping to locate a venue closer to the center of the state for 2017 but have many logistical factors to consider. Please feel free to email, text, or call me if you know of a place that would accommodate all of us and be available for our weekend. This is about the toughest decision to make with so many items to consider but we are willing to check out other hotel/convention centers that would work within our budget.

**James Tew** and **Jennifer Berry** are scheduled to be our keynote speakers for this 2016 annual meeting. Both these speakers are well-known for their expertise in the bee world and will provide us with exceptional learning opportunities. We will be making some changes in our various contest areas so keep checking for updates in the

future newsletters for the details. As always we will have a silent auction, a queen's auction and luncheon, mead tasting, and an evening banquet. We are also adding a Saturday noon pizza/salad buffet at the hotel where you will have a chance to meet your IHPA officers and board members. We hope you will plan to join us for this meal and have an opportunity to share your ideas and/or concerns. Keep reading your newsletter for more details to come.



Mary Wiltgen, Vice President IHPA

## Iowa State Fair

I would like to encourage participation in the Apiary competition at the Iowa State Fair. I have entered in the past and did very well, not knowing anything. If I can do it so can you.

I want to cover entering a frame of capped honey. This is an easy class to enter because the bees do all the work. Just remove the capped frame after the bees have finished it and wrap it in plastic wrap. Put it in the freezer until time to take it to the fair. Make sure when handling it you do not hit or damage the wax cappings. Same when keeping it in the freezer, store it so no damage occurs to the cappings.

Use new frames as the frame condition is also judged. Below are the things the judges will consider and total points for each area. Good luck and we will see you at the fair!

Doyle Kincy District 4 director.

**One Frame of Honey**, sealed, ready for extracting, wrapped in clear plastic wrap.

**Score Card** - Cleanliness of frame, 5; completeness of comb attachment, 10; uniform and completely filled honey cells, 25; uniformity of color of honey (comb, cappings, honey), 25; thickness of comb for ease of uncapping, 10; completeness, uniformity and cleanliness of cappings, 25. TOTAL



# 2015 IHPA Research Grant Proposal

October 1, 2015

Title: **To Test and Define Best Practices for Overwintering of Bees in Double Nucs Within the Agricultural Region of NW Iowa and SW Minnesota.**

**Research Information:** This research project is managed by the eight members of the *Research & Education Team of the NW Iowa Beekeepers Club*. Team leader: Rev. Tim Olsen, 616 West Main, St. Luverne, MN 56156. Email: [NWIBeekeepersResearch@gmail.com](mailto:NWIBeekeepersResearch@gmail.com). Mobile phone: 507-227-5919

**Abstract/Summary:** This research project will test and define best practices for the consistent overwintering of bees within the agriculture region of NW Iowa and SW Minnesota, using Vermont beekeeper, Michael Palmer's double nuc model. The research project, with oversight by the NW Iowa Beekeepers Club Research & Education Team, will involve 20 beekeeper research collaborators managing bee colonies in NW Iowa and SW Minnesota. The expected outcomes are defined and actuated best practices for overwintering bees in double nucs resulting in the reduction of annual expenses "to buy bees" to replace winter colony losses. A secondary outcome is the establishment of a "nuc exchange" for the sale and distribution of healthy, locally-adapted bees to bee club members, and other local NW Iowa and SW Minnesota beekeepers.

**Introduction:** The March 26, 2015 Bee Informed Partnership, "The Colony Loss Map" for the winter of 2013-14 shows bee colony losses of 50.24% for the state of Iowa, while losses in Minnesota were at 21.27%. Oral reports at recent NW Iowa Beekeepers Club meetings and narrative data collected from NW Iowa Beekeepers Club Research Collaborators Profile forms indicate that many local beekeepers experienced 100% colony death loss for the 2014-15 winter season. Several beekeepers expressed that they are "tired of buying bees" each spring. This research project is an attempt to test one model, the overwintered double nuc, to mitigate the expense and frustration of winter colony losses.

## Objectives of Research:

To test the feasibility of Vermont Beekeeper, Michael Palmer's overwintering double nuc model as

- one component of a strategy for the development and management of sustainable apiaries in NW

Iowa and SW Minnesota.

- To define best practices for overwintering in double nucs in the agriculture region of NW Iowa and SW Minnesota, including varroa mite control, feeding regimens, swarm management, queen selection, winter preparation and placement of double nucs.
- To offer beekeepers best practices training via classes, field days, social media and distance learning.

**Research Methods:** The NW Iowa Beekeepers Club Research & Education Team is providing research protocol oversight to be followed by beekeeper collaborators. Research protocol includes:

- Collaborators will receive two double nucs manufactured by Betterbee, Greenwich, NY.
- Collaborators will install queens of common genetic background, supplied by an Iowa based queen bee producer.
- Collaborators will attend a training to learn the powder sugar roll technique to monitor varroa mite populations.
- Collaborators will be provided research based recommendations for the feeding of sugar syrup and pollen substitutes.
- Collaborators will be contacted with timely management tips.
- Collaborators will be introduced to electronic beekeeping management services, such as HiveTracks, to track colony inspections.

Interested research project collaborators will complete a **NW Iowa Beekeepers Club Research Collaborator Profile**. The profile asks questions related to beekeeping experience; managing mites and disease; managing queens; and use of management systems.

Several bee industry professionals have agreed to advise the facilitation of the overwintering double nuc research project and to assist in the interpretation of the research project findings.

- Andrew Joseph - Iowa Department of Agriculture Apiarist
- Dr. Jack Rath, DVM - Betterbee
- Dr. Brad Mogen, PhD – Plant Pathologist, University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Dr. Mogen has successfully overwintered double nucs. He is beginning a two year evaluation of 5 different queen genotypes and their overwintering abilities in nucs.
- Dr. Michael Goblirsch, PhD – University of Minne-

sota Bee Lab

- Dr. Duane Bajema, PhD – Dordt College, Dept. of Agriculture and Certified Master Beekeeper, Sioux Center,
- **The research project timeline is January 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017**

**Results of Research & Discussion:** The overwintering double nuc research project results should provide preliminary data to answer the following questions:

- Is Vermont beekeeper, Michael Palmer's overwintering nuc model a viable method for consistent overwintering of bees in the agricultural region of SW Minnesota and NW Iowa?
- What double nuc management best practices are readily adopted by hobby and sideliner beekeepers in NW Iowa and SW Minnesota?
- Do bees overwinter and thrive in double nucs in NW Iowa and SW Minnesota?
- Will collaborators reduce their expenses to purchase replacement bees for winter colony losses?
- Since many of the research project collaborators have 5 years or less of beekeeping experience, will this research project enhance beekeeping management skills and confidence?
- What changes must be made to management protocols to increase the likelihood of overwintering double nuc success?
- Is there interest in the formation of a "nuc exchange" for the sale of healthy, locally adapted bees?
- Are the findings of this research project applicable for beekeepers living in the northern Midwest?

## IHPA DISTRICT 4 NEWS

The temps are starting to warm up and the ladies are getting more active. Pollen is coming in and more brood is being produced. Now is the time to think about swarm control. With strong hives coming out of winter we have to be ready to stay ahead of our colonies.

It will be the first part of April when you read this. Have plans ready to make splits, if Queens are available, to make increase or lessen the crowding of your colonies. Swarm preparation starts well before swarm season gets here. There are a lot of ideas on how to lessen the chance of swarming. Talk to other Beekeepers and find a method that works for you.

Beekeeping classes are finished and there will be a big group of newbies entering the world of Beekeeping. If you know of someone in your area that is just starting out, lend a helping hand or ear.

Keep check on food stores. They can go through a lot of food in the next few weeks. Looking for that first Dandelion bloom.

Doyle Kincy, District 4 Director

## Membership Dues

Our membership year is January through December. If your Buzz has an expiration date of 12/31/2015, this could be your last Buzz Newsletter.

Membership dues are \$20 for the first beekeeper in the house and \$5 for each additional beekeeper. One Buzz Newsletter will be mailed per address. A membership with multiple members is considered beekeepers living at the same address.

All payments received as 2/15/2016 have been posted and reflected in this mailing. If you believe your dues have been paid, please contact Rhonda Heston at [R.Heston@yahoo.com](mailto:R.Heston@yahoo.com) or leave a message at 515-724-2124.



## A Few Thoughts from the New Editor:

It's my first attempt at editing anything. I have corrected a ton of junior high English papers in my life, but I've never used Microsoft Publisher.

If you see changes in this month's Buzz, it's due to my ignorance, not Alex's error. I'll keep working at this, though, and things will get smoother with time.

By way of introduction, let me declare my awe and marvel each time I enter the realm of a bee hive. My personal conclusion when peeking inside their world—What a great God we have! I don't draw conclusions about how these bees have evolved over the eons of time. I don't presume to be taking care of them. I just stand there and look at the entire life form that's before me and I simply give glory to a wonderfully creative and protective God.

I do not presume, by some misguided sense of arrogance, that I have more knowledge or more insight into the science of a hive than all the authors who enlighten us constantly with scientific discoveries. I deeply appreciate the massive scientific facts that so many people have brought to our attention. Each time I read an article in the Buzz or the bee journals about the science of keeping bees, I am thankful for the contributions of all these scientists. Without them, none of us would understand how to work within our little worlds as beekeepers.

But when the day is done, and the research is submitted, the bottom line is not "praise to the bees for surviving all these hardships and evolving new ways of overcoming", but for me it's more like, "Praise God for letting me glance into the world of the bees and learn more and more about what God himself has made."

We all at one time or another stand in front of a hive and simply listen and drink in the smells of a healthy hive. Let us each breathe a prayer that deepens our appreciation of our Creator God.

A prime example of this way of thinking came to me a few years back when a scientist drove home the point that the hive is a unit. A single bee is not the unit. The entire hive "thinks" and "knows" when to requeen or swarm. The wise beek knows to read his/her hive and observe what they need and try to follow them in life. The scientist opened my eyes, but when I realized how right the scientist was, I gave credit to God, who made these wonderful little creatures, and allows me to work with them for a little while.

I'm eager to be your Buzz editor, and eager to get out there and learn more and more—and meet all of you and share our marvelous hobby!

Ron Rynders  
rrihpa@gmail.com

# Save the Dates

*IHPA Summer Field Days*

*June 11, 2016*

*Goodell, Iowa*

*104<sup>th</sup> IHPA Annual Meeting*

*November 11-12, 2016*

*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*



## **The Ingenuitive Bee(keeper)**

Ingenuity is the quality of being clever, original, and inventive, often in the process of applying ideas to solve problems or meet challenges. Ingenuity is the root Latin word for engineering.

Example: beekeeper. (Source: Wikipedia) Ok, so I added the last sentence. But, I'm pretty sure that if the dictionary authors had known a beekeeper when they were working on the definition to this word, they would have added it on their own. After all, it's what we do best.

I grew up on a farm in extreme southern Iowa. I am a stay-at-home mom, with four kids (two of which are boys) living on an acreage (aka a true hobby farm), on one income. My husband is an engineer, both by nature and by profession. I know what ingenuity looks like...Or

so I thought. Becoming a beekeeping family and getting to know other beekeepers has only convinced me that the true epitome of ingenuity is the beekeeper himself (or herself).

What is it that makes us so clever and inventive? I'm inclined to think it is because we work with bees—a living, breathing creation. They are apt to have as many variations as us humans, if they are so inclined. So, why wouldn't they adapt and be as diverse as they can, one hive from the other?

We beekeepers are not any different. We not only live in different climates and landscapes, but we also are of different races, with varying needs, crises, and stories. One could argue, by force, we must be ingenuitive when dealing with the hives' current needs and stimuli. Then, if we were to take in to account the beekeepers' personal time, talents, and finances, we add another level of required ingenuity to the equation.

My local bee club recently hosted a show-and-tell for their monthly meeting. No less than a half dozen contraptions were brought in for this special topic. Each inventor was very willing and proud to explain the details of his/her creation, its operation, sources, successes, and failures. It's all a good reason to attend a local bee club. One's person's woes or successes are bound to help out a fellow beekeeper in a current quandary.

I feel it is only fair to satisfy your curiosity about what kind of inventions were brought to this club's first show and tell. The one that received the most awe from me was the jig for making hive body boxes. Made of metal and powder coated to last longer, it holds the wood sides in place while you spin it around to nail and glue your corners. We also had several entries that were created to solicit the enviable swarm in. One was inspired by the speaker at the 2015 IHPA field day: a deep, horizontal hive. As detailed in a previous Buzz, we saw first-hand the visually appealing condo for mason bees and carpenter bees that like to burrow in hollow stems. It serves as both a vital habitat for these pollinators, as well as a graphic textural decoration for your garden.

Our family shared a bee vacuum with its attached hive body parts, which we use for drawing honeybees out of fallen trees and unwanted crevices of people's homes. The invention was inspired by our Beekeeping 101 teacher and passionately created through trial and error by our beekeeping scholarship recipient son and further trialed and perfected by my husband. Are we mad scientists? Master tinkerers? Possibly. But simply put, we're just applying ideas to solve problems and meet challenges. We're being clever, original, and inventive. All in an effort to further wrangle the fascination that is the honeybee. It doesn't matter if you are the bee or the beekeeper, ingenuity is the business we are in. Now go; be ingenuitive! You are a beekeeper. It's in your DNA. Trust me.

By Tina Marshall, Back to Basics Beekeepers club member, wife to District 1 Director, Board Member, mother to 4 awesome children.



## BEE INFORMED 'TECH TEAMS' EVALUATE BEEHIVES FOR RESILIENCE

Commercial beekeepers, who have moved honeybees into California almond orchards for pollination, say they remain concerned about whether they will be able to continue to supply growers with enough healthy bees to meet the future needs of pollination and remain profitable.

Impacts including drought-related reductions in forage, added mite and disease pressures, and unintended exposure to crop-protection materials have contributed to bee losses reported throughout the nation. To combat these challenges, apiarists have emphasized the need for improved research, including work being conducted in orchards this winter by the Bee Informed Partnership, a collaboration by leading research laboratories and universities to better understand honeybee health.

<http://www.agalert.com/story/?id=9362>

### The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions

Please send submissions, classified ads, and photos to Ron Rynders by email to [rrihpa@gmail.com](mailto:rrihpa@gmail.com) or by 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.



## Russian Bees & Beekeeping Equipment

Des Moines, Iowa based breeder of  
quality Russian queens, & craftsmen of Aromatic  
Cedar hive ware. Check us out on the web at:

[www.RussianBee.com](http://www.RussianBee.com)

## For All Your Packaging Containers For Packing Honey

( No Order To Large or Small )

## BL Plastic Containers, LLC

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



BL Plastic Containers, LLC  
1425 Metro E. Drive Unit 109  
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

Phone: 515-266-6112

Fax: 515-266-1112

[sales@blplasticiowa.com](mailto:sales@blplasticiowa.com)  
[www.blplasticiowa.com](http://www.blplasticiowa.com)

## WEAVER'S famous QUEENS and Package Bees

★ Buckfast      ★ All-American

Order On-Line Now

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

## THE R WEAVER APIARIES, INC.

16495 CR 319, Navasota, TX 77868

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



*Helping Beekeepers Keep Bees*

## Honey Bee Ware

Packaged Bees ♦ Nucs ♦ Equipment ♦ Supplies  
Education ♦ Honey Candy ♦ Honey Mustard  
Honey Stix

Your one stop shop for all your beekeeping equipment and supplies.

Now is the time to think about getting your bees ready for spring buildup. Giving your bees good nutrition continues to be a challenge. Bee Pro Patties available now. Also, sucrose syrup available April 1st in 5 gallon pails. Add Pro Health to your syrup to stimulate the bees to eat. A healthy bee is a productive bee!

An authorized distributor for Mann Lake and Kelly Beekeeping

New this year—HBW Rewards Program!

[www.shop.honeybeeware.com](http://www.shop.honeybeeware.com)

Use coupon code: **luckypaddy** for your on-line purchase to receive 5% off\* or mention it when calling. Exp. 4/1/16

\*some exclusions apply

N1829 Municipal Dr. Greenville, WI 54942 | 920.779.3019 | Monday-Friday 9-4:30 | Saturday 9-Noon



THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPING

# Dadant

FRESH QUALITY FOUNDATION MAKES GOOD PRODUCTIVE COMBS

## Foundation



**DURAGILT**  
DADANT RESEARCHED—  
DADANT DEVELOPED

Plastic Inner Core  
Beeswax  
Saves Labor—Easy To Use  
Deep Worker-Sized Cell Imprints  
Precision Milled  
No Additional Cross Wires Needed  
Communication Holes

Metal Edges Reinforce and Strengthen

DEVELOPED BY DADANT & SONS  
COPIED BUT UNEQUALLED

Steel Hook Fits Behind Wedge In Top Bar

9 Vertical Crimped Steel Wires Radiate Strength  
Perfectly Milled Cells  
Deep Exact Walls

We Recommend Adding Cross Wires In Deep Frames

**CRIMP WIRE**

**MEDIUM BROOD**  
OUR LOWEST PRICED FOUNDATION

THE ORIGINAL 100% PURE BEESWAX FOUNDATION

Precise Even-Milled Worker Sized Deep Walled Cells

We Recommend Cross Wiring Frames With Medium Brood Foundation

Slightly heavier than thin surplus for easier handling.  
Cut Comb For Chunk Honey and Comb Honey  
Cut From The Frame

The thinnest beeswax sheet for finest comb honey.  
Thin Surplus For Square and Round Section Comb Honey  
Your Customers Appreciate Comb Honey With Dadant Foundation

**CUT COMB & THIN SURPLUS**  
FINEST COMB HONEY FOUNDATION  
100% BEESWAX

**PLASTICELL**  
THE ULTIMATE IN PLASTIC FOUNDATION

Injected Molded Plastic, Raised-Cell Sheet

Deep Uniform Exact Cells  
Beeswax Coated or Plain (We recommend Beeswax coating)  
Unique Uniform Spray Coating with 100% Pure Beeswax

THE BEST PLASTIC FOUNDATION AVAILABLE TESTED AND PROVEN

Fits Frame Sizes 9-1/8" and 6-1/4"

Wax Moth Cannot Damage Base

1 Piece Plastic Frame and Foundation  
No Assembly—Strong—No Wiring  
Durable—Not Affected By Weather Conditions

Sizes 9-1/8" and 6-1/4"

Beeswax Coated

**EZ FRAMES**



[www.dadant.com](http://www.dadant.com)



51 S. SECOND STREET, HAMILTON IL 62341 • PHONE (217) 847-3324 • FAX (217) 847-3660 • TOLL FREE 1-888-922-1293  
1318 11TH STREET, SIOUX CITY IA 51102 • PHONE (712) 255-3232 • FAX (712) 255-3233 • TOLL FREE 1-877-732-3268

# The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
52735 187th Avenue  
Chariton, IA 50049



## 2015-2016 Officers & Directors of IHPA

### Officers:

**President:** Roy Kraft  
PO Box 1  
Goldfield, IA 50542  
Phone: 515.293.2458  
E-Mail: [kroyster.rk@gmail.com](mailto:kroyster.rk@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Mary Wiltgen  
3025 270th St  
Fredericksburg, IA 50630  
Phone: 563.920.9628  
E-Mail: [tmwiltgen@gmail.com](mailto:tmwiltgen@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Heidi Love  
18488 E Ave  
Dawson, IA 50066  
Phone: 515.729.1761  
E-Mail: [bhlove5@aol.com](mailto:bhlove5@aol.com)

**Treasurer:** Rhonda Heston  
52735 187th Ave  
Chariton, IA 50049  
Phone: 515.724.2124  
E-Mail: [r.heston@yahoo.com](mailto:r.heston@yahoo.com)

**Historian:** Butch Wetzel  
8227 NE 38th Ave  
Altoona, IA 50009  
Phone: 515.979.6322  
E-Mail: [thewetzelclan@aol.com](mailto:thewetzelclan@aol.com)

**Past President:** Pat Ennis  
2105 110th St  
Goodell, IA 50439  
Phone: 641.444.4767  
E-Mail: [flat\\_lander@lycos.com](mailto:flat_lander@lycos.com)

### Directors:

**District 1:** Jim Marshall  
2923 Jones Ave  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
Phone: 641.660.9930  
E-Mail: [jim\\_marshall@musco.com](mailto:jim_marshall@musco.com)

**District 2:** David Hayes  
1749 110th St  
Maquoketa, IA 52060  
Phone: 563.678.2862  
E-Mail: [prairiecreekfrm@netins.com](mailto:prairiecreekfrm@netins.com)

**District 3:** Dennis Nielson  
6948 25th Ave  
Newhall, IA 52315  
Phone: 319.350.8361  
E-Mail: [nielsondl35@gmail.com](mailto:nielsondl35@gmail.com)

**District 4:** Doyle Kincy  
7304 Monroe Ct  
Urbandale, IA 50322  
Phone: 515.710.4752  
E-Mail: [dwkincy@msn.com](mailto:dwkincy@msn.com)

**District 5:** Eric Kenoyer  
1270 Upland Lane  
Van Meter, IA 50261  
Phone: 515.490.2477  
E-Mail: [ekenoyer@aol.com](mailto:ekenoyer@aol.com)

**District 6:** Dave Korver  
3314 510 St  
Maurice, IA 51036  
Phone: 712.562.6528  
E-Mail: [dpkorver@frontier.com](mailto:dpkorver@frontier.com)

## Iowa Beekeeping Clubs

**Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club**  
Contact: Jim & Tina Marshall  
Marsh Hill  
2923 Jones Ave  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
(641)-660-0983  
[marshallit@wildblue.net](mailto:marshallit@wildblue.net)

**Central Iowa Beekeepers Association**  
Contact Arvin Foell  
30930 530th Ave.  
Kelley, IA 50134  
Home phone 515/597-3060  
Cell phone 515/450-9494  
[alfoell@huxcomm.net](mailto:alfoell@huxcomm.net)

**Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers**  
Contact: Julia McGuire  
515-988-1828  
[icammcguire@yahoo.com](mailto:icammcguire@yahoo.com)

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

**Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa**  
Contact: Judy Spence  
12839 Carpenter Trail  
Carlisle, IA 50047  
(515) 988-8397  
[iespencejr44@gmail.com](mailto:iespencejr44@gmail.com)

**Great River Bend Beekeepers**  
Contact: David Hayes  
1749 110th St.  
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060  
563-678-2862  
[prairiecreekfrm@netins.net](mailto:prairiecreekfrm@netins.net)

**Loess Hills Beekeeping Association**  
22524 Hunt Avenue  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-7978  
[LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com](mailto:LHBA@LoessHillsBA.com)

**North Iowa Bee Club**  
Contact: Pat Ennis  
1040 Union Ave.  
Goodell, IA 50439  
(641) 444-4767  
[flat\\_lander@lycos.com](mailto:flat_lander@lycos.com)

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

**Red Rock Beekeepers**  
Contact: Gerald Murphy  
1180 92nd Ave  
Knoxville, IA 50138  
(641) 218-4814  
[weldonjs@windstream.net](mailto:weldonjs@windstream.net)

**Southeast Iowa Beekeepers**  
Contact: Vernie Ramsey  
22781 Route J16  
Birmingham, IA 52535  
(319) 498-4355  
[Vdramsey@netins.net](mailto:Vdramsey@netins.net)

**Southwest Iowa Beekeepers**  
Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms  
14922 535th Street  
Griswold, IA 51535  
(712) 778-4256  
[mbrahms@netins.net](mailto:mbrahms@netins.net)

**Siouxland Beekeepers**  
Contact: Ron Rynders  
890 13th Ave SE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
(712) 449-5010  
[rrihpa@gmail.com](mailto:rrihpa@gmail.com)

**State Apiarist:** Andrew Joseph  
Phone: (515) 725-1481 Email: [andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov)

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

**Amy Toth, Assistant Professor Iowa State University**  
Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology  
[amytoth@iastate.edu](mailto:amytoth@iastate.edu)  
[www.public.iastate.edu/~amytoth/Toth\\_lab/Home.html](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~amytoth/Toth_lab/Home.html)

**Marry Harris**  
[maharris@iastate.edu](mailto:maharris@iastate.edu)

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

**American Honey Producers Association:** [www.ahpanet.com](http://www.ahpanet.com)

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

## IHPA Programs



**Iowa Honey Queen Program**

**Queen Chair:** Connie Bronnberg  
14405 Hull Ave  
Perry, IA 50220-6343  
Phone: 515.480.6076  
E-Mail: [cbronnv823@aol.com](mailto:cbronnv823@aol.com)

**IHPA Youth Scholarship Program:**

Eric Kenoyer  
1270 Upland Lane  
Van Meter, IA 50261  
Phone: 515.490.2477  
E-Mail: [ekenoyer@aol.com](mailto:ekenoyer@aol.com)

**The Buzz Newsletter:**  
Ron Rynders  
890 13th Ave SE  
Sioux Center, IA 51250  
Phone: 712-449-5010  
E-Mail: [rrihpa@gmail.com](mailto:rrihpa@gmail.com)



**Bee Emergency Program Information:**

Vern Ramsey  
22781 Route J16  
Birmingham, IA 52535-8162  
Phone: 319.498.4355  
E-Mail: [vdramsey@netins.net](mailto:vdramsey@netins.net)

Roy Kraft  
PO Box 1  
Goldfield, IA 50542  
Cell: 515.293.2458  
E-Mail: [kroyster.rk@gmail.com](mailto:kroyster.rk@gmail.com)

Mary Wiltgen  
3025 270th St  
Fredericksburg, IA 50630  
Phone: 563.920.9628  
E-Mail: [tmwiltgen@gmail.com](mailto:tmwiltgen@gmail.com)