



The Buzz

Newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association



October 2012



**100th Annual Meeting of the
Iowa Honey Producers Association
November 16th & 17th
Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA
Hotel room discount registration deadline is October 22nd. Pg8
Preregistration Deadline is October 31st. Pg9**





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



For Sale: Honey Styx

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Notice for the Iowa Honey Producers Membership:

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

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

Thank you and see you at the meeting.



For Sale: Pamphlet on Successful Management available:

Ten Pages \$12 including postage.

Contact:
Glen L. Stanley
2615 Aspen Road #1
Ames, Iowa 50014
TELE> 515 292 3243

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

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

The Buzz Newsletter Article Submissions and IHPA Memberships

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

Greetings from the President

Hello everyone, I took a month off from writing my Presidents message. No good excuse I just didn't get it done. The Iowa State Fair was a great success again this year. The weather really seemed to cooperate and kept the customers rolling in. The IHPA had good exposure at the fair due to Donna Brahms and the 100th year anniversary committee and Julie Swett and the promotions committee. We also had a very good showing in the Apiary entries this year. I forgot to bring up the subject of the IHPA 100th Anniversary hive tools at the last board meeting but I am going to suggest at the next board meeting, that each adult or youth that entered in the apiary division and is registered for the 2012 annual meeting receives one of the special hive tools. I entered in three or four different classes but I must not have spent enough time with the entries because a third place was my best showing and didn't even place in a couple. That's OK though we will try harder next year. Beekeepers are good at saying "Maybe Next Year".

The sales booth was very well staffed this year, I only managed to get there and work one evening but Connie was at the fair every day with the Queen and Princess so she picked up the slack and worked many evenings. My youngest daughter Ciera also was at the fair every day helping roll candles but also managed to find time to have some fun at other fair activities.

One thing I mentioned in my last message was the possibility of a Celebrity coming to sell honey lemonade at the booth. A studio that shoots a show on the History Channel with Larry the Cable Guy had contacted me about shooting an episode at my business and they wanted to transition from here to getting to the Iowa State Fair. I suggested that Larry could deliver some honey to the booth then work the lemonade stand. They liked the idea and developed the story line that Larry had heard about fantastic lemonade made from honey so he would come help

harvest the honey then deliver it to the Fair to make the lemonade. Two problems developed. I didn't get the bid for the buckets for the lemonade. That was entirely my own fault. I should have bid the buckets much lower and lost money. I lose money on every jar of honey I deliver to the fair because I bid low and consider it advertising and the pride of having a quality product with my name on it. Any way the story line was not working now. I decided I could just donate the honey for the first day of the fair for the lemonade. Problem solved. In order to do this though, I had to let the fair booth manager know what was going on. That was problem number 2. When I told the director I had told somebody that Larry the Cable Guy would be showing up he informed me that the shoot would likely not be usable because of fans. I don't think this would have been a problem but tell that to a Hollywood production company. They scrapped that storyline and the booth got left out. Sorry I tried.

They did spend the whole day here on August 7th. They shot in two different bee yards and then in the extracting room. I have no idea how much they will use. I have never seen the show before and don't even know what it's called. I think American Road Trip with Larry the Cable Guy. I think it is supposed to be the first show of the new season in January or February.

I feel like I've been rambling and it's time to take care of business. The 100th Anniversary annual meeting is right around the corner. The district #'s 1, 2, and 3 Director Positions are up for election this year. That area is basically the Eastern half of the state. You can see the district map on the IHPA website. Pat Randol has resigned from the district 5 director position so we will have to elect someone to fill that spot also. District # 5 is basically the S.E. corner of the state. I will be stepping back from the Office of President and the Vice President has expressed his willingness to move on to the President's position, Melanie Bower

has expressed her desire to step away from the position of Treasurer. We are greatly indebted to Melanie and Duane for their hours and hours of work and dedication. I have named the entire IHPA board as the nominating committee so if you're interested in any of the board positions let someone know or we will just come looking for you. We do have some willing candidates to fill all officer positions but we would love to see more step forward who are interested in becoming active in the IHPA.

Donna Brahms has dedicated thousands of hours to the IHPA activities and she will rotate off the board but may be willing to fill another director or officer position and either way her dedication and service is greatly appreciated.

I have gone on long enough but need to give you all a list of the awards that the IHPA has to honor those who contribute something special with their time and effort. If you know of anyone deserving of one of these awards get me the information and the awards committee will give it consideration.

Lifetime Membership

Pioneer Award ---50 years and still active

Distinguished Service

Education

Promotions

Friendship---A friend of beekeeping but doesn't have to be a beekeeper.

Youth

Thank You,
Curt Bronnenberg



THE BEEYARD REPORT

I am on time this month. That means it is only two weeks since I wrote the last report. Things are still looking positive. As I write this we still have seven yards that need to be pulled. The mite load, so far, is not too bad but the last two yards I have looked at have suffered some damage. Some of the heads have been chewed off the larva. We have also seen where bees have chewed the caps off but have not emerged. Our old nemesis deformed wing syndrome is still around. The yards pulled early have had one treatment. They are showing two to five on an ether roll. I have seen 29 in an isolated case where there was more obvious damage. This was in a yard pulled in early September. .

We have picked up a few colonies but most of them still have lots do bees. The Jansen yard is an exception. That yard is declining but it appears to be more of a queen issue than a mite problem. We had a lot of old queens in that yard. We will start combining those colonies soon. Bear in mind, though, two poor colonies do not make a good one. The second round after pulling is when we start weeding out colonies in earnest.

Most of our single story colonies had three to four frames of foundation when we set them up. One thing we have seen consistently through the fall is that most of these colonies never finished their foundation.

Many have two or three frames that were untouched. Yet, these colonies made a crop. I noticed early in the summer that colonies with four or five frames of bees were storing surplus. That's a little odd. In a "normal" year, they fill the brood box before they move through the excluder. We are now making doubles out of the singles by placing a second box underneath the one the bees have been in all summer. Most of the boxes were so heavy, I had trouble picking them up.

until this year was 137. We made that in 2005 with 600 colonies. We are going to surpass that but our average/colony won't be as high because we have 400 more colonies. Usually, when we make the last pull, there are as lot of empty boxes that we stack in the yards to let the bees go home. This year, we have been bringing them home full of honey. We are getting a good fall flow. I hope it is good enough to cut down on our syrup bill. The bees may have more honey to winter on than we normally get. How about that, Glen.

Nothing happened as I thought it would. I thought the flow would be early. It wasn't. I thought swarming

would be a problem. It wasn't. I'm sure I could think of some other things if I spent some time at it.

I hope you got your mite load under control in late August or early September. If you didn't, it is probably too late. Make sure the bees have enough food to make it through the winter. Lots of people tell me their bees die with lots of food left. This is usually a mite issue or a case of the food being in the wrong place in the box. If the bees have brood in the middle of the box, they won't move off the brood. If it is warm enough they will try to move honey from the side of the box in to where the brood is. If it gets cold, they soon consume those meager stores and die. Last winter was very forgiving. That won't happen two years in a row.

Submitted by Phil Ebert

Featured Beekeeper of the Month

Our featured beekeeper of the month is Joy Westercamp from Farmington, Iowa. She is the daughter of Steven and

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Joy Westercamp with one of her Minnesota Hygienic queen bees.

Our record number of barrels up



Joy with a nice arrangement of tasty honey comb.

Christine Westercamp and is participating in the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers beginning beekeeper program. Joy, her older sister, and four younger brothers are home-schooled and she is completing the 6th grade.

Joy's hobbies are raising rabbits, livestock judging, cooking, and beekeep-



Joy and her mentor Vern Ramsey check in on the honeybees.

ing. She is currently Jr. Vice President of the Jolly Trio 4-H Club showing projects in entomology, rabbits, swine, animal science, horticulture, food and nutrition, clothing, consumer management, home improvement, photography, and communications. She has been quite successful at the Van Buren County and Iowa State Fairs. Her future plans are to go to college. As for now she says she likes cooking and could study hotel and restaurant management or because she also likes rabbits and bees she might study biology and genetics to become a scientist.

Vern and Doris Ramsey mentor Joy. She attended a class on introduction to beekeeping at the Van Buren County Extension Office taught by the Ramseys. Joy helps them do presentations for schools.

Joy and her family always liked looking at the observation hives and buying honey lemonade at the IHPA booth at the Iowa State Fair, and because she also likes cooking, she decided to take up beekeeping. In 4-H she has been breeding rabbits to improve her stock. Now she would like to see if over time she could select and raise queen bees that are resistant to pests and diseases that can also survive our Iowa winters.

She started beekeeping with a colony provided by the club with an Italian queen. She also bought Carniolan and Minnesota Hygienic package to compare. The Italians and Carniolans each became queenless at one time or another, which gave her experience in re-queening. At this point the Minnesota Hygienic colony is her favorite and seems to have the best temperament and are very productive. Joy says she would like to expand to 10 colonies this year. At the time she sent us her information, she had made two splits and caught two swarms totaling six colonies in all.

Joy has an interesting swarm story. It seems in early May she

received a phone call at 9:00 p.m. informing her of a swarm. At sunrise Joy and her father were on site to catch it. She tried shaking the swarm from the central shoot of a young pear tree, but most of the bees fell into the cold, dewy, shaded grass. They had not taken a sheet. Eventually the queen flew back to the tree and Joy successfully got her in the box. They waited for the rest of the bees to dry off and join their queen. After two hours the two headed for home. The next day the bees were gone. All was not lost because that same day the same man called again to inform them of two more swarms ten feet apart in a road ditch about 1/2 mile from the first swarm. This time they took a sheet and were successful at catching both swarms. The last two swarms have stayed.

Joy is learning a lot about beekeeping. She is also Honey Princess for the Southeast Iowa Beekeepers. Thanks for your story Joy.

Submitted by Ron Wehr



Joy as the SE Iowa Honey Princess.



GUEST SPEAKERS

for our

100th IOWA HONEY PRODUCER'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Katie Lee; University of Minnesota; <http://beelab.umn.edu/>



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

Check out my bee beard and other members of 'Bee informed' @ http://beeinformed.org/team-2/personnel/#Katie_Lee

David Mandes



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

Lee Heine;(pictured with wife, Nadene)



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

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

Amy Toth; Assistant Professor, Iowa State University

Departments of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology and Entomology;



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

Bob Cox

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





**100th Annual Meeting of the
Iowa Honey Producers Association
November 16th & 17th
Best Western Regency Inn, Marshalltown, IA**

It's meeting time again!! The annual meeting of the Iowa Honey Producers Association will celebrate this milestone Anniversary on Friday, November 16th and Saturday, November 17th in Marshalltown, IA at the Best Western Regency Inn (641-752-6321), located at 3303 South center Street.

Room rates are: The Best Western Regency Inn for double occupancy is \$72.00 plus tax.
The Super 8 is \$59.00 plus tax.

To get this convention special rate, these rooms need to be reserved by October 22nd (please mention the Iowa Honey Producers when reserving the rooms). The telephone numbers to call are: Best Western (641) 752 6321, or Super 8 (641) 753-3333. For best availability, try to book early.

Our speakers for our 100th are: **Bob Cox**, former state apiarist of Iowa, and with the *USDA Honey Bee Research* in Weslaco TX. **David Mendes**, commercial beekeeper and past president of the "*American Beekeeping Federation*". **Katie Lee**, *University of Minnesota*, and member of "*Bee Informed*". **Amy Toth**, assistant Professor, *Iowa State University, Departments of Ecology, Evolution & Organismal Biology and Entomology*. **Lee Heine**, a long time supporter of the *IHPA Youth and Queen Programs*; manager of the *Dadant's Watertown Wisconsin* office for 35 years, and package bee supplier.

Please think about entering our photo contest, cooking with honey contest, mead contest, or bringing items for the queen and silent auction! Consider attending the banquet, enjoying fellowship with your fellow beekeepers and celebrating 100 years of beekeeping.
WIN A COMPLETE HIVE.....Raffle Tickets at Annual MeetingMUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!!!!

Rules for the Photo Contest:

- Photo must be matted but not framed
- Any size photo will be accepted for this competition
- Please put your name on the backside of the photo

Categories to be submitted will include:

1. Bee on Flower
2. General beekeeping
3. Marketing or Promotion
4. Extracting Honey or Specific Photos pertaining to Honey

Rules for the Cooking Contest:

- Honey is to be the only sweetener
- Please submit your recipe with your entry
- Judges will keep recipes to be included in the "Buzz"
- Put your name on the back of the recipe card

Categories to be submitted will include:

1. Desserts
2. Bars or Cookies
3. Drinks
4. Cakes
5. Breads
6. Appetizers or Snacks

Entries could be judged on (Judges reserve the right to determine how to best judge the entries)

- Presentation of entry
- Best use of honey
- amount of honey used (compared to other entries in category)
- Flavor of entry
- Overall appearance of entry

Rules for Mead Judging Contest:

- Supply at least two bottles of Mead
- Mead will be judged on the rules of the State Fair
- Mead will be judged on alcohol strength, sweetness, carbonation, temperature, taste, and presentation

Categories to be submitted will include:

1. Traditional Meads
2. Molemel (Fruit Meads)
3. Metheglyn (Spiced Meads)

Bring extra bottles of Mead to share at the "Wine and Cheese" party by the pool Friday night.

**IOWA HONEY PRODUCERS 100TH
ANNUAL MEETING
MARSHALLTOWN, IA on NOVEMBER 16TH AND 17TH, 2012**

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE: (_____) _____ COUNTY: _____
 NO. OF COLONIES: _____ YEARS BEEKEEPING _____
 COMPANY NAME: _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

**NOTE: PREREGISTRATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING DEADLINE IS
OCTOBER 31ST - NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Individual: Registration after October 31st will be \$25.00 / Before Oct 31st \$20.00 \$ _____
 Family Rate: Registration after October 31st will be \$40.00 / Before Oct 31st \$35.00 \$ _____

Banquet –Friday night 6:30 PM (per person) Number of Tickets _____ X \$35.00 \$ _____
 Queen luncheon on Friday noon (per person) Number of Tickets _____ X \$20.00 \$ _____

YEAR 2013 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Iowa Honey Produces Association membership dues
 also includes subscription to our newsletter, “*The Buzz*” \$20.00 \$ _____
 2nd Family Membership, same address Name: _____ \$ 5.00 \$ _____
 3rd Family Membership, same address Name: _____ \$ 5.00 \$ _____

NOTE: Paid 2012 membership is required to vote at the business meeting.

Cookbooks: Iowa Honey Produces Qty 1-9 _____ X \$ 6.50 \$ _____
 10 or more _____ X \$ 5.50 \$ _____

See the 100th Anniversary merchandise for purchase as listed in August issue of “*The Buzz*” or on the IHPA website www.ABuzzAboutBees.com

Send form and make check payable:

(Please fill out form completely)

Iowa Honey Producers Association
 Melanie Bower, Treas. IHPA
 207 S Diehl Street
 Des Moines, IA 50315
 Phone (515) 287-6542

Note: Members are responsible for sending in their own magazine subscriptions and national association memberships starting October 1, 2003.

When sending in your magazine subscription or national association membership, be sure to inform them of your membership with Iowa Honey Producers Association and give them the name of the treasurer. There will be printed magazine ordering forms at the meeting. This should speed up your renewals and still give you the association rate on the magazines. There is no discount on membership to the national association.

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The Buzz Newsletter

Iowa Honey Producers Association
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mikyyyd@aol.com

State Apiarist

Andrew Joseph (515) 725-1481
andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov

Back-to-Basics Beekeeping Club

Contact: Eves Cadwallader
2420 285th St.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
(641) 673-3993
weic@kdsi.net

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

Contact: Arvin Foell
30930 530th Ave.
Kelley, IA 50134
Home phone 515/597-3060
Cell phone 515/450-9494
ajfoell@huxcomm.net

Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers

Contact: Julia McGuire
jcammcguire@yahoo.com

Contact: Vern Ramsey
22781 Route J16
Birmingham, IA 52535-8162
(319) 498-4355

IDALS website
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

National Honey Board
www.honey.com

Iowa Honey Queen Program

Connie Bronnberg 515-480-6076
cbronny823@aol.com

Iowa Beekeeper Clubs

East Central Iowa Beekeepers

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

North Iowa Bee Club

Contact: Pat Ennis
1040 Union Ave.
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Flat_Lander@lycos.com

Northeast Iowa Beekeepers

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34147 310th St.
Guttenberg, IA 52052
(563) 252-2340
LouiseJ@alpinecom.net

Northwest Iowa Beekeepers

Contact: Larry J. Boernsen
6724 200th St.
Ocheyedan, Iowa 51354
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Lm5kbees@iowatelecom.net

Southeast Iowa Beekeepers

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Vdramsey@netins.net

Southwest Iowa Honey Producers

Contact: Mike & Donna Brahms
14922 535th Street
Griswold, IA 51535
(712) 778-4256

Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa

Contact: Judy Spence
12839 Carpenter Trail
Carlisle, IA 50047
(515) 988-8397
jespencejr44@gmail.com

Bee Emergency Information

Contact: Mike Divis
3312 210th St.
Anthon, IA 51004
(712) 373-9743
(712) 899-8117

American Beekeeping Federation website
www.ABFnet.org

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals
Mark Speltz
(515) 669-3266
mark.speltz@dia.iowa.gov

