

Fellow Beekeepers

This is a busy time of the year for our industry and finds many of us keeping the roads and airways busy between Idaho and California. The drought in California is a sad situation. It's difficult to witness the impact it is having on an area that the world depends upon for a great deal of food we enjoy.

Thanks to everyone who has sent in their membership dues for 2014. If you have not joined at this time, I strongly encourage you to consider membership with the association. This support (\$50.00/person) goes a long way in helping to keep our organization strong and viable for the industry.

March 31, we said goodbye to Michael Cooper from the Department of Agriculture due to his retirement. Mike has been a true friend to the industry and a constituent attendee at our conventions. Mike is a hobbyist himself and we hope he will return to the convention each year.

An issue surfaced at our 2013 annual meeting dealing with harboring bees. A committee was appointed to work on the specifics, under the leadership of Mike Cooper and the legal folks at ISDA. Thanks to our lobbyists, Rick Waitley and Benjamin Kelly Senate bill 1266 was passed successfully. Thanks, also, to those beekeepers that were present at the hearings, offered advice and input and contacted legislators on this issue. This was a good demonstration of the value of the organization when an industry issues arises.

I hope each of you have a great spring. Remember that the IHIA office has a number of promotional recipes and educational materials available to beekeepers in Idaho that help to provide information to those interested in our industry. See you around the hive.

Andrew Puckett
President

2014 IDAHO LEGISLATURE: The 2nd Session of the 62nd Annual Idaho Legislature adjourned on March 20th taking a total of 74 days to complete the business of the state of Idaho. This was the shortest session in recent history, beating the 2013 session by 14 days. The legislature saw a total of 1,107 pieces of legislation and amendments prepared, which is also a lesser number than in recent years. Only 357 pieces of legislation successfully passed the dual House system in Idaho. The 2015 Idaho Legislature will begin on Monday, January 12.

HOBBYIST REPRESENTATIVE: The by-laws of the Idaho Honey Industry Association allow for the annual appointment of a hobbyist to serve on the board. The board of directors, in a recent meeting, appointed Steve Sweet, Boise, to be that representative. His term will go through December's annual meeting. Steve has been active in the Treasure Valley Beekeeper's Club since 2008, serving as treasurer and then as president from 2009-2011. He has logged nearly 40 years as a hobbyist interested in beekeeping. Welcome to Steve Sweet.

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NEW LEGISLATION IN 2014 SESSION: A bill was introduced and passed during the 2014 legislative session exempting beehives brought into the state for temporary indoor winter storage from registration fees. Those who currently store hives have to register them with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and pay a fee of \$10 for the first 50 colonies and subsequent to that, 16 cents a colony. Producers would still be required to register the hives with ISDA, but will not have to pay the registration fee, which varies depending on how many hives they have. Some producers connect with beekeepers from other states and temporarily store hives indoors during the winter. A small number of the hives are even stored in eastern Idaho potato cellars and will make their way to California to pollinate that state's almond crop.

The completed legislation was encouraged by the Idaho Honey Industry Association members during the group's annual meeting in December. This legislation allows ISDA to know where hives are in the state and to act quickly to address any disease issues. This bill will impact only hives brought in to the state temporarily for winter indoor storage. The bill was signed into law by the Governor on March 11 and will become effective on July 1, 2014.

CHANGE IN SCHEDULE FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL CONVENTION: The IHIA board of directors has moved the annual IHIA Banquet and Auction from Friday night of the annual convention to Thursday night. This will allow attendees to leave Boise after the last speaker on Friday. The dates of the 2014 annual IHIA convention are: Thursday, December 4 (all day with banquet that evening) and Friday, December 5 till noon.

DUES: Congratulations to the following beekeepers who have joined the Idaho Honey Industry Association as members for 2014. Your support and investment in the state association is appreciated.

2J Honey Farms LLC (Jay Miller)	A.H. Meyer & Sons, Inc. (Jack Meyer)
Anderson Apiaries (James Anderson)	B & B Apiaries LLC (Bill Lemmons)
Baker's Honey (James Baker)	Barlow Apiaries Inc. (Richard Barlow)
Belliston Bros. Apiaries, Inc.	Browns Honey (Alan & William Brown)
Browning Honey Co., Inc. (Merle Browning)	Can-Am Apiaries (Leonard & Linda Pankratz)
Chase Honey Company (Harold Chase)	Clearwater Honey (Phil & Andrew Puckett)
Collins, Paul	Cox Honey Farms (Clay Brunson & Adam French)
Curley Creek Honey (Ray Chaffee)	Flying Bee Ranch (Andy Schultz)
Foothills Honey Co LLC (George Hansen)	GloryBee Foods, Inc. (Nancy Burnett)
Heine, Lee	Herzfeld, Alan
Jubilee Honeybee Company (Larry Pender)	Leckie, Joe
McGuire's Apiary Inc.	Montgomery, Allan
Newswander Apiaries Inc. (Michael Newswander)	Noyes Apiaries, Inc.
Pendell Apiaries (Frank Pendell)	Powell Apiaries
Reisinger Apiaries Inc. (Joshua & Dale Reisinger)	Salmon Valley Honey (Dan Mudd)
Sweet Honey Company (Steve Sweet)	Tennant & Sons Honey (Jason Tennant)
Van DeGrift, Bill	

LONG-TIME INDUSTRY FRIEND RETIRES: Mike Cooper has served as the chief of the Bureau of Field Services with Plant Industries Division of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture since April of 1991. Prior to his current position, Mike was the state entomologist with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Mike holds a B.S. and M.S. in Entomology from the University of Arkansas. He is the past-president of the National Plant Board and is a past-recipient of USDA APHIS Administrators Award in recognition of his contributions in dealing with plant health issues and emergencies. After spending 37 years in the plant industry inspection field, Mike retired on March 31 from ISDA. Mike has been an active hobbyist beekeeper and played a role in creating the Treasure Valley Beekeeping Association. Mike is married and his wife, Shelley, is a civil engineer working for the Bureau of Land Management.

THANK YOU RECEIVED: *Thank you for your association's generous contribution to Project Apis m. Contributions like this help PAm stay on track with funding the research that is making a real impact in honey bee health and management.*
NOTE: The IHIA board of directors voted to contribute \$2,000 to research being conducted through Project Apis m.