



BEE LINE

on Honey Notes

March 2017

Hello!

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and with fat bees in California! I'm looking forward, as the new IHIA president, to meeting and working with many of you to make our industry better.

I have learned in beekeeping that you most likely got in this field either by an "angry family member" or a "bad friend." Twelve years ago I was invited to try out beekeeping by my father-in-law, Jay Miller, who I didn't know quite well enough at the time. Otherwise, maybe I would have been smart enough to decline!

Thus my theory of entering beekeeping rings true for me.

For those of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting or to jog your memory as to who I am, I'd like to introduce myself. I am Brody Tomazin, a beekeeper in Blackfoot, I help run bees under 2J Honey Farms and also Round Valley Honey Company. I have a wonderful wife that luckily put up with beekeeping growing up, so she's pretty accustomed to the vagabond lifestyle we live. We have three girls and one boy. The girls are old enough to venture into the bees and love every chance they get to come and work with their dad.

We, like a lot of you, have been enjoying the muck and mess of California's much needed water this month. With the bees in the orchards and hopefully not under water, we enjoyed a short trip back to Idaho, which also has its own set of water problems.

Well, until we meet next, I hope you have reached high enough ground for you and your bees to stay dry and are looking forward to some warmer spring days.

Brody Tomazin
President

Membership

The **2017 membership** year for Idaho Honey Industry Association is from January – December. Thanks to the following who have joined:

3 Girls Honey
Baker's Honey
Browning Honey Co., Inc.
Heitkam's Honey Bees
Jed Steele Apiaries
Mann Lake Ltd.
Newswander Apiaries Inc.
Powell Apiaries
Strachan Apiaries, Inc.
Western Bee Supplies

Ahaus "Bee-Haus" Honey
Barlow Apiaries Inc.
Can-Am Apiaries
High Prairie Bees LLC
Keller's Apiary
Miller's Honey Farms, Inc.
Noyes Apiaries, Inc.
Reisinger Apiaries Inc.
Sweet Home Honey
White Apiary Inc.

Anderson Apiaries
Browns Honey
Clearwater Honey
Howell's Honey Farm
Kindall, Charley
My Girl's Honey
Pendell Apiaries
Salmon Valley Honey
The Honey Store

Enclosed is a membership form for you to complete and return for your membership with IHIA for the 2017 year. We welcome your membership and participation – commercial or hobbyist.

Idaho State Pollinator Plan

George Robinson, ISDA, made presentations on the State Pollinator Plan to the members of the Idaho Senate and the Idaho House of Representatives Ag Committees in recent weeks. These presentations were simply to inform the lawmakers about the plan, how it was developed, and how it will move forward. NOTE: If you would like a copy of the final plan, feel free to contact the IHIA office.

Commission Appointments

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has appointed the following to the Idaho Honey Commission: **Dan Mudd** serving until 2019 and **Phil Puckett** serving until 2020. The Governor, in making the appointments, also established a staggered term and set the term for Commissioner Jay Miller to be 2018.

Research Money

The Idaho Honey Industry Association Board of Directors met on February 10. One of the project proposals for funding came from Brandon Hopkins, WSU and was titled: ***Honey Bee Queen Tracking/ Detection System: Collaboration between WSU Bee Program and the Electrical and Computer Engineering Senior Design Program.***

The problem was described as follows in the proposal submitted by Brandon:

The single most important aspect of a honey bee colony is the queen. There is only one in each hive and she is responsible for all the egg laying. If the queen dies or fails, the workers can sometimes replace her naturally, but even if they are successful, the replacement might be subpar and the colony loses weeks' worth of production. For commercial beekeepers, making sure each colony has a queen is a major labor/time cost. For many hobbyists even finding a queen is a difficult task.

A system that can determine if the queen is present or absent without opening the hive could prevent the loss of a significant number of colonies and would be a major labor/time savings. There is potential to determine queenlessness using acoustics as evidenced by previous research, and patents related to such work. However, the technology has not yet been adapted for commercial use. The proposed project will initially begin with the attempt to use a method of attaching cheap lightweight material to the queen's thorax and a device that can quickly detect the presence and ideally the location of the queen. The nature of this research and an advantage of working with the Electrical and Computer Engineering Senior Design program is that we will have "fresh eyes" looking at this problem and it allows us to be flexible in engineering a solution. If the initial solution is not feasible, we will look at alternative methods.

Objectives:

- Determine the maximum amount of weight that can be attached to a queen without affecting performance
- Pair a material/device (tag) small enough to attach a queen with a system that can detect the tag
- Develop a system that can detect the queen inside a hive body (50cm D x 47cm L x 37 cm W) in a live/functional colony, and communicate presence and absence back to the beekeeper.

The total requested for the project from IHIA was **\$4,000**. The estimated cost of the project is around \$10,000 but other "in-kind" contributions from the bee lab are reducing the costs. The IHIA voted to support the \$4,000.

In other research expenditures, the board voted to send **\$5,000** to Project Apis m. and an additional **\$1,000** to Project Apis m. specifically earmarked for the Bee and Butterfly Project.

A total of \$10,000 was allocated so far for research on behalf of the honey industry in Idaho.

Vendors at the 2016 Idaho Honey Industry Conference

Thanks to our vendors for your participation in the 2016 Idaho Honey Industry Conference. Those vendors joining us for the conference this year included the following:

Complete Bee

Idaho Honey Industry Association

Western Bee Supplies

Eco Bee Box

True Wood Products

Be sure and visit our website at www.idahohoney.org. If there is something you would like to see on the website, let us know and we will give it consideration.

WELCOME to new board member, **Tom Harned** from Five Bee Hives in Hailey, ID. Tom is filling an At Large Member spot on the board,

Mark Your Calendar:

The 2017 Idaho Honey Industry Conference will be held **November 30 -December 1** at the Red Lion Hotel in Boise.