

BOUNTIFUL BLOSSOMS BEE COMPANY

2018 Year-in-Review Newsletter



Carol examines a new super added to a hive. Photo credit: Dave Weaver

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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2018: A YEAR OF EXPANSION

by Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth

Bountiful Blossoms Bee Company is a family-owned honey bee business based in Glenwood, IA. It is owned by Carol Fassbinder-Orth & Brian Orth, and their three children. We specialize in varietal honey and all natural honey-and-beeswax skin, hair, and lip care products. We have many exciting developments to share with you in this inaugural newsletter!

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, we added the following products to our line-up:

- Charcoal Facial Soaps
- Drunken Bee Shampoo and Conditioner Bars
- 15 new body soaps
- Sea salt body scrubs
- Luxury foot spa kits
- Shaving Soaps

Stay tuned for new products we will unveil in 2019, including GHOST PEPPER honey!



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

1. **Myrtle and Cypress Coffeehouse**, Omaha, NE: Cafe con miel (honey latte) is a delicious signature drink concocted in this tranquil and inviting gem of a coffeeshop. We supply Myrtle and Cypress with seasonal honeys that they showcase in their drinks. Patrons can try a light, refreshing locust tree honey latte in the spring, or a richer, more complex goldenrod honey latte in the fall! Like what you tasted in the latte? Seasonal honeys are now sold by the bottle here.



2. **Keg Creek Brewing Company**, Glenwood, IA. Beer soaps, anyone? We love beer. And we love to make homemade soaps. We married these two loves to make a new lineup of honey and beeswax soaps: THE DRUNKEN BEE and Moongold Buzz. Breakdown Brown ale is added to our DRUNKEN BEE shampoo bars, and adds luxurious lather to the soap and vitamins and minerals to your hair. Keg Creek's Moongold Apricot beer has a divine aroma that complements the sultry citrus blend of our new body soap, Moongold Buzz. A line-up of these hoppin' soaps is now sold at Keg Creek's Tasting Room.



3. **The Remedy Co.**, Glenwood, IA. Nestled on the main square in the heart of Glenwood, this all-natural smoothie shop and holistic health boutique now carries a full line-up of Bountiful Blossoms Bee Co honey and beeswax products. Try some of Julie's smoothies or daily lunch specials while you are there!



LAND TRANSFORMATIONS

Care for our bees and care for the land go hand-in-hand at Bountiful Blossoms Bee Co.



Brian examining a portion of the farm that underwent an invasive brush removal event this fall

PRAIRIE RESTORATION

This past year, we began the process of restoring native prairie on our 23 acre farm in the Loess Hills of southwest Iowa. We completed a 1 acre pollinator prairie planting project through a USDA NRCS EQIP grant in 2018, and began the process of invasive brush removal on the entire property. We plan to enroll 3 more acres into pollinator habitat in 2019.

HIGH TUNNEL INSTALLATION

To grow high quality flowers, herbs, and fruits for use in our honeys, soaps, and other products, Brian Orth and Glenn Smith constructed a 30' x 72' high tunnel on our property this past fall. It is equipped with a rainwater catchment system to promote water sustainability on our property.

HONEY BEE RESEARCH

Your purchase supports honey bee health research

2018 Project Supported: THE USE OF RADIO FREQUENCY ID CHIPS TO STUDY COLONY COLLAPSE BEHAVIOR IN HONEY BEES

For this study by Fassbinder-Orth, Hughes, Sabotin, and Tran et al at Creighton University, proceeds were put toward field research supplies and colony costs to study the impacts that viral infections have on honey bee behavior. Significant changes in colony behavior were detected in the study, and additional research grants were obtained due to this initial pilot study.



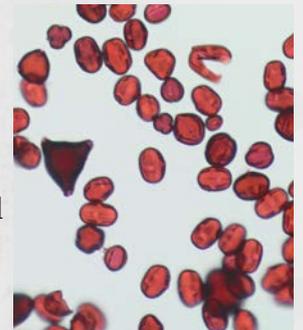
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

VISITOR'S CENTER

We are currently in the planning stages of renovating a multi-purpose building on our farm. We envision a visitor's center where one can shop for our all-natural products, observe our honey extraction and soap making processes, take classes on cooking with honey, beginning beekeeping or salve making, take a tour around the farm to see the herbs and flowers grown for our soaps and honeys, and learn about native prairies of the Loess Hills.

POLLEN CERTIFICATES

Through a research project conducted by Amara Orth, we now have the ability to provide our customers with pollen density and identification in each of our varietal honeys. Mini pollen collecting cards will be provided with each bottle of honey sold starting spring 2019.



Pollen from our summer clover honey varietal

SEEKING ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

POTTERY MAKER: Do you know a pottery maker that might be interested in crafting shaving soap mugs for our shaving soap kits? We are looking to partner with a local artist with creative approaches to pottery that would be interested in showcasing their work with us.

WHOLESALE INTEREST? Interested in carrying our products in your store? Contact us below for information on our wholesale prices.

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