

## Honey Letter 2019

Our honey harvesting this year was completely focused on the two family weddings we had. Our two nephews, Scott Myslinski and Samuel Putnam married Marisa and Emily respectively in two lovely Fall weddings. We offered to give them honey to use as wedding favors and worked with them to provide their preferred containers and personalized labels. There were almost 400 containers in all! Each member of our family helped in getting these wedding favors produced and we were pleased to do.



Just for fun we sent samples to two laboratories for their analysis. One laboratory, Sweet Water Industries in Missouri, uses a nuclear magnetic resonator to completely blow the honey apart into its constituent components. This technology is being used in greater frequency in order to identify counterfeit honey because as you can imagine, high fructose corn syrup is cheaper than honey.

The second laboratory was at Creighton University, in Omaha. They used microscopic identification of the pollen granules that remained in our filtered raw honey. These pollen granules were from clovers (63%), basswood trees, grasses, mint and soybeans. Our honey was typical early summer Iowa honey. It was nice to have seals of approval from two different laboratories, grade A pure honey.

Our boys remain active in the arts, with Aubrey playing his violin in several groups and running the sound board at school. Aubrey has also started playing electric and acoustic guitar. Beau has been in numerous community and school theater productions and continues to play his violin as well. Here is a link to a You Tube video of Beau singing and playing his

violin earlier this month at the Winter Show Case at his school. <https://youtu.be/XkEyVBes6LI>

Our family visited Northern Minnesota with Lyse's mother this past August, as we always do. Here is a picture of Lyse kayaking with her mother Edna Strnad, who will soon celebrate her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.



After Tom and his friend Peter put a new roof on an old cabin in Canada, our family went up in the summer and spent several days re staining and trimming "Far Cabin". The boys also spent considerable time helping to build a Habitat House honoring Doris Preucil, an icon in the music education world.



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,**  
Lyse, Tom, Aubrey and Beau