

"Promoting the Craft, Science and Future of Beekeeping since 1947"

THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association



ISSUE: Spring 2022

Editor: Laura Miller & Val Just

CIBA WINTER SEMINAR

Saturday, March 19, 8:20 am - 4 p.m.

Grimes Community Complex, 410 SE Main

Four scheduled speakers, a day-long program, lunch and plenty of time to visit with other beekeepers. Registrations must be received by Tuesday, March 15 (**no sales @ the door**). See **pages 3 and 4** for details.

ANNUAL CIBA AUCTION – in-person!

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.

18930 210th Street, Minburn

Consignment items accepted day of auction starting at 8 a.m. **Questions?** Call Mark Moberly, (515) 351-1906

CIBA MEMBER MEETING & PROGRAM

Saturday, May 21

Northridge Baptist Church

3700 6th Avenue, Des Moines

Topic: *Marketing Your Bee Products*

Business meeting and treats, followed by a program for all members and their guests.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: **April 10**

Email submissions and comments to:

Laura Miller, Beeline_editor@yahoo.com

We encourage you to receive the newsletter via email; however, we understand if electronic delivery is not for you! You may update your subscription by contacting Linn Wilbur, lwilbur50201@gmail.com

CIBA WEBSITE CONTACT

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CentrallowaBeekeepersAssoc@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER

Winter is a great time for me to get caught up on my reading and my inside to-do list -- this is normally!!?? Well, so far this year it has been interesting with soooooo many other interests taking my time that those inside duties have taken a back seat. One of those interests is to promote CIBA on my Instagram and Facebook accounts. I am really a klutz when it comes to social media so I hired a young gal to assist me. I call her my Queen Bee Administrator. So check me out on those platforms and see what you think.

I just posted information about Iowa Honey Bee Day March, 30 at the Iowa Capitol. On Sundays, my daily social media post is about bee group activities, so stay tuned every Sunday to see those posts, most will be about CIBA. What fun!! Read more about Honey Bee Day on page 9 of the BEELINE.

Winter also is a good time to think about your bee equipment – what do you need to get rid of or sell, what you want to fix up, and what you need to buy? If that's the case for you, then be sure to put the annual CIBA auction on your calendar. It is the third Saturday in April, which is the 16th. Get details on page 5 of this BEELINE or on the CIBA website.

Our program committee has been very busy finalizing details of our Winter Seminar in Grimes on March 19. We have an outstanding line-up of presenters that I know will share informative insights to how to take care of our bees and the wonder of their behaviors. This issue of the BEELINE is full of information on pages 3 and 4.

Finally, I just want to make sure that each and every one of you is happy with what we are doing in CIBA. Please contact me or any CIBA director or officer to comment or ask questions. We are focused on helping you on as much of a personal level as we can.

Thanks for being a member!! -- Jamie

Find us on the web: <https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/>

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CentrallowaBeekeepersAssociation

Join our CIBA Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/353306835159561/

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Document navigation: No matter where you are in this document, if you press the CTRL + Home buttons on your keyboard concurrently, you will go to the top of the BEELINE.

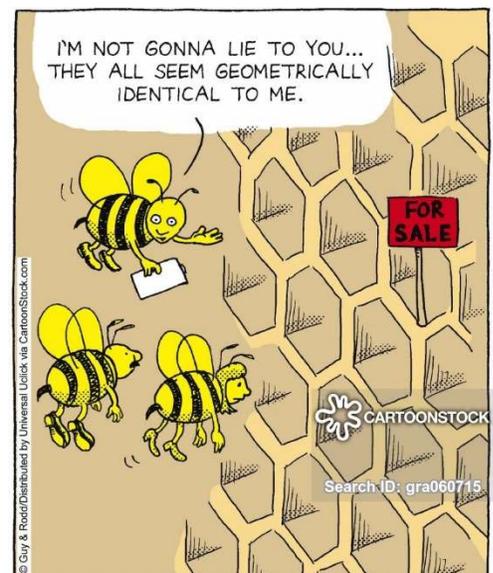
CIBA Club Meetings/Communications

CIBA meetings and programs are on the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

The official CIBA newsletter, the **BEELINE**, is published four times a year on the first day of January (Winter, beginning in 2023); March (Spring); May (Summer) and September (Fall). A special Student Edition is published each January for people enrolled in central Iowa beekeeping classes.

CIBA members also receive the **CIBA Newscast** email from the president on months when the BEELINE is not published (not available for members who choose to receive CIBA info only via USPS).

CIBA Bee Bits, an email newsletter with helpful hints about beekeeping, comes out the 15th of each month (not posted on the CIBA website and available only for CIBA members who receive CIBA info electronically).



CIBA Program Updates

Register Today for March 19 Winter Seminar

The CIBA Winter Seminar is a popular and well-attended event and this year is no exception! We have a fantastic day of speakers, food and fellowship planned for Saturday, March 19 at the Grimes Community Complex in Grimes. The building opens at 8:20 a.m. and the last session will end by 4 p.m.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Tom Seeley, a world-class honey bee researcher and author of several popular books on swarm intelligence, who will join us via Zoom for two afternoon sessions. Our in-person morning presenters are experts on Iowa beekeeping: ISU Extension bee specialist Randall Cass, Iowa Apiarist Andy Joseph, and Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth from Creighton University in Omaha.

The best part is that CIBA members pay only \$35 for the entire day (\$40 for nonmembers and \$20 for K-12 and college students). **But you'll want to register soon! All registrations MUST BE RECEIVED by Tuesday March 15; we will NOT be selling tickets at the door.**

Registration includes a gourmet box lunch from Palmer's Deli in Des Moines. From their most-requested box lunches, you can choose the Turnberry with smoked turkey, Havarti & cranberry chutney; the Marshall, a 3-meat and 2-cheese option, the Cowboy with roast beef, cheddar & pepperjack; or a vegetarian option. Breaks will feature an assortment of hot and cold beverages and, of course, lots of home-baked treats.

Registration forms can be downloaded on the CIBA [website](#). The form also is included as an attachment to the BEELINE email message.

Here's a quick look at the speakers:



Dr. Seeley is the Horace White Professor in Biology for the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He has written several books on honey bee behavior including *Honeybee Democracy* (2010), *Following the Wild Bees* (2016) and *The Lives of Bees* (2019). His studies emphasize swarm intelligence by investigating how bees collectively make decisions.

Dr. Seeley's first talk will be *How a Honey Bee Swarm Moves to its Chosen Home*, exploring the mystery of how a school bus-sized cloud of 10,000 flying insects manages to sweep straight from bivouac site to new dwelling place. He uses digital video technology to track individual bees in a flying swarm.

He'll also present *Hive Thirst: How a Honey Bee Colony Regulates Its Water Collection*, a look at how water-collecting bees can precisely start and stop their activities as a colony's water needs rise and fall with weather and brood production. Water is used to regulate the temperature of the broodnest and to produce the watery food for larvae.



Randall Cass will present *Small Hive Beetles -- What You Need to Know*. He joined Iowa State University in 2017 as the institution's first bee extension specialist in over 70 years. He coordinates bee research, manages the university's honey apiary, lectures and provides outreach to beekeepers, farmers and landowners. Before coming to Ames he worked with small farmers in Guatemala and El Salvador in rural development programs. He has a M.S. from the University of California, Davis and a B.A. from Willamette University.



Andy Joseph has been State Apiarist the past 14 years in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. A beekeeper himself, Andy will present *Transitioning into Sideline Scale Beekeeping*. He travels the state working with beekeepers and oversees the state's apiary program, which is a combination of regulatory certification, beekeeper education efforts, and promotion of the beekeeping industry. He is lead instructor for a well-attended beekeeper class in central Iowa and his family keeps 200 bee hives in the Des Moines area. He has a M.S. in entomology from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he studied bees as pollinators in monoculture.



Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth, who grew up on a commercial bee farm in northeast Iowa, will present *The Science of Bee Decline*. She is a professor of zoonotic diseases in the Department of Biology at Creighton University in Omaha. Her research focus is honey bee disease biology with a specific focus on viruses. She holds a B.S. in genetics from Iowa State University and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Carol and her husband Brian own Bountiful Blossoms Bee Company in Glenwood, Iowa where they sell over 40 different honey and beeswax products.

Volunteers Needed for March 19 Winter Seminar

If you are planning to attend the CIBA Winter Seminar on Saturday, March 19, we need help from members to set up, check in attendees, serve lunch, and clean up after the event.

The Grimes facility opens to us at 8 a.m. and registration starts at 8:20 a.m., so we will need to scurry to get everything arranged that morning. The program concludes by 4 p.m. and we must be cleaned up and out by 4:30 p.m. If we have enough help, we can get this done!

If you can help, please contact:

- Snacks, luncheon or final cleanup: Ann Wilbur, (515) 291-6203, abwilbur54@gmail.com
- Check-in: Don Sievers, (515) 460-6004, dwsievers4@gmail.com



Registration Reminder! **CIBA's 75th Anniversary**

**Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
2022 Winter Seminar
Saturday, March 19, 2022
Grimes Community Complex, Grimes, IA**

Dr. Tom Seeley (via Zoom)
Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth (in-person)
Randall Cass (in-person)
Andy Joseph (in-person)

All-day seminar. Register by mail. No walk in registrations. Includes lunch & break snacks.
\$40/person registration, \$35 current CIBA members & \$20 students (college and K-12)
Registration deadline (received by) Tues., March 15, 2022
Registration forms and updates at CIBA website: www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org

That Darn Iowa Weather

A widespread snowstorm and a positive COVID-19 test for a family member of our speaker led to postponement of the January 15 CIBA meeting to February 19. Luckily, the roads cleared and speaker Jeff Johnson from Premier Bee Products was able to share all about bee foundations at the rescheduled meeting.

Members also participated in the CIBA annual election of officers and directors, which was moved this year from March due to the CIBA Winter Seminar on March 19. Jamie Beyer was re-elected president, Don Sievers Vice President, Linn Wilbur secretary-treasurer, and Susan Kelly was elected to a three-year term as a director.

Other CIBA Business

CIBA Auction Returns April 16 – Live and In-Person!



When: Saturday, April 16th

Where: 18930 210th Street, Minburn, Iowa

Day of the auction schedule:

8:00 AM: Sellers can start arriving for check-in

9:30 AM: If equipment needs inspection, last call!

10:00 AM: Start bidding folks!

It is time for our annual consignment auction! This is an auction by beekeepers for beekeepers! And we are excited to announce that this will be an in-person event! Stay informed; monitor our [CIBA website auction page](#) on the website, and gain more information than we are able to provide in the BEELINE!

Seller / Consignor Information

- We highly encourage you to pre-register – save yourself time, and register via our website. Go to the auction page, and to the Seller Registration section – simply fill out the site form!
- Download a consignment form via our auction page, and send in either via email or mail.
- Bring a completed consignment form to the auction – the form will be needed for CIBA volunteers to validate all of the items you are checking in – the lack of a form will delay check-in.
- Visit the [CIBA website auction page](#), Seller/Consignment Information section to learn more!

Bidder / Buyer Information

- We highly encourage you to pre-register – save yourself time and tribulation the day of the auction, and register via our website. Go to the [CIBA website auction page](#), and to the Buyer Registration section – simply fill out the site form!
 - Once you have pre-registered, you will simply go to the registration table, provide your name, and pick up your bidder number/card. Easy peasy!
- Payment will be by cash, check or credit card on the day of the auction. CIBA accepts payment by credit card with a 2.5% premium for all credit card payments.

Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of helpers in many areas to make this a smooth and enjoyable auction for all participants. Please reach out to Mark Moberly, or any board member, if you are able to assist the day of the auction. Without your participation, our auction will not be the same.

Mark's contact information:

Via Telephone: (515) 351-1906

Via Email: cibamoberlymark@gmail.com

With our Heartfelt Sympathies

Our sympathies are with long-time CIBA member Margaret Hala on the recent death of her son, Lane. Margaret edited the BEELINE for many years and was an active member of CIBA. You can send your condolences to Margaret and her husband Bernard; her contact information is in the most recent CIBA Membership Directory distributed to all members.

March 2022 CIBA Board meeting via Zoom--all CIBA members welcome to attend

Time: Mar 14, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada) Zoom opens at 6:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82995219028?pwd=dktib3N0SmlzSUkzOXBXL2xwdU1GUT09>

Meeting ID: 829 9521 9028 Passcode: 331891

Please renew your CIBA membership for 2022 if you haven't already

CIBA membership is Jan to Dec. If you haven't renewed for 2022, you will find your renewal form attached (electronic file or extra page if mailed). Starting the first of April, information from CIBA goes to current members only. If you have any questions about your membership, contact Linn Wilbur, CIBA Secretary/Treasurer. Contact info is on the back page of the BEELINE.

Meet Olivia, Our New Honey Queen

Submitted by Olivia Moody



Queen Olivia with CIBA-provided tools!

Hello, everyone! My name is Olivia Moody and I am a junior at North Polk High School. I am very excited to represent CIBA as your 2022 Honey Queen.

My dad started talking to me about getting bee hives in 2019 and I honestly thought he was crazy. I liked the idea of having such a unique hobby, but I had never really had an interest in beekeeping and would have rather looked at bees from afar. I honestly thought he was joking until he confirmed that our first hives were ordered.

My ag teacher connected us with Tony Christensen and we enrolled in a beekeeping class. When the hives arrived I quickly understood all the hype about beekeeping. I had no idea the complexity of bee behavior until I witnessed it firsthand.

My father and I do not claim to be even close to expert beekeepers; we have made many mistakes and have paid for them. But those mistakes have helped us learn and grow as beekeepers. I actually have been designated as the "bee girl" among my friends and family. I am always up for giving people tours of my hives and answering any questions they may have. This also means that whenever someone I know comes across literally anything with a bee on it, they think of me.

When I am not caring for my bees or talking about them, I participate in a lot of other activities. At school I have officer positions in the student council and FFA as well as my school's environmental club (I am the co-founder). I am also active in speech and theater, the school newspaper, as well as the National Honors Society and National Spanish Honors Society. I am also a committee member of the Chichaqua Bottoms Ducks Unlimited Chapter and raise cattle with my dad on our hobby farm in Collins. When I am not busy with all that, I am an avid reader, I like to collect vinyl, and I have recently started learning embroidery as well as woodworking.

In the coming year I am excited to connect with people across central Iowa who share a curiosity about beekeeping. I want to connect with younger groups through FFA, 4-H, and schools to teach about the importance of pollinators. I am currently trying to get my peers at school interested in beekeeping with the hopes of having bee hives located at our school. I feel privileged to have this opportunity to connect with so many beekeepers and learn from all of your collective knowledge. I look forward to getting to know all of you!



Olivia and her dad, who started keeping bees together in 2019.

You Responded, We Listened

Central Iowa Timeline of Beekeeping Tasks

Submitted by Newsletter editor Laura Miller

In May 2021, I asked readers of the BEELINE for their thoughts about the newsletter. I included a six-question survey in the summer newsletter, both printed and in the email message that went to members with the newsletter. I also brought along copies of the survey that people could complete at the in-person September CIBA meeting.

I received 9 responses (all anonymous to me, but one person sent theirs by US mail). Although the number of responses was not large, sentiments about the newsletter were overwhelmingly positive (many thanks!). Respondents seemed to like the variety of articles, and almost everyone saved each issue for future reference. Comments were split on how they wanted to receive it (we are doing mostly electronic distribution, which eliminates postage and printing costs).

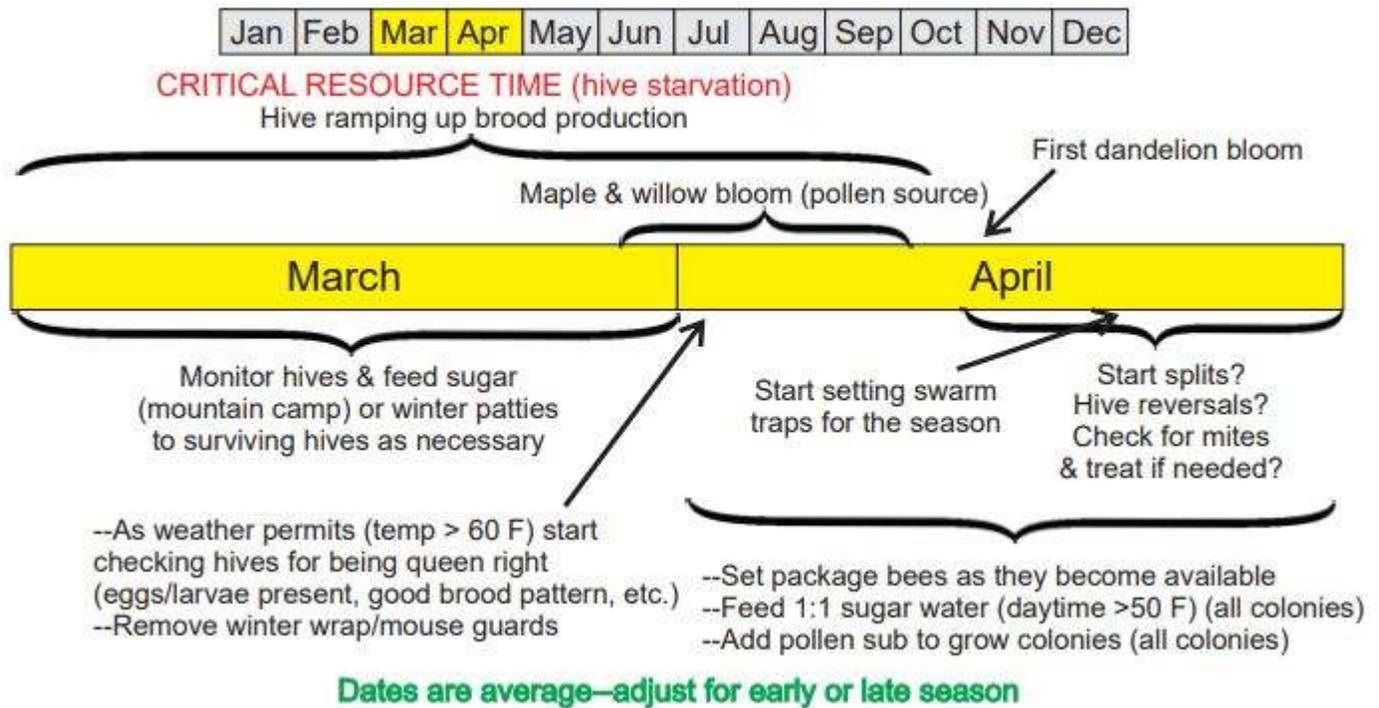
However, one comment appearing more than once was the need for information on what beekeepers should be paying attention to in their apiaries. *“How do we know what to do?”* wrote one new beekeeper. When we discussed the survey responses at a recent CIBA board meeting, this comment got us all to thinking: *How can we provide this info in the most timely and simple way for our members?*

The discussion has evolved into a new feature published in this issue of the BEELINE: **Central Iowa Timeline of Beekeeping Tasks**. You'll find this feature in every issue of the BEELINE. Each timeline will cover only the months until the next BEELINE issue is published, so you'll have a better idea of planning your time and tasks in your hives.

Of course, every season is different. The tasks and dates are approximate, based on average temperatures in central Iowa. All information has been reviewed by CIBA board members, and we're also open to comments and suggestions. Kudos to CIBA member Linn Wilbur for providing a framework for this new feature and putting it into graphic form.

Our goal is to offer basic information in a simple manner – you can follow it, adapt it, research it, and decide what is best for your apiaries. However you use it, we hope this new feature is helpful. Let us know what you think. We're always happy to hear from you!

Central Iowa Timeline of Beekeeping Tasks



CIBA Member Contributions

Another Method for Performing Hive Splits

(Condensed and modified from a June 2016 BEELINE article by Linn & Ann Wilbur)

This method of splitting honey bees:

- Does not require that you find the queen
- Is a commercial beekeeper method—5 min process per hive for comm. bees (Potentially longer for sideliners and hobbyist)
- Uses a queen excluder and bee shake method
- Requires 2-3 visits to hive

Getting brood for splits

- Select brood frames with a mix of sealed brood, larvae and eggs—especially eggs if plan is do a walk away split—should leave at least 5 frames of brood in old hive
- Lift each frame 1/3 to 1/2 out of the hive and shake (1-3 quick downward snaps) to remove the bees—don't need to remove all the bees but if you don't, do a quick check that the queen is not on the frame
- "Place the shaken frames in an empty hive body—push them all together in the middle of the box--this is now your "split" box
- Add replacement frames with foundation to the original hive—push the remaining brood frames together in the middle and place the added frames on the outside of the brood
- Add additional frames to the split box (drawn, foundation or with honey) depending on your intended use of the split



- Clear out the bees from boxes if you took upper boxes off the donating hive to get to the brood (“extra” boxes)—do this before you put the queen excluder on (next step) so you can shake the bees into the top of the original hive.
- Shake off the bees or check for the queen for the “extra boxes like you did for the brood frames--(in the spring having boxes above the brood isn't usually a problem as most of the brood is in the upper box—this is more of an issue if doing summer splits)
- Put a queen excluder on top of the hive directly over the original hives' brood
- Put the split box on top of the queen excluder
- Add the “extra” boxes, if you have those, on top of the split box and close up the original hive with the split box—if you have an upper entrance, best to block that temporarily

Let it rest

- Leave the old hive with the split box on it sit—at least 3-4 hours, better overnight
- Pull the split off before major foraging starts, if you leave these overnight—you will have more bees (> foragers) on the brood—primarily if you are moving these to a new apiary
- Remove split box and optimize the number of brood frames per colony and intended use by transferring extras to additional boxes
- Set the box off as a new colony--if you filled the split box with only the number of brood frames for a single colony--this typically is what comm. beeks do
- Pull the excluder and put the old colony back together
- Set the new hive or nuc in the location you intend them to stay

Walk-away or requeening?

- Requeen with a mated queen in a candy plugged cage is optimal
- Check queen status:
 - If walk away, you are done—wait 28-35 days before checking queen status
 - If requeening, leave overnight--requeen next day (3rd day)—can check in 3-4 days that queen is released, better to wait 10-14 days and then look for queen sign (eggs/larvae)

How this works

- The queen stays below the excluder (or “queens”—multiple queens do happen)
- The nurse/forager bees move up through the excluder to feed and keep the brood warm
- The first overnight (on top of old hive) gives time for bees to move up--the cooler the night the more bees will be with the split
- The second overnight (after pulling split) when requeening gives the colony time to know they are queenless and enhances acceptance of the new queen
- The sealed brood emerges and quickly boosts the population

Fine points

- Place the split immediately above the original colonies brood—is important to get bees to move up and there should only be the excluder between them
- Select the best brood frame numbers--2 deep frames of brood or 3 medium frames with good amount of brood is best per new hive—for 8 frame, 10 frame or nuc
- Fill: you do not have to fill the split box with frames while on the original hive (for example less frames needed for a nuc)—but do put frames on the outside of the brood frames, even if it is frames with foundation—increases the # of bees on the brood frames
- Give the requeened split a couple of frames of drawn comb--allows the queen to lay immediately after she is released

- Feed the new hive.
 - Add a frame of honey--doesn't hurt
 - Give sugar water (1:1)--is essential to increase queen acceptance and for the hive to thrive
 - Feed continuously until the hive significantly decreases sugar water intake
 - Add a pollen patty—recommended even if pollen is available
- Move the split, if possible, to a different apiary (>2 miles away)—if not you will have field bees drift back to the old colony—less of an issue for the nurse bees
- Establish the split as a nuc, if you want, by moving frames from the split box to a nuc box the morning after the initial split
- Introduce the caged queen as you would for a package
- Expect 90-95% queen acceptance if using mated queen and using the overnight procedures—will have lower acceptance if that queenless period is shortened (85-90% acceptance per commercial beeks)
- Expect 70% success in the spring with walk away splits, but results are highly variable—percentage drops off as season progresses due to queen loss during mating flights from increased dragonfly and bird predation

Join Us for Iowa Honey Bee Day



Submitted by Jamie Beyer, IHBD coordinator and CIBA President

Plans are progressing for Iowa Honey Bee Day on Wednesday, March 30. It will begin with a 7-9 a.m. reception for legislators at the Capitol Building in Des Moines. We have reserved most of the Rotunda on the first floor of the Capitol for this event that is organized by the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA).

Sure, it's early, but this is the best time to catch legislators before they're in committee meetings or in session. I cannot emphasize enough the impact that this reception has on lawmakers and their decisions about honey bees. Plan to arrive well before 7 a.m. so you can park and get inside the Rotunda before everything gets going.

Our new CIBA Honey Queen, Olivia Moody, plans to attend as well as IHPA Queen Allison Hager and queens from other Iowa bee clubs. We also are inviting IHPA Youth Scholarship students and their parents to attend. What an opportunity for them to learn the legislative process!

Immediately after the reception, we will offer a guided tour of the Capitol for anyone who wants to see more of this beautiful building. As a side note, you'll see a honeycomb design in the floor of the Rotunda where we're having the reception. Join us on the tour to find out why!

We are asking Governor Reynolds to sign a proclamation that sets March 30 as 2022 Iowa Honey Bee Day, noting the importance of honey bees in our state. We also have asked beekeepers throughout Iowa to request similar proclamations be signed in their own communities. Two years ago, more than 40 city and county governments approved Honey Bee Day proclamations and we'd love to surpass that number this year.

We have the tools to influence our legislators – we just need to use them. I hope to see everyone March 30. Contact me if you have questions, want to help, or just want to comment.

Thanks for being a CIBA member and part of a great beek community.

Meet Your CIBA Board Member: Jim Crandall, Sr.

I started keeping bees in 2016, with two hives, that I killed the first winter. I was working at Barilla in Ames and talking with Mark Tinjer, a beek from Humbolt who likes to talk about bees. I was interested enough to subscribe to Bee Culture magazine and soon became hooked on the idea of making my own honey and saving money. Wow, was I wrong about that idea!

I took the beginning beekeepers class in Marshalltown – twice (it sometimes takes a while for things to soak in). Phil Ebert and Margaret Hala did a great job putting on the class. This year I went into winter with 11 hives, all located just outside the Newton city limits.

I joined CIBA in 2016 with the complimentary membership that I received when I enrolled in the Marshalltown beekeeping class. I don't mind talking to people and helping them with bee questions. Right now I am mentoring a new beek in Newton.

My biggest challenge is getting bees through the winter. It's a great feeling to have live bees in April. I enjoy making splits and catching swarms.

Here's my advice to new beeks: Keep checking your hives, make sure your hive is queen-right, don't crowd the queen and keep enough honey supers on, treat for mites, watch for robbing and small hive beetles. And make sure they have access to water.

I've been married to Chris for 50 years (she's a very patient lady). We have one son, Jim, Jr. He and his wife, Jes, have given us seven grandchildren, ages 19 down to 6 years, none of which like to be stung. They live in Minnesota.



Registering Your Hives



Whether you're new or a veteran beekeeper, you will want to register your hives or renew your hive registration each year on the state's sensitive crops directory. Registering your colonies – the number and areas where they are located – is one way to let your neighbors know that you have honey bees, which can be affected by pesticide drift.

Iowa code limits and restricts the timing of commercial applications of pesticides that are toxic to bees within one mile of beehives registered on the state's sensitive crops directory. According to the rule adopted in 2009, applicators can apply chemicals to blooming crops near registered hives only before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. Applicators are not required to contact the hive owner.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) uses the non-profit company FieldWatch™ Inc. to provide online registry tools for sensitive crops, including beehives. You can choose either on DriftWatch™ or BeeCheck™; both are part of FieldWatch. Registration is free, but all registrations expire each year on March 31. The CIBA website has a special page for this information, plus details on apps and how to order no-spray signs: <https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/beecheck-hive-registry>

Cooking with Honey

When substituting for sugar:

- Substitute 3/4 cup honey for 1 cup sugar.
- Reduce total amount of other liquids in the recipe by 1/4, for every cup of honey used.
- Lower the baking temperature by 25 degrees – to avoid over-browning.

Honey crystallizes:

- This is normal and the honey is not harmed in any way. To re-liquefy, simply place the container of honey in a pan of warm (not hot) water until crystals disappear. Occasional stirring quickens the process.
- Don't microwave honey to liquefy. It won't heat evenly, forming very hot spots of liquid honey within the still-crystallized honey – this ruins the flavor.



Storing honey:

- Don't refrigerate it. Cool temperature accelerates crystallization. Room temperature is generally best.
- Well-kept honey will never spoil but changes will occur over time including a darkening of color, a loss of some aroma compounds, and a breakdown of enzymes.
- Keep the container closed and in a dry place to avoid absorption of moisture which could eventually lead to fermentation. While refrigeration is generally avoided, freezing your honey can keep it "fresh from the hive" for very long periods of time.

Honey Lemonade

- 6 Tablespoons honey
- 1 lemon, cut in thin slices
- 1 cup lemon juice
- 1 quart water – carbonated water is good

Red Pepper-flavored Honey

- 1 1/2 cups honey
- 2 teaspoons (...or so) red pepper flakes

Heat this mixture on very low heat for 10 minutes. Store & use as is, or let it stand for a couple hours after heating, then strain the honey into containers for use.

Information courtesy Andrew Joseph, State Apiarist, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship



Sweet Treats:

Here's another idea: Top sliced pears with soft cheese and a bit of honey for a sweet treat. Also decorate hexagon-shaped sugar cookies with a fun honey bee theme. Treats made by Cook's Emporium, Ames.

Upcoming Beekeeping Class

Editor's Note: Andy provided a late entry for a 2022 beginning bee class due to uncertainty in knowing if he would be able to teach a class this spring. Normally we would encourage readers to visit the IHPA website to view the beekeeping class list, but with the late arrival, we wanted to call attention to this class.

Who: Anyone interested in starting off right this spring, or wants to learn about honey bees/beekeeping.

What: Beekeeping Basics - everything to get you started and thru your 1st year successfully.

When: Starts March 24, 2022; 4 consecutive Thursday evenings; 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Franklin Junior High, 4801 Franklin Avenue, Des Moines

Cost: \$40 - Includes the course, handouts, a small guidebook, and a 1st year membership to both the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association and the Iowa Honey Producers Association!

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From the Editor Laura Miller

A Million Places to Go for Information – Where Do You Go?

If you're like me, you're always looking for information about honey bees. They're fascinating creatures and deserve all the attention that they can get.



One of the most delightful publications to come across my desk was a beautiful magazine called *2 Million Blossoms*. It was launched by Kirsten Traynor, an English major turned PhD in bee science. The quarterly journal was filled with gorgeous photos, science-based articles, and everything you'd want to know about pollinators.

Sadly, the magazine stopped publication last fall. I was happy to learn that she will continue her podcast and newsletter by the same name, *2 Million Blossoms*, and available without charge. Both are full of interesting information. On my to-do list is to watch her presentation from the London Honey Show, **Reading A Hive** (find it on YouTube).

Traynor was a keynote speaker at the 2019 Iowa Honey Producers Association's annual conference in Des Moines. I listened to her talk about varroa mites and she knows her stuff! She's also conducted lots of research in Germany as well as Arizona State University. Currently, she directs the bee lab at the University Hohenheim near Stuttgart, Germany.

All this brings me to my next question: How do you learn more about honey bees? It's a big world out there in cyberspace and I'd like to know who you go for information. What web sites do you find reliable? Who do you like to watch or listen to? Do you have any favorite books that you use for reference, or just for fun?

If you're looking for a place to start, we have compiled a brief list on the CIBA website:

<https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/our-favorite-links>

Send your links, books and references to me at

Beeline_Editor@yahoo.com and we'll be sure to share. I'm anxious to hear from you!



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