

# THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers



## ISSUE

Spring 2017

## UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION

**March 18, 2017**

- 5:00 p.m. Auction Committee meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner on your own
- 6:00 p.m. Business meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Officer elections
- 8:00 p.m. **Dr. James Pease**

### **Bonanza Steakhouse**

5029 N.E. 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
Des Moines, IA 50313

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## AGENDA

- ✓ Membership Renewals
- ✓ Voting on new by-laws
- ✓ Auction Committee – Volunteers Needed

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## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

**DEADLINE: May 15, 2017**

### **Email Submissions**

[johnpaulj77@gmail.com](mailto:johnpaulj77@gmail.com)

### **Mail Submissions**

Valerie Just  
4609 Crestmoor Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50310

We encourage you to receive the newsletter via email. You may make updates to your subscription, or add a subscription by sending a notification to: [johnpaulj77@gmail.com](mailto:johnpaulj77@gmail.com)

## From the President, Arvin Foell

I saw snowflakes March 1, so I am calling it: March came in like a LION so let us assume March will go out like a LAMB.

We have a great meeting set up March 18th. This is the most important meeting of the year because we will choose new leadership for the coming year. Anyone and everyone who has paid their membership dues is eligible for any of the offices and board positions and can vote. We also have several committees you could get involved with our bee club. In addition to our election of officers, we will have a program featuring Jim Pease, retired extension wildlife specialist and a beekeeper for forty years. Jim is an entertaining speaker and of course, has many interesting beekeeping stories.

As the election draws near, I want to thank each one of you for making Central Iowa Beekeepers Association a great club. As most of you know, this is my final President's Letter. It has been an honor to serve all of you in this position over these many years. We have a strong slate of candidates for this coming year. I will continue to work on the board as the Past President. Also, I will be available by phone or email to answer your beekeeping questions.

## From the Editor, Valerie Just

As Arvin moves to a new role in our organization, I wanted to convey a heartfelt thank you for the more than 16 years of dedicated and passionate service Arvin has provided to our group in the President's role.

Through the years, Arvin has mentored many new beekeepers, and in doing so, has essentially been a guardian angel to our honey bees. My colonies would not be thriving if not for the patience and wisdom that Arvin has afforded my husband and I over the past two years. I know I speak for many in conveying to Arvin that he has made a significant difference to the beekeeping communities throughout Central Iowa.

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CIBA Business

### March Meeting Agenda Details

**Guest Speaker: Dr. James Pease, Emeritus Associate Professor at ISU**

"Inspiration by Bees for Nature"

Dr. James Pease, Emeritus Associate Professor, Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University, will present a talk on "Inspiration by Bees for Nature" at the March CIBA meeting. Dr. Pease has kept bees for 40 years. His 2-6 hives each year have been used to teach kids and adults about bees and beekeeping

Dr. Pease retired from ISU in 2008. While at ISU he was an Extension Wildlife Specialists and he continues his interest and activity in that field. You may have heard him on Charity Nebbe's "Talk of Iowa" morning and evenings on Iowa Public Radio where he is a regular and fields questions monthly Dr. Pease is an entertaining and informative speaker and listening to his years of experience in beekeeping and knowledge of wildlife will be a pleasure to hear.

### **Election of Officers and Directors**

The March 18 meeting will include election of CIBA Officers and Directors for 2017. The CIBA Board has talked to many of you about serving and will have suggested nominees for the meeting. If you are interested in serving for the coming year it is not too late to step forward. Please contact any of the Officers or Board members. We will also be taking nominations from the floor at the meeting. Presently the open positions for 2017 include the President, Vice President, Treasurer, a 3-year Director and a 1-year Director.

### **CIBA By-Laws revision**

At the September 2016, CIBA meeting, proposed changes to the CIBA By-Laws were presented and discussed. The suggested changes have been incorporated and those By-Laws revisions will be voted on at the March 18, 2017 meeting. This will be the first revision of the By-Laws since 1989. Last year and 2017 members will receive the proposed By-Laws in a separate mailing 10 days prior to the March 18, 2017, meeting. This is per a requirement in the present By-Laws on the process required for amendment. Please come and vote at the March meeting.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The Winter Seminar took the place of a meeting.

### **Winter Seminar**

The on January 21, 2017, Winter Beekeeping Seminar featuring Mr. Michael Bush and hosted by the Des Moines Backyard Beekeepers (DMBB) and the Central Iowa Beekeeping Association (CIBA) was a great success. The organizing committee was holding their breath fearing a January Iowa snowstorm, but instead we had a foggy start which slowed people and the speaker down from getting to the seminar. In all we had 250 registrants of which 225 made it on that Saturday. Several people had last minute change of plans, notified us, and we were able to offer several of the people we initially had turned away seats to the seminar.

Mr. Bush's four one-hour presentations were well received. Everyone seemed to enjoyed the break treats and the catered noon luncheon served by Hickory Park, Ames, IA. Evaluations overall were very positive on the facility, speaker and organization.

A big thank you to the DMBB and CIBA Organizing Committee and all the volunteers who pitched in on the day of the event.

The following is the seminar financial snapshot:

Transaction Information	Expenses	Income	Gain / Loss
Winter seminar income		\$4,084.15	
Winter seminar expenses	\$4,937.28		(\$853.13)

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report will be provided at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Call to Action

### **2017 Membership Dues**

Membership in CIBA runs on a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you have not done so already, membership for 2017 is now due. You must be a current member to participate in the election of officers and directors at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. You can pay your dues at the meeting or send your payment, with a completed membership application form, to:

Margaret Hala  
1988 Vine Ave.  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Dues are \$10 per person or \$15 for a family. [A membership form](#) is on page 15.

### **CIBA Annual Beekeeping Equipment Auction**

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Highway 141 in Perry, one mile from Dallas County Hospital

Consignments 8-10 AM

Auction 10 AM

The CIBA Annual Beekeeping Equipment Auction Committee will have a meeting starting a 5:00 p.m. prior to the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at Bonanza. If you can help with organizing, clean up or wish to be part of the food sub-committee please come. All are welcome.

More details on the auction can be viewed using the following link: [Details on the auction.](#)

Access an equipment consignment form here: [Auction Equipment Consignment document.](#)

### **Call for CIBA Honey Queen nominees!**

CIBA is looking to select a young lady for our Honey Queen. If you have a member in your family or you know of a youth interested in honeybees that would like to represent CIBA, please contact one of the Board members.

This is an opportunity for a youth to gain experience in public speaking and share their knowledge and experience in beekeeping. Duties include participating in CIBA meetings and representing CIBA at the Iowa State Fair and at the Iowa Honey Producers Association Annual Meeting. Qualifications include an interest in honeybees, a willingness to speak in public, have the enthusiasms to convey a positive beekeeping message and be 14-18 years old. Having recipes that use honey and can be shared during talks is desirable! :-)

One of the former CIBA Honey Queens, Belle Hemesath, went on to be the Iowa Honey Queen and then the American Honey Queen. Funds from the food and drink stand at the CIBA Annual Beekeeping Equipment Auction are earmarked to support the activities of the CIBA Honey Queen.

## Beekeeping Banter

### You Know You are a Beekeeper When...

Excerpts from an article by John Caldeira at [OutdoorPlace.org/beekeeping/youknow](http://OutdoorPlace.org/beekeeping/youknow)

- ♣ You check out all the honey labels and prices at the supermarket.
- ♣ You pick up matches at restaurants, even though you don't smoke.
- ♣ Your friends and neighbors think you are the answer to every swarm and bees-in-the-wall problem.
- ♣ There is propolis on the steering wheel of your vehicle and the bottom of your boots.
- ♣ There is a bucket of something in your garage that can only be good for smoker fuel.
- ♣ You are called "the Bee Man," or "the Bee Lady" by a lot of people who don't know your name.

### DID YOU KNOW...

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Propolis** is made from sticky plant and tree resin and is used by the bees as a glue and an anti-bacteria substance in the hive. The composition of propolis varies from hive to hive, from district to district, and from season to season. Normally, it is dark brown in color, but it can be found in green, red, black, and white hues, depending on the sources of resin found in the particular hive area. Honey bees are opportunists, gathering what they need from available sources, and detailed analyses show that the chemical composition of propolis varies considerably from region to region, along with the vegetation. In northern temperate climates, for example, bees collect resins from trees, such as poplars and conifers (the biological role of resin in trees is to seal wounds and defend against bacteria, fungi and insects). "Typical" northern temperate propolis has approximately 50 constituents, primarily resins and vegetable balsams (50%), waxes (30%), essential oils (10%), and pollen (5%). Propolis also contains persistent lipophilic acaricides, a natural pesticide that deters mite infestations.

**The term 'beeline'** comes from the 'bee line' these clever insects make to the flower of their choice, using the shortest route possible.

**The term 'beek'** means bee geek.

## Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship News

### Sensitive Crop Registry Update

Paul Ovrom with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship advised in January that the new registry site is up and running. The registry homepage link is as follows:

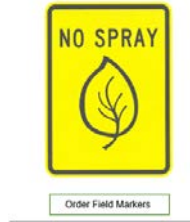
[http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Horticulture\\_and\\_FarmersMarkets/sensitiveCropDirectory.asp](http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/sensitiveCropDirectory.asp)

Once on the webpage, on the right side you can access a **FIRST TIME USER INSTRUCTIONS** link. Also on the right side of the homepage, you can link to the FieldWatch online registries for beekeepers and crop producers.



## No Spray Signs Available for Order

The Iowa Department of Agriculture has field markers available for sale. Department “No Spray” markers are durable aluminum 12” x 18” signs. Signs are available only to those that have registered on the driftwatch® or beecheck® registries. An order form for IDALS signs can be found by clicking on the “Order Field Markers” link under the picture of the “No Spray” sign on this page.



## CIBA Member Contributions

### Show Me the Honey!

By Arvin Foell

Well, how are your bees doing? I have had heavy losses during the cold spell in January. I believe my problem was mites because I still had several frames of honey on these dead hives. I took these frames of honey from the dead hives and placed the live colonies. As Glen Stanley always said, honey is the best food for bees. During those warm days in February, I fed some sugar syrup and added more winter patties. I am going to split these strong colonies this spring to replace my losses.

I have read on Facebook that some people are advocating feeding pollen patties. I caution anyone who is thinking of doing this. When you feed protein to bees the queen will ramp up her laying, thus increasing the population which is good, but it is too early, in my opinion, to start building up bee colonies. If we get some cold weather, these bees could starve. Also by building up your bee population this early, you could invite swarming. So, if you are going to stimulate your colonies, make sure they do not run out of feed. I know in the last couple of weeks, my bees have been bringing in some natural pollen thus increasing their population and then we had a cold snap, so watch your hives to make sure they have food. If it is too cold for sugar water, use winter patties or as Andy Joseph suggests, put granular sugar on a newspaper on top of hive bars. Remember, we lose more bees in March than any other month.

## Margaret's FAQs

By Margaret Hala

Question	Margaret Says
<p>Q1. I have a strong hive that looks like it will make the winter, and it needs some work done on it. The bottom chamber wood is in good shape, but needs painting. Can I paint it with bees still in it, or will it kill or otherwise harm my bees?</p>	<p>Painting a hive with bees inside isn't a problem. Late in the day works best. Choose a good latex paint.</p> <p>Another option is to move the frames to another hive body and then complete the repairs. <b>DO NOT REARRANGE THE BROOD NEST</b> until you know what you're doing and <b>NEVER</b> split a brood nest early in the spring or on a new colony. If all the bees have moved to the top brood chamber removing the bottom brood chamber makes it an easy thing to do as you can then sort frames that need to be repair or replaced.</p>
<p>Q2. Last year I had trouble with swarming. One of the swarms I caught wouldn't stay in the new box with foundation I gave them. I had to catch and hive them 4 times before they stayed, and then I'm convinced, only because a more experienced beekeeper told me to coat the foundation with honey. It worked. Is there a better way to manage this situation?</p>	<p>If you have access to it, place a frame of open brood in the center of the hive. Bees will not usually leave brood. If you don't have access to brood try spraying the foundation with sugar water or corn syrup, then put a feeder bucket on the hive as soon as the bees are inside. This will give them a reason to stay. The advice I give most often is, "No more than 5 frames of brood the first week of May." One–two full frames of eggs, one frame larvae and one frame capped. The hive already has a lot of hatched bees, so slowing the increase helps in overcrowding. Second week of May leave one more frame of eggs/larvae. Honey flow usually/may start the first part June and this gives the hive time to get population up again.</p> <p>Heat often promotes and aggravates swarming, especially later in the year. Try placing #4 mesh screens over the inner cover holes and 1" blocks on each corner, or at least 2 corners of one end of the inner cover, then put the outer cover on. This gives some convection cooling to help cool the hive and speed the ripening of the nectar. This helps reduce the swarm drive. The reason for the screen over the inner cover hole is to stop other bees from robbing.</p>
<p>Q3. I was told to put a queen excluder under the bottom brood chamber to keep a swarm queen from leaving after capturing a swarm. That doesn't work! Why?</p>	<p>For a queen to fly she must not be laying eggs, whether she's old or new. If she can fly, she can go through a queen excluder slot. Refer to Q2. - the frame of brood or spraying the comb with sugar water or corn syrup may help keep bees in their new home. Give them food to keep them there till the queen is laying.</p>
<p>Q4. Where is the queen located within a swarm? If the swarm is located on a limb or some other thing that they are hanging from is she in the top or bottom half? Does anyone know?</p>	<p>From what I've could find out, no one knows. However, most think she' probably in the top 1/3. Brushing the swarm into a box may injure her and shaking them into the box may miss her. Using a vacuum set-up is probably the best, but impossible to do 20 feet in the air. If you do shake, knock the branch sharply upwards or shake side to side.</p>
<p>Q5. What is a winter cluster? What does it look like? What do they need for food supplies?</p>	<p>A winter cluster is the young bees that have been produced since Sept./Oct. and will live all winter as they aren't out bringing in pollen and nectar during the cold months. They are just normal looking bees who are clustered together a bit more than they are during warm/hot times. As for what they need in the way of food supply that—that depends on your location. Here, in Central Iowa, I would recommend 80-100 pounds of honey stored away. It depends on the winter if you can get by with less than 80 pounds. The more days the bees can be active and move around in the hive, the more food they consume, so a cold winter is easier on their food consumption. During late January and into February when we had warmer temperatures, it was a good time to check remaining supplies of feed and get food on them---if you have any live colonies.</p>

Question	Margaret Says
<p>Q6. I want to use powdered sugar dusting as a mite control this season, but think that dumping the used sugar and the mites that fall through a screen onto a corrugated board onto the ground is counter-productive. Wouldn't it make more sense to put it into a plastic bag to take home and dispose of? Wouldn't the mites just crawl back into the hive?</p>	<p>Some have done this and while dusting weekly or bi-weekly keeps mite levels down, it doesn't make them drop. If it doesn't drop the mite load, is it worthwhile doing? You'll just have to treat in the fall, but I can see where it could be beneficial during the summer if your mite load is high.</p> <p>Note: Do not include any antibiotics in the powder sugar dusting as this kills up to 85% of the brood. (Editor's note: As of December 31, 2016, antibiotics are not obtainable for use in honeybees without contacting a licensed veterinarian under the Veterinary Food Directive of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This is intended to prevent development of antibiotic resistance transfer to people.)</p>
<p>Q7. I caught a swarm and that started me in keeping bees. I noticed that my overwintered colonies don't draw comb like that swarm did and I'm wondering why.</p>	<p>Comb drawing depends on a couple of main factors. One is availability of nectar--bees only swarm (usually) during a honey flow. Secondly it depends on the age of the bees. All bees can and will draw comb if necessary, but young bees can do it better. Their honey drawing glands are not as old and dried up as those in older bees.</p> <p>A swarm is comprised mostly of younger bees, so they can start the comb drawing process for the queen to start laying; the older bees that accompany the swarm bring in 'food' to feed the new colony. This means as soon as the nectar flow starts in the spring you should be ready to start supering your hives with foundation--if you want comb drawn.</p> <p>There is nothing wrong with the older queens. It's the overwhelming number of young bees in the swarm that let it draw comb so well. The older queened colony may not be ready, numbers wise, or draw that much new comb,</p>
<p>Q8. I've always heard that swarm queens aren't any good; you need to use a supercedure queen or purchase one. Aren't all queens about the same? Why can't I use a 'swarm' queen?</p>	<p><b>EMERGENCY QUEEN</b>—The queen is gone and must be replaced NOW! The colony will use any egg or uncapped larvae to make a new queen. If that larvae have been fed the same food that is fed to worker and drones she will be an inferior queen. If started from an egg, she may be a good queen.</p> <p><b>SUPERCEURE QUEEN</b>---The existing queen has been injured or is losing her pheromone strength and this tells the colony that she needs to be replaced. This may be a good queen if the colony started a new queen before the old one failed completely.</p> <p><b>REPRODUCTIVE QUEEN</b>---This is a new thought on queens, but the nature of all species is propagation and bees propagate by swarming. When the nectar flow starts and bee numbers increase the colony will start a few (3-6) swarm cells to create a new queen to start a new hive. These will probably be good queens if you catch them or removed the cells to start new colonies (nucs). These queens are usually better fed, better cared for and better mated.</p> <p><b>OVERCROWDING QUEEN</b>---This is the last step in propagation queen making. The colony is OVERCROWDED and makes numerous queens to be able to split and relieve crowding. It's gone beyond propagation. These queens may or may not be good, but we take them and start new colonies. If they aren't any good, we give them the 'glad hand shake' and combine the remaining bees with a nuc that looks good.</p>



# Musings from a Neophyte Beekeeper

By Valerie Just

The end of 2013 was a time of reflection – for the last 31 years, my primary focus was my family and my day job. I didn't have the time or energy to focus on personal goals – my time was spent meeting the needs of my family and my employer. I had an epiphany that it was time to heed my inner voice and start working on personal aspirations. I signed up for the Polk County Master Gardner program and completed that program in 2015. This was an important factor, for as we all know, bees and flowers have a symbiotic relationship!! I dedicated time and effort to converting a significant portion of my landscape gardens to native plants that promote our pollinators, including our beloved Monarch butterfly.

My husband's uncle was a beekeeper for years in southern Iowa – we visited them occasionally, and my husband, John, would talk about his uncle's beekeeping hobby. My interest was piqued; however, it took decades before I could act. In 2015, John and I took Andy Joseph's Beginner Beekeeping class at DMAAC in Ankeny, and we were enamored.

Despite our good intentions, we've had many lessons learned over the past two years; lessons that impacted the health and well-being of our bees. To afford you the opportunity to not only learn from our mistakes but also learn of our good fortune, I am providing guidance derived from our first two years of beekeeping:

## **A good beekeeper learns his craft and grows his business.**

1. **Bee realistic.**  
Beekeeping is hard work. It requires planning, study, support and investment – not to mention the hot, sticky, heavy and sometimes frustrating nature of the work. No matter how much you read, only hands-on experience will give you a feel for what's involved.
2. **Take a beginning beekeeper class before you make an investment in beekeeping.**  
A beginner beekeeping class is essential to your prosperity, and the health and well-being of your bees. While I love beekeeping and these remarkable creatures, beekeeping is not a hobby for the faint-hearted. There is a considerable financial expenditure, as well as a time and energy investment, and commitment to your bees is essential.
3. **Invest in two hives, not just one for the first year, but don't be over-zealous either.**  
Two hives are recommended because if something goes wrong in one hive, you have the other hive to equalize the issue. You are also able to compare the hives for similar behavior; the 'odd' behavior may be a sign that something is going awry. Being a novice, you may not pick up on an issue without the ability to compare. Allow yourself the first year to acclimate to beekeeping; I would highly recommend that you start slow and grow your hobby/business.

## **Join a local beekeeping club.**

In my experience, this is not a hobby (or business) to go it alone. I know I will NEVER know everything I need to know about beekeeping, and it is through the experience and wisdom of those that have gone before us that truly will make a difference in your early years of beekeeping. A club provides education and classes, the opportunity to 'pick the brain' of a commercial beekeeper, the state apiarist or a seasoned beekeeping veteran– Phil Ebert, Connie Bronnenberg, Andy Joseph and Arvin Foell have been our bees' guardian angels these past two years. Through the club, my husband also connected with a more seasoned beekeeper, and we have been so appreciative for his insight and generosity.

## **Order your bees early.**

I recommend that you start checking into ordering packages or nucs starting in mid-to-late January. You need to get your order in, or there may not be bees available to order.

## **The path to good beekeeping is often paved with stingers. Get protective gear.**

Initially, I didn't wear any protective gear at all. I discovered the hard way that bees are curious by nature, and they will crawl into any gap or opening they can find, such as the gap between a sandal and your foot, the opening of a boot-cut pair of jogging pants. I have discovered that Velcro is one of my best friends after ten or more bees crawled into the leg openings of my pants! I still don't wear a full body suit, but I highly recommend that you find some means to close gaps in your clothing and that you wear a veil with a string tie-down.

## **Extracting Honey**

Cover up your honey frames when you take them off the hive. Trust me, the bees will follow the honey frames. We have had a massive number of bees in our garage because we either didn't cover up the frames when we walked to the house, or we left the garage door open with our frames fully exposed. For the most part, our neighbors have been supportive of our endeavors, but they get concerned when thousands of bees are circling.

My husband and I love beekeeping – bees are awe-inspiring critters and I hope we can always maintain our apiaries. Know that it takes time to become proficient, knowledgeable and skilled at beekeeping. Along the way, you are bound to make mistakes and learn from them. This is not bad beekeeping – unless you repeat these mistakes often enough to cause you or your bees serious problems. Whether you start beekeeping because you are passionate about our environment and want to give back to a weakened ecosystem in a small way or you just want to experience a glorious return on a small investment - your own honey and the ability to make your own lip balm - I believe that you will find this journey rewarding and you will develop a passion for these creatures that have so much to teach us.

## **Mentoring**

By Jamie Beyer, CIBA, IHPA member and Hobbyist “Beek”

This is “my” story of becoming a beek. It highlights the importance of the mentoring process to having a lot of fun with the hobby and some success. Success always makes things more fun.

The last two years have been an incredible journey for me in my hobby of beekeeping. For many years, I had resisted a beekeeping friend's suggestion of becoming a “beek”, mostly because I already have too many hobbies. However, a couple of years ago, retirement from my 40h/week job left me with more time to explore a new hobby. So, I took my friend's suggestion to keep bees, and in the process, he became my first mentor.

I sat down with him on a February night for my first of many mentoring sessions. He gave me the name of a favorite supply catalog and suggested the type of basic equipment beginners should have. It was basically a start-up package of 10 frame deeps and supers, along with essential gear. He also loaned me a couple of books to read during the winter and suggested where to get my first packages of bees. I ordered two packages, as he suggested, and was off and running.

After several subsequent visits and phone calls with my mentor, I was starting to get nervous about the big day when my bees would arrive. I found out that I was too late to register for a bee class that winter and my bees were arriving in a few short weeks. My equipment arrived and I became very busy painting the hives. In between my work on the hives, I was a pest to my mentor, asking many questions. I also read a lot and watched some YouTube videos. The YouTube videos got me psyched up for installing my packages, but I had to ask my mentor to help me the day they arrived. That was so exciting and his help was crucial for my first experience with bees – these were MY girls!!

Since those first experiences, I have attended classes and as many bee group meetings/field days that I could. My questions were becoming more technical and my original mentor could not answer them – so I asked who his mentor was. So.... his mentor also became mine, but just by phone calls – some of them lengthy. I could not believe the generosity of these guys for the time they devoted to my questions.

For a while I was really feeling guilty about asking for so much guidance from these guys, but the guilt faded when I realized that this is what good mentors do in the beekeeping culture. Since then, I have become friends with a very well-experienced beek who lives near me and has the same philosophies that I have come to adopt on how to take care of bees. Both he and I attend all the group meetings that we have time for and even sit down occasionally for a few hours to just talk bees. Since he lives close by it is easier to car pool to meetings and, also, to see each other's hives. I am still in contact with my original mentor and my role has even been somewhat reversed. I now seem to be mentoring him, even with my limited experience. I always qualify myself by saying that I do not have much experience yet but this is what I have learned to do. This is an important part of the mentoring process – very few mentors have done every procedure of taking care of bees. So, learning together becomes a very fun aspect of the hobby.

I have now devoted so much time to the hobby that I have more confidence in my ability. However, even now, my mentor will explain something to me that seems way too complicated. In these cases, I ask him to write it down so I can think about the entire process, sentence by sentence. There are so many things I have not done yet – like raise my own queens, for example. Even my mentor has not done this yet, but we both will learn together.

The right way of becoming a bee keeper is to go to a class first. This would have saved my early mentors much of their time. However, without owning bees, even in a beginner class, it will be difficult to understand everything. It is a good practice to attend a class before keeping bees, and then attend the same class after a year of actual beekeeping experience. Things will make more sense after the responsibility of taking care of bees for a year.

The next step after taking a class to become a successful beek is to find an experienced mentor in your area that has kept bees for many years. This mentor will be candid about the losses he or she has had and may not have all the answers. Everybody makes mistakes in the process of becoming a beek. The fact is that there are some questions and losses that simply cannot be answered easily. These good mentors will almost always have excess bees in the spring that they will use to either expand their own colonies or, in many cases, sell their extra nucs. Almost every successful beek I know has had a mentor. In talking with large commercial beeks, I've learned that even they have had mentors in their early days of beekeeping.

As you may have already heard, “for every beek there are at least five ways of going about keeping bees”. Every experienced beek will have their opinion and it becomes extremely confusing as to what is the “best” way. Also, one reference (whether it is a book or something off the internet) will say to do something this way and then the next reference will say just the opposite. You're going – WHAT??! A good mentor is one that will help you through most of the different opinions.

Mentoring other beekeepers is a crucial part of the beekeeping culture. I have been blessed with some very good beeks that gave their time to me unselfishly. As I gain experience, I am happy to give back to the hobby and mentor someone else who is just starting out. I will do this like my mentors have done with me – unselfishly. I want to make my mentors proud of me.

If you don't have a mentor yet – do not be afraid to ask for help. Attempt to find someone who lives close and has the time to devote to you. It is a rare beek who would not help you. If you do run into this, perhaps it is due to a time limitation. Just try to find someone else. Also, attend bee classes, of course, but also attend field days put on by bee clubs. Any beek should have hands on training to learn some of the hobby.

CIBA ANNUAL BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT AUCTION  
Saturday, April 22, 2017  
Highway 141 in Perry, one mile from Dallas County Hospital  
Consignments 8-10 AM  
Auction 10 AM



The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) Annual Beekeeping Equipment Auction will be Saturday, April 22, 2017, at Spring Valley Honey Farm's Honey House in Perry, Iowa, right along Hwy 141. Follow the signs!

Accepting items for sale at the auction site from 8 AM until auction starts at 10 AM, unless otherwise arranged.

All comb will be inspected by the State Apiarist or designees starting at 8 AM. (Rejected equipment/comb must be removed from the premises immediately.)

Sellers **MUST** supply a list of all items with their name, address, and phone number. A form is on page 13 of this newsletter, or see the CIBA website ([CIBA website](#)). Entries will not be accepted without adequate contact information and a complete listing of items for sale.

Consignment fee is 15% (10% for current CIBA members consigning by March 18).

A concession stand offering delicious food and hot and cold drinks will be available. Don't eat too much before you show up at the auction! Proceeds from the concession stand go to the CIBA Honey Queen fund.

If you have excess equipment to sell, or if you are in need of equipment, come to the auction. Or just come and visit with other beekeepers and enjoy the food and company! Donations of equipment to CIBA will be sold and the proceeds used to support ongoing association projects.

To consign equipment prior to the auction or for questions please contact:

Margaret Hala  
1988 Vine Ave.  
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158  
(641) 752-2981  
email: [mhala@mchsi.com](mailto:mhala@mchsi.com)

Pat Ennis  
2105 110th St.  
Goodell, IA 50439  
(641) 444-4767  
email: [flat\\_lander@lycos.com](mailto:flat_lander@lycos.com)



# 2017 Auction Equipment Consignment Form

AUCTION EQUIPMENT CONSIGNMENT FORM			
Consigner Number			
Name			
Address			
City			
Phone			
Quantity	Reserve \$ amount	Item	Notes
		Full Hive	
		Full Hive with Supers	
		Deeps assembled	
		Mediums assembled	
		Shallows assembled	
		Deeps unassembled	
		Mediums unassembled	
		Shallows unassembled	
		Nuc Boxes	
		Frames with comb	
		Frames without comb	
		Frames unassembled	
		Queen excluders	
		Extractor	
		Inner cover	
		Outer cover	
		Screened bottom board	
		Regular bottom board	
		Division board feeder	
		Smoker	
		Veil	
		Bee suit	
		Hive tool	
		Bee Brush	
		Bee Books	
		Honey Buckets	
		Package containers	
		Queen rearing equipment	
		Robber screens	
		Comb scratcher	
Seller Signature:			
Auction Volunteer:			
Date:			



# Central Iowa Beekeepers Association 2017 Membership

New    Renewal from 2016

## PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

**Yearly dues \$10.00 for one person, \$15 for family residing at the same address**

(Family receives 1 mailed BEELINE newsletter/notice or one or more emailed newsletters/notices)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(additional) \_\_\_\_\_

(additional) \_\_\_\_\_

(additional) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(additional) \_\_\_\_\_

(additional) \_\_\_\_\_

(additional) \_\_\_\_\_

✓ Receive BEELINE newsletter via:  Email    USPS (mail)   **Select one**

✓ Receive notices and meeting reminders via:  Email    USPS (postcard)   **Select one**  
**(Receiving the newsletter, notices, and meeting reminders via email saves postage that can be used for special projects)**

✓ May we publish your information in a club member's booklet?  Yes    No  
**(Member info will be shared via membership booklet to members only)**

Ideas for presenters or topics at future meetings: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed form with payment to:**

Margaret Hala  
CIBA Treasurer  
1988 Vine Ave.  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

# CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

## CIBA Leadership

### **Arvin Foell, President**

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## Board of Directors

### **Julia McGuire (3 years)**

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### **Linn Wilbur (2 years)**

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### **Mark Eimers (1 year)**

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### **Mike Sander (Sub for Past Pres)**

1104 Scenic View  
Altoona, IA 50009  
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[masander3@gmail.com](mailto:masander3@gmail.com)

## State Organizations

### **Iowa Honey Producers Assn.**

Roy Kraft, President  
PO Box 1  
Goldfield, IA 50542  
(515) 293-2458  
[kroyster.rk@gmail.com](mailto:kroyster.rk@gmail.com)

### **Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship**

Wallace Building.  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
(515) 281-5736

### **State Apiarist**

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