

THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers



ISSUE

Summer 2017

UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION

June 17, 2017

6:30 p.m. Dinner on your own

7:30 p.m. Meeting

Bonanza Steakhouse

5029 N.E. 14th St.

Des Moines, IA 50313

BUSINESS MEETING

- ✓ Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Auction Report
- ✓ Board Report – Current Meeting Site

PROGRAM

- ✓ What are you seeing in your apiary?
- ✓ Liability Insurance Considerations
- ✓ Iowa State Fair Apiary Competition

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: August 15, 2017

Email Submissions

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

From the President, Mike Sander

Hi to all Central Iowa Beekeepers,

This is my first letter as the new president of CIBA. Thank you for choosing me for this position. I am very humbled by your choice, and hope to do a great job for you.

I would like to start with a few works of gratitude. First, to our board of directors, officers, sellers, buyers, as well as the auction and food committees, for a successful auction. Many of you put a lot of work into this event and it is greatly appreciated. Second, to our many members and past leaders who have participated with us throughout the years. I am looking forward to many more years to come.

I am excited about working with the people you have elected as board members and officers. The opportunities I have had to work with them in the past year have shown me that they are a group of hard working people passionate about club. If you do not know them, keep checking the Beeline for updates. Val, our new editor, is making a spot in the newsletter that will give each of them an opportunity to share a little bit about themselves. They all informed me that since I am the president I get to start. See my article in the '[Get to Know Your Club Leadership](#)' section of this issue.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Julie Sander, for supporting, and working so hard alongside me in this buzzing adventure.

Our upcoming meeting on June 17, 2017, will feature a well-rounded group of experienced beekeepers for you to ask questions of. If you are a new or experienced beekeeper this should be a good opportunity to get some questions answered, or learn some new tricks. If you are a long-time CIBA member, please look for and welcome any new attendees you may see. If you are new member please do not feel shy about introducing yourself to someone and make yourself at home. One of the big purposes of this club is to encourage you and maybe find a mentor, if you do not already have one.

See you at the meeting,

Mike

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Ponder This...

Contribution by Jolene Eriksen

Why does it take a whole box of matches to light up a smoker, yet a single match to burn down an entire forest?

CIBA Business

June Meeting: Program Details

➤ What are you seeing in your apiary?

Mike Sander, CIBA President, will lead a discussion on the current health and well-being of your bees.

➤ Liability Insurance Considerations

Did you ever consider how to handle a situation involving others and problems with your hives or honey? You could be liable. We will have a brief presentation and then a discussion led by Linn Wilbur on some of the ins and outs of liability insurance and his experiences while pursuing insurance for his hives and the hive products. If nothing else the information may raise questions you should be asking of your insurance agent.

➤ 2017 Iowa State Fair Apiary Competition

This year's Iowa State Fair and the Apiary competition is fast approaching. This is a great opportunity to feature your honey products and honey-related items to other beekeepers and the general public, as well as help the Fair and the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) promote beekeeping.

The Apiary competition is an open class that anyone can enter and costs just \$1 for each entry. Both ribbons and monetary prizes are awarded. This edition's article, [State Fair Honey Requirements](#), corroborates that it can be a daunting task the first time you enter. Our program will try to make that task easier and provide some "secrets" of how to prepare your entries by featuring people in-the-know and former blue-ribbon winners.

Speaker: Andy Joseph, State Apiarist and Iowa State Fair Apiary Superintendent. Andy will provide information on State Fair classes and how to apply. Andy, as the Apiary Superintendent, oversees the Apiary competition and will help us understand the different classes, deadlines and what to think about for entries.

Round Table: A panel, Andy Joseph and Roy Kraft (IHPA President) will be joined by last year's Apiary Judge. Roy has won multiple blue ribbons and who better to advise us than an Apiary Judge on what to do to be competitive. This should be a lively discussion and we hope others who have entered will join in to provide advice on what to submit, how to prepare, and "secrets" to being successful in the Iowa State Fair Apiary Competitions.

Meeting Minutes: March 18, 2017

By Jolene Eriksen, CIBA Secretary

In the absence of Arvin Foell, President, Marlene Mogle, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Reports were not provided by the Secretary or Treasurer.

Old Business

Regarding the bylaws, a motion was made to allow the treasurer to pay auction expenses. The motion was seconded and the motion was passed.

New Business

Eve Vandenbruck, Back to Basics Bee Club, shared information about the upcoming Summer Field Day, July 15, 2017, in Toddville, IA. There is a limit of 125 participants, so we are encouraged to register early. More information is in the Buzz.

More information was shared about the annual meeting, November 10th and the 11th. The meeting will be held in Oskaloosa, IA. All were encouraged to register early and book rooms as soon as possible. A discussion was held whether to have a honey swap among attendees. It was decided to encourage members to bring honey to exchange at the meeting.

The upcoming auction, April 22nd, was discussed. Set-up begins at 8 a.m. and auction begins at 10 a.m. There is a need for soda and water donations.

Election Results

Mike Sander was elected President; Linn Wilbur was elected Vice-President; Val Just was elected Treasurer; Jolene Eriksen was elected Secretary.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report will be reviewed at the quarterly meeting.

Auction Report

Contribution by Margaret Hala, written by Valerie Just

THANK YOU TO ALL THE HELPERS, AND THERE WERE MANY, AT THE AUCTION! The auction, CIBA's largest fund-raiser, would not have been a success without your hard work, dedication and support.

Here are auction details with a comparison to last year if the data was available:

| Auction Details | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Total Sales | \$5,625.50 | \$5,532.50 |
| CIBA Commission | \$809.85 | \$1275.50** |
| Expenses | \$144.52 | \$140.00 |
| Buyers that took numbers | 61 | 60 |
| Buyers that purchased | 46 | 35 |
| Buyer CIBA Membership Attendance | 24 | |
| Sellers | 16 | 10 |
| Seller CIBA Membership Attendance | 7 | |
| Food court profits: For the Honey Queen account | \$337.25 | \$146.50 |
| Total donations for the food court | \$210.00 | |
| Lowest Purchase | \$1.00 | \$7.00 |
| Highest Purchase | \$490.00 | \$667.00 |

****We had large donations from two sellers in 2016, so the profit was greater.**

A thank you to Jenny Burton and Ann Wilbur for all the work that they did to prepare and manage the food court at the auction. The food court was well-received again this year; there will be some changes planned for next year.

In addition, thank you to all that donated to make the food booth a success. Various members made contributions totaling approximately \$210.00, which significantly impacted our profits this year.

Call to Action

CIBA Membership Directory

The CIBA Membership Directory is published and mailed annually; you should be receiving the directory in June. Members listed in this directory have opted-in for the sharing of contact information and provided permission on the membership form when paying yearly club dues.

Please contact Jolene Eriksen, CIBA secretary, via email at joleneeriksen@centurylink.net or call Jolene at (515) 265-2304 if any of the published information is incorrect, or you want to opt-out of the contact information share for any future publications.

Membership Form

A membership form can be accessed on the CIBA website: [CIBA Membership Form](#)

For members receiving a paper copy, the website address is: <http://centraliowabeekeepers.org/>. Once you are on the website, go to the **Contact Us** section.

The Beeline Needs You!

By Valerie Just

The Beeline newsletter needs you! Within our By-Laws one of our objectives is 'To advance the art of beekeeping, honey production, and related interests'. We have a CIBA Member Contributions section that is just waiting to publish your heart-warming, humorous, passionate stories, experiences and journeys, as well as the sharing of your knowledge that can educate and engage our CIBA members to meet our club objective, such as:

- Your beekeeping journey
- Your experiences as a tenured beekeeper
- Your experiences as a newbie beekeeper
- The knowledge that you have relative to:
 - Honey plants
 - Overwintering
 - Pesticides
 - Urban beekeeping pros and cons
 - Rural beekeeping pros and cons
 - Making splits
 - Theft
 - Swarm control

The list is endless! The Coast Guard slogan "Be Part of the Action" applies; the sharing of your experiences, stories and knowledge as a CIBA member is a compelling means to engage, inspire and motivate our readers and assist our beekeepers to further their knowledge and education about a subject that is near and dear to all of us.

Please contact me if you would like to contribute, and need help getting started. I would be happy to gather information from you, and assist you with writing the story/article if you would find my support beneficial.

I look forward to hearing from you! I will leave you with the following quote by Mahatma Gandhi:

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Newsletter Delivery Options

By Linn Wilbur

What is the difference between selecting (as part of your membership) the option to receive information via electronic delivery and having communications mailed (USPS)?

First, selecting electronic delivery saves CIBA the cost of postage. That savings allows us to continue to keep membership dues as low as possible and to support other programs with our available resources.

Second, we can provide more information to you electronically. Presently only the quarterly BEELINE newsletter and the annual Membership Directory will be routinely mailed. The sending of reminder postcards has been discontinued.

Briefly, here is what is sent based on the delivery option you have chosen:

| Communication | Electronic Delivery | Mailed Delivery |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| BEELINE | Yes | Yes |
| Meeting reminders | Yes | No |
| Special information | Yes | No |
| Forwarded electronic information | Yes | No |
| By-Law changes (infrequent) | Yes | Yes |
| Annual Membership Directory | Yes | Yes |

Several members have asked to have both electronic and mailed communications. We would encourage you to select either one or the other.

If you would like to change your selection please contact the CIBA Secretary, Jolene Eriksen. Jolene's contact information in the [CIBA Leadership and State Organization](#) section of the Beeline.

Call for CIBA Honey Queen nominees!

We continue to look for candidates for the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Honey Queen. If you know of any young lady who might be interested, please contact one of the CIBA board members.

Connie Bronnenberg has agreed to assist CIBA and our Honey Queen with information and advice. This is a great opportunity for the CIBA Honey Queen, as Connie has many years in working with the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) Honey Queen and has mentored two Honey Queens in being selected and crowned as American Honey Queens.

Message from Carly Raye, IHPA Honey Queen

Hey all! I just wanted to let you know about an opportunity for young women to learn more about honey bees, honey, beekeeping, the Queen Program, and more! Young women 12-20 are invited to come (along with sisters, mothers, and friends) to Queen Day, a fun, informal get-together to chat about bees and learn how to get involved in educating and informing others about our industrious little insects! My mom and I will be hosting Queen Day in our home (located in Urbandale) on Saturday, June 10th from 5-8. For more information, send an email to myhoneyqueenaventure@gmail.com and we can chat!

DID YOU KNOW...

Honey bee trivia from <http://www.honeybeesonline.com/honey-bees/>

- ♣ Bees stroke their wings 11,400 per minute.
- ♣ The record harvest for one colony is 404 pounds, by the Aebis Family in 1974.
- ♣ Bees can see the same colors we see except red. They can also see ultraviolet.
- ♣ A foraging honey bee can carry 80% of their weight in pollen or nectar.
- ♣ Honey bees make up 80% of all pollinators.
- ♣ It takes approximately 3,500 bees to weigh 1 pound.

- ♣ The Romans used honey instead of gold to pay their taxes.

CIBAlist

Defining CIBAlist

You've heard of Craigslist, the website that provides classified advertisements with sections devoted to items for sale and items wanted; we are introducing CIBAlist to provide the same service for our CIBA beekeepers! If you have something beekeeping-related to sell, or are looking to purchase a specific beekeeping-related item, you can email The Beeline editor, Valerie Just, at johnpaulj77@gmail.com, or call (515) 278-4835. Here are the guidelines:

- CIBA members can place 2 free ads per calendar year for beekeeping-related items.
- Ads are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Ads **MUST** be submitted by the BEELINE submission deadline
 - The deadline is found on the first page of the BEELINE.
- Ads are limited to 4 lines including the title.
- CIBA is not responsible for errors or misprints. All ads are subject to board acceptability; the Board reserves the right to decline ads based on content and/or space availability.
 - At this time, we are not accepting non-member ads or paid ads--but may consider those in the future.

Insulated Winter Box Order

Are you interested in black corrugated plastic winter boxes for insulation? I have a Des Moines area manufacturer who will match last year's price of \$21. Send your name, estimated quantity desired (there isn't a minimum order), and email address to Julia McGuire at jcammcquire@yahoo.com. I'll keep a list and ask for hard commitment once September arrives.

Gallon Honey Jugs for Sale

We have new, glass, gallon honey jugs, caps included, to sell; 12 jugs per box, and we have a total of 18 boxes. We can deliver any orders to the June CIBA meeting on June 17th. The price per box is \$15.00 which equates to \$1.25 per jug. Call Margaret Hala at (641) 752-2981 or (641) 485-0813 – if no answer, just leave a message and we will return your call. Beekeeping Banter

You Know You are a Beekeeper When...

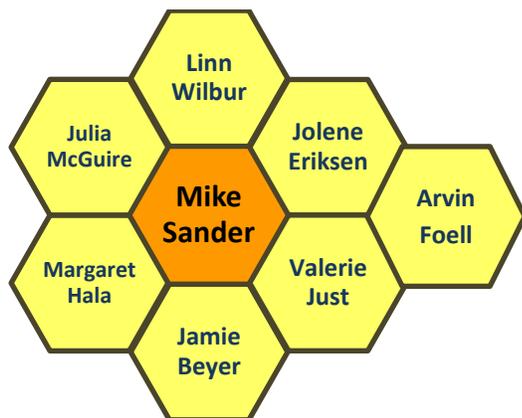
Excerpts from an article by John Caldeira at OutdoorPlace.org/beekeeping/youknow

- ♣ You know the bloom period of more local flowers than the state horticulturist.
- ♣ You don't mind driving home with a few honey bees inside your vehicle.
- ♣ Your family and friends know exactly what they're going to get for Christmas.
- ♣ You don't mow the lawn because the bees are working the weeds.
- ♣ You drive down a road and find yourself evaluating the roadside flowers for their honey-producing potential.
- ♣ You come home smelling like a camp fire, and you haven't been camping.
- ♣ You never stop marveling at these wonderful creatures.

Quote from **Andy Joseph**, our state apiarist:

The hair on the back of your hands is singed

Get to Know Your Club Leadership



Mike Sander, President

For the first 'Get to know your leadership' article I thought I would address a couple of things someone usually wants to know when they meet a beekeeper. The first would be how we got started keeping bees. The second is how many hives you manage.

Before I started keeping bees I had all the same fears that everyone else who does not keep bees usually has. Mainly, those fears were getting stung, and all the bees coming out of the hive to attack me. One day my youngest son came home from school and told me he was thinking of building a beehive for his high school woodworking project. I would love to say that I encouraged him and that was the start. Unfortunately, that is not how the conversation went. My lack of knowledge on honeybees combined with living in a city unfriendly to beekeepers, led to a much different conversation.

That was, however, the start of curiosity. Occasionally I would stumble across a video about bees on the web, and I would watch it. I soon began to wonder if it was as bad as I had built it up to be in my mind. People did keep bees as a business, or for their job, I would reason. My curiosity kept growing the more I learned, and soon turned to a fascination. Then I began to wonder about all the reports of massive bee losses, and wanted to know what that was all about.

One day I stumbled on an announcement for a Beginning Keeping Bees class. It was presented by our State Apiarist, Andy Joseph, and on the campus where I worked. I signed up, and asked my wife, Julie, if she wanted to join me, and she agreed. The class was very helpful and informative. In one of the first classes Andy made a comment about an old saying. It went something like this: "When an old man puts his head into a beehive he never takes it out". He went on to explain that it meant that bees were such fascinating creatures that once you start keeping them you really don't want to stop. Being in my forties and having all our kids out of the house, I remember jokingly turning toward my wife and telling her it sounded like this was her last chance if she wanted to not be involved. To my surprise, she stuck with it.

We started with two packages of bees like Andy suggested. We also ordered a nuc because I wanted to compare how they would grow and produce. We both really enjoyed the weekly inspections and watching them grow. I picked up a third package of bees when one became available. Those four grew, produced honey, and became seven before the start of winter.

Many people had talked with us about how hard winter is on bees. As you probably know, bee orders start in January, and I was worried that my bees might not make it through winter. Wanting to make sure I had some bees, I ordered 2 packages. Thanks to an easy winter, and lots of great advice from fellow beekeepers at our local clubs, all seven of our hives made it through winter. Those 2 new packages and overwintered hives again grew well. Before the next winter started they had turned into a combination of nucs and full size hives that numbered in the high forties.

Last winter handed us only a couple losses, and the hives are again up and growing quickly. It has been a challenge to stay ahead of them. Writing this in mid-May, numbers of hives and nucs have grown to about 60. This seems like the upper limit of what we are capable of since we both have full time jobs.

I feel like God has really used the bees to bless us. This has truly been a fascinating adventure. The best part however, is not the bees. It is all the great people we have met because of participating in the class and beekeeping club activities.

Thanks for reading, and hope you stop me to say hi the next time we are together.

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship News

News from our State Apiarist, Andy Joseph

By Andy Joseph

Hello.

It's June 5th as I'm writing. It's sunny and hot and the bees are flying. The overwintered hives have already made quite a bit of honey around here. And the new colonies are building up nicely. Surprising how well a lot of the bees are doing, given the long wet cool spring. Things are looking good overall now!

If you wind the clock back a few weeks, I was seeing a lot of EFB, mostly milder infections, but the bees mostly have gotten past it now. Same for chalkbrood infections. Right around the time a lot of us were making splits and others were receiving their packages, we went through a couple cold rainy snaps, and I think this is what stressed the bees & triggered the infections. Even saw several dead packages, mostly due to not having access to food. These small colonies need that food right there where they are. They should be able to be in cluster and still have access to a feeder. This means a hive top syrup feeder of some sort and a pollen patty, and all should be well for the tiny new hives. Access to antibiotics has become frustrating and annoying, so help the bees fend off some of these infections by making your splits good & strong, and providing lots of supplemental nutrition.

I've received calls and emails regarding small hive beetles (SHB). We saw more last year than in past years, for sure. Milder winter, very early warm up in spring and all the right conditions for them through the season = great reproductive success and extra generations of beetles developing in the season. They're all over Iowa. I'm still not scared of them. Keep your hives strong and healthy – get anything else taken care of ASAP. Make the size of the hive reflect the size of the colony – not too many extra boxes stacked up. Keep colonies in full sun. Keep grass trimmed down around them. Don't leave empty equipment / deadouts in the bee yard. You'll be fine. (Note that these guidelines mirror management against wax moths as well...) All this said, most of the calls & emails I've received this year about SHB, have not been SHB! There are several beetles commonly found in bee hives, and they don't tend to be pests. If you poke around in the debris on the bottom board, you're likely to find at least one species of beetle. They just scavenge around in the pollen, wax flakes, fungi, etc. If you find some beetles down on your hive bottom board that sort of look like small hive beetles, but are maybe a bit more slender and not quite the right size, have no concern, they're not hurting anything. Scroll through an image search for "sap beetles" and you'll probably find a twin for your specimen.

Iowa State Fair - it's coming up fast!! Please consider working a shift or two in the IHPA booth. It's a great time and really helps keep the IHPA rolling along! We had a good turn out last year in the Apiary Contests, following a couple "down" years. I exhibited in several classes for the first time last year, and now I can say with personal experience: It's a bit of work to get quality exhibits prepared – and it's definitely worth the effort! Please consider showing at this year's fair ... an observation hive, creamed honey, beeswax art, a window display, photography, an extracted frame of comb, there are all sorts of classes of competition. At the upcoming CIBA meeting, June 17 (if this note doesn't reach you too late), there will be a panel discussion featuring Ginny Mitchell, our Apiary Judge. Should be interesting, inspiring, and full of tips and tricks. If you think you may be interested in taking part,

there is an upcoming deadline of July 14th – you must have ordered your entry tags by this date. You can do this online at the [State Fair Online Entries website](#). Tags are still only \$1 each for most exhibit classes. Also, note that you don't even need to declare what classes you'll be entering, just the number of classes you hope to enter. Hope to see you all there. We had a great display last year – I'm hoping for even better this year!

State Fair Online Entries Guidance

Once you access the website as noted above, if you are a new user, you will need to choose New User, and fill out the necessary fields.

Once you have saved your information, you will be asked to log in. To enter an **Apiary** product, select **Iowa Family Living Entry** from the drop-down menu. You will then be able to choose **Apiary**.



USDA: National Agricultural Statistics Service Iowa AgriNews

March 31, 2017 Issue

Honey production from producers with 5 or more colonies in Iowa totaled 1.78 million pounds in 2016 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Honey* report. This was a 1 percent decrease from the 1.80 million pounds produced in 2015. The number of honey producing colonies in the state rose from 36,000 colonies in 2015 to 37,000 colonies in 2016. This number does not include producers with fewer than 5 colonies or producers who did not harvest honey. Colonies that produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state where they produced honey. Yield per colony in Iowa averaged 48 pounds, down from 50 pounds per colony in 2015. Iowa moved to nineteenth place nationally in honey production, down from eighteenth place in 2015.

On December 15, 2016, producer honey stocks in Iowa, excluding stocks under government loan programs, were 746 million pounds, a 25 percent decrease from 2015. The state's 2016 honey crop was valued at \$3.68 million, down 7 percent from the previous year's \$3.96 million. The average price per pound for all marketing channels in Iowa was \$2.07, down 13 cents from 2015.

Editor's Note: More Iowa Honey Statistics from this issue of the AgriNews can be located at [Bee & Honey March 31, 2017 Issue of Iowa AgriNews](#).

You can also search on the Internet for **USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Statistics by State**. Once on the website:

1. Select **Iowa** on the U.S. state map.
2. Under **Iowa Publications and Services**, choose **Agri-News**
3. Select **Vol 17-8, March 31, 2017**.

CIBA Member Contributions

CIBA Emeritus member: W. John Johnson

by Linn Wilbur

I first met John Johnson 4 years ago. I had been out of beekeeping for thirty-plus years; a lot had changed since I last kept bees and I needed help catching up. John was mentoring an informal group of Ames beekeepers and I had been invited by a friend to attend a spring meeting. John patiently answered the questions of the group and offered to help anyone that needed it. My wife, Ann, and I took him up on his offer and we asked that he look at a hive we were managing after inheriting it from a local part-time farmer. The hive was in the need of help after previously receiving minimal attention. With John's advice, this became the nucleus for several other hives and the start of John's mentoring of our bee operation.

John has been keeping bees for more than forty years. He has been a member of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) since moving to Ames from Spencer about 34 years ago. John is a former CIBA President, Iowa Honey Producers Association President and Vice President, and has taught many beekeeping classes both in Spencer and Central Iowa. He and Andy Joseph taught the Ankeny beekeeping course for several years when Andy first moved to Iowa to become the Iowa State Apiarist.

Over the last couple of years, John has been slowly decreasing his number of hives. He is still mentoring the Ames group and will continue to keep a few hives. He is in the process of consolidating his many years of written beekeeping advice. He has offered to share his collection of articles from teaching and mentoring. The BEELINE will periodically include pertinent articles he has written, appropriate to the season, in subsequent editions. In this edition of the Beeline, we are publishing "[Queenless Colony – What to Do?](#)."

John still attends CIBA meetings and you may have seen him at the Annual CIBA Auction. I hope you will take a few moments the next time he is at a meeting and talk with him. If you don't know him already, introduce yourself. He is a wealth of beekeeping information.



Queenless Colony – What to do?

By W. John Johnson

Packages of bees, nucs or overwintered colonies occasionally become queenless. Here are several options for dealing with the situation.

Best Choice

Unite with a queenright colony. This practice is successful most of the time. Do not unite a queenless laying worker colony with a queenright unit as the laying workers will usually kill the queen.

Proceed this way: Remove the queenright colony from the bottom board and set it aside. Set the queenless unit on the bottom board previously occupied by the queenright colony. Unite the two units with a single sheet of newspaper separating them. This usually results in a single queenright colony which is strengthened by worker bees from the queenless unit. When bees are mixed by uniting colonies, introducing queens, etc there is some risk the queen will be destroyed. But, there is much to be gained by these practices. So, it is a calculated risk which most beekeepers take as needed,

2nd Best Choice

Queenless from Mid-June to about August 1st

From mid-June to about August 1st, there is one additional choice the writer of this paper has successfully employed many times. It is the well-known practice of taking a comb of newly laid eggs, about the size of the palm of your hand or a little larger, from a strong colony and giving it to the queenless unit.

Proceed this way: Take a comb with newly laid eggs from a strong colony and shake the adhering bees back into the colony from which they came. Place this comb into the center of the queenless unit. The bees now can rear their own queen. If successful, it takes about 15 days for the new queen to emerge. Allow another 8-10 days for her to get mated and start laying. Twenty-five days after giving the comb with eggs, check to see if there is a new queen. If so, let her head the colony through the winter. Next spring one can decide whether to destroy her and requeen the colony or let her remain as hive queen.

The quality of queens reared in this manner range from good to poor. That is what one can expect from queens supplied by queen breeders. Even if a home-raised queen is mediocre, she will usually keep the colony functioning through the winter and can then be replaced by a new queen in the spring.

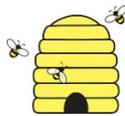
3rd Choice

Obtain a new queen as soon as possible and introduce her to the queenless unit. This sometimes works, but is a

bit risky. Note: It usually takes considerable time to get a new queen from a queen breeder to the beekeeper in need of a queen.

Last Resort

If other choices fail or are not practical, remove the bees from the queenless colony by shaking them from the combs into the grass and store the combs in a safe place for future use.



Margaret's FAQs

By Margaret Hala

| Question | Margaret Says |
|---|--|
| <p>Q1. How should I clean beeswax?</p> | <p>The easiest method of cleaning wax is to buy a wax melter for several hundred dollars, and melt and re-melt the wax until it's clean. Here is the alternative:</p> <p>Equipment needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 kettles, one slightly larger than the other • Stirring sticks • Metal trivet (canning jar rings work well) • Clean plastic tub • Screen sieve that fits over the clean plastic tub • Hand-held screen sieve • Paint scraper or similar tool • Paper towels—Viva brand works best • Soft water • Old oven mitts and towels <p>DAY ONE: Fill the large kettle about half full of soft water then add well drained cappings. Heat the water until it just begins to boil while stirring occasionally. Turn heat down. Using the small hand-held sieve, scoop out as much floating debris as possible. Turn off heat and stir gently a few more times. Leave until tomorrow.</p> <p>DAY 2: Remove wax from kettle. Do this outside to avoid clogging plumbing. Scrape slumgum from bottom of wax. Rinse wax well and leave to dry.</p> <p>DAY 3: Put metal trivets and water in large kettle. Put wax in smaller kettle and set it in the metal trivets in the larger kettle. Heat water but keep it at a slow boil. Continue heating even after wax melts. The hotter the wax the thinner it becomes and the easier it flows through paper towels.</p> <p>Line the sieve with paper towels. Set sieve on plastic tub. Pour very hot wax through lined sieve, changing paper towels as they clog with debris.</p> <p>Note: If the wax is very dirty, the day one procedure can be repeated. Just remember, boil the water not the wax as it develops a condition called soaping which is a permanent foamy look. It can also develop that foamy look by attaching to the minerals in hard water, so it is necessary to use soft water.</p> <p>Used paper towels can be cut into strips, rolled up and wrapped in tissue to be used as fire starters. They work better than kindling. They can also be sold by the bag as camping or cook out fire starters.</p> |
| <p>Q2. Is there any way to save the bees</p> | <p>A drone-laying queen is either an unmated virgin that missed her mating window due to bad weather or a lack of drones in the area or an old queen that has run out of semen.</p> |

| Question | Margaret Says |
|---|--|
| <p>from a drone-laying queen or queenless hive? I've not had good luck trying to dump the bees any distance away from a hive nor combing with a queen-rite colony.</p> | <p>The way to tell if the queen has run out of semen or if you have laying workers is a drone-laying queen will affix the eggs to the bottom of the cell in a relative tight pattern while laying workers attach them to the side walls in a more scattered pattern.</p> <p>The best method we've found is to look for the existing queen and kill her then split the frames of brood from the drone-laying colony among as many other colonies as you can while taking one frame from each of these colonies to make a new colony. Install a new queen, or if you don't have or can't get one, make sure there are eggs in the newly made colony. This usually works as you are spreading the laying workers out and making up a new colony with new bees just like making a split.</p> |
| <p>Q3. What uses can swarm, reproductive or supercedure queens be put to?</p> | <p>Background Information: Swarming is the propagation method of honey bees. They also make swarm cells when the queen is failing and needs to be replaced or when the colony is too crowded.</p> <p>SUPERCEDURE QUEENS are produced when the old queen is worn out and not producing enough pheromone to keep the colony satisfied, is injured or killed. THIS IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION FOR THE BEES. A supercedure cell will be drawn anywhere on the face of the comb the bees can find an egg of small larvae. The queen may or may not be made from young-enough egg/larvae to be good, and may lack the ability to be good.</p> <p>SWARM QUEENS are made when the colony gets too crowded and the bees decide to split and make another colony. This means we lose that seasons production because of the time it takes for a new queen to hatch, mature, mate, and start laying eggs and for those eggs to hatch and become productive members of the colony. These queens can be very good because the bees plan these queens. Several years ago, it was believed swarm queens swarmed more often than purchased queens, but queen you make or buy or forced (the bees are required to make a new queen to continue the colony), and that's what swarm queens are, so that belief has fallen by the way-side.</p> <p>NORMAL REPRODUCTIVE QUEENS are made from the urge of the colony to reproduce, and these queens are made from the best eggs/larvae in the colony. THEY ARE PLANNED!</p> <p>Answer: Use them for whatever you want! If you don't want more colonies, reproductive or swarm queen cells can be cut off. If you know of someone who is looking to increase and you have the means to make new colonies (extra brood and bees) you can start a 'nuc' and use for your own apiary or trade or sell to another beekeeper. If someone wants new blood in their operation, trade queen cells with them. New colonies made this time of year are very worthwhile and can be very productive.</p> <p>Note: NEVER CUT OFF A SUPERSCEDURE QUEEN CELL!!! The old queen is likely dead and the bees are making an emergency queen</p> |
| <p>Q4. How do you get bees removed from an old cinder-block garage?</p> | <p>An 82-year-old gentleman called me on May 12th for assistance removing bees, but he didn't know if they had just moved in or been there for a while. He noticed a lot of bee activity the day before in the roof area of an old cinder block garage that had a tin roof with 2 x 6's on edge with a plywood roof with metal over that. The bees were coming and going at a good rate and some had even gotten into the house.</p> <p>We drove over to see what was going on, and they were honey bees and they</p> |

| Question | Margaret Says |
|----------|--|
| | <p>were active! When he had a second roof put on over the original plywood roof he had drilled 1" holes in the fascia board for circulation.</p> <p>Well, what could we do? He really didn't want the roof torn off, but there wasn't a way to put up a 'catcher hive' as the bee's entrance was right over the entrance door into the house. We ended up stapling metal window screening over all 22 circulation holes and we hope that takes care of the bees. We also hope they haven't been there long enough to store lots of honey and make a mess.</p> <p>This situation indicates to me the bees are probably swarming here in central Marshall County, and I sure hope our queens arrive next week instead of in 2 weeks!</p> |



State Fair Honey Requirements

By Jamie Beyer, CIBA Director

When thinking of going to the Iowa State Fair as a beekeeper, you cannot help but think of the Agricultural Building where the Iowa Honey Producers Association have their displays of bees, sell honey lemonade and other honey products. People come to see the observation hives and to get their glass of lemonade. There is almost always a long line of interested fairgoers and is almost as popular as the butter cow (I did say almost). This is also where the competition is for apiarists to enter their exhibits of various classes of honey. It is an interesting experience to enter honey in the contests and my article will help you prepare for the competition.

This is a perfect time to be thinking of entering the competition; you will need to prepare well ahead of the entry deadline to be able to even have a chance of winning a ribbon, let alone a blue ribbon. This is the best advice I can give you – prepare now, instead of the last minute. First, connect to the State Fair [website](#) to determine the classes you may want to enter. You can also search the Internet for "Apiary – bees and honey – Iowa State Fair". Everything pertaining to bees and what they produce is included -- from jars of honey to comb honey to observation hives to creamed honey and the list goes on – there are 24 classes.

Why would one want to go to all this effort? Winning a blue ribbon gives you bragging rights and you can advertise your honey as blue-ribbon honey. It also shows other apiarists your abilities as a beekeeper as well as simply being fun. There is also money involved if you do well in the competition.

On the website, go over each class entry scorecard – you will then know what the judge is expecting in terms of weight and points in each category; the scorecard totals 100 points. Study these scorecard categories for each class that you enter. Of course, you should prepare your entries to attain the highest number of points in each category entry.

Once judged, your entries will have the actual judge's scorecard attached to the entry. The scorecard itemizes the categories, possible points for each category and the points that the judge gave your product in each category. Last year, the judge was good at making comments on the scorecards. It is interesting to see the comments and learn from them.

There are four scorecards below that represent four different classes.

1. Figure 1 was for Six Round Sections of White Comb Honey (sometimes referred to as Ross Round Comb Honey).
2. Figures 2 and 3 were for Six – 1 Pound Glass Queenline Jars Extracted Honey. The difference in the classes was the color of the honey: White Amber and White.
3. Figure 4 was for Six Cut Comb in Hard Plastic Box.

Exhibitor # 116689

APIARY SCORE CARD

| CLASS 2: SIX ROUND SECTIONS, WHITE COMB HONEY: | POSSIBLE POINTS | SCORE |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Cleanliness of section (plastic) | 10 | 10 |
| Comb attachment to section | 20 | 20 |
| CAPPING: | | |
| Uniformity of color and finish | 30 | 22 |
| No stain and absence of pollen | 10 | 8 |
| Honey color | 10 | 10 |
| Moisture content 16.16% | 20 | 15 |
| Total | 100 | 87 |

COMMENTS:
 Small unfilled areas on each round
 Some travel stains
 mostly nice cappings - some watery
 Good fill.

Blue Ribbon 1st Place

2011 Exhibitor # 110689

APIARY SCORE CARD

| CLASS 5: SIX 1 LB GLASS QUEENLINE JARS, LIGHT AMBER EXTRACTED HONEY | POSSIBLE POINTS | SCORE |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Container, free of defects | 5 | 2 |
| Flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants, or other off flavors | 15 | 15 |
| Color of honey | 15 | 14 |
| Moisture content 17.9% | 20 | 10 |
| Uniform volume of honey in all containers | 10 | 9 |
| Clarity of honey | 15 | 9 |
| Freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation | 20 | 0 |
| Total | 100 | 59 |

COMMENTS:
 Bit light for this class
 Defects in jars - pretty major not to fill line.
 Some foam on top.
 Foam throughout
 Debris
 Crystals forming
 Small piece of fur-automatic for

No Ribbon

Scanned by CamScanner

Figure 1: Blue Ribbon / Comb Honey

Figure 2: No Ribbon / Extracted Honey

2011 Exhibitor # 110364

APIARY SCORE CARD

| CLASS 4: SIX 1 LB GLASS QUEENLINE JARS, WHITE EXTRACTED HONEY | POSSIBLE POINTS | SCORE |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Container, free of defects | 5 | 4 |
| Flavor: free from burnt taste, chemical contaminants, or other off flavors | 15 | 15 |
| Color of honey | 15 | 15 |
| Moisture content 17.3% | 20 | 15 |
| Uniform volume of honey in all containers | 10 | 5 |
| Clarity of honey | 15 | 15 |
| Freedom from impurities, including foam and granulation | 20 | 17 |
| Total | 100 | 86 |

COMMENTS:
 One past fill line not uniform fill
 Some foam on top
 Some debris - little bit
 Some foam throughout
 Small defects in jars. **White Ribbon 3rd Place**

APIARY SCORE CARD

| CLASS 3: SIX CUT COMB IN HARD PLASTIC BOX 4 1/2 X 4 1/2 X 1 1/8: | POSSIBLE POINTS | SCORE |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| Accuracy & neatness of cut edges of comb | 20 | 15 |
| Uniform depth & filling of honey cell | 20 | 20 |
| Uniform & clean capping | 20 | 17 |
| Quality, quantity, & uniformity of honey | 20 | 20 |
| Freedom from leakage & general appearance of pack | 20 | 10 |
| Total | 100 | 82 |

COMMENTS:
 Draining in container
 must do not reach edge of container
 Some watery cappings
 Some rough edges
 Uneven cuts

Red Ribbon 2nd Place

Figure 3: White Ribbon / Extracted Honey

Figure 4: Red Ribbon / Comb Honey

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