

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

# THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association



**ISSUE: Winter 2025**

Editor: Laura Miller

## CIBA MEMBER MEETING

**Saturday, January 18, 1 p.m.**

**Northridge Baptist Church**

**3700 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Des Moines**

Program: Value-added Products to Complement Honey Production presented by Chelsa and Connie Bronnenberg, Spring Valley Honey. See **page 3**.

## CIBA WINTER SEMINAR

**Saturday, March 15, all day**

**Iowa Arboretum & Gardens**

**1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid**

We'll have a jam-packed day of presentations, fellowship and food. More on **page 3**.

**Questions?** Call Don Moody (515) 770-5754, or [ds.moody1@hotmail.com](mailto:ds.moody1@hotmail.com)

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**DEADLINE FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER:**

**February 10, 2025**

**Email submissions and comments to:**

Laura Miller, [Beeline\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:Beeline_editor@yahoo.com)



We encourage you to receive the newsletter via email; however, we understand if electronic delivery is not for you! Contact Cindy Spiker, [ciba.mbsp@gmail.com](mailto:ciba.mbsp@gmail.com), or leave at message at (515) 556-6637.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER**

This month I want to comment on how we can influence and make a difference in our future as well as the future of our family and friends. One of CIBA's great volunteers and a CIBA director, Val Just, mentioned something to me a couple months ago that really hit home. She talked about "compassion fatigue" or "compassion collapse." I had not heard these phrases before, so I asked her what they meant.

Almost every day on the news we hear about horrific things happening all around us. You name it -- the news is full of stories of things we cannot control. We wish we could somehow change the outcome of these news stories by how we volunteer our time, what we discuss with friends, or activities in which we participate. We are surrounded by situations that we believe cannot be changed or improved.

This is Val's explanation of compassion fatigue: It's a feeling of hopelessness, that any response almost seems pointless because we are overwhelmed by soooooo many of these things. I know I have had this feeling a LOT in the past.

This is where my (our) involvement in CIBA and its programs can be so encouraging. I (we) can make a difference in the success of someone's beekeeping. We can (and do!) make a huge difference in the future of our scholarship students and the young people who serve as queens and ambassadors!! We also are making a difference in the future for pollinators because we are helping to educate people about their plight.

So I ask, do you have compassion fatigue? I know I did at one time, but through my CIBA involvement I feel satisfaction. I see the amazing things that some of our former queens have accomplished in their lives, knowing that CIBA may have had a little bit of influence on them. This is only one example of what CIBA has done (and can do in the future) with your involvement. I know most of you also can share so many other good things that have happened because of CIBA.

Thank you, Val, for bringing it full circle for me. -- Jamie

Find us on the web: [www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org](http://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org)

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CentrallowaBeekeepersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CentrallowaBeekeepersAssociation)

Join our CIBA Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/353306835159561](https://www.facebook.com/groups/353306835159561)

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### Editor's Document Navigation Tips

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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.

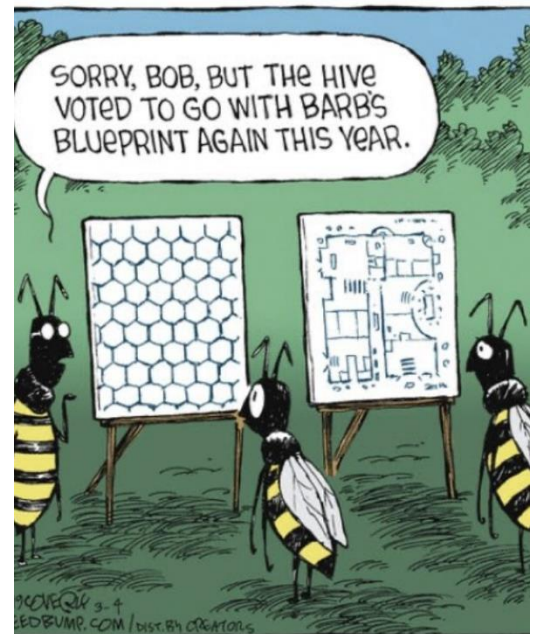
## CIBA Club Meetings/Communications

CIBA meets 6 times annually, the third Saturday every other month. During active beekeeping season (May and September), they usually are at 5 p.m.; in off-season (November and January) they usually are at 1 p.m. The March winter seminar and July field day both are full-day events.

The official CIBA newsletter, the **BEELINE**, is published four times a year on the first day of January (Winter); 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 Member Meeting: Adding Value to Your Honey

**Date:** Saturday, January 18

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Where:** Northridge Baptist Church, 3700 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines

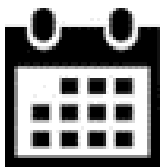
**Schedule:** We'll have a business meeting and annual election, snacks provided by the CIBA Food Committee, then a presentation by Chelsa and Connie Bronnenberg from Spring Valley Honey, Value-added Products to Complement Honey Production.



Spring Valley Honey Farms is a family business, owned and operated by **Curt and Connie Bronnenberg** in Perry. With a 40-year history, Spring Valley currently has 5,000 colonies producing more than 250,000 pounds of honey annually from hives in Boone, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Henry, Lee, Polk, Sac, Story and Webster counties. They also provide pollination for Iowa orchards in summer and almond orchards in California in winter.

The Bronnenbergs market honey in various sizes from 2 oz. bears to 55-gallon drums. They expanded the product line to include hot honey, creamed honey, popsicles, Bee Well elderberry elixir and gummies, honey sticks, candles, wax melts, their own brand of bath and body products, jewelry, honeybee apparel and sourdough breads, among other items. Daughters Christa, Chelsa, Cara and Ciera, along with their families, help with bottling the honey, hand-crafting beauty products from honey and beeswax, as well as design and production of several other products. They also have a full line of beekeeping equipment.

**Connie** is involved in most aspects of the business while being active in CIBA and the Iowa Honey Producers Association. **Chelsa**, the 2007 Iowa Honey Queen, is a nurse and mother of two. She also works part-time to help the family grow the business, focusing on marketing and other products to increase locations where Spring Valley honey is sold.



### Mark Your Calendars for Winter Seminar

You will NOT want to miss CIBA's annual Winter Seminar, which is set for Saturday, March 15 at the beautiful Iowa Arboretum & Gardens near Madrid. The Program Committee has been working hard to schedule speakers for the day's program. Various vendors will again be set up to answer questions and offer their products.

We'll have more details in our next BEELINE. Until then, watch your email for more information and online registration. As always, we have limited space so you'll want to be among those who can attend. Make sure you get March 15 on your calendar!

### Get Ready to Vote in January

It's time to elect CIBA officers and directors. Please make sure you've paid 2025 CIBA dues because only current members are allowed to vote in the annual election which will be at our upcoming meeting on January 18.

CIBA is looking for new blood to step into leadership roles. Jamie Beyer is stepping down as president and vice president Don Moody also would step aside if anyone else with more time would like to serve. If you are curious about any leadership position, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Don Moody or Val Just.

## New Addition to CIBA Meetings: Q&A Time

Got a burning question or problem related to beekeeping? Here's a new way to gather information: Ask your CIBA friends! At every CIBA member meeting, time will be set aside for members to ask questions, offer a discussion topic, or present a problem. This Q&A time could be a valuable tool for members to improve their beekeeping operation.

CIBA membership represents all levels of beekeeping experience and expertise, and members are willing to listen and offer possible solutions. Novice beekeepers are encouraged to share their concerns. On the other hand, seasoned beekeepers are eager to share their advice! What better combination can you get?

## Renew Your CIBA Membership Now

*Submitted by Cindy Spiker, Membership Secretary*

You should have received a letter via snail mail from CIBA President **Jamie Beyer** with everything you need to renew your CIBA membership. The mailing went out in early December. Membership runs on a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership and pay dues as soon as possible. (If you've already paid, THANK YOU!).

As a reminder, you must be a current member to participate in the election of officers and directors which will take place at our January 18 meeting.

If you cannot find the December mailing, don't worry. You can download a membership form on the CIBA website ([www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/membership](http://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/membership)) – or use the membership form included with the CIBA members email distribution of this newsletter. Feel free to share the website form with potential new members. As a reminder, you can use the "Buy Now" button on the membership page to access PayPal to finalize the payment of your membership dues.



## Join the Fun: Volunteer for Bees & Beyond

The Bees & Beyond committee has taken a short hiatus, but we plan to reconvene in January 2025. We need volunteers! We have three roles that we are recruiting for: committee member, educational presenter and program coordinator, with definitions for each role available on our web page, <https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/bees-beyond>.

If you are interested in joining this effort, please complete the short registration form on our website. Several people have approached the committee about assisting with the program but have not completed the registration form. Please ensure you register so we can include you in an upcoming meeting!

If you have any questions, contact one of the following committee members:

**Val Just**, [JustIowaHoney@gmail.com](mailto:JustIowaHoney@gmail.com), (515) 306-3234

**Laura Miller**, [beeline\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:beeline_editor@yahoo.com), (515) 290-9858



### CIBA is looking for

- ▶ Newsletter editor
- ▶ Auction committee chair
- ▶ Youth Scholarship chair
- ▶ President
- ▶ Committee members

INTERESTED? CONTACT JAMIE BEYER

## Minutes of the September 21 CIBA Member Meeting

*Submitted by CIBA Recording Secretary Jim Crandell, Sr.*

Opened by President **Jamie Beyer**. **Jim Crandell** moved to accept minutes of last meeting, **Tony Christensen** seconded, passed.

Treasurer: Financials look good.

Membership: **Cindy Spiker** reported we have 212 members, including 97 individual memberships.

**Kristin Griffith** was nominated for CIBA treasurer by **Laura Miller**, seconded by **Tony Christensen**, passed.

A new CIBA program was introduced by **Laura Miller** on behalf of the CIBA Pollinator Education Committee that include **Val Just, Tracy Rule, Ann Wilbur** and **Scott Fiene**. The group is developing materials for CIBA volunteers to educate students about pollinators. They are starting with audiences at the second-grade level. The proposed name of the program is Bees & Beyond. **Arvin Foell** and **Tony Christensen** seconded, acceptance of the name.

Youth scholarship: **Jamie Beyer** said two students have applied for the program.

Motion to adjourn by **Arvin Foell**, second by **Rich**, passed.

## Minutes of the November 16 CIBA Member Meeting

*Submitted by CIBA Recording Secretary Jim Crandell, Sr.*

Opened at 1:10 p.m. by President **Jamie Beyer**. Minutes of previous meeting were read by **Jim Crandell**, recording Secretary. Jim moved to accept minutes as read, **Tony Christensen** seconded, passed.

Treasurer: **Kristin Griffith** reported that financials continue to look good.

Newsletter: **Laura Miller** said the deadline for our next newsletter is December 10 and that submissions are needed. We will need another editor soon because Laura plans to retire after the Spring 2025 issue. Jamie Beyer noted that the BEELINE is one of the BEST newsletters anywhere.

Website: We still need a new webmaster with retirement of Val Just from the position. **Jamie Beyer** said the CIBA website is first-class and that Val will help the new webmaster learn the ropes.

Bees & Beyond: Please sign up to help with this project. We need people to be classroom presenters, program coordinators and committee members.

Youth Scholarship: The deadline to apply is December 1. Please mention this opportunity for a young person to get started in beekeeping.

Royalty Program: We need applicants, either male (to be an ambassador) or female (to be queen). Young people develop leadership skills by presenting information about bees to various groups in central Iowa. The application deadline is December 1.

Program: **Don Moody** said the next CIBA meeting is January 18, and he's already working on speakers for the Winter Seminar in March.

Elections: New leadership is needed; **Jamie Beyer**, will remain active in the club but would like to step down as president. The election will be held at our January meeting. Please think about who you would like to see as president, and ask friends to join our club. The Chose Iowa program also was discussed.

Membership: **Cindy Spiker** said we have 213 members. The additional cost to receive a printed copy of the BEELINE via USPS will remain at \$5 for 2025.

There also was a discussion about changing the by-laws to give the webmaster and newsletter editor a vote at director meetings. The discussions seemed favorable. Motion to adjourn by **Jim Crandall**, seconded by **Tony Christensen**, passed.

## New Webmaster Begins; Still Need Newsletter Editor

CIBA has a new webmaster! **Lynn Hammel**, who has skillfully handled many of our technical equipment at meetings and events, has agreed to handle the club's website. We appreciate his dedication and also the excellent work by CIBA director **Val Just** to set up the new website and help with the transition.

We are still looking for a volunteer to gather and put together items for CIBA's quarterly newsletter, The BEELINE. Issues are published in January, March, May and September, which correlate to the months CIBA has member meetings. The newsletter is one of the primary ways that CIBA stays in touch with its membership and provides information about programs and meetings.

It's a fun job and it's important (but not required) for the editor to attend director meetings. CIBA members also are generous with their time, often sharing their expertise by writing articles for the newsletter. The editor also has a great group of reviewers and board members/committee chairs help by providing information about their programs and events. The current editor, **Laura Miller**, has served since 2020. She also has agreed to assist the new editor and continue to submit articles as needed.

If you have questions, or know of someone who would be interested in this task, please talk to any board member, officer or contact **Laura Miller**, [beeline\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:beeline_editor@yahoo.com), (515) 290-9858.

## The Fascinating World of Bumblebees

*Submitted by Morgan Spaulding, CIBA Member and 2023 CIBA Youth Scholar*

Everyone seems to be interested in honey bees. And beekeepers know all about the honeybee – their life cycle, where they live, their favorite flowers and more. But what about bumblebees? How do they survive the winter? Why are they big and fuzzy? Honey bees get all the fame, so let's give bumblebees some of the spotlight.

**Bumblebee life cycle:** In the spring of each year, the queen from the previous year begins her own hive, laying eggs for future worker bees and going out herself to collect wax and nectar. Bumblebee colonies are tiny compared to honey bee colonies, roughly 50 to 500 bees. Worker bumblebees take about 14 days to develop in their cells. They live for about 28 days. As they emerge they take up the role of foraging.

When the new hive is established by late summer, drones are produced and they mate with the new queens around the same time. When winter arrives the entire colony, except for the new queen, dies. That new, mated queen hibernates through the winter and starts the cycle all over again in spring. She neither eats nor works during that time. She survives the winter because her body burns little fuel due to her depressed metabolic rate. Bumblebees are rather large but the queens are larger -- twice the size of a worker bee. She needs that excess fat to survive her hibernation in the winter.

**Habitat and hive:** Bumblebees are native to Iowa. They are also commonly found on the prairie and in colder climates. They have muscles that create internal heating so that they can fly in cooler weather!

In early spring after the queen has selected a new nesting location, she will collect dry grass and straw to build her nest. Possible nesting locations include abandoned cavities in the earth such as vole holes. She'll make a undisturbed spot in your barn a home, idle machinery, cracks in foundation, even in trees and hollows in your garden.

**Flowers they love:** Our fuzzy friends love a wide variety of flowers. If you plant the following species you'll most likely attract bumble bees. From observation, I can say they are particularly fond of asters and marigolds. They also love salvia, lavender, catmint, coneflower, bee balm, thistles, marigolds, and red clover. Not many pollinators can harvest the nectar from thistles, but bumblebees do a great job! The bumblebee's proboscis is long enough to reach the nectar at the bottom of the flower.

When you look outdoors as you search for honeybees and watch them pollinate your garden, lawn and orchards, be on the lookout for bumblebees! When working in your garden, stop and observe our fluffy friends. And don't forget to include them in your pollinating plans too!





## Tips on Processing Honey - Part 1

Submitted by Val Just, CIBA board member

As beekeepers, my husband John and I try to hold ourselves accountable to educate ourselves on the best means to process and store honey to maintain the health benefits of honey – antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antifungal, etc. Honey contains over 180 substances, some that allow our bodies to use it differently than other carbohydrates – it is not “just another sugar.”

Our bees work mighty hard to produce a quality product, but when we extract, the quality accountability transfers to us. At the time of extraction, honey is at its peak flavor, aroma and clarity. If you sell your honey, your customers are putting trust in you that you have done your best to maintain the quality of your honey.

Many of us sell honey as “raw” honey denoted on our honey labels. The National Honey Board website states the following:

*While there is no official U.S. federal definition of raw honey, the National Honey Board defines raw honey as “honey as it exists in the beehive or as obtained by extraction, settling or straining **without adding heat.**”*

### Heat

Heat degrades honey and affects many things including **enzymes, antibacterial properties, color, flavor, and aroma**. These are some of the properties that we tout as health benefits.

At what temperature does degradation happen? We started beekeeping in 2015 – and once we started producing volumes of honey that sat in buckets and crystallized (about 2018), I started researching the impact of heat. The National Honey Board stated at that time that 110 degrees was the maximum heat to maintain the definition of “raw” honey.

About nine months ago when I checked on the website, the National Honey Board had changed that temperature to 104 degrees; four months ago, the board had removed any temperature limit as noted in the definition above. I wish I would have saved screenshots of the information above – I’m relaying this information based on details gleaned and memorized over the years, and the practices we established based on this same information.

John Skinner with the University of Tennessee Extension Service, whose work appears to be supported by a New Technologies for Agriculture Extension grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, provides the following research through the Bee Health Extension organization:

- Heating honey up to 98.6° F causes loss of nearly 200 components, part of which are antibacterial
- Heating up to 104° F destroys the enzyme invertase
- Heating up to 122° F for more than 48 hours the most valuable honey sugars become analogous to sugar
- Heating higher than 140° F for more than 2 hours will cause rapid degradation.
- Heating honey higher than 160° F for any time period will cause rapid degradation and caramelization

## Enzymes

Enzyme activity stops when honey is held at freezing temperatures, but returns when warmed back up. It does not return when destroyed by heat. Almost all enzymes in honey are introduced by the bees, and all break down when liquefying crystallized honey in a microwave.

Three notable enzymes are:

- *Invertase* converts sucrose in nectar to glucose and fructose, which helps make nectar able to hold more solids thereby making it more stable.
- *Glucose Oxidase* creates a chemical reaction which, among other things, lowers the pH of honey to an average of 3.9 and produces hydrogen peroxide. Both of these help stabilize nectar while ripening and **contribute to the antibacterial properties of honey.**
- *Diaastase*, as with all enzymes, is destroyed by heat, and because its activity is easily measured, it has been used by some importers and packers to tell how much heat honey has been exposed to.



## Flavor, aroma, color

Flavor, aroma and color are three characteristics of honey that our customers can taste, smell and see. Consumers are potentially using these characteristics to define high quality honey – care should be taken not to cause deterioration. But flavor, aroma and color are sensitive to high temperatures, and deteriorate with time. And we all are aware of the deterioration, as we work with our honey over the honey cycle from August of one year to July of the next year.

Color of honey is slow to change when stored cold, but as it warms back up, the rate that honey darkens will triple with every increase of 10° F. Flavor and aroma deteriorate in a similar manner as temperatures rise. Keeping your honey warming in a bottling tank for any prolonged period, in a hot warehouse, or even in a hot spot in your kitchen will have an effect on the honey.

Georgia beekeeper and noted speaker Bob Binnie states, “As with many foods, fresh is best and time is not your friend.” And while we caution customers to not store their honey in the refrigerator (due to crystallization), cold honey degrades slower than warm honey, and freezing temps are actually your best defense against deterioration.

The problem is the majority of consumers want a liquid product – they don’t want to deal with crystallized honey. Many consumers, until educated, believe that crystallized honey is honey that has gone “bad.” We provide an educational insert to our customers, and state relative to crystallization: “Embrace the changes, and let Mother Nature do her thing!” But we know that our customers prefer a liquid product.

## Temps in the hives

Naturally, all of this information on the impacts of heat on honey led me to ponder what the temperatures are in the beehive, and if the honey comes to me unscathed by the lowa heat in the summer. I have to get this article to the BEELINE editor today, so I am relying on Google’s AI (Artificial Intelligence) Overview:

*The temperature in a beehive varies depending on the season and the part of the hive, but is generally between 89.6-98.8° F. When temps rise above 98.8° F, worker bees fan their wings and bring water into the hive to cool it down.*

I have no idea where AI derived this information – and I have never attempted to do a study on summer hive temperatures, but if indeed true, I am in awe of our girls even more than before. And if true, I want to do all that I can to maintain the quality of the honey our girls work so hard to produce.

### **On a personal level**

The crystallization factor and the heat needed to decrystallize honey for retail sales makes the situation challenging at best. John and I are heartfelt in our desire to provide a quality product and to do our girls proud. The information that I gathered on heat impacts to honey led us to some difficult conversations, and it may for you, as well. For us personally, we like crystallized honey and feel that the flavor profile is almost better as the honey crystallizes, but our customers are not of the same mindset.

I will leave you with Bob Binnie's conclusion of his article, "Processing Honey: A Closer Look," in the March 2018 issue of *Bee Culture* magazine (written prior to the change in raw honey definition by the National Honey Board):

*I admit that when it comes to processing honey, producing a good quality product can sometimes be challenging. There will be mistakes made, and lessons learned the hard way. You may have to compete with people that have no problem with mislabeling and misleading customers. Let your quality and service speak for itself and remember it can take years to earn a good reputation, but it only takes a few seconds to lose it.*

**Part 2:** Watch for Val's second article on processing honey. She'll talk about choices in storage and bottling containers, moisture content and yeast in honey.

### **Resources**

Bee Culture magazine article, <https://www.beeculture.com/processing-honey-a-closer-look/>  
National Honey Board website, <https://honey.com/>

## **Need Bee Equipment? Plan to Attend CIBA Auction**

Look through your bee equipment. What will you need this spring? What don't you have?

The annual CIBA auction is a great place to pick up bee equipment at reasonable prices because it's also where seasoned beekeepers get rid of beekeeping supplies they no longer need or use. There are typically queen bees and nucs available for auction, as well!! It is well worth your time and effort to attend!

CIBA's annual auction is BY beekeepers and FOR beekeepers. You'll meet other beekeepers, can ask questions, and get to know people with similar interests. Members also donate items for the auction, which proceeds going to CIBA programs.

The CIBA auction usually is the third weekend in April and has been at the Washington Township School near Minburn – however, no date or location has been set yet for 2025. Watch the CIBA website for more details.

Sellers are asked to pre-register online so that lots can be assigned. Buyers also can pre-register but also can register at the door. We encourage pre-registration, as it saves you time the morning of the auction. CIBA also appreciates knowing how many people to expect as we prepare the parking area as well as for food sales (food sales at the Queen Café raise funds for the CIBA Royalty program).

Questions or want to help? We need an auction chair so contact any board member or officer. Be ready for a full day of fun and fellowship!!

## **How You Can Help Bumblebees**

The Bumblebee Atlas is a citizen science project initiated by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. It is being used to collect data that will inform future conservation of this important insect. Iowa was the most recent state to join the effort in 2024. It is coordinated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in partnership with Iowa State University and the Xerces Society. Iowa is home to 14-16 different species of bumblebees, six of which are in decline. Each spring, Bumblebee Atlas coordinators hold a two-part online workshop to train and inform participants. For more information and to register, go to:

[www.bumblebeeatlas.org/iowabba](http://www.bumblebeeatlas.org/iowabba)

## Pollinators Get Great Support in Central Iowa

Submitted by Katelyn Rinicker, Prairie Rivers of Iowa Pollinator Conservation Specialist



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Katelyn was set to present at our November 21 CIBA gathering, but missed the meeting due to an unfortunate miscommunication. CIBA asked her to write a brief article about the many ways that her organization is helping pollinators. Don't worry: CIBA will have Katelyn back another time to report on her activities.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa (PRI) supports pollinators in many ways. One of our first projects was funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to increase pollinator habitat. David Stein, a previous PRI employee, worked to engage the public about the need for wildlife and pollinator habitats in central Iowa.

PRI hosted six field days between 2019 and 2021 that attracted more than 200 people. The field days focused on these topics: Hamilton County Wetlands, CRP/Pollinator Habitat, Saturated Buffers, Multi-Scale Habitat Restoration, Story County Wetlands, and Orchard and Prairie Pollination.

In 2021, PRI took to the airwaves to offer five webinars on these topics: Water Quality, Ethnobotany, Planting for Pollinators, Citizen Science Opportunities, and Habitat Financial Assistance. We had 119 people attend the webinars.

The grant project also funded six water quality snapshots held with 113 volunteers who tested water quality during our events. Thirty species of native plants were offered through the newly created Community Seed Bank Program, which began in 2019. The program helped 96 landowners to restore or enhance 179 acres of pollinator habitat. Thirty-six landowners received technical assistance for nutrient reduction, water quality, wildlife habitat and erosion issues.

Currently, PRI is working on three pollinator projects. The first is Pollinator-Friendly Community Plan for Ames that will work over the next 10 years to enhance native pollinator populations.

The second pollinator project is funded by another NFWF grant, *Pollinator Patchwork: Enrolling Working Lands in Iowa into Monarch Butterfly Habitat*. This project assists women and owners of small farms across Story, Boone and Hamilton counties. PRI is helping women and small farmers find resources to turn marginal croplands into pollinator habitat. The focus area has 2,654 farms with 934,390 acres. We hope to build a supportive network for owners/producers and foster a sense of community. We want to show farmers they can be environmentally AND economically minded. In three years, we hope to restore 200 acres and improve 450 acres for Monarch butterfly habitat.

We just finished our first year with one webinar and one field day, reaching 161 people. We also have created a variety of marketing materials to promote U.S. Farm Bill programs that support pollinator habitats (such as CP-42, the Conservation Reserve Program, EQIP, etc.). We are working on other outreach efforts that encourage landowners to enroll in these programs.

Our third pollinator project is to once again host Monarch Magic, a family-friendly event at Ada Hayden Heritage Park in Ames. Last year more than 300 people attended and helped tag Monarch butterflies. There are plenty of children's crafts and activities about monarchs and pollinators to help keep the little ones busy! It is a great way to get people excited and educated about the dire state of Monarch butterflies as well as other pollinators.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa knows how essential native pollinators are to Iowa and together we can help support them in their fight against extinction.

**More on the Prairie Rivers of Iowa website:**

<https://www.prrcd.org/>

**Read the plan at:**

<https://www.prrcd.org/ames-pollinator-plan/>



Above, Katelyn's predecessor, Jessica Butters, talks to a group about native pollinators and plants.

## From the Editor: Climate Change and Honey Bees

Submitted by BEELINE Editor Laura Miller

I heard an interesting talk last month about climate change. At a symposium hosted by the ISU Retirees Association, state climatologist Justin Glison shared some troubling trends with us about climate change. Yes, the changes are real and we're feeling them now in Iowa with overall warmer temperatures, wetter than usual winters, and more extreme weather events (tornadoes, derechos, drought, floods).

Glison said the 30-year averages used in climatology show disturbing trends. Our weather has been getting warmer (higher daytime highs and higher nighttime lows), more severe droughts, and more severe flooding.

It used to be common for weather stations to once or twice a year record a rainfall of two inches or more over a one- to two-day period. The number of these events has tripled since 2005. More intense rains can have larger raindrops which actually flatten when they land so more soil is disturbed, increasing erosion and runoff.

As far as extreme heat, Glison said Iowans are seeing 40-50 more days of temperatures 95 degrees and above compared to 40 years ago. Iowa's frost-free growing season is 15-20 days longer, which seems to be a benefit until you consider the increase in pests that survive milder weather or move northward.

That got me thinking about my honey bees. How does changing weather affect them? Here's what I found from an article by the USDA Agricultural Research Service\*:

*The warming of the planet and changes in weather patterns are altering the synchrony between flowering plants and their pollinators, causing nutritional stress. Radical shifts in temperature, droughts, and floods are disrupting native ranges for pollinators, making ecosystems unsuitable for the processes needed to sustain populations, such as overwinter hibernation, spring nest establishment, and reproduction.*

*In the case of honey bees, the warmer temperatures in late fall and winter that are occurring with greater frequency in northern latitudes have made it increasingly difficult to reduce winter colony losses. This is because the warmer fall and winter temperatures are extending the period when bees are foraging. This disrupts the colony age structure and resource utilization, enabling Varroa mites to migrate among colonies on foragers, spreading this parasite and the viruses it transmits throughout apiaries.*

That's not a pretty picture for honey bees. We need to pay attention and do what we can individually to slow down climate change. **Our honey bees need us now more than ever.**

\* "Bolstering Bees in a Changing Climate," June 22, 2020

<https://tellus.ars.usda.gov/stories/articles/bolstering-bees-changing-climate>

### Nature's Bounty

By Ruth M. Rose

We are Thankful for Nature,  
And All that she shares -  
We're thankful for Those -  
Who help Nature with CARE!  
We are grateful for Wildlife -  
And Pollinator's Too!  
View with Wonder and Gladness -  
All the Native plants that grew!  
We are indebted to this World -  
For providing our Feast -  
For providing our well-being,  
From the West to the East!  
From the North to the South -  
Right around this whole EARTH -  
We can each do our BEST -  
Help with REPAIR and REBIRTH!  
Change our Lawns into Life -  
Heal our SOIL and our MINDS.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Originally a Thanksgiving poem, this was submitted by Jamie Beyer. The author is a member of the Loess Hills chapter of Wild Ones that promotes planting native landscapes. More at: <https://loesshills.wildones.org>

Give our THANKS back to Nature –  
With our CHOICES- Be Kind.  
We GIVE THANKS through our Landscapes -  
Through our Choices and Yards -  
From our Planters to our Prairies -  
We Keep our FAITH and Stand Guard.  
For with our THANKS towards Nature -  
Comes a Duty to Earth -  
First of ALL, do NO HARM -  
Then do something of WORTH!  
We are THANKFUL for YOU-  
Those who GROW to feed OTHERS -  
Plants that feed those who walk, crawl, and fly -  
Plants that help those who buzz, those who FLUTTER.  
We are Thankful for Nature -  
We are answering the Call -  
So with light hearts and HOPE -  
Happy New Year -- To One and To ALL!  
Wishing you a BOUNTY- from Loess Hills Wild Ones!

# CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

## Officers

Jamie Beyer, President  
269 U Avenue  
Boone, IA 50036  
(515) 433-0194  
[beyersbog@aol.com](mailto:beyersbog@aol.com)

Don Moody, Vice President  
70064 320<sup>th</sup> St.  
Collins, IA 50055  
(515) 770-5754  
[ds.moody1@hotmail.com](mailto:ds.moody1@hotmail.com)

Kristin Griffith, Treasurer  
1710 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50314  
(515) 770-8739  
[kmgriffith@hotmail.com](mailto:kmgriffith@hotmail.com)

Cindy Spiker, Membership  
7090 Hickory Lane  
Urbandale, IA 50322  
(515) 556-6637  
[ciba.mbsp@gmail.com](mailto:ciba.mbsp@gmail.com)

## Directors

Scott Fiene (2024-2027)  
913 NE Canterbury Drive  
Ankeny, IA 50021  
(515) 865-5814  
[fienescott@gmail.com](mailto:fienescott@gmail.com)

Jim Crandell, Sr. (2024-2027)  
1417 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave Pl. E  
Newton, IA 50208  
(641) 791-9612  
[cranjccm@iowatelecom.net](mailto:cranjccm@iowatelecom.net)

Marlon Mormann (2023-2026)  
3320 Kinsey Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50317  
(515) 710-0902  
[aljimormann@gmail.com](mailto:aljimormann@gmail.com)

Richard Link (2023-2026)  
4265 NE 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50317  
(515) 264-1311  
[harnesstwo@hotmail.com](mailto:harnesstwo@hotmail.com)

Valerie Just (2023-2025)  
4609 Crestmoor Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
(515) 278-4835  
[justiowahoney@gmail.com](mailto:justiowahoney@gmail.com)

## State Organizations

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
Chris Puetz, President  
732 Lyons Road  
Bernard, IA 52032  
(563) 543-7604  
[christopherpuetz@gmail.com](mailto:christopherpuetz@gmail.com)

State Apiarist  
Andrew Joseph  
(515) 725-1481  
[andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov)

Iowa State Extension Bee Specialist  
Randall P. Cass  
(515) 294-2507  
[randall@iastate.edu](mailto:randall@iastate.edu)

The BEELINE  
Official CIBA Newsletter  
Jamie Beyer, President  
269 U Avenue  
Boone, IA 50036