

# THE BEELINE



Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

## ISSUE

March 2019

## UPCOMING MEETING INFORMATION

March 16, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Cherry Glen Farms, Polk City

## BUSINESS MEETING

- ✓ 2018 Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Membership Renewals
- ✓ Annual Audit Report
- ✓ 2019 Seminar Report
- ✓ Bee Yard Update
- ✓ Spring Auction Update
- ✓ Honey Queen Update
- ✓ Election of Officers

## NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SUBMISSION

**DEADLINE: May 15, 2019**

### Email Submissions

3oakshoney@gmail.com

### Mail Submissions

Jolene Eriksen  
324 NE 64<sup>th</sup> St  
Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

We encourage you to receive the newsletter via email; however, we understand if electronic delivery is not for you! You may make updates to your subscription, or add a subscription by sending a notification to:  
[justiowahoney@gmail.com](mailto:justiowahoney@gmail.com)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, MIKE SANDER

Happy almost spring Central Iowa Beekeepers,

I hope this message finds you warm and healthy with hives that are handling winter well. As of late January most of mine were hanging in there. The last few weeks have been very cold, snowy, and windy. I often wonder how they are doing, but it is too cold to do any checking. This time of year I am reminded of something I once heard a friend say, "The early spring trip to the hive is like going to visit an old friend you have not seen in a while. You never know for sure what you will find, and it is such a joy and relief to find them doing well." We are hoping that will be the case again this year. Reports have been circling that bees overwintering in the almond fields may be having a tough time. Losses of 40% or more seems to be a too common scenario. This must be such a heartbreaking season for those people.

Since this will likely be my last letter as president of CIBA I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to everyone for making this the experience that it was. I knew this role would be a stretch for me, and that certainly proved to be the case. I have learned many things leading this great organization. Thank you to my wife Julie for supporting me through this. A big thank you to our officers and board of directors for all the hard work and efforts you have put into this. Finally, thanks to all our members and volunteers, you have been a great group to work with. I will be working on some additional tasks for my day job, and preparing for some anticipated personal life changes in the upcoming months. I will not have the necessary time to give to CIBA, so I will not be seeking re-election in March.

Just a quick reminder that our annual spring auction is coming up in April, and our location has changed. Please see later in this newsletter for details. While some of you may be disappointed that there will not be a port-a-potty on site, others will be happy to know that the new site will have indoor restroom facilities. There should be better parking and more space outdoors to set up items for sale. Having a place to get inside if it is raining will also be nice. Some people have consigned items already, but most items usually become known in the last couple of days before the auction. While we are able to publish a list of what we know now, please don't consider it a final sale bill. Many items get consigned the morning of the sale even, so I guess we will all have to stop by to see what is going to be there.

Jamie has once again put together a great speaker for the March meeting. Topics will be different from what we have seen in the past, and it should be interesting and very educational. The Cherry Glenn farm is a great facility, and if all works out like we are planning, it will likely be our new meeting place. Please see later in this issue for details of the March meeting. We have many new members again this year, so if you see someone you don't know please say hi and welcome them. If you are new please don't feel bashful about saying hi to someone, or just join in their conversation. This group has a lot of talented and experienced beekeepers willing to help you out.

Hope to see and talk with you at the March presentation,

Mike Sander  
President CIBA

**Editor's Note: Page numbers referenced in the Table of Contents are not accurate, and I am unable to fix it before publication. If receiving this document electronically, use your CTRL key and click on the link in the TOC to navigate the document.**

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## Upcoming March Meeting Program By Jamie Beyer

By Jamie Beyer

Our March meeting will be on Saturday, March 16, 2019. With Linn Wilbur's suggestion -- I have lined up Dr. Judy Wu-Smart from the University of Nebraska. She is an Extension and Research Entomologist and is conducting and overseeing research on many topics honey bee related. She is going to present on "Trouble-shooting queen failures", which is actually more focused on how one goes through a list of other possible stressors to determine if it's truly a problem with the queen or the hive. Dr. Wu-Smart is in demand and I feel we are very lucky to have her present to our group.

The meeting will start at 1:00 and will be at the Cherry Glen Learning Farm. This facility is owned by Ray and Susan Meylor and they have offered their fantastic building not only for this meeting but also for future meetings. The address is 3989 NW 94<sup>th</sup> Ave., Polk City, IA 50226. We again will have plenty of time to visit with members and other beeks that want to come to this meeting. There is NO charge to come but, like always, we will take donations. Everyone is invited.

We are very fortunate to have such a fantastic presenter with great qualifications to be with us. Please invite all your beek friends. We will have a long break after her presentation to visit. Then we will have a business meeting which will include elections of Officers and Directors.

FYI – The Directors have decided to use the Cherry Glen Learning Farm as our Community Apiary that we hopefully will have up and running this spring. More on this during our meeting.

Hope to see everyone there.

Any questions please contact Jamie Beyer, 515/231-0215 or [beyersbog@aol.com](mailto:beyersbog@aol.com)

### **Directions to Cherry Glen Farms**

The easiest way to get to Cherry Glen Farms from interstate 35 is to take the 1st street exit, Exit 92, in Ankeny and head west. Go all the way through town, go to the intersection of 1st street and NW Polk City Dr/Highway 415, continue through the intersection and the destination is on the right, the first driveway.

## CIBA General Membership Meeting Minutes

### **January 19, 2019**

Location: Grimes Community Center. Meeting called to order by Mike Sander at 3:20 PM

#### **CIBA annual auction**

Saturday April 20, 2019, Start time 10:00 AM, 18930 210<sup>th</sup> street Minburn, Iowa 50167

- See our website for updates
- Listed on IHPA website

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Checking \$4300; \$844 Queen account; \$1052 Savings; \$2400 CD's

#### **Website**

Site is down. We are working to get it back up. Was taken down by infected web server. Will need to be totally rebuilt. Arvin requested a space to post field updates

#### **Meeting sites**

Need for Meeting spaces. Inexpensive is good, free is best. Needs to be Des Moines area for 50+ people. Doyle Kincy suggested contacting Ray at Cherry Glenn Farm. Members can e-mail suggestions to a board member

#### **Bylaws**

Bylaws updates needed to move forward with 501c3 status, which is necessary to be able to purchase insurance for beeyard project. Bylaws and articles of incorporation were handed out and discussed at September Meeting in Ames. Members submitted suggested changes or updates. Updates were: made where possible, and sent as an attachment with January Beeline. Changes were: summarized & discussed, Primarily Secretary&treasurers are now voting members, Provision made for additional board members, Provision to pay bills by means other than a check. Jamie Beyer Made the motion to approve bylaws and articles of incorporation as distributed Motion was seconded by Arvin Foell . Discussion was had on weather newsletters would need to increase in frequency with increase in number

of meetings, they would not. Discussion about if the number of speakers would have to increase, they would not. We can do a question and answer panel with experienced keepers. Arvin called the vote; voice vote was taken, motion carried with all in favor and none opposing

### Miscellaneous

Suggestions were brought up to have one main address to have correspondence sent to, Primarily to keep from missing the every-other year renewal of 501C3 status. Margert Hala suggested getting a card reader as people are increasingly requesting to use this type of transaction, Square was suggested. Insurance: If 501c3 status is obtained before the next membership meeting, we will need approval to purchase, as cost will likely be more than President is authorized to spend. Eric Kenoyer motioned to approve authorization for purchase of insurance. Margret Hala seconded. Discussion: Linn Wilbur amended the motion to limit the dollar amount to \$1500. Eric and Margret approved amendment and called the question. Voice vote was taken, Motion was approved with all in favor and none opposing. Elections upcoming in March. Be thinking about how you can participate this coming year. Jolene, our newsletter editor and secretary will not be running for re-election for personal reasons.

Adjourn : Jerimiah Kussel motioned to adjourn, Jamie Beyer seconded, voice vote, motion carried.

## Winter Seminar Report

Pictures contributed by CIBA photographer, Randy Ruark



**Marlene Boernsen Creamed Honey**



**Assist by Jamie Beyer**



**Swarm Traps by Jamie Beyer**

After a delay of a week because of bad winter weather we held the third annual CIBA winter seminar on Saturday January 26. We had it at the Grimes Recreational Facility again in their Banquet Hall. This is a fantastic facility with great accommodations. It started promptly at noon with Marlene Boernsen presenting on How to Make Creamed Honey. It was very obvious that she has been there and done that when it comes to making creamed honey. Great advice with a good handout. Anyone interested in doing this was treated to one of the best presentations on the subject.

Then right after her presentation, Jamie Beyer showed 6 videos that he took this past summer of swarms in various stages of swarming. A swarm leaving a hive, clustering on a branch then it being vacuumed was shown first. Then a swarm cluster video on a tree branch was interesting. Following this a short video of a swarm that clustered in a low cedar tree was shown. A swarm leaving a cluster and entering a hollow in a tree was really a unique video. Finally, a swarm arriving at a Bait Hive and then entering it was really popular. A follow-up video of a hive being robbed was an eye-opener.

We had a long break with plenty of time to visit with other beeks following the videos. Cookies and treats were served by Ann and Linn Wilbur along with Sue, Abigail and Brittany Kelly. All the treats and drinks were donated by them. Thank you so much for these yummy treats.

After the break, Jamie then again got up and gave his presentation on an Update to Swarm Trapping. He had given the first talk on this subject a year ago last March but since then had gained so much more information that an update needed to be given. If you haven't thought about using swarm traps before this talk then you certainly were thinking of it after.

Finally, after another short break we had a short CIBA business meeting. Minutes are elsewhere in the Beeline. Also, elsewhere in the Beeline are pictures during the day which were taken by Randy Ruark. Thank you, Randy.

Place on your calendar the Fourth CIBA Winter Seminar next Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – hopefully, we will have better weather where we will not have to reschedule like this year.

Seminar Financial Report			
Item	Expenses	Income	Grand Total
Grimes Community Center Rental Expense Two charges @ \$170 each - due to weather	\$340.00		
Seminar Donations		\$160.90	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$340.00</b>	<b>\$160.90</b>	<b>(\$179.10)</b>

Other Seminar Outcomes			
Item	Expenses	Income	Grand Total
New Membership Applications		\$95.00	\$95.00

## Membership Directory

Our CIBA Membership Directory is sent out annually in June if you indicated on your membership form we could share your information with the membership. Initiating in June 2019, the membership directory will only be provided via electronic mail (email); we will not be sending out the directory via USPS to any of our members. The reason we are discontinuing a USPS delivery for the directory is it is cost prohibitive, as well as labor intensive for our secretary.

If you want to ensure that we have an email address for you so you can receive a directory, please reach out to Valerie Just at [JustlowaHoney@gmail.com](mailto:JustlowaHoney@gmail.com), to confirm that you have provided the organization an email address.

## Call to Action

### 2019 Membership Dues

Time really does fly, and it is that time of year again to determine if you want a single or a family CIBA membership. Membership in CIBA runs on a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you have not done so already, membership for 2019 is now due. We've included a [membership form](#) with this Beeline edition. Dues are as follows:

- \$10 for a Single Membership
- \$15 for a Family Membership whereby members are residing at the same address
- Waived for a new beekeeper taking a Central Iowa beekeeping class this year

As a reminder, you must be a current member to participate in the election of officers and directors at the March meeting. Membership forms will be available at the Winter Seminar in January, the March CIBA meeting or you can send your payment (checks should be made payable to CIBA), with a completed membership application form, to:

Valerie Just  
4609 Crestmoor Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50310

**NOTE:** IF YOU HAVE PAID IN ADVANCE FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM AND GIVE IT TO VALERIE JUST TO ENSURE WE HAVE YOUR MOST CURRENT INFORMATION.

The DriftWatch Specialty Crop Site Registry is a voluntary communication tool that enables crop producers, beekeepers, and pesticide applicators to work together to protect specialty crops and apiaries through use of the DriftWatch registry mapping program.

### Registered – Need to Renew

If you are already registered, you should have received a reminder email from **FieldWatch Customer Service**. Within the email, there is a hyperlink to go out to the website and renew your registration. If you haven't already done so, search your email for FieldWatch and take a couple of minutes to complete the renewal.

This service requires all specialty crop producers and beekeepers to renew their sites on an annual basis to confirm they:

- 1) are still active;
- 2) get deleted if the site is rotational crop; or
- 3) get modified if the site or profile information has changed.

If you can't find your email sent by FieldWatch Customer Service, access [DriftWatch](#) to sign into your account.

### Not Registered

If you have not registered your hives, access [DriftWatch](#). When on the website, on the right-hand side, you will see 'Don't Have an Account'; choose beecheck – Map My Apiaries option.

### Receiving a Physical Copy of the Beeline

If you are receiving a physical copy of the Beeline and don't have access to the hyperlinks, just search [DriftWatch](#) on the Internet, choose the [DriftWatch-Home](#) option. Once on the website, you will have the option to either:

- Log into your account, or
- Establish an account.
  - On the right side of the page you will see 'Don't Have an Account'; choose beecheck – Map My Apiaries option.

### Beecheck Signs

FieldWatch has signs that are available to order. Once you are in your account, at the top of the page, there is an option [Order Signs](#).

### No Spray Field Markers

On the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship website, there is an option to order No Spray signs for your apiaries IF you have registered your apiaries with FieldWatch. The signs are 12"x18" and are made of aluminum. You can either have the signs shipped to you or pick them up at the downtown office - I picked mine up last year, as I dislike paying for shipping. I called the IDALS office before I went to the office.

- Contact Mary Nieland at (515) 281-7656 if you have any questions or want to pick up signs.
  - The address is 502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines.
- This is the [IDALS website](#) – the option to order field markers is in the bottom right side of the page.
- If you are receiving a physical copy of the Beeline, search **IDALS no spray signs** and choose the [No Spray – Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship](#) option.



## CIBA Beekeeping Auction Update

**What:** CIBA Annual Auction

**When:** Saturday, April 20, 2019  
Auction starts at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** 18930 210th St.

## Consignment

It's time to consign! **CIBA members** that commit to consign by March 1st will be awarded a 10% consignment fee, which is a reduction from the standard consignment fee of 15%. After March 1<sup>st</sup>, CIBA member consignors will be charged a 15% consignment fee. The reduction in the consignment fee is NOT available to non-members in the CIBA.

Committing to consign does not require a list of the items you are consigning, but the sooner we know the items you have to sell, the better we can advertise, and the better your opportunity to sell your beekeeping equipment, etc.

As you are putting items away or cleaning your supplies, start a list of what you want to bring to the auction.

## Concession Stand

Calling for all cooks and bakers! As in the past, there will be a concession stand at the auction – the stand funds our Honey Queen / Honey Ambassador program. Please let us know if you would like to help with food items, and what you are interested in assisting with!

## Contact for Consignment and Concession Stand

Please contact Julie Sander at [majlsander@msn.com](mailto:majlsander@msn.com).

Again, the earlier you contact Julie with a list of consignment items, the better we can advertise your items, which will increase your odds of selling your equipment at the auction.



# Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship News

## News from our State Apiarist, Andy Joseph

By Andy Joseph

There has been a lot of loss already this season. Dealing with some amount of winter loss has always been a part of beekeeping. We're going to have plenty to deal with as the season warms. Simply ordering more bees to fill the holes does not make a person a better beekeeper. At least try to keep history from repeating itself! Sometimes the cause of a deadout is really hard to determine and that itself can be a harsh reality. Other times at least some evidence is present if we look and think.

My first thought is nearly always Varroa Varroa Varroa. 2018 was another pretty extreme year for Varroa mites. Their population numbers climbed pretty high in most hives by later summer, but more concerning is that they seemed difficult to kill. I don't honestly know why so many of us ran treatments through the hives but still had big numbers of mites remaining ... but it was a common story.

Old wisdom is that Varroa won't build up enough to present too much of a problem in newly established hives, but now especially with the associated viral problems, all too often even those new hives get nailed. Early mite treatment is essential. Get them gone while the queen is still laying. This allows a couple cycles of brood still to be reared prior to winter without the pressure of the mites.

You can look for evidence of a high mite load to a degree by looking at the dead bees - do any have deformed wings (virus symptom), and/or do any actually have mites on them? You can alcohol wash bees from a dead cluster. Are the dead clusters of bees large, or had they dwindled down into smaller numbers? You can also look at the bottom board for any mites in the debris. Look through the combs for any last brood – are there cells of dead brood, or did everything emerge / get cleaned out? If dead capped brood – gently pull out a few of the dead bees –check for deformed wings. Tilt the comb back with the sun coming over your shoulder, to light up the “ceilings” of the cells of comb. Look through the brood area to see if there is a white flakey / crystalline deposit on the sides, upper surfaces of the cells ... this is the remains of mite feces –

guanine deposits. And if there is a good bit of it scattered around the brood area, then you had a ton of mites – and can more or less know that they were largely responsible for the dead hives.

A quick aside: I know lots of people swear by the repeated oxalic acid vapor treatment, but I'm not convinced it's actually effective in anything but a broodless colony. Time will tell.

Keep an eye on small hive beetles through the warmer seasons. Those things were everywhere this year. Annoying but don't seem to do much damage til the hive is experiencing some major problems already. Beetles probably do not lend much to winter loss, but can add an element of stress to a colony and can really make a mess of things.

Were your mites in check, but you still found a dwindled dead cluster? Keep nutrition supplemented when necessary by feeding syrup and pollen sub. This allows a larger cluster of young, healthier, hopefully more robust bees to enter winter. Some years all will look great when we pull off the surplus honey, but then the season will quickly dry up. If we're not paying attention and reacting as beekeepers, this can result in brood being tapered off early. The last thing we want is a bunch of old subpar bees going into winter. Keep that queen laying to get a cluster of relatively younger bees (also further removed in time from your pre-treatment mite loads) heading into winter.

And of course continued feeding through fall can help a lighter colony pack on the lbs. Looking at winter losses, be sure to not overlook food stores. Even if the bees had stores on outer combs, they could have starved if they were clustered tightly even inches away from the food. Sadly, we've all seen the occasional cluster starve out in winter cold with honey stores just a frame away. Mid-winter supplemental feeding with winter patties or fondant or even dry sugar over the hive can really help reduce losses related to starvation.

Nosema can lead to stressed, struggling clusters and winter loss as well. We used to observe some dysentery around the entrance or over the top bars, and think Nosema! Well... maybe, but it's trickier than that now. Other things can cause dysentery. And now we know there a couple different species of Nosema infecting our bees. If you have observed a dwindled cluster, dysentery, stiff looking bees or crawlers (while they were alive in warmer weather), please know that you can send me a sample of the bees for a spore count. Similarly, tracheal mites...

Sometimes a buildup of moisture in the wintering hive can become problematic. Healthy bees can deal with cold pretty amazingly, but not when they're wet. If you see condensation dripping from above as you open the hive, that's a problem. If you find the dead cluster and / or combs wet and moldy, that's another indication. An upper entrance / ventilation hole of some sort in the top box, and an insulation board on top of the hive can really help. I don't have personal experience with using quilt boxes, but the idea seems good.

In any case, as harsh as it sounds, winter loss happens. Again, it's part of beekeeping. Hopefully if you are experiencing some loss, you have a couple more hives which are hanging on well. If you get them through winter, it'll be easy to split out and recover you're your loss, likely for just the cost of a new queen. Fingers crossed for everyone. See you.

## Trees are the Bees Knees!

By Valerie Just, continued from the Winter Beeline...

### Noteworthy Trees!

#### Noteworthy definition: interesting, significant or unusual.

I was not familiar with the trees that I have listed as noteworthy trees before I became a beekeeper, but I do heartily agree that each of these trees could be defined as interesting, significant or unusual. **It will be up to you to determine if these trees would add value to your property and your colonies. I encourage you to conduct further research prior to purchasing them for your own property.**

For instance, the Bee Bee tree, while it is noteworthy in that it provides nectar and pollen during a challenging time of the year for our colonies, a time when there are very few blooming plants except for Goldenrod and Aster, according to a blogger in Maryland, the trees have become invasive. **The intentions of this article are to offer insight, but the reader is accountable for ensuring a species is appropriate for the environment, and their beekeeping situation.**

## Sourwood Tree

<https://www.arboday.org/trees/treeguide/TreeDetail.cfm?ItemID=921>

<http://www.honeytraveler.com/single-flower-honey/sourwood-honey/>



My youngest son, Dan, is an Urban Forester in Washington, D.C. Last summer, he encouraged me to get a Sourwood tree for my back yard. The city of Washington has a lot of sourwood trees, and he stated that the bees just love the bloom. As a side note, the city of Washington, D.C. also manages honey bee hives, as well as passed the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Apiculture Act, which made beekeeping in the District legal for residents. In researching the tree, I found that Zone 5 was the most restrictive planting zone for this tree; I am taking a risk in that a hard winter could kill my tree, as Des Moines planting zone is zone 5. I decided it was worth the risk, and I was willing to lose money in the chance that the tree dies during a harder winter. The reader will need to assess that risk for him/herself, and make a decision prior to purchasing and planting this species.

A medium-sized tree, the sourwood shines in the summer and fall. Its midsummer flowers appear like lilies-of-the-valley, are highly fragrant and contrast nicely against the green foliage. Then in the fall, leaves turn intensely beautiful shades of brilliant crimson, purplish-red and sometimes yellow. This tree shines in landscaping as a specimen in a lawn, a garden feature, an ornamental addition to larger trees or a clump in a large, open space.

A native tree of North America, the sourwood is one of the few endemic trees that is not found in other continents unless planted and has no related species. The name Sourwood is derived from the acrid taste of its leaves, but tea made from these leaves is widely used by mountain climbers as a thirst-quencher. Pioneers used the sap as one ingredient in a concoction used for treating fevers; the bark for chewing to soothe mouth pains; and leaf tea for treating diarrhea, indigestion and dysentery. But the best-known by-product of the Sourwood tree is the hard-to-find and extremely delicious honey that bees produce from the fragrant blossoms. It goes by many other common or local names including sorrel tree, sorrel gum, sour gum, arrow wood, elk tree, lily-of-the-valley tree and titi tree.

For honey lovers, the sourwood offers an additional bonus. Honey produced from the flowers of this tree is considered by many to be unmatched by clover, orange blossom, fireweed or any other honey. Sourwood honey is prized by connoisseurs and honey purists worldwide. It has won best honey in the world twice at the prestigious Apimondia World Honey Show. Sourwood honey is extra-light to light amber in color and crystallizes slowly. It is extremely aromatic, with a distinctive honey flavor of anise and spice. It also has a sweet aroma of anise. It has a persistent sweet and pleasant astringent aftertaste.

Under favorable conditions the nectar is so abundant, it can be shaken from the blooms in small drops. Careful beekeeping is required to avoid diluting the sourwood honey with other nectars growing before (Tulip poplar, Sumac) and after the sourwood blossoms. All sourwood honey contains some other nectars and this may affect the color but as long as the percentage is low, will not affect the flavor of this honey.

## Korean Evodia Tree (Bee Bee Tree)



Last August, my husband, John, came home and told me there was a tree in our neighborhood that was flowering, and when he stood under the canopy, the hum of the honey bees was very evident. We have been beekeeping for the last

three years, and had never heard of a tree that was in bloom in Iowa in August; however, any plant that is blooming at this time of year, and one that the honey bees will visit, is enough to pique my interest. We are typically experiencing a dearth of nectar and pollen during this time of year!

The bees were everywhere - thousands of bees. I had brought my camera, so I took several pictures and I sent the pictures to the extension office with Iowa State University. Within an hour, I was advised that the tree was a little-known tree called a Korean Evodia, sometimes referred to as the Bee Bee Tree. It's important to note that this tree had been planted years prior, in a more controlled urban setting.

[Information from the Forest Service, Fact Sheet ST-242 November 1993 and on the Maryland Grows blog – The Buzz About Bee-Bee Tree: A New Invader in Maryland](#)

Korean Evodia is a little-known but highly desirable small, deciduous tree, often seen at 15 to 25 feet high with an equal or greater spread but is capable of reaching 50 feet in height (Fig. 1). Specimens reaching 50 feet tall are rare. The pinnately compound, dark green leaves cast a light shade below the tree and remain attractive and disease-free throughout the summer. The leaves often drop in autumn while still green, though some trees have been known to provide a display of clear yellow fall foliage. In early summer, many showy, flat-topped flower clusters appear, the white, fragrant blossoms attracting a multitude of bees. Following this gorgeous display of blooms is the production of ornamental, red to black fruits.

This tree can be slow-growing, and requires pruning to develop a strong structure. It is susceptible to breakage either at the crotch, or the wood itself is weak and tends to break. On unpruned trees, it can form a beautiful multi-trunked effect, similar to a shrub, but can be pruned to develop a clear trunk which is suited for planting close to the curb along the street.

Bee-bee trees are either male or female; that is, the male or female flowers are on separate trees. Both produce large, clustered flower heads. The female flower heads turn a wonderful red as the seeds ripen for a second decorative show. The seeds resemble dark black BB pellets and each female tree produces thousands of seeds. This leads to thick dark stands of bee-bee trees under which few other plants will grow.

In an article on a Maryland Grows blog, the author comments: *The seedling crop is so dense that you can't move without stepping on seedlings. It is important to know that this tree can be invasive, particularly if planting on a woodland acreage. It may be a magnet for bees, however it is suppressing and outcompeting the native plants that our native bees and insects need to survive.*

**It will be important for each person to consider their land situation, environment issues such as invasive species, and determine if this tree will add value.**

## **Black Locust Tree**



We have bee colonies at a farmstead near Runnels. We discovered that there are Black Locust trees near this property - much less than three miles away, which as we all know, is typically all the farther that a bee will fly to get nectar. We recently harvested honey from our apiary at the farm, and are thrilled with the honey – it is an excellent varietal.

### **Information from Wikipedia**

*Robinia pseudoacacia*, commonly known in its native territory as black locust, is a medium-sized deciduous tree native to the southeastern United States, but it has been widely planted and naturalized elsewhere in temperate North America, Europe, Southern Africa and Asia. Another common name is false acacia, a literal translation of the specific name (pseudo meaning fake or false and acacia referring to the genus of plants with the same name.)

The flowers open in May or June for 7–10 days, after the leaves have developed. They are arranged in loose drooping clumps (racemes) which are typically 4–8 inches (10–20 cm) long. The flowers themselves are cream-white (rarely pink or purple) with a pale-yellow blotch in the center and imperfectly papilionaceous in shape. They are about 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide, very fragrant, and produce large amounts of nectar.

The tree grows from 30 to 70 feet and blossoms in May to June. During this time, it can easily be found by following the highly aromatic, wonderfully sweet smell of the ample drooping clusters of white blossoms. Bees are drawn to the calyxes

filled with nectar, returning throughout the day for ten days or so during the blossoming time. Nectar flow is dependent upon the weather and may not be consistent from year to year.

### **Black Locust Honey**

<http://www.honeytraveler.com/single-flower-honey/black-locust-acacia-honey/>

The honey is extremely light colored, lemonish white or yellow-green, and if relatively free of other floral sources, it can be very transparent, like liquid glass. The aroma is floral, fruity, delicate, very persistent. The flavor is very sweet, slightly acidic with hints of vanilla and no aftertaste. The flowery notes are noticed best in the finish. It has a lower acid content. It's delicious combined with cheeses, especially pecorino and gorgonzola cheese. Because of its light taste, it is good for children and ideal on fresh cheeses (ricotta), yogurt, fruit and ice cream. The honey remains liquid and does not crystallize easily due to its high fructose content.

## Think and Research that Plant Before You Plant It

By Nancy Kurrle, retired Environmental Educator and avid pollinator supportive gardener

I read my BUZZ and CIBA newsletters as soon as they arrive. I enjoy reading and learning from other BEEKS, lots of hard learned lessons and hands on knowledge willingly shared by so many beekeepers. I want to address the article about planting the Bee Bee Tree and/or any other non-native potentially invasive species.

Invasive species are non-native plants that thrive in local environments, displacing and crowding out native species that provide higher quality food for pollinators: foliage for caterpillars as well a nectar and pollen for adult pollinators. In the article it stated that the fall blooming Bee Bee tree produces thousands of tiny black seeds that readily sprout and need to be controlled. How do you control the birds that may forage and spread the seeds? There are many examples in the US and Iowa: the Asian Red Pepper plants that line the water canals of Florida, purple loose strife blooming plant that produces 2.7 million seeds per plant per year, now choking our Iowa wetlands, and Multi-Flora Rose – promoted to farmers as the “living fence”. Pollinators utilize all these plants, but what's the cost to native species and how much time and money has been spent drying to eliminate them?

I agree as beekeepers we want to support our bees and other pollinators during the nectar dry spells. I suggest supporting pollinators with seasonal successional blooming plants in your landscape. Utilize a variety of spring, summer, fall bloomers as well as differing plant heights and structures (trees, vines, shrubs, annual and perennial herbaceous plants). Some bee favorite spring shrubs include pussy willow, lilac, chokecherry, viburnum, witch hazel and New Jersey tea. There are many spring blooming trees, perennial, and annual herbaceous plants. Our yard supports many weeds: white clover, creeping Charlie, and dandelions. We don't mow it all the time, leaving patches of blooming white clover and dandelions throughout our yard for bee foraging. Our flower beds include some non-native flowering plants such as roses, hostas, salvias, sedums, zinnias, cosmos, moss rose, alyssum, snap dragons, and sweet Williams – all favorites of pollinators.

I especially enjoy the August/September/October bloomers and so do the bees. These include: sunflowers, aster, Sweet Autumn Clematis vine covered in white blooms. The last bloomers are Creamy Gentians in our prairie (bumble bee pollinated) and the goldenrods. There are more than 100 species of goldenrods that bloom into the fall and all rely entirely on animal pollinators. They are one of the best native herbaceous plants for attracting and feeding wildlife. One study found that the goldenrods provide food and shelter for 115 butterfly and moth species, and more than 11 native bee species. The goldenrods pop up throughout our flower beds and the drought zones in yard. I control their spreading by dead heading. Goldenrod, a weed to some people, but not to this beekeeper with her bee friendly yard.

Please consider native versus non-native plantings when making purchases. It's easy to search out invasive species using the internet, local extension agencies, and local garden club experts. There are so many plants available to gardeners, beekeepers, and pollinators supporters. Don't purchase and plant

another, KUDZO!

Pollinator Friendly Sources: Fruit/Nut Trees (hard to find native varieties) Stark Bros. [www.starkbros.com](http://www.starkbros.com), Native Plant/Seeds: Prairie Moon Nursery, Winona, MN [www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com) and Nashville Natives (plants for pollinators) [www.plantsforpollinators.com](http://www.plantsforpollinators.com) Garden seeds from: Renee's Garden Seeds, Select Seeds, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, The Cook's Garden.

## Creamed Honey Tips

Drafted by Valerie Just

Marlene Boernsen provided the club a fantastic presentation at the winter seminar. She agreed to generously share her creamed honey tips with the club in our newsletter. Thank you, Marlene!

### Preparation

#### Ingredients

- 12-15 pounds of honey
  - 18.5% moisture is best – if the moisture is too low, the product will get hard.
- Starter: 1# Sue Bee honey/12-15 pounds of honey
  - Editor tried powdered starter, and final product was granular.

### Additional Optional Ingredients:

- 1 pound of freeze-dried fruit powder to 60# of honey (.2667 oz/pound)
- 1 cup cinnamon per 60# honey (.2667 Tablespoons/pound)
- 1 teaspoon flavor oils per 12# of honey – adjust to taste

### Instructions

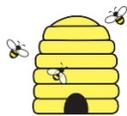
1. Warm honey gently to around 120 degrees to make sure there aren't any crystals.
2. Cool down the honey to under 80 degrees before you continue with the process, or the starter will liquify.
3. Mix in 1# smooth creamed Sue Bee honey to 12-15# of honey
4. If you are using flavored powders, mix small amounts of the powder in 4 cups of honey before adding to the big batch. It mixes better, and avoids lumps in the product.
5. When all is mixed, let the mixtures set overnight. The next day, skim off some of the air bubbles.
  - a. Marlene uses the skimmed product in pancake batter.
6. Fill containers. Label and shrink wrap, if desired.
  - a. Labels need to state the ingredients – remember that people have nut allergies if you use nut flavorings such as walnut, etc.
7. Store in the refrigerator, or a 57-degree room or wine refrigerator for 6-7 days, or until set.
  - a. 57 degrees is the ideal temperature.
  - b. Don't leave in the refrigerator once it is set-up.
8. Share & Enjoy!

### Resources

- Freeze-dried fruit powder
  - [www.northbaytrading.com](http://www.northbaytrading.com)
- Hot pepper powder
  - [www.spicebarn.com/](http://www.spicebarn.com/)
- Flavor oils/equipment – if you tell them you are a beekeeper, you will receive a discount.
  - [www.lorannoils.com](http://www.lorannoils.com)
- Waterproof labels – Inkjet labels
  - You can create your labels with Online Labels designing tool, and print at Staples or at home.
  - [www.onlinelabels.com](http://www.onlinelabels.com)
- Shrink wrap

- [www.uline.com](http://www.uline.com)
- S11532 Uline Shrink Tubing – 200 gauge, 6” x 750’
- Certified Kitchen
  - <https://ia.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/resources1/food-processing-storage/>
  - (515) 281-6538

## CIBA Member Contributions



### Margaret's FAQs

By Margaret Hala, Board of Director

Question	Margaret Says
<p>I had 1 hive last year that died out and I want to know is it still usable and how do I keep it over the winter. It also molded last spring. Can those frames still be used?</p>	<p>Yes, the hive is still usable, IF you have kept mice and wax worms out of it. Any hive that dies over the winter has damp combs, and these will mold unless separated. As soon as you start examining you hives in the spring and find a dead one, remove 1 frame and separate the rest to allow air flow between the remaining frames. Place the removed comb in another box, temporarily. It also helps to shake and remove as many dead bees as you can. You don't need to pull out all the dead ones jammed into the cells with tweezers, but if you can get some of the solid cluster of dead bees out of the cells this will allow the comb to dry. It will also make it easier for the next colony to remove any dead bees remaining. As for using moldy combs, we've found that if the wax dries out to the point that it is hard (fingernail stuck into it, breaks it) the bees will not reuse it. If on the other hand, the wax is soft and pliable (a fingernail stuck into it pierces it), they will clean and use it.</p>
<p>Someone told me there has been a change in the idea of how Varroa Mites damage honey bee. I missed the Fall IHPA Meeting and would like to know more.</p>	<p>It has been the belief of scientists that Varroa Mites sucked the blood of Honey Bees. Research has been done that seems to prove this wrong. The V. Mite consumes the fat from the fat cells of the H.B. thus weakening them to the point they can't continue to survive when they contract other disease, virus or stress factor. Sort of like tape worms becoming so large and numerous within a human that they can no longer consume enough food to survive. The speech Dr. Sammy ???? gave was VERY GOOD. He has good people skills, in addition to his smarts in research, and is well worth the time and effort to hear and see him.</p>
<p>What's the best 'bee pasture' to place colonies next to or in?</p>	<p>A combination of 10% prairie and 90% crop ground shows the best results for placing bees in crop areas. This can be accomplished by planting strips of prairie in areas that drain fields, along roadways where you can't plant crops and along timbered areas where it's too shady for crop plants to thrive. This will also help immensely in erosion control. It is figured that it eliminates up to 65-75% of loss of top soil. This also showed better results on weight gains for the bees that straight prairie areas.</p>
<p>When should I get out and check my bees to see if they are alive, how heavy they are, etc?</p>	<p>Those 2-3 40-50* days we had in Jan. would have been perfect, if they had been a month later. Next time we get 40+ days, get out and check them. More colonies die between Feb and dandelion bloom the overwinter. Throw sugar on top of inner cover if they are light, or use a feeder bucket on top of inner cover. Cover with an empty body and outer cover to keep heat in the hive. You can also put crumpled newspaper in empty hive body, anything to insulate the hive top. The bees WILL NOT go down to feed, only up or out if the weather warms somewhat so they can break cluster.</p>

# Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) 2019 Membership

## Select one:

- New membership
- Renewal of membership from 2018

If this is a renewal, has any of your personal information changed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Dues

- ✓ Membership dues run on a yearly calendar schedule of January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ Dues are payable at the beginning of each new calendar year.
- ✓ Make checks payable to CIBA.

## Select one:

- \$10 for a Single Membership
- \$15 for a Family Membership whereby members are residing at the same address
- Waived for a new beekeeper taking a Central Iowa beekeeping class this year

Where are you taking your class? \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Information for Family Memberships

Additional name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Additional name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Additional name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Newsletter/Communication Delivery: Electronic or Mailed Delivery Options

You can choose between receiving the quarterly newsletter and club communications via electronic delivery (email) or United States Postal Service (USPS) mail delivery.

We encourage electronic delivery for the reasons noted below:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ We can provide more information to you electronically, as noted in the table below.

While we encourage electronic delivery, you need to make a delivery option that serves your needs. This table outlines communications based on delivery selection:

Communication Type	What you will receive with:		Details
	Electronic Delivery	Mailed Delivery	
BEELINE	Yes	Yes	Quarterly club newsletter
Meeting reminders	Yes	No	Mailed reminder postcards have been discontinued
Special information	Yes	No	Examples: CIBA organizational updates
Forwarded electronic information	Yes	No	Examples: IHPA news, upcoming events, etc.
By-Law changes	Yes	Yes	Infrequent club By-Law updates
Annual Membership Directory	Yes	Yes	We publish an annual membership directory in June each year.

**Note: Family memberships receive ONE mailed newsletter/membership directory or ONE OR MORE emailed newsletters/notices/membership directories/meeting reminders**

**Select one:**

- Mail via USPS
- Email electronic delivery
- Both

### Membership Directory

We publish an annual membership directory in June each year, which is shared only with club members.

**Select one:**

- Yes, the club can publish my/all family member's information in the Membership Directory
- No, the club may NOT publish my/all family member's information in the Membership Directory

Additional information for the Membership Directory (**optional**):

1. How many hives and where are your hives located (# of hives/location)? EX: 9 urban hives  
Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Rural \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many apiaries (bee yards) do you have? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long have you been beekeeping? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How far do you drive to meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

Ideas for Meeting Presenters or Newsletter Topics

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What is your profession? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you consider assisting CIBA with your skills, if requested? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form with payment to:

Valerie Just  
CIBA Treasurer  
4609 Crestmoor Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50310

# CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

## Officers

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## State Organizations

### **Iowa Honey Producers Association**

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(515) 293-2458  
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### **Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship**

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Des Moines, IA 50319  
(515) 281-5736

### **State Apiarist**

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