

Tribute to John Johnson

A Good Beekeeper and More

By Curt Bronnenburg, CIBA Member (Reprinted from Fall 2020 BEELINE)

I write this as a personal recollection of a man I consider a friend, a mentor and a leader. He helped manage and guide two Iowa beekeeping organizations – Central Iowa Beekeepers Association and the Iowa Honey Producers Association – for a third of a century.

Soon after I joined the IHPA in the late 1980s I recognized John Johnson as a leader, not because I was any kind of expert, but because I saw the respect he received from other highly regarded members of the organization. I found myself drawn to him because he was simply a very good person. The fact that he was also a very good beekeeper surely added to my high regard for him. When John spoke, everyone (and especially me) listened, analyzed and then stepped up as the voice of reason.

John managed the state fair sales booth for many years and made the changes needed to make it the main revenue source for the organization. It was easy to recognize his dedication and attention to detail.

Persistence is another trait I recognize, as he encouraged others to be active and participate. He is absolutely the catalyst for me becoming active in the IHPA as a board member, vice president and president. It was his prodding, guidance and leadership that gave me the confidence to get going. I'm sure many others in the IHPA and CIBA have benefitted from his guidance.

John was very willing to step aside so new leadership could take over, but also stay in the background to advise. The beekeeping world was a better place because of you!

Thank you, John Johnson.