

Speakers

2024 Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Winter Seminar

Saturday, March 23, 2024
Iowa Arboretum and Gardens
1875 Peach Ave., Madrid, IA 50156

Morning Session

Andy Joseph, IA State Apiarist

Entomology & Plant Science Bureau, IA Department of Ag. and Land Stewardship (IDALS), Ankeny, IA



Andy has been with IDALS as the State Apiarist for 16 years. As such, he oversees the Apiary program which is a combination of regulatory certification, beekeeper education efforts, and promotion of the beekeeping industry. He travels the state working with beekeepers. Additionally, with his family, he runs about 270 bee hives in the Des Moines area as Meadow BlazingStar Honey. Andy enjoys leading a beginner beekeeper class annually in Central Iowa, is the Apiary Superintendent at the IA State Fair, and serves on the Board of the IA Honey Producers Association.

Bob Fassbinder

Fastbinder Apiaries, Elgin, IA

Bob started keeping bees in 1976, after graduating from Iowa State University with an engineering degree and serving in the U.S. Navy. Fassbinder Apiaries is a family business based in Elgin in the northeast Iowa county of Fayette. Bob is an innovative and passionate beekeeper, proactive in promoting land stewardship and a diverse landscape for bees. He has worked to improve the genetic health of his bees by selecting successful local colonies and producing his own queens.



Steve & Becky Tipton

Country Creek Honey, Meriden, KS



Steve and Becky have been master beekeepers for over 30 years. They run Country Creek Honey, selling honey, honey products and bees as serious sideliners. Becky makes a large selection of skin care products using beeswax and honey. They teach beginning beekeeper classes and mentor new beekeepers each year. Steve loves building and has designed several gadgets for easier beekeeping as well as a machine to fill straws with their own Kansas honey. Besides beekeeping, Steve and Becky enjoy gardening, travel, being outdoors and promoting a healthy environment for all pollinators. Both Steve and Becky have held numerous offices in local associations. Becky is the current president of the Kansas Honey Producers.

Afternoon session

Matt Lance

Lance Honey Farms, Kearney, NE

Matt is owner and operator of Lance Honey Farms in central Nebraska, operating over 350 colonies and supplies Nebraska beekeepers with local raised nucs and queens. Matt also teaches intro beekeeping courses in-person, over streaming services and on 2 central Nebraska community college campuses, all while operating a beekeeping supply company and a full-time job. Matt is married and father of two.



John Hill, President

HillCo., LLC, Minonk, IL



John has been fascinated with honeybees ever since he was 4 or 5 years old, wondering what it looked like inside a beehive, and how bees made that delicious, golden honey. He caught his first swarm of bees at age 16 and has been a beekeeper most of the time since then. Bees are definitely a passion of his and now his wife and 4 kids are involved as well. His business, HillCo is a nationally known, full-line beekeeping supplier shipping product all over the US and Canada.

Phil Ebert

Ebert Honey Co., LLC, Lynnville, IA

Phil began Ebert Honey in 1980 with less than ten colonies in the backyard of his home near Fairfield, Iowa. What started out as a hobby later grew into a family business. Over the years, all four of Phil's sons worked in the honey business as they grew up. Currently Phil and two sons, Adam and Alex, continue to build the business. Today, Ebert Honey is centered around locations in Lynnville and Mount Vernon, Iowa. Most of the honey is sold directly to grocery stores, bakeries, breweries, and restaurants throughout central and eastern Iowa. Phil is a frequent speaker at Iowa beekeeping clubs and contributes a monthly column to the BUZZ, the Iowa Honey Producers Association monthly newsletter, concentrating on useful beekeeping observations and practices.

