

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

THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association



ISSUE: Winter 2021

Editor: Laura Miller

CIBA MEMBER MEETING & PROGRAM

Saturday, January 15, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Northridge Baptist Church

3700 6th Avenue, Des Moines

Topic: *Bee Foundation Products*

Business and annual election of officers at 1 p.m. followed by a presentation by Jeff Johnson, Premier Bee Products, More on **page 3**.

CIBA WINTER SEMINAR

Saturday, March 19, 2022 *All-day program*

Grimes Community Complex, Grimes

Four scheduled speakers, a day-long program, lunch and plenty of time to visit with other beekeepers await. Registration will open in January on the CIBA website. More on **pages 3 & 12**.

Questions? Call Program Chair Jeremiah Kusel, (515) 447-3203

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:

February 10, 2022

Email submissions and comments to:

Laura Miller, Beeline_editor@yahoo.com

We encourage you to receive the newsletter via email; however, we understand if electronic delivery is not for you! You may update your subscription by contacting Linn Wilbur, lwilbur50201@gmail.com



Season's Greetings!



FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER

Our program committee has done an outstanding job of lining up unique programs in the coming months, not only for our Winter Seminar in March but also for our next meeting on Saturday, January 15.

You'll find a lot of information on the Winter Seminar in this issue and we will be writing more in the next BEELINE. Right now, I want to talk about our presenter for January, Jeff Johnson.

Jeff is co-owner of Premier Bee Products based in South Dakota. They manufacture plastic foundation for our bees to build comb upon in our hives. I was introduced to this brand of foundation almost two years ago. I like it and have since thought about all aspects of different kinds of foundation. This is where Jeff comes in.

In talking with Jeff on the phone about doing a presentation for us, he discussed so many more aspects of foundation that I had never considered, like the pros and cons of using real wax foundation or plastic foundation, using wax coatings on plastic foundation and when to use extra heavy wax coatings. There is even a double extra-heavy wax coating.

Very few beeks have the information that Jeff will present to us. You will not want to miss this program!

I want to remind everyone that we will have elections at our January meeting. All officers and one director will be elected. You can volunteer to run for any one of these positions by contacting Jeremiah Kusel at 12beeshoney@gmail.com

The last item to highlight is membership in CIBA (get more details on page 4). As you may know, membership is by calendar year beginning in January, so now is the time to renew. Your dues help us bring you the best programs with top-notch speakers, and there are many other benefits of CIBA membership. Thanks for being a member and enjoy the holiday season! – *Jamie*

Find us on the web: <https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/>

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CentrallowaBeekeepersAssociation

Join our CIBA Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/353306835159561/

Fall 2021 BEELINE

CIBA Program Updates

January 15 Meeting: Bee Foundation, Annual Election.....	3
Get Set for Winter Seminar in March	3
CIBA Directors Meeting December 7	4

CIBA Membership News

It's Time to Renew Your 2022 CIBA Membership!	4
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Other CIBA Business

September 21 Member Meeting Minutes	5
November 20 Member Meeting Minutes	6
CIBA Moves Closer to Federal Nonprofit Status	7

CIBA Royalty: A Reason to Be Proud

7

The Queen/Ambassador's Corner

8

Meet Your CIBA Board Member: Susan Kelly

9

CIBA Member Contributions

A Friend Remembered: Pat Randol	10
Phenology Planner for Beekeepers Available	10
Try This New Year's Resolution: Get Ready for Winter in August.....	11
Iowa Honey Bee Day Returns to the Statehouse	11
The Lives of Bees: A Great Read – and Even Better Presentation!	12
Who Do You Call After a Bee Kill?.....	12

From the Editor: After Hive Work Comes Marketing

13

Don't Forget CIBAlist!	15
------------------------------	----

Got Plants? Make Sure They're Pollinator-Friendly	15
---	----

A Smile Before You Go

16

CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

16

Editor's Document Navigation Tips



Table of Contents: Hover over any section of the Table of Contents, then hold the CTRL button down on your keyboard. This action will create a pointing finger image - press the left button on your mouse on any section of the Table of Contents to go directly to that section.

Document navigation: No matter where you are in this document, if you press the CTRL + Home buttons on your keyboard concurrently, the action will take you to the top of the BEELINE. You can then scroll to page 2 to gain access to the Table of Contents to navigate the entire document using guidance in bullet number 1.

CIBA Program Updates

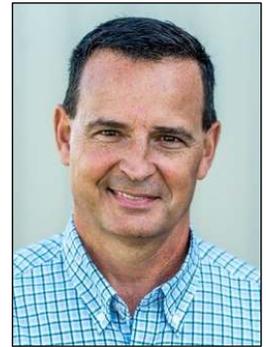
January 15 Meeting: Bee Foundation, Annual Election

Date: Saturday, January 15, 2022

Time: 1 p.m.

Where: Northridge Baptist Church, 3700 6th Avenue, Des Moines

Schedule: Business meeting and annual election of officers and directors, 1 p.m., following by program presented by Jeff Johnson, Premier Bee Products, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on bee foundation products.



Jeff is co-owner of Premier Bee Products that manufactures plastic foundation for our bees to build comb on in our hives. He will talk about the many types and aspects of foundation, as well as highlighting foundation produced by Premier. You will hear the pros and cons of using real wax foundation, plastic foundation, wax coatings on plastic foundation and when to use extra heavy wax coatings or even double extra heavy wax coating.

Get Set for Winter Seminar in March

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022

Time: Seminar is all day and lunch included in registration

Where: Grimes Community Complex, Grimes

Details: Registration opens in January! Watch the CIBA website, www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org, for more information!

What better way to celebrate CIBA's 75th anniversary than to attend a day of fantastic speakers and conversations with beekeepers across Iowa! Our keynote speaker is Dr. Tom Seeley, author and professor at Cornell University. He'll join us live via Zoom, no doubt ready to amaze us with two fascinating sessions based on his lifelong research with honey bees. (See Mark Moberly's book review, page 12 of this newsletter.)

Three other scheduled speakers will join us in person: Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth from Creighton University in Omaha; and our Iowa experts Randal Cass, extension bee specialist at Iowa State University, and Iowa State Apiarist Andy Joseph.

Dr. Tom Seeley (via Zoom)

Horace White Professor in Biology, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Dr. Seeley is the author of several books on honey bee behavior including *Honeybee Democracy* (2010), *The Wisdom of the Hive* (1995) and his most recent books, *Following the Wild Bees* (2016) and *The Lives of Bees* (2019). He is an invited speaker across the U.S. and internationally. In 2001 he received the Humboldt Prize in Biology given to internationally renowned scientists and scholars. His studies emphasize swarm intelligence (the solving of cognitive problems by a group of individuals who pool their knowledge and process it through social interactions) by investigating how bees collectively make decisions.



Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth (in person)

Professor of Zoonotic Diseases, Department of Biology Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

Dr. Fassbinder-Orth grew up on a commercial bee farm in northeast Iowa (Fassbinder Apiaries). She received a B.S. in genetics from Iowa State University in 2003, and a PhD in zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2008. She has been a faculty member at Creighton University in Omaha since 2008 and is director for the Center of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. Carol and her husband Brian



own Bountiful Blossoms Bee Company in Glenwood, Iowa where they sell over 40 different honey and beeswax products, and Carol uses their 50 colonies for her research projects. Her research focus is honey bee disease biology with a specific focus on viruses. Carol's 17-year-old daughter, Amara, also researches bees, and has devised a machine-learning program that predicts the health state of a colony based on sound collected from the hive. Beekeeping runs in their family!

Randall Cass (in person)
Bee Extension Specialist, Department of Entomology
Iowa State University, Ames

Randall joined Iowa State University in 2017, becoming the institution's first bee extension specialist in over 70 years. In his role he coordinates bee research, manages the university's honey apiary, lectures and provides outreach to beekeepers, farmers and landowners. Cass is especially interested in taking an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to controlling honey bee pests and conducting research exploring the effects of landscape on colony health. Prior to coming to Ames he managed rural development programs in Guatemala and El Salvador, working with small farmers and beekeepers. Randall holds a M.S. from the University of California, Davis and a B.A. from Willamette University.



Andy Joseph (in person)
Iowa State Apiarist, Entomology & Plant Science Bureau
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Ankeny

Andy has been with IDALS as the State Apiarist for 14 years. Andy has a M.S. in entomology from the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Andy's research focused on bees as pollinators in monoculture, looking at the role of nectar foraging in relation to overall foraging activity and, ultimately, plant pollination. He travels the state working with beekeepers. Andy oversees the Apiary program which is a combination of regulatory certification, beekeeper education efforts, and promotion of the beekeeping industry. Additionally, with his family he keeps about 200 bee hives in the Des Moines area. Andy is the lead instructor for a well-attended beekeeper class most years in central Iowa for beginning beeks and serves on the Board of the Iowa Honey Producers Association.



CIBA Directors Meeting December 7

The next meeting of the CIBA board will be December 7 via Zoom. The board meeting is open to members, and you are encouraged to participate. Sign in to learn how CIBA actually works and makes decisions, or consider becoming more active by volunteering as an officer, director or committee member. CIBA is only as good as the members who actively participate make it.

Here are 3 ways to join (connection opens at 6:30, meeting starts at 7 p.m.):

Web link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87831927231?pwd=N2VPd0hOTWNYWkdmSVE4dkQ4amFPZz09>

Zoom meeting ID: 878 3192 7231 Passcode: 246088

Call in by phone: (312) 626-6799

CIBA Membership News

It's Time to Renew Your 2022 CIBA Membership!

Membership in CIBA runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year. So....membership renewal is fast approaching. CIBA members voted at the March business meeting to set 2022 dues as follows:

- Single person membership \$15 per year
- Family membership \$20 per year (no limit to number, all residing at one address)

New this year is a \$5 fee per single or family membership if you want to receive printed copies of the quarterly BEELINE newsletter and meeting notices via U.S. mail (meeting notices are mailed only on months when the BEELINE is not published). One mailed copy per membership. This fee covers the increased cost of mailings for postage and printing.

2022 CIBA Membership Dues

	With electronic delivery	With mail delivery (with or without electronic delivery)
Single membership	\$15	\$20
Family membership	\$20	\$25

Unless you opt out, all members receive the BEELINE newsletter, President’s message (only during months when the BEELINE is not published), the Bee Bit newsletter, and all other CIBA notices via email.

In early December, you will receive in the mail a renewal form that has the information you provided with last year’s membership. Please watch for this mailing! You just need to review the information, change or update where needed, and return the form and your membership payment in the enclosed envelope. We hope this will make renewal easier! ***

You will NOT find the 2022 membership form in this BEELINE issue. If you want to encourage others to join CIBA, membership forms will be on the CIBA website about the time you receive your renewal letter. The website will have forms that can be downloaded, printed and filled out by hand, or completed electronically. We are working on getting a way to pay dues or donate to CIBA via PayPal, so check that out if you are interested. More details on the website: www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org (click on the “About” and then “Membership” tabs).

If you have any questions about membership, contact CIBA Secretary/Treasurer Linn Wilbur at lwilbur50201@gmail.com or 515.291.6204.

Other CIBA Business

September 21 Member Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Jim Crandell

The meeting at Northridge Baptist Church in Des Moines was called to order at 5 p.m. by President Jamie Beyer.

The treasurer’s report was presented. Julia McGuire moved to accept report, passed.

The deadline for applications for CIBA Queen/Ambassador is December 1, open to youth ages 16-20 years old. It was noted that in past years the CIBA Queen has moved on to become the Iowa State Honey Bee Queen. Great Plains Master beekeeping testing dates are September 13-24.

Program Committee reports:

- November 20, 2021: A representative of FieldWatch/Bee-Check will present and Sara Nizzi from the Xerces Society will talk via Zoom on improving pollinator plants. We are considering meeting again at the church.

- Jan. 15, 2022: Jeff Johnson from Premier Foundation will speak in person about all types of foundation. Meeting place TBD.
- March 19, 2022 Winter Seminar: Author Tom Seeley from Cornell University will present 2 talks via Zoom. Also scheduled are Andy Joseph, Randall Cass and Sam Ramsey has been contacted. Seeley will cost \$400 but no other costs are known. Julia McGuire moved that up to \$5,000 be used to cover costs of speakers, passed. Meeting place TBD.

We need more equipment for the audio system. Jim Crandell moved to spend up to \$400.00, passed. Newsletters: Laura Miller needs info from members on how they sell their honey for a BEELINE article, also for members to complete newsletter surveys. The latest Bee Bit was on winter preparation.

One member inquired about the possibility of having equipment for loan, such as extractors or an infrared camera. Item was tabled. Items for sale can be listed free in the BEELINE via CIBAlist. Adjourned 5:35 p.m.

Doyle Kincy gave an excellent presentation on overwintering. Phil Ebert and Mike Sander offered a good panel discussion. The food was great.

November 20 Member Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Jim Crandell

The meeting at Northridge Baptist Church in Des Moines was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by President Jamie Beyer. Minutes from membership meeting September will be in the next BEELINE newsletter.

The treasurer's report was given. Arvin Foell moved to accept, passed.

Membership Report: We have 178 people on 132 memberships (including family memberships).

Newsletter Report: The winter BEELINE will be published around December 1. Arvin Foell wrote an article about former CIBA President Pat Randol, who died in October.

Program Report: Handouts about the January 15 meeting and March Winter Seminar were available. Jamie Beyer shared information about the January speaker, Jeff Johnson, from Premier Foundation. The meeting will be at Northridge Baptist Church in Des Moines.

Honey Bee Day has been set for March 30, 2022. More information forthcoming, including how to approach city and county governments to pass Honey Bee Day proclamations.

Queen/Ambassador Report: CIBA Queen Ellie Nusbaum competed for Iowa State Honey Queen. She did a great job but someone else was selected. Ambassador Jason Vernon has COVID so they prepared a short video, which was shown at the meeting, to talk about their 2021 term. One young lady has applied for the 2022 competition so far but we would like more applications from youth ages 16-20 years.

Nonprofit Status Report: Still in process to receive federal recognition. This status is important to get a lower insurance rate for our proposed bee yard at Cherry Glen.

Susan Kelly moved to change the date of the annual election of officers and directors, originally scheduled for March, to the January meeting, approved.

The Winter Seminar will in March, with weather being the main reason for the change from January.

President Jamie Beyer introduced the speakers: Sarah Nizzi from the Xerces Society and Gretchen Paluch from the Pesticide Bureau of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship who presented information about FieldWatch.

Adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

CIBA Moves Closer to Federal Nonprofit Status

In 2019, CIBA filed for and was approved as an incorporated nonprofit Association in the state of Iowa. Prior to that, the CIBA membership approved bylaw revisions that incorporated changes required to seek nonprofit status at both state and federal levels. Technically, we are the Central Iowa Beekeeping Association, Inc.

On October 6, 2021, CIBA filled with the Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) an application for nonprofit status as a 501(c)(3) organization based on CIBA being an educational nonprofit. This has been in the works for a while, but finally the necessary information was generated and forms were completed. We should know the final IRS determination within 4-6 months.

If approved, the status will be retroactive to the date of application. The earliest we will hear anything from the IRS will be 2 months from the application submission, at which time they will do an initial evaluation and determine which, if any, of the association's documents they would like submitted to substantiate our application.

In addition, CIBA filed forms in October with the IRS to allow us to lobby on issues related to beekeeping at a non-significant monetary extent. Lobbying is listed as a goal in CIBA bylaws, but we have not been actively pursuing it. There are limitations we must observe to maintain nonprofit status; a separate annual report on this issue is required.

Approval of 501(c)(3) status has many benefits, including:

- Donations to CIBA are considered charitable contributions, eligible as a federal charitable deduction.
- Favorable consideration with various organizations:
- Reduced rental fees at public institutions (and in certain cases, facilities may be open to us)
- Lower cost for services (such as Zoom) that are limited to 501(c)(3) organizations
- Reduced fees at PayPal
- Lower insurance rates (such as will be needed for our apiary project)
- This will solidify our reputation as a not-for-profit with a "in-the-public-good" mission.
- CIBA would be listed on the Federal IRS charitable organizations database as a verification of our nonprofit status.

We will keep you up-to-date on the status as we get more information.

CIBA Royalty: A Reason to Be Proud

Submitted by Susan Kelly, CIBA Queen/Ambassador Committee Chair

The second weekend in November I was able to attend the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) annual conference with my daughters. I also attended part of the IHPA board meeting Thursday night for interviews with four candidates for Iowa Honey Queen, which included our Central Iowa Honey Queen Ellie Nusbaum. I was impressed by Ellie's poise as well as her passion for honey bees and her desire to share it with those around her. Even though Ellie was not chosen as the 2022 IHPA queen, she was a wonderful representative for CIBA during the entire conference. Thank you, Ellie, for your countless hours of service to help the conference go so well!

December 1st is the deadline for applications for the 2022 Central Iowa Honey Queen and Honey Ambassador. The Queen/Ambassador committee will be interviewing candidates in December and we will announce a new queen/ambassador at the January meeting. As of this writing, I have not received any applications, but I have talked to a couple of young ladies and expect to receive at least one application by the deadline.

If you have questions, comments or concerns, please email me at CIBAQueenChair@gmail.com.

There she is ... Central Iowa Honey Queen Ellie Nusbaum (second from left) is a member of the 2022 Iowa Honey Queen Court. The new queen, Allison Hager from Bellevue (center), succeeds Abigail Kelly (on left), who has served as Iowa Honey Queen the past two years and is a past Central Iowa Honey Queen. Completing the court (on right) are Rachel Vakulich and Britta McCollum.



The Queen/Ambassador's Corner

Submitted by Queen Ellie Nusbaum and Ambassador Jason Vernon

Hello, central Iowa, it's your queen and ambassador here! When we last wrote to you, we were about to attend the Iowa State Fair. I know I can speak for myself and Jason when I say we had an amazing week! Not only were we able to ride the float for the parade in downtown Des Moines, we also were able to finally meet other honey queens from across Iowa.

It was a hot week at the fair, but was an experience that taught us so much and gave us the opportunity to teach hundreds of fairgoers. Along with staffing the Iowa Honey Producers Association booth, we presented at the Kids Expo. We had so much fun reading books and making candles with the kids.

Shortly after the fair ended, Jason and I began our senior years at Ames High School. With the help of Jamie Beyer, we extracted close to 200 pounds of honey from the AHS Bee Club's three hives. This was much more than we had anticipated and everyone was overjoyed! The long process of uncapping and then spinning the frames made us all tired the next day!



With school finally back to normal we could assist with bee club meetings and introduce all 42 of our new members to beekeeping. Next month the school will host an environmental club showcase where we will begin selling our honey and wax products. We are all excited about this opportunity!

As for events, we were warmly welcomed back to Ms. Hollie's preschool with a new group of students. They were learning about pollinators as an introduction to bees before they receive their own hive this spring. The kids were fascinated about how much work that bees and other pollinators do in order to help plants produce fruit. As always, they loved the beekeeping equipment that we brought along and cannot wait to begin their own beekeeping journey when their bees arrive. Although we are finishing our term very soon, we are excited about the programs still on our schedule.

This has been a wonderful year full of learning for both Jason and me. It would not have been possible without the help of the CIBA queen chair, Susan Kelly, and Iowa Honey Queen Abigail Kelly. Their endless support and knowledge have given us a chance to reach students all over central Iowa.

If you missed seeing our video at the November CIBA member meeting where we shared our thoughts about the past year, you can watch it on the CIBA YouTube channel: https://youtube.com/channel/UCgVgKKIX9MkJ9xQPlv_telQ

We hope that if you ever have any questions, you will not hesitate to reach out to us by contacting Susan Kelly (CIBAQueenChair@gmail.com). Happy beekeeping!

Meet Your CIBA Board Member: Susan Kelly

My name is Susan Kelly and I am concluding my first year as a CIBA Director. I also chair CIBA's honey queen/ambassador program. My family has been involved in beekeeping since 2016. We started by hosting a hive that Mike and Julie Sander owned and maintained. They taught us so much during those first two years and even let us go into the hives with them.

In 2017, our oldest two daughters applied for the youth scholarship through the Iowa Honey Producers Association. Abigail received the youth scholarship and for the next year she and her two sisters, Bethany and Olivia, maintained their own hives and continued to learn all about honey bees. I was their chauffeur and encourager.

We also started attending CIBA meetings and learned so much there, too. Abigail became Central Iowa Honey Queen in March 2019, and then became Iowa Honey Queen in 2020. I also got involved, becoming the CIBA Honey Queen chair in 2019. Together with the committee, we developed guidelines and updated the program to officially include the option of having a honey ambassador.

During the last three years the girls have started a small business, Dassel Acres, selling honey, lip balm, candles, creams and other products of the hive. Each girl has her own specialty product that they like to make. It has been wonderful to see my girls blossom into businesswomen through their honey and products of the hive business.

One of the things that I love about CIBA is the bimonthly meetings. These meetings are designed to provide continuing education for every level of beekeeper. When we started attending meetings, we did not understand much of what we were hearing, but we continued to attend, listen and ask questions. We asked for suggestions for resources, then checked them out at our local library, a budget-friendly option to learn on your own. If you are not attending CIBA meetings, you are missing out. I invite you to come and check them out!

One reason that I wanted to serve on the CIBA board is because I have a passion for education and making beekeeping accessible to all people, especially the younger generation and those who may not be able to keep bees at their property or have the finances to begin keeping bees. We have been so blessed by other beekeepers in our adventure that I wanted to give back. We have opened up our bee yard to those who know nothing about bees, inviting them to join us as we do hive inspections, and worked with 4-H clubs and Clover Kids clubs to help them learn more about honey bees. It is exciting to see people become relaxed around the bees.

I hope that we can, as an organization, continue to provide educational opportunities for beekeepers of all experience and interest levels. I hope we can continue to provide hands-on opportunities to mentor new beekeepers and foster relationships between generations of bee people.

Thank you for letting me serve you, the CIBA membership, this past year as a Director and for the last three years as Honey Queen/Ambassador Chair. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to email me at CIBAQueenChair@gmail.com.

Susan and her husband, Sean, live in rural Polk County just outside Des Moines with 9 of their 10 children. She spends her days educating her children at home, playing chauffeur for the family and gardener for the plants, and enjoying each day God has given her.



Susan, Sean and oldest daughter Abigail pose with Buzz the Bee (the Kellys' son Caleb) at the Iowa State Fair.

CIBA Member Contributions

A Friend Remembered: Pat Randol

Submitted by CIBA member and former president Arvin Foell



On October 7, 2021, my friend and sister in the Lord, Patricia Diane Randol, went home to be with her savior Jesus Christ. Pat was a long-time beekeeper and past president of CIBA. She also taught a beginning beekeeping course in Winterset for many years.

Pat made many products with the honey and wax from their bees and milk from their goats. She also made soap and attached a different Bible verse on each bar, selling them at the Iowa Honey Producers Association state fair booth and at several farmers markets.

Pat was born in Clark County, Iowa on July 4, 1952, the daughter of Raymond and Joy (Green) Wilkins. She graduated from Clark Community High School. She married Thomas Randol in October 1970. Her marriage lasted more than 50 years producing three sons and eight grandchildren.

Pat spent her entire life in Clarke, Madison and Warren counties. She loved nature and enjoyed caring for her bees and goats. She also grew flowers and vegetables.

I had the pleasure of inspecting her bees and the nucs she had for sale. She would not sell any nuc that did not have good brood patterns, and insisted on gentle bees.

I am happy to have known Tom and Pat over all these years and learned many beekeeping tips from them.

She is survived by her husband, Tom; her sons, Thomas Michael Randol (Amber), Kristopher A. Randol, and Robert James Randol (Bonnie); grandchildren, Travis, Trevor, Matt, Josh, Makala, Mariah, Aubree and Tristan; sister, Pamela Hodges; and brothers, Gene Wilkins and Marion Wilkins. Pat was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Joy Wilkins.

Phenology Planner for Beekeepers Available

Submitted by CIBA member Julia McGuire

I am offering Iowa bee club leaders and bee class instructors a digital draft copy of a new beekeeping planner. Digital drafts will be sent by email in December. I received a Farmer-Rancher grant from the North Central Region of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program to produce the Phenology Planner for Beekeepers.

The planner has a calendar of monthly bloom times and beekeeping activities specific to Iowa and surrounding counties, and a place for writing your own notes. Grant funding makes it possible for beekeepers in Iowa and the surrounding counties to get a free planner. Free planners are available in two rounds: the first is through group reservation by instructors and club leaders; the second, while supplies last, is by individual request from beekeepers who do not fit into the first round (anyone not in a club or enrolled in a class).

To receive a digital draft, send me an email, julia@juliecache.com, with your title and group name. To receive a hard copy for groups (round 1), send the name of group and number of group members including yourself); or for yourself (round 2), send an email to julia@juliecache.com. Hard copies will be printed mid-December by an Iowa beekeeper-owned business and distributed by arrangement in early January. First come, first serve; requests beyond the funded inventory will be quoted a price in February.

For more information about the Phenology Planner for Beekeepers, visit <http://juliecache.com/bee-plant-phenology-planner/>

Grant details are on the SARE website: https://projects.sare.org/sare_project/fnc21-1289/

Try This New Year's Resolution: Get Ready for Winter in August

Compiled by Newsletter Editor Laura Miller

CIBA members learned how to get the jump on winter when they heard from beekeeper Doyle Kincy at the September 18 member meeting. The Urbandale beekeeper shared his ideas on getting hives through an Iowa winter, although the effort begins long before temperatures drop.

Iowa beekeepers need to start in August to assess their hives for winter. He discussed 4 things to consider: 1) Get disease and mites under control. 2) Check for good ventilation. 3) Provide each colony with a healthy young queen. 4) Assure adequate food stores.



To that end, Doyle said he usually pulls his last honey supers near the end of July so that he can get mite treatments on hives. The varroa mite, which feeds on bee larva and reproduces in capped brood cells, is a hive's number one enemy, especially when passed onto bees that need to survive winter. Understanding the mite life cycle is key to treatment.

Ventilation is important to reduce moisture build-up in the hive from fluctuating outdoor temperatures. "Bees don't die of the cold, but they will die when it's cold and wet," he said.

Doyle's hives have upper entrances and a screened bottom board that move air throughout the year. During winter months, some beekeepers add a quilt box filled with aspen chips on top of the hive to absorb condensation.

He said he prefers to have young queens in hives going into winter, giving them at least two 21-day cycles to produce brood before cold temperatures set in and queens stop laying.

Bees also need a good source of energy (carbohydrates such as sugar) when floral resources drop in Iowa during August and September. Sugar water works until the weather turns cold, then Doyle suggested using a rim feeder on top of the hive. The 2.5-3-inch deep rim has space for a sugar bag, granulated sugar or winter patties (as opposed to pollen patties, which are mostly protein, needed in spring when brood production begins).

Iowa Honey Bee Day Returns to the Statehouse

Submitted by CIBA President Jamie Beyer

Put this date on your calendar and plan to join other beekeepers at the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines: Wednesday, March 30, 2022. That's Iowa Honey Bee Day and the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) is hosting a legislative reception/breakfast in the Rotunda of the Iowa Capitol. It will be from 7-9 a.m. and all beekeepers – that means you! – and elected officials are invited to attend.



CIBA president Jamie Beyer chairs the IHPA's legislative committee that plans to ask Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds again to sign a proclamation designating March 30 as Iowa Honey Bee Day. The same request is being made to mayors of Iowa cities and county supervisors. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the importance of honey bees as pollinators and the serious threats posed by invasive pests, decreasing bee-friendly forage, variable climate conditions and increased use of pesticides and herbicides.

This will be the fourth year for the event (it was never scheduled in 2021 due to pandemic concerns), which offers beekeepers a great opportunity to meet their legislators. You CAN influence legislation that favors honey bees. If you want to help, contact Jamie, beyersbog@aol.com, or (515) 231-0215.

Photos from past years are on the CIBA website:

<https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/iowa-honey-bee-day>

The Lives of Bees: A Great Read – and Even Better Presentation!

Submitted by CIBA Director Mark Moberly

I found this book in my public library but was surprised it was the only one by Seeley owned by my library. It had been checked out an average of once a week, which leads me to believe that maybe our library needs another copy!

I was only able to read a few chapters due to time constraints for this review, but it's packed with useful information about bees. It opens with a great history of where our bees in the United States came from. I had no idea there were 30 subspecies of *Apis mellifera* until reading this chapter.

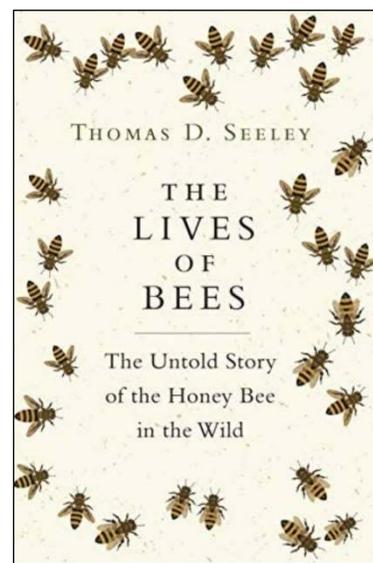
Dr. Seeley has filled his books with graphs, photos and massive amounts of data based on his observations and research. His personal studies, as well as those of other colleagues, support all the findings he reports.

I would suggest this book for a beekeeper who has already completed a beekeeping class and acquired their bees and hives. I say this because the differences pointed out between how wild bees live compared to how we beekeepers house them may make one want to not keep bees for fear of killing them off on a regular basis!

His main point for the book, however, is education. Dr. Seeley offers a comprehensive look at how the wild *Apis mellifera* survives compared to how managed bees survive. Even with the national average of managed colony losses sitting around 40 percent, we get along. But in the wild, he found the colony residing in a natural tree hive had a survival probability of only 1.7 years. Those that survived the first winter lasted 4-7 years. This made me think our managed hives are doing pretty good, or can at least match the wild ones when it comes to survival rates.

Conservation and knowledge of the bees we so much want to manage is another key point in the book. Every chapter covers a specific part of the honey bee and overall, the book is great. Dr. Seeley generously shares his wealth of knowledge about the *Apis mellifera*, which says to me that any presentation he gives is worth a beekeeper's time.

See you in March at our Winter Seminar to hear Dr. Seeley's two sessions and ask questions in person!



Who Do You Call After a Bee Kill?

If you have a large bee kill and suspect it could be the result of a pesticide used near your colonies, who do you call? Dr. Gretchen Paluch leads the pesticide bureau for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and spoke at the November 20 CIBA member meeting in Des Moines. Dr. Paluch outlined the IDALS investigation following all reports of pesticide incidents.

Incident reports are filed with the IDALS pesticide bureau at (515) 281-8591. All reports need to contain:

- Name of the person allegedly responsible for the pesticide
- Name of the owner or lessee of the land on which the crop is grown and for which damage is alleged to have occurred,
- Date on which the alleged damage occurred, and
- Brief description of the incident.

Beekeepers are encouraged, but not required, to register the location of their apiaries with FieldWatch, a nonprofit group that operates a voluntary communication tool linking applicators and beekeepers in Iowa and many other states.

From the Editor Laura Miller

After the Hive Work, Then Comes Marketing! Here are a Few Tips

When I told friends that I was going to raise honey bees, the first question usually was: What are you going to do with the honey?

I had no idea. I was going to “save the world” by raising bees; I hadn’t even considered selling honey, let alone know how much a single colony could produce.



Fast-forward a few years and there I was, selling our Bee Lady Honey. It’s been quite a journey (especially during a record harvest a year ago). My plan has been to develop a distinctive logo (done this year, thanks to a talented friend) and get it on jar labels.

But where to begin? Luckily, I have the resources and excellent expertise right here in the CIBA organization! Here is what I found out from three masters of marketing: Linn Wilbur, Jamie Beyer and Val Just.

I hope you appreciate the information as much as I did! Tell them “thanks” the next time you see them. Let’s hope CIBA members can share more of their tips and tricks in upcoming newsletters.

Linn Wilbur, Elizabella Flower Farm

Linn had the scoop on printing his own labels for the honey products that his daughter, Beth, sells at the Ames Main Street Farmer’s Market as part of her flower business.

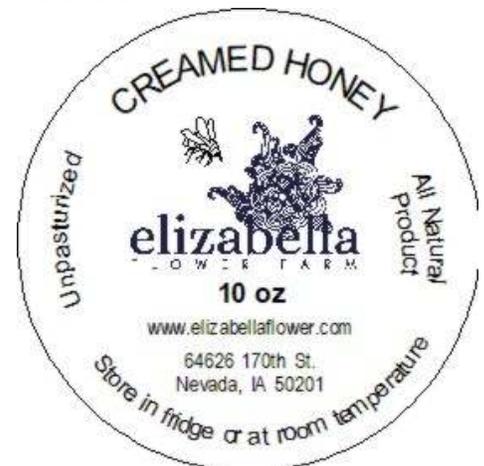
“I have never bought any commercial labels. We design our own so we can customize for her business and vary the shape and size of labels to meet the specific product, keeping the same theme across all products. When we started making our own there were not labels available that met Beth’s theme (a homespun, brown wrapping paper look). We print as needed, so avoid throwing out labels when changes are made.

“We buy 8 1/2” x 11” peel-off adhesive sheets then design and print on laser printers, though you can print using ink jet printers, just buy ink jet-specific sheet labels (will explain more on that shortly). This does require hand-cutting the shapes that we can’t cut on a paper cutter. This allows you to be as creative as you like.

“I have used different graphic programs, currently Corel Draw. There is a vector-based shareware graphics program, Inkscape, for PC Windows, Mac and Linux available. Use is free and the program is well rated. It is robust but the learning curve is a bit steep—but so are all the higher-end graphic programs I have used.

“Labels from a laser printer are water-proof and smudge resistant. Most of our labels are printed in black and white. We do change default settings to increase density and permanence. On our Brother lasers we select “improve toner fixing,” which increases the temperature the printer’s fuser uses in setting the “ink” (powder) to the paper and also increase the density setting. You also may select heavy paper, which will increase the fuser temperature. You will need to experiment on your own printer to increase the density and permanence of the printing. Those changes are in your printer settings. For Windows users this is the “Printer Properties” you see when you first select “Print.” Find someone who knows more than I do for other operating systems.

“We have found that without these fuser and density steps, some of the printing rubs off after the label is affixed and bottles are handled. On small labels (such as on the 2-oz bears), we use a clear spray (Krylon crystal clear from Rust-Oleum or a similar product). After printing we spray the entire sheet and let it dry before cutting. If you use an inkjet printer, you would need to use the spray on all your labels to avoid the ink running and smearing when wet.



“Most of our bottles are glass, but we do offer a 1-pound plastic squeeze skep. We cannot see much difference in how the labels adhere. You can buy clear labels, which can be impressive on a clear glass bottle of lighter honey. The clear labels come in both glossy and matte finish—pick which ever you like. Printing in color is especially effective on the clear labels.

“We buy label paper from Creative Label Concepts, <https://www.creativelabelconcepts.com/>. Prices seem reasonable and they have both small and bulk order options. There are other sources on the web. It can be difficult to remove the backing paper if there are no scores on the paper.

Creative Label Concepts offers products with none to various number of scores on the backing paper running the length of the paper. If you can, select the product with scores that fall somewhere close to the middle of your label, but this depends on the size, number of labels in a row and how you position your labels on the sheet. If there are not scores on the back of the label, I use a single-edge razor blade to start the separation at the edge, but it takes good light and steady hand. There are full sheets of label material available from the same source with precut shapes (circles, ovals and rectangles) that can be used for labels. This avoids the cutting and separation issue but increases the difficulty in designing the labels to be sure they print at the right positions.

“Some of our labels are shaped like a honey skep. We include a slightly larger and thin outline, and then cut manually to the inside of the line. You may want to go with a standard size that would be easier to cut on a paper cutter.

For one of our products (creamed honey in a delicatessen container) we label them with circular labels. There are circle cutters from manufacturers such as Fiskar that go up to at least 3” that can be used to cut those out. Again, put a circle outline larger than your label that you can use to align the cut, flip the label and the cutter upside down and adjust the label so you don’t see the circle line before you cut. This has worked to cut out paper labels, but we have not been able to make this cut the clear labels which are plastic based.”

Jamie Beyer, Beyer’s Bees

“This is my label that I order from Blue Sky Bee Supply. www.blueskybeesupply.com. They are expensive (\$55 for 250 labels or \$120 for 1,000), but I can get all different kinds of labels with the same theme, bees and burlap.”

“On my labels I always say “This is the Good Stuff”. Even though my honey may have the same great qualities of other local honeys, this gets people’s attention.”

“By law, a label includes what is in the container (honey) and this should be in the largest font. The producer’s contact info (name and address) are required, then a list of what is in the bottle in order of prevalence. In the case of pure honey, you already listed it but if you add anything else, that must be listed. I show my weight in pounds and ounces on the label.”

“Having a web site that explains the quality of your honey is a good idea. Mine is at: www.beyersbees.com. Having an excellent webmaster helps this process immensely!”

Val Just, Just Iowa Honey

Val emphasizes a positive customer experience when she sells honey. She offers a free packet of native flower seeds just for the asking. It’s a way, she says, to “scatter joy.”

“When we started this journey, our mission was to help the pollinators. Our pollinators are facing great dangers that threaten their very existence. You can make a difference, even if you have just one small garden area. We provide free native seed packets for anyone who wants to help!



“Every day, I look out across my backyard landscapes, and it warms my heart to see butterflies floating across my yard, knowing that the small effort I took 7 years ago to transform my landscapes, and plant a variety of native plants, is making a small difference in our pollinators ability to sustain their very existence.”

The packets, which she fills by hand, include four types of native seeds and complete instructions for planting. Cost is minimal, considering the good will (and habitat!) that she is building. In fact, Val said that if any CIBA member wants native plant seeds, just send her a note at justiowahoney@gmail.com. Seeds can be sown in the snow, so now would be a great time to get them in for spring germination.

In addition to the seed packets, Val changes up her honey products to fit the season and various occasions, occasional newsletters to customers, and slogans throughout her amazing website, www.justiowahoney.com



Val orders her labels from Online Labels, <https://www.onlinelabels.com> They have a system to create and download labels and customers can add their own images to further personalize the label. They will print on laser or inkjet paper.

Don't Forget CIBAlist!

If you have something beekeeping-related to sell or are looking to purchase a specific beekeeping-related item, you can put an ad in our BEELINE newsletter. Just like Craigslist, CIBAlist is for CIBA members (2 free ads per calendar year). Ads are limited to 4 lines including the title and must be submitted by the newsletter deadline (listed on the front page of each BEELINE). CIBA is not responsible for errors or misprints and all are subject to board acceptability; the Board reserves the right to decline ads based on content and/or space availability. At this time, we are not accepting non-member ads or paid ads. Send ads to BEELINE editor Laura Miller, Beeline_editor@yahoo.com

Got Plants? Make Sure They're Pollinator-Friendly

Don't overlook trees and shrubs when planning your pollinator-friendly landscape. Species such as American basswood, chokecherry, wild plum, nannyberry, serviceberry and ninebark are important sources of early season food for honey bees and other pollinators.



Sarah Nizzi, a conservation planner and biologist for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, offered tips on improving habitat for pollinators at the November 20 CIBA member meeting in Des Moines. She emphasized a diversity of native plants that provide pollen and nectar throughout the season. The Xerces Society has an extensive publications library with plant lists and related information specific to various regions, <https://xerces.org/publications>. She works throughout Iowa and can be contacted at sarah.nizzi@xerces.org.

A Smile Before You Go



A bee's favorite novel is the Great Gats-bee.
A bee that's been put under a spell has been bee-witched!
I can't help pollen in love with you.
What kind of bees drop things? Fumble bees!
Bees can fly in the rain if they wear their little yellow jackets.

All bees can relate to the pop band the Bee Gees.
What's a bee's favorite flower? Bee-gonias!
Why do bees get married? Because they found their honey!
The teenage bees all loved The Beatles and "Let it Bee."
A bee that will not stop eating will become a little chub-bee.

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