

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

THE BEELINE



Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

ISSUE:

Student Edition – January 2022

CIBA WINTER SEMINAR

Saturday, March 19, 2022 ALL DAY.
Grimes Community Complex, Grimes

Register today for this fantastic lineup of speakers!
Palmer's Deli box lunch provided with registration.
Get forms on the CIBA website. More on page 4.

BEEKEEPING MAGAZINES

1. **The American Bee Journal**
For a free copy of the journal or to subscribe:
www.americanbeejournal.com/
2. **Bee Culture**
www.beeculture.com/
3. **2 Million Blossoms**
www.2millionblossoms.com/subscribe

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:

February 1, 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



FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER

WHY CENTRAL IOWA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION?

The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) was formed more than 70 years ago when a group of local beekeepers (beeks) decided to get together to help each other along their beekeeping journeys. The importance of connecting to local beeks cannot be overemphasized. These connections will be valuable in mentoring new beekeepers to being successful at this wonderful hobby/business. Beekeepers always are willing to share their experiences and new adventures, whether it's their first season or their 40th.

OUR MISSION

"To advance the art of beekeeping, honey production, and to promote close coordination, cooperation and fellowship among members."

WHY JOIN CIBA?

- ❖ You will be privy to a wealth of beekeeping knowledge ranging from first-year beekeepers to those who have kept bees many years.
- ❖ The fellowship is wonderful, and we mostly talk bees, bees, bees!
- ❖ We have meetings every other month when we learn about bees, how the weather affects them, and, of course, the price of honey. The official meeting begins with a short business meeting followed by a guest speaker discussing a timely beekeeping topic.
- ❖ Our quarterly newsletter, called the BEELINE, updates you on events, meetings, tips and articles. In between newsletters, you'll receive Bee Bits, an email that goes ONLY TO CIBA MEMBERS with helpful hints about beekeeping. We also post frequent updates on our well-visited website, centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org.
- ❖ Our spring auction is our biggest fundraiser and an excellent opportunity for buying and selling good, used -- and some new -- equipment at prices much better than supply catalogs.
- ❖ We normally host a summer field day where beekeepers new and old gather to get hands-on experience with common problems and troubleshoot together.

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(515) 232-0215
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Find us on the web: www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/

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

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

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Did You Know... CIBA Club Meetings/Communications

Club Meetings

Did you know that CIBA has meetings every other month, and they usually occur on the third Saturday of the following months?

- **January**
- **March**
- **May**
- **July**
- **September**
- **November**

This year, we have a full-day in-person Winter Seminar on Saturday, March 19 featuring Dr. Tom Seeley (Cornell University), Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth (Creighton University), Randall Cass (Iowa State University Extension) and Andy Joseph (Iowa State Apiarist).

Communications

The official CIBA newsletter is the BEELINE, published four times a year, plus our special January student edition. The newsletter is emailed/mailed the first day of the publication month. On months when you do not get a BEELINE, CIBA members receive the CIBA Newscast, an email on the 1st of the month from the president. Bee Bits, an email newsletter with helpful hints about beekeeping, comes out the 15th of each month. The CIBA Newscast and Bee Bits is sent ONLY to CIBA members who receive info via email. The Newscast is posted on the CIBA website; the Bee Bit is not.

BEELINE

- **Winter - January (starting 2023)**
- **Spring - March**
- **Summer - May**
- **Fall - September**

CIBA Newscast

- **February**
- **April**
- **June, July, August**
- **October, November, December**

Are You a First-time Bee Class Student?

Then CIBA has a deal for you! New beekeepers who are enrolled in a beginning beekeeping class in central Iowa can get a free, first-year membership to CIBA. It's a chance to continue to learn about beekeeping. We host in-person meetings every other month when you'll have an opportunity to interact with other beekeepers, look for a mentor, get the latest beekeeping news, and hear first-rate presentations on various beekeeping topics. You'll also get all CIBA newsletters via email.

Electronic fillable membership forms are available on the CIBA website at centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/membership or fill out the form on pages 13 and 14. Check the "new beekeeper box," tell us what class you are taking and send it in via mail or electronically. We hope to meet and talk with you at CIBA meetings!





Welcome to the

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

[Home](#) [Events](#) [About](#) [Programs](#) [Resources](#) [Give Us a Buzz](#) [Community Service](#)

Find More Resources on the CIBA Website

We have tons of information on our newly re-designed website, which is drawing more visitors every day. Check back often for valuable information for beekeepers and up-to-date educational opportunities in central Iowa. Find us at: centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org

Spend some time browsing the site. Below are our top recommendations for new beeks. So, grab a cup of your favorite brew, a comfy chair and we hope you enjoy the read!

1. Monitor the **Home** page for upcoming events. We post CIBA seminars and meetings, as well as central Iowa seminars.
2. In the **Resources** section of the site, the following are excellent pages with a wealth of information:
 - **BEELINE Newsletter:** Provides the last 3 years of our quarterly BEELINE newsletter, which includes advice on beekeeping. The current version isn't posted on the website until a new one comes out—so CIBA members have the information first.
 - **You Want to Be a Beekeeper?** A tenured beekeeper, Linn Wilbur, wrote this article, providing recommendations on the means to gain the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to successfully manage bee colonies.
 - **Margaret's FAQ's**
Margaret Hala, yet another tenured beekeeper within our organization, provides answers to frequently asked questions relative to art of beekeeping.
 - **Our Favorite Links**
Provides a list of online resources for beekeepers at all stages of their beekeeping journey.
3. In the **Give Us a Buzz** section of the site, the **State Resources** page provides our state beekeeping resources, such as our state apiarist, state inspector, etc.

Contact the CIBA Webmaster, Valerie Just, at CentrallowaBeekeepersAssoc@gmail.com

Don't Miss the CIBA Winter Seminar – Register Today!

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2022

Time: 8:20 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Grimes Community Complex, 410 SE Main, Grimes

Details: Cost (including box lunch from Palmer's Deli in Des Moines) is \$35 for CIBA members, \$40 for non-CIBA members, \$20 for K-12 and college students. Registrations must be received by Tuesday, March 15 (no ticket sales at the door).

Website: www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/winter-seminar-march-2022

Overview: Our keynote speaker is Dr. Tom Seeley, a world-class honey bee researcher and author of several popular books on swarm intelligence, who will join us via Zoom for two afternoon sessions. Our in-person morning presenters are experts on Iowa beekeeping: ISU Extension bee specialist Randall Cass, Iowa Apiarist Andy Joseph, and Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth from Creighton University in Omaha.

Speakers:



Dr. Tom Seeley is the Horace White Professor in Biology for the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He has written several books on honey bee behavior including *Honeybee Democracy* (2010), *Following the Wild Bees* (2016) and *The Lives of Bees* (2019). His studies emphasize swarm intelligence by investigating how bees collectively make decisions.

Dr. Seeley's first talk will be *How a Honey Bee Swarm Moves to its Chosen Home*, exploring the mystery of how a school bus-sized cloud of 10,000 flying insects manages to sweep straight from bivouac site to new dwelling place. He uses digital video technology to track individual bees in a flying swarm.

He'll also present *Hive Thirst: How a Honey Bee Colony Regulates Its Water Collection*, a look at how water-collecting bees can precisely start and stop their activities as a colony's water needs rise and fall with weather and brood production. Water is used to regulate the temperature of the broodnest and to produce the watery food for larvae.



Randall Cass will present *Small Hive Beetles -- What You Need to Know*. He joined Iowa State University in 2017 as the institution's first bee extension specialist in over 70 years. He coordinates bee research, manages the university's honey apiary, lectures and provides outreach to beekeepers, farmers and landowners. Before coming to Ames he worked with small farmers in Guatemala and El Salvador in rural development programs. He has a M.S. from the University of California, Davis and a B.A. from Willamette University.



Andy Joseph has been State Apiarist the past 14 years in the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. A beekeeper himself, Andy will present *Transitioning into Sideline Scale Beekeeping*. He travels the state working with beekeepers and oversees the state's apiary program, which is a combination of regulatory certification, beekeeper education efforts, and promotion of the beekeeping industry. He is lead instructor for a well-attended beekeeper class in central Iowa and his family keeps 200 bee hives in the Des Moines area. He has a M.S. in entomology from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he studied bees as pollinators in monoculture.



Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth, who grew up on a commercial bee farm in northeast Iowa, will present *The Science of Bee Decline*. She is a professor of zoonotic diseases in the Department of Biology at Creighton University in Omaha. Her research focus is honey bee disease biology with a specific focus on viruses. She holds a B.S. in genetics from Iowa State University and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Carol and her husband Brian own Bountiful Blossoms Bee Company in Glenwood, Iowa where they sell over 40 different honey and beeswax products.

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Annual Auction

For many years CIBA has organized an annual auction of used (and some new) beekeeping equipment on the third Saturday in April. This has been an opportunity to purchase beekeeping equipment at reasonable prices, meet with experienced beekeepers, or just see what a lot of beekeeping equipment looks like. This is the place to bee (pun intended).

There has been a wonderful variety of equipment. In past years, the auction has contained hive boxes, frames, foundation, bottles, and even an extractor. There are no guarantees that any year's auction will have everything you may be looking for, but surely you will find something. Usually the auction has a well-stocked concession stand, with proceeds supporting CIBA's popular and educational Honey Queen/Honey Ambassador program. The food is really good and it's a great opportunity to support our youth.

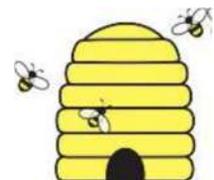


Last year we held the event online because of the COVID pandemic. We are still considering how best to handle the auction this year, keeping in mind the need to ensure the health of all participants and workers but still offer that in-person camaraderie. Check the CIBA web page as April approaches for updates on the auction (centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org).

You Know You are a Beekeeper When ...

- Your once-white bee suit is no longer white.
- You check out all the labels and prices of honey at every grocery store you go into.
- You don't mind driving home with bees flying around everywhere in your vehicle after working your beehives.
- You run to the birdbath to rescue a drowning bee.
- You can't get your spouse to stop talking bees with customers when they come to the house to buy honey.
- You come home smelling like a campfire and you haven't been camping.
- You don't mow the lawn because the bees are working the seeds.
- You plan weddings, childbirth, surgery, and funerals around extracting times.

These were culled from many sources and are just a few. You will have your own list soon!



Beekeeping is a Fun Hobby...

But it also can be a profitable one. If you are recently beginning beekeeping, here are 7 necessary tips:

1. Honey bees go to the closest water source. Make sure that the water source is nearby and within your backyard, and it should be clean. A water pan will do. Without a close water source in your area, they will actively seek one outside which could be your neighbors' pool—and your neighbors certainly will not appreciate that.
2. Do careful research on the equipment to use before getting started beekeeping. Don't get started unless you feel you have thoroughly researched many beekeeping techniques, methods, and types of equipment.
3. Never think about saving a few cents by buying used beekeeping equipment. You will regret this later. Second-hand equipment may be cheaper than the new stuff, but there are many different problems associated with it. You are placing yourself at a great risk of failure when buying second-hand. Invest in equipment from the beginning to ensure success.
4. When you are beginning beekeeping, you may have one issue in mind: the fear of getting stung by bees. Although it is impossible to be sting-free throughout a year, you should strive to keep stings to a minimum. Wear a beekeeper suit, hat, and veil to fully protect yourself. Move slowly and gently when dealing with the hive. Sudden jerks and movements will cause a major commotion, resulting in a disaster.
5. When beginning beekeeping, buy a white-colored beekeeper suit. The eyes of honey bees are sensitive to light, thus they tend to avoid light colors such as white. Bees generally are attracted to dark and rich colors.
6. By harvesting honey you are effectively taking away the bees' source of food. Make sure to feed your bees sugar syrup as a substitute for honey to prevent them from starving. Feeding them also will stimulate and increase egg-laying.
7. While bees are away from the bee hive, they are not inclined to sting. They are normally gentle, but they can be territorial when in the hive. They will react violently to intruders in an attempt to protect their hive.

Source: www.articlesbase.com/hobbies-articles/beginning-beekeeping-101-7-necessary-tips-3582847.html



Local Sources for Package Bees, Spring Queens & Equipment

Bell Farm

Ellen Bell
10458 SE Vandalia Dr (45.40 mi)
Runnells, IA 50237
(515) 966-9348
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bellfarmiowa/
Specializes: Iowa raised queens, honey and and handmade beeswax products.

Des Moines Feed & Nature Center

2019 Hubbell Ave.
Des Moines IA 50317
(515) 262-8265
www.desmoinesfeed.com/
Specializes: Small quantity of equipment/supplies

Ebert Honey Company

Phil Ebert
14808 S. 102nd Ave. E.
Lynnville, IA 50153
(641) 527-2639
www.eberthoney.com/
Specializes: 5 frame nucs, single deep 10 frame colony, CA spring queens, some used equipment, bottles for selling honey, beeswax and honey

Foley's Russian Bees

Jason & Shannon Foley
13778 Summerset Rd.
Indianola, IA 50125
(515) 991-4666
www.russianbee.com/
Specializes: Package bees, CA spring queens (non-Russian), Iowa raised Russian derived queens starting in June and in-house made beekeeping equipment.

Lappe's Bee Supply & Honey Farm

Kenny & Kimberley Lappe
117 Florence Ave.
East Peru, IA 50222
Ph: (641) 728-4361
www.lappesbeesupply.com/
Specializes: Spring package bees w/CA queens, CA and/or IA queens until late Summer, full line of beekeeping equipment and supplies, beeswax and honey.
Offers free shipping on most orders over \$100 or orders can be picked up.

Mills Fleet Farm

Ankeny, Iowa
(515) 964-3150
www.fleetfarm.com/
Specializes: Stock hives and some equipment (Little Giant Brand)

P & P Honey & Bee Supply

Pat and Peggy Ennis
1040 Union Avenue
Goodell, IA 50439
(641) 444-4767
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PP-Honey-and-Bee-Supply-1504454266523506/
Specializes: Package bees and spring CA queens/Limited supply Iowa raised queens starting in June/New &/used beekeeping equipment/supplies, beeswax candles and honey

Spring Valley Honey Farms

Curt and Connie Bronnenberg
14405 Hull Avenue
Perry, IA 50220
(515) 465-5939
www.springvalleyhoneyfarms.com/
Specializes: Package bees, CA spring queens, beekeeping equipment and supplies (new Mann Lake) and honey



Online Beekeeping Suppliers

Beeline Apiaries & Woodenware

20960 M-60
Mendon, MI 49072
Ph: (269) 496-7001
Email: beeline@abcmailbox.net
<http://beelinewoodenware.com/>

Betterbee

8 Meader Road
Greenwich, NY 12834
Ph: (800) 632-3379
Email: info@betterbee.com
<http://www.betterbee.com/>

Dadant & Sons, Inc.

51 South 2nd Street
Hamilton, IL 62341
Ph: (217) 847-3324
Orders: (888) 922-1293
Email: dadant@dadant.com
<http://www.dadant.com/>
Free shipping on orders over \$100 (some exclusions apply). Note: Multiple branches including a branch in Sioux City, IA. Most branches and the corporate headquarters in Hamilton, IL offer pick-up of orders.

Draper Superbee

32 Avonlea Ln
Millerton, PA 16936
Ph: (570) 537-2381/(800) 233-4273
Email: sales@draperbee.com
<https://www.draperbee.com/>

GloryBee, Inc

PO Box 2744
Eugene OR 97402
Ph: (800) 456-7923
<https://glorybee.com/>
Offers free shipping on orders over \$150 (some exclusions apply)

HillCo, LLC

710 Lincoln St.
Minonk, IL 6176
Ph: (866) 796-2337
Email: sales@hillcobees.com
<https://hillcobees.com/>
Free shipping on order over \$100

Kelley Beekeeping

Now owned by Mann Lake
See Mann Lake contact info as many Kelley products are offered on the Mann Lake site

Mann Lake

501 S. 1st St.
Hackensack, MN 56452
Ph: (800) 880-7694
<http://www.mannlakeltd.com/>
Offers free shipping on orders over \$100 (some exclusions apply).

Miller Bee Supply

496 Yellow Banks Road
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659
Ph: (336) 670-2249
Email: woodnwax@embarqmail.com
<https://www.millerbeesupply.com/catalog/>
Offers free shipping on orders over \$150 (some exclusions apply).

Shastina Millwork

2276 Avenue H
White City, OR 97503
Ph: (877) 789-7526
<http://www.shastinamillwork.com/>
Primarily woodenware. Offers free shipping on orders over \$100, with some exceptions.

Western Bee Supplies, Inc.

5 – 9th Ave. E.
Polson, MT 59860
Ph: (833) 533-1014
Email: rick@westernbee.com
<https://westernbeestore.3dcartstores.com/>
Offers free shipping or order over \$100 with exceptions

Editors note: This list is not all inclusive. See the monthly nationwide bee publications for more sources.



Margaret's FAQs

by Margaret Hala (*Margaret is a long-time beekeeper, CIBA member and former CIBA Officer and Director*).
Find more of her Q&As on the CIBA website under the Resources menu.

Question	Margaret Says
Q1. This is my first year keeping bees and I understand that you should use all wax or all plastic foundation in a hive. Why?	Bees prefer wax foundation when drawing comb and, in my experience, will ignore plastic frames of foundation in a hive body when wax and plastic are mixed. Wax-coated plastic foundation or Duragilt can be considered the same as wax foundation. If only uncoated plastic foundation is offered, the bees will draw it, but if you put on a wax foundation super on top of a plastic foundation super the bees will ignore the plastic that has not been drawn to go to the wax. In addition, if you use plastic or Duragilt foundation and a bare spot develops on it the bees will not re-draw it. It must be re-waxed in that area.
Q2. My bees didn't completely draw some frames out last year. Is there any way to get them to finish those frames?	Yes. Put those frames back in the center of a super with frames of foundation surrounding them this year.
Q3. In my second year, I didn't have enough drawn comb for supers. When I added foundation in June the bees wouldn't draw the cells out. Why not?	<p>Early in the spring, start with frames of foundation in your supers if you want more comb drawn that season or you want to increase the number of colonies, especially during years 2-4. Get combs drawn first - it takes an estimated 5-7 pounds of honey to draw a pound of wax and once the bees stop drawing that season they will not start drawing again. In July and August, put on already drawn supers to finish the season.</p> <p>It will take several years to get enough frames of comb drawn until you can consider not needing the bees to draw more frames. It's always a good idea to have more of your brood chamber size comb drawn so you can put it into the brood chamber at the beginning of the year to replace any frames that have more than 30% of the comb as drone comb or if the frame is over 5 years old.</p> <p>During year one, plan on two brood chambers and one super--filled with the appropriately sized frames with foundation for the bees to draw. During year two—since the brood chamber frames are drawn, plan on 2-4 (depending on size) supers with frames with foundation. The bees may have to finish pulling the first year's super and then new supers. How many you will use will depend on the nectar flow and the area your bees are located. Better to have more supers than be short during a good honey flow.</p> <p><i>You will make mistakes because no one taught the bees to read the same books we do and every year is different.</i></p>
Q4. Why replace brood comb on such a regular basis?	Even if you don't, farmers or gardeners in your area probably use herbicides, pesticides and fungicides on their crops. Residues of these chemicals are brought into the hive in nectar and pollen and get into the wax. It's a good idea to replace brood comb every 3 years and no more than 5 years to reduce the amount of those chemicals your bees are exposed to on a regular basis. Many beekeepers date their new frames on the top cross bar as they first put them into the hives to be drawn. This way they can keep track of the age of the frames. Some use pencil others black felt markers. I recommend marking with a pencil.
Q5. I've heard it's difficult to get bees to re-draw plastic foundation. How do I get it done?	<p>Scraping the old comb off the plastic foundation and putting the frame back in the hive usually doesn't work well. The plastic foundation will need to be coated with wax before placing it in the hive. Coating the foundation is a time-consuming job, so you must consider that in your decision to recoat or replace.</p> <p>REMEMBER---wax burns readily, so heat carefully. It is recommended to use a double boiler to melt wax; the wax will NOT completely clean out if the pan, so the pan will need to be dedicated to melting wax. REMEMBER to use water in the bottom pan of the double boiler. Also, see Q6.</p> <p>Another method of getting the bees to redraw plastic foundation frames is to scrape well, dip in heavy sugar syrup, let dry a bit and replace. You may have to scrape off any cross comb frequently until the bees draw the comb right. Make sure that foul brood was not present in the comb. I've not tried this but it sounds like it might work.</p>

Question	Margaret Says
<p>Q6. When I replace the brood comb, how do I render, or should I render that comb for reuse?</p>	<p>Reusing comb is a personal decision. If you use chemicals to treat disease, those chemicals are in the wax and will remain in the wax when it is reformed into foundation. You need to decide if you really want to use foundation with chemical build-up in your hive. I don't know for certain, but it is doubtful that Dadant, Kelley, etc. have a way of removing chemicals from wax.</p> <p>If you determine you want to render wax for reuse, a double-boiler method should be used to manage fire safety. You could 'make' a larger double boiler by using a large kettle, preferably stainless steel, and place it inside a larger kettle, which wouldn't need to be stainless. Place water in the bottom kettle for even heat. The dark wax makes good candles and other wax crafts and ornaments.</p> <p>As an alternative, super comb wax can either be sold to Dadant, Kelley, etc. or provided in exchange for beekeeping equipment.</p>
<p>Q7. How do I get propolis stains or wax or wax stains from clothing, carpets, drapes, floors, tables, etc?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use alcohol or washing soda to dissolve wax or propolis from carpeting. Be careful to test a small area as it may damage materials • Wearing gloves, heat cooking oil – as hot as you can get it without the oil smoking – and then saturate the propolis. • GOOP, a mechanics hand cleaner, works well on skin. • SWIX, a wax removal item for skis, works well on wood.
<p>Q8. My husband uses wax worms when ice-fishing during the winter. Can we use damaged comb we usually discard to keep and/or raise our own wax worms?</p>	<p>Yes, you can use it, but it's not necessary for the wax worms to live. They don't eat the wax; they damage the wax they burrow through to eat the wax proteins (the pupal cocoons from the larvae in the brood comb).</p> <p>Per a wax worm producer, they can also be kept and raised in/on cereal flakes or cornmeal with grated beeswax in it. Glycerin is interchangeable with beeswax for this purpose.</p>
<p>Q9. I had some "critter" predation last year. The ground was scratched up in front of the hive and the colony weakened. What can I do to stop this?</p>	<p>Roll up chicken wire and tack it onto the front of the bottom board at the front entrance. Bees can get through easily, but animals can't. The same with joint splicers---what you use to join boards together to make one longer board. Tack several of them onto the bottom board in front of the entrance and the "critters" will be deterred from scratching.</p>
<p>Q10. I just started beekeeping and am wondering about bee stings. How do I tell if I or someone else is having a normal or allergic reaction?</p>	<p>Partial or full body flush, shortness of breath, pounding heart. chest pain, faintness, severe swelling, nausea, etc. ARE NOT normal. Swelling, even a rather large area of localized swelling, can be considered normal, but if it involves the <u>entire</u> arm or leg, get help. Remember a pounding heart and fast pulse rate may be part of a panic attack from being stung, but it can also be part of an allergic attack.</p> <p>Although it is rare, people who are apparently tolerant to bee stings can have a sudden and life-threatening reaction---with no warnings.</p> <p>The first time, I personally experienced shortness of breath, pounding heart (I could feel my heart beating all over my body), flushing, feeling weak and I stopped sweating. I laid down for an hour or so and came out of it. The second time, it lasted longer and I felt faint, so I called the ambulance. THANK GOD, the allergy series of shots worked, and I only need to be stung once in the spring and once in the fall to keep up my immunity.</p>

Musings from a Neophyte Beekeeper

(Reprinted from past year's edition, still great information!)

by Valerie Just (*Valerie is a former BEELINE editor, CIBA treasurer and now CIBA webmaster. She has kept bees since 2015 in her Des Moines backyard and is now hopelessly addicted to beekeeping.*)

The end of 2013 was a time of reflection – for the last 31 years, my primary focus was my family and my day job. I didn't have the time or energy to focus on personal goals – my time was spent meeting the needs of my family and my employer. I had an epiphany that it was time to heed my inner voice and start working on personal aspirations. I signed up for the Polk County Master Gardner program and completed that program in 2015. This was an important factor, for as we all know, bees and flowers have a symbiotic relationship!

My husband's uncle was a beekeeper for years in southern Iowa – we visited them occasionally, and my husband, John, would talk about his uncle's beekeeping hobby. My interest was piqued; however, it took decades before I could take action. In 2015, John and I took Andy Joseph's Beginner Beekeeping class at DMAAC in Ankeny, and we were enamored.

Despite our good intentions, we've had many lessons learned over the past two years; lessons that impacted the health and well-being of our bees. To afford you the opportunity to not only learn from our mistakes but also learn of our good fortune, I am providing guidance derived from our first two years of beekeeping:

A good beekeeper learns his craft and grows his business.

1. Bee realistic. Beekeeping is hard work. It requires planning, study, support and investment – not to mention the hot, sticky, heavy and sometimes frustrating nature of the work. No matter how much you read, only hands-on experience will give you a feel for what's involved.
2. Take a beginning beekeeper class before you make an investment in beekeeping. A beginner beekeeping class is essential to your prosperity, and the health and well-being of your bees. While I love beekeeping and these remarkable creatures, beekeeping is not a hobby for the faint-hearted. There is a considerable financial expenditure, as well as a time and energy investment, and commitment to your bees is essential.
3. Invest in two hives, not just one for the first year, but don't be over-zealous either. Two hives are recommended because if something goes wrong in one hive, you have the other hive to equalize the issue. You are also able to compare the hives for similar behavior; the "odd" behavior may be a sign that something is going awry. Being a novice, you may not pick up on an issue without the ability to compare. Allow yourself the first year to acclimate to beekeeping; I would highly recommend that you start slow and grow your hobby/business.

Join a local beekeeping club. In my experience, this is not a hobby (or business) to go it alone. I know I will NEVER know everything I need to know about beekeeping, and it is the experience and wisdom of those who have gone before us that truly will make a difference in your early years of beekeeping. A club provides education and classes, the opportunity to "pick the brain" of a commercial beekeeper, the state apiarist or a seasoned beekeeping veteran – Phil Ebert, Connie Bronnenberg, Andy Joseph and Arvin Foell have been our bees' guardian angels these past two years. Through the club, my husband also connected with a more seasoned beekeeper, and we have been so appreciative for his insight and generosity.

Order your bees early. I recommend that you start checking into ordering packages or nucs starting in mid-to-late January. You need to get your order in, or there may not be bees available to order.

The path to good beekeeping is often paved with stingers. Get protective gear. Initially, I didn't wear any protective gear at all. I discovered the hard way that bees are curious by nature, and they will crawl into any gap or opening they can find, such as the gap between a sandal and your foot, the opening of a boot-cut pair of jogging pants – any movement puts pressure on the bee, and you can count on getting stung. I have discovered that Velcro is one of my best friends after ten or more bees crawled into the leg openings of my pants and I was stung 10 or more times!

Great Practical Beekeeping Information for New Beekeepers

Tips for May (spring management)

- Check for ticks, they love beekeepers.
- Wear as much protective clothing as makes you comfortable when working your hives. Work hives with slow, smooth movements. Jerky movements agitate the bees.
- Use your smoker each time you check your bees.
- Organize your bee tools in a toolbox so that you can always find them.
- The best time to work bees is during the middle of the day when the field bees are collecting nectar.
- Work each hive from the side or the back, out of the bee flight path.
- Inspect hives by removing an outside frame first. Lift straight up to avoid damaging bees on the frame.
- When supering your hives add more than one super at a time if you have drawn comb. If you have new foundation, add only one super at a time and start with 10 frames. Put your second super on after the first one is almost filled.
- Use queen excluders to prevent brood in your honey supers as a deterrent to wax moths.
- Double check medications dates – safety matters. Don't misuse any chemicals in the hive. Absolutely never medicate hives with supers on – it is illegal.
- Keep the grass mowed in front of your hives – it makes it easier for the bees to land. Old carpet scraps, roof shingles, or weed barriers can be used to keep grass under control.
- Keep supers on until the honey is capped; unripe honey will ferment.
- Do not feed sugar syrup during a honey flow since the bees will store the syrup in your supers rather than your honey.
- Don't get excited on hot humid days if the bees are hanging outside the hive. They are trying to cool off.

Source: This article courtesy of Joli Winer, Editor, May 2016, *The Bee Buzzer*, newsletter of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association as seen in the *American Bee Journal* May 17, 2016.

Fun Honey Bee Facts

- One ounce of honey would fuel a honey bee's flight around the world
- Honey bees have hair on their eyes to help keep their eyeballs clean
- Honey bees fly 55,000 miles to bring us 1 lb. of honey
- Honey bees must go to 2 million flowers to gather 1 lb. of honey
- Honey bees stroke their wings 11,400 times per minute and fly up to 15 mph
- It takes approximately 3,500 honey bees to weigh 1 lb.
- Honey bees have two stomachs—one for food and another for nectar
- Five products from the hive: honey, beeswax, pollen, propolis and royal jelly
- Honey tastes different depending on the flowers the honey bee visits



Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) 2022 Membership

Membership Dues Information

- ✓ Membership run on a yearly calendar schedule of January 1st through December 31st.
- ✓ Dues are payable at the beginning of each calendar year. New member dues are ½ the yearly rate after July 1.

Full year 2022 CIBA Membership Dues

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

Communication Type	What you will receive with:		Details
	Electronic Delivery	Mailed Delivery (USPS)	
BEELINE newsletter	Yes	Yes	Association newsletter published 4 times a year
Meeting reminders	Yes	Maybe	Mailed only in months CIBA meets and BEELINE is not published
President's monthly letter	Yes	Maybe	
Bee Bit	Yes	No	Mid-month beek knowledge from CIBA President
Special information	Yes	No	CIBA organizational updates
Forwarded electronic information	Yes	No	IHPA news, upcoming events, etc.
Bylaw changes	Yes	Yes	Infrequent association bylaw updates
Annual Membership Directory	Yes	No	Published in June. Provides a list of members and contact information (if member elects to share).

Select One

New membership **Renewal** of membership from 2021

New Student Beekeeper--fees are waived if taking a beekeeping class this year (single membership & email only).

Where are you taking or have taken your class? _____

Select One

Single Membership **Family Membership** where all members reside at the same address

Please Print for Legibility

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

Additional name _____

Cell phone _____ Email _____

Additional name _____

Cell phone _____ Email _____

Additional name _____

Cell phone _____ Email _____

Membership

Single (\$15) with information via electronic delivery _____

Family (\$20) with information via electronic delivery _____

Add USPS Delivery (\$5) to single or family (single copy to one address of BEELINE, bylaw updates, President's monthly message in months the newsletter is not published, etc.) **USPS Delivery only**—do not send electronic _____

Voluntary Donations

General program fund _____

Royalty (Queen and Ambassador) program _____

Total _____

Payment via: **Check/Money Order** **Cash (in person)** **PayPal**

CIBA is an Iowa incorporated nonprofit association. CIBA has filed for Federal 501(c)3 status. If approved, donations would be tax deductible. CIBA will provide documentation for donations of \$50 or more, and when requested for those less than \$50. Contact information for the Secretary/Treasurer is below.

Membership Directory (please select one)

Yes, the club can publish my/all family member's information in the yearly Membership Directory

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

Additional information (optional)

1. How many hives & where are your hives located (# of hives/location)? EXAMPLE: 9 urban; 2 rural
_____ Urban _____ Rural
2. How many apiaries (bee yards) do you have? _____
3. How long have you been beekeeping? _____

Ideas for Meetings/Newsletter Topics and Member info (optional)

What is your profession? _____

Would you consider assisting CIBA with your skills (not just beekeeping), if requested? Yes

Payment via mail with check/money order and completed form (please do not send cash via mail)

Linn Wilbur, CIBA Secretary/Treasurer
64626 170th Street
Nevada, IA 50201

Payment via PayPal and send completed form electronically. Methods:

- CIBA website for PayPal instructions, PayPal button and instructions on sending form:
www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/membership
- Use CIBA Secretary/Treasurer email for direct PayPal Payment and to send completed forms:
centraliowabeekeepers.treasurer@gmail.com

Applications taken at any CIBA meeting. Join at any CIBA meeting (meeting info on website).

Questions: 515.291.6204 (Linn Wilbur) or lwilbur50201@gmail.com

Join Us March 30 for Iowa Honey Bee Day

You can make a difference by attending a legislative reception in March at the State Capitol to show your support for honey bees.

With the exception of last year's pandemic, the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) has hosted this event since 2018 for state legislators and beekeepers as part of the Iowa Honey Bee Day celebration. It is organized by our own CIBA president, Jamie Beyer, who also serves as the IHPA legislative representative and director for District 4.

Iowa Honey Bee Day is Wednesday, March 30. The reception will be on the first floor of the Capitol Rotunda from 7 to 9 a.m. Breakfast items, along with State Fair honey lemonade and coffee, are served. There is no charge to attend.

The Iowa governor signs a proclamation each year to mark Iowa Honey Bee Day and highlight the importance of honey bees to Iowa agriculture and the environment. We also encourage Iowa city and county governments to sign similar proclamations; since 2018, more than 41 governing bodies have approved such proclamations.

Beekeepers from across the state are encouraged to attend the reception as a time to meet their legislators and "talk bees." No one knows better the importance of honey bees and the many challenges faced by beekeepers in the state. Due to legislative scheduling conflicts, the event has not occurred on the same day each year.

Contact Jamie if you want to help with this event, beyersbog@aol.com or (515) 231-0215. Additional information also will be posted on the IHPA website, www.iowahoneyproducers.org, as well as the CIBA website.

Why Honey Bees Need Water

Bees Use Water For:

1. **Cooling** - In the heat of summer it is used for evaporative cooling. Similar to human-designed air conditions, the bees spread a thin film of water atop sealed brood (baby bee cells) or on the rims of cells containing larvae and eggs. The workers inside the hive then fan vigorously, setting up air flow which evaporated the water and cools the interior of the hive.
2. **Humidity** - Worker bees use water to control the humidity of the colony, not just the temperature.
3. **Utilize Stored Food** - Bees need water to dilute stored honey that has crystallized (become too high in glucose) or in the case where beekeeper feeds them dried sugar crystals, they need water to dissolve the sugar. Without water, they can't access these food sources.
4. **Larvae Food** - Another type of bee in the hive is the nurse bee, who feeds the developing larvae. They consume large amounts of pollen, nectar, and water so that their hypopharyngeal glands can produce the jelly that is used to feed the larvae. A larvae diet can consist of water up to 80 percent the first day of larval growth and about 55 percent on the sixth day. [1]
5. **Digestion** - They need it in the digestion and metabolization of their food, as do most organisms.

Kim Flottum, editor of the *Bee Culture* magazine, writes in his book, *The Backyard Beekeeper: An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Bees in Your Yard and Garden*: "A summer colony needs at least a quart (liter) of water every day, and even more when it's warm." "Foragers will mark unscented sources of water with their Nasonov pheromone so others can locate the source too," Flottum writes.

To provide the water your bees need, put a frisbee full of clean rocks (find them in your yard) underneath a faucet outside, turn the faucet on so it drips once per minute. Over the day it will fill up and provide fresh water for the bees. Or you can buy glass pebbles found on art and hobby stores and put them in a large, shallow dish or bird bath. The bees will find it!

CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

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