

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

# THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association



## ISSUE: Fall 2022

Editor: Laura Miller

### CIBA MEMBER MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

**Saturday, September 17, 2022 5:00 p.m.**

**Northridge Baptist Church**

**3700 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Des Moines**

**Topic:** *Winterizing Your Hives*

We'll have a business meeting before the program, including a special election to fill a vacant seat on the CIBA board. Then a panel of experienced Iowa beekeepers will share tips on how to get your colonies ready for an Iowa winter. More on **page 3**.

**Saturday, November 19, 2022 1:00 p.m.**

**Northridge Baptist Church**

**3700 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Des Moines**

**Topic:** *Preventing & Controlling Infestations*

We'll have a business meeting prior to the program, then ISU bee specialist Randall Cass will present the program on dealing with insects you don't want in your hives. More on **page 3**.

**Questions?** Call Program Chair Don Sievers,  
(515) 460-6004

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER:

**December 10, 2022**

**Email submissions and comments to:**

Laura Miller, [Beeline\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:lwilbur50201@gmail.com)

*Fame is a bee. It has a song. It has a sting. Ah, too, it has a wing.*  
– Emily Dickinson

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER

Recently I shared with you the most difficult and tragic news I've ever had to write – about the passing of one of our active and generous members, Susan Kelly. It was especially hard, too, because the CIBA board had just nominated the Kelly family as "Beekeeper of the Month," published in the Buzz newsletter of the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) shortly before Susan's death (see reprint and other info on pages 10-11).

Susan touched many people. In the few years that CIBA members and I knew her, she did so much. It was her children who guided Susan to be a great volunteer for us and the IHPA. They became the best beekeepers because Susan decided to get involved.

I remember when Susan first came to CIBA, she told me how much this group meant to her children and the impact it had on them. That still drives me to make CIBA the best beekeeping club in Iowa. She mentored me as a CIBA officer and helped me become a better leader.

Anyone who attended our meetings will have known Susan and her delightful daughters. When she showed up at any function, her entourage (usually the girls but sometimes her sons or husband Sean joined them) came to help with whatever needed to be done. She served on the CIBA board and chaired CIBA's Royalty committee (her queen guidelines have been copied by other groups). She was on our food committee and her advice was critical in having well-run meetings. Susan also was instrumental in IHPA behind-the-scenes work at the Iowa State Fair as well as fall conferences and she always helped the IHPA Queen Committee.

All of this is in addition to being the best mother and homeschooler, raising the most wonderful children who are part of our CIBA family. We are truly grateful that Susan was in CIBA; she will be missed dearly.

Friends set up a GoFundMe page for the family, and CIBA has supported this effort. That link is: <https://gofund.me/1e61ea01>

Susan will not be forgotten as we carry on our queen program and all the other CIBA activities of which she was a big part. We are looking for ideas that would continue her legacy in CIBA in a more concrete way. Please contact me or any board member if you have suggestions.

Your President -- *Jamie*

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

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CentrallowaBeekeepersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CentrallowaBeekeepersAssociation)

Join our CIBA Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/353306835159561/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/353306835159561/)

## Fall 2022 BEELINE

### CIBA Program Updates

Winterizing Your Hives.....	3
Dealing with Insect Infestations: Wax Moth and Small Hive Beetle .....	3

### Other CIBA Business

Join Us for CIBA Board Meetings.....	4
Special Election Set for September 17 .....	4
CIBA 2022 Membership Directory: Did You Get Yours?.....	4

### The Queen's Corner: Lots of Memories

Cherry Glen Learning Farm: Perfect Spot for CIBA Field Day	6
--	---

Meet Your Director: Val Just	8
------------------------------	---

Study Shows Hive Covers Help Bees Survive Winter	9
--	---

Check Your Smoker: Where Was It Made?	9
---------------------------------------	---

### Gone Too Soon: Remembrances of Susan Kelly

In Memory of Susan Kelly .....	10
--------------------------------	----

Beekeeper of the Month: The Kelly Family.....	11
---	----

Central Iowa Timeline of Beekeeping Tasks	12
---	----

New Publication Estimates Budgets for New Beekeepers	13
--	----

What Do Beekeepers Think About Prairie Strips?	13
--	----

Tips on Storing Honey Supers	14
------------------------------	----

From the Editor: Musings for Fall	15
-----------------------------------	----

CIBA Leadership and State Organizations	16
---	----

### Editor's Document Navigation Tips

**Table of Contents:** Hover over any section of the Table of Contents, then press the CTRL button on your keyboard to create a pointing finger image. Press the left mouse button 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, you will go to the top of the BEELINE.

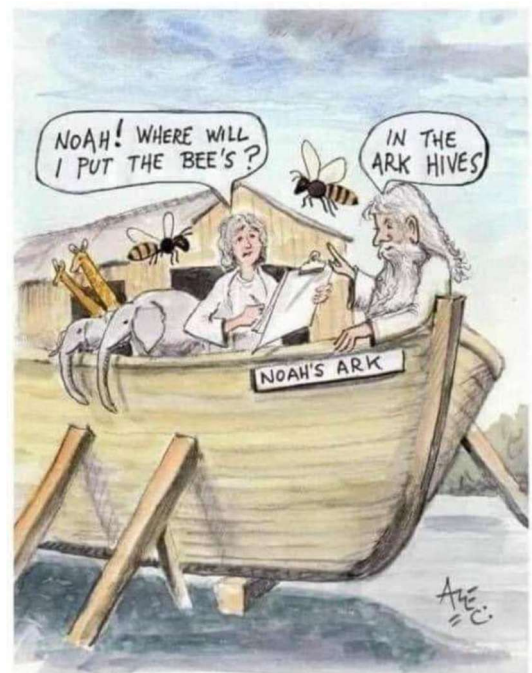
### CIBA Club Meetings/Communications

CIBA meets 6 times annually, the third Saturday every other month. During active beekeeping season (May and September), they are late afternoon or early evening; in off-season (November and January) they are early afternoon. The March winter seminar and July field day are full-day events.

The official CIBA newsletter, the **BEELINE**, is published four times a year on the first day of January (Winter, beginning in 2023); March (Spring); May (Summer) and September (Fall). A special Student Edition is published each January for people enrolled in central Iowa beekeeping classes.

CIBA members also receive the **CIBA Newscast** email from the president on months when the BEELINE is not published (not available for members who choose to receive CIBA info only via USPS).

**CIBA Bee Bits**, an email newsletter with helpful hints about beekeeping, comes out the 15th of each month (not posted on the CIBA website and available only for CIBA members who receive CIBA info electronically).



# CIBA Program Updates

## Winterizing Your Hives

**Date:** Saturday, September 17

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Where:** Northridge Baptist Church, 3700 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines (map and directions on CIBA website)

**Schedule:** We'll have a short business meeting with updates on many activities happening in CIBA, including a special election to fill a vacant seat on our board of directors. The program will follow, featuring a panel of tenured Iowa beekeepers.

When the cold winds blow and the ground is white, you'll be glad you prepared your colonies for an Iowa winter. But that work starts long before temperatures drop. What can you do to give your colonies the best chance of survival? We've lined up a panel of Iowa beekeepers to answer your questions and offer advice based on years of experience. They are:



- **Arvin Foell** (photo top right) of Kelly is a CIBA member (former CIBA president) and an inspector for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's apiary program. His inspections certify that hives are free of disease, a requirement when bees are sold or travel out of state. The program also has a large educational component which he most enjoys. Arvin also has kept bees for more than 40 years, though he's cut back in recent years.
- **Bob Fassbinder** (photo right) of Elgin 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.
- **Craig Greene** (no photo) of Knoxville has been keeping bees more than 20 years, once having nearly 50 hives. Craig is very resourceful and successful in overwintering hives in Iowa. He has been a leader in the Backyard Beekeepers as well as other groups in southern Iowa.

## Dealing with Insect Infestations: Wax Moth and Small Hive Beetle

**Date:** Saturday, November 19

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Where:** Northridge Baptist Church, 3700 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines (map and directions on CIBA website)

**Schedule:** We'll have a business meeting prior to the program, then ISU bee specialist Randall Cass will present the program on dealing with insects you don't want in your hives.

We might worry about varroa mites wiping out a bee colony, but other types of infestations can be just as devastating. Wax moths destroy precious comb frame by frame, and small hive beetle larvae with their voracious appetites can "slime out" an entire hive. There are precautions that beekeepers can take, which will be the topic of Randall's presentation.

- **Randall Cass** joined Iowa State University (ISU) in 2017 as the institution's first bee extension specialist in more than 70 years. He coordinates bee research, manages ISU's honey apiary, lectures and provides outreach to beekeepers, farmers and landowners. He's worked with small farmers in Guatemala and El Salvador in rural development programs.



Be sure to put both meeting dates on your calendar. We provide plenty of time at our events to meet other beekeepers, visit and "talk all things bees." And, like any other CIBA meeting, you can expect to find a lot of great food. See you in September and November!

## **Other CIBA Business**

### **Join Us for CIBA Board Meetings**

CIBA officers and directors have regularly scheduled board meetings the second Monday of each month starting at 7 p.m. with the Zoom link active at 6:30 p.m. These meetings are open to membership; we encourage interested members to join us! Here are the Zoom links for connecting via the internet:

**September 12** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87018041001?pwd=TnNxTWVrekFXeE1QTUxuV1hPaHdCUT09>  
Meeting ID: 870 1804 1001 Passcode: 884209

**October 10**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89630120855?pwd=M3hIb21YS0wzSHpzL1JldDZtZk5SQ09>  
Meeting ID: 896 3012 0855 Passcode: 693326

**November 14**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89249713039?pwd=ejlyRE0rOUR5WTBjNlIiHcFY2bXBjQT09>  
Meeting ID: 892 4971 3039 Passcode: 605348

**December 12**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84066196746?pwd=c0QzS1JFQkxoZGdYaU16VmdzcEhXUT09>  
Meeting ID: 840 6619 6746 Passcode: 235736

To connect via phone, find a local number at [https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbV1b3xQwM](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84066196746?pwd=c0QzS1JFQkxoZGdYaU16VmdzcEhXUT09) or use Chicago number (312) 626-6799 and then the meeting ID and passcode for that month's meeting.

### **Special Election Set for September 17**

A special election will be held during the business portion of the September 17 CIBA member meeting to fill the remainder of the director term left vacant with the passing of Susan Kelly. The term runs until the 2025 election.

If you are interested in serving in this position, please let any board member know or place your name into nomination at the meeting. If you would like more information on the duties, please contact a board member.

CIBA is only as good as the officers and directors who volunteer to lead the association. Please consider stepping forward to help the board continue to serve the needs of our members.

### **CIBA 2022 Membership Directory: Did You Get Yours?**

You should have received an email this summer with an important attachment, the 2022 CIBA Membership Directory. The directory contains contact information and some apiary information for all CIBA members who consented to share their information. Please do not share it with people outside this organization.

If you are not on the email list (you selected USPS delivery on your 2022 CIBA membership form) and wish to have a directory, contact Linn Wilbur, CIBA Secretary/Treasurer. We'll figure out how to get you a copy. Linn's contact info is on the back page of the BEELINE.

If there are errors in your basic information (name, address, contact info), contact Linn, who will correct it for future years. If there are errors in apiary numbers or those need updating, please make those changes on next year's membership form. We make every effort to keep correct information about our members, but errors can occur.

Currently CIBA is 184 members strong with a total of 135 memberships! Look for more membership information in our next BEELINE – we will provide some trending from the information we collect on the membership forms. More to come next issue!

## The Queen's Corner: Lots of Memories

Submitted by CIBA Queen Olivia Moody

This summer I have been busy traveling across central Iowa talking to kids and adults about pollinators. I have attended lots of events teaching kids about agriculture and STEM topics. I have traveled to craft and county fairs with my observation hive to answer any questions that come my way. Questions range from the silly – “As Honey Queen, do I, like the queen bee, lay eggs?” – to the more serious, asking if it is my birthday because of my sash.

I have really enjoyed seeing the curiosity sparked in kids and adults alike when seeing the observation hive and the questions that follow. I have met the future of beekeeping and I promise it is bright!

I had the fantastic opportunity to spend six days working at the Iowa Honey Producers Booth at the Iowa State Fair. I spent the time working at the queen table that raises money for the Iowa Honey Queen Program along with answering beekeeping questions. I did one presentation with the Boone River Honey Queen about beginning beekeeping and spent time with the other honey queens as well! I had the best time and I am looking forward to helping out next year!

While the summer is winding down I am looking forward to what the fall and winter have to bring. At the moment I do not have any events lined up for the fall months so feel free to contact the email [cibaqueenchair@gmail.com](mailto:cibaqueenchair@gmail.com) if you have any events you would like me to attend!



**Top right:** Queen Olivia answers questions at one of her presentations.

**Middle:** Here's Queen Olivia at the Iowa Honey Producer Association's booth at the Iowa State Fair with 2022 Iowa Honey Queen Allison Hager.

**Bottom right:** And don't forget the state fair parade, another opportunity to promote beekeeping, and Queen Olivia was there!

# Cherry Glen Learning Farm: Perfect Spot for CIBA Field Day

Compiled by Newsletter Editor Laura Miller

Cloudy skies amidst a July heat wave could spell nothing but success for the 2022 CIBA field day July 17 at the Cherry Glen Learning Farm near Polk City. Nearly 50 beekeepers of all ages and expertise gathered to learn the best way possible: hands-on and wearing bee suits!

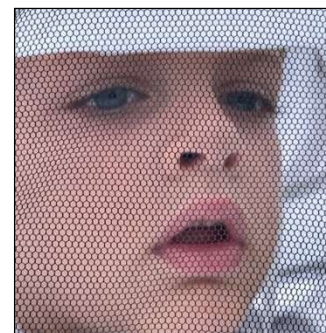
Everyone brought their own gear and a lunch, but CIBA provided beverages and treats as well as a full day of information and conversations. Beekeepers rotated between three learn-by-doing stations in the morning (which were mostly outdoors). After lunch they enjoyed air-conditioned comfort, sans protective gear, of Cherry Glen's large meeting barn.

If you wanted to get up-close-and-personal with bees, then this was the place to be. CIBA member Tony Christiansen of Bondurant brought his 11-year-old grandson, Mason, to learn more about tending their hives. Several first-year beekeepers also attended, as well as seasoned beekeepers who brought others new to the craft.

And if you didn't make it? You missed the secret to catching drones (used for the queen-marking exercise), how to create "ghost bees," and what you might put in your bee toolkit. ISU Extension bee specialist Randall Cass, however, says his demo on mite checks (the most important tasks of any beekeeper, and there are several good ways to do it) is available in several short YouTube videos linked to the ISU Bee Program's website, see <https://bees.cals.iastate.edu/>

Many thanks to CIBA members Ray and Susan Meylor for hosting at Cherry Glen Learning Farm, the CIBA Program Committee that planned the event, and CIBA members who shared their expertise, captured photos, and brought food. They are:

- Hands-on Queen Marking (with drones): Dave Schmitt and Clay Miller (unable to attend: Linn Wilbur)
- Hands-on Varroa Testing: Randall Cass
- Hands-on Hive Inspections: Eric Kenoyer
- Quality Bee Habitat and Conservation Talk: Ray Meylor
- Integrated Pest Management for Bees Presentation: Randall Cass
- Capturing Swarms: Jamie Beyer
- Photos for website, social media and newsletter: Kerri Kenoyer, Dave Schmitt, Ray Meylor, Mark Moberly and Laura Miller
- Food: Keri Kenoyer, Laura Miller, Cindy Spiker, Val Just and Ray Meylor



**Above left:** The meeting area of Cherry Glen Learning Farm's spacious barn was packed for the indoor presentations.

**Above middle:** Randall Cass gets smoke going for a mite check.

**Above right:** Tony Christiansen and grandson Jason.

**Far right:** Another young beekeeper listens intently during the hands-on portion of the program.



**Above, top left:** Participants inspect a frame of bees that was passed around during a hive inspection.

**Directly above:** Clay Miller led the queen-marking station, which used captured drones. It was still tricky business to mark those bees!

**Above, top right:** Ray Meylor talked about the practices he's used at Cherry Glen Learning Farm to improve water quality.

**Above, next-to-top right:** The farm's apiary was located a short distance from the meeting barn.

**Above, right:** Eric Kenoyer's station offered a routine that beekeepers can use when they inspect their colonies.

**Bottom, right:** Of course, there was a lot of time to visit and talk bees!



## Meet Your Director: Val Just

### How long have you been a beekeeper? What got you interested in keeping bees?

John, my husband, and I started beekeeping with three colonies in 2015. The year prior I had taken the Polk County Master Gardeners classes and had converted most of my landscaping to native plants.

I've been an environmentalist for as long as I can remember. I had been engaged in educating myself about the needs of pollinators for years – with a focus on my favorite butterfly, the monarch. I monitored new articles about the massive reduction in monarch populations for probably 10 years. When I expanded our landscaping, I planted for the monarch, but as we all know, if you plant for pollinators, you are planting for honey bees. So the monarch truly was the catalyst for my interest in beekeeping.



John Just at their urban apiary in Des Moines (Val is a bit camera-shy).

### How many hives do you have and where are they located?

We have four apiaries – we gained an apiary this year in the Runnells area. I had lost touch with someone I knew at work when she quit working 15 years ago. We touched base early last spring; she was interested in learning more about bees. We offered to help her start a colony or two, and she was thrilled to have our bees on her property. We have two friends with farmsteads – in Runnells and Indianola, so we put bees on their properties. We also have bees on our home in Des Moines.

### When did you join CIBA and what drew you to this organization?

John and I joined CIBA in 2015, the same year we started beekeeping. We googled local beekeeping organizations and found CIBA on the web! CIBA was having meetings at the Bonanza along E. 14th Avenue, which was close to our house. We knew we needed help to be successful in this venture, and CIBA has offered not only the education that we need, but we've gained friends along the way. There is nothing more satisfying than to have friendships with folks that have the same interest!

### What do you hope to contribute to CIBA as a board member?

I just want to make a difference – CIBA's mission is to provide educational opportunities to all beekeepers, and to further the art of beekeeping. My goal is to add value to the organization

### What's your biggest challenge in beekeeping? What do you most enjoy about beekeeping?

My biggest challenge is the fact that I'm very allergic to many bees, wasps, hornets – and I wasn't aware that I was allergic until the second year when I got stung 20-30 times by my unhappy bees! I had to decide early in this venture to reduce my risk; I help John whenever he needs assistance in lifting, moving hives, but I stay out of the way when it comes to the ongoing care of the colonies. I provide moral and administrative support for our bees!

I like to know that together as a team, John and I are making a difference for all pollinators, bees, butterflies, etc. I manage the gardens on our property and decide what to plant. I am also actively engaged with our landowners and helping them to know how to help pollinators.

### What's your advice to new beekeepers?

Join a local club. To be successful and take good care of your colonies, you need the support of those who have gone before you; they have so much to offer.

## Study Shows Hive Covers Help Bees Survive Winter

The University of Illinois-Urbana Bee Research Facility looked at the effectiveness of colony hive covers to protect honey bees during a Midwest winter. They used hive covers supplied by CIBA members Jamie Beyer and Linn Wilbur.

Several years ago, Jamie and Linn worked with an Iowa manufacturer to make 4-mm black corrugated polypropylene sheets formed into rectangular prisms that slide over the top of the entire hive (see photo). Their covers were based on a similar cover used by other beekeepers, including CIBA member Phil Ebert. Hives in the study had top entrance holes in the black wraps and a 1.5-inch foam insulation board on top of the inner cover. The study involved 43 colonies in eight Illinois apiaries managed by the university.



Researchers found that, when other recommended overwintering preparations are performed such as mite control and winter feeding, covered colonies consumed less food stores and survived better than uncovered controls (22.5% higher survival). They also observed that covered hives maintained marginally increased cluster temperatures in the springtime compared to uncovered hives that served as a control group.

Results of the study are published in the open access journal PLoS ONE. Here is the reference: “Honey bee hive covers reduce food consumption and colony mortality during overwintering,” by Ashley L. St. Clair, Nathanael J. Beach and Adam G. Dolezal, April 4, 2022, PLoS ONE at:

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0266219>

## Check Your Smoker: Where Was It Made?

Check your smoker to see if it was made in the USA. If imported, it could potentially have asbestos in its construction. You can get the smoker tested at Iowa Environmental Services in Urbandale (call 515.279.8042). You also can reach out to Chad Smith for more information - his email is [Chad.Smith@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:Chad.Smith@iwd.iowa.gov).

No one make, model or manufacturer was identified in the safety alert. Between September 2021 and January 31, 2022, Australian border officials detected 39 asbestos-contaminated bee smokers that were being brought into the country. Although the problem was first reported in smokers imported to Australia, the safety alert went to beekeepers in other countries who may have purchased the smokers from the same international supplier on the internet.

Breathing in asbestos fibers can have devastating health effects and is known to cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma,

More about the problem:

<https://www.asbestos.qld.gov.au/resources/safety-alerts/safety-alert-asbestos-battery-operated-bee-smokers>

**Asbestos in Imported Bee Smokers**

**Purpose**  
This safety alert provides information about asbestos in components of imported Bee Smokers (also known as smokepots). The risk is not limited to a single manufacturer or brand.

**Background**  
Two types of bee smokers are advertised to the Australian market: battery-powered electric and manual smokers. The manual model requires manual force by squeezing a bellows. The electric model has a small motor and fan contained within an attached handle.



*Figure 1: Manual bee smoker – bellows indicated*



*Figure 2: Battery-powered electric bee smoker*

The Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities previously issued a national safety alert for asbestos detected in the insulation component of imported battery-powered electric bee smokers. Chrysotile asbestos has also been detected in the bellows of some manual bee smokers at the border, imported from China

## Gone Too Soon: Remembrances of Susan Kelly

It's not too often that one person can have such an impact on an organization. CIBA president Jamie Beyer outlined the many ways that Susan Kelly served our organization. Following are other comments from CIBA members that we thought you'd like to see. In our Winter 2021 BEELINE is a Q&A with Susan after her first year as CIBA director.

### From Olivia Moody, 2022 CIBA honey queen:

*While I only knew Susan for a couple of months her passion for beekeeping and the queen program was instantly apparent to me. She acted as a mentor to me as honey queen, always making sure I was safe and making me a better leader. Like in this picture she was often working in the background, making sure everything went smoothly but not always taking the credit she duly deserved.*

*She was not only a mentor to me but also a close friend, she had helped me work through many personal problems and was always supportive of my various endeavors. Her charisma and passion shined through everything she did from the queen program to raising her beautiful family. I wish I had taken the time to truly thank Susan for her dedication to the CIBA Queen program but I know that she would be happy that I will continue to advocate for CIBA and honeybees with the same passion that she had.*



### From Val Just, CIBA webmaster and board member:

*Susan not only was passionate about bees and honey, she was a good friend to many, and on my top three list for Best Mom of the Year.*

*I will always think of Susan as a vivacious, generous, loving woman that would do anything for anyone if they were in need. I will personally miss her vibrant personality as I continue to serve on CIBA's leadership team. She was typically the first person to volunteer for whatever the need, and the last one to go home at a function as she cared for the needs of the event. She will be irreplaceable as our organization's Queen and Ambassador director, and as a result of all her efforts, our program is the best that Iowa has to offer.*

## In Memory of Susan Kelly



Susan Kelly, 49, passed away on August 3, 2022, in Des Moines. She was born in Waupun, Wisc. on December 10, 1972, the daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Komosa.

Susan's life was characterized by loving sacrifice. She sacrificed not just for her husband and children, but for all those around her. Susan strived to use her influence for God's glory and for the benefit of others. Her house was always open, and her generosity was always given. She enjoyed being with her family and friends, beekeeping, painting rocks, playing cards, sewing, and many other things. She was active in her church since trusting Christ as her Savior in high school. In recent years, she was also active in numerous beekeeping organizations in many and various roles. By the way, she was twenty-two.

Susan is survived by her loving husband of 26 years, Sean; children, Thomas, Nathan, Abigail, Bethany, Miriam, Olivia, Caleb, Elianna, Levi and Jeremiah; step-mother, Mary Komosa; siblings, John (Chris) Komosa, Ted Komosa and Cathy (Jeff) Downs; other loving relatives and many special friends. Susan was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Beth Komosa; and her brother, Peter Komosa.

Services were held August 13 at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona and burial at Berwick Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the family in loving memory of Susan.

You can offer your condolences here:

[https://www.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com/services/services\\_detail.aspx?rid=62494](https://www.hamiltonsfuneralhome.com/services/services_detail.aspx?rid=62494)

## Beekeeper of the Month: The Kelly Family

*Reprinted with permission, August 2022 Buzz newsletter, Iowa Honey Producers Association*

The Central Iowa Beekeepers Association would like to nominate the Susan and Sean Kelly Family for Beekeeper of the Month. Their interest in beekeeping seems to have started when Mike and Julie Sander started keeping bees at their place in 2016. They would do inspections and most of the family would sit back a way to watch. The Sanders started bringing extra bee suits with them so they could be up close and personal to the bees, and their interest became even more intense. From there, daughters Abigail and Bethany started hives of their own. They involved more of the family and now mom, Susan, and dad, Sean, and sister, Olivia, all participate in keeping bees. They have been growing in hive numbers every year.



This intense interest in honey bees has blossomed into wanting to help others in beekeeping. So in only a few short years Abigail became the CIBA Queen and represented us well!! Then the next year she became the IHPA State Queen, and held the position for two years. She was an outstanding queen during her reign promoting beekeeping across the state. Everyone reading this probably knows Abigail by now.

CIBA is nominating the entire family for beekeeper of the month since they all volunteer in many, many ways for both IHPA and CIBA activities. Susan (and a lot of her daughters) are always helping at the IHPA fall conference as well as helping at the State Fair Booth. Even at Iowa's Honey Bee Day at the Capitol the Kelly Family are instrumental in assisting. They are behind the scenes working at organizing handouts or food or just whatever needs to be done.

To top this off Susan is the CIBA Queen Committee Chair, serves on the food committee, and serves on CIBA's Board of Directors. Then along with all of this she and her daughters volunteer at CIBA meetings, auctions, seminars, and field days. Mike Sander also notes that they have hosted beekeeping meetings in their backyard. Along with Abigail their daughters Bethany and Olivia are not only great volunteers helping whenever needed, they are also very good at what they do.

They are always delightful to be around and almost always have a smile on their face. Their great attitude makes it easy to get to know them, and a pleasure to be around the Kelly family. Beekeepers of Iowa are very fortunate to have the Kelly family involved to promote bees. Everything that the Kellys do is a challenge to remember since they do almost everything that needs to be done within our great organizations – both IHPA and CIBA. Thank you, Susan, Sean and the entire Kelly family!

*Submitted by Officers and Board of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association*

### **What is a Winter Cluster? What Do They Need for Food Supplies?**

A winter cluster is the young bees that have been produced since Sept./Oct. and will live all winter as they aren't out bringing in pollen and nectar during the cold months. They are just normal looking bees who are clustered together a bit more than they are during warm/hot times. As for what they need in the way of food supply that—that depends on your location. Here, in Central Iowa, I would recommend 80-100 pounds of honey stored away. It depends on the winter if you can get by with less than 80 pounds. The more days the bees can be active and move around in the hive, the more food they consume, so a cold winter is easier on their food consumption. During late January and into February when we had warmer temperatures, it was a good time to check remaining supplies of feed and get food on them---if you have any live colonies.

*Reprinted from Spring 2017 BEELINE, Q&A with Margaret Hala*

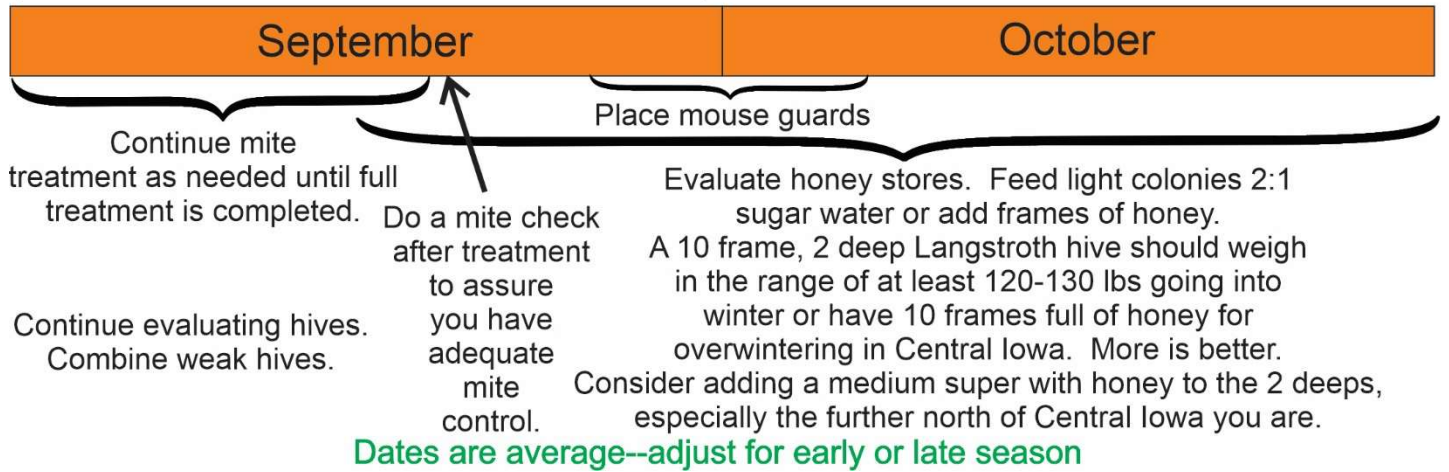
# Central Iowa Timeline of Beekeeping Tasks

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Queen is starting to taper off laying starting in October. Queen needs to continue to lay for at least 2 cycles past end of mite treatment:

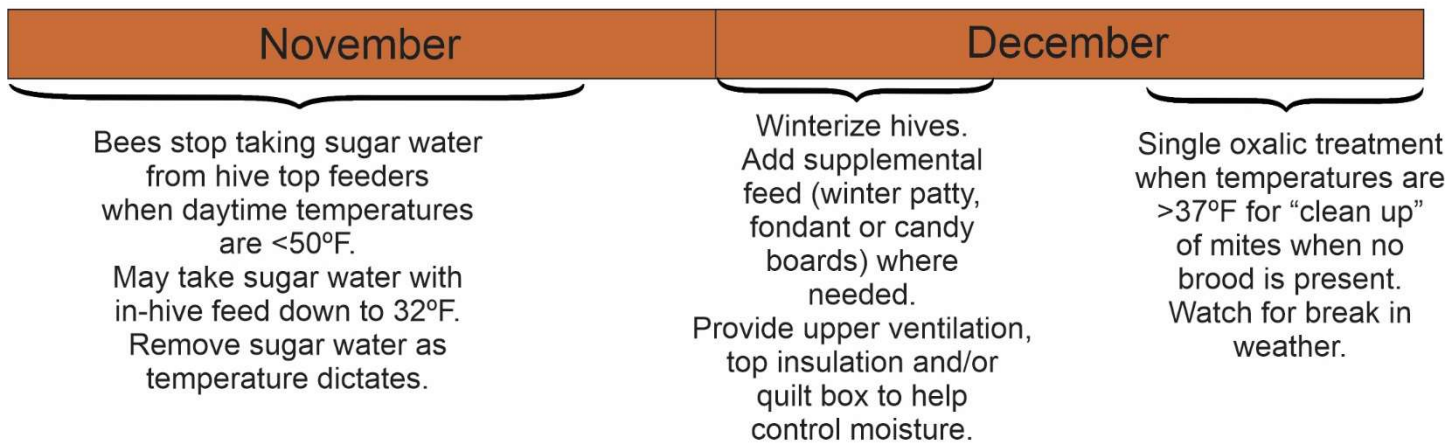
- those are “fat bees” that will be overwintering
  - bees are relative free of mites/viruses the mites transmit.
- Feed sugar water and pollen patties to encourage laying.

Ragweed and aster bloom.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Brood production tapering and usually stops early December.



Dates are average--adjust for early or late season

**Editor’s Note:** The Central Iowa Timeline for Beekeeping Tasks is based on a framework developed by CIBA member Linn Wilbur that has been reviewed by CIBA directors prior to publication in this newsletter. The timeline covers the months until the next BEELINE is published to give members a better idea for planning time and tasks related to their bee operation. Contact any board member with questions or comments about this timeline. Tasks and dates are approximate, based on average temperatures in central Iowa. Copyright 2022 Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

# New Publication Estimates Budgets for New Beekeepers

Submitted by ISU Extension Bee Specialist Randall Paul Cass

This summer the ISU Bee Program released a new handout specifically for people who are thinking about becoming beekeepers for the first time. The handout approaches beekeeping as a revenue-generating enterprise.

The handout, “Enterprise Budget Series: Beekeeping,” includes costs and information on all the necessary tools and inputs for a new apiary, such as hive boxes and bee suits, but also discusses the amount of time beekeepers are expected to put into managing their hives adequately, including regular hive inspections, mite treatments and harvesting honey. The primary goal of the handout is to inform would-be-beekeepers about the investment needed to establish a healthy and successful apiary.

The handout was developed through the Next Generation of Midwest Beekeepers program, a project funded by a grant from U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The grant was awarded in 2020 to ISU and a partner organization, the Center for Rural Affairs. The project goal was created to reach people in Iowa and Nebraska who were interested in beekeeping but needed more information. Moreover, it targeted communities where few beekeeping resources currently are offered, and materials were developed in both English and Spanish.

Check out the new pub here (downloads are free):

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/13309>

For more information about the Next Generation of Midwest Beekeepers program, here’s the link on the ISU Bee Program website.

<https://bees.cals.iastate.edu/next-generation-midwest-beekeepers>



## What Do Beekeepers Think About Prairie Strips?

Submitted by Morgan Kaardal, ISU Graduate Student

At first glance there seems to be little intersection between beekeeping, honey production and water quality. Oh, but there is! This is where I come in.

I am a graduate student in Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University with a background in economics. Originally, I am from Minnesota and before moving to Iowa, I had no experience with bees, although Jamie Beyer has been trying to whip me into shape. My research focuses on current beekeeper practices, beekeeper perceptions and value of prairie strips – a practice being promoted to protect water quality.



Prairie strips are 30- to 120-foot-wide planted strips of high diversity native prairie plants located in strategic locations in and at the edge of row crop fields. The primary purpose of prairie strips is to intercept water runoff, increase infiltration and soil water storage, and reduce nutrient and soil loss from farm fields. Yet because strips are based on native perennial vegetation and deployed in fields and landscapes that are dominated by annual cropping, there are significant additional ecosystem benefits produced.

One of the key additions that prairie strips bring to landscapes is pollinator habitat for honeybees. As beekeepers well know, pollinator decline has long been apparent throughout the Midwest, especially Iowa, where the majority of native pollinator forage has been removed for row crop production. Coupled with a dramatic increase in the use of agricultural chemicals, particularly neonicotinoids, actions that benefit bees and other insect pollinators are paramount.

PRAIRIE STRIPS, continued on page 14

Recent prairie strip research has discovered various honeybee outcomes of interest to beekeepers. One such outcome is that increased access to prairie strip forage later in the season can correspond with increased colony weight. It has been shown that colonies kept at farms with prairie strips experienced an 85 percent weight advantage compared to colonies kept at farms without prairie strips. This increase in weight could, in various ways, lead to increased profits for beekeepers. All in all, prairie strips are a relatively new practice and still very much in the implementation stage here in Iowa.

Your voice as beekeepers, providing your unique opinions, are critical to help us better understand if and where value exists regarding prairie strips, and to guide us so that we promote your interests.

I have designed a 10-minute survey which I hope will provide insight on the relationship between beekeepers and prairie strips. If you have the time, I would appreciate your input on the survey linked below. Respondents can be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Visa gift card. All information will be kept confidential and responses will be anonymous.

Survey link: <https://bit.ly/3AmAL24>

Reach Morgan at: [mkaardaal@iastate.edu](mailto:mkaardaal@iastate.edu)

More information about prairie strips is at:  
<https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/>

## Tips on Storing Honey Supers

*Compiled by Laura Miller, CIBA BEELINE editor*

You finished extracting your first season of honey. Now what do you do?



Don't make the mistake made by many new beekeepers (including me) of just stacking your honey supers in a spare corner. Drawn comb is precious – your bees went to a lot of work to build that comb and it's your job to store those frames with care. Wax moths can destroy comb in a few weeks. Beekeepers need to keep moths out and destroy any moth eggs that might already be on the comb (they're almost impossible to see).

First of all, plan to attend our September and November meetings. Both programs relate to this topic: preparing your hives for winter (September 17) and dealing with insect infestations including wax moth (November 19).

That said, here's some information from the Carolina Honeybees website:

<https://carolinahoneybees.com/storing-honey-supers/>

### **Freeze frames prior to storage (or keep frozen)**

Freeze your frames of comb for 2 or 3 days to kill any wax moth eggs. Remove the frames of comb from the freezer (let thaw and dry in a secure place where moths can't get) and then seal in plastic bags or bins.

### **Store outside in light and air**

Another option for those without freezer space for all those supers and frames is to store your supers in an open shed. Wax moths do not like light.

Beekeepers use this moth behavior to advantage by stacking honey supers (with comb inside) in a criss-cross fashion inside an open-air shed. Light and air will circulate through the bee boxes – deterring moth activity. A roof protects stored supers from rain. Adding wire sides lets light inside and prevents rodents from eating comb. Cold weather is good for super storage. Once the temps turn cold, wax moth damage is not a threat.

## Chemical protection

Some beekeepers use a form of BT known as *Bacillus thuringiensis* to protect comb frames. It has been sold under the Certain product label and is mixed with water to spray on new foundation or comb. Another possible alternative that is not presently labeled for bees but has been suggested for this use is XenTari, which contains the same BT, subspecies *alzawal*, strain ABTS-1857 but is a dried product that also is mixed and applied with water. This product has a potentially longer shelf life than the liquid Certain product and is lower in cost. Long-term storage of the Certain product (several years) requires temperatures of less than 54°F. BT works as a preventative infecting the larval stage of the wax moth.

Also used in super storage is the chemical paradichlorobenzene or PDB. This is a chemical compound in a crystal form labeled for bees and approved by the FDA. It is placed near stored honey supers (it's very pungent and a known carcinogen).

Do not use regular moth balls. The chemical is often not the same and can be dangerous to you and the hive.

## From the Editor:

### Musings for Fall

Life is precious. We were reminded of that truth this summer with the death of a beloved member of our CIBA beekeeping family. Articles in this newsletter show how much our members were touched by the life of Susan Kelly.

The events of the past few weeks, all that's been shared, and preparing this newsletter have brought to mind three things:

#### **The best things in life are fleeting, enjoy them while you can.**



Like the flutter of a butterfly's wings on a beautiful flower. If you don't stop to enjoy it, the butterfly soon moves on, and the flower fades. I was saddened to read in July that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has put the North American monarch butterfly on its endangered list. Populations over the past decade have declined 22-72 percent. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to rule on that classification yet this year or early next year.

#### **Being present in all things is the best way to live your life.**



I just love the enthusiasm that I see in young people. Children of most ages are curious, want to learn new things, tackle new experiences. Their way of being "present" often is lost as they grow older. I always enjoy sharing our beekeeping equipment with young visitors and showing them our equipment. They have so many questions!

Three enthusiastic visitors to our bee yard

#### **Family is important, especially when it comes to extraction time!**



We love extracting honey from our bees, but it's so much work! Luckily, our family and some friends really look forward to helping us. It's great family time, a team effort, and usually an all-day affair. We couldn't keep bees at our age without this kind of help!

That's all for now. Happy Beekeeping!

Our 2022 extraction team

# CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

## Officers

Jamie Beyer, President  
269 U Avenue  
Boone, IA 50036  
(515) 433-0194  
[beyersbog@aol.com](mailto:beyersbog@aol.com)

Don Sievers, Vice President  
50831 340th St  
Polk City, IA 50226  
(515) 460-6004  
[dwsievers4@gmail.com](mailto:dwsievers4@gmail.com)

Linn Wilbur, Secretary/Treasurer  
64626 170<sup>th</sup> Street  
Nevada, IA 50201  
(515) 382-4882  
[lwilbur50201@gmail.com](mailto:lwilbur50201@gmail.com)

Mike Sander, Past President  
1104 Scenic View  
Altoona, IA 50009  
(515) 957-8730  
[masander3@gmail.com](mailto:masander3@gmail.com)

## Board of Directors

Jim Crandell, Sr. (2021-2024)  
1417 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave Pl. E  
Newton, IA 50208  
(641) 791-9612  
[cranjccm@iowatelecom.net](mailto:cranjccm@iowatelecom.net)

Mark Moberly (2021-2024)  
1028 Bluff St.  
Webster City, IA 50595  
(515) 835-9851  
[mkmobe@gmail.com](mailto:mkmobe@gmail.com)

Raymond Knapp, Jr. (2021-2023)  
414 2nd Street  
Perry, IA 50220  
(515) 249-1899  
[rlknappjr@hotmail.com](mailto:rlknappjr@hotmail.com)

Valerie Just (2021-2023)  
4609 Crestmoor Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
(515) 278-4835  
[justiowahoney@gmail.com](mailto:justiowahoney@gmail.com)

## State Organizations

Iowa Honey Producers Association  
Jason Foley, President  
13778 Summerset Rd.  
Indianola, IA 50125  
(515) 664-6072  
[russianbeeguy@gmail.com](mailto:russianbeeguy@gmail.com)

State Apiarist  
Andrew Joseph  
(515) 725-1481  
[andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:andrew.joseph@iowaagriculture.gov)

Iowa State Extension Bee Specialist  
Randall P. Cass  
(515) 294-2507  
[randall@iastate.edu](mailto:randall@iastate.edu)

The BEELINE  
Official CIBA Newsletter  
Jamie Beyer, President  
269 U Avenue  
Boone, IA 50036



