

THE BEELINE



Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association

ISSUE

Spring 2020

Editor: Laura Miller

UPCOMING MEMBER MEETING INFO

2 p.m., Saturday, March 21

Des Moines North Side Library

3526 Fifth Ave., Des Moines

Jason Foley, Queen Rearing Techniques

NOTE: This is a new location!

UPCOMING SPRING AUCTION

10 a.m., Saturday, April 18

18930 210 Street, Minburn

Consignments accepted 8 a.m.

More details both events, page 3

Questions?

Program: Linn Wilbur

lwilbur50201@gmail.com

Auction: Steve Hanlin

letterbuck@mchsi.com

NEXT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE:

April 15, 2020

Email Submissions to:

beeline_editor@yahoo.com

Mail Submissions to:

Laura Miller

5920 North Swing

Ames, IA 50014

FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER

Here's something to share with friends, family, customers and anyone else who cares about bees. It comes from Jim Obradovich, lobbyist for the Iowa Honey Producers Association.

The effort to make the Honey Bee the official state insect has been discussed in the Iowa Legislature for a few years now, but gathered new momentum following the Iowa Honey Producers' Iowa Honey Bee Day reception at the State Capitol on February 13. Many thanks to all who joined us that day! This is only the beginning of what we can accomplish when we show up in numbers.

Now we just need you to contact your Senator. You can copy and paste a lot of this information, but as of this writing, it needs to be done soon!

Message from Jim Obradovich

Senate Joint Resolution 2004, which would make the Honey Bee the official state insect, is continuing to move forward.

After its unanimous bipartisan approval by the Senate State Government Committee, the proposal is now eligible for consideration by the full Senate. If approved by the Senate it will then need to be approved by the House of Representatives.

Please take a moment now to send a short email or make a call to your state senator and urge them to:

- Vote yes for Senate Joint Resolution 4 and make the Honey Bee our state's official insect!
- Iowa is one of 2 states without an official state insect
- Honey production is an important part of our state's agricultural economy
- Honey bees are also our state's best pollinators

To find out who your Senator is, check this link – it's easy:
<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

PS from Jamie: *After Honey Bee Day I also explored the possibility of placing a couple hives at Terrace Hill (this is the Governor's residence). It's only in the research phase right now, but it would be a win-win for honey bees from the publicity that the Governor would get. I hope that Governor Reynolds could sign the Honey Bee as State Insect Bill the same day that we place hives at Terrace Hill. Wouldn't that be great? Of course, several things need to happen before this can be reality!! Remember that placing hives at Terrace Hill is not for sure yet. Thanks!! We are saving the bees!*

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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 Business



March Membership Meeting

When: Saturday, March 21
Time: 2 p.m.
Where: Des Moines North Side Library, 3526 Fifth Avenue, Des Moines
Topic: Queen Rearing Techniques: Hillbilly to Commercial
Speaker: Jason Foley, Foley's Russian Bees, Indianola

NOTE: This is a new location for a meeting!

Jason will give us a close look at queen rearing from easy, small-scale applications to the technical details of commercial production. He owns Foley's Russian Bees and Honey Hollow Apiary & Gardens LLC. He also is director of District 5 for the Iowa Honey Producers Association and is a certified master beekeeper. His primary occupation is breeding queens, shipping them all over the United States. Jason became a beekeeper in 2005 with a single hive and a nerdy curiosity. Within a couple years, he did his first grant project and received training in instrumental insemination under Sue Cobey. He enrolled in the University of Florida's master beekeeper program and received his certification in 2016. He received UF's "Beekeeper of the Year" award in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. Check out his website:

www.russianbee.com



The business meeting starts at 2 p.m., including election of officers and directors, followed by Jason's talk.



Volunteers Needed for CIBA Board, Officers!

Our annual election of officers and directors is set for the March 21 CIBA meeting. If you have an interest in serving as a director or an officer now is the time to step forward! CIBA is only as strong as the volunteers who make the association function. Don't let not having served in similar roles deter you; your enthusiasm and willingness to help go a long way in making CIBA successful. Please contact Linn Wilbur (515.382.4882 or lwilbur50201@gmail.com) for more information. Thanks!



CIBA Annual Auction

When: Saturday, April 18
Time: 10 a.m. (auction; accepting consignments at 8 a.m.)
Where: 18930 210 Street, Minburn

It's time to consign! Committing to consign does not require a list of the items you are consigning, but the sooner we know the items you have to sell, the better we can advertise, and the better your opportunity to sell your beekeeping equipment. CIBA members who commit to consign by March 1 will be awarded a 10% consignment fee, which is a reduction from the standard consignment fee of 15%. After March 1, CIBA member consignors will be charged a 15% consignment fee. The reduction in the consignment fee is NOT available to non-CIBA members.

As you put away items or clean your supplies, start a list of what you want to bring to the auction.

Inspection! All combs and certain equipment will be inspected by the State Apiarist or designees starting at 8 a.m. the day of the auction. (Rejected equipment/comb must be removed from the premises immediately.)

Concession Stand: Calling all cooks and bakers! As in the past there will be a concession stand at the auction. Proceeds from the stand funds our Honey Queen/Honey Ambassador program. Please let us know if you would like to help with food items, and how you'd like to assist.

Check out our 2-page flyer near the end of this newsletter. If you need more information, contact Steve Hanlin at letterbuck@mchsi.com.

Congratulations, Abigail!

Abigail Kelly, who served as CIBA's Honey Queen last year, has moved on to become the 2020 Iowa Honey Queen for the Iowa Honey Producers Association. To thank Abigail for her wonderful work, CIBA President Jamie Beyer presented her with bee-themed gifts designed and constructed by CIBA member Ann Wilbur, and a \$250 John Johnson Youth Scholarship during the annual CIBA Winter Seminar January 18 in Grimes. Abigail will be attending college in Iowa next fall.

Thanks, Abigail, for all that you do!



Call to Action

2020 Membership Dues

Time really does fly, and it is that time of year again to determine if you want a single or a family CIBA membership. Membership in CIBA runs on a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. If you have not done so already, membership for 2020 is now due. We've included a [membership form](#) with this *BEELINE* edition. Dues are as follows:

- \$10 for a Single Membership
- \$15 for a Family Membership whereby members are residing at the same address
- Waived for a new beekeeper taking a Central Iowa beekeeping class this year

As a reminder, you must be a current member to participate in the election of officers and directors at the March meeting. Membership forms will be available at the March CIBA meeting or you can send your payment (checks should be made payable to CIBA), with a completed membership application form, to:

Valerie Just
4609 Crestmoor Drive
Des Moines, IA 50310

It's Time to Register Your Hives!

Whether you're new or a veteran beekeeper, now is the time to register your hives – or renew your hive registration – on the state's sensitive crops directory.



Since 2016, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has partnered with the non-profit company FieldWatch™ Inc. to provide online registry tools for sensitive crops, including beehives. Iowa code limits and restricts the timing of commercial applications of pesticides that are toxic to bees within one mile of beehives registered on the state's sensitive crops directory. According to the rule adopted in 2009, applicators can apply chemicals near registered hives only before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. Applicators are not required to contact the hive owner.

Beekeepers can choose to register either on DriftWatch™ or BeeCheck™ -- both are part of FieldWatch. Registration is free, but all registrations expire each year on March 31. Users are required to annually renew registrations to confirm that the hives are still active, and to validate the location and number of hives.

If already registered

If you are already registered, you should have received a reminder email from **FieldWatch Customer Service**. In that email is a hyperlink to the website to renew your registration. If you haven't already done so, search your email for FieldWatch and take a couple minutes to complete the renewal.

If you cannot find your email sent by FieldWatch Customer Service, go to their website: www.fieldwatch.com or send a message to info@fieldwatch.com.

If not registered

If you have not registered your hives, access DriftWatch at: On the right-hand side will be "Don't Have an Account" – select "Beecheck – Map My Apiaries" option.

A new BeeCheck app is available for both iPhone/iOS and Android/Google users. The app can be used to add hives in the field, move hives by GPS, or move hives to other states for pollination, including California. Download the app for your phone and then check on your account.

Ordering signs, flags

DriftWatch sells field signs and beehive flags for beekeepers to use near approved apiaries. These signs can be ordered when you log into your FieldWatch account.

IDALS also sells 12X18-inch aluminum "No Spray" signs for apiaries. They can be shipped to you or picked up at their downtown Des Moines office. You can call the office at 515.281.7656 for questions about picking up signs. To order, go to the IDALS website: www.iowaagriculture.gov/Horticulture_and_FarmersMarkets/sensitiveCropDirectory.asp and click on the "Order Field Markers" in the right-hand column.



Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship News

News from our State Apiarist, Andy Joseph

Hello from indoors. As I write this, the Iowa Honey Bee Day event is planned for tomorrow morning at the Capitol. Forecast of -6°F for the morning, I believe the coldest of the year. Right now I just keep thinking, "I hope my truck starts"! It always does... I'm looking forward to seeing several of you there. It has been a good time these last couple years, and it creates a great presence of our beekeeping industry down among the legislators.

Tons of thanks to Jamie and all involved! It's been neat to see the IHPA Facebook updates of cities across Iowa which have signed onto the proclamation in celebration of Honey Bee Day as well.

I still don't have any great insight into how our bees are wintering across the state, but from what I've been hearing, things are going pretty well, overall, so far. Losses seem relatively few. Deadouts I've seen personally seem to be mite-related over anything else. These last couple winters have been fairly rough. We still have a ways to go but even if our loss numbers double over the next 6 weeks or so, I think we'll still come out better than 2018 and 2019! ...That observation is both encouraging and depressing depending on your perspective. It

would be incredible to catch a decently early spring and open boxes of well-wintered bees all ramping up nicely.

Beginner bee courses are coming along nicely. The amount of new interest in beekeeping never ceases to amaze. Welcome to any new *BEELINE* readers! I've visited several classes here and there and have been impressed with the enthusiasm and interest in getting started off right. We have a lot of good course instructors dedicated to helping new beekeepers succeed. There sure is a passion (and obsession) in practicing beekeeping that goes beyond other industries and interests.

The CIBA winter meeting went really well – despite nature trying its hardest to squash the event. I was sad to miss Larry Connor. I always enjoy what he has to share, and I really like checking out everything new from Wicwas Press. His flight plans were nothing but delays and cancellations but at least his books made it to Iowa!

Thank you to Dr. Wu-Smart and Sheldon Brummel for making the trip and presenting their work. The Great Plains Master Beekeepers program sounds excellent, and I'd certainly encourage anyone to check it out. Master Beekeeping Certification is all about becoming a proficient, successful beekeeper regardless of scale, becoming a leader in the local beekeeping community, and becoming a knowledgeable and confident instructor, speaker and media contact. This program seems like a really nice framework to develop these skills and talents. I'm excited to see it take off.

Here's to a great Iowa Honey Bee Day and an early Spring!



Committee Updates

In Case You Missed It: Winter Seminar

Submitted by CIBA Program Committee

The day-long CIBA Winter Seminar in Grimes on January 18 happened, but not at all how it was planned. Mother Nature intervened with a massive snowstorm that hit the Midwest.

Our morning speaker, Dr. Larry Connor from Wicwas Press based in Michigan, was stranded in Chicago Friday due to flight cancellations. Thankfully, Dr. Judy Wu-Smart and Sheldon Brummel from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln were able to travel Saturday morning without incident. We delayed the seminar for an hour to allow the facility to clear snow and to provide more time for travel. Dr. Wu-Smart stepped up for an additional late morning talk, and to kick off the seminar CIBA President Jamie Beyer presented on a topic he had given earlier via webinar to the Nebraska Beekeepers Association.

A big thanks to our State Apiarist Andy Joseph, who came prepared to talk if the Lincoln folks experienced travel troubles, and Jamie had a second talk if needed. We were scrambling late Friday evening around 10 p.m. when Dr. Connor called to let us know the bad news: his third flight of the day had been cancelled and there weren't any Saturday flights available until after the seminar.

Attendance, of course, was down due to the weather but approximately 70 percent of the registered attendees made it, about 90 people. Unfortunately, those who decided the weather was not worth the risk of travel tended to be those who came from the greatest distance. We did our best to keep attendees informed on Friday as the weather deteriorated but emphasized what we had stated previously: the seminar would go on if the Grimes Community Complex was open.

Overall, the seminar was a success. The evaluations were complementary on the speakers and the facilities. The food was great; we donated what that was not eaten of the catered lunch to the Grimes Fire Department and Ronald McDonald House and sent attendees home with the extra break treats.



Please thank the CIBA Program Committee, CIBA Food Committee and all the volunteers for their work that went into this, as well as CIBA directors and officers. What a shame we didn't get to hear Dr. Connor talk, but we had many of his books and other Wicwas Press publications available for purchase.

We don't have final figures for seminar costs yet, but a rough estimate indicates we should at least break even. We'll discuss this at our February 25 board meeting and try to reach a consensus about next year's event.



On the Lookout for Queen/Ambassador Candidates

Submitted by Susan Kelly, Queen/Ambassador Committee Chair

Happy Spring from eastern Polk County! At this time we usually would be talking about nominations for the Central Iowa Honey Queen, but we have switched up the calendar for nominations and appointment of a new queen. Applications were due December 1 and we received one application. The queen committee and a few others interviewed her in early January and offered her the position. Unfortunately, she was not able to accept and while we are disappointed, we wish her the best in the future.

CIBA is always keeping an eye out for good Queen or Ambassador candidates. The 2021 Central Iowa Honey Queen or Ambassador will be someone age 16-20 by January 1, 2021, with a passion for beekeeping, honey and other products of the hive and promoting them throughout central Iowa. She or he should live in central Iowa. Applications will be accepted beginning September 1.

If you receive the *Buzz* newsletter from the Iowa Honey Producers Association, keep an eye out for Carol Vannoy's articles on growing your queen program. She shared wonderful suggestions in the February issue that were a challenge to me personally.

I want to thank queen committee members Julie Sander, Arvin Foell and Abigail Kelly and also Valerie Just and Jamie Beyer for their help in updating the CIBA Honey Queen guidelines for 2020 and for helping with the queen interview in January. You have made being queen committee chair a breeze.

I hope to see you all at the March CIBA meeting at the Northside Library in Des Moines! You can reach me at CIBAQeenChair@gmail.com



The Queen's Corner

Submitted by Abigail Kelly, 2020 Iowa Honey Queen/2019 CIBA Honey Queen

Happy March! I attended the CIBA Winter Seminar on January 18 and despite the snowy weather, it was a wonderful day to learn from amazing speakers and meet beekeepers. I had the privilege of moderating the afternoon session. My favorite speaker of the day was Dr. Judy Wu-Smart, an interesting and informative presenter. I enjoyed learning about the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program, which sounds like a great way for any beekeeper to continue to grow his or her beekeeping skills. Jamie Beyer did a great job filling in when one of our guest speakers was unable to make it due to the weather. During the morning session, CIBA President Jamie Beyer presented me with the John Johnson Honey Queen Scholarship and three honey queen-themed bags made by Ann Wilbur. Thank you, CIBA, for the scholarship and bags! I plan to put the scholarship toward college expenses next fall. *[PHOTO: Abigail and Dr. Judy Wu-Smart]*



CIBA Member Contributions

Caring for and Installation of Package Bees

Submitted by John Johnson, CIBA and IHPA past president (Editor: from an ongoing series of teaching articles used by John over the years)

Package bees are easily transported by automobile. While in transit they need a temperature of approximately 60 to 70°F. Package bees can smother or chill if they are placed in a tight, hot or cold location. The inside of an automobile or cab of a pickup where temperature is in the 60°F range is about right.

Soon after the bees arrive at their final destination and while still in the screened wire cage – feed them. Prepare a mixture of 1/2 clean water and 1/2 table-quality sugar.* Using a spray bottle, spray the sugar solution on the package screen. It will disappear quickly. Give a second feeding.

Get the bees from their package into their hive the same day you get them, if possible. If you need to keep them in the package overnight or for a day or two, place them where the temperature is in the 60–70°F range and out of bright light. Feed sugar water every 8–10 hours until hived.

It is preferred that bees be hived when the outside temperature is 50°F or warmer. It is best to hive them during late afternoon. **Do not hive them after dark.**

Hiving package bees

Have the hive in which package bees will be placed ready before you plan to hive them. Equipment needed is: bottom board, hive body, 8-10 frames of foundation or drawn comb (preferred), inner cover, outer cover, entrance reducer, hive stand, feeder bucket with sugar water and a second empty hive body or something similar to enclose the feeder bucket. Of course, a frame or two of good honey is the best feed for package bees but beginning beekeepers will rarely have combs of honey available.

To install the bees into hive, proceed as follows:

- First, with the spray bottle feed the bees the 1:1 sugar solution.
- Remove four frames from the center of the hive body in which the package bees will be placed.
- With moderate force, bang the package of bees on the ground. This disorients the bees and keeps them in the screened package after the cover and feed container are removed.
- With your hive tool, pry the cover off the feeder can and remove the feeder can and queen cage.
- Place the queen (in her cage) in your pocket or some warm, safe place.
- Hold the package of bees over the center of the hive body. Shake it until all the bees are out of the screened package. Most of the bees will fall out of the package into the hive. A few will fly around, but they will find their way into the hive in due time.
- Wait a few minutes for the bees to begin climbing onto the frames of foundation or drawn comb.
- Replace the four frames you previously removed in a step above.

Then install the queen in the hive:

- If your queen came in a wooden cage, remove the cork from the candy end of the queen cage. If you receive a California-style queen cage, you may need to remove the cork and place the black plastic candy filled tube in its place.**
- Using a medium-sized nail, poke two or three holes completely through the queen cage candy (this will allow the queen to be released sooner). Be careful not to injure the queen.
- Next, in the middle of the hive spread two frames apart and with the candy end down and the screened side of the queen cage facing the front or back of hive, lodge the queen cage tightly between the two frames – preferably slightly towards one or the other ends, so that it is not directly under the middle of the inner cover, where you will be feeding the bees and sugar water will be dripping down.***
- **The screen side of the queen cage must be located so the bees have contact with the queen while they are in the process of eating the candy out and releasing her.** The queen cage must be lodged tightly in place so it does not fall to the bottom of the hive.**** ****



- If there are any bees left in the package that the bees came in, leave it on the ground in front of the hive. The bees will find their way out and into the hive. You usually can remove it the next day or so)

Finish the installation:

- Place the inner cover on the hive.
- Place the feeder container over the hole in the inner cover.
- Put an empty hive body or something similar around the feeder to keep it in place.
- Put the outer cover over the top of the feeder container and something heavy on top of the outer cover.
- Put the entrance reducer in place.
- **Do not disturb the hive for five days.**
- After five days, the queen should be out of the cage. If she is not, using a nail, remove the remaining candy and place the queen cage back where it was previously located. She is now free to move out of the cage and will do so.
- If you have started the hive on foundation only, the bees should be building comb (cells) and the queen will lay eggs as soon as cells are available.

After the acceptance period

It is essential that feed be continually kept on the bees until you are sure they have stored enough to maintain themselves. Thus, check and refill the feeder container every several days.

If, after the release period, you see that the bees are not taking sugar water, it may indicate an issue with the queen. Check the hive, looking for eggs. **You do not need to find the queen to know the colony is queen right.** Once you find eggs you can stop looking, close the hive. The presence of eggs shows that the queen was laying within the last 3 days and the hive is more than likely OK.

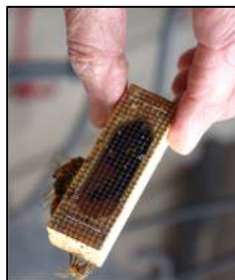
Do not let the feeder container be empty as long as the bees need feed. Continue to feed the bees as long as they use what you provide. When adequate nectar from plants is available, bees will no longer take sugar water and you are through feeding. Remove the feeder container and the extra hive body.

Editorial comments: * *This is a 1:1 sugar solution: 1-gallon water to 8 pounds table sugar. If heating the water, do so before adding the sugar and do not heat it after adding sugar.*

** *Your queen should be the only bee inside the queen cage. All attendants (worker bees) if they are with the queen should be removed prior to placing the queen in the hive. Usually only an issue if queen is supplied separate from the box of bees.*

*** *If there is not enough space with all the frames in the hive, remove an outer frame from the hive and leave it out until you remove the queen cage, which will be many days later. The need to do this depends on the style of wooden cage the queen is in and the width of your frames.*

**** *If your queen comes in a plastic JZB-style cage, place the queen cage with the candy end down, below the bottom of the top bar of a frame, pushing it into the wax. Place it with the screened portions of the cage facing the front and back of the hive just as described above for the wooden queen cages, not towards the wax, so the worker bees can communicate and feed the queen. Push the frames together so the other side of the queen cage is also embedded in the wax.*



Above: A package of new bees; one type of queen cage; removing center frames to hive the bees; placement of queen cage in the hive. [Photos by Laura Miller]

Margaret's FAQs

Submitted by Margaret Hala, CIBA Director

Question	Margaret Says
<p>From where do I pull a frame to check for eggs and larvae: middle or side?</p>	<p>I'd suggest pulling frame 2 or 3 from one side and then work your way into the middle, checking as you go. The queen is less likely to be that far to the side unless it's mid-season, so you're less likely to roll her and possibly kill her. To reduce the chance of rolling the queen always remove the outermost frame and slide frames from that side into the open space before lifting out those frames. The queen is seldom at the outside of the hive; any bees you invariably roll taking out the first frame will be workers.</p>
<p>What happens if I do roll, injure or kill the queen when I pull out a frame of brood?</p>	<p>Obviously, you just lost the cost of a new queen, and at least \$30 per queen, plus shipping, you don't want to do that. You've also lost most or all your honey production for the year, waiting for a new queen to be shipped, the hive to make their own queen or the time and trouble to find and go get a new one from somewhere, IF you can find one to go get. It's pretty much like when your colony swarms---you lose production.</p>
<p>I installed a new queen about 4 weeks ago. She started laying, but now I can find no eggs or small larvae. What do I do now?</p>	<p>After a month the breeder will not replace your lost queen, even though she may not have been well bred enough to last the whole season. Or she may have been injured in transport, who knows?</p> <p>First check to see if the bees have started a queen cell and if it's capped or if there is a larvae in the cell. If not, order a new queen IMMEDIATELY, or if you have more than one colony you can take a frame WITH EGGS from another colony and put it in the queenless so they can make their own queen. You will have lost honey production for the year, but may be able to save the colony.</p> <p>If you find multiple eggs laid on the side walls of the cells, then you have a laying worker and the colony will not accept a queen. The laying worker or workers give off a pheromone scent making the hive think they have a queen. That's when you must shake all the bees out of the hive 20+ feet away from that hive and put a new queen and frame of brood into the box and hope for the best.</p> <p>We've found (having about 5 colonies per yard) that replacing all the frames from the drone layer colony with 1 frame of brood from the each of the good colonies and introducing a new queen works. The brood from the queenless colony can then be given to the queen right colonies to replace those taken.</p>
<p>This is my first year keeping bees and I understand that you should use all wax or all plastic foundation in a hive. Why?</p>	<p>Bees prefer wax foundation when drawing comb and in my experience will ignore plastic waxed frames of foundation in a hive body when wax and plastic are mixed. If wax-coated 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 draw the wax foundation first. There are now plastic foundation with extra thick wax coating that are available (for more \$), which may make this less of a problem. Once the frames are drawn out you can intermix plastic and wax foundation frames in a hive without any issues.</p>
<p>What are your beekeeping recommendations for the month of March?</p>	<p>If you have overwintered colonies, you should have been or be getting out to check for live colonies and feed them. More colonies die in March and April than the rest of the winter combined.</p>

Beekeepers, Opportunity Knocks!

Submitted by Laura Miller, Newsletter Editor



You might have seen the formal announcement in our last newsletter about the new Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program (GPMB) launched by Nebraska Extension (page 8, Winter 2019). But here's the real deal, said best by the program's director, Sheldon Brummel, at the CIBA Winter Seminar in Grimes:

“We want to help bee-HAVERS become bee-KEEPERS.”

We all know the challenge of keeping our hives alive from year to year and this program is designed to do that, and more, by becoming a resource and network for Midwest beekeepers.

The new program includes beekeepers and beekeeping organizations from 5 states: Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Wyoming. The program offers a way to become certified as a master beekeeper after completing a specified amount of coursework, field work and volunteer hours (similar to Master Gardener, Master Forester and Master Conservationist programs offered through cooperative extension).

Brummel said GPMB program fulfills obvious needs in the region, including:

- A high demand for instruction teaching vetted principles;
- Higher-than-average colony losses for many years;
- A diverse landscape where intense agriculture is practiced and use of agrochemicals;
- Wild weather fluxes in recent years, and
- Lack of bee extension professionals to address these needs.

In addition to training, Brummel said other goals of the new program are to 1) assemble resources for building knowledge among beekeepers, 2) strengthen ties between various beekeeping organizations, and 3) help everyone become better advocates for the beekeeping industry.

“We are building GPMB as a program, not an online-only bee school,” he explained. “The purpose is to have in-person courses, relationships, and hands-on training.”

Brummel encouraged beekeepers of all kinds – commercial, hobbyist and just plain bee-geeks – to join GPMB.

Enrollment is free. As a member you have access to online resources and you can attend Open Apiary sessions hosted by GPMBP and its partners. Members receive an email newsletter with news about new materials, topics of interest to Midwest beekeepers, and events throughout the region. It's free to become an Apprentice beekeeper; certifications as Journeyman and Master have more strict requirements and a testing fee.

Brummel also put in a pitch for partnering organizations – including local bee clubs. He said he hoped the partnership will help local clubs recruit members, volunteers and mentors, and have access to train-the-trainer opportunities and professional development. Organizations that currently offer beekeeper training can apply to have their courses certified by the GPMBP and advertised throughout the region. A strong network of beekeeping organizations also will help in rapid response to emerging pest problems and other issues.

The Iowa Honey Producers Association is a GPMB partner. CIBA President Jamie Beyer is a member of the GPMB Governing Committee.

Check out the GPMB program website: gpmb.unl.edu

Cover Crops Become Bee Pastures in Almond Groves

SALT LAKE CITY – Jan. 15, 2020 /PRNewswire/ — As beekeepers from across the U.S. arrive in California for the annual almond pollination season next month, their hives will be placed in orchards soon to be teeming with white almond blossoms and, increasingly, blooming cover crops and wildflowers.

Now in its 7th year, Project Apis m.'s (PAm) Seeds for Bees program has distributed nearly 40,000 acres of blooming plant seeds to California farmers, increasing the diversity, density, and duration of available bee forage while improving sustainability and soil health.

Yellow-blooming brassicas and bell beans provide a nutritional boost to pollinators while adding organic matter to the soil, fixing nitrogen, and retaining water in this Seeds for Bees® planting in Chico, California. PAm cover crops and seed mixes help “jump start” the hive prior to the almond bloom by creating a positive feedback loop.

“Almond pollen is 25% protein and provides all 10 of the amino acids their diets require so honey bees love it,” said Billy Synk, Director of Pollination Programs for PAm. “When you add blooming cover crops or even hedgerows into the mix, almond orchards can provide sustained nutrition for pollinating honey bees and other pollinators.”

Proper nutrition is a crucial part of honey bee health. A healthy diet helps mitigate damage from other health threats facing honey bees including Varroa mites, pathogens and pesticide exposures.

The Seeds for Bees mixes bloom at critical times of the year when natural forage is scarce but managed and native bees are active. While the mixes are designed to meet the nutritional needs of honey bees, they also provide habitat and nutrition for other pollinators and beneficial insects. Through research supported both by PAm and the Almond Board of California, studies have shown that these bee pastures are fully compatible with typical almond production practices and do not interfere with important farming activities like harvest.

Not only does this practice support beekeepers by providing more diverse nutrition for bees, it also brings benefits to farmers by adding organic matter to the soil, increasing water infiltration, reducing erosion, and providing a natural weed control.

“With a crop that relies primarily on honey bees for pollination, it is in almond farmers’ best interest to ensure their orchards are a safe place for bees each spring,” said Synk. “As we approach another pollination season, many almond farmers continue to be good partners as we develop and deploy collaborative solutions for healthier pollinators and a more secure food supply.”

Providing technical assistance and free seed for farmers to plant cover crops in California’s agricultural landscapes is just part of PAm’s mission. In addition to the Seeds for Bees program, PAm also uses donated funds for applied research studies, for equipment bee research labs need, and provides graduate scholarships to support new bee scientists in their pursuit of science-based solutions. PAm is supported by a diversity of donors including beekeepers and growers, industry partners, and corporate sponsors. Learn more and donate at www.ProjectApism.org/support-us.

“The challenges facing honey bees are complex and constantly evolving. Working together with organizations like the Bee Informed Partnership, the Almond Board of California, the Honey Bee Health Coalition and many more, along with many researchers, almond farmers and beekeepers, we can achieve far more collectively than we can separately,” said Danielle Downey, executive director of PAm. “These collaborations, focused on research and data, communication and forage, are a critical component to the long-term sustainability of beekeeping and almonds.”

About Project Apis m.

Project Apis m. (PAm) is the go-to organization at the interface of honey bees and pollinated crops. Since 2006, PAm has spent more than \$8 million for research and projects to provide healthier bees, resulting in better pollination and increased crop yields for the grower, and lower losses and better honey production for the beekeeper. The group works closely with commercial beekeepers, growers, and top bee scientists. PAm funds research studies, purchases equipment for research labs and supports graduate students through scholarships to enhance honey bee health and nutrition by putting forage on the landscape where bees need it most. Learn more at www.ProjectApism.org.



From the Editor, Laura Miller

Greetings from Story County! This is my first newsletter to edit for the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association and here's my brief introduction.

I started keeping bees 10 years ago but I still feel like a newbie at this hobby. I joined CIBA several years ago so that I could receive your excellent newsletter. As you can imagine, it's with a bit of trepidation (and excitement) that I take on these duties. I hope I can measure up to the high standards that previous editors have set; the good thing is that I get to rub elbows with so many experts and beeks!



Like most of you, I've found my passion among honey bees. I love to learn about these amazing insects as well as share that with other people. I write a blog, www.BeeLadyHoney.com – I have lots of great ideas but it's hard to find the time to post things. I enjoy giving presentations about bees and the importance of pollinators; young children and senior citizens seem to be my most enthusiastic audiences.

I'm a reporter by trade, retiring several years ago from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. I edited the center's quarterly newsletter, *The Leopold Letter*, for 17 years and discovered the need to care for and sustain our natural resources. I've edited other newsletters on a variety of topics – integrated pest management, farm safety, extension, spina bifida, even a newsletter for our son's baseball team. For several years in the mid-1980s I edited the *Ames Tribune's* food page and wrote a column called What's Cooking. My writing tasks have introduced me to many wonderful people through the years and I look forward to meeting many of you, too!

I'm the queen bee at our house, but husband Dave is a great help in keeping our five hives going. Currently, we are lamenting the loss of three hives over the winter.

I've worked with President Jamie Beyer to set up a BEELINE schedule. The deadline for submitting articles and other content is the 15th of the month prior to publication. If you've requested a printed newsletter, you'll see it in your USPS mailbox as close to the publication date as possible.

2020 CIBA BEELINE Publication Schedule

March 1: Spring BEELINE emailed to members

May 1: Summer BEELINE emailed to members

September 1: Fall BEELINE emailed to members

December 1: Winter BEELINE emailed to members

On the months that you do not receive the BEELINE, you should receive an email Newscast update from Jamie.

Of course, I'd like to hear from you ANY time, deadline or not. Send me your comments, questions or suggestions to beeline_editor@yahoo.com. I'll do my best to answer them or send them to someone who can. And thanks for your patience while I learn the ropes. Until next time, Bee Happy!



CIBA Annual Beekeeping Equipment Auction



What: Central Iowa Beekeepers Association
(CIBA) Annual Auction

When: Saturday, April 18, 2020

Where 18930 210th St.

Minburn, IA 50167

Accepting consignments on the day of the auction
starting at 8:00 AM

Auction starts at 10:00 AM

If you have excess equipment to sell, or if you are in need of equipment, come to the CIBA Auction. Or just come and visit with other BEEKEEPERS and enjoy the food and the company. Donation of equipment to CIBA will be sold and the proceeds used to support ongoing Association projects.

INFO ON THE AUCTION

Consignment!

It's time to consign. CIBA members that commit to consign by

March 1st will be awarded a 10% consignment fee, which is a reduction from the standard consignment fee of 15%. After March 1st, CIBA member consignors will be charged a 15% consignment fee. The reduction in the consignment fee is NOT available to non-CIBA members.

Committing to consign does not require a list of the items you are consigning, but the sooner we know the items you have to sell, the better we can advertise and the better your opportunity to sell your beekeeping equipment.

As you are putting items away or cleaning your supplies, start a list of what you want to bring to the auction.

Inspection!

All comb and certain equipment will be inspected by the State Apiarist or designees starting at 8 AM the day of the auction. (Rejected equipment/comb must be removed from the premises immediately.)

Concession Stand!

As in the past, there will be a concession stand at the auction—the stand funds our Honey Queen / Honey Ambassador program.

Contact for Consignment and Concession Stand

Please contact Steve Hanlin, (515) 292-5802, steve.hanlin@ars.usda.gov

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) 2020 Membership

Membership Dues Information

- ✓ Membership dues run on a yearly calendar schedule of January 1st through December 31st.
- ✓ Dues are payable at the beginning of each new calendar year.
- ✓ **Make checks payable to CIBA.**

SELECT ONE

- New membership
- Renewal of membership from 2019
- Yes No N/A: For a renewal, has any of your personal information changed?

SELECT ONE

- \$10 for a **Single** Membership
- \$15 for a **Family** Membership whereby members are residing at the same address
- Waived** for a **New Student Beekeeper** taking a beekeeping class this year. **You must provide an email address, as you will receive the newsletter and notifications only via email.**

Where are you taking your class? _____

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 _____

Newsletter/Communication Delivery: Electronic or Mailed

Choose between receiving the quarterly newsletter and club communications via electronic delivery (email) or United States Postal Service (USPS) mail delivery. We encourage electronic delivery for the following reasons:

- ✓ Selecting electronic delivery saves CIBA the cost of postage.
- ✓ We can provide more information to you electronically. Review the table below.

While we encourage electronic delivery, you need to make a delivery option that serves your needs.

Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) 2020 Membership – Page 2

Communication Type	What you will receive with:		Details
	Electronic Delivery	Mailed Delivery	
BEELINE quarterly newsletter	Yes	Yes	Quarterly club newsletter
Meeting reminders	Yes	No	Mailed reminder postcards have been discontinued
Special information	Yes	No	CIBA organizational updates
Forwarded electronic information	Yes	No	IHPA news, upcoming events, etc.
By-Law changes	Yes	Yes	Infrequent club By-Law updates
Annual Membership Directory	Yes	No	Published in June. Provides a list of all members, and contact information.

Family Membership: With **Mailed** delivery, Family memberships receive **ONE** mailed newsletter. With **Electronic** delivery, all members providing an email address will receive emailed newsletters, notices, membership directories/meeting reminders, etc.

New Student Beekeeper: **Ensure you provide an email address.** You will receive all communications via electronic mail (email) only.

SELECT ONE

- Mail via USPS
 Email electronic delivery
 Both

Membership Directory

We publish an annual membership directory in June each year, which is shared only with club members.

SELECT ONE

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

Additional information (optional):

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

Ideas for Meeting Presenters or Newsletter Topics

What is your profession? _____

Would you consider assisting CIBA with your skills, if requested? _____

Mail completed form with payment to:

Valerie Just, CIBA Treasurer
 4609 Crestmoor Drive
 Des Moines, IA 50310

CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

Officers

Jamie Beyer, President

269 U Avenue
Boone, IA 50036
(515) 433-0194
beyersbog@aol.com

Linn Wilbur, Vice President

64626 170th Street
Nevada, IA 50201
(515) 382-4882
lwilbur50201@gmail.com

Cheyenne Sisson, Secretary

11735 NE 56th Street
Elkhart, IA 50073
(515) 525-6352
softballsmzpretty2013@gmail.com

Valerie Just, Treasurer

4609 Crestmoor Drive
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 278-4835
justiowahoney@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Steve Hanlin

1310 California Avenue
Ames, IA 50014
(515) 292-5802
Steve.hanlin@ars.usda.gov

Margaret Hala (1 year)

1988 Vine Ave.
Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641) 752-2981
mhala@mchsi.com

Jim Crandell

1417 N. 9th Ave PI E
Newton, IA 50208
(641) 791-9612
craniccm@iowatelecom.net

Trisha Hedges

11735 NE 56th Street
Elkhart, IA 50073
(515) 979-6257
tsisson1205@gmail.com

Mike Sander, Past President

1104 Scenic View
Altoona, IA 50009
(515) 957-8730
masander3@gmail.com

Board of Directors - continued

Jeremiah Kusel

306 2nd Ave. PO Box 163
Slater, IA 50244
(515) 447-3203
12beeshoney@gmail.com

State Organizations

Iowa Honey Producers Association

Roy Kraft
P.O. Box 1
Goldfield, IA 50542
(515) 293-2458
Kroyster.rk@gmail.com

Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship

Wallace Building.
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-5736

State Apiarist

Andrew Joseph
(515) 725-1481
Andrew.Joseph@IowaAgriculture.gov

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