

# THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers



## ISSUE

Special Edition 2021

Editor: Laura Miller

## MARCH CIBA EVENT

March 27, 2021 Zoom meeting  
6:30 PM Business Meeting, 7:30 PM Speaker  
Ellen Bell: *Spring Management in Beekeeping*  
Check CIBA web page in March for sign-in info

### Any questions contact:

Linn Wilbur  
(515) 382-4882  
[lwilbur50201@gmail.com](mailto:lwilbur50201@gmail.com)

## Beekeeping Magazines

### 1. The American Bee Journal

For a free copy of the journal or to subscribe:  
[www.americanbeejournal.com/](http://www.americanbeejournal.com/)

### 2. Bee Culture

[www.beeeculture.com/](http://www.beeeculture.com/)

### 3. 2 Million Blossoms (New Publication)

[www.2millionblossoms.com/subscribe](http://www.2millionblossoms.com/subscribe)

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER: **February 10, 2021**

Email: [Beeline\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:Beeline_editor@yahoo.com)

Laura Miller, BEELINE Editor

Find us on the web: [centrاليowabeekeepersassoc.org](http://centrاليowabeekeepersassoc.org)

Find us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/CentrاليowaBeekeepersAssociation](https://facebook.com/CentrاليowaBeekeepersAssociation) and

[facebook.com/groups/353306835159561](https://facebook.com/groups/353306835159561)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT: Jamie Beyer

### WHY CENTRAL IOWA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION?

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

### OUR MISSION

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

### WHY JOIN CIBA?

Belonging to a local bee club has several advantages:

- ✓ You will be privy to a wealth of beekeeping knowledge ranging from first-year beekeepers to those who have kept bees many years.
- ✓ The fellowship is wonderful, and we mostly talk bees, bees, bees!
- ✓ We have every other month meetings where we talk bees, how the weather affects bees, and, of course, the price of honey. The official meeting begins with a short business meeting followed by a guest speaker discussing a timely beekeeping topic.
- ✓ Our quarterly newsletter, called the BEELINE, updates you on events, meetings, tips, and timely articles. In between newsletters, I suggest you visit our website.
- ✓ Our spring auction is our biggest fundraiser and an excellent opportunity for buying and selling good, used -- and some new -- equipment at prices much better than supply catalogs.
- ✓ We also normally have a summer field day where beekeepers new and old gather to get hands-on experience with common problems and troubleshoot together.

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## Did You Know... CIBA Club Meetings / BEELINE Publication Timing

### Club Meetings

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

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

This year, we had a half-day Zoom Winter Seminar on January 16 featuring Dr. Larry Connor (Wicwas Press), Ray Olivarez (Olivarez Honey Bees, Orland, CA), Dr. Judy Wu-Smart (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, UNL Bee Lab), Andy Joseph (Iowa State Apiarist) and Sheldon Brummel (UNL Bee Lab).

### BEELINE Publications

Did you know that CIBA publishes a standard edition of the BEELINE 4 times a year? Typically, the newsletter is mailed/emailed 1-2 weeks prior to the bi-monthly meeting matching the publication date.

- **Spring - March**
- **Summer - May**
- **Fall - September**
- **Winter – November**

In addition, last year, we published a Special Edition (like this one) that was focused on information for new beekeepers and provided at the beginner beekeeping classes in Central Iowa.

## Upcoming CIBA March 27, 2021 Meeting Program

Join us via Zoom on March 27, 2021 starting at 6:30 PM. A business meeting and election of officers and directors starts, followed at 7:30 by a one-hour presentation on *Spring Management in Beekeeping* by Ellen Bell of Bell Farm, Runnels, IA. Topics of discussion will include spring feeding practices, mite control, how to split a hive, re-queening an existing hive or providing queens to your queenless splits, and managing for swarm prevention. Recommended for beekeepers of all skill levels. If you don't have hives yet, there will still be information presented here that you will want to know. We hope you will join us!

Reserve this date as Ellen's talk addresses methods of starting your beekeeping year out right. Check the CIBA website at [centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org](http://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org) as the meeting date gets closer for Zoom sign in information (

### Beekeeping is a Fun Hobby...

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

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

Article Source: [www.articlesbase.com/hobbies-articles/beginning-beekeeping-101-7-necessary-tips-3582847.html](http://www.articlesbase.com/hobbies-articles/beginning-beekeeping-101-7-necessary-tips-3582847.html)

# Local Sources for Package Bees, Spring Queens and Equipment

## **Bell Farm**

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

## **Des Moines Feed & Nature Center**

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

## **Ebert Honey Company**

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

## **Foley's Russian Bees & Beekeeping Equipment**

Jason Foley  
1770 E. McKinley Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50320  
(515) 991-4666  
[www.russianbee.com/](http://www.russianbee.com/)  
Specializes: Package bees, CA spring queens (non-Russian), Iowa raised Russian derived queens starting in June and in-house made beekeeping equipment.

## **Lappe's Bee Supply & Honey Farm**

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

## **Mills Fleet Farm**

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

## **P & P Honey & Bee Supply**

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

## **Spring Valley Honey Farms**

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

## Online Beekeeping Suppliers

### **Beeline Apiaries & Woodenware**

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

### **Betterbee**

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

### **Dadant & Sons, Inc.**

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

### **Draper Superbee**

32 Avonlea Ln  
Millerton, PA 16936  
Ph: (570) 537-2381/(800) 233-4273  
Email: [sales@draperbee.com](mailto:sales@draperbee.com)  
[www.draperbee.com/](http://www.draperbee.com/)

### **GloryBee, Inc**

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

### **Kelley Beekeeping**

has been purchased and incorporated into Mann Lake.

### **Mann Lake**

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

### **Miller Bee Supply**

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

### **Shastina Millwork**

2276 Avenue H  
White City, OR 97503  
Ph: (877) 789-7526  
[www.shastinamillwork.com/](http://www.shastinamillwork.com/)  
Primarily woodenware.

### **Western Bee Supplies, Inc.**

P.O. Box 190  
5 - 9th Ave. E.  
Polson, MT 59860  
Ph: (833) 533-1014  
Email: [rick@westernbee.com](mailto:rick@westernbee.com)  
[www.westernbeestore.3dcartstores.com/](http://www.westernbeestore.3dcartstores.com/)  
Offers free shipping on orders of woodenware over \$100 (some exclusions apply, such as on budget woodenware).

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

# Margaret's FAQs

by Margaret Hala (*Margaret is a long-time beekeeper, CIBA member and CIBA Director*)

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

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

# Musings from a Neophyte Beekeeper

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

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

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

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

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

## **A good beekeeper learns his craft and grows his business.**

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

## **Join a local beekeeping club.**

In my experience, this is not a hobby (or business) to go it alone. I know I will NEVER know everything I need to know about beekeeping, and it is the experience and wisdom of those who have gone before us that truly will make a difference in your early years of beekeeping. A club provides education and classes, the opportunity to "pick the brain" of a commercial beekeeper, the state apiarist or a seasoned beekeeping veteran – Phil Ebert, Connie Bronnenberg, Andy Joseph and



Arvin Foell have been our bees' guardian angels these past two years. Through the club, my husband also connected with a more seasoned beekeeper, and we have been so appreciative for his insight and generosity.

### **Order your bees early.**

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

### **The path to good beekeeping is often paved with stingers. Get protective gear.**

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

## Great Practical Beekeeping Information for New Beekeepers

Courtesy of Joli Winer, Editor, May 2016, *The Bee Buzzer*, newsletter of the Northeastern Kansas Beekeepers Association as seen in the *American Bee Journal* May 17, 2016, email updates

### Tips for May (spring management)

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

# Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Annual Auction

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



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

Last year because of COVID the event was canceled. CIBA is still considering how best to handle the auction for this year, keeping in mind the need to modify or even again cancel to assure the health of all participants and workers. Check the CIBA web page as April approaches for updates on the auction ([centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org](http://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org)).

## Find More Resources on the CIBA Website

We recently upgraded the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) website, and while the site is still a work-in-progress, our site has valuable information for beekeepers and up-to-date educational opportunities available in central Iowa. Find us at: [centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org](http://centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org) Spend some time browsing the site. Below are our top recommendations for new beeks. So, grab a cup of your favorite brew, a comfy chair and we hope you enjoy the read!

1. Monitor the **Home** page for upcoming events. We post CIBA seminars and meetings, as well as central Iowa seminars.
2. In the **Resources** section of the site, the following are excellent pages with a wealth of information:
  - **BEELINE Newsletter:** Provides the last 3 years of our quarterly BEELINE newsletter, which includes advice on beekeeping.
  - **You Want to Be a Beekeeper?** A tenured beekeeper, Linn Wilbur, wrote this article, providing recommendations on the means to gain the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to successfully manage bee colonies.
  - **Margaret's FAQ's**  
Margaret Hala, yet another tenured beekeeper within our organization, provides answers to frequently asked questions relative to art of beekeeping.
  - **Our Favorite Links**  
Provides a list of online resources for beekeepers at all stages of their beekeeping journey.
3. In the **Give Us a Buzz** section of the site, the **State Resources** page provides our state beekeeping resources, such as our state apiarist, state inspector, etc.

Contact the CIBA Webmaster

Valerie Just

Email: [CentrallowaBeekeepersAssoc@gmail.com](mailto:CentrallowaBeekeepersAssoc@gmail.com)

# Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) 2021 Membership

## Membership Dues Information

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

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### SELECT ONE

- New membership
- Renewal of membership from 2020
- Yes    No    N/A: For a renewal, has any of your personal information changed?

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### 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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.

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 Memberships:** 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):**

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

**Ideas for Meeting Presenters or Newsletter Topics**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your profession? \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Send to:**

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

or

[lwilbur50201@gmail.com](mailto:lwilbur50201@gmail.com)

## Iowa Honey Bee Day

You may be needed at the State Capitol during the legislative session to show your support for honey bees. Since 2018, the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) has hosted a reception for state legislators and celebration of Iowa Honey Bee Day. It is organized by our own CIBA president, Jamie Beyer who is also the IHPA Legislative Representative and IHPA Director for District 4.

The reception is accompanied by an Iowa Honey Bee Day Proclamation signed by the Governor each year. The proclamation highlights the importance of honey bees to Iowa agriculture and the environment. We have encouraged Iowa city and county governments to also sign proclamations about Iowa Honey Bee Day. Since 2018, more than 41 city and county governments have approved such proclamations.

Beekeepers from across the state also are encouraged to attend the reception as a time to meet their legislators and “talk bees.” No one knows better the importance of honey bees and the many challenges faced by beekeepers in the state. Due to legislative scheduling conflicts, the event has not occurred on the same day each year. The pandemic also will dictate what kind of reception, if any, can occur. Stay tuned for more information as we learn about it! Contact Jamie if you want to help with this event, [beyersbog@aol.com](mailto:beyersbog@aol.com) or (515) 231-0215. Additional information will also be posted on the IHPA website at [www.iowahoneyproducers.org/](http://www.iowahoneyproducers.org/) as well as the CIBA website.

## You Know You are a Beekeeper When ...

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

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

## Membership for 1<sup>st</sup>-Year Central Iowa Beekeepers Taking Classes

For those of you who are new beekeepers taking beginning beekeeping class in central Iowa, CIBA offers you a free, first-year membership in our Association. This is a chance to continue learning about beekeeping. Right now, that is via Zoom meetings and our quarterly BEELINE newsletter. Hopefully, it won't be long until we resume in-person meetings (as COVID allows).

At those in-person meetings you will have an opportunity to interact with other beekeepers, look for a mentor, get the latest beekeeping news and hear first-rate presentations on various beekeeping topics.

Fill out the form on pages 11 and 12, check the “new beekeeper box,” tell us what class you are taking and send it in via mail or electronically. Hope to meet and talk with you at CIBA meetings!

# CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

## Officers

Jamie Beyer, President  
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## State Organizations

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Iowa State Extension Bee Specialist  
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The BEELINE  
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