

# THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association



## ISSUE: Spring 2025

Editor: Laura Miller

### CIBA WINTER SEMINAR

**Saturday, March 15**, all day  
**Iowa Arboretum & Gardens**  
**1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid**

A full day of presentations, fellowship and food. Register by March 12. See **page 3**.

### CIBA MEMBER MEETING

**Saturday, May 17, 5 p.m.**  
**Northridge Baptist Church**  
**3700 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Des Moines**

Note the time change.

**Questions?** Don Moody (515) 770-5754  
or [ds.moody1@hotmail.com](mailto:ds.moody1@hotmail.com)

### CIBA SPRING AUCTION

**Saturday, May 3**  
**Washington Township School**  
**18930 210 Street, Minburn**

Note new date. Register early! Details inside this newsletter.

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### DEADLINE FOR SUMMER NEWSLETTER:

**April 10, 2025**

**Email submissions and comments to:**  
Laura Miller, [Beeline\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:Beeline_editor@yahoo.com)



To receive newsletter by email, contact Cindy Spiker, [ciba.mbsp@gmail.com](mailto:ciba.mbsp@gmail.com), or leave at message at (515) 556-6637.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMIE BEYER

In my last note to you, I welcomed new directors **Eric Kenoyer** and **Sarah Anderson**. In this newsletter I want to THANK our outgoing officers, directors as well as volunteers who have helped us for many years.

It goes without saying that **Linn Wilbur** was the most dedicated officer and volunteer that CIBA was fortunate to have. He served as treasurer and membership secretary for a long time – maybe seven years. Before that he was a director and a dedicated volunteer. Thank you, Linn, for those years. I am anxious to see Linn at our meetings giving advice to new officers and volunteers.

I also want to call out **Ann Wilbur** for her dedicated work at so many of our functions. She is a super organizer and helped with the Food Committee for many, many years. Our auction chair for a few years was **Mark Moberly**, who did a great job. **Scott Fiene** was a director for a short while and found his circumstances had changed so needed to step down. We owe a debt of gratitude to these three volunteers. Thank you!

Our own **Val Just** is such a good friend to all CIBA members and me. She has served in as many roles as a volunteer as anyone. I will probably screw this up and miss something she did, but here goes: director, treasurer, membership secretary, newsletter editor, webmaster, Bees & Beyond instigator, the “keeping-Jamie-on-track” person ... We are fortunate that Val is still volunteering, helping on a lot of committees.

As a downer I need to mention, if you have not heard already, that hive losses by many commercial beekeepers in the California almond orchards are very high – 50 percent or more, and in some cases, a 100 percent loss. They do not know why but are researching it now. When I spoke with our state apiarist Andy Joseph in early February, the commercial beekeepers that he has contact with did not have these losses. That’s one good thing, but you will see this in the news. It reminds me of the losses around 2006 that were attributed to Colony Collapse Disorder.

Spring is a busy time for CIBA. We have our popular **Winter Seminar March 15** and our **Spring Bee Auction May 3**. You can find the details about each in this newsletter. Yes,

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**CONTINUED FROM** [page 1](#) the auction is later than normal because our normal date, the third Saturday in April, is Easter weekend. The following weekend did not work out for a variety of reasons so .... it is May 3. Think about what you want to sell and what you want to get a good deal on. It's a great time to dig out stuff you don't want. March also brings Iowa Honey Bee Day at the Capitol in Des Moines on March 26. See more in this newsletter.

CIBA offers many fun activities and ways for you to connect with other beekeepers – be sure to take advantage of it all! Have fun beekeeping! *Your President, Jamie*

### CIBA Club Meetings/Communications

CIBA meets 6 times annually, the third Saturday every other month. During active beekeeping season (May and September), they usually are at 5 p.m.; in off-season (November and January) they usually are at 1 p.m. The March winter seminar and July field day both are full-day events.

The official CIBA newsletter, the **BEELINE**, is published four times a year on the first day of January (Winter); 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 Winter Seminar Promises Something for Everyone

**Date:** Saturday, March 15

**Time:** 8:20 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Where:** Iowa Arboretum & Gardens, 1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid

**Registration deadline:** March 12

(In this newsletter, get the event flier, speaker information and registration form)

Want to make beeswax candles? Are you ready for spring? What biosecurity do you need for your bees? How do you brand your business and market yourself and your bees? What's new in beekeeping?

Get the answers to these and many other questions at this year's CIBA Winter Seminar on March 15. A full day of presentations, networking, food and plenty of "bee talk" is set for one of CIBA's most popular events. Space is limited to 120 attendees so you'll want to register today. Cost is only \$35 for current CIBA members, which includes a delicious lunch and bountiful snacks. Nonmember cost is \$40; \$20 for students (K-12 and college).

Find the registration form on the CIBA website: <https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/>

A copy of the form also was included as an email attachment for CIBA members who get the BEELINE electronically.

There are two methods to register. The easiest means, and the most efficient for our CIBA seminar team, is to fill out a registration form on our CIBA website, <https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/>, and send in payment through PayPal. You also can download a registration form, print it, fill it out and send in the form with a check to **Kristin Griffith**, our new treasurer.

We'll have two keynote presentations about the dangers faced by our honey bees and what we can do about mitigating those dangers. In other sessions, hobby, sideline and commercial beekeepers will share their wisdom on business branding and marketing, preparing for spring, making candles, innovations and other topics (read their bios in this newsletter).

Here are additional details about the day:

- A **silent auction (again)** will support the CIBA Royalty, Youth Scholarship and the Bees & Beyond programs. Several beekeeping suppliers have donated items. If you have items to donate, contact **Don Moody** before the seminar at [ds.moody1@hotmail.com](mailto:ds.moody1@hotmail.com) or (515) 770-5754.
- Returning this year will be a **vendor area** with displays mainly by local beekeeping suppliers, beekeepers with items for sale, and educational displays. This will be in the Cafferty building, just a short walk from the main building. You are encouraged to visit this area during breaks or at lunch.
- The CIBA Food Committee is planning the wonderful **food** that will be served. The menu includes honey-glazed ham, garlic chicken, honey-glazed carrots, roasted red potatoes and a garden salad. The committee will supply snacks and beverages for the lunch buffet. All is included in the registration fee.

## Meet CIBA's New Royalty, Queen Morgan

Hello! My name is **Morgan Spaulding** and I am CIBA's 2025 honey queen. First off, thank you for selecting me to be your youth scholarship recipient way back in 2023 and now as your 2025 queen.

I am 16 years old and was born in Idaho. Currently I live with my family on our farm in Redfield. We have cows and chickens, plus a family dog. I'm homeschooled and will be doing driver's education this year. My hobbies include reading, drawing, writing and hunting. My goals are to graduate high school and, in a couple years, serve my beloved country in the military.

This year I hope to raise awareness of bees and pollinators alike while promoting CIBA to Iowa communities. I have learned so much from my mentors, **Mike and Julie Sander**, and I want to become more involved in the beekeeping community. I plan to do this by educating and offering information about the many marvelous benefits of honey, honeybees and pollinators at various events and speaking engagements. Part of why I wanted to become CIBA queen was to work on my public speaking and people skills. I want to share my enthusiasm for beekeeping and do my part to protect bees so that kids in the future may have similar opportunities as I have had.



**Morgan and Keri Kenoyer**

## CIBA's Annual Auction Set for May 3

Submitted by CIBA president Jamie Beyer

Calling all consigners and buyers of bee equipment!! All types of cool used stuff will be auctioned on Saturday, May 3 at the Washington Township school near Minburn.

This is the largest and best attended bee auction in the state. This is and has been a great tradition for CIBA to organize this auction. So now is the time to think about what you might want to sell, then register as a consigner on CIBA's website so we can advertise what you are bringing.

The consigner's fee will be 15 percent – for everyone.

Our auctioneers are the best. They know how to get the most value out of used equipment. We have three talented auctioneers this year who are returning from 2024.

We have an excellent location for the auction, the same as last year. The Washington Township school has lots of space with restrooms and a great indoor spacious area to eat lunch and connect with other beekeepers. The school is located at 18930 210 Street, about 7 miles south of Perry right off P-58.

Lunch will be available along with breakfast items (all proceeds support CIBA's Royalty program). What a great opportunity to get beekeeping equipment cheaper than buying new and to also get rid of supplies you no longer use.

For more information, contact Roy Kraft, [kroyster.rk@gmail.com](mailto:kroyster.rk@gmail.com) or 515.293.2458. Send your consignment form to:

**Roy Kraft**  
P.O. Box 1  
Goldfield, IA 50542



## Looking Ahead: Save May 17 for our Spring Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, May 17

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Where:** Northridge Baptist Church, 3700 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines

**Schedule:** We'll have a business meeting and snacks (of course) followed by a program.

Get out your calendars and mark May 17 for our spring CIBA meeting. Your program committee is working hard to finalize a speaker. If there's something you'd like to know, or have an idea for a program, contact **Don Moody**, (515) 770-5754, or [ds.moody1@hotmail.com](mailto:ds.moody1@hotmail.com). Note that we're back to our in-season schedule with a 5 p.m. meet time, which allows members time to work in their bee yards.

## Join us for March and April Board Meetings

CIBA officers and directors have regularly scheduled CIBA board meetings on the second Monday of each month starting at 7 p.m. All meetings are open to CIBA members; you are encouraged to participate. Most meetings are held online via Zoom, with the link opening at 6:30 p.m.

**March 10** - Link using Zoom app:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88322478172?pwd=GznFAIxmlYh1tB6XpWInVMubdhwAzc.1>

Meeting ID: 883 2247 8172 Passcode: 233953

**April 14** - Link using Zoom app:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87166598718?pwd=VFIsQn8XboYD1yxkV7joqAC3xOa7Th.1>

Meeting ID: 871 6659 8718 Passcode: 812611

## CIBA Elections – We Still Need You!

We are thrilled beyond comparison for new leadership both on the CIBA board and two important CIBA committees. But we still need more folks to come forward and do their part!

Our January election resulted in **Sarah Anderson** and **Eric Kenoyer** selected as directors for three-year terms. We also welcome **Sally Studer** to lead the Bees & Beyond educational program and **Tim Fitzgerald** to head the Susan Kelly Memorial Youth Scholarship committee. Thank you, thank you!

**Jamie Beyer** will be interim president and **Don Moody** as vice-president, but both are looking for someone to train to step into those positions. Last year we were happy to have **Cindy Spiker** fulfill the role of membership secretary and **Kristin Griffith** as treasurer; both were reelected for 2025. Again, big-big thanks!

There's plenty of room for people to serve on various committees. Check them out and let someone know if you want to help. We'd love to share the experience!

**Royalty Committee** (**Keri Kenoyer**, chair; no other members right now): Duties are reviewing and selecting candidates as well as potentially finding speaking engagements for the Queen/Ambassador.

**Food Committee** (**Keri Kenoyer**, chair; members **Cindy Spiker** and **Chris Crandall**): Duties are to assist in coordinating refreshments and meals for meetings and events, as well as setup and cleanliness in the serving areas. This committee has a budget for food and drink purchases.

**Susan Kelly Memorial Youth Scholarship** (**Tim Fitzgerald**, chair; no other members right now): Duties would be to advertise the annual scholarship, find mentors and select recipient each year.

**Program Committee** (**Don Moody**, chair; various members): This group secures speakers and topics for member meetings, also the winter seminar and July field day. Also help with scheduling and meeting setup (all members are encouraged to help tear down after events).

**Bees & Beyond** (**Sally Studer**, chair; members **Valerie Just**, **Laura Miller**, **Sarah Anderson**): Duties to start are building the foundation for a pollinator education program. We need committee members, presenters and program coordinators. Register here: <https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/bees-beyond>

**Auction Committee** (**Roy Kraft**, interim chair; various members as needed): Planning and carrying out the annual auction, which includes securing a location along with set-up and other logistics.

**Marketing Committee** (inactive): Manages how CIBA markets its programs in various media outlets. Requires collaboration with most committee chairs. We also need a new newsletter editor.

**Newsletter/Website Committee** (inactive): Oversees content for CIBA website; also provides content for the quarterly BEELINE newsletter that is distributed to CIBA membership and posted online.

## Meet Carilyn Kenyon, Youth Scholarship Recipient

Hello, my name is **Carilyn Kenyon**. I am 13 years old. My parents are John and Devon Kenyon. We live on an acreage in Madrid. I am the second oldest of 8, soon to be 9, kids in my family. I am homeschooled (in seventh grade), play violin and piano, sing in a choir, care for and milk my two Nubian goats, enjoy gardening, reading, knitting and making bread.

I am very excited to start beekeeping and am truly honored to be the recipient of the Susan Kelly Memorial Youth Scholarship from CIBA this year. I am learning so many amazing facts about bees already and am looking forward to working with my mentor, **Tony Christensen!**



Carilyn and Tony Christensen

## Welcome to Two New Directors: Sarah Anderson and Eric Kenoyer

### Get to Know Sarah Anderson



Sarah and her 9-year-old twin nephews

Sarah was elected to a three-year term in January. She also will help on the Bees & Beyond program. Sarah and her husband Scott have five children: Will, 20, attends the University of Iowa; Ben and Ashley (twins) are 18, Eli and Twig (twins) are 15.

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

My son, Eli, is 15 years old now and quite serious about being an entomologist. My mom has an acreage just a few blocks from our house, and the three of us decided that it would be really neat for three generations to work together to learn how to keep bees. So we all started by taking Julia McGuire's beekeeping classes, and we're now starting our third year with the bees.

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

We are in Johnston, and we have 2-4 hives.

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

We joined CIBA because it was free with our beekeeping class, but I've enjoyed it because it's welcoming to small beekeepers as well as those with large operations.

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

I'm still a beginner, and I think it can be helpful to have a mix of new-bees and seasoned beekeepers on the board to ensure all are welcome and everyone is learning new things and finding opportunities to improve.

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

My biggest challenge was finding out that I am allergic to bee venom, which made me timid with them for a little while. But I enjoy the planning, decision-making and experimentation involved in beekeeping - even though things never go according to plan.

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

Take a class before jumping in. You'll make plenty of mistakes in the first year, but the knowledge from the classes will give you the confidence to keep trying.



### Get to Know Eric Kenoyer

Hello, everyone. My name is Eric Kenoyer, I have been a beekeeper since 2014 and many of you know me by the work I've done with the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) or even my years as a member with CIBA. I have taught beekeeping for the Friendly Beekeepers of Iowa the last 10 years.

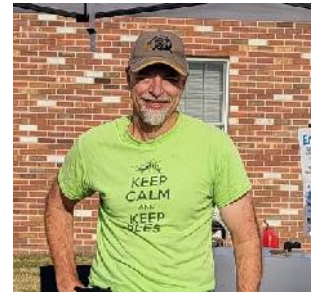
I absolutely felt a calling to keep bees when my brother and I were cutting down a tree in Osceola. While parts of the tree fell to the ground, I walked over and had to try that comb, which was full of golden, delicious honey. At that moment I knew that I must try to save those bees but I didn't know much about them or where to turn to for help.

Jumping forward a few years, I attended many club meetings and classes. Thus began this great and addictive adventure. Going from class to class and learning, I started to really enjoy many things, from being a youth scholarship coordinator, building the IHPA website to becoming a district director for them for many years. I continue to teach new beekeepers about this wonderful hobby.

Here on our 60 acres in Madison County we have 10 hives. My wife Keri and I continue to help our fellow beekeepers. Beekeeping can be challenging at times but we hope to help those who want to learn this awesome hobby for many years. Never give up; without bees our food sources would diminish greatly.

## Our New Webmaster: Lynn Hammel

Lynn will be taking over as CIBA webmaster – thank you! You may have seen him at our meetings – the guy in the back of the room running the projector. Lynn and his wife have five children (four girls and a boy). A few years ago their oldest daughter was encouraged by the Kelly family (also CIBA members) to apply for our youth scholarship.



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

I started in the fall of 2018 when Joanna won a youth scholarship to have her own bees. I ordered equipment for a second hive and a 3-pound package of bees. The first year neither one of us were stung but in 2019 that was no longer the case.

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

We were up to seven hives in 2020 but lost them all in 2022 until Susan Kelly gave me a few nucs. In 2024 we were down to one hive and split that into a few, then the next-door neighbor had a swarm in May that was about eight frames of bees. Going into this winter we had three hives located on the east side of Des Moines.

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

The first meeting was at Northridge Baptist Church which is my home church. I have enjoyed several classes and have learned many things.

### **What do you hope to contribute to CIBA?**

My expertise with Office 365 and computer knowledge.

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

The challenge is how much and when to split a hive. Last year I believe we split them too much and one hive crashed. I really enjoy the sweet rewards of the honey and talking to others about bees.

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

Start out slow and work with a mentor.

## New Learning Opportunity for Beekeepers

CIBA member and educator **Julia McGuire** of West Des Moines has organized a new event to help beekeepers grow their sales and profits and thrive in today's market. The retreat, Shine On! Building a Brighter Future in Beekeeping, is scheduled for April 5-6 at a facility in Saylor township north of Des Moines. An evening program on April 4 is optional.

For the past two years, Julia has planned and hosted a series of small group learning events (called learning circles) on various beekeeping topics. She said the new learning circle format resonated with beekeepers and the multi-modal teaching also made good use of their time and interests. She observed that registrations for learning circles on business topics had a significantly higher ratio of attendance than non-business topics, which led her to plan this two-day retreat.

The retreat will offer:

- Expert presentations on financial readiness, market readiness, and insurance,
- A beekeeper panel featuring three operators who sell to small, medium, and large-scale markets,
- Professional headshots to enhance your marketing,
- Networking and coworking time with like-minded beekeepers, and
- An optional tour of a shared commercial kitchen.

The business retreat for beekeepers is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under a grant from the North Central Region SARE program. The grant funding ensures that participants will receive six months of online accountability and support with each other to strengthen their business development. Attendance is limited to 12 people.

To reserve a spot requires a \$75 deposit, with the balance due by March 27. More details on the web: <https://mailchi.mp/ef97663d6593/retreat-info>

## Iowa Honey Bee Day on March 26

The Iowa Honey Producers Association is hosting a legislative reception/breakfast on Wednesday, March 26, Iowa Honey Bee Day. It will be in the rotunda of the Capitol building in Des Moines.

Activities will be 7 a.m. to noon and interested elected officials, beekeepers and citizens are invited. Iowa Governor Reynolds has been asked to proclaim Iowa Honey Bee Day along with many city mayors and county supervisors. The proclamations point out the importance of honey bees and native pollinators in food production and the dangers they face.



The event, now in its seventh year, is coordinated by Jamie Beyer for the Iowa Honey Producers Association. The tradition includes many breakfast items made with honey by our own Julie Swett. Julie and her husband, Mike, lay out the red carpet for us and the legislators.

These activities help influence legislation to help honey bees. HF 247 under consideration this year would exempt honey bee sales from sales tax. Let's all show up to lobby for this legislation!

The early start to this day is to catch lawmakers before they go to scheduled meetings. Please arrive early to help set up and enjoy breakfast. Honey queens from around Iowa are planning to attend. A tour of the Capitol also will be available.

For info, contact Jamie at [beyersbog@aol.com](mailto:beyersbog@aol.com) or 515.231.0215.

## WANTED: Beekeepers and hives

**Adam O'Neal**, of Winterset, is looking for a beekeeper to locate hives on his PepperHarrow Farm. They've had colonies for some time but their current beekeeper cannot continue. He said they are open to supporting additional uses, such as educational opportunities or workshops for members or the community. He also would be happy to purchase honey directly from the beekeeper. The farm is a flower- and lavender-filled property with plenty of forage for bees, and he would love to collaborate with a beekeeper who shares their passion for sustainability and agricultural education. Contact Adam at: <https://www.pepperharrowfarm.com>.

### The. Best. Scotcharoos. Ever.

*Those who've attended recent CIBA meetings can attest to the goodness of these bars, originally from the Iowa Honey Producers Association cookbook but tweaked a bit to fit the tastes of Keri and Eric Kenoyer's family. They're no doubt better than the standard Scotcharoos made with corn syrup.*

- 1 C nut butter
- 1 C honey
- ¼ to ½ C butterscotch chips
- 6 C rice crispies
- 1 12-oz pkg chocolate chips.

In sauce pan on low heat, mix nut butter, honey and butterscotch chips until melted and combined. Measure cereal in a large bowl and pour nut mixture over the cereal. Stir until well coated. Press mixture into a 9x13 baking pan and set aside. In a double boiler, melt chocolate chips and pour over the bars. Let set until chocolate is solidified.

### Honey Cough and Congestion Remedy

*Far be it from CIBA to prescribe medications, but many people swear by honey as a remedy for allergies, cold symptoms and other maladies (Source: Anonymous)*

- ¼ tsp cayenne
- ½ tsp ginger powder
- 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 Tbsp water
- 1 Tbsp honey

Dissolve cayenne and ginger in apple cider vinegar and water. Add honey and shake well. Take 1 teaspoon as needed for cough, mixing each time.

Registration  
is OPEN

# Central Iowa Beekeepers Association



## 2025 WINTER SEMINAR

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Iowa Arboretum & Gardens

1875 Peach Ave, Madrid, IA 50156



Panel Discussion:  
**Branding & Marketing:** Getting &  
Maintaining Customer Attention

**John Seiser-Treasure Acres:**  
**Innovations in Beekeeping**

**Beth Romer-Choose Iowa:**  
**Connecting Consumers to**  
**Iowa Produce and Food**  
**Products**

**Keynote Speakers:**  
**Katelyn Rinicker:** Native Pollinators  
and the Perils They Face  
**Dr. Kristen Clark:** Defending the  
Hive: Current Threats to Honey Bees  
and the Role of Biosecurity

**Curt Bronnenberg-**  
Spring Valley Honey Farms:  
**Are You Ready for Spring?**



**Chelsa & Connie Bronnenberg-**  
Spring Valley Honey Farms:  
**Pouring Candles from Start to Finish**

**Vendors:**  
Prairie Rivers of Iowa  
Choose Iowa  
Spring Valley Honey Farm  
Honey Hollow



**Registration starts at 8:20 AM; meeting at 8:45 AM**

Registration is **\$40** per person, **\$35** for current CIBA members and **\$20** for students (college and K-12). Mail in payment/registration form or see the CIBA webpage for PayPal payment and email registration  
**Registration deadline (received by) Wednesday, March 12**

**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY**

*Registration limited to 120.*

**Includes snacks and lunch**

(honey-glazed ham, garlic chicken, honey-glazed carrots, roasted red potatoes, garden salad)

**Seminar will occur rain or shine**

Additional information, registration form and updates at [www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org](http://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org)

Questions: Contact Don Moody at 515-770-5754 or [ds.moody1@hotmail.com](mailto:ds.moody1@hotmail.com)

# CIBA Winter Seminar Agenda

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Iowa Arboretum & Gardens

1875 Peach Avenue, Madrid, Iowa



## Registration

8:20 – 8:45 a.m. Registration in the lobby of the Hughes Education Center

## Morning Session (Jamie Beyer, CIBA President, morning moderator)

8:45 - 8:55 a.m.

- Welcome and housekeeping
- Introduction of 2025 CIBA Royalty and 2025 CIBA Youth Scholar (**Jamie Beyer** and **Keri Kenoyer**, CIBA Royalty Committee Chair)

8:55 - 9:25 a.m. **Beth Romer**, Director, Choose Iowa, Des Moines: *Connecting Consumers to Iowa Produce and Food Products*

9:25 - 10:10 a.m. **Panel Discussion: Branding & Marketing: Getting & Maintaining Customer Attention; Val Just**, Just Iowa Honey, Des Moines; **Marlon Mormann**, Des Moines; **John Seiser**, Treasure Acres, Blairsburg

10:10 - 10:30 a.m. **Break** – Please visit our vendors and exhibitors in the Cafferty Building

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Morning Keynote: Katelyn Rinicker**, Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Ames: *Native Pollinators and the Perils They Face*

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **John Seiser**, Treasure Acres, Blairsburg: *Innovations in Beekeeping*

12:00 - 12:40 p.m. **Lunch** on site – it will be delicious!

12:40 - 1:00 p.m. Visit our vendors and exhibitors in the Cafferty Building

1:00 - 1:45 p.m. **Afternoon Keynote: Dr. Kristen Clark**, Minnesota Department of Health, Faribault, Minnesota: *Defending the Hive: Current Threats to Honey Bees and the Role of Biosecurity*

1:45 - 2:30 p.m. **Chelsa and Connie Bronnenberg**, Spring Valley Honey Farms, Perry: *Pouring Candles from Start to Finish*

2:30 - 3:00 p.m. **Dr. Kristen Clark**, Minnesota Department of Health, Faribault, Minnesota: *Putting Biosecurity into Practice*

3:00 - 3:20 p.m. **Break** – Last chance to visit our vendors and exhibitors in the Cafferty Building

3:20 - 4:15 p.m. **Curt Bronnenberg**, Spring Valley Honey Farms, Perry: *Are You Ready for Spring?*

4:15 - 4:30 p.m. **Wrap-up** (CIBA President **Jamie Beyer**)

## Vendors:

- Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Ames
- Choose Iowa, Des Moines
- Spring Valley Honey Farm, Perry
- Honey Hollow, Indianola

Please visit our **Silent Auction** in the south hallway of the Hughes Education Center. Many thanks to those who donated items for this auction! Proceeds will be split between the CIBA Royalty, Susan Kelly Memorial Youth Scholarship and the Bees & Beyond programs.

## Speakers

### CIBA Winter Seminar

Saturday, March 15, 2025



**Beth Romer**  
Choose Iowa, Des Moines



Beth's passion for agriculture propagated and grew on her family's Century Farm where she learned firsthand the value of hard work and stewarding land for future generations. She is director of the Choose Iowa team that identifies and promotes the food, beverages and ag products that are grown, raised and made in Iowa. She has a B.S. degree in business marketing from Wayne State College and a master's in business administration from Iowa State University. Beth and her husband, James, raise specialty cut flowers with a menagerie of farm animals near Altoona.

**Session:** *Connecting Consumers to Iowa Produce and Food Products*

**Val Just**  
Just Iowa Honey, Des Moines



**Val** started beekeeping in 2015 with 3 colonies in their urban backyard. Just Iowa Honey was established in 2017 when they produced too much honey for family consumption! Currently, John and Val maintain about 30 colonies at 5 urban and rural bee yards in central Iowa, including the Blank Park Zoo. Val is an avid environmentalist and gardener; she replanted her flower gardens with 90% native plants after taking the Polk County Master Gardener program. She is passionate about pollinators and has a native plant seed give-away program (Scatter Joy, Thank a Pollinator), as well as established a Pollinator Pals program, providing presentations to central Iowa second graders.

**Panel Discussion:** *Branding & Marketing: Getting & Maintaining Customer Attention*

**Marlon Moormann**  
Attorney-at-law, Des Moines



**Marlon** is a retired administrative law judge who works part-time as an attorney-at-law and farmer. He has been keeping bees for nearly 7 years and manages 7 hives at his home in Des Moines and on property he owns in northeast Nebraska. He joined CIBA after his first year of beekeeping and was elected to the CIBA board in 2023.

**Panel Discussion:** *Branding & Marketing: Getting & Maintaining Customer Attention*

**John Seiser**  
Treasure Acres, Blairsburg



Treasure Acres Farm began in the 1950s as a sale barn for world champion-bred show cattle. **John** and his wife Laura took over the farm in 2006, expanding production to include specialty sheep, goats and other species. They maintain around 30 colonies annually, using a lot of what they harvest in value-added products. They also have 30+ fruit trees and grow and sell vegetables and several types of berries. They hope to add several other honey products and on-farm classes to their operation.

**Panel Discussion:** *Branding & Marketing: Getting & Maintaining Customer Attention*

**Session:** *Innovations in Beekeeping*



**Katelyn Rinicker**  
Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Ames

**Katelyn** joined Prairie Rivers of Iowa in July 2024 as their pollinator conservation specialist. Currently, she is working on a grant project to restore monarch butterfly habitat on agricultural lands. She also works with the city of Ames on its Pollinator Friendly Community Plan. She received her B.S. in environmental studies from Bemidji State University with minors in sustainability, Indigenous sustainability and GIS. In her spare time she is working with her boyfriend to restore their backyard to native prairie.

**Session:** *Native Pollinators and the Perils They Face*

**Dr. Kristen Clark**  
Minnesota Department of Health, Faribault, Minnesota



**Dr. Clark** is director of the Minnesota One Health Antibiotic Stewardship Collaborative with the Minnesota Department of Health. In addition to working in private practice, she previously served as a public health veterinarian with the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa State University. She received her B.S. in zoology and DVM from ISU and her master's in public health from the University of Minnesota. She is immediate past president of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association and a past president of the Honey Bee Veterinary Consortium. As a hobbyist beekeeper since 2015, she enjoys combining her passion for honey bees with her professional role as a veterinarian. She regularly contributes to peer-reviewed publications about honey bee medicine and presents educational sessions to veterinarians and other stakeholders around the country. She lives in Minnesota with her fibered, feathered, furry and buzzing menagerie better known as the Happy Bottom Homestead.

**Session:** *Defending the Hive: Current Threats to Honey Bees and the Role of Biosecurity*

**Session:** *Putting Biosecurity into Practice*

**Chelsa Bronnenberg**  
**Connie Bronnenberg**  
**Curt Bronnenberg**  
Spring Valley Honey Farms, Perry



**Curt and Connie** operate a multi-generational business that has around 5,000 colonies producing more than 250,000 pounds of honey annually from hives in Boone, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Henry, Lee, Polk, Sac, Story and Webster counties. They also provide pollination for Iowa orchards in summer and almond orchards in California in winter and sell a full line of beekeeping equipment. Daughters Christa, **Chelsa**, Cara and Ciera, along with their families, help with bottling the honey, hand-crafting beauty products from honey and beeswax, as well as design and production of many other products. They have a full line of beekeeping equipment. Connie is involved in most aspects of the business while being active in CIBA and the Iowa Honey Producers Association. She also is helping to grow the family business focusing on marketing and other products to increase locations where Spring Valley honey is sold.

**Session** (Chelsa & Connie): *Pouring Candles from Start to Finish*

**Session** (Curt): *Are You Ready for Spring?*





# CIBA Winter Beekeeping Seminar

Saturday, March 15, 2025

8:20 AM to 4:30 PM

Iowa Arboretum and Gardens  
1875 Peach Ave, Madrid, IA 50156

Additional information and updates at  
[www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org](http://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org)

*Register today!*

Questions?

Don Moody: (515) 360-8876 or [ds.moody1@hotmail.com](mailto:ds.moody1@hotmail.com)

Cut and mail bottom portion with payment to:  
CIBA Winter Seminar, c/o Kristin Griffith, 1710 7th St., Des Moines, IA 50314  
or see the CIBA web page for PayPal payment and email registration

**One person per registration form please**

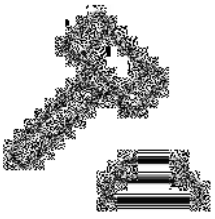
First Name:	Last Name:	
Email address:	Phone number with area code:	Alternate phone number:
Street address:	City:	State and ZIP:
Name of bee clubs to which you belong or name of commercial beekeeping enterprise: Iowa Honey Producers Association Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Other Beekeeping Club(s) (please name): Other:		
<b>Luncheon</b> <b>The menu includes honey-glazed ham, garlic chicken, honey-glazed carrots, roasted red potatoes and a garden salad.</b> <b>Snacks at breaks included in registration</b>		
Registration is \$40 per person, \$35 for current CIBA members and \$20 for students (college and K-12). Mail in payment/registration form or see the CIBA webpage for PayPal payment and email registration	Total enclosed:	

**Make checks or money orders payable to: CIBA. Please do not send cash.**  
**Registration deadline (received by) Wednesday, March 12, 2025.**

**Pre-registration recommended. Seating is limited to 120.**  
**PLEASE REGISTER EARLY**

Mail form with payment to CIBA Winter Seminar, c/o Kristin Griffith, 1710 7th Street, Des Moines, IA 50314  
or see the CIBA website for PayPal payment and electronic registration  
(submit to [centraliowabeekeepers.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:centraliowabeekeepers.treasurer@gmail.com))

By registering for this event, you are releasing the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association, its officers and board members and the Iowa Arboretum of any and all harm that may occur as a result of attending this Winter Seminar.  
The event will be held except if the Iowa Arboretum determines the facility cannot be opened because of severe weather.



# Central Iowa Beekeepers Association Annual Auction



*An auction by beekeepers for beekeepers!*

**When:** Saturday, May 3, 2025  
**Where:** 18930 210<sup>th</sup> St., Minburn, IA 50167  
Former Minburn School (out in the country)  
**Time:** 8:00 AM seller consignment unloading starts  
10:00 AM bidding starts



## **Sellers:**

- Sellers need to be registered online—*registration is open now!*
- Lots will be assigned in the order of registration (date & time)—  
auctioned by lot order, lowest # first
- Consignment fee is 15% - for everyone
- All drawn comb must be inspected on-site by 9:30 AM the day of the auction—plan arrival accordingly –  
comb will be inspected by Andy Joseph, Iowa State Apiarist
- Sellers bring a copy of your completed consignment form the day of the auction
- Submitting your consignment form now (see address/options below) allows CIBA to advertise  
what is at the auction—feel free to add more items after submitting form

## **Buyers:**

- Buyers register online now (speeds up getting your bidding ticket the day of the auction)
- Assists CIBA in planning—parking, food etc.
- Pay with cash, check or credit/debit card—card payment with 3% surcharge via Zettle (PayPal)

## **Everyone:**

- Sign-in, bidding numbers and payment is inside on the day of the auction
- Bring your own chair for the outside auction (if you want)
- Dress for the weather—auction happens rain or shine, warm or cold
- Be ready for a full day of fun and meeting/talking with other beekeepers
- Royalty Café: food & drink inside

**A list of items for auction will be available on the website as sellers register.**

**Check the website regularly.**

Homemade treats & beverages for sale at the inside Royalty Café (food sales support the CIBA Royalty Program)

*Buyer and seller registration, consignment forms and other info at:*  
[www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org](http://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org)

For more information and to send your consignment form:

Roy Kraft  
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Jamie Beyer  
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# CIBA Leadership and State Organizations

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