

*From the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) President:*

Your CIBA leadership started the monthly President's Message when Mike Sander was our President -- my predecessor. This message occurs in months when the BEELINE does not go out since my monthly message is in the BEELINE. It is vital that our membership hears from your leadership every month and this along with Bee Bits is our way of making sure that this occurs.

An update about promoting soybean honey as having extra beneficial properties like antioxidants. You may remember in my last message that was something that we thought we could pursue and cited some research that looked promising. Well, we did hear back from Dr. Carol Fassbinder-Orth and she dispelled this theory very soundly. The following is what she emailed us:

Sorry for the long delay. I'll be honest: I read the study that you sent me and did spend some time thinking it through, but my conclusions are not in agreement with what you were hoping for. I have some reservations about pursuing soy honey benefits. First, the paper does not provide data or strong conclusions that help put soy honey above other varieties. I kept looking for it, but there are problems with trying to conclude that soy honey has more health benefits than others, based on this study. If dark fall aster honey or spring dandelion had been studied, I would guess it would show up higher on the various tests performed than soy honey. Second, there are numerous studies showing that beehives near corn and soybean fields have decreased survival success. I would rather tell beekeepers to keep their bees away from soybean fields than near them. A minor 3<sup>rd</sup> point is that the honey has the highest moisture content of any Iowa honey, making it more likely to ferment in the jar (or the comb).

I know this is not what you wanted to hear, but I won't be able to be of assistance to you in this quest!

I wish you all the best,  
Carol

What a great response from her -- so much for promoting soybean honey.

Next, I want to mention in this message is that all of our members are invited to our Director's meetings. We have a meeting scheduled for this coming Monday evening (Oct. 4th) via Zoom at 7:00 PM. On the agenda is a discussing of the Saturday, March 19, 2022 day long CIBA Winter Seminar (location, speakers lined up, food that is going to be served among other things). If you are interested contact Linn Wilbur and he will send you the Zoom link and the entire agenda. You can reach Linn at [lwilbur50201@gmail.com](mailto:lwilbur50201@gmail.com) or 515.291.6204.

Another item on the agenda is a discussion about our next meeting on Saturday, November 20th at the Northridge Baptist Church (3700 6th Ave.) in Des Moines. This is where we had our last meeting. The time will be 1:00 PM. Our speakers are Sarah Nizzi of the Xerces Society (title is *The Important Role of Pollinator Habitat in Iowa*) and also Curt Hadley of FieldWatch (*The Role of FieldWatch in Protecting Honey Bee Hives from Pesticide Use*).

We will have more on this meeting in the November President's Message.

Thanks for being a member of our great bee group. Jamie

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