

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

THE BEELINE

Official Newsletter of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello beekeepers,

We have a great program scheduled for Saturday, September 19 @ 6:30pm. We will discuss overwintering your colonies with a round table discussion with Andy Joseph, John Johnson, and Pat Ennis. These men have consistently lost very few hives over the last several years.

We will also introduce our new Central Iowa Beekeepers Queen, who has been working very hard on our behalf at the Iowa State Fair this year. She has represented CIBA well.

It has been a very interesting summer. I am going to call this year: "The Year of the Swarm." Beekeepers had a lot of swarms this summer. I caught a small swarm in August. What do you do with a swarm in August?

We also had a lot of queen issues. Many beekeepers lost queens from their packages and I am thankful for some Iowa beekeepers who produce good quality native queens.

With all the rain we had, you would think that we would not get a good honey crop, but I did! Not as good as 1988, but OK. It has been interesting to mow the Dutch clover every week and see it appear again. Even in September, I see them on the Dutch clover.

You should have removed most of your honey supers by now and put on your Varroa mite control. I have been checking Varroa mite counts and have found new colonies have few mites while overwintered colonies have quite a few more mites. This makes sense because we had almost a perfect spring for colonies to build up. This good weather also explains the many swarms. Next March we will talk about how to prevent swarming.

If you would like me to come and do a mite count, please call or email.

Please come and join us for good food and a very timely program on Saturday, Sept. 19th.

Arvin (515) 450-9494 ajfoell@huxcomm.net

Issue: Fall 2015

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Date: September 19, 2015

Time: Summer Hours

6:30 pm Dinner on your own

7:30 pm Business meeting

Where: Bonanza Steakhouse

5029 N.E. 14th St.

Des Moines, IA 50313

Agenda:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IS: Dec. 1, 2015

To submit an item by email:

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To add an email subscription, receive updates between newsletters, or replace your print newsletter with an email newsletter, send your email address to Linn:

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BEELINE Editor

CIBA owes a big thanks to Julia McGuire for serving as the recent editor of this newsletter. Julia not only did an outstanding job of editing and adding interesting articles but most importantly brought the newsletter into the digital age. As her professional career advanced, her available time to devote to this newsletter decreased and she asked that a new editor for the newsletter be named. Julia will be a hard act to follow but I will be taking over editing the BEELINE on a temporary basis. We wish Julia well and encourage her to find time for her bees and CIBA.

We hope to name a permanent editor for the BEELINE concurrent with next year's election of CIBA officers. If you have an interest please be thinking of volunteering for this club position and let Arvin know.

Linn Wilbur, editor (temporary at best)

Articles for the BEELINE

If you come across any articles that would be of interest to our members please bring them to the editor's attention, so they can be shared in future BEELINES. Contact info is on the first page. Any help would be appreciated, so we have a wide assortment of articles and points of view.

Iowa Honey Producers Association Annual Meeting

The Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) 2015 Annual Meeting will be held Friday and Saturday, November 13th and 14th at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, Cedar Rapids, IA. The agenda includes various speakers and a round table on "Wintering Bees in Cold Climates." The preregistration deadline is October 31, 2015. Additional information and registration forms are available at <http://www.abuzzaboutbees.com/bee hive/annual-meeting.html>

Bee Informed Partnership, National Management Survey 2013-2014

"The Bee Informed Partnership is a collaboration of efforts across the country from some of the leading research labs and universities in agriculture and science to better understand honey bee declines in the United States. Supported by the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, we're working with beekeepers to better understand how we can keep healthier bees."

The Bee Informed Partnership conducts a yearly survey to determine the effect on colony survival of various beekeeping practices. Below is a partial summary of the results for the 2013-2014 Management Survey that involved 564,522 colonies which represents 21.7% of the nation's 2.6 million colonies. This is the most recent information available as the results of the 2014-2015 survey is yet to be published.

Varroa control

Treatment (TX)	Avg. colony loss with this TX (%)	Avg. colony loss without any TX (%)	Avg. colony loss all other TX (%)
Apivar (amitrez)	25.7	48.9	36.9
Apiguard (thymol)	35.3	48.9	35.8
Apilife Var (thymol)	30.5	48.9	36.5
Coumaphos	37.0	48.9	35.6
Fluvalinate	33.7	48.9	35.8
Formic Acid	35.8	48.9	35.5
Hop Guard & hop oil	43.6	48.9	34.5
Oxalic acid	28.7	48.9	36.2
Powdered sugar	No statistical difference between using and not using		
Drone brood removal	No statistical difference between using and not using		
Screened bottom boards	No statistical difference between using and not using		
Small cell size	No statistical difference between using and not using		

Other findings of interest:

- Feeding carbohydrates (sugar syrup/dry sugar/high fructose corn syrup/honey/wet supers) had no statistical difference in survivability (feeding carbohydrates at least once between April and March)
- Feeding protein (self-made protein patties with or without pollen/commercial protein patties) had 8% fewer colony losses (feeding protein at least once between April and March)
- Winter preparation (upper entrance/wrapping colony/insulation on top) had no statistical difference in survivability

Editor's comments: Varroa treatment information and comparison may help in selection of a treatment plan--but certainly emphasizes the need for some form of treatment. Info on feeding and winter preparation flies in the face of what most of us have experienced. Having colonies up to weight going into winter is important for survivability--either you get to that weight by feeding in the fall or leaving adequate honey on the hive are both means to the same end.

Bee Informed Partnership, Preliminary Colony Loss 2014-1015

Bee Informed has reported that:

"Preliminary results estimate that a total of 23.1% of the colonies managed in the United States were lost over the 2014/2015 winter. This would represent a decrease in losses of 0.6% compared to the previous 2013/2014 winter, which had reported a total loss estimated at 23.7%." This is the second year in a row the reported colony loss rate was notably lower than the 9-year average total loss of 28.7% nation wide."

For Iowa they estimate 61.4% loss for 2014-2015. They noted that although 80% of beekeepers who answered the national survey owned 5 hives or less, more than 80% of the hives represented in the survey were owned by commercial beekeepers who managed more than 500 colonies. So this is not a backyard beekeeping problem exclusively.

Bee Informed web site: <https://beeinformed.org/>

Newly approved Varroa treatment -- OXALIC ACID

The US Environmental Protection Agency approved the use of Oxalic Acid for treatment of Varroa mites on March 12, 2015. The action was done based on a petition from the US Department of Agriculture and used information from registration and historical use of the chemical in Canada and the European Union. Both a drench method and fumigation method were approved. Subsequently Brush Mountain Bee Farm filed and were approved for registration of an Oxalic Acid product with the Iowa Department of Agriculture, Pesticide Bureau--IA registration occurred within the last few months.

The treatment does not control mites in sealed brood. Various protocols for multiple treatments with 5-7 days intervals for 3-4 times when using the vaporization method are needed during active brood production. Alternatively a single vaporization treatment during periods of low or no sealed brood are effective. This latter method is suggested during November when brood production is expected to be minimized--with the only stipulation being the temperature should be at or above 37°C but does require a method of vaporization (read that as another piece of equipment and \$\$). The drench/drip method is a once a year treatment requiring little equipment. No adverse effects on brood or queens have been seen with the vaporization method, though the drench method may affect open brood. All treatments should be done when there are not honey supers on the hive.

EPA Information: http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/csb_page/updates/2015/varroa-mites.html

IA Dept of Ag Registration:

http://www.kellysolutions.com/ia/showproductinfo.asp?Product_Name=OXALIC+ACID+DIHYDRATE&EPA_Id=91266-1-73291

Brush Mountain Bee Farm: <http://www.brushmountainbeefarm.com/Oxalic-Acid/productinfo/727/>

Good source of info on using oxalic acid: <http://scientificbeekeeping.com/oxalic-acid-questions-answers-and-more-questions-part-1-of-2-parts/> (Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping web site)

Glenn Stanley: July 13, 1917 - August 3, 2015

Noting the passing of Glenn, former State Apiarist, commercial Mid-Iowa beekeeper, and active contributor, even recently, to CIBA. An excerpt from his obituary in the Des Moines Register:

"Glen LeRoy Stanley: Born to Orin Henry and Pearl Ora Stanley, July 13th, 1917, in Decatur County Iowa, joined a loving God on August 3rd, 2015.

Glen attended country grammar school and High School at Decatur City and Leon, Iowa. Glen and his brother, Lloyd and sister, Leota, walked 2 miles to county school every day. He often said, "We were well served by making that effort." He loved school and was a lifelong learner. During those years Glen attended church at Elk Chapel country church. When church was no longer held there, Glen went to Sunday school and church in Leon. He often was ask to play the banjo in the church orchestra and sing in the choir.

At a very early age he assisted his father with his beekeeping enterprise along with farm chores. He continued with farming until joining his father in the beekeeping business in 1937. In 1938, he and his father and brother, Lloyd formed a partnership and in 1939 they built the Honey Processing Plant on Main Street in Gilbert. The Stanley Brother's harvested and processed 250,000 lbs. of honey in 1941, shipping it by rail to many locations. Working with his brother for 58 years were the most wonderful years of his life.

Glen joined the United States Army, January 12, 1942 to January 12, 1946. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

In 1949, he was hired by the Iowa Department of Agriculture to serve as Apiary Inspector. In 1961, he was appointed Director of the Apiary Division where he remained until his retirement in 1988 at 72 years of age. During those 39 years, with the cooperation of Iowa beekeepers he was able to improve the quality of beekeeping and honey production. He did more for the Beekeeping industry than had ever been done by any Iowan. During those years, Glen set up the elaborate honey bee display at the Iowa State Fair and enjoyed telling everyone about the importance of the honeybee. He was a dedicated Apiarist becoming one of the most sought after honey bee educators in the mid-west as well as Europe. He wrote many articles for the Bee Journal and received many honors for his efforts.

Glen was a kind, gracious, and humble man whose character was defined by his genuineness and his wonderful sense of humor. He enjoyed spending time with his friends, playing the banjo, and sharing knowledge concerning the importance of the honey bees.

Glen was preceded in death by his wife, Gladys, sister, Leota and brother, Lloyd.

He is survived by one step son, Robert Granson and two grandsons, Greg, wife Stacey and children, Emily Jolynn, Bethann and Faith , also, Marc Granson from TX. His nephew's, Lyle

Stanley, Kris Stanley and wife Jan and family. Many friends and his special friend, Jan, who he thought of as his own daughter and her loving family."

HBHC Guide to help beekeepers detect, control Varroa mite infestations

The Honey Bee Health Coalition has released a guide to assist beekeepers in choosing methods for the control of Varroa mites:

"The guide, which can be found at <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/Varroa>, lays out an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy for managing Varroa mite infestations; including how to monitor mite levels, chemical and non-chemical methods to control the mites, and methods to determine which treatment is appropriate for a beekeeper to use at different phases in a colony's life cycle."

Iowa Honey Producers Association Scholarship Students in Mid-Iowa--CIBA link

Each year the Iowa Honey Producers Association (IHPA) sponsors a Youth Partnership Program for youth ages 13 to 17. Students who are selected via an application and interview process are provided with a beehive, clothing, miscellaneous equipment, and package bees and have a IHPA mentor assist them in learning beekeeping. This year 5 students were selected, of which 2 are in the Mid-Iowa area and have CIBA members as their sponsors. In this newsletter we'll introduce you to one of the Mid-Iowa students and follow up next time with the other new beekeeper.

Noah Nusbaum, Nevada, IA

Noah is a Freshman at Nevada High School (NHS) and lives just outside of Nevada on an acreage. He is active in Boy Scouts and has just joined FFA at the start of this school year. Right now he is running varsity cross country as a freshman and has been mentioned several times in the local paper as contributing to Nevada's performance.

His mentors are CIBA members Mark Eimers and Ann and Linn Wilbur. Noah's hives are located on his acreage, less than a 1/2 mile from town. Noah attended with his father the basic beekeeping course taught by Andy Joseph/Arvin Foell this spring in Ankeny. His IHPA package hive started in late April has grown into a double deep and a medium honey super that is doing well. Noah removed and extracted the super and harvested over 30 lbs of honey which he is selling to friends and other locals. In addition he has been working with a second hive that originated from a May split, which he did off his mentors hives. The split is struggling as the California queen is being superseded and the hive had multiple queen cells. At the last inspection Noah found a new queen but no evidence yet of her being mated or laying.

Noah volunteered for 2 shifts at the IHBP booth at the Iowa State Fair, one the first day of the fair and then again the last week of the fair. He helped out by talking to the fair attendees about bees at the

observation hive and then the second time at the honey sampling station. In addition he gave a mini presentation on the IHPA Scholarship program and how to apply.

Noah was featured in the local Nevada Journal newspaper with a 1/2 page article on August 6, 2015 titled: "The bees are buzzin' about NHS Freshman Noah Nusbaum's new found interest in beekeeping" which included not only an interview with Noah but pictures of Noah and his hive and a close-up of a frame of his bees.

Noah is a great ambassador for beekeeping and says he has 7-8 youth interested in applying for next year's scholarship program.

Pollinator Health Strategy 2015, including an I-35 Butterfly Corridor

The White House, Pollinator Health Task Force, on May 19, 2015 published a position paper entitled "National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators." As one of many initiatives In that document they proposed a pollinator corridor to be developed in cooperation with the States that would run along I-35 from southern Texas northward to Minnesota. Although the emphasis for the corridor would be on a flyway and breeding ground for the monarch butterfly it would be a positive event for all pollinators and right in our back yard!

Information on the Pollinator Health Task Force: <http://www.abuzzaboutbees.com/bee hive/annual-meeting.html>

A copy of the strategy paper:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/Pollinator%20Health%20Strategy%202015.pdf>

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