



SWEET STUFF

NIBA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Allen

Happy February! We're closer to our bees being successfully overwintered or to receiving the new bees we've ordered because our bees died. These next two months are worrisome to beekeepers – so often you hear them say they were still strong in January or February, but they were dead in March. Available food, mite destruction and overall colony health probably all contribute to whether your colony survives. If your colonies are still alive, good luck going forward.

This month our speaker will be Slava Strogolova from Strong Microbials. They distribute Super DFM honeybee microbials. Studies indicate if your bees have a healthy gut they, like us, have a stronger immune system which leads to a stronger colony. He will have products for purchase.

We talked a bit last month about how we are working on a mentor program with hives in several locations dedicated to the mentor program. If you're an experienced beekeeper and would like to be a mentor (we hope to get a few for each site), or would like to be a mentee in the program, please let a Board member know. Each mentor site will need a manager that will oversee mite treatments and possibly schedule the mentor sessions. All the mentors will do everything within the hives the same, so a mentee can expect to learn one way regardless of where you go to be with a mentor or who the mentor is.

Many of us attended the January ABF conference in Schaumburg. The conference opened up with a brief welcome by ISBA President Corky Schnadt, the President's address by ABF President Tim May (who, along with Gene Brandi, played O Canada and the Star Spangled Banner on trumpets), followed by the Keynote presentation by Dr Sam

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, February 14, 7pm
McHenry County College
Room A211
8900 US Hwy 14, Crystal Lake

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, March 13, 7pm
McHenry County College
Room A211
8900 US Hwy 14, Crystal Lake

GARDENFEST

Saturday, April 4, 7:30am -4pm
McHenry County Fairgrounds
Woodstock, IL

AG EXPO

April 7, 8, 9, 2020
McHenry County College
Leucht Conference Center
Crystal Lake, IL

Ramsey. Dr Ramsey spoke about a new mite that's been found in Asia, the Tropilaelaps mite. It's much smaller and faster than the varroa mite, and Dr Ramsey is leading the research on this new threat to beekeepers. As



dynamic as he is when you watch a YouTube presentation, he's more amazing to see in person! The rest of the week had many different types of presenters, lots of researchers studying

varroa mites, bee nutrition, honey production, and queen production, just to name a few. Friday morning was the Kids and Bees event. Thank you to all of the NIBA volunteers who came out & donated your time in any way. I believe NIBA had the most representation by far. About 300 kids of all ages came through and visited around 20 different stations. The stations varied including face painting, honey

tasting, trying on a bee suit (all the suits were provided by Jerry Gudauskas), a photo wall, and the 4H Pollinator Club. The most popular was the observation hive brought by the Walworth County Beekeepers (Stephanie Slater). I worked with a 2nd-year beekeeper from Jersey City, New Jersey, who flew in that morning just to help at the kids event! The tradeshow had lots of equipment for sale, mite control products, hives made of different materials, extraction equipment, and, bees and queens available to order. Some of our members showed honey and won awards in the honey show, the honey was auctioned off after the show. This was my first ABF conference and I found it to be very well run and extremely informative. Next year's conference is going to be held in Las Vegas, January 6-9, 2021, so plan ahead if you think you'd like to go.



Events

NIBA members helped Farm and Fleet during their Bee Day event on Saturday, January 18th. We helped out at the Woodstock, Rockton, and Loves Park stores. We spoke with quite a few new beekeepers, and some filled out a membership form. Thank you to Ralph Brindise, John Leibinger, Stephanie Slater and Andre Szechowycz for helping out!

We have Ag Days and Gardenfest both coming up in April, and we'll need volunteers for both of those events. More information will

FEBRUARY NIBA MEETING AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- New members
- Old Business
 - Volunteer recognition- F&F bee days
 - Mentor program
 - Looking for mentors
- New Business
 - New beekeeper separate meeting begins in March start time 7
 - Chairperson for each event
 - Member recognition award
- Bee order-Ralph
- March ISBA event-Larry
- Short panel discussion on current hive problems
- Slava Strogolova presentation
- Raffle

be out soon about each of these events. We'll be setting up committees for many of the NIBA club functions, so we can spread the workload among more members. This is your club, collectively we can do more for beekeepers and bees.



Here is the link to the [2020 NIBA Membership Form](#). Please note, memberships renewed after February 29th will be assessed a \$5.00 late fee. Also, if you check that you want a paper copy of the newsletter mailed, the cost is \$10.00, and they will be black and white.

Here is the link to the [2020 Bee Package Order Form](#). You must be a current NIBA member to place an order. Orders are due by March 15, 2020.

MEET YOUR BOARD



Tom Allen, President. I'm married to my wife Jen for 24 years. We have two daughters—Lindsey 24, and Mackenzie 22, and we live in Lakewood. I have kids from a previous marriage—Craig 42, and Lisa 41, and four grandsons ages 3 to 14. I'm a retired firefighter paramedic with the Wheeling Fire Department, and I volunteered with the Fox River Grove Fire Department as well. I taught Fire Science courses at McHenry County College for about 23 years, and I'm currently on the Board of Trustees for the College. I volunteer with the Emergency Disaster Services canteen, which is part of the Salvation Army. I try to continue giving back to the community like I did as a firefighter. I'm in my 5th year of beekeeping and kind of became a beekeeper by accident. I wanted to take a class at MCC, my wife told me about Larry's beekeeping 101 course. I had just watched a video on the Flow Hive, and thought that's what Larry's class would be about. I found out more about bees than I ever thought possible, but I wasn't sure I wanted bees until the 3rd class. I joined NIBA shortly after the class and found the members very welcoming and willing to share their experiences with new beekeepers. I'm extremely honored to be the President of NIBA and rely on the Board members and Directors for guidance.



John Leibinger, an inquisitive beekeeper, always the student, sometimes the teacher. Yep, that's me. I am currently a member of both Lake County and Walworth County beekeepers associations in addition to being Vice President of NIBA. Each group has its own personality and provides diverse learning opportunities. I am a fervent believer that learning is a lifelong pursuit. I grew up in Western Massachusetts and as a result of my 38-year career with Sears, migrated to Illinois via Maryland, Virginia, and Michigan. In retrospect, I wish I had been a young beekeeper in each of those states, but I didn't start beekeeping until 2011. Now retired, I live on 3 acres in Huntley with Donna, three Great Pyrenees, two cats, eight chickens, two pigeons, a variety of visiting wildlife and several hundred thousand honey bees. I label our honey as 1/12th Farm Honey. Why? In its short life, the individual honey bee contributes only 1/12th of a tsp of honey to the colony, but collectively, the colony produces hundreds of pounds of honey annually. The sum of the individuals creates the whole. Each 1/12th, though only a speck, does matter. Rescuing animals and rarely using chemicals on our property is our speck, our 1/12th effort, in making a positive difference. When you think that you alone cannot make a difference in life or in the world (such as your vote, or \$1 contribution to a cause, or whatever...) – think again. All those 1/12th efforts collectively can really produce something special. In this beekeeping season, I am looking forward to helping the bees and contributing my 1/12th by learning from and helping out other beekeepers.

Like the bees we study, we accomplish more together.



Hello everyone, I'm Ralph Brindise and I have been the treasurer of NIBA for 3 years. I had a mobile tool dealership for 34 years, and I retired in 2011. I became interested in beekeeping after I took a class at Gardenfest, and I started with one hive in 2012. Last year I tended to over 20 hives and made some very nice honey! I have found beekeeping leads one to many other interests and introduces you to a whole group of nice people, other beekeepers!



Hello NIBA members. My name is Marcin Matelski, and I'm one of the club directors. My first real exposure to honey bees was through my grandfather who kept bees at his property in central Wisconsin. As pre-driver license teen, my brother and I used to spend summers with our grandparents and tending bees, at the time, was a chore I would do my best to avoid. Fast forward to 2009 when I was told of urban beekeeping, and I've been learning about bees ever since. This is a hobby that has turned into addiction. My go to answer when asked why I keep bees is that while some people smoke stuff, I smoke bees. This is your beekeeping club, so if you have any ideas on improving the club, please let me or any of the board members know.



My name is Al Fullerton. My wife and I live in Cary. We have two grown sons. Since retiring from aviation 20-plus years ago as an Aircraft Mechanic, I have spent my time building, rehabbing, and managing residential rental properties, as well as doing a little farming, which is how the bees became a part of my life. My wife, Linda, and I have been beekeepers for about 8 years. Every year seems to get harder, perhaps these new generations of bees haven't read the same beekeeping books I have. Possibly, I am just lagging in my beekeeping continuing education. But I keep trying and keep learning, which is what this club is about. I was surprised but honored

when I was asked to become a director for the NIBA club. I hope I can be of benefit to all the members, from the newbie to the seasoned beekeeper, and further the survival of our honeybee friends.



MEMBER DONATIONS

John Liebinger

Thank You to these members who made January raffle donations:

- *Sue Dietz/Harvard Eggs, Feed, & Produce
- *Warren Spencer/Spencer Apiary Specialties
- *Larry Krengel
- *Donna Talliaferro

And of course a general thanks to Harvard Eggs, Feed, & Produce, Spencer's Apiary Specialties, and BL Plastic Containers for their generous and continued support. When you have some beekeeping needs, please consider supporting these member-vendors as they support us.

Like the bees we study, we accomplish more together.

Dear NIBA Members,

As many of you may remember, I sold trees/shrubs last Fall to members of the club. They sold out quickly, so a lot of members were disappointed at the September meeting when I was delivering them. I had many requests to take orders for this Fall. Thus, I am trying to get an idea of the interest level from our club members, so I can get an rough feeling for how many to grow this year. I am not taking orders now since there are a lot of natural variables which go into growing them that I cannot always control, so I am just trying to gage interest. Below is a chart for the varieties that I am thinking about growing with their Pollen and Nectar ratings. I do not know what the pricing will be since the cost is based on the volume of plants I buy, but it should be similar to last year.

Sincerely, Randy Mead



Description	Tree/Shrub	Value out of 5	
		Pollen	Nectar
Alder	Shrub	4	0
Basswood	Tree	3	5
Black Locust	Tree	3	5
Button Bush	Shrub	2	3
Crabapple Magenta	Tree	3	3
Pussy Willow	Shrub	4	2
Staghorn Sumac	Shrub	2	4
Tulip Tree	Tree	3	5



Hi all,

I'll be ordering Russian queens from one of the [RHBBA](#) members, [Manley Bigalk](#) of Golden Ridge Honey Farm in Iowa. The price for each queen is \$45 + shared cost of shipping, and they would be available early to mid June, weather depending, as all queens are raised in NE Iowa from overwintered stock in a non migratory operation. After attending presentations at Apimondia and ABF and talking with researchers involved with the Russian queen bee breeding program, I want to implement these genetics into my bee yards this season. I don't have personal experience with Russian bees but I have heard that they require different management. For an overview of management styles of Italian vs Russian bees see this document

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/comparison-of-russian-and-italian-honey-bees>

To learn more about the Russian Bee Breeding Program please visit <https://www.ars.usda.gov/southeast-area/baton-rouge-la/honeybeelab/docs/russian-honey-bees/>. If you're interested in buying a Russian queen, please email me directly at marcin@chicagobees.com. The deadline to place your order is February 10.

Thanks,
Marcin

ISBA WINTER DEADOUT WORKSHOP

On March 27 and 28, ISBA will be offering members an exceptional opportunity to meet with one of the bee world's experts in bee hive postmortems: Dr. Dewey Caron. Coming to us from his Oregon beeyard, Dr. Caron will lead us through the analysis of the remains of our deadouts in a Winter Deadout Workshop. This will be a great hands-on opportunity. Small group sessions on those days will be followed by a Saturday afternoon Dr. Carron lecture for all who wish to attend.

The two small group sessions with Dr. Caron will occur Friday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 and Saturday morning 10:00 to 12:00. The registration fee for each of these is \$25.00. (A small service charge will be added to the registration fee.) On Saturday afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 will be an open session to hear Dr. Caron speak with all beekeepers invited at no charge.

This is an exceptional opportunity to improve your life with the bees. Come and join your fellow ISBA members at this event. Celebrate the start of a new bee year with better beekeeping skills. McHenry County College 8900 US Hwy 14, Crystal Lake, IL will host this event. Registration information will be available on www.ILSBA.com and opens February 15.



The Kids and Bees event at the 2020 American Beekeeping Federation Conference in Schaumburg, IL was a huge success. The Northern Illinois Beekeeping Association was well-represented at the 1/10/2020 event that was visited by 300+ adults and children. There were a variety of learning stations and activities set up including bee finger puppets, honey and pollen tasting, decorating a bag with a foundation rubbing, beeswax candle rolling, bee headbands, face painting, the science of beekeeping, how a bee sees, and an observation hive. Kids and beekeepers alike had a great time!

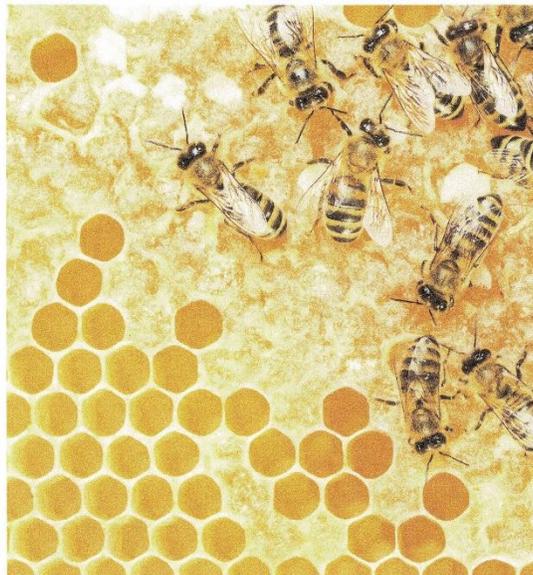


WORKFORCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Education—Spring 2020



BEEKEEPING



Beekeeping 101

Larry Krengel

The demand for bees for pollination is up, so there's no better time to learn about bees and beekeeping. We'll cover bee biology, modern beekeeping techniques, construction of hives, and how to acquire bees. Keep bees for the fun of it, as a sideline job, or to help your garden and orchard.

Fee: \$59

Course Code #	Day	Date	Time	Location
NHG S38 011	W	2/5–2/26	7–9:20 p.m.	A112, MCC

Seven Ways to Raise a Queen

Larry Krengel

The number of small-scale beekeepers is increasing, and the demand for locally raised queen bees is growing. Purchased queens are often raised in areas of Africanized honeybees or come from migratory bee operations where dangerous viruses are exchanged. Gain information and seven simple methods of raising healthy honeybee queens. With a few insights and a small amount of equipment, the backyard beekeeper can raise locally adapted queens from bee stock with a great record of winter survival, good temperament, and excellent honey production.

Fee: \$25

Course Code #	Day	Date	Time	Location
NHG S83 010	W	3/4	7–9:20 p.m.	A112, MCC

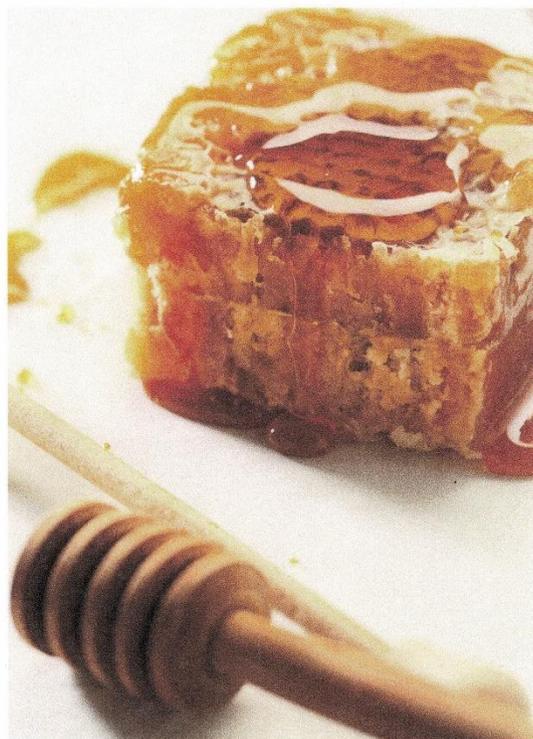
Beekeeping Field Study

Larry Krengel

This short course will provide practical, hands-on instruction for installing, manipulating, and inspecting colonies of bees. The class will meet in a bee yard, so appropriate clothing and bee equipment will be necessary. Spring is the time to start with bees, and this course will walk you through it step by step. Learn what you need to know to start out right with your bees.

Fee: \$59

Course Code #	Day	Date	Time	Location
NHG S39 006	S	4/11–4/18	10 a.m.–Noon	Off-campus, TBA



www.mchenry.edu/community | To register, call (815) 455-8588 (use course code # when registering)

For more information, contact Tricia Johnson at (815) 455-8717 or tjohnson935@mchenry.edu

General noncredit and community education program information | (815) 455-8758



FOREFRONT:

Ideas in Food and Farming

GREAT IDEAS ARE GROWN HERE.

The McHenry County College Center for Agrarian Learning introduces *Forefront: Ideas in Food and Farming*, a speaker series featuring the most innovative thinkers and doers in the food and farm economy.

Farmers, land owners, chefs, local food enthusiasts, and others interested in the food economy will be informed and inspired at these engaging sessions.

Fourth Sunday of the month, January through April.

USING THE LEAN SYSTEM TO EARN A COMFORTABLE LIVING ON A FARM

January 26, 10 a.m.–Noon

Free to attend: registration required online

Lean farming expert and author **Ben Hartman** explains concepts and takeaways from the lean system that he uses to earn a comfortable living farming on less than one acre of land.

***Bonus Workshop*:** Those interested may join us immediately following the introductory session from Noon–4:30 p.m. for an immersive workshop titled “Lean Ideas Applied to the Market Garden.” Geared toward market growers, Ben will share the lean growing principles he applies to soil building, compost-making, greenhouse construction, quick-rotation propagation, and CBD hemp production.

This workshop costs \$59.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING: IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH AND THE FARM’S BOTTOM LINE

February 23, 2 p.m.

Free to attend: registration required online

Finishing cattle on grass can allow a producer to capture a market premium from consumers looking for the human health benefits of grass-fed beef. Grazier

Rod Ofte will explain how to maximize your farm’s productivity all while being a better long-term steward of your land.

WHOLE GRAIN REVOLUTION

March 29, 2 p.m.

Free to attend: registration required online

Dietitian **Erin Meyer**, baker **Rachel Bernier-Green**, and farmer **Andy Hazzard** discuss their personal experiences working with and growing specific grains, explore the challenges they face doing so, and share how their work with the Artisan Grain Collaborative is helping to improve soil health, human health, and local economies.

SOIL SISTERS: HOW WOMEN TRANSFORM OUR FOOD SYSTEM

April 26, 2 p.m.

Free to attend: registration required online

Lisa Kivirist, farm and B&B owner, author, and national advocate for women in sustainable agriculture will present on her own businesses and endeavors and then lead farmers **Dulce Morales** (urban veg), **FL Morris** (rural veg and hemp), and **Beth Osmond** (rural meat CSA) in discussion. All of these women are finding innovative ways to champion local agriculture and foster greater collaboration to improve our environment, economy, and community as a whole.

Register for upcoming sessions and learn more about *Forefront: Ideas in Food and Farming* at www.mchenry.edu/forefront.

Want to learn more about the Center for Agrarian Learning?

Contact Sheri Doyel, Director, Center for Agrarian Learning at sdoyel@mchenry.edu or (815) 479-7618.



CHORES OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY

John Liebing

What's happening in the hive?

Our winter weather finally seems to have somewhat normalized. Overwintering colonies will start raising brood for the coming year. Later in the month, *if we are blessed with some warmer weather*, some early pollen from willows and maples may be available for early foragers. This fresh pollen along with pollen and bee bread stored in combs will allow for some early feeding of brood. The brood will require warmth so the bees will be consuming more honey (carbohydrates) for the energy they will require to produce the needed heat.

For Beekeepers with live overwintering colonies, it is time to:

Monitor the food stores available to your colonies. Hefting the back of the hive may give you an idea of the amount of stores still available. A peek inside on a warm day may also provide insight. A sign that the bees may be in need of feed is their location in the hive. If they have worked their way to the top box, just under the inner cover, they may have consumed all the honey in their pathway and may need assistance. Check for honey on frames adjacent to the outer edges of the cluster. You can do this visually or you can carefully run your hive tool down this seam scraping against the adjacent comb. If the hive tool comes out with honey on it, there is food the bees should be able to access. If not supplement with sugar based feed, e.g. dry sugar, sugar bricks, winter patties, fondant, candy board, etc., to help them through the remaining winter. Providing pollen or pollen patties will provide needed protein for brood development.

Check for activity at the hive on warmer days. Have they been taking cleansing flights? Don't be alarmed at seeing some dead bees on the snow outside the hive. These are bees that likely left the hive for a cleansing flight and were too weak (or they chose a day that was a bit too cold for them) to make it back. This is not necessarily a bad sign. It is a sign that there are likely live bees inside still. If your entrance is plugged up with dead bees, scrape them out to clear the opening so that others can get out for cleansing flights (put back reducers and mouse guards afterwards). Though you may scrape out a lot of dead, it doesn't necessarily mean the colony is dead. Someone pushed them to the front in an effort to clean out the hive, so there is/was life inside.

For New Beekeepers just getting started this year:

Read, Study, and Learn....Books, Periodicals, Classes, Club Meetings, Podcasts, Internet videos (yes, that also means youtube videos..they range from poor to great....reading, attending classes and club meetings and asking questions will help you learn which are good and which are not). All of these will help.

Get a Mentor from the Bee Club. There are beekeepers interested in helping other beekeepers. As my beekeeping therapist says...the first step is to ask for help.

Order your equipment, tools, and protective clothing. Try to start with a minimum of two hives. It allows for comparisons. Understanding what 'Normal' behavior is in a colony of bees is an important skill to acquire. Multiple colonies allow you to learn this faster. Multiple colonies also allow you to share resources (potentially very important) between colonies if needed....more on this as the year progresses.

Order your Bees. Start with a minimum of two hives...see above. Don't get hung up on bee race, i.e., Italian, Carniolan, Buckfast, etc., they are likely mutts anyway (forgive the sarcasm). Packages or nucs(nucleus colonies)? There are advantages and disadvantages to each. Ask questions and listen to the reasoning provided. For new beekeepers, a nuc provides you with some drawn comb which greatly enhances early spring survival. Keep in mind, whoever you ask will have a bias, so it is just an opinionhere is mine: since you should start with multiple colonies, get at one of each and learn something. You will get to experience installing both types. You will get to see the development of each type. If only getting one, it should be a nuc with the drawn comb. It will allow for the greatest chance of success and higher likelihood of getting a first year honey crop. Next year you can pass on your experience and wisdom to the next 'Newbee'.

Assemble and paint your equipment. It's fun and can be creative....on the painting side...please assemble equipment per instructions. The bees will appreciate it.

Start thinking about the location of your apiary.

For Beekeepers with dead overwintered colonies, it is time to:

Breakdown the dead-outs. Pick a pleasant day and start the cleanup process...Doing it early, before much warmth and moisture occurs, will make an unpleasant job less unpleasant and much less smelly.

Don't just clean things up. See if you can determine what caused the problem. There is a high likelihood of a mite related problem if you did not rigorously pursue mite load reduction in a timely fashion last year. Look for signs. Take some pictures at several different angles. Consider bringing a frame or two (brood frames) to the March ISBA meeting featuring Dewey Caron. Dewey will be instructing on dead-out postmortems so this may be a great opportunity to find out if you could have taken some action to prevent your loss. You will find it interesting, I'm sure.

For All Beekeepers, it is time to:

Take an inventory.

A) Equipment/Supplies inventory

Make a list of what your equipment, tools, and supplies. Do you need to replace frames or foundation (a honeycomb replacement program should be part of your annual routine)? Is your equipment in good order? Is your wooden-ware due for a paint job? Are your tools in good shape? How about your protective clothing? How about supplies, e.g., feed/nutrition supplements, pest/parasite controls, etc. Is your current equipment sufficient to help you achieve your goals for this year (see B. below)?

B) Goals inventory – Very Important

What do you want to accomplish this year in beekeeping? You may have multiple goals. What are your priorities of these goals? Here are some thoughts:

- Do better than the state average honey yield per colony? More simply, increase my honey yield over last year.
- Successfully over-winter my bees.
- Move closer to achieving sustainable beekeeping (not having to buy new bees every year).
- Learn to create and use nucleus colonies to over-winter more colonies and increase the number of colonies in my apiary.
- Learn to raise my own queens.
- Learn to produce comb honey, e.g., Ross Rounds, cut comb honey, chunk honey, or section boxes.
- Learn to produce Creamed Honey.
- Learn to make Mead.
- Learn how to process and use beeswax. Make candles, lip balms, hand creams, soaps.
- Are you interested in encaustic painting? Are you interested in creating wax art?

Do you need to re-evaluate your equipment to be sure you have what you need to achieve your goals (see A. above)? If you have some of these interests, raise the issue at a club meeting and propose having a sub-group session to explore the subject.

C. Bee Inventory

- How many colonies do you want to start this year with? How many do you have that will overwinter? Are you sure?? A live hive in early February is a **hopefully** live hive in April....we still have a couple tough months to go....don't be caught bee-less in April.
- Order as early as possible to reserve your bees. Packages or Nucs? Decisions, decisions.....

I'll leave you with this:

**It is February. Get ahead of your season.
Read, Study, Learn. Now is the time!**



2020 NIBA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President – Tom Allen
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Program Chair – Larry Kregel
Webmaster – Terri Reeves
Newsletter Editor – Marianne Hill
Club Extractor Coordinator – Randy Mead
Club Raffle Coordinator – John Leibinger
Snack Coordinators - ??

Website and Newsletter Submissions

www.nibainfo.org – The Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association website. A wealth of information is available. Contact board members via email, download the membership form, access copies of the newsletter. Terri is asking for your pictures, stories, etc. to have them highlighted on the web page!
reevestherese@att.net

This is YOUR newsletter. Please feel free to contribute. Or let us know if you have any topics you'd like to see covered. newsletter@nibainfo.org

Membership Has Its Benefits!

- By Randy Mead

Did you know that your membership in NIBA includes the opportunity to rent a club honey extractor? We have two to choose from. Rental is \$10 for a 3-day rental. \$20 (\$10 for rental and \$10 deposit) is due when you pick up the extractor.

Schedule a pick up time, extract your honey and return the equipment in 3 days. The \$10 deposit will be returned if the extractor is clean.

To reserve a date, contact Randy at rmeadtoys@gmail.com.

Are you on Facebook? So are we!

Search for Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association. It's a closed group, so you need to request to join—but we're happy to approve your request.

We're an active and knowledgeable group. Lots of questions and answers about the Fall season and preparing for winter, robbing, etc. And LOTS of pictures!

Join the fun today!

The queen marking color for
2020 is BLUE.