



SWEET STUFF

NIBA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Allen

We will be remote for this meeting!

February as a beekeeper is when we really begin to worry about our colonies. Do they still have enough food? If not, how can we supplement them when it's usually too cold to even crack open a hive to check? Some people have downloaded a thermal imaging app for their phone that allows them to look for the cluster in the hive which can be helpful and reassuring if you see they're alive.

People just preparing for their first-time buying bees don't yet know the work and preparation it takes to get their colonies to live through the winter. This is the time of year we get many new club members--some because they're taking Larry's Beekeeping 101 course at MCC and others because they're just interested in becoming beekeepers. I've found beekeepers are part of a community, a group of people from different backgrounds, all with the idea of working with honey bees. Whether you're doing this to help the bees because you've read they're struggling, you just love honey and

want to make your own, or you want to make beekeeping a business, the work is the same.

Every beekeeper is where you are today, and creating

relationships with other beekeepers can and will help in your quest to become a better beekeeper. NIBA has some incredible people that are great beekeepers and getting to know them will not only make you a better beekeeper but might create new lifelong friendships. Participate in meetings (we precede each meeting with a newbie session at 6:30), ask questions. We have mentor sessions at our hives at McHenry County College where you can get hands on experience and work with experienced beekeepers who will help you become more comfortable working with bees. NIBA as a club is a direct result of

MEETING AGENDA

6:30 Newbee Q & A – Marcin

7:00 Pledge of Allegiance – Tom

**7:02 Old Business
Bee order, memberships - Ralph**

**7:05 New Business
Until further notice we will be remote
Recent purchases: Electric extractor, uncapper, and tank**

February speaker – Tom Seeley

March speaker – Steve Rypasky – swarms

Spin the wheel

the level of participation from the members. This Board works hard to bring you speakers that will help you become a better beekeeper and educate us all on multiple ways to work with bees. When I took the Beekeeping 101 course from Larry Krengel, he told us if you ask 3 beekeepers a question, you'll get 6 answers, and I've found that to be very true. That's because there aren't any hard rules when it

comes to beekeeping. Every year is different for a variety of reasons, and you'll have to learn to adjust. That's where talking with the long time beekeepers in the club can pay real dividends. Learn from their years and years of adjusting. Welcome aboard, make new friends and become a beekeeper not a bee buyer!
Tom

McHenry County College has notified us that they're not allowing outside groups to meet at the college currently.

The February General Meeting is on **Friday, February 11, 2022 at 7pm**, with Newbee Q&A session starting at 6:30pm. Our featured speaker this month is Tom Seeley. We'll conclude the meeting with a drawing for one of Tom's books so make sure to stick around until the end.

We will meet on Zoom only. Here is the Zoom link for Friday's meeting:

<https://gtc.zoom.us/j/82596377711> Meeting ID: 825 9637 7711

One tap mobile +13126266799,,82596377711# US (Chicago) Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership (new and renewal) is \$20 single/\$30 family. Includes one membership in the Illinois State Beekeepers Association. Form available to print & mail, or online payment available at NIBAINFO.ORG.

PHOTO CONTEST

We'll host a photo contest again this month. If you are new to our association, we hosted photo contests each month last year. It is free to enter and any member can submit a beekeeping-related photo. The membership will vote for their favorite which will then serve as our Facebook page's cover photo for the month.

Please email your photos to stephanie.d.slater@gmail.com by Thursday evening (2/10/22). **There is no theme this month.**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any board member.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Heritage Honeybee – Beekeeping 101 – February 19 & 26, 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beekeeping-101-two-part-course-february-19th-26th-tickets-218927577277>

Indiana Bee School – February 26, 2022

https://indianabeekeeper.com/events/indiana_bee_school_xx

Heritage Honeybee – Beekeeping 101 – March 9 & 16, 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beekeeping-101-two-part-course-march-9th-16th-tickets-254633554817>

Kalamazoo Bee School – February 12, 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kalamazoo-bee-school-2022-tickets-242346714547>

Indiana Bee School – February 26, 2022

https://indianabeekeeper.com/events/indiana_bee_school_xx

Michigan Beekeepers Association Spring Conference – March 12, 2022

<https://www.michiganbees.org/>

UF/IFAS Spring Bee College – March 11-12, 2022

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-bee-college-2022-march-11-12-2022-tickets-199209720637>

Heartland Apiculture Society (HAS) – 2022 Conference – June 2022 in Indiana

<https://www.heartlandbees.org/has-2022-evansville-in/>

American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) – On-demand beekeeping classes

<https://www.abfnet.org/page/education>

Michigan State University Webinars

<https://pollinators.msu.edu/resources/beekeepers/webinars/past-webinars/>

University of Minnesota Bee Lab Classes and Mentoring Apiary

<https://beelab.umn.edu/beekeeping-classes>

Western Apicultural Society (WAS) – Monthly mini conference recordings

<https://www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/events-1>

Kansas Honey Producers Association – Extracting More \$\$\$ From Your Hives speaker series recordings

<http://www.kansashoneyproducers.org/archives.html>

University of Guelph Honey Bee Research Centre - <https://honeybee.uoguelph.ca/videos/video-list/>

ISBA GATHERS IN THE NORTHERN REGION IN SUMMER 2022



Save the dates – June 3-4 – for ISBA’s summer meeting in Crystal Lake

It will begin with a dead out session on Friday evening in which Dr. Dewey Caron will offer to analyze frames from dead out colonies to determine the cause of death – a beehive postmortem. Also, that evening we will offer a round table session with our own Doug Leedle (ISBA Southern Region Director) on the Nicot honey bee queen rearing system.

Saturday will be a presentation by Dr. Caron, “Have you read a good book lately – reading a hive,” as well as one by Ben Sallmann from the University of Minnesota, “Benefits of Propolis to Honey Bees.”

Jerry Hayes from Bee Culture will also present. Lunch and vendor displays will round out the day. Additional Information on registration, the agenda and location will be published here as it become available.

<https://www.ilsba.com/summary-of-events.html>

ASK CARL:

What can I be doing this time of year?

Remember to place your bee order soon to get an early delivery date. In the apiary, check the weight of the hives as they could be running out of food stores.

You may want to check out the [Australian Beekeeping Guide](#). It is a good read with a lot of good information plus nice pictures. Just remember that their season (in the southern hemisphere) is half a year different from ours.

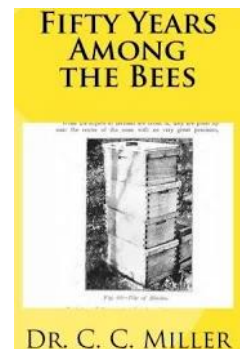
Here is another recommended read: [Fifty Years Among the Bees by Dr. C.C. Miller](#).

I came across the same information on Queen Confinement Cages and how they are used to reduce mite loads without chemicals:

[QCC Building Instructions](#)

[QCC Uses](#)

So, if you like to read and do some woodworking. Have fun.



HONEY BEE MEDICINE FOR THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER

Recently a new book about honey bees has been published – *Honey Bee Medicine for the Veterinary Practitioner*. The book is meant to introduce veterinarians (and non-beekeepers) to the world of honey bees. Over the next few months, we will be sharing the best parts of the book with you. For this month, we’re providing the link to Google Docs for Chapter 1. Please click the link and enjoy!

[Honey Bee Medicine - Chapter 1](#)



At Home Beekeeping Webinar

Distance Learning for Beekeeping Clubs



We're offering beekeepers the chance to attend virtual meetings from the comfort of one's own home using a computer or mobile device. Speakers include university researchers and extension specialists from across the SE US as well as USDA ARS researchers. Each event will bring participants up to date on timely beekeeping topics with time for Q & A included.

All are welcome!! Join us for this free event!!

- Jan. 25: The many facets of honey bee nutrition, *with P. Chakrabarti (MSU)*
- Feb. 22: Integrated pest management in the hive, *with C. Jack (UF)*
- March 29: Methods of controlling *Varroa* that work, *with J. Berry (UGA)*
- April 26: How to make great queens and avoid poor ones, *with D. Tarpy (NCSU)*

Last Tuesday of
the month

6:30 – 7:30 pm
Central Time

Watch via Zoom Webinar

<https://auburn.zoom.us/j/904522838>

or Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceCountyextension/>

Questions? Email Allyson Shabel ams0137@aces.edu

Our institutions are equal opportunity educators and employers. Everyone is welcome!

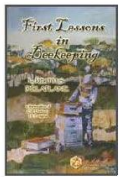
See our efforts: [ACES](#) | [Auburn](#) | [Florida](#) | [Georgia](#) | [Louisiana](#) | [Mississippi](#) | [Tennessee](#) | [Texas A&M](#) | [USDA](#)



Beekeeping classes – In person or online
Larry Krengel, Instructor

The following classes will be offered at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois in their new state-of-the-art classroom designed to combine the best of both an in-person and an online class.

Students of the bee may attend in a traditional classroom setting while others can take advantage of attending on their computer or phone.



February 2 – 23 Beekeeping 101 \$59.00

This class meets on four consecutive Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM and will explore beekeeping for the prospective and beginning beekeeper. The practical steps of acquiring and tending bees are discussed. The beginner meets bee biology, bee equipment, and discusses the challenges of beginning with bees.

March 2 Seven Ways to Raise a Queen \$25.00

A one-evening class on the basics of raising honey bee queens. Of the many techniques of raising queens developed over the years, seven are highlighted in this class. It is wise for a beekeeper to raise a local queen to have as a spare. Any small-scale beekeeper can do this with the insights from this class.



March 9 Producing Comb Honey \$25.00

One of the great challenges for a beekeeper is to produce a beautiful frame of comb honey. Once the mainstay in the beeyard, comb honey is today a largely lost art. In this one meeting class we explore how today's beekeepers can rediscover the comb honey of the past in the beeyard of today.

April 9 and 16 Beekeeping Field Study \$59.00

The first meeting of this class – held in the beeyard – will cover the installation of a package of bee. The second meeting – a week later – will return to the beeyard to inspect the progress of the colony.



Registration for the above classes – either in person or online - can be found at – https://mchenry.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&int_category_id=7&int_sub_category_id=38&int_catalog_id=

Questions may be directed to the instructor at 815 243 4449.

2022 Wisconsin Honey Producers Association

Southern & Southeastern Districts Spring Meeting

Sunday, March 13th 2pm—5pm

Concord Town Hall/Community Center, W1095 Concord Center Drive, Sullivan, WI 53178

Cost: WHPA members: no charge; Non-members: \$5 at the door

Come enjoy an afternoon of beekeeper fellowship over coffee and treats, numerous door prizes from Mann Lake, Dadant, and Heritage Honeybee.

Learn from and ask questions during a panel discussion covering all things related to beekeeping in WI from local beekeepers Andy Hemken (Hemken Honey Co, Big Bend, WI), Bill Werning (Werning Apiaries, Sullivan, WI), Ryan Stern (Concord Farms, Concord, WI), and Nick Thill (Honey Grove Apiaries, West Bend, WI).

Network and get to know other beekeepers in the area. Form relationships in the beekeeping community that provide resources and knowledge that go beyond the hive.

RSVPs encouraged (but not required)

Click link to register: [Spring Meeting Registration](#)

or

to timwilbanksbees@gmail.com or call Tim Wilbanks (Southern District Chairperson) at 319-321-2494

For listening enjoyment – If you garden for pollinators, you may enjoy
The Pioneering Today PODCAST
Episode # 328 “The Link Between Bees & Plant Medicine.

Inside the [Hive.TV](#)

NIBA is a Patreon supporter of Dr. Humberto Boncristiani and his Inside the [Hive.TV](#) channel. He posts a lot of interesting videos on his YouTube channel. You can find it at <https://www.youtube.com/c/InsideTheHiveTV/videos>. By being Patreon supporters we have access to "behind-the-scenes", which includes private videos, longer interviews and links to articles and research projects that are not posted on the public channel. We will share those with you either through the newsletter, email list or by having a special meeting to watch the videos that may be of interest to the club.

NIBA Book Club

Read an interesting beekeeping book lately? Learned something new from it? The club wants to hear about. That's why we started the NIBA Book Club. Any member can participate and contribute to it. If you're willing to write an article, do a presentation or somehow share what you've learned with the rest of the members, the club will reimburse you for the cost of the book. Please reach out to any of the club board members for more details. Board approval is necessary to be eligible for reimbursement.

Share what you do and know

Do you process wax and turn it into candles, lotions and salves? Or maybe you collect pollen? How about propolis?

The club is looking for members who use, collect and process all of the products their bees produce to either give a short presentation at a meeting or write an article for the newsletter. This is a great opportunity to get involved with the club and share your knowledge and experience with the rest of the members. Get in touch with any of the board members if you're interested in presenting or writing an article.

We would also welcome any presentations by club members about how they manage their hives.

Chores of the Month – February

Like the bees we study, we accomplish more together.

John Leibinger

What's happening in the hive?

Holy Cow! Talk about a turn in the weather! In January we experienced a long stretch of rather cold weather. There were a lot of low single digit and below zero nights for our bees to endure. Nonetheless, healthy overwintering colonies have already or 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/pollen sub or pollen patties may 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.

Consider setting up a spare hive with new equipment or some you have recently cleaned up.

When you have a reasonably warm day in late April or early May to do your first complete inspection, you can position this spare equipment next to one of your overwintered colonies and methodically transfer the frames from old to 'new'. While doing your inspection, this gives you an opportunity to evaluate all the frames and replace some as you see fit. It also provides the opportunity to rotate frames from top box to bottom if that is part of your management process.

Maybe the colony strength is such that you will downsize to a single box while the colony develops (or continue the season under a single brood box management approach). Anyway, after making the transfer of the first colony to the fresh 'new' box(s), clean up their last year's equipment and repeat the process with your next overwintered colony.

NOTE 1: Be very observant for any signs of disease before making the woodenware transfers.

NOTE 2: Be sure to transfer the frames with brood in the same order/positions that they were positioned in original hive.

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 resources will help.

Get a Mentor from the Bee Club. 2022 will likely start with mentoring via email, text, phone calls, or for the more tech savvy, video calls. Just be aware that 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 between colonies if needed (potentially very important) more on this as the year progresses.

Order your Bees. Try to start with a minimum of two hives...see above. Don't get hung up on bee race/stock, i.e., Italian, Carniolan, Russian, 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 a developed working colony (albeit small) along with some drawn comb which greatly enhances early spring survival. On the other hand, packages offer the opportunity to observe the process of a hive and colony development from ground zero. Keep in mind, whoever you ask will have a bias, so it is just an opinion **here is mine:** since you should start with multiple colonies, get at least 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 circumstances dictate only getting one colony, 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/bias and learnings to the next 'Newbee'.

Assemble and paint your equipment. It's fun and can be creative.... on the painting side at least. Don't get too creative on the assembly of equipment. Follow the 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 sharing pictures of a frame or two (brood frames) at your next club meeting. Another beekeeper with different experiences may be able to offer some insight.

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 comb 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? Have you laundered your bee wear to be ready for a new season?
- Do you have sufficient (and not expired) 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.
- Successfully make a split.
- 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 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.
- Learn how to collect/process/use propolis.
- 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 🐝 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.
Your pre-season preparation will set the tone for your
success for the year.
Now is the time!**

Can't wait to go from this..... To this!



HONEYBEE PERSONALITY

Larry Krengel



When we look at a colony of honey bees, we see a MASS. Yet individual bees have personalities just as people do. And the superorganism known as the honey bee colony - the functioning mass - also has a unique personality. No kidding.

We get so bogged down in research about varroa mites and pollen patties, that the research on personality styles in bees gets little press.

Two personality factors that have been identified in individual bees are the tendency to be adventuresome and the tendency to interact with other bees. In humans, psychologists have identified five personality factors. One of those factors is termed “openness to new experiences”. These humans are more likely to eat a variety of foods, vary their wardrobe, and travel to different places. That last point, travel, sounds a bit like being adventuresome – a personality pattern identified by researchers in individual bees. Bees high in the adventuresome factor are more likely to perform well as foragers, seeking out nectar and pollen sources, or as scouts in a swarm searching for a new home.

A second personality factor identified in humans is extroversion, being involved with other individuals. Some bees show a greater tendency to Trophallaxize (I don't know if that is a word!). Trophallaxis is the act of exchanging nectar and honey between bees. In other words, they socialize. Could we say they are more extroverted?

We do need to avoid anthropomorphism (attributing human characteristics to non-humans). But these similarities are food for thought. Even if bees have a completely different set of personality factors than humans, the thought that each bee varies in these factors is intriguing. They are not automatons, all being carbon copies of each other, but rather unique individuals that work in cooperation for the good of the colony.



Permit me to go one step further. As a superorganism, colonies have personalities. Experience seems to confirm that. I may have four colonies in my yard. One is more productive. One more defensive. One may choose to swarm... even more than once. I have colonies that seem curious about my presence and climb readily on my hands. The colonies have personalities.

Psychologists debate about the antecedents of personality styles in humans. Is it nature (genetic) or nurture (a response to the environment)? I think the same question could be asked about the personality of colonies.

If I may be so bold, I would suggest it is a combination of the two. We know that certain subspecies are more defensive – e.g. *apis mellifera scutellata*, the Africanized honey bee. (<https://extensionentomology.tamu.edu/insects/africanized-honey-bees/>) Others tend to have a reputation for being more gentle – e.g. *apis mellifera caucasica*, the grey caucasian honey bee. (<http://caucasianbreeder.com/cauctxt.html>)

We also know that colonies headed by queens bred from the same instrumentally-inseminated queen mother can vary greatly in their personality traits. I often read on Facebook about colonies that are “hot”. They chase their keepers away. I wonder if these colonies are exhibiting the traits learned from the environment rather than directed by genetics. Could it be that a more skilled/insightful beekeeper could have brought about a gentler hive? Just a thought. It might be that our nurturing style promotes a particular set of personality characteristics in our colonies.



Being in danger of whipping a dead horse, one more thought on the subject – the personality of a queen. We know that in humans there are critical times when personality styles seem to be malleable. Mostly at a young age. Is it possible that the personality of a queen (that will be passed on to a colony) could be developed early, perhaps during her mating time? Could the personality of a queen raised in a tiny mating nuc in a yard with a thousand other queens might develop a different personality from the queen raised in my backyard in a hive that naturally requeens itself? Could the small-scale beekeeper nurture a significantly different queen personality in their beeyard? I know of no scientific evidence to support this, but I think this would be a great research subject. Just thinking.

2020 NIBA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Club Raffle Coordinator – John Leibinger
Snack Coordinators – Cathy Davis & Phil Webb

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 manual 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 and returned on time.

To reserve a date, contact Randy by text or email at (847) 571-1899 or 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
2022 is YELLOW.**