



# SWEET STUFF

NIBA NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Allen

Here we are in March! As I write this, we've had some 40-degree days with the possibility of temperatures in the 60s this week. I've heard from quite a few members that, as of late February, they've had a majority of their colonies survive the winter, which is great. Of the three hives I manage at MCC, two were still alive as of late February, and I'm happy about that. After listening to the presentation Tim Wilbanks gave us at our February meeting, I trudged through the snow on a cold day to check on their food stores. I quickly popped the tops, added some granulated sugar and closed them back up, hoping to get them through the rest of the winter. I'll go check on them again on one of these upcoming warm days.

If you're not part of the NIBA Facebook group, please consider joining to get updates on upcoming virtual courses that are posted there. Many are free of cost to all NIBA members (make sure your membership is paid up to date), and others are reasonably priced. They all offer valuable information for beekeepers of all levels. I attended the Michigan Beekeepers Association virtual meeting last week and watched presentations by beekeeping experts from Michigan State University, Canada and around the United States.

### MEETING AGENDA

6:30 pm video presentation on a package installation for newbees - Marcin

7:00 Pledge of Allegiance - Tom

7:02 Old Business- -Tom  
NIBA Historian  
Mentors side by side  
Mentors at NIBA hives  
Membership renewals - Ralph  
Bee order - Ralph  
Garfield Park presentations - Marcin  
ISBA Deadout presentation - Larry  
NIBA writing contest  
Why I Keep Bees - Larry

7:20 New Business - Tom  
Photo contest subject  
Women beekeepers - Stephanie

7:25 Presentation  
Lucky 7 Things to do with an overwintered hive  
- Larry/John/Marcin  
Questions and answers to follow

8:10 Spin the wheel for a gift card - Stephanie

8:15 Anything for the good of NIBA

8:20 Adjournment Tom

I'm taking a Master Beekeeper Class through Cornell University, which has kept me in front of the computer for more time than I'm used to. I have a whole new appreciation for my wife, Jen, who has been working from home about 50 hours a week for the last year, my daughters that are in college virtually most of the time, and all of you that have been forced to do this! The upside of my taking the Cornell class is that I have a lot more information, small details to talk about bees when I am finally able to see people. Honey bee development, how the bee's caste is determined, and their hormones are

just some of the subjects I've read on, watched video presentations, and taken notes to remember the information so during the test I can answer the questions correctly. I've heard that you shouldn't eat bananas near hives and that if you smell bananas to leave the hive alone but no one could explain why. Well the honey bee alarm pheromone contains many

components, one of them is isoamyl acetate which is what gives bananas their sweet smell. Eureka there's the reason!

Be forewarned, I've got a lot more where that came from.

Tom

## MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

NIBA is going to spotlight some of the instrumental women we've had in the club as well as historical women of beekeeping over the next few months. There will be a short presentation during the monthly meeting and something in Sweet Stuff. NIBA is where we are today because of many women that have stepped forward to lead us (President), teach us, be our technical Zoom expert, be Board members, be the Sweet Stuff editor, make sure we have refreshments at in-person meetings, and countless other things they've selflessly done. We all say THANK YOU for their contributions!!



## MEMBERSHIP

March 15<sup>th</sup> has generally been the last day to renew memberships without the \$5.00 late fee. When we met in person, members would come to the March meeting to update their membership form and pay their dues. Because we're meeting virtually, it's easy to forget to renew your membership. The Board decided that April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the 2021 renewal cutoff date. If you haven't renewed by then, you will be removed from the current email list - you won't get the meeting Zoom links, Sweet Stuff newsletter, or codes for beekeeping presentations that NIBA helps support that are free to members. Once your membership is renewed (including the \$5.00 late fee), you'll be added to the email list again. Membership dues are what pay for those perks, so please keep your dues current. We want you to continue your beekeeping journey with NIBA.

## WOMEN IN BEEKEEPING

Larry Krengel

March is the month we recognize the importance of women in the many endeavors of life. I guess it is well that we should stop and say thanks and congratulations. However, I think it will be nice when we get to the point when it is unnecessary to pause once a year for that reason. I guess that is the idealist in me.

The golden age of beekeeping (late 1800's to early 1900's) found no recognition of women in beekeeping... well... little recognition. If you read C.C. Miller's book *Fifty Years Among the Bees*, you will find that his wife is responsible for his entering beekeeping. In his absence a swarm of bees visited their Marengo farmhouse. She took charge of the situation and hived the swarm... in an apple barrel. That became the first bee holding for the man who would come to be one of the most celebrated beekeepers of the golden era.

In beekeeping, women have historically been largely absent. Of the inventions we now use in beekeeping many are named after the MAN who invented them. The Langstroth hive. The Miller technique. The Demaree manipulation. The Cloake board. The list is long and all have a Y chromosome. I can't think of a women for whom a bee invention is named. When I first began attending NIBA meetings around 1990, it was made up of a dozen men (all well my seniors) sitting together at the Farm Bureau. When I went to state

meeting, there were few women, and those attending were married to a beekeeper. It was a novelty to have a woman not attached to a beekeeper.

Wow, has that changed. Without an official count, I wager that 50%-plus of the attendees at our last state meeting were female. Ditto for those actively involved in NIBA. Check out the names of the presenters at conferences, and you will find no shortage of women. Look who is writing for the bee journals. Lots of women.

In my recently completed Beekeeping 101 class at MCC, I had an enrollment of 53 aspiring beekeepers. Thirty-three were female. Twelve of the 21 taking the queen-rearing class were female.

No longer does the beekeeping community simply tolerate women, women have become a large part of the keeper population and its leadership. There is lots of room in beekeeping for all genders.

I would like to give the broadminded members of the beekeeping community credit for this very significant change. In reality the changes in society are being reflected in the beekeeping ranks. In the bee world, women have taken advantage of the social change and moved in. We now have a greater well of passion and talent in the bee world than but a few decades ago. It is good. Welcome on board, my lady friends.

## SAY BEES!

We know many of you enjoy taking photos in your apiaries. We'd like to invite you to submit your favorite beekeeping-related photos. We'll conduct an informal poll during the monthly meetings, and the top pick will be featured in the following month's newsletter and as the group's Facebook page cover photo. Here are the details:

1. Submit one photo per month by 9:00 pm the Thursday immediately preceding the scheduled monthly meeting.
2. Email your photo as an attachment to [stephanie.d.slater@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.d.slater@gmail.com) with "**NIBA Photo**" typed in the subject line.
3. Please include your name and a short caption in the body of the email.
4. Each month's top pick may be used for future club activities.
5. Participate in as many months as you'd like!

## NIBA WRITING CONTEST

### Why Do You Keep Bees?

Beekeeping is our thing. We gather to talk about bees, read bee magazines, and Zoom bee talks from all over the world. To us it is normal while driving to slow up while examining beehives we had not seen before and to look with longing at fields of luscious bee forage along the roadside. This is us.



So why does one keep bees? That is the question you are being asked to answer in 100 words or less to enter in the NIBA honeybee writing contest. Indeed, beekeepers are a unique subset of humans. The contest seeks to hear what makes us different. What moves you to hang around with thousands of stinging insects? Hmm... That likely makes us unique.

All NIBA members are eligible to enter. All are encouraged to reflect on their bees, their time with the bees, and what draws them to their hives continuously. You are a beekeeper... a keeper of bees. Why?

Entries must be submitted by **March 15, 2021** and will be read anonymously by the members of the NIBA board (who are ineligible to win the contest!). The winning entry will be awarded a beautiful copper smoker... almost too beautiful to light up. Highest-rated entries will be published in the Sweet Stuff during the coming year.

Submissions should be sent to [WhyIKeepbees@gmail.com](mailto:WhyIKeepbees@gmail.com). Please include your name and your number of years among the bees.

## ASK CARL

### What are the top three things I should be doing with my overwintered colonies between now and when dandelions bloom?

Make sure they have stores, either by hefting or by visual inspection. If the weather cooperates, move a frame of honey up to the cluster on both sides. If they are short on stores, use granulated sugar on top of the inner cover. Mist it down lightly with water or they will carry the sugar granules out of the hive--they treat it like it is hive debris. In the middle of March, I add protein patties to encourage brood-rearing. Since little nectar is available, make sure to feed, and keep it up until natural resources are available. Brood rearing takes a lot of honey! Feeding of liquids should only be in small amounts and given at dusk so they can take it down overnight. Feeding liquids during the day can make the bees fly out in too cold weather.

## FEBRUARY PHOTO CONTEST WINNER



Mal Keenan  
Just Killin' Time, Standing in Line

## 2021 BEE FORUM

Hello NIBA,

The club is sponsoring 2021 Bee Forum at Garfield Park Conservatory. That means you get free access to the event as part of your NIBA membership. Here's info about the event, including free access code.

<https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/12th-annual-bee-forum-secrets-your-bees-want-to-tell-you/2021-03-14/>

Use discount code **NORTHBEES** on the Eventbrite checkout page to get free access

### **12th Annual Bee Forum: Secrets Your Bees Want to Tell You**

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance hosts an annual Bee Forum to join local beekeepers and beekeeping experts to discuss relevant topics in the world of beekeeping, in addition to building community with Chicagoland beekeepers. This year, we will host three separate online presentations in lieu of our traditional on-site gathering. GPCA is excited to have Scott Debnam, Dr. Tom Seeley, and Dr. Sean Leonard present on the topics of honey bee research and its practical application for the beekeeper. Come and learn about the secret lives of your bees.

**Your registration includes links to all three live virtual presentations!**

**Schedule:**

**March 14 10:30am – 12pm: Scott Debnam**

**March 21 10:30am – 12pm: Dr. Tom Seeley**

**March 28 10:30am – 12pm: Dr. Sean Leonard**

### **Presenter Bios: Scott Debnam**

Scott Debnam is a graduate of the University of Montana Wildlife Biology program and has 20 years of experience managing the University of Montana's research colonies. He completed his Master's degree in Pollination ecology in 2016 through The University of Montana's Organismal Biology, Ecology, & Evolution program and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. from the Division of Biological Sciences. His research focuses on nest thermoregulation and the economics associated with thermoregulation. He, of course, uses the honeybee as the model species for this research. Scott is a Yale Scientific Teaching fellow that possesses extensive expertise with honey bee ailments and pests. He possesses an intimate knowledge of the insects that he is eager to pass on to others. To that end, he has been an instructor for the University of Montana Online Master beekeeping program for six years, instructing over a thousand students from 11 different countries. He is a recipient of the 2019 UPCEA award for outstanding online education. He began teaching the Practical Beekeeping online course for UMass Amherst in 2019 and is delighted to bring his expertise to the University of Massachusetts Sustainable Food and Farming program.

### **Dr. Tom Seeley**

Dr. Tom Seeley received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Dartmouth College. He received his PhD in 1978 from Harvard University, where he studied with Bert Hölldobler and Edward O. Wilson. He held a postdoctoral fellowship in the Society of Fellows at Harvard until 1980, when he accepted a faculty position at Yale University. He remained there until 1986, when he joined the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at Cornell University. In recognition of his scientific work, he has received the Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished U.S. Scientist Prize, been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, received a Gold Medal Book Award from Apimondia for *The Wisdom of the Hive*, and been elected a Fellow of both the Animal Behavior Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most enduring honor, though, is to have had a species of bee named after him: *Neocorynurella seeleyi*.

### **Dr. Sean Leonard**

Dr. Sean Leonard is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Texas at Austin, where he studies honey bees and their gut bacteria. He completed his PhD thesis in 2020, "Engineering the gut microbiome of honey bees," under the co-supervision of Dr. Nancy Moran and Dr. Jeffrey Barrick. Sean combines synthetic biology with evolutionary biology and symbiosis to understand the intimate connections between hosts and symbionts and then to exploit these connections to benefit society. He has studied honey bees for over 7 years and has pioneered technology to use symbiotic gut bacteria to improve bee health.

## CHORES OF THE MONTH - MARCH

John Leibinger

*Like the bees we study, we accomplish more together.*

### **Please Review February Chores List.**

**Most apply to March also, but with an increased sense of urgency.**

#### ***What's happening in the hive?***

The bees have surely started raising brood by now. There won't be much early in the month, but as the month passes and if we get some warm weather, the pace of egg laying will pick up. The bees will need pollen (protein) to feed the brood and honey (carbohydrates) to energize the bees to forage and to produce heat to keep the brood warm. Early pollen sources will become available, but the weather must be favorable for the bees to forage. The bees may well need assistance with supplemental protein for brood raising as well as a source of carbohydrates for themselves.

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

**Continue to monitor the food stores available to your colonies.** Checking the weight of hives by lifting/tilting from the rear may give you a sense of stores available. Unlike the super cold weather temperatures the bees have come through, warmer temps allow the cluster to relocate to available stores within the hive... if they are there. 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. Unless we have unseasonably warm day and night temperatures, it still is a bit early to transition to liquid feed. Providing pollen, pollen substitute, or pollen patties will provide needed protein for brood development.

**Check for activity at the hive on warmer days.** You should start seeing activity on warm days. Bees will be taking cleansing flights and some will even be out foraging. If things are going really well, you may even see some orientation flights by young bees. If you have seen no activity on the warmer days we have recently had, your bees didn't survive and it is time to get your bees ordered for 2021.



You may see some undertaker bees (they are the stiffer looking bees with dark tophats) dragging dead bees from the hive. Help them out by reaching into the entrance with a tool and scraping out some of the bodies. Try not to be too alarmed by the number of dead bees removed; your colony is still alive. Alternately, be alarmed....but it is too late to do anything about it now. Research, read, and ask others about how you might do things differently to improve your results next year. Keep in mind, though, your colony is still alive...have a cookie and enjoy the moment. Replace reducers and mouse guards afterwards. As the temperature warms up later in the month, remove hive wraps you may have installed last fall.

Order any additional colonies of bees you want for 2021...pronto.....time is running out!

#### ***For New Beekeepers just getting started this year:***

**Continue to Read, Study, and Learn....** Before you know it Bee Arrival Day will be upon us! Books, Periodicals, Classes, Club Meetings, Internet (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). Listen to some Podcasts. All of these will help. Bee Arrival Day and the culmination of all the nervous anticipation of hiving your first colony of bees will be here before you know it!

**Get a Mentor from the Bee Club.** The first step is to ask for help. There will be willing members.

**Get a Mentor from the Bee Club. ...did I already say that? It bears repeating.**

**GET A MENTOR FROM THE BEE CLUB.**

**Order your equipment, tools, and protective clothing.** See February Chores.

**Your bees should be ordered by now.** If not, you need to scramble. See February Chores for additional details.

**Assemble and paint your equipment.** No time to waste now. Bee Arrival Day is coming. It's fun, and you can be creative with your painting...don't be creative on the equipment assembly though, follow instructions. The bees will appreciate it.

**Tip:** Put dates (month/year) on your frames to keep track of their age to help in annual comb replacement.

**Prepare your apiary location.** Determine what you will use as hive stands. Make sure that the platform is reasonably level. Consider your mowing/trimming needs for the summer and position hives accordingly.

### ***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 submitting pictures of a frame or two (brood frames) to the ISBA sponsored 'Winter Deadout' virtual meeting on March 19. Sign up for the ISBA Winter Deadout Workshop and hear what Dewey Caron has to say.

**Replace old frames or combs that have too many years on them.** Commit to making this an annual effort by replacing at least 20% annually (oldest first). That will keep you from having any combs older than 5 years. Some more progressive beekeepers strive to get on a 3-year rotation of comb. To do that, replace a third of the comb each year. Note: Develop the habit of marking your frames with the month/year that you put them in use. It is a process that will help you maintain the discipline of comb rotation.

### ***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....this is a very important issue for beekeepers, though probably not thought about enough.***

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 packages every year).
- Learn to create and use nucleus colonies to overwinter more colonies.
- Learn to raise my own queens.
- Learn to produce comb honey, e.g., Ross Rounds, cut comb honey, chunk honey, section boxes.
- Learn to produce Creamed Honey.
- Learn to make Mead (like a Viking!....or a Monk for those with a more introspective demeanor)
- 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 March is a **hopefully** live hive in April....we still have another tough month 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 now March. Get ahead of your season.  
Plan, Read, Study, Learn. Now is the time!  
Bee Arrival Day is coming soon!**



## THINGS TO DO WHILE WAITING FOR SPRING

Larry Krengel

Are you having a hard time sleeping in the Covid limited life? Sometimes having little activity makes sleep hard to come by. Consider reading USDA Agricultural Handbook no. 335 – Beekeeping in the United States. This was written in 1967, pre-varroa. It is surprising how good the information is even though it is more than 50 years old. Beekeeping is more the same than different today.

<https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/CAT87208707/PDF>

It is rather long and likely not worth printing out for your bookshelf, but check out page 104 for the government's take on bee stings or page 27 for thoughts on running a two-queen colony. I have always thought that if John Wayne were a beekeeper, he would run two queen colonies.

Sigmund Freud (how did he get into a discussion about bees?) wrote about a number of ego defense mechanisms. We often accuse each other of using one of them – rationalization. After a person has behaved in a certain way, they need to establish a reason for that behavior – rationalization. Why did you pass that car? Why did you give that beggar five dollars? Well... why did you start keeping bees?

And... why are you drawn back to spend time with the bees? NIBA is giving its members a chance to rationalize the time and money they invest in keeping bees. Consider sharing your rationalization – in 100 words or less. It might be quite interesting to one when they ponder this question. Your rationalization can be shared with your fellow NIBA members by sending it to [WhyIKeepBees@gmail.com](mailto:WhyIKeepBees@gmail.com). The best (determined by a “totally unbiased” panel) will receive a beautiful copper smoker as a thank you for sharing. Freud would find this intriguing.

This month's **Winter Deadout Workshop** has become wildly popular. Dr. Dewey Caron will lead us through a postmortem of some of this winter's local colony casualties. More information on and registration for the March 19 workshop is available on [NIBAINFO.org](http://NIBAINFO.org).

McHenry County College will offer a two-session beeyard class. In the first class a package of bees will be installed. The second class will be an inspection of the newly established colony. The dates are Saturdays, April 10 and 24. The class code for Beekeeping Field Study is NPG S39 001. Register at MCC - [www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment](http://www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment) or call (815) 455-8588.

## TALKING TO DEFENSIVE BEES

Larry Krengel

I received an email asking if bees are normally aggressive this time of the year. He had an encounter of the stinging kind recently. As always, I say bees are generally not aggressive, but defensive. If we give them reason to feel threatened, they will break out the stingers.

I understand this person's question. Here are a couple of thoughts that might help this time of the year. I generally look for a day over 50 degrees to really open my hive and even then lots of sun and little wind are a plus. The bees are trying to keep the brood area warm and often the queen has moved the brood operation up into the top of the hive this time of the year. Also, when the bees are up top, as you open the hive there is quite a gathered group to deal with, and the cool air gets their attention. Smoking the landing board is for naught. I lift the outer cover slightly and use a bit of smoke to encourage any bees on the top of the inner cover to move down. I give them time to move. They will move, but it takes a few moments. Patience will pay a bonus. After taking the outer cover off, I will use smoke sparingly through the hole in the inner cover and lift the inner cover gently to puff a bit of smoke under it. Did I say patience is good... again, I tend to wait. The bees will cooperate, but at their own pace.

With that approach I will have fewer bees to deal with. Once inside, I try to move slowly.... And talk to the bees. Yes, I talk to the bees and they answer. As I spent more years with the bees, they talked to me more and more.

Answering the emailer directly, I don't sense that the bees are more hostile this time of the year as long as we show respect to the bees and the season of the year. Things are different now than they will be in June. Try talking. It might help.

The emailer also mentions that he felt the need to back off and put his hood up. Good move. Part of learning to talk with the bees is realizing there are times when it is best to back off. I don't let pride get in the way. As a beekeeper, I need to read the bees and respect their moment. It is not a duel, but a time when patience is useful.





**NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
2021 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Affiliated with the Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA)

Check one:  Renewal Membership      New  Membership

Check one:  Individual Membership - \$20       Family Membership - \$30

(Includes Single Membership in the Illinois State Beekeepers Association, additional ISBA memberships, \$10 each)

**If applying after April 1, 2021 and you are a renewing member, please add \$5.00.**

Name(s):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:		
Email address (if family membership, include all emails. Newsletter will be sent to all emails):		

Yes, I would like a **black and white** paper copy of the newsletter mailed to me, add \$10 for handling.

Yes, I would like to order a NIBA name tag(s), add \$10 per name tag.

**Name tag(s) should read (please print):**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us more about yourself:

I have been a NIBA Member since \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

I plan to have \_\_\_\_\_ colonies/hives this season I

have been a beekeeper for about \_\_\_\_\_ years

I am a Master Gardener/Beekeeper \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that applies:

I sell honey \_\_\_ willing to Coach/Mentor \_\_\_ Swarm Catcher \_\_\_ willing to remove Bees from buildings \_\_\_

Personal skills I would be willing to donate to NIBA (i.e. Beekeeping experience, accounting, webmaster, event planning, community education, carpentry, legal, business management, retail knowledge, other)

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete this form and mail with **check payable to: NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION (NIBA)**  
TO: NIBA Membership, c/o Ralph Brindise, 517 Northlake Road, Lakemoor, IL 60051

## 2021 NIBA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President – Tom Allen  
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Webmaster – Terri Reeves  
Newsletter Editor – Marianne Hill  
Club Extractor Coordinator – Randy Mead  
Club Raffle Coordinator – John Leibinger  
Snack Coordinators – Cathy Davis & Phil Webb

## Website and Newsletter Submissions

[www.nibainfo.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 847-571-1899 or [rmeadtoys@gmail.com](mailto: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 preparing for each season, robbing, etc. And LOTS of pictures!

Join the fun today!

The queen marking  
color for 2020 is  
**WHITE.**

