



SWEET STUFF

NIBA NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Allen

Someone really made Mother Nature upset this year! We have some days near 70 degrees and we get snow the next day. If we're confused think about how confused our bees are! They just adapt and hopefully adjust to the current weather conditions. I've heard from quite a few people who still have bees in more than half of their hives which is encouraging. Others have told me they had hives that were fine in early February but all dead in the last week. When we have multiple hives, we try to treat them all the same, from feedings to mite treatments and honey extraction. So why do some make it through the winter and some don't is a question that comes up? The truth is when we get our bees each package and nuc is different and we notice little things as time goes on and maybe those differences are more important than we know? We might feed one longer than the other or notice that the colony's numbers don't get as high as the other one but we don't usually go deeper than that. We usually adjust what we do trying to get both colonies to be equal as time goes on. Maybe it's these smaller differences that determine if a colony will overwinter or not, look back at your records to see if there were clues you didn't notice that determined a colony wasn't strong enough to overwinter.

This month our meeting is hosting vendor night so if you need more equipment this is a night to attend.

We will be holding two special raffles in March and April. One will be for a 3-pound package of bees donated by Dave Meyer of Meyer Bees. The other will be for tickets donated by Marcin for the two-day Randy Oliver event in April at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

I hope to see you at the meeting!

Tom



2024 Bee Forum

Garfield Park Conservatory's 15th Annual Bee Forum will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2024 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Randy Oliver will be presenting "*The ins and outs of practical beekeeping*".

Randy Oliver is probably the most recognizable beekeeper in the world right now and GPCA is excited to have him back in Chicago this year. If you're a beekeeper then you know how incredible beekeeping can be, but you also know how incredibly frustrating keeping bees can be. Randy's goal during the presentation will be to help beekeepers understand why bees behave the way they do and apply that to their daily beekeeping. Registration and more info at <https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/15th-annual-bee-forum/>

On Saturday April 27th Randy will lead a hands-on class that will cover topics ranging from disease identification to queen and colony health assessment to maximizing honey production. There will be 2 classes offered, each lasting 90 minutes, and mostly covering the same topics. To learn more and register for the hands-on class visit <https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/hands-on-beekeeping-class/>. Space is limited for the classes, so register early to reserve your spot.

The Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association will have two individual tickets for the 4/28 Bee Forum that will be raffled off



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program

Overview

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) authorized the use of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds for the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP). ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, such as losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

The 2018 Farm Bill amended certain provisions related to ELAP effective with the 2019 program year. Those amendments included:

- removing ELAP from the combined ELAP and LFP maximum per person and legal entity payment limitation for the 2019 and subsequent program years;
- providing reimbursement of 90 percent of the cost of losses for socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, or veteran farmer or rancher;
- in addition to covering the cost related to gathering livestock to treat for cattle tick fever, ELAP will now cover the cost related to gathering livestock to inspect for cattle tick fever;
- no longer covering livestock death losses due to diseases that are caused or transmitted by a vector and are not controlled by vaccination or an acceptable management practice. The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes these diseases under LIP.

ELAP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

What Is Eligible?

Eligible Losses

ELAP provides assistance for livestock feed and grazing losses that are not due to drought or wildfires on federally managed lands; losses resulting from the cost of transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought; losses resulting from the additional cost associated with gathering livestock for treatment and/or inspection related to cattle tick fever, honeybee feed, colony and hive losses; and farm-raised fish feed and death losses. ELAP also helps ranchers cover above normal costs of hauling feed to livestock and hauling livestock to forage or other grazing acres due to a qualifying drought.



Eligibility Requirements and Payment Calculations

For additional information regarding eligibility requirements and payment calculations for a specific type of livestock, honeybee and/or farm-raised fish loss, see the ELAP - Farm-Raised Fish Assistance, ELAP - Honeybee Assistance or ELAP - Livestock Assistance fact sheet at fsa.usda.gov/ELAP.

Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning, or Veteran Farmers or Ranchers

An eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish producer who certifies they are socially disadvantaged, limited resource, beginning, or a veteran farmer or rancher will receive 90 percent of the payment rate for the losses under ELAP.

Payment Limitations

The 2018 Farm Bill removed ELAP from a combined \$125,000 payment limitation under ELAP and LFP. Therefore, effective for 2019 and subsequent program years, payment limitation does not apply to ELAP benefits. The average adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation relating to limits on payments for persons or legal entities, excluding joint ventures and general partnerships, with certain levels of AGI apply. Specifically, a person or legal entity with an AGI (as defined in 7 CFR Part 1400) that exceeds \$900,000 is not eligible to receive ELAP payments.

Direct attribution provisions also apply to ELAP. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will also be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity. To learn more, visit the Payment Eligibility and Payment Limitations fact sheet at fsa.usda.gov/payment-limitations.

How it Works

Applying for Assistance

Producers can apply to receive ELAP assistance at local FSA service centers. The ELAP application period ends Dec. 31 of each calendar year.

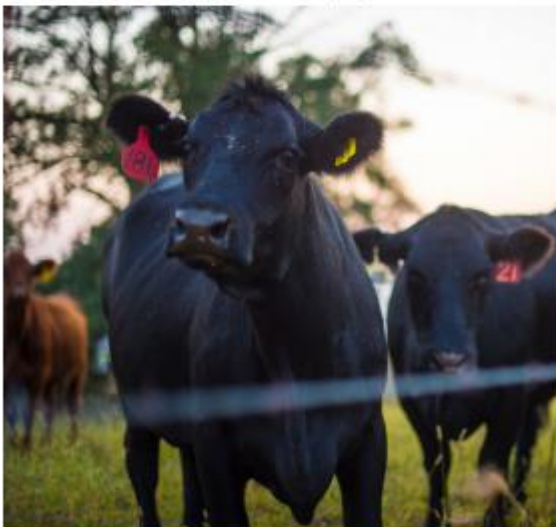
In addition to submitting an application for payment, producers who suffered losses must submit a notice of loss to the local FSA service center that maintains the farm records for their business.

The following table provides the final dates to file a notice of loss and application for payment for losses.

Date of Loss	Final Date to File Notice of Loss	Final Date to Submit an Application for Payment
For Program years 2019 through 2022 Within Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	For honeybee losses, 15 days after loss is apparent. For Livestock and farm-raised fish losses, 30 days after loss is apparent For producers applying for livestock, feed and water hauling the loss apparent date may be extended back if the county is in an eligible drought designation during the grazing season.	Jan 30 after the program year in which the loss occurred.
For program year 2023 and subsequent years, within Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	Jan 30 after the program year in which the loss occurred.	Jan 30 after the program year in which the loss occurred.

More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information about ELAP, visit fsa.usda.gov/ELAP or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit farmers.gov.



Not All Swarms Are Created Equal

Larry Krengel

Not all swarms are created equal. I recently bumped into an old-time beekeeper while in the UP of Michigan. He asked me if I knew where he could buy a swarm. Interesting. To me a swarm hangs in a tree and you don't have to buy it. We have gotten away from using that term as it was used back in beekeeping history, back in the era before packages of bees.

The term swarm has been around for a long time making its origin difficult to pinpoint. Back in the Middle Ages – when bees were popular as the lone source of sweetness – the term swarm was associated with agitated and confused. In old German the term was swaram. The Vikings used the term svarmr that translated to mean tumult. The old meanings seem to reflect the appearance of chaos in the natural swarm... a human evaluation. To the bees, it is but business as usual.

In the Langstroth times a swarm was specific to the mass of bees that left a parent hive to create a daughter colony. It was a natural swarm. At some time along the beekeeping journey, the idea of a “shook” swarm appeared as a means of forcing the splitting of a colony to develop additional bee holdings. The beekeeper would shake some of the bees from one colony into an empty hive box (or skep or bee gum) hoping to develop a new colony. With the understanding of the nature of queens and queen development, we got better at shook swarms. Seldom do we hear the term used that way anymore. Today's packaged bees are a refinement... maybe an industrialization... of the shook swarm. We now acquire packages rather than swarms.

A package is not like a natural swarm. The “attitude” of that natural swarm is very different from that of an artificial swarm. The natural swarm has a native allegiance to the old queen that joins in the swarm. The members of the swarm share pheromones from having previously had a shared abode. The workers that join the swarm have gorged themselves on honey needed to start the comb in the new residence. It's the bee version of Thanksgiving dinner. Instead of sleeping off the full stomach, the bees hang patiently in a tree. Being full of honey they tend to be quite docile. There is a genetic directive to aggressively build comb in the new residence as soon as the site is chosen.

The package of bees – a shook swarm - is shaken from a variety of colonies having varied pheromones. There is no primitive directive to choose sides – who stays and who goes in the swarm - and to prepare to swarm. They do not necessarily come from the same parent colony. The new queen in the package is foreign to all the workers. The worker bees in the swarm have not been forewarned to take a stomach full of honey along. The genetic mandate that excites and incites a natural swarm is not present.

A natural swarm builds comb at numbing speed. A package of bees will build comb out of necessity, not passion. If a natural and an artificial swarm are set side by side in a comb building race, my money is on the natural swarm.

Now that I have extolled the virtues of Mother Nature's swarm and cast dispersions on the shook variety, I will admit the reality of today's American backyard beekeeper requires the use of the packaged swarm.

To my UP beekeeping friend, the swarm you asked for is not really a swarm. It is an artificial creature – a Frankenstein of a real swarm.

When we create and install a package of honeybees, we place the bees in a situation with multiple stresses and challenges. The first of which is to meet and accept a queen that is foreign to every bee. Bees live most of their life in dark communicating with pheromones. In a functioning hive, the queen provides a pheromone announcing her presence and assuring the colony that they are queen right. In the package that message must be reestablished centered on the new queen who is travelling with the shook swarm in her royal cage.

The workers had no forewarning of the impending shaking. Unlike the natural swarm, they will not have a full stomach for the trek. All ten or so thousand workers have to survive on a can of sugar water with three little holes.

When the package is hived, they will need to begin producing comb, a task that older bees are not generally asked to perform. Both nectar and pollen are needed post haste. The age-related jobs – house bees, nurses, foragers - in the hive are in disarray. It is a stressful situation.

Perhaps an understanding of the significant stress placed on swarms might allow us to cut the package bees a little slack. Just a couple of thoughts of how to ease the stress on the new colony.

1. Install a package promptly.
2. Slow release the queen.
3. Offer the new group food and pollen.
4. Initially use a follower board to limit the brood space.
5. Consider installing the package in a nuc box first.
6. Provide drawn comb.
7. Use wax not plastic foundation.
8. Resist using caustic mite treatments while bees accommodate.
9. Keep screened bottom boards closed.
10. Move slow. Speak gently.

I have had the opportunity to visit and talk with beekeepers from the UK who have a longer beekeeping history than we Americans. They find the dependence of US beekeepers on packages of bees to be strange... even offensive. I sense that they look down on any of their group who buys a package. I know of no UK package producers. It seems any packages sold there are imported, often from Italy. They accentuate sustainable beekeeping. The goal is for a beekeeper or a local group to satisfy their need for replacement colonies with splits of existing colonies. That is a very appealing idea. Each year, I buy some bees. It makes life easier and helps with having strong colonies for producing good honey crops. Yet, the idea of being self-sufficient is quite alluring – a new lifestyle. Perhaps a good goal to work towards.

WORKFORCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Community Education—Spring 2024



BEEKEEPING

7 Ways To Raise A Queen

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 learn 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 **Larry Krengel**
 In person
 # [6952](#) W 3/6 7-9:30 p.m. Shah Center
 Remote
 # [6953](#) W 3/6 7-9:30 p.m. Remote

Comb Honey

Comb honey is old fashioned honey harvested in the bees own wax case. A hundred years ago honey was removed from the hive and eaten in the comb. Today, extracted honey (honey in the jar) is the norm. This course is an opportunity to return to the old (and some contend the healthiest) way of harvesting honey. Producing honey in the comb is a beekeeping challenge, an old fashioned challenge explored in this class.

Fee: \$25 **Larry Krengel**
 In person
 # [6958](#) W 3/13 7-9:30 p.m. Shah Center
 Remote
 # [6959](#) W 3/13 7-9:30 p.m. Remote

Beekeeping Field Study

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 **Larry Krengel**
 # [6960](#) Sa 4/6, 4/13 10 a.m.–Noon MCC
 # [6961](#) Sa 4/6, 4/13 1-3 p.m. MCC Honey Tasting:

A Sensory Analysis of Honey

Honey takes a long journey before it lands in your jar. The final product can be affected by many variables, including the local climate, botanical sources and the honeybees who visit them, and the activity of beekeepers. In this class, we will study varietal honeys using our senses of sight, smell, taste, and touch to fully appreciate the selection of these honeys. We will approach honey tasting as a sensory journey as we review at least five varietal honeys and compare their flavors and profile differences. We will also review and discuss: a Honey Sensory Wheel and how that impacts fragrances within the honey; how to more finely tune our senses to appreciate our local varietals of honey; how honeys acquire certain aromas that often differ from what we would expect; methods of tasting the full balance of flavors of these honeys; how to appreciate the different textures of honey and their impact on our taste buds; and sample 20+ varieties of handcrafted local honeys (creamed, infused, raw, and barrel-aged) and other honey-based products (honey sauces, mustards, and honey hot sauces). Students will receive their own Honey Sensory Booklet for future tastings.

Fee: \$39 **Frank Moriarty**
 # [8198](#) T 5/7 6-8 p.m. SCC



To register for a class, scan the QR code, visit www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment, or call (815) 455-8588.

For more information, please contact personaldevelopment@mchenry.edu



NIBA 2024 PACKAGED BEE ORDER FORM

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2024

*Name(s):		*Phone:	
*Email:			

***Required Fields**

Please read and initial below – checks will be returned if not initialed.

The undersigned acknowledges that NIBA will transport bee packages from the supplier in Wisconsin to a drop-off point in Illinois. The undersigned agrees that NIBA is not responsible for any damage to the bees or cages during the transport and distribution of the same. The undersigned understands that he/she remains at all times, free to order and pick-up bees from alternate suppliers of their choice.

I agree with the above statement regarding NIBA’s Packaged Bee delivery: _____ INITIAL HERE

NIBA is pleased to offer this group bee order as one of the benefits of membership. Therefore, your 2024 NIBA dues must be paid prior to your order being processed, **please use separate checks for bee orders and membership**. Mail your membership forms to the designated address. We will return orders received from non-members. We will order 250 packages of bees and 100 nucleus colonies (NUCs). **Orders will be taken on a first-come first-served basis until all 350 units are sold.**

- Package Price: \$135 each, package contains approximately 3 pounds of bees and a queen.
- 5-Frame NUC Price: \$170 each

Order Information:

My package order preference is given below. I understand the actual delivery timing is determined by many factors including weather and producer availability.

Order Type	Quantity	Queen Preference/Quantity	Price per unit	Total
3 LB Package Pick Up (Targeting mid-April)		Italian _____ Carniolan _____ Russian/Italian Hybrid _____	X \$135	\$
Nucleus Colony Pick Up (Targeting late April/early May)		Italian Only	X \$170	\$
			Grand Total Due	\$

Make checks payable to Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association (NIBA)

Queen selection provides club direction only; the club will receive queens as provided by producers. I understand queens are available on a first-come first-served basis and I may not receive the queen of my preference indicated above: _____ **INITIAL HERE**. We will do our best to accommodate all requests, but queen availability is determined by package suppliers. You may mix and match your queens.

The exact date and time for delivery and pickup will be communicated via the email address above. If you do not have email, you will be contacted at the phone number you provided above. **Orders must be picked up on day of delivery, NO EXCEPTIONS. You must designate someone else to pick them up if you are unavailable.**

Complete and mail order form and check (**NO CASH PLEASE!!!**) payable to: NIBA 517 Northlake Road, Lakemoor, IL 60051. Contact Ralph Brindise at rbrindise@att.net or (847) 970-0669 with any questions.

Bee Club Board Member Use Only
Bees Received: _____

Order No _____
Date received _____
Check # _____ / Amt _____

Chores of the Month – March

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 (pollen patties/pollen substitute) for brood raising as well as a source of carbohydrates (sugar/sugar syrup only if warm enough) 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 may be 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. We saw that on a number of days in February this year. 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 (maybe past time) to get your bees ordered for 2024.



You may see some undertaker bees (they are the stiffer looking bees with dark top hats) 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. ...have a cookie and enjoy the moment. Alternately, if you don't see dead bees being dragged out, and you are the one scraping out all the dead, be alarmed but it is too late to do anything about it now except to get your order in for some new bees. Research, read, and ask others about how you might do things differently to improve your results next year. Replace reducers and mouse guards afterwards. As the temperature warms up later in the month, you should be able to remove the mouse guards and increase the opening at the entrance.

Order any additional colonies of bees you want for 2024...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 having 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 Day 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 bringing pictures (or the frames themselves) of a frame or two (brood frames) to the club meeting and get some other experienced eyes to take a look.

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 combs 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 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 washed your suit recently?

*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.... 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 or nucs every year).

-Learn to create and use nucleus colonies to overwinter 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, 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.

-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 March is a **hopefully** live hive in April....we still have another tough month to go.... don't be caught bee-less in April.

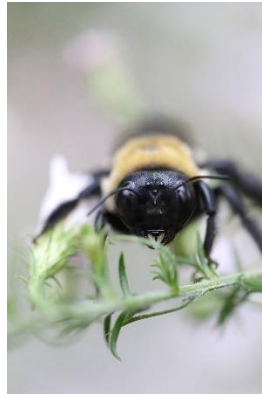
-Order as early as possible to reserve your bees. Packages or Nucs? Decisions, decisions.....

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!

Like the bees we study, we accomplish more together.

John Leibinger



10 FUN FACTS ABOUT BEES:

1. The reason bees are so noisy is because they beat their wings 11,400 times in one minute!
2. Only female bees can sting. Male bees don't have stingers.
3. Honey bees communicate through a series of dance moves.
4. A hive of bees will fly over 55,000 miles to make 1lb of honey and can create 100lbs of honey in a year.
5. Bees can sense the hormone a human gives off when they're scared. If they feel their hive is threatened, they'll attack.
6. The Honey Bee is the only insect that makes food man can eat.
7. Each Honey Bee from the same hive has their own specific color identification.
8. The Ancient Egyptian King Pepy II came up with a clever insect repellent. He would cover a slave completely with honey so they would be attracted to the honey and not him.
9. Eating honey makes you smarter! It has an antioxidant that improves brain functions.
10. 1 bee has 5 eyes! Check them out in the photo above.

2024 NIBA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President – Tom Allen

tallen122@yahoo.com

Vice President – Ryan Harrison

rharrison74@gmail.com

Secretary – Kristen Mueller

khuschitt@gmail.com

Treasurer - Ralph Brindise

rbrindise@att.net

Director - John Leibinger

jleibinger@aol.com

Director - Al Fullerton

adfhone@gmail.com

Director – Andre Szechowycz

aszzech804@gmail.com

Program Chair – Larry Krengel

Webmaster – Terri Reeves

Newsletter Editor – Sue Pinkawa

Club Extractor Coordinator – Al Fullerton

Club Raffle Coordinator – John Leibinger

Snack Coordinator – Robin Tibbits

Honey Extractor

Did you know that your membership in NIBA includes the opportunity to rent one of the clubs 3 honey extractors?

Two of the extractors are manual, a 4 frame a 3 frame. The third is motorized and is capable of extracting both sides of 9 frames at a time.

Rental fee for either of the manual extractor is \$10.00 for 3 days with a \$10.00 security deposit. The electric (motorized) 9 frame extractor costs \$25.00 to rent for 2 days with a \$75.00 security deposit. Deposits will be returned if equipment is returned on time, clean, and undamaged.

The extractors come with most equipment needed to make the uncapping and extraction experiences go smoothly, except of course, the honey frames and buckets.

To reserve a date contact Al Fullerton by phone or text at 815-382-7139 or email adfhone@gmail.com, if you don't get a timely response, just phone. Pick it up in Cary Illinois.

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. spinkawa@gmail.com

**The queen marking color for
2024 is Green.**

