



SWEET STUFF

NIBA NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Allen

It's February 1st as I write this and the weather is still kinda bipolar. We had some cold weather a week or so ago but then it was warm and rainy. The bees have had a chance to be out doing cleansing flights and maybe even out looking for some pollen and nectar for the colony. Please check on your bees, make sure they have food and see how strong the colony is. A warm February can be a time for the queen to start ramping up getting ready to begin laying eggs so maybe make sure they have a pollen patty and sugar or some type of food to make sure this can begin if the temperature gets warm enough but it's raining and they can't fly. I have heard very recently from some NIBA members that they checked on their bees about 2 weeks ago and now the colony is dead. Mother nature can be cruel and maybe because of these weather changes we lose hives late in the winter. This happened to me twice, I thought my colonies were going to make it through the winter only to find just a week after I had done a quick inspection the colonies were dead. Don't get discouraged, researchers are continuing to work on ways to get bees healthier and ways to mitigate the varroa mite.

Our last meeting had to be moved to the Leucht Auditorium at the last minute because of a double booking mistake for the conference center. I want to thank you for your understanding, it was kind of a long walk from our usual meeting rooms. I thought our speakers did a great job and both Jerry and Dennis had quite a few people lined up to talk to them after the meeting. We began our door prize raffle for this quarter, if you make a meeting in person you get a ticket towards a larger raffle prize which will be awarded at the March meeting.

NIBA is looking for volunteers for 3 areas

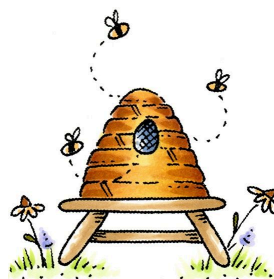
The 1st is for a hive manager for the NIBA hives at MCC. One person can oversee a small group of people to check on the hives and make sure they're healthy, that the mite counts are done and treatments done when necessary. Ideally go through the hives once a month to make sure things are going well.

The 2nd is someone to lead the mentor sessions, this could also be a small group of people but one person should be the lead. Board members and other NIBA members can also help out during the mentor sessions so no one is overwhelmed. Mentor sessions should be held once a month and it should be done in conjunction with the hive manager so each group knows that any necessary work gets done.

The 3rd is for someone to run the McHenry County Fair booth setup and see to the day to day needs of the booth. I will help out with information from previous years, but I want to distance myself from running the fair. In my opinion more than one person in a club like ours should know how to run something as big as the fair. I had some great help last year and I'd like to expand on it this year. It would be nice to have one person be the point of contact and a small group of people to help run things and report to that person.

I'm typing with one hand because I had shoulder replacement surgery a couple of weeks ago and my arm is in a sling. Getting old isn't for the faint of heart! I hope to see you at the February 13th meeting.

Tom



**Bee classes at
McHenry County College
Seven Ways to Raise a Queen**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Course number : NPG-S83 ID : 9697 Section Number : 001

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 successful 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 record of winter survival, good temperament, and excellent honey production.

Register here -

https://mchenry.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassInfo.ClassInformation&int_class_id=9697&int_category_id=7&int_sub_category_id=38&int_catalog_id=3



Free bees for military veterans

Hi all,

*Are you a military veteran who is looking to get into beekeeping? Or do you know a veteran who wants to start keeping bees in 2025? If you answered yes, then please fill out this [form](#) for a chance to receive a free nucleous colony in 2025. I'll be offering up to 20 free nucs in spring 2025, and while no one is excluded from applying, **high priority will be given to those who belong to a beekeeping association and have taken a beekeeping class in the past 2 years.***

In the past I've received way more requests that I had nucs available, so I had to put in some guidelines to accommodate those who want to actively engage in beekeeping beyond "cool thing to do few times a year".

Thanks and happy beekeeping in 2025!

Marcin

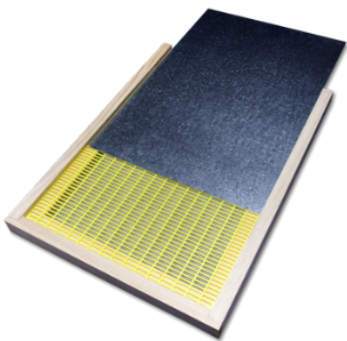
A summer project in the NIBA beeyard

Larry Kregel

I keep bees for the enjoyment. Nicely, I don't make a living doing it. I enjoy the company of the bees and realize that I will never be a perfect beekeeper. I am a student of the bees and, it is hoped, continually becoming a more skilled beekeeper. Much of my fun in the beeyard comes from presenting the bees and their keeper with challenges. Likely we are both better for it.

Queen rearing is the paramount challenge in the panorama of beekeeping. The queen is the heart of a colony and when she feels great and does great, the colony succeeds. For each beekeeper, harvesting honey, thwarting a swarm, and avoiding the sting are interesting challenges, but the pride of creating a queen in concert with the bees cannot be beat. It is honestly the colony that creates the new queen, but the beekeeper sets the stage and provides the impetus. To rear a queen a keeper needs little equipment, but must have the biological insight and an understanding the ways of the bees. The beekeeper sets the stage... and the bees take it from there.

Since the arrival of the moveable frame hive 170 years ago, there have been many methods of queen rearing developed, often named after the inventor – Miller, Doolittle, Heddon, Smith, Alley, and Hopkins, just to name a few.



This spring in the NIBA beeyard I will use another system to raise honeybee queens – The Cloake board system – developed by Harry Cloake. Beekeepers are known to be inventive. Harry was a good example. Using Harry's board between two deep hive bodies of a strong colony, one can create more queens than most backyard beekeeper can use. Having too many queens is a nice problem.

This summer, a challenge to my bees... and me. I look forward to it.

I asked my AI Copilot about rearing honeybee queens. Its answer was surprisingly short. "Raising queens is the art of nurturing the heart of the hive." Amen.

XXX

Larry

Chores of the Month – February 2025

Like the bees we study, we accomplish more together

John Leibinger

What's happening in and around the hive?

Another strange winter. As I am writing this in late January it's raining (McHeli has been nearly no snow this year and the only snow in the forecast is two weeks like the first weekend of February will bring some milder weather, maybe ever. The weather seems to be normalizing (except for the snow issue). Our winter, so far, has been a good news/bad news situation. We have had a lot of temperature fluctuations which can be tough on colonies. The generally warmer weather means greater consumption of stores which can be potentially bad news if the bees run out of food. On the other hand, it can offer the opportunity to get a little emergency feed on them if you find that they are getting a little light. No matter the weather, healthy overwintering colonies have already started raising small quantities of brood for the coming year so checking on their stores is a prudent thing to do. Their consumption of stores will ramp up SIGNIFICANTLY as they work to keep brood warm. Late 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 lead to greater ramping up of brood production. The brood will require warmth so the bees will be consuming even more stores (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 provide additional 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. On a warmer day, you can check for honey on frames adjacent to the outer edges of the cluster. You may be able to 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 sucrose based feed, e.g. dry sugar, sugar bricks, winter patties, fondant, candy board, etc., to help them through the remaining winter. It won't hurt to err on the side of adding too much feed. **Don't let your bees starve! It is preventable.** Later in the month, providing pollen/pollen sub or pollen patties may provide supplemental 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 (assuming we get some) 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, don't panic, 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. If we have a day in the 50s you should see some flying activity. This is not always true, but if you don't see anything, it warrants further investigation, particularly if you are needing to get an order for Spring bees put together.

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

Then, 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. You may want to start with mentoring via email, text, phone calls, or for the more tech savvy, video calls before the season starts. 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 too 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 likely 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 will be safer to get 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. **TRY TO LEARN SOMETHING** from your loss. See if you can determine what caused the problem so you can avoid repeating the problem in the coming year. Are there no bees at all? Did they abscond late in the Fall? Why? Possibly a failed queen? Mite overload? 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. Starvation? 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?

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.

Do you need to re-evaluate your equipment to be sure you have what you need to achieve your goals (see A. above)?

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, Set Goals. 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!



....and I don't mean having a colony die and go from 4 to 3!

Has a bee ever
landed on you, and instead of
getting scared, you appreciate
the possibility that you got
confused for a flower.



COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT CENTER SPRING 2025



BEEKEEPING

Beekeeping 101

Keeping honeybees is fascinating. Bees will pollinate your garden and provide a sweet crop of honey. In this class, you will learn where to start as a keeper of bees. We'll cover bee biology, modern beekeeping techniques, construction of hives, and how to acquire bees. Keep bees for the fun of it, as a sideline job, or to help your garden and orchard.

Fee: \$75

Larry Kregel

In person

[9695](#) W 2/5–2/26 7–9:30 p.m. Catalyst Campus

Remote

[9696](#) W 2/5–2/26 7–9:30 p.m. Remote

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 Kregel

In person

[9697](#) W 3/5 7–9:30 p.m. Catalyst Campus

Remote

[9698](#) W 3/5 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 Kregel

In person

[9699](#) W 3/12 7–9:30 p.m. Catalyst Campus

Remote

[9700](#) W 3/12 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 Kregel

[9799](#)

Sa 4/5, 4/12 10 a.m.–Noon

MCC

[9800](#)

Sa 4/5, 4/12 1–3 p.m.

MCC

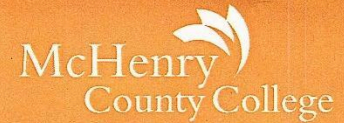


To register for a class, scan the QR code, visit www.mchenry.edu/personaldevelopment, or call (815) 455-8588.

For more information, please contact the Community Enrichment Center at personaldevelopment@mchenry.edu or (815) 455-8758

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT CENTER

SPRING 2025



Varroa Mite: Know Your Enemy

Enemy #1 in the honeybee world is Varroa Destructor – the varroa mite. Understanding how the biology of the honeybee and that of the varroa mite intersect is important to successful beekeeping in today's world. This mite attaches to honeybees and their larva weakening them and passing on deadly viruses. A successful strategy for control of these mites is critical to the survival of a honeybee colony. This class will discuss the history, the biology and the control of Varroa Destructor.

Fee: \$25

Larry Krengel

In person

[9910](#) W 4/9 7–9:30 p.m. Catalyst Campus

Remote

[10512](#) W 4/9 7–9:30 p.m. Remote

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: \$45

Frank Moriarty

[10513](#) T 5/6 6–8 p.m. Catalyst Campus

Buzzing Beauty: DIY Beeswax Lip Balm Workshop

Join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll learn to create your own natural lip balms using beeswax. Discover the benefits of beeswax and explore a variety of essential oils and natural ingredients to customize your balms. This workshop will cover the entire process, from melting and mixing to pouring and packaging, ensuring you leave with your own personalized lip balm to take home. Perfect for beginners and anyone interested in natural skincare, this fun and informative session will have you crafting your own lip care products in no time. All materials will be provided.

Fee: \$39

Stephanie Slater

[10404](#) W 4/16 6–8 p.m. Catalyst Campus



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

For more information, please contact the Community Enrichment Center at personaldevelopment@mchenry.edu or (815) 455-8758



NIBA 2025 PACKAGED BEE ORDER FORM

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2025

*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 2025 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: \$147 each- package contains approximately 3 pounds of bees and a queen.
- 5-Frame NUC Price: \$ 175 each
- Queens \$38 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 early/mid-April)		Italian _____ Carniolan _____ Buckfast _____	\$147.00	\$
Nucleus Colony Pick Up (Targeting Mid/late April)		Italian _____ Carniolan _____ Buckfast _____	\$175.00	\$
Mated Queens		Italian _____ Carniolan _____ Buckfast _____	\$38.00	
			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** c/o Sue Pinkawa, 5010 Bonner Drive, McHenry, IL 60050. Contact Sue at spinkawa@gmail.com or (815-355-4630) - with any questions.

2025 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Affiliated with the Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA)

Check one: ☐ Renewal Individual Membership - \$20 ☐ Renewal Family Membership - \$30Check one: ☐ **NEW** Individual Membership - \$25 ☐ **NEW** Family Membership - \$35

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

If applying after February 28, 2025, 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 to order a NIBA name tag(s), add \$16.95 per order (which includes postage).**

Name tag(s) should read as follows (please print clearly):

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 Sue Pinkawa, 5010 Bonner Drive, McHenry, IL 60050

2025 Midwest HoneyBee Expo

The 2025 Midwest HoneyBee Expo honey show was a success! We received 77 exhibits from 37 exhibitors from 5 Midwestern states.

Thank you to William Werning and Doug Koltermann for creating the event and hosting the honey show within.

And, THANK YOU to all of the exhibitors!

Here are the results:



Light Extracted Honey:

- ~ 2nd Place - Daniel Ranson
- ~ 3rd Place - Thom Pollock
- ~ Very Highly Commendable - David Engelbrecht



Amber Extracted Honey:

- ~ 2nd Place - David Engelbrecht
- ~ 3rd Place - Cristy Binz



Dark Extracted Honey:

- ~ 2nd Place - David Engelbrecht



Creamed Honey:

- ~ 3rd Place - Cory Crandall-Seibert



Section Comb Honey:

- ~ 1st Place - David Engelbrecht



Beeswax Block:

- ~ 1st Place - Dick Sturm
- ~ 2nd Place - Roger Myers



Six Identical Pieces of Beeswax:

- ~ Very Highly Commendable - Roger Myers
- ~ Highly Commendable - David Engelbrecht



Beeswax Candles:

- ~ Very Highly Commendable - Dick Sturm



Notions, Potions, & Lotions:

- ~ 1st Place - David Engelbrecht
- ~ 2nd Place - Nancy Burmeister



Photography Related to Beekeeping:

- ~ 2nd Place - Bryan Bergner
- ~ 3rd Place - Quentin Stedman



Honey Jar Label:

- ~ 1st Place - Eric Falkner
- ~ 2nd Place - Steve Otto
- ~ Bryan Bergner - 3rd Place
- ~ Very Highly Commendable - Roger Myers

🍯 Baked Items made with Honey:

- ~ 1st Place - Cristy Binz
- ~ 2nd Place - Dick Sturm
- ~ 3rd Place - Nicole Patino

🍯 Honey Condiments (spicy):

- ~ 1st Place - Nancy Burmeister

🏆 Black Jar - BEST TASTING HONEY IN THE MIDWEST - Mick Fry

🏆 Best in Show - Cristy Binz - Baked Items made with Honey

🏆 Sweepstakes - David Engelbrecht - 27 total points



2025 NIBA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President – Tom Allen

tallen122@yahoo.com

Vice President – Ralph Brindise

rbrindise@att.net

Secretary – Cristy Binz

cwebb429@gmail.com

Treasurer – Sue Pinkawa

spinkawa@gmail.com

Director - John Leibinger

jleibinger@aol.com

Director - Al Fullerton

adfhone@gmail.com

Director – Brandon Teresi

bteres10@yahoo.com

Director – Jim Jellissen

Jfjelli23@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 – Julianne Anderson

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

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.

The queen marking color for 2025 is Blue

