

CIBA President Newscast for November 2024 – delivered monthly when there's no BEELINE

*From the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) President:*

Hi Fellow CIBA members.

We do share a fun hobby/business of keeping livestock so they are healthy and productive in producing honey. It is a challenge to accomplish this without becoming discouraged. There are so many challenges. Just yesterday I talked with a beekeeper that has been keeping bees his entire life. He said he lost about half of his hives this fall -- this amounts to hundreds of hives. He thinks it was due to the Varroa parasite and the ineffectiveness of his treatments. So, to those hobby beekeepers and sideliners who have already lost hives this fall -- you are not alone.

I have lost several hives also and in my case there are two causes. One is robbing and the other is due to some bad advice that I should have known better. Even after 10 years of keeping bees and a devotion to learning every day from other beeks -- I lose hives. This is the challenge that faces all of us. Please pay attention to my Bee Bits. In some of them, I go over how to correct critical mistakes that I (and others) have made.

David Burns, a YouTube guru on keeping honey bees, said that out of 100 new beekeepers that in 4 years there will only be 4 beekeepers with bees. This is a huge loss -- only 4% remain. It would be interesting to even go further in this analysis that of those beekeepers how many were part of a bee group? I can honestly say that of the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association members, most are still keeping bees even after many years. Why? We focus on mentoring and providing unbiased information to our members and even nonmembers that want to come to our meetings.

Speaking of meetings --

**Our next meeting on Saturday November 16th at 1:00 PM.** Don Moody has lined up a presenter that is a **pollinator specialist**. Her name is Katelyn Rinicker. She joined Prairie Rivers of Iowa in July 2024. She is currently working on a grant project to restore monarch butterfly habitat on agricultural lands. She is also continuing the work of Prairie Rivers with the City of Ames Pollinator Friendly Community Plan. **Restoring habitat for our pollinators, like honey bees and monarchs, is going to be essential for them.**

The meeting will be at the Northridge Baptist Church in Des Moines, 3700 6th Ave., Des Moines. This, of course, is our normal meeting location. So, plan on coming with a lot of questions for Katelyn.

Check out the CIBA website for a good pic of Katelyn:

<https://www.centraliowabeekeepersassoc.org/meeting-november-2024>

Thanks for being a member.

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