

From the Central Iowa Beekeepers Association (CIBA) President:

Hi CIBA members:

Talk about an unusual winter -- moderate temps in December with temps (on a lot of days) in the 40's -- then the brutal blizzard conditions in the middle of January. But now, Jan/Feb thaw with temps in the 40's again.

Some of you may know Randy Oliver (an avid, well respected bee researcher: see scientificbeekeeping.com). I remember something he wrote that is important for us to think about with this current weather. The best overwintering temperature where the bees use the least amount of resources (honey reserves) is 40°F. Yes, 40!!! So, as we get closer to the end of winter -- if we maintain 40, the better for our bees.

I want to welcome to the Board of Directors our new Director, Scott Fiene. Scott and Lisa are new beekeepers from Ankeny and have been at most of our meetings this last year or so. They have a very active schedule with work and family commitments, but Scott is willing to participate in assisting the Board. Thank you, Scott!!

I also want to thank Don Moody for his continued dedication to serve as VP for 2024. Also, thanks Jim Crandell for his continued dedication as he serves another 3 years as Director and our Recording Secretary.

We have a member that stepped up at the end of the meeting in January that indicated that she is willing to serve as our membership secretary. We will need to follow-up with her to verify. She already does a LOT for CIBA by serving on the Food Committee for several years. I hope to announce her name in my next President's Newscast.

Now to continue with great news -- the Program Committee has been actively working on the CIBA Winter Seminar. The committee has a great venue lined up (the Iowa Arboretum) along with some very exciting and informative speakers. The venue only has space for up to 120 attendees, so we are offering our members the first chance to sign up along with a \$5 discount for being a member!! These are added benefits of being a member of your CIBA group. The full day seminar is on March 23rd, which is the fourth Saturday. The details of the Seminar are attached. Since, we are offering the seminar to CIBA membership first, you can sign up now by:

- Filling out the attached registration form [both a form that is "fill and print" (can be filled out on your computer, saved and/or printed) and a "print and fill" (print and then fill out by hand) form are attached] and send your form and check payment via mail (address on the registration form)

OR

- Use the "fill and print" registration form, save it and send an email with that form attached to: centraliowabeekeepers.treasurer@gmail.com and then go to PayPal and use that same email address as the "pay to" for the registration fee. Note: your registration can not be completed until both the registration form and payment are received.

There is no information, registration forms or other seminar details on the CIBA web page yet, but there will be starting February 12, 2024 when registration opens up to the general public. After Feb.12 there will be forms, links and updates on the CIBA web. CIBA will close registration once we reach that 120 sign-up number.

Finally, remember CIBA's annual beekeeping equipment auction (and sometimes other things) on the third Saturday of April. This is the 20th of April. Details, seller & buyer sign up and consignment forms will be on our CIBA website later this month. Now is the perfect time to be thinking of equipment that you will want to sell or what you may want to purchase.

Thanks for being a member. Your President

Jamie

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