



**COMMERCIAL KEEPER**  
**OCTOBER 17**  
CLASSIC CAFÉ



**TBOI FALL CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 25-26**  
FRENCH LICK. IN



**HARVEST BANQUET**  
**NOVEMBER 21**  
CLASSIC CAFÉ



**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**  
SEE PAGE 7

# NEIBA NEWS



## How was your harvest?

NEIBA MEMBERS REPORT MIXED RESULTS

*Photo by Jez Timms on Unsplash*

The 2019 season started off wet, wet, wet.

Last spring, many of us thought the rain would never end. It’s one thing when “April showers bring May flowers,” but this season the showers continued long into May and June. Farmers were delayed getting into their fields. Some beekeepers reported poor queen mating and failed splits, while others said their colonies seemed to take the dreary weather all in stride.

How did the whacky wet weather impact your honey harvest this year? Was it better than usual — or worse? Look for the photo above on our Facebook page and let us know how your 2019 results compare to previous years. Join the conversation at [www.facebook.com/NortheasternIndianaBeekeepersAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/NortheasternIndianaBeekeepersAssociation). 🌻

## President's Minute

The weather is getting cooler and I hope the club has gotten their varroa treatments and feeding started. I am vaporizing with oxalic acid again this year. I have one treatment completed and have another to do in the next week or so.



I had an unusual incident this year when pulling supers and made a mistake that I will not repeat. I tried to do too much at one time. I wanted to mark a queen in one of my hives as well as pull the super. I use a fume board to get most of the bees out of the super and then a leaf blower to remove the rest. I was using the fume board elsewhere while I did an inspection of this particular hive. I found the queen, marked her, and put the hive back together. When I finished using the fume board on the other hives, I placed it on this hive. I pulled all of my queen excluders a couple of days ago hoping the bees would have an easier time getting down into the brood chamber.

The fume board was not as effective in getting the bees out of the super. I used the leaf blower and removed the other bees. I noticed, when I was done, there was a cluster of bees on the corner of the flatbed trailer I was using. I looked at the cluster and pushed around the bees and did not see a queen. I still brushed the bees into a box and dumped them next to their hive.

The next day there was still a cluster of bees (smaller) and I again dumped them next to the hive. I went on and harvested honey from other fields. When I got back home and while I was cleaning up equipment, I saw a queen hanging out on an escape board. I was experimenting with this. For those who don't know, an escape board is placed between supers left for winter and supers to harvest. The bees leave but cannot find their way back in. It is used instead of a fume board and needs to be placed around 24 hours prior to pulling the super. The queen had about 10 – 20 bees forming a circle around her. The board was about 15 feet from where the trailer was. She had a beautiful green dot on her. Luckily, I was able to capture her. Now I have a dilemma. Which hive did she come from?

I initially jumped in the truck and was heading back to the field and hive I had last used the escape board. I stopped and pulled off the road and did some thinking. (I know, not something I do often.) When I brought the escape board home, there were no bees on it. I looked carefully at the queen. Her mark looked pristine. I drove home and went through the hive that had all the bees still in the super I had harvested the day

*Continued on page 8*

### NEIBA Officers 2019

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Photo by Guilherme Stecanella on Unsplash

## September Minutes

President Chris LaSalle convened the September 19, 2019, meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dean Gerber gave the treasurer's report with balances of 134.04 in checking and 8,253.15 in savings totaling 8387.19.

He also mentioned that the procedure will change for the Harvest Banquet in November. RSVP's will still be required by a certain date. Cancellations can be made before that date and will not be charged, but those who do not cancel and do not attend will be billed for those dinners. The club is responsible for payment of the number reserved. We are also considering contributing to Classic Café for some new tables. Bee School takes a toll on the tables and many need replaced.

Debbie Seib, treasurer of The Beekeepers of Indiana gave a presentation on the state organization, outlining upcoming meetings, events, training opportunities, youth programs, etc. You can read more, along with details on joining the state organization at <https://indianabeekeeper.com>. Jim Sharp has agreed to be NEIBA's representative to the state organization.

The program was a Q & A session with a panel of our own panel of expert members: Dave Shenefield, Mike Miller, Duane and Tony Rekeweg, and Chris LaSalle. Most questions were submitted to President LaSalle prior to the meeting.

A few of the comments from the panel:

Don't set frames out after extraction for the bees to clean up. This will encourage robbing from other bees and wasps. Some put their frames away "wet", others put them back on the hives they came from, then remove them when the weather gets cold.

Small hive beetles are attracted to queenless hives. Healthy hives can fight small hive beetles. Treat for varroa after extraction.

Fall feeding: 2 parts sugar to 1 part water syrup. Most don't use additives such as Honey Bee Healthy.

You can expect to get approximately 60 pounds of honey from a deep super, 35-40 pounds from an Illinois super, and 25-30 pounds from a shallow super

A fair price for honey:

- Wholesale \$1.80-3.00 barrel, \$4-5 for 1# jars (Shenefield),
- \$4.25 – 1#, \$7.75- 2# direct or \$7 1# from stores that carry their honey (Rekeweg)
- \$6.50 – 1# plastic container at farm markets, \$1 per oz for comb honey (Mike Miller).

Door prizes were won by Dana Goodman, Breanna Filler, John Greenlee, Lori Robinson, JoAnn Pullen, Duane Rekeweg, Andy Madinski, and Haley Filler. 🌻



## Labor Day Swarm or Colony Collapse?

BY MICHAEL MILLER

We all know about the loss of bees due to colony collapse, but always wonder where they disappear to.

Well, On Labor day I received a call from a person near Columbia city about a "swarm of bees in a tree". The usual questions were asked: are you sure they are honey bees...and how many?

The answer was "yes honey bees and the group is about the size of a volley ball" A swarm this late in the season would be unlikely, but possible I thought. So a nuc box was prepared to hive a volley ball sized swarm.

On arrival to the location, I discovered this gigantic mass of bees in a small tree. Well, the nuc box would never work, so back home to get a deep hive box.

This was obviously not a normal swarm, but a whole colony of bees that had left their home for some reason— colony collapse. The bees are now in their new home, Queen and all,

and are being heavily fed in preparation for winter.

Now I know where at least one victim of colony collapse is. 🌻



Photo by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

## HARVEST BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

**Thursday, November 21 - \$12 per person**

**Reservations must be received by November 12, 2019.**

RSVP to Dean Gerber: 260-565-3773 or [djgerber@adamswells.com](mailto:djgerber@adamswells.com)

Guest Speaker: Kent Williams, commercial beekeeper

Classic Café Menu: Fancy Tossed Salad, Apple Almond Stuffed Chicken Breast, Ossian Pit Ham carved to order, Roasted Red Russet Parmesan Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans with Bacon, Assorted Cake/Pies, Rolls, Beverages.  
Vegetarian plates available on request.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet costs \$12 per person.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Reservations

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Make checks payable to NEIBA.

Mail to: Dean Gerber

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## Welcome New Members!

Blake Adams, Ft. Wayne  
 Christina M. Hoeffel, Garrett  
 Anna Mannarino, Ft. Wayne

Ed Mertens, Wolcottville  
 Randy Zion, Churubusco

*Invite a New Beekeeper to join NEIBA. Share this newsletter and membership form with a friend and invite them to our next meeting!*



### Membership Form: Northeast Indiana Beekeeper's Association

If you are renewing your membership and your information has not changed, just fill in your name..

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Delivery Preference:  
 Email  Paper  Both

Please check one:  
 I am renewing my membership  
 I am a new member

Dues are only \$15 per year.

Make all checks payable to NEIBA.

Mail to: Dean Gerber, 1127 S 700 W-1,  
 Bluffton, IN 46714



Dean Gerber, Treasurer  
1127 S 700 W-1  
Bluffton, IN 46714

## Upcoming Events

*All meetings will be held at Classic*

**Thursday, October 17 - 7 p.m.**  
Topic TBD, Dave Shenefield,  
Largest Indiana Beekeeper

**Thursday, November 21 - 6:30 p.m.**  
Harvest Banquet with guest speaker  
Kent Williams, commercial beekeeper  
*Reservations required. See page 5.*

### October 25-26, 2019

#### Beekeepers of Indiana Fall Conference

The 2019 state conference will be held October 25-26 at the historic French Lick Springs Hotel. Randy Oliver will be the keynote speaker. In addition, the conference will feature hands-on workshops about making packages, catching swarms, creamed honey, bee anatomy, and beekeeping neighborliness. Learn more at [indianabeekeeper.com](http://indianabeekeeper.com).

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Breanna Filler, a 10-year-old NEIBA member from Churubusco, who won our First Annual Hive Smoker Contest. Bre claimed a \$30 gift gift certificate to Wheeler's Bees! 🌟



## President's Minute

*Continued from page 2*

before. I did not find the queen. I released her in the hive and she was welcomed (to my relief because there was no way to get her back). I went through the hive today (October 5) and she looked good.

If I had more time, the proper thing to do would be to put her in a queen cage and introduce her gradually. That way I could make sure that I had her in the correct hive. This of course includes going through all of the hives I harvested in the past 2 days and see if there is a queen (also knowing that I could have missed her). So I got real lucky. Rather be lucky than good. What I learned is to not do too much at one time to a hive.

See you all at the meeting. 🌟

