**July 2020 Newscast – Central Iowa Beekeepers Association**

**From the president,**

This is an interesting year for us from several perspectives.

Like I reported last month in the June Newscast, the bees are still very focused on swarming.  For example, I caught a swarm in a swarm trap, took it down at 9 PM and replaced it with another empty swarm trap and by 2PM the **NEXT** day another swarm moved into it!!  At another location, a few days later, I was arriving to check a swarm trap and a swarm was arriving at the trap at the **SAME** time.  Already this season, I have had a trap location catch 4 swarms and another location catch 3 swarms.  One of our members, Dan Wiedemeier, has caught 3 swarms in the same location and this is his first season of catching swarms. And we still have a month or two of potential swarms!!

There also seems to be a good nectar flow this year for a lot of us.  I have heard that dry weather years are good years for our bees to produce a lot of honey.

Now for the bad news.  Your CIBA Board of Directors have decided to not schedule any meetings for the foreseeable future.  These are unprecedented times for being a member of any organization.  The only meetings are zoom meetings!!  I have not scheduled one of those for CIBA for a good reason -- I do not have a good enough of an Internet connection to do it.

I do like going to our in-person meetings and having a good conversation one on one but with the current COVID situation -- these conversations will have to wait a bit more.

Other items that have been cancelled that affects us beekeepers include the State Fair (as most of you are probably aware already) as well as the IA Honey Producers annual meeting in November.  Because of these cancellations our connections are going to be even more rare for this year.

We will be servicing our members in some unique ways so that we stay connected.  Your Board of Directors will be in touch with you about this.

Bee Safe!

Jamie Beyer