



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Beekeepers,

The honey flow is in full swing, and most of you are either rushing to put supers on or rushing to extract full supers. Whatever the case may be, don't wreck your back lifting. The flow seems to be excellent in central Illinois since the rains. Hope the rest of the state is producing like we are.

Speaking of producing honey, the Illinois State Fair is August 11-20. Pick out your best honey and bring it down to the show. You can get entry forms by calling the Fair Board at (217)782-0777. If you can make it to the State Fair, stop by the Illinois Building and see the ISBA display, have a cup of honey ice cream, and visit with the beekeepers manning the booth. If your local organization would like to sell ice cream for the day, let Rita Taylor know in advance. Her number is located on the back of the newsletter.

The summer meeting at Fairfield was very nice and well attended. We had only one rain shower in the afternoon which sent several attendees scurrying to roll up car windows. Speakers included Mr. Bob Holloway with a presentation on his work in Africa. Carl Wenning spoke about smoker fuels he had recently evaluated. Mr. Kevin Jester explained his package bee and queen business in northeast Arkansas. After lunch, Jan McAdams told about her experience with Apitherapy, and handed out a few stings to willing souls. A presentation by Mike Kotcher on "Native Honey Plants" was very interesting. Roger and Juanita Graham passed around samples of honey for the crowd to identify, and explained the different products from the hive. Last, but not least, Mr. Udell Meyer demonstrated a technique to detect varroa mites by using powdered sugar that eliminates the possibility of killing the queen. Thanks again Little Egypt Beekeepers' for a most enjoyable day.

See you at the Fair.

Richard E. Ramsey
ISBA President

MAKE PLANS NOW FOR THE ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

The Illinois State Fair will be held in Springfield from August 11 to August 20. As has been the tradition for many years, the ISBA will hold its annual honey show. In addition, there will be informative displays and the sale of honey ice cream. If you would like to participate in the honey show, you'll need to find out about entrance requirements, classes, and judging criteria. These are all available in the General Premium Book for the Illinois State Fair. The book is now available free of charge by writing: Illinois State Fair, P. O. Box 19427, Springfield, IL 62794-9427. You may also contact the State Fair Board offices by calling them at (217)782-0777.

This year ISBA-affiliated beekeeping associations are being encouraged to select days during which local association members would work as a group to sell honey, and answer questions about bees and honey. Local association officers are encouraged to arrange one work day with the honey show superintendent, Rita Taylor. Rita may be reached by phoning (217) 626-1319 in Pleasant Plains, IL, which is just west of Springfield.

Editor's Note: I have been present to work the ISBA display at the State Fair for the past three years. Working the ISBA display is a great way to have a family fun day at the fair, and to help those troupers who work so hard every year to assist at the display day after day -- Rita Taylor, Udell Meyer, Ken Beauchamp, and Earl Lutz are only a few of the names that come to mind.

I strongly encourage each ISBA-affiliated association to assist with this effort. It is the main ISBA fund raising event of the year; it provides a golden opportunity to spread the word about honey, bees, and beekeeping to people statewide; and it is really a fulfilling experience. Please contact your local association's officers and encourage them to arrange for your group's day at the Illinois State Fair. Don't be afraid to be the first to volunteer!

REPORT FROM THE ISBA SUMMER MEETING

-- by Carl J. Wenning with
contributions from Ken Beauchamp

Some 60 - 65 beekeepers gathered for a day of informative and entertaining presentations at the ISBA's Summer Meeting which was held in Fairfield, IL, on Saturday, June 24th. The day began promptly at 9:15 a.m. with a welcome from Little Egypt Beekeepers' Association President Howard Tanner. This was followed by a brief welcome from ISBA President Rich Ramsey. The morning session consisted of three talks. Bob Holloway spoke briefly about teaching beekeeping as a "cottage industry" for citizens of Africa. Bob described the work of the Marion (IL) Medical Mission in Malawi, and showed a videotape that described the work of the mission society, including the establishment of a medical dispensary, several schools, and over 1,000 shallow wells. He also set out a large display of memorabilia from a recent trip to work with the people of Malawi.

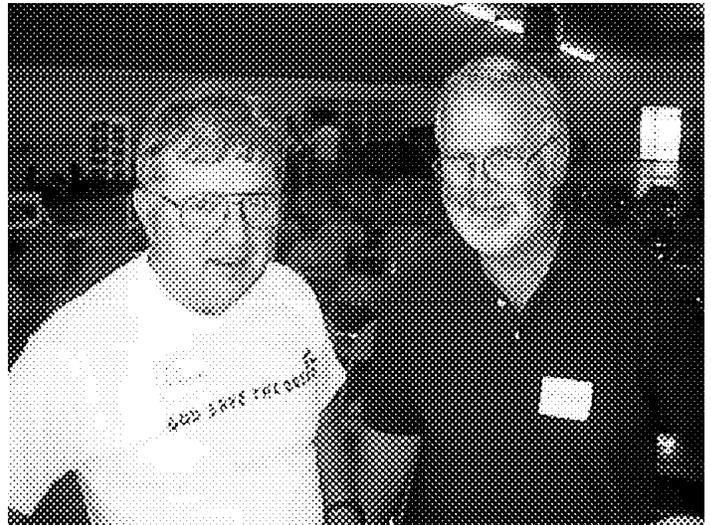
Rounding out the morning session were presentations by Carl Wenning and Kevin Jester. Carl spoke about the qualities of various smoker fuels he recently had tested, and provided insights into what makes a smoker perform well. He noted that the best smoker fuels he had tested to date were staghorn sumac seed heads and red cedar chips. Details may be found in the July issue of *American Bee Journal*. Kevin spoke about queen rearing at Jester Bee Company of West Ridge, AK. He explained his techniques, and demonstrated how they shake package bees. Both speakers received a very large number of comments and questions.

Following a break for lunch, Jan McAdams, a certified apitherapist, spoke about bee venom therapy (BVT), and how it can be used to assist persons affected by multiple sclerosis and

other disorders of the body. She has been giving these treatments for a long time and reviewed the results she has had working with patients. She claimed to have gotten migraine headaches under complete control for several people using BVT. Mike Kotcher of the Forest Glen Nature Preserve then



Jan McAdams preparing to speak about her experiences with apitherapy.



ISBA President Rich Ramsey and HIBA member Don Hughes ham it up for the camera during the 2000 Summer Meeting.

showed a number of slides illustrating the various plants native to Illinois that serve as forage plants for honey bees and other insects. Rounding out the day's events were talks by Roger and Juanita Graham who spoke about products of the hive, and Udell Meyer who demonstrated the use of powdered sugar to test for the presence of varroa mites.

The day concluded with two raffle prizes being awarded. The two prizes were a 5-frame nuc and a upper body bee suit with attached veil.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE ISBA FALL MEETING

The ISBA Fall Meeting is slated to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield on Saturday, November 11, 2000. The main speaker for this event will be Dr. Tom Webster from Kentucky State University who will speak about using bottom boards for varroa mite control. Stu Jacobson from the University of Illinois at Springfield will report on his research project "Wintering Four Frame Nucs for Pollination." Also planned is a speaker from the University of Illinois Entomology Department.

GOOD WILL PROGRAM MOVES AHEAD

The Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association is moving ahead with a grant application to present a *Good Will Ambassador* program for high school students next summer. The program, a four-day residential program at Illinois State University, is designed to train as many as 12 teens to make beekeeping presentations across the state of Illinois spreading the good news about honey bees. Following one academic year of presentations to school and social groups, these prospective beekeepers will set out hives that will have been provided them as part of the *Good Will Ambassadors* program.



Kevin Jester of Jester Bee Company, West Ridge, AR, explains how he shakes packages of bees.

the value of honey bees to the economy and the environment. They also will learn to become beekeepers independent of adult assistance, and will be provided most of the materials and experiences to do so.

Major funding for this program is being sought from American Beekeeping Federation's Foundation for the Preservation of the Honey Bee. Tentative financial support has already been arranged through ISBA's "Youth in Beekeeping Program," and the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association. Dadant and Sons, Inc., has agreed to be a corporate sponsor providing beekeeping materials at cost. Additional individual and association sponsors are being sought. Participating students will be paying a token registration fee. The leadership of Illinois beekeeping associations can expect to hear more about this program in the not too distant future.

ISBA TO DISPLAY AT FARM PROGRESS SHOW

This year's Prairie Farmer Farm Progress Show will be held in Cantrall, IL, (just north of Springfield) September 26-28. The ISBA Board has agreed to set up a display, and has paid a \$100 fee for the privilege of interacting with literally thousands of Illinois farmers. The focus of the ISBA display will be on the benefit of honey bees as pollinators.

Volunteers are needed to staff this year's display, and answer questions about bees, honey, and pollination. The display will feature an observation hive, a horn of plenty showing some of the many crops that bees pollinate, free honey sticks, and descriptive brochures and fliers. Unfortunately, sales of any products, including honey, are banned from the Farm Progress Show. Contact ISBA President Rich Ramsey if you would be willing to assist. He may be contacted by phone at (217) 498-9374 or via e-mail at rramsey@famvid.com.

Good Will Ambassadors will participate in a bees and beekeeping classroom course, and will gain additional experiences in the apiary, in the honey house, in the lab, and in the computer room. Over the course of the workshop, students will work in small groups to perfect presentations about

BOARD VOTES TO SUPPORT HIBA PROGRAM

In an earlier issue of *ISBA Bulletin* an article appeared that described the Honey Princess / Beekeeping Ambassador program approved by the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association this past spring. The ISBA Board has chosen to provide support for this program by providing \$100 in financial support.

SUMMER PROJECT FOR BEEKEEPERS

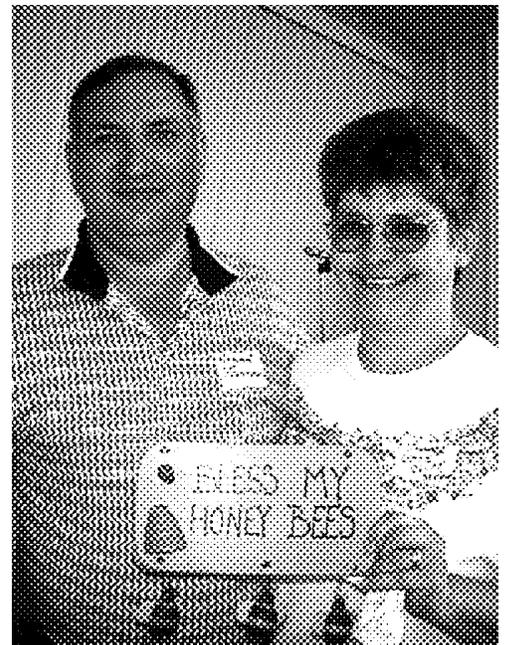
If ever you visit a nature preserve or state recreation area, you may just want to speak with the chief naturalist about putting in an observation hive. Several state recreation areas have done so, and more are planning to do so. According to chief interpreter Carol Thompson of the Weldon Springs State Recreation area near Clinton, IL, there are at least three state parks that now observation hives. Weldon Springs will be installing their observation hive this next spring with the help of a local beekeeper.

EDITOR'S BUZZ

— by Carl J. Wenning

It is often said that no news is good news. That is often the case, but not when one is a newsletter editor! I'd be delighted to receive news items from Illinois beekeepers and their associations for inclusion in this newsletter. I want to avoid including articles per se because the beekeeping journals are more appropriate locations for publication of these items. It is my desire to fill this newsletter with news items, but these are often hard to come by because as editor I don't carry on investigative reporting. As editor I rely on you to send me items to "edit." After all, that is the job of an editor.

I am now asking that each association that publishes a newsletter to include me on the association's mailing list. When I receive these newsletters, I can quickly scan them for newsworthy items for inclusion in the *ISBA Bulletin*. Encourage your newsletter editor to include me in your newsletter mailing today.



Summer Meeting hosts Howard and Bev Tanner of Little Egypt Beekeepers' Assoc.

Membership in the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association is open to all persons interested in bees and beekeeping. Beekeepers are urged to join through their local associations. Dues are \$2.00 per year, **good only January 1st through December 31st each year**, and includes subscription to this newsletter. Beekeeping journals are available at about 25% discount to members as listed below; rates are subject to change without prior notice. **Make checks payable to: Illinois State Beekeepers' Association and mail to: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.**

Please indicate new or renewal subscription when ordering journals.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send old and new address six weeks prior to date of change when practical to: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

Reduced Journal Rates (members only)

	1 Yr.	2 Yr.	3 Yr.
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$14.44	\$27.38	\$38.96
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$16.00	\$31.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	\$13.25	\$25.25	\$34.00

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