

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

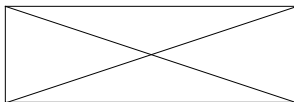
BULLETIN

July/August 2001 • Volume 83, Number 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Beekeepers,

Haven't had any swarm calls yet and it is the middle May. Are all the wild bees gone? I don't know but there is a reason for less swarming and the mite just might be it. Hope everyone has their supers on the strong hives. The weaker ones aren't quite ready to super in mid May. Hope to some of you at Purdue in June.



Richard E. Ramsey
ISBA President

PRE-REGISTER FOR SUMMER MEETING AND SAVE

The summer meeting of the ISBA is a joint meeting with the Indiana Beekeepers' Association this year. It will be held on June 29-30 in West Lafayette, Indiana. It will be preceded by an optional but intensive 3-day beekeeping short course at Purdue University. Complete details about the joint meeting will be found on pages 3 - 5 of this edition of the *ISBA Bulletin*, and details about the short course can be found below.

If you choose to pre-register for the joint meeting, you can save \$2. Pre-registration is not required for the joint meeting, but it will be helpful in planning. If you would like to pre-register (and you are strong encouraged to do so), complete the pre-registration form found on page 5 of this issue of the *ISBA Bulletin*, and send it to the address found on that sheet. Though no deadline was given for pre-registration, please pre-register now so that meeting hosts will have adequate time to respond to attendee needs. You will doing yourself and everyone else a big favor by pre-registering, so please do it today.

INTENSIVE BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE AT PURDUE

The joint Illinois/Indiana summer meeting at Purdue University will be preceded by a 3-day short course for beekeepers. The short course will be held June 27-29 (Wednesday through Friday). Instructors will be Sue Cobey of the New World Carniolan Queen Program, Greg Hunt who is an entomologist at Purdue University, Kathleen Prough who is Indiana State Bee Inspector, and John Skinner of the University of Tennessee. Program topics include: bee biology, mite biology, bee genetics, hive populations and productivity, year-around hive management activities, queen rearing, disease/pest diagnosis and treatment, hands-on hive activities, and trouble

shooting. The short course will be held at the Purdue Bee Biology Facility that is located approximately 1 mile west of the West Lafayette campus in State Route 26.

This workshop will be limited to 50 participants. Preregistration for this workshop is required and must be completed by June 20. The cost is \$50 per person, with accompanying individuals 18 and younger admitted free of charge. To register, prepare a check made payable to Purdue University, and mail it to: Beekeeping Short Course, Dept. of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1158. A map and agenda will be sent by return mail, along with information about lodging. Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Greg Hunt by phone at (765) 494-4605 or by e-mail at ghunt@purdue.edu.

SMALL HIVE BEETLE FOUND IN ILLINOIS

According to an unofficial report received by the editor of this publication, the Small Hive Beetle (*Aethina tumida*) might be found in two eastern Illinois counties. Again, this report is unofficial, and your newsletter editor is awaiting official confirmation from the State Apiary Inspector, Steve Chard, who is currently working diligently on the problem. His investigation of the Small Hive Beetle situation has been very time consuming, and has kept him in the field recently. This has prevented him from submitting an article in time for this issue of the *ISBA Bulletin* which cannot be delayed due to the timely information that it contains about the joint IL/IN summer meeting at the end of June. Watch the ISBA web site at www.isba.ws for the latest information. Complete details will be provided there as soon as they become available; they will also appear in the next issue of this publication.

During the mean time, if you are the least bit concerned about insects in your hive that you feel might be Small Hive Beetles, contact your regional apiary inspector for confirmation and suggestions about treatment. Last month's issue of the *ISBA Bulletin* contained complete contact information for all Illinois apiary inspectors. If you do not save that issue, then you may obtain that information through the ISBA website.

WINTERKILL IN THE HEART OF ILLINOIS

Data continue to come in showing that the winterkill of 2001 was of historic proportions. 2001 might be long be remembered at the year when many beekeepers either (1) gave up beekeeping, or (2) decided to practice autumn hive depopulation. A survey of 22 Heart of Illinois Beekeepers who had a total of 364 colonies entering winter show that 281 of these colonies died. This is a winterkill rate of 77.2%. Reports are coming in from across the state, the Midwest, and even New England showing that what has been experienced in Central Illinois is not uncommon elsewhere.

2002 TRI-STATE MEETING TO BE SPONSORED BY DADANTS

The state associations of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri are joining with Dadant & Sons, Inc., of Hamilton, IL, to host a Tri-State meeting. This meeting, which will take the place of the 2002 ISBA summer meeting, will be held on Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9, in Keokuk, IA, which is just across the Mississippi from Hamilton, IL. The event will begin with a Friday afternoon open house at Dadant & Sons, Inc. Friday evening events will consist of a buffet with an after dinner speaker, as well as informal presentations and static displays set out by state and local associations.

Saturday events will feature a continuing open house at Dadants and a morning session featuring talks by three prominent beekeepers whose theme will be "Sustainable Beekeeping in the Midwest." Also on Saturday morning at the Keosippi Mall in Keokuk, there will be a "Kids 'n' Bees" program. (See the May issue of *American Bee Journal* for details.) Saturday afternoon will feature two four-topic seminars presented twice in succession and a closing panel discussion.

The last time that Dadant & Sons, Inc. sponsored a tri-state meeting was in 1991. At that time approximately 250 beekeepers from the area attended. More details will appear here and on the ISBA web page at www.isba.ws as soon as they become available. This "summer" meeting is being co-hosted by the central region of the ISBA. Carl Wenning of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association is serving as Illinois representative.

TWO-DAY EVENT IN QUINCY AUGUST 24-25

The Mississippi Valley Beekeepers' Association will hold a Friday-Saturday special event in Quincy, IL, on August 24-25. Featured speaker will be Dr. Ray Nabors, entomologist with the University of Missouri. During a fun-filled and informal Friday evening event, Dr. Nabors will speak about and show slides of agriculture and apiculture in Egypt. On Saturday he will give two formal presentations. His first talk will be *Honey bee management: mites, diseases, pests, and pesticides*. Dr. Nabor's second talk will be *Raising a few queens: Which race do you want?*

Details of this event are still being formulated as the edition of the *ISBA Bulletin* went to press, and will appear in the next issue. Detailed information will be available even sooner on the ISBA website where it will be posted as soon as available. In the mean time, if you would like more information about this event, contact Debi Bridgman, 1114 County Road 104, Ewing, MO 63440. Debi also may be reached by phone at (573) 439-5228.

HONEY BEES INFLUENCE PUMPKIN YIELDS

The following item is reprinted from Illinois Fruit and Vegetable News, Vol. 7, No. 2, February 22, 2001 with permission of the author. This article appears here due to increasing prospects for Illinois beekeepers to take advantage of the opportunity to secure pollination contracts.

Illinois is the leading state in pumpkin production with about 13,000 acres of Jack-O-Lanterns (*Cucurbita pepo*) and 7,000 acres of processing pumpkins (*C. moschata*). Cucurbit vegetables, such as pumpkins, require insects, such as honeybees, to transfer pollen from the male flower to the female flower for pollination to occur. Pollination is essential for pumpkin fruit development and in many cases, is not really a concern for growers. In the past, it was recommended that the introduction of honeybee hives were not necessary for cucurbit fields less than 3 acres in size that were adjacent to forested areas, since these areas often house wild honeybee populations. However, honeybee populations are being reduced by mite infestations, which have a direct effect on the amount of healthy bees that are able to pollinate crops. Since wild honeybee populations are declining, it may be necessary to introduce honeybee hives into small acreages to achieve maximum yields of cucurbit vegetables.

A non-replicated study was conducted to determine the influence of honeybee pollination on yields of several Jack-O-Lantern pumpkin cultivars during the 2000 growing season. Two locations at the Southern Illinois University Belleville Research Center were chosen to conduct this study; these two locations were approximately less than one mile apart, being primarily separated by field corn. A strong honeybee hive was placed at one location, while the other did not receive a hive. Eight widely grown Jack-O-Lantern pumpkin cultivars were grown: Appalachian, Aspen, Autumn King, Gold Rush, Gold Strike, Howden, Ichabod, and Motherlode. Pumpkin plants were transplanted on 15 June. Fertilization and pest

management recommendations were followed for pumpkin production in Illinois. Pumpkins were harvested once in September, recording numbers of fruits and weights on a plot basis.

Weights per acre for several Jack-O-Lantern cultivars, such as Appalachian and Howden, more than doubled when bees were included in the field. The overall pumpkin weights per acre for all the cultivars tested with bees was 30,713 lbs. compared to 18,833 lbs. for those without bees. Numbers of pumpkins per acre were not as drastically influenced by the addition of bees compared to pounds of pumpkins produced per acre. Overall pumpkin numbers per acre for all the cultivars tested with bees was 1736 compared to 1405 without bees, just a slight increase occurred when bees were included. This indicates that there are sufficient pollinators to induce fruit set under field conditions, but fruit weights can be significantly increased with the addition of a strong hive of honeybees. Since pumpkins are generally sold on a weight basis, growers should realize a greater monetary return with the inclusion of honeybees in pumpkin production fields. For additional details, contact Dr. Alan Walters, Dept. of Plant, Soil, and General Agriculture, SIU, Carbondale, IL 62901-4415 (awalters@siu.edu)

COOK-DUPAGE RECIPE FEATURED

The National Honey Board recently created and began distributing a brochure featuring "award-winning recipes from those who know how to cook with honey." The brochure, *Beekeepers' Favorite Recipes*, features six recipes selected from among dozens submitted by beekeeping organizations earlier this year. The list of index-card-size recipe sheets is headed by Holiday Party Punch submitted by the Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Association. Interestingly, all six recipes came from the Midwest (Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Ohio).

Other recipes with pictures include Easy Honey Chicken Wings, Honey Pineapple Carrot Salad, Honey Mango Chutney, Honey BBQ Shredded Pork, and Coconut Custard. In addition to these recipes, there are helpful hints for working with honey, as well as health benefits associated with consuming honey.

Associations may obtain 500 copies of these full-color brochures for their members by contacting the National Honey Board, 390 Lashley Street, Longmont, CO 80501, or by dialing 1-888-421-2977 toll free. More delicious recipes can be obtained from the National Honey Board Web site at www.honey.com.

ISBA DUES PAYMENTS DUE

If your ISBA-affiliated local beekeepers' association has yet to pay dues for 2001, please note that payment should be sent immediately to Rita Taylor, ISBA Secretary. Dues for calendar year 2001 membership are only \$2 per individual. Individuals who are part of an affiliated beekeeping association (14 of 16 such associations in Illinois), then the \$2 was collected as part of your dues payment to your local association, and the appropriate amount will be forwarded by your local association's treasurer. If you maintain "at large" membership because your local association is not affiliated with ISBA, or because you do not belong to one of the 16 local associations in Illinois, then you'll need to send your dues payment directly to Rita Taylor. Rita's contact information can be found on the last page of this publication.

UPDATES NEEDED FOR ISBA WEBSITE

The ISBA web site at www.isba.ws remains quite active, and is periodically updated by the webmaster. Since it was posted on November 30, 1998, it has received some 1,100 hits with most of these coming within the last year after its presence was publicly announced in this newsletter. The ISBA web page contains a wealth of information about the Association, including contact information for affiliates, apiary inspectors, back issues of the *ISBA Bulletin*, and other official documents. The "weak link," so to speak, is the lack of hyperlinks to local associations within the state of Illinois. The only local association hyperlinked to the web page is that of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association. In addition, HIBA is the only association that has a hyperlinked contact person.

The value of the web page to the non-beekeeping public would be greatly enhanced if these sorts of hyperlinks were included. Please, if your association has a web page or an official contact person, give that information to the ISBA web

(Continued on page 5)

***Illinois State and Indiana Beekeepers Associations
in conjunction with Purdue University Department of Entomology
and Cook-duPage Illinois and Tippecanoe Indiana Beekeepers, Co-hosts,
present a beekeeping conference***

Friday and Saturday, June 29-30, 2001 at West Lafayette, Indiana
(Hours noted are Eastern Standard/Central Daylight Time)

Friday, June 29

Time	Activity
3:00 p.m.	Research Update at the Purdue University Apiary - Dr. Greg Hunt, Purdue University
5:30 p.m.	Dinner on your own at MCL Cafeteria, West Lafayette, or beekeeper's choice
6:30 p.m.	Beekeepers' Ideas Exchange, MCL Cafeteria West Meeting Room, West Lafayette, Moderators Mr. Jerry Brelage, Batesville, Indiana, and Dr. Hunt, Purdue
7:30 p.m.	Experiences in, Beekeeping, Dr. Jim Tew, Professor of Entomology, Ohio State-Wooster, at the MCL Cafeteria, West Lafayette
8:30 p.m.	Friday Program Ends

Saturday, June 30

All Sessions are in Stewart Center, Purdue University

7:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 a.m.	Methods of Queen Rearing, Ms. Sue W. Cobey, Ohio State-Columbus, OH
9:30 a.m.	Beekeeping Trends, Dr. Jim Tew, Ohio State-Wooster, OH
10:30 a.m.	Raffle and Announcements
10:40 a.m.	Break
11:00 a.m.	Breakout Sessions #1 - Honey Plants and Pollination - Mr. Mike Kotcher, District Horticulturist, Westville, IL #2 - Improving Sales at Festivals and Fairs - Mrs. Becky Vadas, Bloomington, IN and Mr. Ron Fischer, Oak Park, IL #3 - Economics of Overwintering - Mr. Carl Wenning, Normal, IL
Noon	Lunch on Your Own - Cafeteria in Student Union or beekeepers choice
1:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions. #4 - Pollen, the Versatile Compound - Dr. John Shane, Krone Institute, Chicago, IL #5 - Improving Effectiveness of Your Local Beekeeping Club -Mr. Rich Ramsey, Rochester, IL, & Mr. Kenny Schneider,Georgetown, IN #6 - Gadgets and Gizmos/Classroom on Wheels, Mr. Arlyn Hopkins, Dadant and Sons, Hamilton, IL
2:15 p.m.	Open Forum - Questions and Answers - All Speakers
2:45 p.m.	Announcements - State Fairs and Future Meetings - Illinois and Indiana
3:00 p.m.	Auction of 5- 10 Items
3:30 p.m.	Program Ends

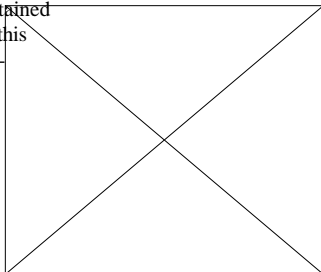
Registration: \$10 Individual; \$15 Family; \$2 Student

Questions? - Contact: Bill Buckley, (630) 654-1867; Rich Ramsey, (217) 498-9374;

Dr. Greg Hunt, (765) 494-4605; Dave Laney, (219) 656-8701

master (wenning@phy.ilstu.edu). In addition, please have someone within your local association review the current contact information for accuracy. On more than one occasion recently the web master had to apologize to individuals who contacted him by e-mail and phone telling him that the contact information contained on the web page was wrong. Unfortunately, this resulted in the loss of honey sales and prospective memberships. Do our Internet-savvy, non-beekeeping friends a favor, and provide the ISBA webmaster with all the correct information he and everyone else needs. Do it today!

**DEADLINES FOR ISBA BULLETIN
SUBMISSION**



Submissions by the membership of small, newsworthy items are encouraged for inclusion in the ISBA Bulletin. If you or your association has information it would like disseminated either through this newsletter or via the ISBA web page, please send it to the newsletter editor. Electronic submissions are preferred, but typewritten copy is acceptable. Photographs of either format are also acceptable. Please send image files using TIFF format; hard copy should be sent to Carl Wenning at 21 Grandview Drive, Normal, IL 61761.

To ensure inclusion in the September/October issue of the ISBA Bulletin, items must be submitted to the editor by August 15. Articles and images will be accepted after the deadline and included if time and space permits. If you are uncertain about the acceptability of any news item or short article, please contact the editor via e-mail (wenning@phy.ilstu.edu), or phone him at (309) 454-4164 (evenings).

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>	\$14.96	\$28.46	\$40.13
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$16.00	\$31.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	\$13.25	\$25.25	\$34.00

ISBA Executive Board 2001

President

Rich Ramsey
5455 Ramsey Road
Rochester, IL 62563
217/498-9374

Vice President

John Hansen
127 N. Madison Ave.
LaGrange, IL 60525
708/579-9498

Secretary

Rita Taylor
4274 Taylor Homestead Rd.
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024
217/626-1319

Treasurer

Udell Meyer
8844 Trio Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618/633-2429

Directors

Northern Region

William Buckley
6525 S. Western Ave.
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
630/654-1867

Central Region

Steve Mayes
P. O. Box 274
Mackinaw, IL 61755
309/359-8600

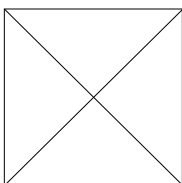
Southern Region

Ray Chapman
R.R. 1, Box 215
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618/585-4506

Editor

Carl J. Wenning
21 Grandview Drive
Normal, IL 61761-4071
309/454-4164

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER (USPS 258-600) is published bimonthly at 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024. Second Class postage paid at Pleasant Plains, IL. Membership is \$2.00 per year which includes a year subscription to this newsletter. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Illinois State Beekeepers' Association, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.



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Rita Taylor, Secretary
4274 Taylor Homestead Road
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024

Periodical
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Pleasant Plains, IL 62677