



## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

# BULLETIN

May/June 2001 • Volume 83, Number 3

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Beekeepers,

The winter hasn't been kind to the bees. If you have any surviving colonies, you seem to be with the lucky few. The reports I have heard are a winter loss of 50% or more. This also seems to have occurred in Indiana as well. It's getting expensive to repopulate with package bees every year. By the time you get this newsletter it will be supering time for anyone that has colonies survive.

It's time to plan for the summer meeting of the ISBA to be held jointly with the Indiana Beekeepers Association. The main speaker will be Jim Tew from Ohio. Jim is a very interesting speaker and relates well to the lay beekeeper. I look forward to seeing many of you at Purdue University in June.

The summer meeting of 2002 will be hosted by Dadant at Hamilton, IL. That meeting is still in the planning stages but should be of interest to all. (See the accompanying article for details.)

Anyone wanting to work the ISBA booth at the State Fair should let Rita Taylor know so she can schedule you. Selling honey ice cream and discussing beekeeping can be very interesting. You can also man the observation hive and answer many questions from the youngsters.

Have a great honey crop.

### CHIEF APIARY INSPECTOR'S MESSAGE

I'm pleased to announce that Mr. Frank Cassidy of Mt. Sterling has joined our Apiary Inspectors Team. Frank will cover our west-central district, which includes the following counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, Mercer, Pike, Rock Island, Schuyler, and Warren. Frank is a very knowledgeable beekeeper and previously served with the Department as an Apiary Inspector. We are very pleased to have Frank back on board. Frank is anxious to serve you and can be reached at (217) 773-2306.

Speaking of our Apiary Inspectors, our full team and I met on March 30, 2001 to discuss a variety of topics and to make plans for the current inspection season. Feel free to contact our inspectors if you need assistance. The Department's Apiary Inspectors and their telephone number are listed in this month's *ISBA Bulletin*. If you

are located in one of the Department's districts where the Apiary Inspector's position is vacant and assistance is needed, don't hesitate to contact any of our Apiary Inspectors, or me at (217) 785-4233.

I believe a few comments are in order regarding moving permits, which are required by the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act. Please contact your Apiary Inspector for assistance in gaining the needed moving permit at least ten days before the actual movement (county to county, importation from other states, or moving bees out of state) of bee colonies or used bee equipment. Of course, this requirement is in place to protect bees from the potentially devastating effects of bacterial diseases and parasites. Your full cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Active beekeepers from around the state have received notice from the Department in the past few months on annual registration of colonies. If you have not returned the form with the needed information, please do so as soon as possible. Similarly, if you have just entered the beekeeping business or have returned to beekeeping, it is critical that you complete, and mail to the Department a registration form to register your colonies. Registration forms may be obtained from your Apiary Inspector or from me. If you or someone you know has gone out of the business, please inform us of that also.

I'm writing this article during the first week of April and winter losses are being assessed by beekeepers statewide. The early reports that we received indicated heavy winter losses, in some cases 75%-100%. (Editor's note: A survey of 351 hives in the Heart of Illinois region showed a winter loss of 266 colonies, or some 76%.) If your apiary sustained above normal winter losses this past winter, I would appreciate receiving a short note from you on why you believe the loss took place and the degree of loss your apiary suffered. This information would be useful to the Department as we advise beekeepers on effective overwintering techniques and to the statewide records that we develop annually which are beneficial to beekeepers across Illinois.

The Department's Apiary Inspectors and I look forward to working with you this year!

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### ISBA SUMMER MEETING SLATED FOR JUNE 29 – 30

The ISBA summer meeting will be held as a joint gathering this year with the Indiana State Beekeeper's Association. The meeting, slated as a Friday-Saturday event, will be held at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana, June 29-30. There will be dinner on Friday evening, and an all-day session on Saturday. The three keynote speakers for the event will be Dr. Greg Hunt who will provide a research update at the Purdue University apiary at 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, Dr. Jim Tew who will speak about "Experiences in Beekeeping" on Friday evening, and Ms. Sue W. Cobey who will speak about "Methods of Queen Rearing" beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning. Following at 9:30 Dr. Tew will speak about "Beekeeping Trends."

During Saturday there will be two breakout sessions presenting three topics at a time. Session 1, beginning at 11:00 a.m., will deal with "Honey Plants and Pollination" (Mike Kotcher), "Improving Sales at Festivals and Fairs (Becky Vadas and Ron Fischer), and "Economics of Overwintering" (Carl Wenning). Session 2, beginning at 1:00 p.m., will deal with "Pollen: The Versatile Compound" (John Shane), "Improving Effectiveness of Your Local Beekeeping Club" (Rich Ramsey and Kenny Schneider), and "Gadgets and Gizmos/Classroom on Wheels" (Jerry Hayes). The day will conclude with an Open Forum for questions and answers with all speakers. Adjournment is set for 3:30 p.m.

Though the meeting begins on Friday afternoon, it is not required for any participant to attend the Friday sessions. This meeting is being co-hosted by the Cook-DuPage Beekeepers' Association (president Bill Buckley) and the Indiana State Beekeepers' Association (president Dave Laney) in cooperation with the Purdue University Department of Entomology. The detailed agenda for this two-day event will be provided in the next issue of the *ISBA Bulletin* (to be distributed in mid June) but is available now on the ISBA web site ([www.isba.ws](http://www.isba.ws)). Visit the ISBA web site regularly to see additional information that will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

### BEEES AND BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE JULY 28 – 29

The fifth annual Bees and Beekeeping Short Course will be presented at the University of Illinois July 28-29. The short course will feature lectures, hands-on workshops, and informational discussions on a wide array of topics. In addition, there will be a bee experiment, "Birds-of-a-Feather" dinners, and French-style gourmet honey tasting. Speakers this year will be Dr. Mary Ann Frazier from Penn State University, Dr. Gene Robinson from the University of Illinois, Mr. Jerry Hayes from *American Bee Journal*, and members of the University of Illinois Bee Research Facility staff.

The short course will be held at the University of Illinois Student Union as well as at the Bee Research Facility, both of which are in Urbana, IL. The program begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 28 and concludes at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 29. A \$75 registration fee includes course materials, refreshments, and honey tasting. Lodging is available at the Hampton Inn for \$60 single/\$69 double, or air-conditioned dormitory rooms for \$20 per night (217-337-1100).

To register for this workshop, e-mail [entowork@life.uiuc.edu](mailto:entowork@life.uiuc.edu), phone (217) 333-2910, fax (217) 244-3499, or write with your name, postal address, phone number, e-mail address, and check to Beekeeping Short Course, c/o Ms. Tish Cundiff, University of Illinois, Department of Entomology, 320 Morrill Hall, 505 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, IL 61801. The short course is limited to 50 participants, so register early. For additional course details, feel free to contact Yehuda Ben-Shahar via phone at 217-333-6843 or via e-mail at [yehudab@life.uiuc.edu](mailto:yehudab@life.uiuc.edu).

### ISBE MEMBERS PROVIDE PUBLIC OUTREACH

ISBA members frequently provide service to the non-beekeeping public by setting out informational displays about honey, honey bees, and beekeeping. Now two Illinois Beekeepers have gone the extra mile to set out permanent displays. On Saturday, April 28, Carl Wenning helped Chief Naturalist Carol Thompson set up a two-frame observation hive in the nature center at Weldon Springs State Park which is located just south of Clinton, IL. Carol attended the HIBA beekeeping course this past February.

Kim Otto, another graduate of the HIBA beekeeping course, has helped Garfield Park Conservatory, in the heart of Chicago, to set up a honey bee program. Kim recently set out two hives there, and the conservatory is going to have two of its own hives. Garfield Park is a 184-acre site just 10 minutes from the Loop.

### ISBA SPONSORS BOOTH

Over the March 10-11 weekend the ISBA sponsored a booth on behalf of Illinois beekeepers at the Illinois Products food expo. On March 10 Lincolnland beekeepers were represented by Rich Ramsey and Ken Beauchamp. On March 11, Steve and Jill Mayes and Tom Elston went to Springfield to represent Heart of Illinois beekeepers. There was a big crowd of over 3200 served by forty-eight Illinois vendors. The event provided lots of samples of free food. ISBA representatives talked about bees, gave out over 500 clover honey stix, handed out information and recipe brochures from the NHB and sold some honey. Fun was had by all.

### **BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR NAMED**

Harvey Seering, St. Clair Beekeepers' Association

At their monthly meeting in Belleville, IL, on February 23 the St. Clair Beekeepers' Association presented the 2000 Beekeeper of the Year award to Mrs. Josephine Christ. This award is in the form of a framed certificate. Mrs. Christ, who is ninety-three years old, said her first experience with bees was when her father had her walk between two rows of bee hives each day she went to school. He told her that this would make the bees accustomed to her, and that they would be less likely to sting her as a result.

At age nine, Josephine started helping her father work his bees. When she married her husband, Alvin, she got bees of her own. Shortly afterward, Alvin mowed around them with a team of horses. He bumped one of the hives and got stung. Alvin had an allergic reaction and broke out in hives, even on the bottom of his feet. Josephine said, "I was disgusted with him because I had never heard of anyone being allergic to bees, and he was mad at me because I had the bees. But I guess we got over it because we have been married for sixty-six years."

Josephine says seven hives is the largest number she has ever had at one time. She says that many years she extracted three to four hundred pounds of honey with a hand-cranked extractor. When her grandchildren got old enough, it became a party with each grandchild getting a turn at cranking the extractor. Josephine has not had any bees for the couple of years because she isn't strong enough to handle the hives any more. Nonetheless, she said, "Every spring I get the itch to get some bees. Then I tell myself, You can't handle them."



*Alvin and Josephine Christ  
of the St. Clair Beekeepers' Association*

Even though she no longer keeps bees, Josephine is still active in the St. Clair Beekeepers' Association. She has served several terms as secretary of the association. Josephine says, "I volunteered to do that job to repay the association for all the good I had gotten from it."

Josephine and Alvin raised seven children, and have 39 grandchildren and 48 great grandchildren. When one small grandson got interested in helping grandma extract honey, Josephine bought him some honey labels and filled some jars with honey for him. He then put the jars in this little wagon and went around his neighborhood selling honey.

Josephine and Alvin definitely are not stay-at-home senior citizens. Josephine would have received this award in November, but the couple was visiting their daughter in Alabama. Since then, they have visited a grandchild in Chicago, and on a recent Sunday Alvin helped some relatives make 300 pounds of summer sausage.

Everyone in the St. Clair Beekeepers Association is hoping that Josephine and Alvin can remain active in the Association for many more years to come.

### **ISBA HONEY DISPLAY AT ILLINOIS STATE FAIR AUGUST 10 - 19**

Continuing a tradition that began more than 50 years ago, the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association will once again sponsor the annual Bee Culture display and honey show at the Illinois State Fair. Now would be a good time for beekeepers to begin giving thought to becoming involved with this prestigious event. The honey show has two divisions that beekeepers can enter, commercial and open class. Spring is the time to begin preparing for this late summer event. Complete submission guidelines are available in the *General Premium Book*. This book is available from the State Fair Board at P. O. Box 19427, Springfield, IL 62794-9427.

As always, volunteers are needed for all days to monitor the honey display and sell honey ice cream. Local associations are hereby requested to set aside one day during fair time for a special work day in Springfield. Contact Rita Taylor, ISBA Secretary and superintendent of the ISBA honey show, to arrange a time for your association membership to manage the display.

### **DEADLINES FOR ISBA BULLETIN SUBMISSION**

Submission by the membership of small, news-worthy 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 (via e-mail to [wenning@phy.ilstu.edu](mailto:wenning@phy.ilstu.edu)), but hard copy is also acceptable. Photographs of either format are also acceptable. Please send image files using TIF format; hard copy should be sent to Carl Wenning at 21 Grandview Drive, Normal, IL 61761.

To ensure inclusion in the *ISBA Bulletin*, the deadline for the next issue has been set as June 1. This is earlier than usual, but allows for publication and distribution of detailed information relating to the joint Illinois-Indiana summer meeting to be held at the end of June. Articles and images will be accepted after any deadline and included if time and space permits. If you are uncertain about the acceptability of any news item, please contact the editor via e-mail, or call him at (309) 454-4164 any evening.

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)**

	<b>1 Yr.</b>	<b>2 Yr.</b>	<b>3 Yr.</b>
<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

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