



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

# BULLETIN

November/December 2002 • Volume 84, Number 6

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### *Pondering Wrap and a Little Reflection*

Well, here we are approaching the end of another year, getting our bees ready for winter and looking forward to a new beekeeping season next year. To wrap or not to wrap is one question I'm pondering. When I was a new beekeeper, I always wrapped my hives with a sheet of black tar paper and gave them a windbreak when needed. In those days I seldom lost a colony to cold weather. But, in those pre-varroa days, severe cold with too much moisture in the hive was about the only thing that would kill a healthy colony in winter. Not so, today. With colonies even slightly weakened by varroa or other diseases or pests not so obvious, winter losses seem to be more prevalent whether or not the hives are wrapped.

Last winter, I wrapped only a few smaller colonies and left the larger ones bare. My losses were very light. In fact, I had to split some of the larger colonies in April as soon as I could get queens. But, I'm not going to get complacent just because last winter was mild. With the unseasonably cold weather we've been having this Fall, I think I've stopped pondering and will wrap all of my hives. It only takes a few consecutive days of below-zero weather to wipe out a colony. In these times I use aluminized bubble wrap instead of tarpaper. It costs more but it's reusable for many years. Actually, most any insulating material used to wrap a hive works well so long as excess moisture from the bees can escape from the top.

Now, for a little reflection. . . . Looking back on 2002, my first year as president has been an exciting and rewarding experience, to say the least. The events started early in March with the very successful Tri-state meeting

at Hamilton/Keokuk. There, I met some fellow beekeepers from Iowa and Missouri with whom I still keep in touch through e-mail. In July, I.S.B.A. joined with seven other state beekeeping organizations at Goshen, Indiana to form the Heartland Apicultural Society. Still a fledgling, Heartland is sure to grow and continue to be our own regional organization in the Midwest, under President Jerry Hayes of *American Bee Journal*. Also in July, Northern Director Ken Haller initiated our own I.S.B.A. Group Web page on AOL. In August, the annual short course at UIUC and the Illinois State Fair honey exhibit were both outstanding events.

Finally, I hope to see all of you at our annual Fall Meeting in the Agriculture Building Auditorium, State Fairgrounds, on November 9.

John Hansen  
ISBA President

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER TO ADDRESS RESISTANT QUEENS AND STINGLESS BEES

Keynote Speaker, Marla Spivak, Associate Professor at University of Minnesota, will address the topic of resistant queens in her morning presentation to the ISBA Fall Meeting in Springfield, November 9. Spivak has lead the research of hygienic bees in the U.S. for many years. The title of her address is, "Are Resistant Queens Heroines?" Early in 2002, Associate Professor Spivak traveled extensively in Brazil while on sabbatical. The title of her afternoon address is, "Stinging and Stingless Bees in Brazil"

The program will also include an address by Stu Jacobson, Research Specialist at University of Illinois, Springfield. His topic will cover disease-resistant bees

and integrated pest management (IPM). A representative from the office of State Treasurer, Judy Baar Topinka, will speak about low-cost loans for beekeepers who want to start or expand their business. The loans are part of the State Treasurer's Alternative Agriculture Loan Program. An in-depth discussion of the Small Hive Beetle in Illinois is also on the program as well as the annual beekeeping report from Chief Bee Inspector, Steve Chard. Door prizes and refreshments will be available. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Illinois Department of Agriculture Building, State Fairgrounds. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.

**APIARY INSPECTION  
SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

It's that time of year again for the Illinois State Beekeepers Association Annual Meeting. Like last year, the meeting will be hosted by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. The IDA's address is 801 Sangamon Avenue. To locate the IDA building, enter Gate 11, which is directly west of the Illinois State Fairgrounds' Main Gate. As soon as you go through Gate 11, the IDA's headquarters (large red-brick building) will immediately be visible. Please park in the IDA's main parking lot just west of the building. Parking spaces next to the building are limited to handicapped and 1-hour parking. Access to the building is through the main entrance on the west side of the building. Once you enter the building, you will be guided to the registration table and to the auditorium, where the meeting will be held.

I will cover a wide variety of topics at the ISBA annual meeting. The IDA annual inspection report will be presented, along with information on other timely topics, such as small hive beetle expansion and control in Illinois. The ISBA has planned a very informative and interactive agenda. We look forward to seeing all of you at this very important meeting.

Speaking of the small hive beetle, during the IDA's inspections in the northwestern part of Illinois at the end of August, suspect beetles were found in Henry and Whiteside Counties. Samples were collected and sent to the USDA Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland for analysis. Testing conducted by the laboratory confirmed that the beetles were in fact small

hive beetles. To date, small hive beetle has officially been found in Henry, Kankakee, McLean, Whiteside and Will Counties. Beekeepers in Henry and Whiteside Counties believe the beetle arrived in their counties through package bees. It's apparent that there are a variety of ways that the beetle can enter the state and expand its territory. A portion of time at the upcoming ISBA meeting will be devoted to discussion about issues related to the small hive beetle. Please be prepared to voice your opinion at the meeting on the issues that will be presented. Your opinion is vital to the beekeeping industry and the IDA in the development of plans to combat the small hive beetle.

See you at the ISBA meeting on November 9!

Steve Chard  
Chief Apiary Inspector

**UPDATE FROM 150<sup>TH</sup> ILLINOIS STATE FAIR**

-- by Rita Taylor

The Bee and Honey Exhibit had the shelves packed with the golden liquid made by our little honey bees. We

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had new exhibitors showing their wares, as well as four professional exhibits. Congratulations to St. Clair Beekeepers Association for winning the Sweepstakes Trophy in the Professional Class. Congratulations to Lincoln Land Beekeepers Association for winning the Best Display Trophy. Congratulations to Leo Spicer, Jr. who won the Sweepstakes in Open Class. Congratulations to Grant Kaiser who won first with the 2-1/2 pound jar of comb honey. This entry was auctioned at the Commodity Auction Sale of Champions for \$400 of which one half goes to the beekeeper. The other half is donated to an agriculture-related organization.

INSERTED HERE IN HARD COPY IS THE  
USPS ANNUAL REPORT STATEMENT

I would like to thank our judge, Eugene Killion, who did a super job. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped at the Bee and Honey Exhibit and those who sold the Honey Ice Cream. Our volunteers were: Ken Beauchamp; Rich Ramsey; Udell and Norma Meyer; Fred, Carolyn and Chelsea Gerberding; Harry and Pat Patterson; Bill Barrows; Steve Mayes; Carl Wenning; Raymond Brown; Melvin Kemmerling; Gloria Morris; and Bill Murdock. If I have missed someone, I apologize. Your help is most appreciated.

Rita

#### **HEARTLAND APICULTURAL SOCIETY**

Bill Buckley reports that the second annual conference of the Heartland Apicultural Society will be held at Midway College, in Midway, Kentucky, July 10-12, 2003. This is halfway between Frankfort and Lexington. Please mark your calendar for this event. More information will be forthcoming. In the mean time, Bill can be reached via e-mail at [dotbuckbee@aol.com](mailto:dotbuckbee@aol.com) for additional information.

#### **SUBSCRIPTION RATES INCREASE FOR *American Bee Journal***

Effective January 1, 2003, *American Bee Journal* subscription prices will increase slightly to reflect increases in printing and mailing costs. As usual, association members may obtain a 25% discount by ordering their subscription through their association. The association secretaries or treasurers usually handle these transactions. The association rates given on the outside back cover of this publication are correct for 2003. The prices for *Bee Culture* and *The Speedy Bee* remain unchanged for 2003.

Dadant and Sons, publishers of *American Bee Journal*, has association membership cards available at not charge if you need them for your members. They will also gladly send free sample copies of *American Bee Journal* or the Dadant bee supply catalog for meetings.

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 for 2003 are \$6 for the calendar year, **January 1 through December 31 only**. Dues include a subscription to this newsletter, the *ISBA Bulletin*. 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 for 2003 (members only)**

	<b>1 Yr.</b>	<b>2 Yr.</b>	<b>3 Yr.</b>
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$16.45	\$31.30	\$44.05
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$17.00	\$32.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	<b>\$13.25</b>	<b>\$25.25</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>

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