



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

March/April 2004 • Volume 86, Number 2

President's Message

The Health of Beekeeping in Illinois

The bees are flying, flowers are blooming, the trees are sprouting new leaves and by the time you read this, I will have installed some new packages. Spring has arrived, and I'm excited. Most of my bees came through the winter well, so well, that I have a few strong colonies I can divide as soon as I get some queens. I hope your colonies are doing as well and that you are as enthused about beekeeping this year as I am.

In the news department, our ISBA Board has selected a new editor to edit and publish this ISBA Bulletin. He is Larry Krengel from the Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association (NIBA). A resident of Marengo, Illinois, Larry is a retired schoolteacher and a very active member of NIBA. He currently edits and

publishes "Sweet Stuff", the NIBA newsletter, and is now adding The Bulletin to his workload. Our best wishes to you, Larry, in your new endeavor.

Carl Wenning, our previous editor and webmaster, continues as our webmaster of www.isba.ws. Carl recently added five charts to our web site depicting beekeeping trends in Illinois. The charts incorporate the latest statistics from the Illinois Department of Agriculture compiled by Chief Apiary Inspector, Steve Chard. The charts show trends in: *The Number of Registered Beekeepers, The Number of Registered Apiaries, The Number of Registered Colonies, The Average Number of*

**New Charts depict
the health of
Illinois beekeeping.**

**We are holding our
own.**

(Continued on page 2)

Quick Quiz Time !

Do you know how many beekeepers are in the state of Illinois?

Are there more or less beekeepers than ten years ago?

Does each beekeeper have more or less colonies than ten years ago?

How many colonies are in the average beekeeper's apiary?

-Answers on page 2-

(Continued from page 1)

Colonies per Beekeeper and the Average Number of Colonies per Apiary.

When you view the charts, you'll see that the number of registered beekeepers has been holding in the 1,100 to 1,200 range since year 2000; the number of registered apiaries is now fairly steady above 1,800; and the number of registered colonies has been showing a slight trend upward and is now just under 20,000. According to the last two charts named above, it appears that most of us are starting to keep more colonies (total between 16 and 17 per beekeeper) while increasing the size of our apiaries to an average of just under ten colonies.

Incidentally, Steve Chard is seeking an experienced beekeeper residing in one of Illinois' west central counties to become a bee inspector. The territory includes Rock Island, Mercer, Warren, Henderson, McDonough, Fulton, Schuyler, Adams, Brown, Pike and Calhoun counties. Contact Steve at 217 785-4233 or at schard@agr.state.il.us.

Finally, due to a delay in selecting an editor, followed by the transition in editor and print shops, there was a subsequent delay in this issue arriving in

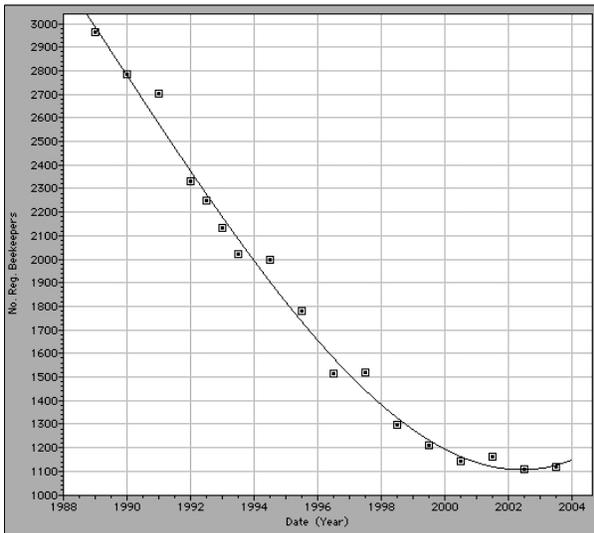
your mailbox. Your May/June issue should arrive in much better time. Meanwhile, let us know how we can improve the Bulletin by contacting either Larry or me (see back page for addresses and phones). Also, let us know if you like to write articles and would like to become a contributing writer to the Bulletin. Happy beekeeping!

John Hansen
I.S.B.A. President

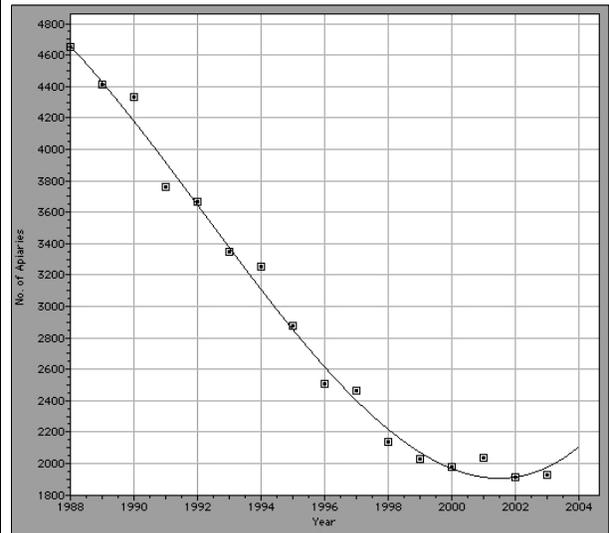
Obituary

April 3, 2004

The Illinois Beekeeping community was saddened to hear of the death of Warren Ashley, one of the state's eldest beekeepers. At 99 Ashley had just recently given up his bees that he began keeping on the family farm during his high school years. He was a long-time member of the Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Association.



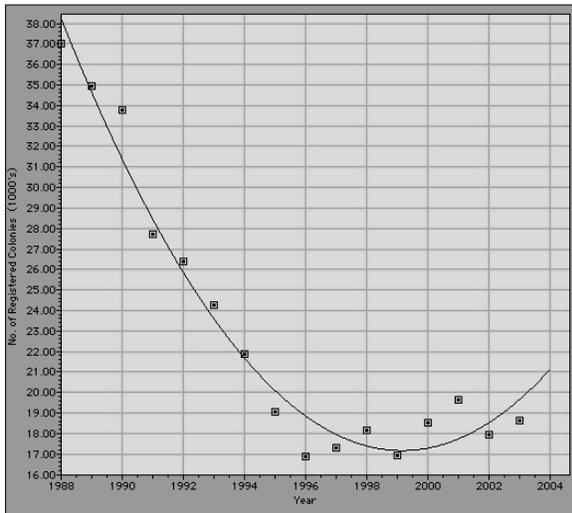
1. Number of Registered Beekeepers by Year



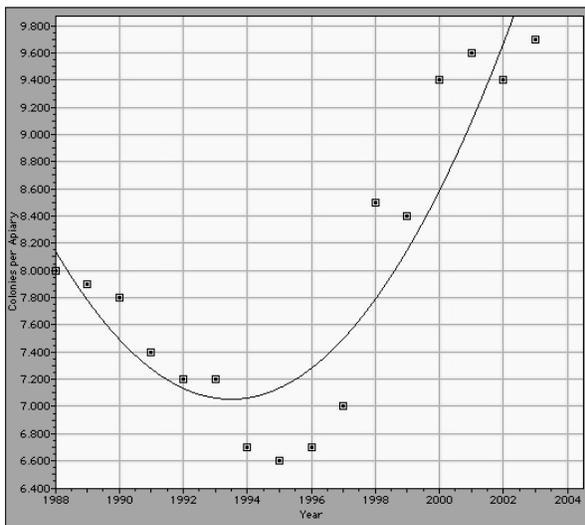
2. Number of Registered Apiaries by Year

Answers to the quick quiz -

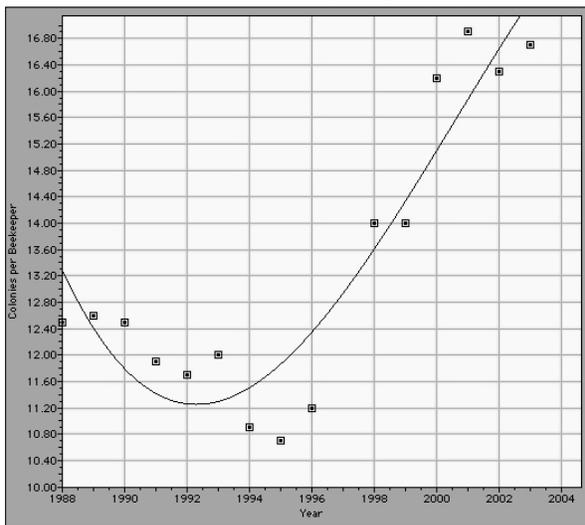
1. Just over 1100 beekeepers are registered in Illinois. That is an average of about 11 per county.
2. There were 2000 beekeepers ten years ago. Our ranks are down by nearly 50%
3. On average each beekeeper today keeps 56% more colonies than ten years ago.
4. The average beekeeper has about 16.8 colonies. That .8 likely has mites.



3. Number of Registered Colonies by Year



4. Number of Colonies per Apiary by year



5. Colonies per Beekeeper by Year



Annual Spring Meeting

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association is proud to announce its annual spring meeting! Join us on Saturday ~ June 26, 2004 for a day of fellowship, presentations, discussions and interactive demonstrations. The 2004 ISBA spring meeting is being hosted by its northern region and this year will take place at the John Wallanche's farm in Plano, Illinois.

Two general sessions and two concurrent break-out sessions will provide the latest, in-depth information for beginners and veteran Beekeepers alike.

Bring your cooler with lunch and drinks or bring some extra money for our provided lunch. Since the presentations will be outside, please also bring a couple lawn chairs, sunscreen and some rain gear, just in case. Think you are an expert at using your bee smoker? Bring your smoker and fuel of choice for our smoker contest! Have a gadget you have made bring it for our show and tell area! We look forward to seeing you! Keep an eye on our website for the latest information on the spring meeting!

When: 8am-4pm
 Where: The Wallanche's Farm
 600 Little Rock Road
 Plano, IL 60545

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 2004 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 the association secretary.

Reduced Journal Rates for 2004 (*members only*)

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
American Bee Journal	17.20	32.75	46.05
Bee Culture	17.00	32.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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