

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

May/June 2004 • Volume 86, Number 3

President's Message

Share Your Talents

Fellow beekeepers! My enthusiasm for this season continues as strong as ever. Our weather and temperature range here in the collar counties has been a little on the cool side but not too drastic (except for those heavy, fast-moving storms and tornadoes that hit us in April). My bees are working dandelions more than ever and there is a light honey flow going on. To heighten my enthusiasm, the third week in April I was asked by the owner of an apartment house to remove a colony of bees that had over-wintered under a balcony on his building. What a beautiful gift of nature. Filled at least three deep frames with brood and no Varroa in sight. Life doesn't get much better than this. I hope your season is starting this well.

The program plans for our ISBA Summer meeting on June 26 are also shaping up nicely. While we do not yet have a keynote speaker committed, a glance at the concurrent breakout sessions (see the program in this issue) tells you we'll have something of interest for every beekeeper,

whether experienced or just beginning. This will be an outdoor meeting with a picnic setting. So bring a lawn chair and a folding table or spread a blanket on the grass. You can bring your own food or purchase a catered lunch. Coffee, tea and honey lemonade will be provided. Don't forget your smoker and favorite fuel for the smoker contest.

Finally, I know many beekeepers and I also know that most beekeepers have a variety of talents. Often, we keep our talents to ourselves so that even our closest friends don't get to know all the things we can do well. So, among our nearly 1,100 registered beekeepers, I'll bet there are several among us who are good writers and who would like to share their experience and knowledge by writing an occasional short article for this ISBA Bulletin. If for any reason, you feel your English grammar is not up to speed, don't worry, that's why we have an editor. Think about it. And, if you decide you'd like to give it a try, call our editor, Larry Kregel, at 815 923-4449 or email, lkregel@mc.net.

John Hansen
President, ISBA

In this issue

State Inspector Map
Gene Killion wins blue ribbon
Spring meeting agenda

Spring Meeting
June 26, 2004
The Wallanches Farm
600 Little Rock Road
Plano, IL

Illinois Beekeeper of Note - Gene Killion

One of the best known names in Illinois beekeeping is Gene Killion. Gene holds the record for most comb honey produced by a single colony. He has literally written the book on comb honey—"Honey in the Comb" (\$12.00 on amazon.com). Last year he released a video by the same name (available online from Dadant for \$41.00).

Now, adding to his accomplishments, Gene won first place at the American Beekeeping Federation convention not only for his section honey, but also took first place in chunk honey and round section honey. A third place for his creamed honey rounded off his convention accomplishments.

Nice work, Gene!

A side note—at the ABF convention another friend of ISBA, Liz Vaenoski of Clinton, Wisconsin, took Best of Show for honey related items with one of her beeswax sculptures. Liz has been a part of a number of Illinois functions.

Honey— The other Sweetener?

Last September *Bee Culture* ran an article on the honey counter-revolution. Written by James Fischer, it suggests that we who sell and advocate for honey should know our competition.

"The goal is to liberate the slaves to sugar and artificial sweeteners," he contends. "But without a strategy that promotes your honey as a natural and healthy alternative to the sugar bowl itself, national trends tend to indicate that honey sales will shrink."

Fischer points out that honey was the original sweetener and all other have appeared in history to offer a cheaper alternative. But isn't life too short to tolerate poor imitations?

Yet, to promote honey, one needs to know the competition. In this article Fischer does a masterful job of exploring the other sweeteners that seek to displace honey.

Want to read more? You should. The whole article can be found at

<http://bee.airoot.com/beeculture/SugarReprint.pdf>

Sweet Stuff

New Web Address for ISBA

Carl Wenning

ISBA has obtained a new domain name for the ISBA web site. The preferred Web address of the Association's Web page is now www.isba.us (isba.us without the leading www will also work). While the old address (www.isba.ws) still works, users will be directed to the new domain name when they access our site through the old address.

The virtue of the new domain name (US rather than WS) is that it is not burdened by the undesirable Register.com advertisement at the bottom of the page. The new registrar, Domain Registry of America, provides free forwarding with domain name registration, and does not require the inclusion of unwanted advertising. Domain Registry of American is

also available at a 43% annual savings. These were both good reasons for the change over.

The old Web address will still work for two more years; that should be plenty of time to wean members from its use and allow additional time for search engines such as Google.com to find the new site without losing track of the ISBA Web page following the change over.

So, in the future, direct your Web browser to <http://www.isba.us/> to see the latest informational updates from the ISBA.

Ed. Note. Carl Wenning is the immediate past editor of the Bulletin and the ISBA webmaster.

Illinois State Beekeepers Association
Annual Spring Meeting
Sponsor: Northern Region

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
8-9am	Registration ~ Coffee and Donuts ~ Registration for Lunch
9-10:15am	Welcome ~ Master of Ceremonies President's Address ~ John Hansen, President ISBA General Session ~ Keynote Speaker
10:15-10:30am	Smoker Contest ~ Master of Ceremonies
10:30-11am	Break ~ Door Prizes ~ Shopping
11am-12pm	Concurrent Breakout Session #1 Introductory Session ~ Intro to Honey Bees and Beekeeping Larry Hanson, Member Northern Illinois Beekeepers Assoc. Introductory Session ~ Beekeeping Equipment & Woodenware Gary Plazyk, Member - Northern Illinois Beekeepers Assoc. Strategies for Winning Honey Competitions Ron Fischer, Member - Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Assoc. Colony Management ~ Open Hive Demonstration John Wallanches, Member - Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Assoc. Queen Rearing for the Hobbyist Beekeeper Lynn Osborn ~ State of Illinois Apiary Inspector Food Grade Mineral Oil ~ An Alternative Varroa Treatment Bob Svidron, Member - Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Assoc. Using Essential Oils in Keeping Healthy Honey Bees Phil Raines, Member – Stateline Beekeepers Assoc. The Future is Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Stu Jacobsen, Member – Lincoln Land Beekeepers Assoc.
12-1pm	Lunch on Your Own or Provided
1-2:15pm	Welcome Back ~ Master of Ceremonies Smoke Contest Results! General Session ~ Keynote Speaker
2:15-2:30pm	Gadget Time – Master of Ceremonies
2:30-3pm	Break ~ Door Prizes ~ Shopping ~ Honey House Tours ~ Gadgets
3-4pm	Concurrent Breakout Session #2 Same as Session #1 (see above)

Where?
The Wallanches' Farm
600 Little Rock Road
Plano, IL 60545
(630) 552-8466

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

I hope that all of you were successful in buying the package bees that you had ordered for this year. With the moderate to high degree of winterkill in Illinois this past winter, there has certainly been a high demand for package bees and queens this spring and we understand the supply has been limited.

By this point in time, beekeepers around the state should have no difficulty in purchasing Checkmite+ Bee Hive Pest Control Strips and Api Life VAR. The Illinois Department of Agriculture has worked with the USEPA over the past few months to gain approval for the sale and use of the products for varroa mite control (Checkmite and Api Life VAR) and small hive beetle control (Checkmite) under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act in Illinois for 2004. If you experience problems in purchasing these products, please feel free to contact me at 217/785-4233.

A new mite control product is available in Illinois for 2004.

Speaking of varroa mite control, there is a new product on the market that you may not have heard about. The product is named "Sucrocidä". It's a concentrate that you mix with water and it's to be sprayed directly on the bees. One of the best advantages with this product is that it can be used during honeyflow as well. It's my under-

standing, however, that supers should be removed when applying this product during honeyflow. If you are interested in gaining more information, contact Dadant & Sons, Inc. toll free at 1-888-922-1293. As with all products of this nature, be sure to strictly follow the label directions.

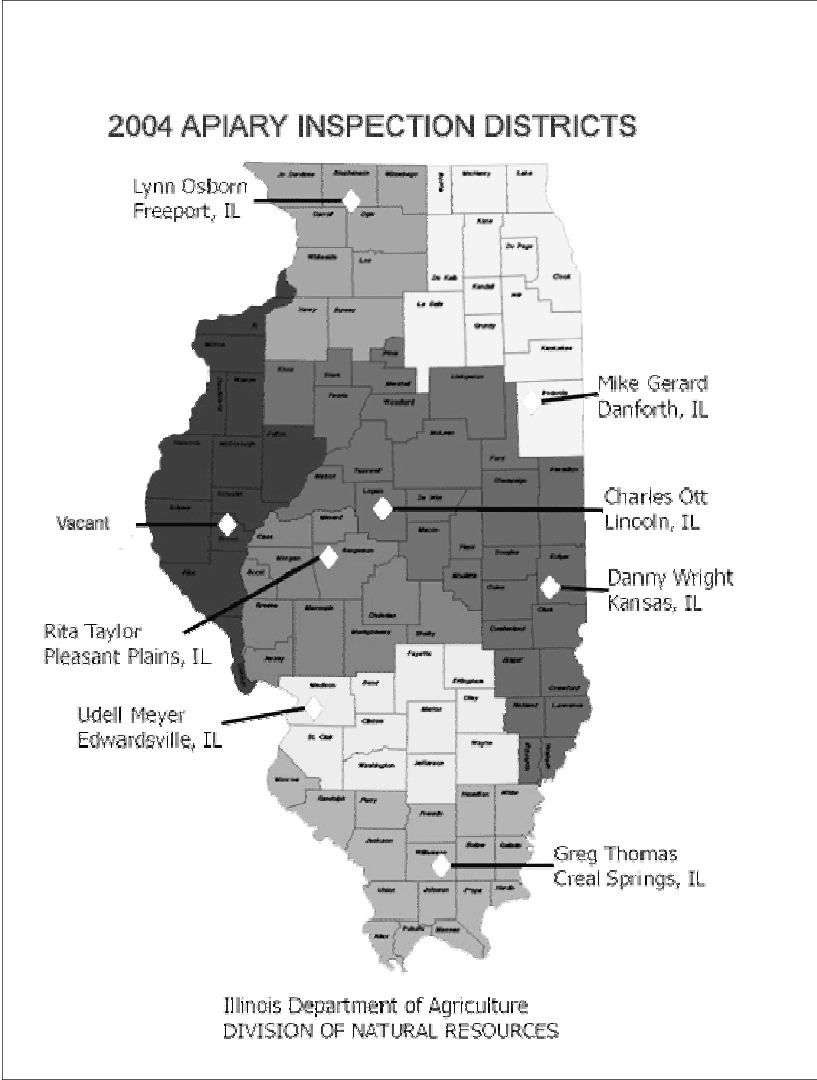
We continue to closely monitor the situation around Illinois regarding the possible spread of the small hive beetle. Please be on the lookout for this pest that can seriously damage your colonies. If you suspect that the beetle has entered your colonies, please contact your Illinois Department of Agriculture Apiary Inspector at the numbers listed in this newsletter or me at the IDOA.

The IDOA Apiary Inspectors are fully prepared to serve you again this year. Please don't hesitate to contact your local inspector if your colonies are encountering problems or if you are interested in gaining some advice on general colony management. Inspections continue to be free of charge, which is quite a bargain these days!

The IDOA is still searching for a person who may be interested in serving as an IDOA Apiary Inspector to work in the counties of Calhoun, Pike, Brown, Adams, Schuyler, Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, Henderson, Warren, Mercer and Rock Island. If you or someone you know would like to serve in this capacity, please call me at the IDOA. We would like to fill this important position as soon as possible.

Langstroth—the father of the modern hive

This is the 153 anniversary of the Langstroth Hive. On October 30, 1851 Reverend Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth was returning from his apiaries when a novel idea came to him. That evening he wrote in his journal of his intent to construct a hive having movable fames with a bee space all around. Today's Langstroth hive was born. In a century and a half it has changed little. Read more on the story in the next ISBA Bulletin.



**Beekeepers serving as
Illinois Department of
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**Did you know?
It's the law.**

All who keep bees in the state of Illinois are required to register with the Department of Agriculture. It is free. It is easy. And it is the law. Register you colonies by contacting Steve Chard at the above address or use the form found on line at <http://www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/beekeep.pdf>.

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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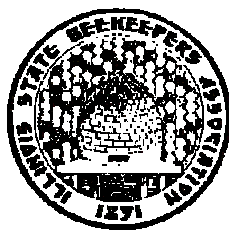
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