

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## *BULLETIN*

November/December 2005 • Volume 87, Number 6

### *APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT*

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Greetings! Hope you had an excellent honey crop this year. It seems sometimes that more honey is produced during a dry year than a year with normal precipitation. Certainly, Mother Nature has a way of taking care of things.

I would like to invite all of you to attend the ISBA Annual Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 12. The Illinois Department of Agriculture is pleased again to host the event. The meeting will be held at the Department's building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. To locate the Department's building, enter Gate 11, which is directly west of the State Fairgrounds Main Gate on Sangamon Avenue. As soon as you enter Gate 11, you will see the Department's red brick building ahead and to your right. Please park in the large parking lot just west and across the street from the building. Parking spaces directly in front of the building are limited to handicapped and 1-hour parking. Access to the building is through the main entrance on the west side. Once you enter the building, you will be guided to the registration table and the auditorium, where the meeting and lunch will be held. As always, the ISBA has a power-packed agenda in store for you and the fellowship is always great as well. As usual, I will give a report on the Department's inspection activities and findings at the meeting. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

As you know, a variety of miticides are now available for the control of varroa mites. The apiary industry now has access to newer products such as

Api Life VAR, Sucroside and Mite-Away II (formic acid), in addition to the other products on the market. The Department is interested in learning how well these products are performing in combating varroa mites. Please drop me a note at the Department- Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 19281, Springfield, Illinois, 62794-9281 and let me know what type of experience you have had with the products. Thank you.

One of our veteran Department Apiary Inspectors, Charlie Ott, recently retired from his inspector position. Charlie's positive impact on Illinois' Apiary Industry has been tremendous and he will definitely be missed. He has a very special relationship with beekeepers and with honeybees. We wish Charlie the very best of luck in his future endeavors. Thank you Charlie for all of your hard work and imparting your wisdom to others for so many years!

With Charlie's retirement, we are now looking to fill the vacant Apiary Inspector position. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving as a Department Inspector for central Illinois, please contact me at 217/785-4233. To provide the best service possible to Illinois' Apiary Industry, we need to have a full team of inspectors in place.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the ISBA Fall Meeting on November 12 at the Illinois Department of Agriculture.β

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Bees have been making honey for at least 100 million years, since the Cretaceous period.

## Subscription prices going up

Both Bee Culture and the American Bee Journal offer ISBA members a discount on subscriptions. By subscribing through your Association, you save about 25%. However, the price of a regular subscription will be going up for both journals as of January 1 and therefore the ISBA discount price will also increase.

If you wish to subscribe (or extend your subscription) before the price increase, Rita Taylor, ISBA Secretary, is ready to speed your speed your subscription to the publishers. Send her the old price (below) or see her at the November Springfield meeting. The new prices are on the back page.

The subscription price of the Speedy Bee remains the same.β

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
American Bee Journal	17.20	32.75	46.05
Bee Culture	17.00	32.00	N/A

## Gadgets go to Springfield

Are you attending the November 12 ISBA meeting in Springfield? Then you should know that President Ken Beauchamp has thrown down the gauntlet. “Any beekeeper who is a real beekeeper has gadgets—gadgets galore—gadgets big and small—gadgets that make his beekeeping life just a bit easier.” Some gadgets are unique inventions while others are adaptations of older solutions to problems.

Ken challenges the attendees at the November meeting to show off their swarm catchers, home-made queen cages, unique extracting aids... gadgets of all beekeeping varieties. “Strange is great,” says Ken. “Useful is tremendous.” Don’t bee left out. Bring a gadget.β

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## The Burda Method

*A swarm in May is worth a load of hay*  
*A swarm in June... it will be honey soon*  
*A swarm in July, let it fly.*

You have a chance to pick up a swarm. It is a small swarm—likely not going to amount to much. Should you take it home?

That was where Don Burda was in the July of 2004. He did hive the swarm—small as it might be—and took it home to his apple orchard. He didn’t realize what he had acquired.

Spring 2005 started like most springs and the little swarm from the preceding summer survived and began work... and boy did it work. Don, an orchardist from Woodstock who has only a limited number of super to use in his apiary, pulled the first full supers from the July swarm, extracted them and put them back on wet. In short order they were full again. Don says that after this adventurous—albeit small—swarm of the summer before had the first seven supers filled before the colony swarmed! It was an excellent crop in any book, but they weren’t done yet.

Not wanting to give up on a good thing he hived that new swarm and moved it to another corner of the orchard. By the end of the season, that swarm and the mother colony had filled thirteen supers and produced nearly 400 pounds of surplus honey between them..

It seems likely that the next time Don encounters a little swarm hanging in a tree... too late in the season to be useful... he will certainly not let it fly. Indeed he will hive it to see if the Burda Method works yet again.β



# ISBA 2005 ANNUAL FALL MEETING PROGRAM

## MORNING SESSION

## AFTERNOON SESSION

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration, Coffee, Donuts,	1:15 – 2:00 PM	Raising Queens in Illinois Stu Jacobson
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks Ken Beauchamp, President	2:00 – 2:15 PM	Gadget Demonstration
9:15 – 9:20 AM	Secretary’s report by  Rita Taylor Secretary	2:15 – 3:15 PM	Beekeeping in Other Countries Ed Levi, State Apiary Inspector of Arkansas
9:20 – 9:25 AM	Treasurer’s report by Udell Meyer, Treasurer	3:15 – 3:30 PM	Break & DOOR PRIZES
9:25 – 10:00 AM	Annual Apiary Inspection Report Steve Chard, Chief Apiary Inspector	3:30 – 3:45 PM	Election & Installation of Officers & Central Director
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Beekeeper of the Year Award by Ken Haller	3:45 – 4:00 PM	Additional ISBA Local Association Reports
10:15 – 10:30 AM	Break	4:00 PM	Adjournment
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Integrated Pest Management Ed Levi, State Apiary Inspector of Arkansas		
11:30 – 11:45 AM	ISBA Local Association Reports		
11:45 AM – 12:00PM	DOOR PRIZES		
12:00 – 1:15 PM	LUNCH		

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*Catered lunch – Sign up by 9 AM at registration  
Or on your own – See lists of local restaurants at  
registration.β*

## Kentucky in January?

The American Beekeeping Federation convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on January 11-14, 2006. Further information is available at [ABFner.org](http://ABFner.org) or by emailing to [info@ABFnet.org](mailto:info@ABFnet.org).β

## Missouri in the Spring?

The Missouri State Beekeepers and the Kansas Honey Producers are promoting a multi-state meeting on March 3 and 4, 2006 in Overland, Park, Kansas. In addition to their home states, they are inviting beekeepers from Illinois, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Nebraska. On the agenda already are Dr Marla Spivak, Tom Seeley, Dr. Diana Sammataro (from the USDA Bee Lab) and Nancy Ostiguy. Plans for the meeting which will include large sessions and small-group workshops are still developing. For more information contact Joli Winer at [Joli@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Joli@sbcglobal.net).β

## The Strategic Use of Chemical and Biologic Controls

### Article #3

Welcome to our third installment exploring the multiple avenues of Integrated Pest Management. At this juncture you are familiar with the basic philosophy of IMP and its key strategies. Additionally, you have seen that IPM is neither a silver bullet nor a simple series of easy steps. IMP rather is a way of rethinking your daily approach to your pest and disease management strategies.

You have seen that IPM is neither a silver bullet nor a simple series of easy steps.

In article #2 we discussed the concept of target pests and diseases becoming resistant to their chemical treatments. In this article we will explore the concept of treatment rotation and the use of alternative controls.

For the most part, rotation represents the “I” of Integrated Pest Management. This means, that through the use of multiple, cooperative and diverse treatment methods, a target pest is less likely to become resistant to a particular chemical and more likely to be eliminated.

For illustration purposes, let’s have a look at the Varroa Mite and see how a rotational plan might look. Since we all know that we have Varroa and that Varroa is here to stay, you can begin to practice these concepts immediately (assuming your Varroa population has reached an economic injury level – see article #2). First, let’s look at the big picture of general control categories.

- ⇒ Hard and Soft Chemical Controls
- ⇒ Biological Controls
- ⇒ Genetic Controls
- ⇒ Cultural Controls
- ⇒ Mechanical Controls

The theory behind rotation is straightforward. Instead of simply treating your Varroa with Apistan each and every time – treat one year with Apistan, then the next with CheckMite and the next with Sucroside (for example). In the world of IPM, we like to hit our pests hard and kill as many as possible while being as safe as possible to our Honey Bees. This involves fol-

lowing label directions as well as hitting our targets with different weapons each time. If you have been using Apistan or CheckMite for a number of years now, chances are you have some Varroa that is resistant to one or the other. A simple rotation of treatments will help ensure that you kill those that have developed a resistance.

In this article we will focus on Hard/Soft Chemicals and Biological controls. In following articles, we will explore the rest. While you want to rotate your chemical treatments, you may also want to simultaneously utilize other non-chemical treatment options. Why not attack Varroa with multiple weapons simultaneously? For example, the use of a screened bottom board used continuously while treating with chemicals when needed. A one-two punch! These will be discussed briefly here and in the future.

### Chemical Controls

Some chemicals are dangerous to your bees and to you

You are probably most familiar with this general class of controls. Typically, any substance applied to your Honey Bees or hive bodies is considered to be a

chemical. Some chemicals are dangerous to your Bees and to you; these are called “hard” chemicals. Those chemicals that are harmless (or less harmful) to your Bees and yourself, you guessed it, these are called “soft” chemicals. While both are very popular throughout agriculture, and have been for many years, IPM provides many alternatives to their traditional use. This having been said however, chemicals still play a very important role in pest and disease management and when used properly and within an IPM program, they are still very useful. Both hard and soft chemical controls generally fit in the following categories:

#### Antibiotics

Terramycin – American Foulbrood

Fumidil-B - Nosema

#### Pesticides

Apistan – Fluvalinate – Varroa Mite

MiteAway II – Formic Acid – Varroa

#### MiteEssential Oils – Varroa Mite

CheckMite – Coumaphous – Varroa

Mite and Small Hive Beetle

GuardStar – Small Hive Beetle

Menthol Crystals – Tracheal

Mite

Grease Patties – Tracheal Mite

Para-Moth – Wax Moth

The following are primarily used in insect control within

vegetable and fruit farming but may someday have applications available to Honey Bees

- Pheromones
- Attractants
- Repellants
- Sterilants
- Growth Inhibitors

## Biological Controls

These controls utilize living organisms to target and control a pest or disease.

While we are primarily familiar with the chemical controls listed above, there are numerous biological controls being developed for use within Beekeeping. These controls utilize living organisms (both macroscopic and microscopic) to target and control a pest or disease. While numerous biological controls have been in use for many years within agriculture in general, few exist for the Beekeeper today.

This information will provide a basic introduction/primer. Keep an eye on the Bee journals for the latest in research and applications to Honey Bees. Biological controls generally fit in the following categories:

### Beneficial Insects

Example: Lady Bugs to control Aphids

Pseudo scorpions to control Varroa and Small Hive Beetle

### Pathogens

Fungi

Parasites

Parasitoid Wasps to control Flies

In IPM articles to follow, we will further explore treatment rotation and alternative control strategies including:

Genetic Controls

Cultural Controls

Mechanical Controls

As you have seen, by utilizing a few different, yet complimentary techniques, you may begin to see your Honey Bees become healthier while your attack on their pests and diseases become more deadly.β

Ken Haller

Vice President

Illinois State Beekeepers Association

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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 2005 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 2005 (*members only*)

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American Bee Journal	17.96	34.05	47.89
Bee Culture	19.00	36.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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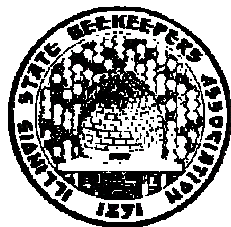
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- ⇒ *Illinois Inspection Supervisor's report*
- ⇒ *Price Increases for Bee Journals*
- ⇒ *The Burda Method*
- ⇒ *November ISBA Meeting*
- ⇒ *IPM part 3*