

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

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Illinois Beekeepers Fair Well at ABF Convention

From Karen Lorence

Rumor has it that Illinois participants will not be invited to the 2010 American Beekeeping Federation convention in Orlando, Florida after this year's convention in Reno Nevada. No...they were not too rowdy! Yes...they conducted themselves relatively well. "Then why?" you may ask. Four of our representatives won nineteen of the thirty-nine ribbons awarded. We all agreed that we were fortunate to dodge the frigid weather in the mid-west as Reno enjoyed sunny, 57° days while we were there.

The 66th annual convention in Reno was held January 13 – 17 and was attended by 533 registered participants from the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries. Illinois was represented by James and Karen Belli from Wadsworth, Illinois, Glenn and Barbara Fanter from Kilbourn, Illinois, Ronald Fischer from Orion, Illinois, Joe Graham from Hamilton, Illinois, Charles and Karen Lorence from Aurora, Illinois, and Tim May from Harvard, Illinois. Gene Killion from Paris, Illinois was also a participant in the national honey show.

We spent the week learning more about CCD – Colony Collapse Disorder. One of the most poignant remarks I heard was in a welcoming address by the ABF vice-president, David Mendes, commercial beekeeper from Florida. He said, "Regarding pesticides, I wish I had a magic wand and could go back twenty years." It was my understanding that he believes our over-use of chemicals has made the parasites more resistant to treatment, much like the over-use of anti-biotics in humans and other animals has made them ineffective. It was the consensus of most of the speakers there that we should begin eliminating and/or controlling the amount of chemicals we use in order to foster disease-resistant honeybees and chemical-resistant mites.

Some other topics covered by researchers were the latest reports on varroa mite infestations. One of the newest diseases is *Nosema ceranae*, an intestinal disorder, and discussion covered how to diagnose and control it. Feeding and nutrition for bees with the use of pollen substitutes was covered. Protecting bees from pesticides and other toxic chemicals was a highlighted topic. High fructose corn syrup was discussed with emphasis on the colony health which resulted.

We were treated on Friday evening to a special performance called "Bee Man," a one-man play by Mark Hoffman from New Jersey. It highlighted the life of the Rev. Lorenzo Langstroth and his discovery of bee space with his trial and errors in attempting to patent and market his movable frame hive.

Karen and Jim Belli won four blue ribbons in water white, extra white, white, and extra light amber honey. They won red ribbons in beeswax candles. Charles Lorence took home blue ribbons in 1# chunk, creamed, cut comb, and dark honey. He received red ribbons for his water white, white, extra light amber, amber, and comb section honey. He also received a white ribbon for his light amber honey. Gene Killion took first prize in comb section honey and second prize in chunk honey and cut comb honey. He took a white ribbon for his round comb sections. Ron Fischer placed third in his creamed honey entry.

The American Honey Queen contest had 3 representatives—from the states of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. All three had magnificent qualifications and Miss Iowa became our ABF honey queen while Miss Minnesota became our ABF honey princess.

Orlando, Florida will be the destination for 2010's American Beekeeping Federation convention. Illinois needs to have more representation and more memberships in this fine national organization which promotes honey bees and the use of honey. It also contributes a large amount to legislation and research—two things in the industry that are MOST important for the funding of our bee labs. β

Correction—Hivastan is Approved for Use in Illinois Hives

Contrary to what was included in the last issue of the Bulletin, Hivastan is approved for use in Illinois. It has received approval from USEPA and the IDOA. β

An Apiary Opportunity

A gentleman in North Wheaton, IL has property and wants a beekeeper to place a hive or two on his property. No strings attached. He just wants honey bees on his property. He is an aspiring beekeeper but will not start for a few years. If you are interested in placing some bees on this property, please e-mail him directly. Tyler Allison—Tyler@allisonhouse.com β



Benefits Of An Illinois Queen

David Burns

Those of us who are involved with the Illinois Queen Initiative are excited to step forward and lead such a huge project because we believe it will benefit local Illinois beekeepers tremendously. Not only must we work hard to produce an Illinois queen stock that is impressive, but we must also impress local beekeepers because traditions are not easily broken, especially among beekeepers.

As beekeepers we can be very critical of those providing us with nucs, packages and especially queens. Beekeepers are constantly trading stories about why a particular queen provider is the best or the worst. Often our judgment may be erroneous and have nothing at all to do with the queen, but with the weather or some other outside element that influenced the hive's positive or negative behavior or productivity. But right or wrong, we typically blame our queens and consequently our queen providers. Sometimes this is justifiable and sometimes it is not.

Beekeepers in Illinois usually do not inquire as to the true genetics of the queens we purchase. We may ask if it is an Italian or Carniolan or if it is hygienic or not, but we do not usually inquire further and ask about the genetics and characteristics of the drones that mated with the queen. We are usually most concerned about whether it is gentle or not.

Year after year we purchase our queens based on word of mouth, the most attractive ad in the bee journals or our personal observation of the queens we purchase. Most beekeepers are still bouncing around, trying different stock, hoping to find a "magic" queen that will rescue us from all of the problems facing our hives today. For the most part, we are none the better in our search.

Obviously, magic will not help us and trying every queen out there can be expensive. This is why the Illinois Queen Initiative can be very beneficial to Illinois beekeepers. Through skillfully trained Illinois queen breeders following a carefully selective breeding which includes hygienic behavior, honey production, and gentleness, we believe we can greatly enhance the quality of queens available to beekeepers throughout the state.

Beekeepers are creative and independent people. Encouraging queen rearing in northern states will undoubtedly inspire new management systems and beekeeping technologies. From Marla Spivak in *Successful Queen Rearing Short Course*

It will not happen overnight, but year upon year there is every reason to believe that we can improve upon Illinois queens. With the cooperation of local beekeepers sharing their best stock and trying the Illinois queens we can enjoy local queens whose progeny is known and whose origin is well documented. These will be queens from hives that can survive the harsh winters of Illinois, queens that do not have to be stressed through lengthy shipments and queens that are accustomed to our pests and diseases.

Challenges facing the Illinois Queen Initiative are, little to no funding, traditional loyalties to out of state queen providers, late rearing of queens due to our late arrival of spring and honing in on a plan that works. Though these challenges exist, we believe each challenge presents a breakthrough, a new answer and a new approach.

The Illinois Queen Initiative group seeks your support, your funding, and your willingness to join us in this work. Our final objective is to provide Illinois beekeepers with a queen whose hygienic behavior can overcome the threat of pests and diseases within the hive, winter hardy, gentle and can produce the honey that we have not seen for years.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- 1 —Attend our queen rearing courses. Class information is contained within this newsletter.
- 2 —Volunteer. Even though you may not want to raise queens we still need property to place nucs and hives, record keepers and hive workers.
- 3 —Donate. Testing and testing equipment is expensive. Microscopes are needed to test for pathogens. The equipment needed to conduct hygienic behavior tests costs \$500. The eventual instrumental insemination equipment can be several thousands of dollars. For information on contributing to these needs contact Stu Jacobs at: sjacobson@warppnet.net. β



Illinois Queen Initiative

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Happy New Year to everyone! Hope your bees are surviving the winter weather we have been experiencing.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Illinois State Beekeepers Association, is undertaking a project to assist with the possible reduction of honeybee exposure to various pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.). As you know, there have been instances when honeybees have been exposed to these materials, at times with catastrophic results. This project goes beyond the steps the Department and the ISBA have jointly taken on this issue. The Department and ISBA are continually looking at measures that can improve this situation.

Within the immediate future, licensed pesticide applicators will be able to gain information on apiary location and beekeeper name/address/telephone number through the Department's apiary webpage. In order to protect the confidentiality of the specific beekeeper information, the licensed applicators will need to use a Department issued password to obtain the detailed information. In other words, the general public will not have access to the detailed information. Once the pesticide applicator has gained the needed information, he or she can contact the respective beekeeper before an application. The pesticide applicator and the beekeeper can then work together to prevent honeybee exposure to the material that will be applied.

This process will not guarantee the complete elimination of bee exposure to pesticides, but the Department and the ISBA believe this is definitely a step in the right direction. The Department will continue to encourage licensed pesticide applicators to contact beekeepers well in advance of an application. We will keep you posted on the progress of this project.

In the November/December ISBA Bulletin, it was mistakenly reported that Hivastan, a new product for varroa mite control, has not been approved by the USEPA and the Department. The product has actually been approved and can be ordered by contacting Dadant and Sons, Inc.

There is more good news on the industry's fight against varroa mites. The product Checkmite+ Bee Hive Pest Control Strip has been given Section 3 approval by USEPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). As a result, beekeepers can purchase the product anytime during the course of the year. Also, the Department will no longer have to file an annual application with the USEPA to obtain approval for use of the product in Illinois.

The Department continues to monitor for any new developments concerning Colony Collapse Disorder. As you know, there are a number of theories on what causes CCD. Federal research is ongoing. The Department and ISBA will keep you informed on this very important issue.

Thanks to all of you who have completed and returned the form to the Department to annually renew your apiary registration. For those of you who have not done so, a second notice should be in your hands by now. Please complete and return the form as soon as possible. Annual registration is required by the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. β

Illinois Queen Initiative Queen Rearing Classes

Two queen rearing classes are being offered by the Illinois Queen Initiative Group. These one day courses will focus on training interested beekeepers in the fine art of grafting and the fundamentals of raising Illinois queens. Our instructor at both classes is Dr. Joe Latshaw of Latshaw Apiaries. Dr. Latshaw is a commercial queen breeder.

Students should be experienced beekeepers and are required, once trained, to give back to the Illinois queen initiative, either service, nucs, queen stock etc. Students are required to obtain and read one of the following books before arriving at the class: "Bee Sex Essentials" by Larry Connors or "Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding" by Harry H.

Laidlaw Jr. and Robert E. Page Jr. These classes will be hands on, grafting and working out in the bee yard (weather permitting) as well as class room instruction.

The first class will be hosted by David Burns at Long Lane Honey Bee Farms located outside of Catlin, Illinois, Friday, April 24th from 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There are still openings for this class. Registration is limited to 15. The cost is \$75. Contact David at: 217-427-2678 for more information.

The second class will be hosted by Phillip Raines of Raines Honey Farm and will be held at the Byron Forrest Preserve in the Jarrett Prairie Center Saturday April 25th. This class is now full. Registration is closed. β



APIMONDIA

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

Asger Sogaard Jørgensen

January 2009

Beekeepers around the world have met major problems in the last few years with massive losses of colonies and fluctuating honey markets. For many beekeepers, times have been tough. Many have asked themselves whether beekeeping is still a profitable enterprise.

The causes for colony losses have not yet been found, but we have established close co-operation among scientists and beekeepers to find solutions. Probably the problems are complex, since there may be more than one reason for these losses. In some instances the losses of colonies are caused by a combination of multiple determinants.

Scientists and beekeepers have compiled a list of possible factors to be investigated. The "Coloss" (Colony Losses) network, with the participation of Scientists and Beekeepers from 35 countries, is investigating the problems from many different points of view. At the next Apimondia Congress in Montpellier, France, scheduled to take place on 15 - 20 September 2009, we will all be able to hear about the latest findings as well as discuss with the scientists working on these problems. To solve this predicament with colony losses we need to work closely together among Scientists and Beekeepers to find solutions and we must be willing to look at all possibilities with open minds.

The world honey markets are experiencing difficult times. Low production of honey in major production areas of the world, combined with the global economic crisis, makes the future prospects unclear. The major honey traders and their organisations will meet at the Congress in Montpellier, giving us all a possibility to learn about the future prospects for apiculture worldwide. We are aware of the importance of apiculture for biodiversity and food production: the Congress will also be a possibility to share this knowledge with a larger audience.

I am pleased to announce that the preparation of the Congress is well underway. We have many sections of the programme ready and we are receiving more inputs through the papers submitted. I warmly invite you to visit the Congress website www.apimondia2009.com where you will find information about the scientific programme, submission of abstracts, the large ApiExpo with a variety of items and specific products to meet all beekeepers' needs. There will also be honey judging, contests and an attractive rich social programme. Beekeepers, scientists, honey traders, equipment producers, innovators and friends will meet in Montpellier: in one word, the Congress is for all involved in apiculture worldwide.

Montpellier is really worthwhile visiting. It is an old city in the South of France with high quality beekeeping and bee products in the region. You will find excellent food and wine and valuable tourist opportunities. For Apimondia and the local organiser, the Union Nationale de l'Apiculture Française, the preparations of the congress in Montpellier have the highest priority on our common agenda.

Nevertheless, Apimondia has other activities. We organise conferences and seminars on more specific topics in the years between the Congresses. In this respect, Apimondia has been very active in 2008. The following international events were organised by Apimondia in co-operation with other organisations:

- 2nd Apimondia International Forum "Apimedica and Apiquality", Rome, Italy;
- 1st Apimondia Honeydew Symposium, Burgas, Bulgaria;
- 2nd OIE-Apimondia Symposium "Diagnosis and Control of Bee Diseases", Freiburg, Germany;
- Apimondia Symposium on Good Management Practice (GMP) and Good Beekeeping Practice (GBP), Bucharest, Romania;
- 2nd International Apimondia Symposium "Selection, Queen Breeding and Instrumental Insemination", Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico;
- 10th International ICPBR Symposium "Hazards of Pesticides to Bees", Bucharest, Romania;
- 1st International Beekeeping and Pine Honey Congress, Mugla, Turkey.

The members of the Executive Council of Apimondia have also participated in many other events throughout the world distributing and collecting information.

Of course, we also rely on the tremendous support we receive from our members, without whose support we could not achieve what we do. May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continuous contributions in making beekeeping a wonderful way of living.

May I wish you all a Prosperous New Year. Looking forward to meeting you all in Montpellier,

Asger Sogaard Jørgensen



Learn Beekeeping in Illinois

Name of class	Location	When	Sponsor	Contact information
Introduction to Beekeeping	Peck Farm Park Geneva, IL	Jan 27- March 17	CDBA/ Geneva Park District	Charles Lorence/ Geneva Park District
Introduction to Beginning Beekeeping	Wheaton North HS Wheaton, IL	Jan 28 - March 18	CDBA/ Wheaton Park District	Charles Lorence/ Wheaton Park District
Beekeeping Seminar	Kenosha, WI	4-Mar	Dadant Branch Office	Lee Heine Watertown, WI
Beekeeping 101	McHenry County College	February 12 - March 11	NIBA	Larry Kregel 815 923 4449
Introduction to Beekeeping	Farm Extension Office Quincy	February	Mississippi Valley Beekeepers	Guy Spoonmore 217 224 5314 217 653 9804
Beekeeping Workshop	Fenton, Missouri	February 21	Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association	314-894-8737
Introduction to Beekeeping	Champaign	Feb 26 -Apr 2	CEIBA	David Burns david@honeybeesonline.com
Hive Construction	McHenry County College	7-Mar	NIBA	Larry Kregel 815 923 4449
Introduction to Beekeeping	Extension Office State Fair Grounds	March	Land of Lincoln Beekeepers	Rich Ramsey 498 9374 Fred Gerberding 498 8307
University of Illinois Short Course	Champaign	4-Apr	University of Illinois	entowork@life.uiuc.edu
Field Study in Beekeeping	McHenry County College	April 18-25	NIBA	Larry Kregel 815 923 4449

Pesticide Initiative Update from the ISBA

As originally presented at the November, ISBA annual meeting, the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the ISBA has begun an initiative to help reduce pesticide kills to Illinois Honey Bee colonies. This initiative is two-fold: a series of educational components for ISBA members to share with their local farmers and pesticide applicators (already launched on the ISBA website) and raising pesticide applicator awareness of colony locations (in progress).

It is our hope that by encouraging pesticide applicators to check on colony locations prior to applying pesticides, we can help eliminate some annual pesticide kills. Previous to this initiative, applicators had no centralized resource to check colony locations.

On March 1, 2009 The Illinois Department of Agriculture will begin communicating the following information to pesticide applicators:

- A notice will be included with an applicators annual license, making them aware of a password protected website containing the location of Illinois Honey Bee Colonies. The notice will encourage applicators to check the site prior to applying pesticides and will provide the Beekeepers contact information for a dialog to occur, to proactively prevent issues.
- A press release will also be issued to make the media and public aware of the program to further raise awareness of this issue and to further encourage applicators to utilize the system.
- The current database of colony locations contains only rough, location data. Over the next couple of years, apiary inspectors will work with Beekeepers to acquire detailed location data and with the approval of the Beekeeper, update the database with the detailed location information.
- The system is password protected and will only be accessible to Licensed Pesticide Applicators. Additionally, the password will be changed on an annual basis to allow access to that year's pool of licensed applicators.β

ISBA Executive Board 2009

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 2009 are \$10 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 2009 (*members only*)

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
American Bee Journal	19.10	36.15	50.95
Bee Culture	21.00	38.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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