



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN

July/August 2010 • Volume 92 Number 4

### Were Honeybees in America When Columbus Arrived?

Reprinted from

Sioux County Herald, Orange City, Iowa

October 8, 1874

History books tell us that the honeybee was not native to America, but arrive with settlers in about 1621. But could they be wrong?

Who Discovered America.—It is interesting to determine whether the Welsh discovered America before the great Genoese did. The following passage is taken from Powell's "History of Wales."

"In the twelfth century, Prince Madoc, weary of contending with his brother for his father's crown, left his country and sailed from Wales in a due west course. After being absent some time, he returned a second time, and reported so favorably that a number of families agreed to go along with him and plant a colony. They sailed a third time, with ten ships, and were

no more heard from to this day. Three hundred and twenty-two years after that date, when Columbus discovered this continent a second time and returned to Europe to make his report, it caused great excitement, and he was justly applauded. But his enemies and those who envied his fame, boldly charged him with acquiring his knowledge from the charts and manuscripts of Prince Madoc."

"In the year 1854 I had a conversation with an old Indian prophet, who styled himself the fifteenth in the line of succession. He told me, in broken English, that long ago a race of white people lived at the mouth of Conestoga creek, who had red hair and blue eyes, who cleared the land, and fenced it, ploughed, raised grain, etc.—that they introduced the honey bee, unknown to them. He said the Indians called them the Welegeens, and that in the time of the fifth prophet the Conestoga Indians made war upon them, and, after great slaughter on both sides, the white settlers were driven away."

Our fathers and grandfathers used to tell us what a hatred and prejudice the Conestoga Indians had against red-haired and blue-eyed people in all their wars in Eastern Pennsylvania. When taking white prisoners, they would discriminate between the black-haired and the red, showing mercy to the former, reserving the latter for torture and death. This would seem to indicate that they knew, from tradition, of Prince Madoc and his followers, and of the fearful fight they had made.

"About the year 1800 (for I must now quote from memory), a man digging a cellar in the vicinity of the Indian Steppes came upon a lot of small iron axes, thirty-six in number. My father, who resided in Manor township, and followed blacksmithing, was presented with one of the relics, and I recollect of seeing it in his shop twenty-five years after that date."

It was curiously constructed; the eye was joined after the fashion of the old garden hoe; it had no pole end, and had never been ground to an edge, nor had the others ever been. It had lain so long in the ground that the eye was eaten through with rust, and its construction was so ancient that I looked upon it as the first exodus from the stone to the iron axe." β



Wadsworth—June 2010



Do you have a nomination of the Illinois Beekeeper of the Year for 2010?  
Contact Ken Haller at [kenhaller@comcast.net](mailto:kenhaller@comcast.net).

## ISBA Spring Meeting a Great Success

A big thanks to Jim and Karen Belli for opening up their Wadsworth farm for the ISBA spring meeting on June 12. The meeting was a great success with 184 attendees. The weather was forecast to be hot and steamy, but mother nature brought in a cool lake breeze keeping the temperatures in the comfortable 70's. The morning was filled with speakers including Dr. May Berenbaum from UIUC, the Honey Princess, and discussions on beekeeper insurance and the marketing of honey at farmers' markets.

A gentle rain arrived during lunch, but moved on by the after noon when veils and beehives were the order of business. Open-hive demonstrations kept the attendees attention. Just how many mites ere there? A raffle of items donated by bee equipment suppliers was highlighted by a special raffle for an extractor donated by Lee Heine of Watertown Dadant.

Thanks, Jim... Thanks Karen... it was a wonderful event. β

## Meet Me at the Fair

ISBA will again be supporting the Illinois State Fair on August 13-22, 2010. Members are encouraged to become a part of the activities. It is good for honeybees, honey, ISBA and... it is fun. Come to the fair! For more information contact our Secretary, Rita Taylor at 319 262 1319 or rtaylor39@hughes.net. β

### Legislative Update

Senate Bill 2959—in support of the sale of local honey in Illinois—passed the Illinois House and Senate and was sent to Governor on May 14 for his signature. Governor Quinn could sign the bill, veto the bill, or just ignore the bill. In the latter case, it will become law after 60 days. As of this writing he has not acted on the bill.

With nearly unanimous support in both houses of the legislature a veto seems unlikely. It would almost certainly be overridden in the fall legislative session. β

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## FDA seizes more than \$32,000 worth of bulk honey from Philadelphia distribution center

FDA press Release—10.jun.10

At the request of the Food and Drug Administration, federal marshals seized 64 drums of imported bee's honey from a Philadelphia distribution center on June 4 because it contained a potent antibiotic that could lead to serious illness or death.

The seizure occurred at the Delaware Avenue Distribution Center, 700 Pattison Avenue, in Philadelphia. The bulk honey was imported by Sweet Works Inc., of Monterey Park, California from Cheng Du Wai Yuan Bee Products Company Limited of Chengdu, China. Subsequently, it was sold to Alfred L. Wolff Inc. of Chicago, which placed it in storage.

The FDA estimates the value of the seized goods to be more than \$32,000. U.S. Marshals executed this seizure pursuant to a warrant issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The honey is adulterated within the meaning of 21 U.S.C. 342(a)(2)(C) of the federal Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act, because it contains an unsafe food additive.

FDA testing of a sample of this product at the storage facility showed that it contained chloramphenicol, which is not approved for use in food, animal feed, or food-producing animals in the United States.

Chloramphenicol is a potent antibiotic drug that is approved only for use in humans with serious infections when other less toxic drugs won't work. People who are sensitive to chloramphenicol can develop a type of bone marrow depression called aplastic anemia, which can be fatal. "Unapproved food additives in the U.S. food supply are of significant concern to the agency," said Michael Chappell, the FDA's acting associate commissioner for regulatory affairs. "The FDA took this action because of the potential serious public health effects of this product."

The FDA is now in the process of inventorying the seized goods. This case is being investigated by FDA.

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## ISBA Executive Board 2009

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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 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	19.50	37.00	52.15
Bee Culture	21.00	38.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin (USPS 258-600) is published bimonthly at 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024. Membership is \$10.00 per year that includes a one-year subscription to the Bulletin

POSTMASTER: Send address Corrections to Illinois State Beekeepers Association 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.



### ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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- ⇒ *Spring meeting recap*
- ⇒ *The first American honeybees*
- ⇒ *Chinese honey*

