



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

January/February 2000 • Volume 82, Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Beekeepers,

As we start another year in the bee yard hoping for a bountiful harvest we need to stop and look back — for a moment. For the last six years Ron Fischer has been the editor of the ISBA Newsletter. Ron dedicated many hours over the years to bring us a quality product even though he had other demands for his time with his job. If you see Ron at a bee meeting, tell him thanks. Thanks Ron! Our new editor is Carl Wenning who is with the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers. Carl has agreed to take on the task of producing the newsletter. Good Luck Carl!

It seems like the survival of bees last winter was very mixed. Some beekeepers had huge losses while others had light losses. What are we doing wrong or what are some of us doing right? I can't answer either of those questions with accuracy. I hope everyone has their packaged bees, has them installed, and is feeding them. It promises to be an early year, but we seem to be headed for a drought. One of my best honey years was 1988, a drought year. Hope the rains come soon and have a great year.

Richard E. Ramsey
President ISBA



ISBA MEETINGS FOR 2000

Mark your calendar now for the ISBA Summer Meeting. This year the Little Egypt Beekeepers' Association will host the meeting in Fairfield, IL, on Saturday, June 24th. The Little Egypt association has been in existence since 1995. It has about 25 active members from nearly 20 households. Its members come mostly from Wayne, Hamilton, Clay, Edwards, and White counties in southern Illinois. The Association holds nine meetings each year, with about 75% of the membership showing up for each meeting. The meeting is currently in its earliest planning phase. Nonetheless, be assured that this will be an informative meeting. Stay tuned to the *ISBA Bulletin* for additional details.

According to ISBA President Richard Ramsey, the ISBA Autumn Meeting will be held in Springfield, IL, on Saturday, November 11th. The meeting will be held at the luxurious Crowne Plaza Hotel. Plans are being made now to bring in a nationally known beekeeper to present the keynote address. Details will be provided as they become available. You'll not want to miss these meetings. Mark your calendar now.

COUMAPHOS GUIDELINES EXPANDED

Registered beekeepers in Illinois should have received recently a mailing from Mr. Joe Hampton, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, that constitute notification of the rules for coumaphos usage (the active ingredient in CheckMite+). The latest requirements for the use of coumaphos are as follows:

- Only approved formulations of coumaphos (CheckMite+ strips) may be used.
- All applicable directions, restrictions, and precautions on the product label and U.S. EPA emergency exemptions letters must be followed.
- Treatments must be applied when bees are not producing a surplus honey crop, and honey supers must be removed before application of CheckMite+ strips.

- Do not replace honey supers until at least 14 days after the strips are removed. (New regulation for 2000.)
- Do not leave strips in the hive for more than 45 days.
- Do not treat more than twice per year for Varroa mites or more than four times per year for the small hive beetle.
- Sale of comb honey from hives treated with coumaphos is prohibited. (New regulation for 2000.)
- In the event of questions or problems resulting from the use of coumaphos, contact the Apiary Inspection Section at the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

At a recent ISBA Executive Board meeting in Bloomington, a decision was made to recommend to the Illinois Department of Agriculture that a section 18 emergency exemption renewal be sought from the U.S. EPA for the year 2000 use of coumaphos in Illinois. It is expected that the exemption will be granted thus allowing Illinois beekeepers to purchase CheckMite+ from authorized dealers.

FOURTH ANNUAL UIUC BEEKEEPING COURSE SLATED

The University of Illinois Department of Entomology has announced the fourth annual Bees and Beekeeping Short Course. This year the short course is slated for July 29th and 30th. According to a press release, planners have arranged some new lectures and experiments this year.

This year's Short Course will feature lectures, hands-on workshops, and informal discussions. It will also feature a bee experiment, "Birds-of-a-Feather" dinners, French-style gourmet honey tasting, and a number of speakers including Prof. May Berenbaum, Dr. Jeff Pettis, Prof. Gene Robinson, and Jerry Hayes, columnist for *American Bee Journal*.

The course will be held at Urbana in both the Illini Union and at the Bee Research Facility. The fee is \$75 which includes course materials, refreshments, and honey tasting. The program begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and concludes at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Registration may be completed in several ways: by phone at (217) 333-2910, by fax at (217) 244-3499, or by e-mail at entowork@life.uiuc.edu. Registration will be limited to 50 participants, so be certain to register early.

ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

The Illinois State Fair will be held from August 11 - 20, and the ISBA will have its annual honey show and ice cream sale. Make plans now for your association to work at this event. Contact Rita Taylor, Secretary, if you'd like to help.

SUMMER EASTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING PLANNED

The Eastern Apicultural Society's Summer 2000 conference is rapidly approaching. Organizers are working hard to prepare the best possible meeting. Mark your calendar now for Monday, July 31 to Friday, August 4 so you can enjoy a wonderful bee meeting and short course on the beautiful eastern shore of Maryland at Salisbury. This year's meeting is the 45th in a series of annual meetings for beekeepers east of the Mississippi River.

EAS conferences are noted for their challenging two-and-a-half day Short Course that runs Monday through noon Wednesday, and a main conference with high-power industry speakers that runs Wednesday through Friday. There are vendors' displays for all the major bee equipment manufacturers, and over a dozen workshops. In addition, this year the American Bee Research Conference of the Association of American Professional Apiculturalist will be held jointly. Registration materials will be mailed in early May. An added feature is the Master Beekeeper Exam.

EAS 2000 currently has a website with information about the meeting. It may be accessed at the following URL: <http://iaa.umd.edu/mdbee/EAS2000.html>. If you would like to request printed information, send your name, address, phone number, e-mail address to EAS 2000 Registrar, David Morris; 9309 Montpelier Drive; Laurel, MD 20708-2553 or e-mail this information to beefriend@aol.com.

ISBA ON LINE

The ISBA is on line with its very own web page. The web page became active on November 30, 1998. Since that time the site has received nearly 500 hits.

According to web master Carl Wenning, the page has received a significant number of hits from prospective beekeepers hoping to learn more about Illinois beekeeping. A significant number of prospective beekeepers have contacted the web master for additional information.

The ISBA web page has information about the Association including benefits of membership, a listing of elected offices and appointed officials, the official calendar of events, beekeeping association contact persons (including links to association web pages), ISBA constitution and bylaws, Illinois apiary inspector information, and information relating to beekeeping in Illinois that has been provided by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

The web page may be accessed temporarily at the following URL: <http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/ISBA/ISBA.html>. It is expected that very soon the ISBA website will have a simpler domain name than the URL provided above. Unfortunately, the website address www.isba.org has already been taken by the Illinois State Bar Association. If you happen to have a good idea for a domain name, please forward it to this newsletter's editor at the following e-mail address: wenning@phy.ilstu.edu. In addition, if your association has a web page that you'd like linked, please let the web master know.

3RD ANNUAL HIBA BEEKEEPING COURSE SUCCESSFUL

Despite a threat of inclement weather, the 3rd Annual Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association (HIBA) Beekeeping Course was a resounding success. Thirty-five individuals representing 19 households from Illinois were present for the all-day event in Bloomington on February 12th. Lending a helping hand were HIBA members Tom Elston, Earl and Nola Lutz, Danny and Janet Hart, Jean Nyman, Steve and Jill Mayes, Don Hughes, and Carl and Rebecca Wenning. Also assisting were Carolyn and Teresa Wenning.

EDITOR'S BUZZ

— by Carl J. Wenning

On April 9 I was asked by ISBA President Richard Ramsey to take on the role of editor of the *ISBA Bulletin* newsletter for at least the next year. I happily consented to his wish knowing full well that I had some pretty big shoes to fill. Ron Fischer has produced this newsletter for the past six years — certainly longer than I have been a beekeeper — and I hope that he will from time to time provide me the advice I need to do an able job. Thanks, Ron, for handling this always complex and often thankless job. I do come with some experience to this position, and I've been told by President Ramsey that I was welcome to write editorial comments from time to time. I'll take this first opportunity to do so. I'd like to tell you a little bit about myself, and what you might expect in future editions of this newsletter.

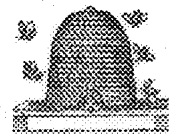
I have been a writer for many, many years. I have edited a couple of newsletters for various associations ranging from apiculture to astronomy. That doesn't appear to leave much room for variety, but it is quality, not quantity, that counts. I am only starting my fourth year of beekeeping, but I've been extensively involved with beekeeping during the mean time.

I typically keep from five to six colonies, and enjoy the learning process. Because I tend to learn better from both experience and by writing, I began to write regularly for *American Bee Journal*. Perhaps you have seen my articles that have appeared monthly since this past July.

During this first year, I'd like to prepare a number of short articles for this newsletter to really place the spotlight on Illinois beekeeping. I have an excellent basis for this project in that this past spring I completed an extensive survey of Illinois beekeeping associations. Nearly every association in Illinois contributed to that survey. I have also obtained important and useful information from Scott Frank, Chief Illinois Apiary Inspector, that I'll be relaying to you. I have taken as my goal the preparation of a newsletter that is truly filled with news and other useful information about bees, beekeepers, and beekeeping within the state of Illinois.

It is my intent to produce a newsletter that is timely in addition to being informative. To this end several changes will take place in the publication procedures. First, I will not be using offset printing to produce this newsletter; rather, I'll be using a photocopy process. The photocopy process isn't as clean or as crisp as the offset process, but it's sure a lot cheaper and faster. It is my belief that cheaper, faster photocopy production is fine so long as the improvement in content and timeliness offsets the loss of print quality. I hope that you'll agree. Second, I am hereby asking each beekeeping association in Illinois to appoint a liaison who will periodically provide information and pictures to me so that I might include them in this newsletter. Don't worry if you're not an expert writer. One job of an editor is to word craft submissions. If you like, just give me the facts and I'll assemble the story. My contact information is on page four of this newsletter.

I'd like to make this newsletter serve as a vehicle for holding the Association together. The beekeepers within Illinois are far-flung, and only a newsletter that can turn out the beekeepers for statewide events will hold us together as we face the challenges of an uncertain future.



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 are \$2.00 per year, **good only January 1st through December 31st each year**, and includes subscription to this newsletter. 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: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

Reduced Journal Rates (*members only*)

	1 Yr.	2 Yr.	3 Yr.
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$14.44	\$27.38	\$38.96
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$16.00	\$31.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	\$13.25	\$25.25	\$34.00

ISBA Executive Board 2000

PRESIDENT

Rich Ramsey
5455 Ramsey Road
Rochester, IL 62563
217/498-9374

VICE PRESIDENT

John Hansen
127 N. Madison Ave.
LaGrange, IL 60525
708/579-9498

SECRETARY

Rita Taylor
4274 Taylor Homestead Rd.
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024
217/626-1319

TREASURER

Udell Meyer
8844 Trio Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618/633-2429

Directors:

NORTHERN REGION

William Buckley
6525 S. Western Ave.
Clarendon, Hills, IL 60514
630/654-1867

CENTRAL REGION

Steve Mayes
P. O. Box 274
Mackinaw, IL 61755
309/359-8600

SOUTHERN REGION

Dan Wright
P. O. Box 83
Kansas, IL 61933
217/948-5353

EDITOR

Carl J. Wenning
21 Grandview Drive
Normal, IL 61761-4071
309/454-4164

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Rita Taylor, Secretary
4274 Taylor Homestead Road
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024

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