



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

September/October 2002 • Volume 84, Number 5

President's Message:

FOR BEES SAKE, BEE PREPARED, CALL B.E.R.T.

Another pollination season has ended. Trucks loaded with bees that had followed the bloom north since Spring are starting to return to wintering sites in the South. On their way, many pass through Illinois and our neighboring states. Occasionally, we learn of an accident where a semi loaded with beehives has overturned, spilling the bees across the roadway. I remember one such accident that happened a few years ago in a mall parking lot where the truck overturned when the driver simply turned too sharply while making a U-turn. If I remember correctly, I believe the local fire chief there, concerned with public safety and desperate to clear the situation, destroyed the bees. Sometimes, local beekeepers are called to clean up the mess and maybe save the bees.

With this in mind, I urge each of our fifteen local bee associations across Illinois to organize a Bee Emergency Response Team (BERT) so that beekeepers can take charge of any such accidents, relieve the civil authorities of their concerns, and save as many bees as possible. This usually means, righting hives, nailing them back together when broken, loading them onto another truck and removing them from the accident site. I would also urge each BERT member to prepare a kit ready at a moment's notice, for any bee emergency. For starters, I would include a flashlight or lantern, extra batteries, claw hammer and various size nails, hive staples, a few extra boards, any battery-powered hand tools you have, in addition to your usual bee veil, hive tool, smoker and bee coveralls. (My coveralls wore out many years ago and I haven't used any since then. I think I'll replace them now because you never know what kind of bees you'll encounter in an accident, especially if at night.)

Soon, I'll be contacting each of our local organizations concerning BERT, and we'll be working with our neighboring States to organize as well. Once organized as a network, we can have a central phone number distributed to state troopers, county sheriffs, county fire marshals and all truckers hauling bees. Then we should be able to respond to accidents involving large numbers of bees in a timely manner. Try as we may, it will probably be impossible to eliminate calls concerning a single swarm hanging in someone's apple tree or on a municipal light pole. That's not an emergency, it's a natural occurrence and we'll have to train the dispatchers to refer such calls to a local beekeeper.

The line-up of speakers is firmed up for our annual Fall Meeting on November 9 in the Agriculture Building Auditorium on State Fair Grounds. In addition to Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota, we have added Stu Jacobson from University of Illinois, Springfield, and we have asked a representative from State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka's office to tell us about low cost loans for Alternative Agriculture. Judy's office administers that program and beekeepers qualify. Sounds like a good way to expand our apiaries or build that new honey house. I hope to see all of you there.

John Hansen
ISBA President

NATIONAL HONEY BOARD OFFERS EXCITING PROGRAM IN HONOR OF NATIONAL HONEY MONTH

This fall, in honor of National Honey Month and firefighters nationwide, the National Honey Board (NHB) will promote "Honey and Biscuits" breakfasts to benefit volunteer fire departments across our nation. The past year has challenged our best and bravest, demanding the utmost from all first responders, including our fire personnel. In addition to the tragic events associated with September 11th, this summer has seen forest fires rage across the Western United States, floods plague the Midwest and numerous severe weather patterns rip through the South and East. We know the honey industry will honor local fire departments and their valuable efforts by collaborating with local communities to host a "Honey and Biscuits" breakfast. With the enthusiastic endorsement of the National Volunteer Firefighters Association and in honor of Fire Prevention month, breakfasts can be hosted in towns large and small to help firehouses raise money for new equipment and facilities. And of course, each event will be enhanced by the natural goodness of honey! The NHB has made it easy for the honey industry to participate. A comprehensive booklet containing step-by-step instructions on how to host a "Honey and Biscuits" breakfast and accompanying artwork is available by calling toll-free, (888) 682-2337 or by e-mailing breakfast@nhb.org. National Honey Month media kits are also available to the honey industry for distribution to local media by calling the Honey Board office at (800) 553-7162.

RESULTS OF JUDGING FROM 2002 STATE FAIR

Norma Meyer of Edwardsville provided the following information about Professional and Open Class competition judging results at the Illinois State Fair. There were four Division 1 or Professional displays set up by LincolnLand (LL), Illiana (IL), St. Clair (SC), and Cook-DuPage (CD) beekeepers associations. Twenty-one individuals entered Division 2 or Open Class Competition. In Open Class competition, entries were ranked from 1st to 9th place. The number of ranked entries in any one display class appear in the last column of the Division 2 results. Congratulations to all our winners!

DIVISION 1: Professional Class

Display Class \ Ranking	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	4 th Place
Display of white comb honey	LL	IL	CD	SC
Frame of honey for extracting	IL	SC	LL	CD
Frame of white honey for cut-comb or for packing in glass	CD	IL	SC	LL
Frame of amber honey for cut-comb or for packing in glass	CD	SC	IL	LL
Display of amber cut-comb in plastic 1-lb. boxes (6 boxes)	SC	IL	LL	CD
Display of white cut-comb in plastic 1-lb. boxes (6 boxes)	IL	CD	SC	LL
White comb honey in round sections (3 sections)	SC	IL	LL	CD
50 lbs. light extracted honey	SC	LL	CD	IL
Amber comb honey in round sections (3 sections)	CD	IL	SC	LL
30 lbs. amber extracted honey	SC	CD	LL	IL
Dark extracted honey, 6 1-lb. jars	SC	IL	LL	CD
30 lbs. variety of honey in various size containers	LL	IL	CD	SC
Designs in comb honey	IL	SC	LL	CD
Light or amber chunk honey in glass jars, 3 2.5-lb. square jars	LL	CD	IL	SC
Light chunk honey, 3 1-lb. jars	CD	LL	SC	IL
Amber chunk honey, 3 1-lb. jars	LL	SC	CD	IL
Beeswax molded in commercial shapes, 15 lbs.	LL	CD	IL	SC
Art designs in beeswax, 10 lbs.	SC	LL	IL	CD
Color photography	SC	CD	IL	LL
Crystallized (or creamed) honey, 3 1-lb. jars	LL	IL	CD	SC
Honey gift pack	LL	IL	CD	SC
Best display booth	LL	SC	IL	CD
SWEEPSTAKES	SC	LL	IL	CD

DIVISION 2: Open Class

Display Class \ Ranking	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	#
Frame of honey for cut-comb or for packing in glass	Grant Kaiser Springfield	Valerie Wright Kansas	Andy Gano Kansas	9
Display of white cut-comb honey in plastic boxes, 3	Raymond Chapman Bunker Hill	Cindy Clements Astoria	Valerie Wright Kansas	9
White comb honey, 3 sections	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Andy Gano Kansas	Caitlin Ramsey Rochester	9
3 comb honey in round sections	Gene Reilly Brighton	Andy Gano Kansas	Grant Kaiser Springfield	9
Light extracted honey, 3 1-lb. jars	Steve & Jill Mayes Mackinaw	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Richard Baugh Macomb	9
Amber extracted honey, 3 1-lb. jars	Grant Kaiser Springfield	Garrett Kaiser Springfield	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	9
Dark extracted honey, 3 1-lb. jars	Larry Waller Marshall	Marlin Wagner Edwardsville	Linda Godell Troy	9
Amber chunk honey in glass, 3 1-lb. jars	Grant Kaiser Springfield	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Valerie Wright Kansas	6
Light chunk honey in glass, 3 1-lb. jars	Grant Kaiser Springfield	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Andy Gano Kansas	9
Chunk honey in glass, 3 2.5-lb. Square jars	Grant Kaiser Springfield	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Valerie Wright Kansas	9
Crystallized (or creamed) honey, 3 1-lb. jars	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Cindy Clements Astoria	Richard Baugh Macomb	8
Beeswax, molded in commercial forms for sale, 3 lbs.	Charles Lorence Aurora	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Ryan Washburn Redmond	9
Beeswax, are designs, 3 lbs.	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Andy Gano Kansas	Grant Kaiser Springfield	9
Beeswax candles, 1 pair, molded	Richard Baugh Macomb	Garrett Kaiser Springfield	Bill Murdock Macomb	9
SWEEPSTAKES	Leo Spicer, Jr. Pleasant Plains	Grant Kaiser Springfield	Richard Baugh Macomb	8

Also entering the Open Class division but not placing among the top three in any display class were the following individuals: John Hansen, LaGrange; Chelsea Gerberding, Rochester; Richard Largen, Bethalto; and Ron Fischer, Oak Park. Congratulations to all who entered the honey show!



Left: HIBA member Earl Lutz from Bloomington, IL, taking a well deserved rest after working describing the observation hive to hundreds of guests each day at the Illinois State Fair.

Right: State Fair Professional Class sweepstakes winning display put up by the membership of the Lincoln Land Beekeepers Association from the Springfield, IL, area.



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 2002 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: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

Reduced Journal Rates for 2002 (members only)

	1 Yr.	2 Yr.	3 Yr.
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$15.70	\$29.88	\$42.15
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$17.00	\$32.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	\$13.25	\$25.25	\$34.00

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