



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

January/February 2003 • Volume 85, Number 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Healthy Bee Gets the Nectar

First, my very best wishes and a prayer for all Illinois beekeepers. May your honey harvest be bountiful. If the harvest in 2003 becomes as good as it was in 2002 for most of us here in the U.S. heartland, we'll be a bunch of happy beekeepers. But, regardless of how much nectar will flow, we can maximize the harvest only if we have healthy colonies. That's why colony health and learning to recognize problems early in their development is one subject I'll focus on this year. Far too often a hive problem in its early stages goes undetected. Varroa mites are a good example. They're small, hard to see and, at first, few in number. Then, weeks later, the bees are so stressed and the problem so acute that the symptoms are too obvious to miss. By that time, treatment might be too late to save the colony. At best, if we're able to save the bees, valuable time is lost during severe infestation that a reduced honey crop from the effected colony is certain. So, this year I plan to inspect my hives often and learn to detect problems early.

As for mite resistance to chemicals, varroa are expected to become increasingly more resistant to Apistan and Checkmite+. One word I received from Florida, where the mites are rampant, is that both Apistan and Checkmite+ are no longer effective there. What alternative treatment they're planning to use is not clear. For most of us here in Illinois, where these chemicals are the approved treatment for varroa, they're still effective to some degree, especially if we alternate treatments between the two. Beekeepers are also trending toward non-chemical controls. Screened bottom boards and drone brood combs in the brood chamber are two examples that have proven effective to reduce mite populations. I also expect hygienic bees to play an increasingly larger roll in controlling mites and diseases and improving hive health overall. Also, powdered sugar is emerging as a varroa control. An article in *American Bee Journal*, (Jan. '03, pp. 13-14) describes a machine that treats a colony at a time with powdered sugar to remove most of the mites.

When testing for varroa, powdered sugar is a good replacement for the ether roll test. Using a standard Mason jar, (wide mouth preferred), retain the top ring and replace the lid with one-eighth-inch hardware screen. Put some powdered sugar in the jar, shake a handful of bees off a brood comb into the jar, and roll the bees in it. Then invert the jar and shake out the powdered sugar through the screen. The mites will fall through

the screen with the sugar. But you better have your veil on when you open the jar. Those bees are not going to be happy but they'll be alive, ready to go back to work after they settle down.

As for the Small Hive Beetle (SHB), this little hive predator has likely spread beyond the five counties where it was found in Illinois during 2002. Here's another critter that needs to be identified early and treated quickly. Approved treatment in Illinois is Checkmite+ in the hive and GuardStar on the ground around the hive. I haven't seen any beetles in my hives, but I understand that they're just as apt to be on top of the hive as on the bottom board, and that the adults scatter quickly and hide as soon as you pop the hive covers. Developing larvae appear in clusters in the combs usually near frame bottoms and can be mistaken for wax moth larvae. If you find any suspicious looking beetle or larvae in your hives, capture one or more if you can. Then please call your nearest bee inspector or Steve Chard at 217/785-4233 for assistance in getting confirmation. Currently, ISBA is working closely with IDOA to develop new rules and guidelines for moving and treating SHB-infested hives, and treating during honey flow. We'll keep you posted.

Here are some events and dates for your 2003 calendar:

- *** 2003 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium, March 29, McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, IL (details this issue)
- *** Spring meeting, June (Date and place to be determined)
- *** ISBA Fall Meeting, State Fair Grounds, November (date to be determined).

John Hansen
ISBA President

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR REPORT

I would like to congratulate the Illinois State Beekeepers Association on a very successful annual fall meeting that was held on November 9, 2002. Many timely topics were discussed, and there was a great deal of meaningful interaction between the speakers and the audience.

I have received a request to include the Department's Apiary Annual Report in this newsletter. This report covers the period of July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002. The highlights of the report are as follows. Beekeeping in Illinois mainly continues to be a hobbyist endeavor with 85% of the beekeepers managing 10

colonies or less. Only 17 beekeepers maintain 100 or more colonies. As of June 30, 2002, 1107 registered beekeepers were managing 17,963 colonies in 1914 apiaries. On average, there were 16.3 colonies per beekeeper and 9.4 colonies per apiary. 55 new beekeepers were registered during the reporting period. Jo Daviess County had the greatest number of registered colonies with 2126, while Hardin County had 1 colony. Regarding Department apiary inspections, 1254 colonies were inspected. American foulbrood disease was detected in 31 colonies, or 2.5% of the colonies inspected (slight increase from last year). Chalkbrood was discovered in 4 colonies, a significant decrease from the previous year. Varroa mites were found in 141 colonies or 7.0% of the colonies inspected (slight decrease from last year). No tracheal mites were discovered last year. Small hive beetle was found for the first time in Bureau and Whiteside Counties. In total, we have confirmation of the beetle's presence in Bureau, Kankakee, McLean, Whiteside and Will Counties. Fortunately, the beetles have only been detected in isolated locations thus far.

Monitoring and preventing the spread of the small hive beetle, plus working with beekeepers to control the invasive species, continue to be high priorities with the Department. As mentioned above, the beetle has also now been found in Bureau and Whiteside Counties. The beekeepers in those counties believe that the beetles were transported to their apiaries by package bees. Be sure to closely inspect your package bees when they arrive for the small hive beetle and treat accordingly. In addition, the Department encourages you to inspect your hives frequently to determine if beetles are present. Do not hesitate to contact your Department Apiary Inspector for assistance in identifying the beetle and in obtaining information on proper treatments. The current list of Apiary Inspectors is included within this newsletter. We ask that you report confirmed cases of the beetle to your Apiary Inspector or to Steve Chard at 217/785-4233 as quickly as possible.

During the annual fall meeting there was an open discussion concerning the transport of hives containing the small hive beetle into counties not yet affected by the beetle. Many good ideas were brought forward. The Department will certainly give thoughtful consideration to those ideas and recommendations as we develop an official policy on issuing moving permits, requirements for controlling the beetle, etc. More information on the new policy will be shared in an upcoming newsletter.

The Department has been in the process of developing a web page and associated links to help promote and to generally assist the Apiary Industry. It's hoped that the site will be operational by the time you receive this newsletter. The apiary page can be accessed on the Department's web site at www.agr.state.il.us. Go to "Programs and Services" and then "Environmental Programs" to locate the apiary web page and the associated links. The Department welcomes your comments on the contents of the web page and how it might be improved.

Also by the time you receive this newsletter, the Department should have received approval from the USEPA for Checkmite+ strips (coumaphos) to be sold and used in Illinois for combating varroa mites and small hive beetle during 2003. The Department files for this emergency approval annually from USEPA. As a reminder, please be sure to follow all label instructions with all pesticide products used inside and outside of the beehive. Misuse

of the products could result in their removal from the marketplace by the USEPA.

The Department continues to work toward filling all of our Apiary Inspector vacancies. Fortunately, the position for southern Illinois has been filled, however; a vacancy remains for the northwestern district. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving as an Apiary Inspector in northwestern Illinois, please contact Steve Chard at the Springfield office.

I hope this winter is being kind to you and your honeybees. The Department very much looks forward to working with you in 2003.

Steve Chard
Chief Apiary Inspector

MINUTES OF THE 111th ISBA STATE CONVENTION
Saturday, November 9, 2002
Illinois State Fairgrounds, Agriculture Building
Springfield, Illinois

President John Hansen called the 111th Convention of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association to order at 9:00 a.m. President Hansen welcomed the attendees and made several remarks about honey crops and prices, and asked local beekeeping chapters to give a report of their activities or to present later in the day.

APIARY INSPECTORS
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Mr. Charles Ott
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Mr. Darrel Perry
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G_S_Thomas@msn.com

Mr. Steve Chard, Chief Apiary Inspect
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Division of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 19281
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President Hansen called for the Secretary's Report. Secretary Taylor reported all members had received the Minutes of the 110th Convention. Secretary Taylor read the expenses and membership for the period of November 1, 2001 to November 1, 2002. **The Secretary's Report was approved as read.** (Secretary's Report follows.)

President Hansen called for the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Udell Meyer presented his report of income and expenditures of the Association. Bill Buckley motioned the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read. Steve Mayes seconded the motion. All votes aye. **The Treasurer's Report was approved.** (Treasurer's Report follows.)

President Hansen introduced our Chief Apiary Inspector, Steve Chard. Mr. Chard announced a new apiary inspector for the southern Illinois area. His name is Greg Thomas of Creal Springs. Mr. Chard discussed inspections made in northwest Illinois and that the small hive beetle was found in Henry and Whiteside Counties, now found in five counties. He reported on hives inspected, diseased hives and treatment for such. Mr. Chard also discussed moving bees around the state and pollination services. There was an open discussion on the small hive beetle and movement of bees infested with the beetle.

Following break time, President Hansen introduced our keynote speaker, Marla Spivak from the University of Minnesota. Her topic was, "Are Resistant Queens Super Heroines?" Dr. Spivak is working on a web site "Super Heroines - Hive Angels," their strengths and weaknesses. She discussed the resistance movement, resistance to Terramycin, and disease resistance.

President Hansen resumed the meeting at 1:00 p.m. following lunch served by Nelson Catering and door prizes. President Hansen introduced Mindy Varley from the Illinois State Treasurer's Office. One of the programs of the Treasurer's Office is the Alternative Agriculture Loan Program under which the beekeepers can obtain a one-year revolving loan pay back or the five-year loan where beekeepers work through a banker or loan officer and records have to be kept to show what the money is being spent on.

Next, Larry Kregel from the Northern Illinois Beekeeping Association invited the attendees to a Symposium being held in Crystal Lake, Illinois, at McHenry College, March 29, 2003. There will be sessions held on several topics to choose from, a panel discussion, and the special guest speaker will be Dr. Dewey Caron from the University of Delaware. Lastly, the chair called for local beekeeping chapters to report their activities.

Following a short break, President Hansen resumed the meeting at 1:40 p.m. introducing Stu Jacobson, Research Specialist, University of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Jacobson spoke on Disease Resistance and Integrate Pest Management (IPM). Why we should be interested in IPM - less chemical resistance, lower health risk, better for environment and consumers, and fewer queen problems.

Following another round of door prizes, President Hansen reintroduced Marla Spivak. Her topic was, "Stinging and Stingless Bees in Brazil." Dr. Spivak took a four-month sabbatical and was invited to spend this time at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She shared slides of her work with the stingless bees. The slides consisted of the entrances, brood combs – cells that are opposite of ours, and multiple queens. There is no AFB or chalkbrood in Brazil.

President Hansen called for the nomination, election and installation of officers. The committee consisted of Raymond Chapman, Dr. Earl Lutz, and Larry Krenzel. Dr. Lutz acted as Chairman and asked for nominations from the floor for president. John Hansen was nominated. Three calls were heard. With no other nominations, **John Hansen was unanimously elected president.** Chairman Lutz called for nominations for vice-president. Bill Buckley was nominated and three calls were heard for nominations. With none being heard, **Bill Buckley was unanimously elected vice-president.** Chairman Lutz called for nominations for secretary. Rita Taylor was nominated and three calls were heard for nominations. With none being heard, **Rita Taylor was unanimously elected secretary.** Chairman Lutz called for nominations for treasurer. Udell Meyer was nominated and three calls were heard for nominations. With none being heard, **Udell Meyer was unanimously elected treasurer.** Chairman Lutz called for nominations for central director. Jill Mayes was nominated and three calls were heard for nominations. With none being heard, **Jill Mayes was unanimously elected central director.** With all officers duly elected, Chairman Lutz installed each officer to their respective office.

President Hansen thanked Steve Chard and Rich Ramsey for all the arrangements that were made concerning this meeting. President Hansen told his experiences of supplying people with bees for MS therapy. Several members told how they remove bees in the winter for this. With no further business, President John Hansen adjourned the 111th Illinois State Beekeepers Association Convention at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita C. Taylor, Secretary
Illinois State Beekeepers Association

SECRETARY OFFICE EXPENSES

November 1, 2002

November 1, 2001 to November 1, 2002

Expenses:

Postage on <i>ISBA Bulletins</i>	\$841.13
Postage on returned <i>ISBA Bulletins</i>	\$6.50
Labels for <i>ISBA Bulletins</i>	\$47.17
Name Tags, String for <i>ISBA Bulletins</i>	\$10.71
Postage stamps	\$95.40
Telephone	\$50.48
Copying (Kinko's) - handouts, meeting notices	<u>\$35.81</u>

Total Expenses \$1,087.20

Respectfully submitted,

Rita C. Taylor, Secretary
Illinois State Beekeepers Association

MEMBERSHIP DUES REPORT

November 1, 2002

November 1, 2001 to November 1, 2002

ISBA Chapters:

Cook-DuPage	\$888.00
Heart of Illinois	\$270.00
Illiana	\$54.00
Lake County	\$90.00
Lincoln Land	\$204.00
Little Egypt	\$66.00
Mississippi Valley	\$96.00
Northern Illinois	\$312.00
Spoon River Valley	\$78.00
St. Clair	\$240.00
Wabash Valley	\$90.00
Membership At Large	<u>\$282.00</u>
Total Membership	\$2,670.00

Respectfully submitted,

Rita C. Taylor, Secretary
Illinois State Beekeepers Association

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 5, 2002

Balance brought forward, November 8, 2001 \$2172.82

Receipts:

Hansen Bees - Honey for Ice Cream	\$95.00
Money collected for buffet at Fall Meeting	\$246.00
R. Taylor - Regist. 2001 ISBA Annual Mtg	\$100.00
Transferred C-D #112787 to checking acct	\$3,593.70
Dadant & Sons - Tri-State Meeting refund	\$216.00
Wabash Valley Beekeepers - closed account	\$13.41
2002 Honey Ice Cream sales from R. Taylor	\$8,063.60
Cancel Check-# 928 (C-Far)	<u>\$250.00</u>
Total Receipts	<u>\$12,577.71</u>

Total Cash \$14,750.53

Disbursements:

Steve Taber - 2001 Speaker	\$514.76
John Hansen -2001 Attendance Prizes	\$285.78
Arena Food Service - 32 buffet lunches	\$270.30
Ag. Products Exhibit space Food Expo	\$150.00
Secretary of State of Illinois Annual Report	\$5.00
Kinko Printing - 250 letterheads (copies)	\$11.66
Wetzel's Business Products - 100 ledger sheets	\$20.95
Rich Ramsey - Fall Meeting expenses	\$261.03
C-Far - 2002 Organizational Membership	\$290.00
Country Mutual Insurance Co. - Insurance	\$833.00

Heartland Apicultural Society	\$250.00
Ron Fischer - 2002 ABF Convention Expense	\$100.00
Chas. Lorence - 2002 ABF Convention Expense	\$100.00
Busy Bee - 250 Printed envelopes	\$33.40
Amer. Beekeeping Fed. - Membership dues	\$75.00
Bill Buckley - door prizes at Tri-State meet.	\$103.95
John Hansen Ice Cream for Tri-State meeting	\$72.50
Electricity 2002 State Fair-ice cream booth	\$65.00
Mississippi Valley Beekeepers Assoc.	\$50.00
C-Far - 2002 Organizational Membership	\$250.00
American Honey Producers - 2002 dues	\$75.00
Mooz Bros. - ice cream, delivery, & spoons	\$3,642.35
IL Dep. of Revenue - 2002 ice cream tax	\$539.00
Cook-DuPage Beekeepers 2290 honey stix	\$183.20
Hansen Bees & Honey - Honey for ice cream	\$105.60
Rich Kern - freezer hauling State Fair (2002)	\$75.00
Rochester Elem. Student Activity Fund - storage	\$150.00
Better Bee - 2002 Fall Meeting door prizes	\$32.39
Lapp Bee Supplies - door prizes	\$38.88
Dadant & Sons - door prizes	\$45.15
Brushy Mountain door prizes	\$36.10
B&B Honey Farm door prizes	\$34.33
Walter T. Kelley - door prizes	\$30.48
Mann Lake - door prizes	\$22.95
Carl Wenning- <i>ISBA Bulletin</i>	<u>\$1,082.46</u>

Total disbursements \$9,795.22

Total Cash on Hand less disbursements \$4,955.31

NET BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT \$4,955.31

SAVINGS ACCT NO. 4148-3 BAL. NOV.8, 2001 \$653.99

Interest earned since Nov. 8, 2001 \$8.05

SAVINGS ACCT NO. 4148-3 BAL. NOV. 5, 2002 \$662.04

C-D No. 112834 BALANCE NOV. 8, 2001 \$3,516.60

Interest earned since Nov. 8, 2001 \$127.34

C-D No. 112834 BALANCE NOV. 5, 2002 \$3,643.94

Respectfully submitted,

Udell Meyer, Treasurer
Illinois State Beekeepers Association

Nov. 7, 2002

I have examined the records for the Illinois State Beekeeper's Association from November 2001 through November 1, 2002. All the records in regards to income and expenses were in good order and all Bank Records were reconciled correctly. The balances reflected on this Treasurer's report are correct. The ending Bank Statement agrees with accounting records. If you have any questions in regards to this account, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Janet Wilkening, V. President

NIBA WELCOMES BEEKEEPERS

Calling all Northern Illinois Beekeepers! The Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association will be kicking off the new year with its first monthly meeting of 2003. Please join us in Woodstock at the Farm Bureau building / Route 47 and McConnell Roads at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 21, 2003. For more information on the NIBA and our activities, please visit our new website at www.niba.ws. We welcome all beekeepers and beekeeper wannabees! We also welcome you to join us at the 2003 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium on March 29, 2003 at McHenry County College. For more information on the Symposium look for our invitation in this newsletter and on-line at www.isba.ws.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Midwest Beekeeping Symposium
Saturday, March 29, 2003
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
McHenry County College
Crystal Lake, Illinois

The Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association and McHenry County College present the 2003 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium. The 2003 Symposium will combine both general sessions and numerous small group sessions. The diverse and jam-packed agenda will range from beginner topics to advanced such as, integrated pest management strategies and Honey Bee biology.

Our 2003 featured speaker will be **Dr. Dewey Caron**, Professor of Entomology, University of Delaware. His topic for the keynote address will be "Integrated Pest Management - The Best Strategy for Mite and Pest Control Within the Hive." Dr. Caron, author of *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping*, *Africanized Honey Bees in the Americas*, and co-author of *Observation Hives*, is one of the country's most popular speakers on Beekeeping. His research interests are insect pollination, pest/predators of honeybees and issues in conservation of Bees and natural resources.

To receive a brochure with more information, including registration information, e-mail your name, address and phone number to mwalsh@mchenry.edu or call (815) 455-8697. Additionally, Symposium information can be found on the Illinois State Beekeepers Association website at www.isba.ws. The Symposium registration fee of \$30.00 covers all presentations and lunch.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE REPORT DUE

During mid-December many if not all registered beekeepers should have received a copy of the 2002 Federal Census of Agriculture report form. If you received one of these report forms, it must be completed and returned in the supplied post-paid envelope by February 3, 2003. Data are collected confidentially and will be used only to compile statistical summaries. Federal law precludes revealing information about individual operations. Response to this census is required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). If you have any questions about this survey, refer to the information

sheet accompanying the survey. You may also call 1-888-424-7828 Monday through Friday. If calling, you will need to refer to the 12-digit ID number printed in the address area of your report form.

COOK-DUPAGE BEEKEEPING COURSES

The Cook-DuPage Beekeepers Association will teach three 8-week-long beginning beekeeping courses this winter. There is a sliding scale of fees for each course depending upon residency, and preregistration is required. The text for both courses will be *Beekeeping in the Midwest*. The instructor is Charles Lorence. The first course will be held in Wheaton at the high school; the second course will be held in the PFP barn.

January 23 – March 13, 2003

Thursdays, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

WNHS, room 206, door #2

Contact Carrie A. Hauptert to pre-register
phone (630) 690-4880
or fax (630) 690-5516

January 21 – March 11, 2003

Tuesdays, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Geneva Park District PFP barn

Call (630) 232-4542 to pre-register, or visit the
website at www.genevaparks.org

DADANT WATERTOWN PRESENTS BEGINNER BEEKEEPING SEMINAR

Dadant and Sons – Watertown will sponsor a one-day seminar for beginning beekeepers in Kenosa, WI, on Saturday, February 8, 2003. Details can be obtained from Lee Heine at Dadant's Watertown branch, P.O. Box 331, Watertown, WI 53094, phone (920) 261-5363 or fax (920) 261-2309.

IBA OFFERINGS

Indiana Bee School: Taking cues from the ultra successful Tri-County Beekeepers Meeting in Ohio the first week of March each year, the Indiana Beekeepers Association (IBA) has scheduled an Indiana version with its first Indiana Bee School for February 22 in Indianapolis. To be held at the excellent facilities of the Indiana Farm Bureau Building, this will be an all-day conference focused on beekeeping for young and old — newcomers as well as old timers. Exhibitors include Dadant, Mann Lake and Walter T Kelly. For further information, contact Bee School coordinator Steve Doty at jsdoty@indy.net.

Spring Field Clinics: Begun two years ago, Spring Field Clinics have again been scheduled by the IBA for April and May. To be held throughout Indiana, the Clinics will focus on how to make splits/divides/nucs as well as other Spring management tips. As part of a USDA/IBA-financed queen propagation project, nucs using SMR queens with over-wintered-in-Indiana stock will be for sale. For more on the Clinics, visit the IBA website at <http://indianabeekeeper.goshen.edu>.

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 2003 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 2003 (members only)

	1 Yr.	2 Yr.	3 Yr.
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$16.45	\$31.30	\$44.05
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$17.00	\$32.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	\$13.25	\$25.25	\$34.00

ISBA Executive Board 2003

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THE ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN (USPS 258-600) is published bimonthly at 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024. Second Class postage paid at Pleasant Plains, IL. Membership is \$6.00 per year which includes a year subscription to this newsletter. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Illinois State Beekeepers Association, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
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