



## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

# BULLETIN

May/June 2003 • Volume 85, Number 3

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### *The Essence of BERT*

By the time you read this message, your local association's board of directors should have received guidelines for establishing a Bee Emergency Response Team (BERT). I have asked that the information be copied and distributed among you. Then, if you're willing and able, you may sign up as a member of the team in your local beekeeper organization. What is a "bee emergency," you ask? While the definition may change over time, I have defined it as:

**Bee Emergency** — Any event or occurrence involving a large number of honey bee colonies, where either the bees themselves are in danger of being harmed or destroyed, or where the public is in danger of being harmed by the bees, or both. A large number of colonies implies that a team of beekeepers would be required to correct the situation in a reasonable time, far more work than one or two beekeepers could be expected to handle.

A typical example would be a truckload of bees overturned on a public highway. If such an accident happened near your town, you might be asked, as a beekeeper, to come out and lend a hand in getting the situation under control. Why not be prepared in advance? It only makes sense. A little advanced preparation can only help in any given situation. As a goal, I believe we should have a Bee Emergency Response Team organized within each of our eleven ISBA affiliate organizations so that beekeepers could respond to such an accident, regardless of where, in Illinois, it occurred.

Another possible "bee emergency" would be a sudden infestation of Africanized bee colonies in a particular region or town in Illinois. Beekeepers are the only persons possessing the physical equipment and knowledge to deal with such a situation. Fortunately, such infestation hasn't happened in the U.S. and I hope it never will. But if it ever occurred here, having teams already organized in our state,

ready to respond, would give us a great advantage in dealing with it. I'm sure many questions will come to the surface as we organize the teams. Meanwhile, I hope to see you in Edwardsville at our summer meeting on June 28th.

*John Hansen*

ISBA President

### SUMMER ISBA MEETING IN EDWARDSVILLE JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>

The St. Clair Beekeepers Association will host the ISBA summer meeting in Edwardsville, Illinois, on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will take place at Madison County Farm Bureau, 900 Hillsboro Avenue. The following speakers and presentations have been tentatively arranged:

- Eugene Killion will present a beekeeping slide show.
- Jack Smith will speak about apitherapy.
- Steve Chard, Chief Apiary Inspector, will provide a statewide update.
- Robert Orth will describe a new mite control system.

Details about this event will appear in the July/August issue of the *ISBA Bulletin*. That issue will reach beekeepers in mid-June. Watch for that newsletter, or visit the ISBA web site at [www.isba.ws](http://www.isba.ws) for the most current information.

### HEART OF ILLINOIS BEEKEEPER DIES FROM BEE STINGS

It is with heavy heart that the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association notes the untimely and unfortunate death of one of its own – Don Waldman of Brimfield, Illinois. According to a *Peoria Journal Star* account, Don was working his bees shortly before 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, when he

was stung. Mr. Waldman immediately started showing symptoms of an allergic reaction. After being stung, "...he came in, sat down on a chair and family members gave him an epinephrine shot - a drug that can sometimes reverse serious sting reactions - which didn't work," Peoria County Coroner Dan Heinz said. "He knew he was allergic." Emergency services were called at 4:00 p.m. A rescue team took the retired Caterpillar Inc. engineering supervisor to St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, where he died at 6:00 p.m. The number of times that Don was stung is unknown, but it is believed that the number of stings did not figure in his death.

An article based on a coroner's jury report was published in the *Bloomington Pantagraph* on April 19. In that article it was reported that the death was ruled accidental. According to the report, Don died after being stung several times on his head and face while tending his hives. "Waldman's wife usually helped put on his bee-proof outfit," said Chief Deputy Coroner Johnna Ingersoll, "but he put the suit on himself the day he was stung, and apparently failed to properly zip shut the back of his helmet and veil."

Secretary of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association and a beekeeper for 20 years, Don was 67 years old at his passing. Known affectionately by friends and neighbors as the "Bee Man," Don was a dedicated and hard working beekeeper. "He was loved by everyone," a fellow beekeeper and Brimfield resident was quoted as saying. Don had frequently shared his love and knowledge of honey and honey bees with area school children, and participated regularly in Association activities. His joyful continence and helpful presence will be greatly missed.

### **APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

At the time I am writing this report, many beekeepers have just received and installed their package bees. It is my understanding that the packages are doing very well. Let's hope that the bees continue to build up rapidly.

It seems that our reports for this newsletter give a lot of attention to what's happening with the spread of the small hive beetle (newest invasive species) and the related controls. This report will be no exception. As mentioned in my previous report, there has been a great deal of discussion between the ISBA, beekeepers and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) concerning issues associated with the SHB. There was lengthy discussion on the SHB at the ISBA Fall Meeting-November 2002. One of the main topics discussed included possible measures to control the SHB at a level acceptable to the apiary industry. As part of this process, the IDA and the ISBA jointly drafted a policy for controlling the SHB in Illinois. I'm pleased to announce that the statewide SHB control policy had been approved and is included within this

newsletter. We believe it represents a good balance between needed pest control and enabling all beekeepers (hobbyists, sideliners, pollinators) to carry out the regular business of beekeeping. We are planning to send a copy of the new policy to all registered beekeepers and to place it on the Department's new apiary web site.

As you may or may not have heard, there was a tragic accident in early April where a beekeeper lost his life due to bee stings. Rumors have been circulating in the local community that the gentleman was stung by Africanized bees. This is absolutely not true. Two Department inspectors visited the gentleman's apiary and collected a sample of bees. The sample was sent to the USDA bee research laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland for testing. The tests revealed that the bees were conclusively European bees. Also, no aggressive bees were found with inspections at other apiaries within the general area around the gentleman's apiary. We feel this is important information for people to be aware of. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the beekeeper's family.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that the Department was developing a web site and associated links to help promote and generally assist the apiary industry. I'm pleased to inform you that the web site is now fully operational. The web site can be found on the Department's main web page at

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[www.agr.state.il.us](http://www.agr.state.il.us). Scroll down the screen under “News and Information” and you will find the Bees and Apiaries Program designation. Besides the narrative information, there are links to the Bees and Apiaries Act and Rules, the beekeeper registration form, the list of Department Apiary Inspectors and the districts that they serve, and some user-friendly photos that should be pleasing to the public. We hope you like what you see on the apiary web site. As with all new things, improvements can be made. We welcome your suggestions on ways to improve the various parts of the web site.

Department Apiary Inspectors are in full swing with conducting inspections around Illinois. Please feel free to contact them if you are interested in having your bees inspected. For those of you that have not worked with a Department Apiary Inspector, I believe you will find the experience to be very enjoyable and worthwhile. The inspectors are there to provide an important service to you as a beekeeper, whether it be advising you on basic honeybee management or helping to prescribe treatments for disease and insect control. And, our inspections are done free of charge! How often can you find services of this magnitude being provided to the public at no cost? At any rate, it’s our goal to give excellent service to the apiary industry through our inspections.

Just a reminder, it’s imperative that everyone strictly follow label instructions on all chemicals applied in and outside of the hive. Non-compliance can result in an enforcement action and possibly the removal of the product from the marketplace by USEPA. None of us want these things to happen; the adverse impact to the apiary industry could be significant.

I had received an e-mail message recently which indicated that states could apply to USEPA for a Section 18 Permit for using Apilife VAR for varroa mite control. You have probably read about this promising product in *American Bee Journal*. I contacted USEPA about this matter and was told that some additional steps have to take place before they will approve a Section 18 for Apilife VAR. As soon as USEPA gives me the green light, I will submit all the paperwork needed to receive approval for Illinois’ beekeepers to start using this product. Once I receive the USEPA approval, I will notify ISBA and others immediately.

I have received numerous requests for moving permits this spring. Keep up the good work. Moving permits are important to preventing the spread of disease and pests throughout the state and are required by the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act. Thanks to those beekeepers who have contacted us about moving their bees this spring.

That’s all for now. The Department stands ready to help you at all times improving the health of your honeybees.



**Steve Chard**  
Chief Apiary Inspector



## APIARY NEWS IN ILLINOIS

By Steve Chard

The Small Hive Beetle (SHB), an invasive species that can seriously damage honeybee hives and unextracted honey stored in processing facilities, was officially detected in Illinois for the first time in 2001. The pest was originally found in Kankakee, McLean and Will Counties in 2001. Additional SHB detections were made in Bureau and Whiteside Counties in 2002. To date, the beetle has only been observed in isolated locations in those five counties.

To benefit Illinois’ apiary industry, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA), the Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA) and beekeepers across Illinois have recently held joint discussions regarding the issues surrounding the SHB. These discussions have included possible measures to control the SHB at a level acceptable to the apiary industry.

For a variety of reasons, most believe it will be nearly impossible to eradicate the SHB in Illinois and to prevent it spreading to other areas. However, the IDA, the ISBA and many beekeepers think that specific measures can be carried out to control the SHB to the point where its expansion will be minimized and it will not inflict significant economic harm on the apiary industry. The general consensus of the ISBA and its members attending the 2002 ISBA Fall Annual meeting was that hives infested with the SHB should be allowed to be moved to unaffected counties if those hives were treated properly with SHB control treatments (Checkmite+® Bee Hive Pest Control Strips and Gardstar®).

Based upon the input and recommendations from the ISBA and beekeepers around the state, the IDA has adopted an official policy for controlling the SHB in Illinois.

### **IDA Policy - SHB Control**

*The IDA will issue moving permits to beekeepers who have SHB infested hives when they propose to move bees into counties that do or do not have SHB. This approval will be conditioned on the beekeeper applying control treatments (Checkmite+ and Gardstar) before the hives are moved and after the hives reach their destination. Honey supers are to be removed before the Checkmite+ strips are applied to the hives. The IDA will inspect the colonies at the point of origin and at the point of destination.*

*Regarding moving permits for bees transported into Illinois from another state, essentially the same process applies. Hives slated for transport into Illinois must be inspected by the bee inspection authority of that state and the associated inspection report sent to the IDA. Hives infested with SHB shall have all honey supers removed and the hives treated with Checkmite+ strips before the bees are removed from the bee yard. The Checkmite+ strips shall*



remain in the hives during shipment and be in place at the time of inspection at the destination site in Illinois. Gardstar shall be applied outside the hive as directed by label instructions. The IDA shall inspect the colonies shortly after their arrival.

For bees transported into Illinois from states that no longer have an apiary inspection program, beekeepers are not responsible for providing an inspection report to the IDA. However, the Checkmite and Gardstar treatments are still required as stated above. In addition, the IDA will perform an inspection of the colonies after they arrive in Illinois.

It is incredibly important to specifically follow the label instructions for the control treatments (Checkmite+ and Gardstar). As you know, Checkmite+ (coumaphos) is used internally in the hive and Gardstar (permethrin) is used outside the hive as a ground treatment. During a nectar flow, when Checkmite+ may not be used (per the label instructions), the use of Gardstar alone will be acceptable to the IDA as the treatment for the SHB.

As usual, all requirements of the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act must be followed concerning the paperwork for securing a moving permit and working within the time frames for IDA inspections relating to moving permits.

It is always the goal of the IDA to work in a positive manner with beekeepers across Illinois regarding the implementation of the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Program and certainly, this new SHB control policy. We believe that the IDA and the beekeeping industry truly have an excellent working relationship, and we believe that relationship will continue to flourish. The Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act includes enforcement actions (e.g., nuisance abatement, fines, quarantine) that can be taken when moving permits aren't acquired and bee parasites such as the SHB are present in hives. Please cooperate with the IDA so no enforcement actions will be necessary with the SHB control policy or with other requirements of the Act.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. It is our opinion that the measures shown above are reasonable and will be helpful to the Illinois' apiary industry in combating the SHB. We also feel that the measures represent a good balance between needed pest control and enabling beekeepers

(hobbyists, sideliners, pollinators) to carry out the regular business of beekeeping.

Feel free to contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Apiary Inspection Section at (217) 785-4233 if you have questions regarding this new policy.



## ANNOUNCING *ISBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR* PROGRAM

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association is proud to announce the *ISBA Beekeeper of the Year* program for 2003. This program is designed to recognize, on a yearly basis, an Illinois beekeeper who most embodies, illustrates and exemplifies the key objectives of the ISBA. To promote:

- interest in honey bees and beekeeping by encouraging good beekeeping practices in Illinois,
- the utilization of honey bees for pollination of agricultural crops, and
- the dissemination of information about honey bees and beekeeping.

If you know a beekeeper who exemplifies these objectives, is a member of the ISBA and a resident of the state of Illinois, we want to hear from you! The initial selection of *ISBA Beekeeper of the Year* candidates relies upon you, the ISBA membership! If you would like to nominate someone for this prestigious award, please send the following information to the *ISBA Beekeeper of the Year* chairperson via mail or e-mail no later than September 1, 2003. Please send:

1. Your name, address and phone number
2. The name, address and phone number of the candidate
3. A description of why you feel the candidate should be designated the *ISBA Beekeeper of the Year* (see qualifications above)
4. Send this information to the *ISBA Beekeeper of the Year* chairperson:

Mr. Ken Haller  
627 South Saylor Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

E-mail: [vikinghoneyfarm@attbi.com](mailto:vikinghoneyfarm@attbi.com)  
Phone: (630) 359-3991

The *ISBA Beekeeper of the Year* will be presented a personalized plaque and lifetime membership in the ISBA at the ISBA Annual Fall Meeting! Additionally, the name of the recipient will be announced in various Illinois and national beekeeping media.



## 2003 MIDWEST BEEKEEPING SYMPOSIUM - A HUGE SUCCESS!

The Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association and McHenry County College recently hosted 150 beekeepers at the March 29th Midwest Beekeeping Symposium! The full day of general and break-out sessions covered topics ranging from Integrated Pest Management with Dr. Dewey Caron to Mead Making with Ray Daniels. A special thanks to Larry Krengel of the NIBA and Molly Walsh of McHenry County College for all of their hard work in putting together such an excellent Symposium. Mark your calendars for 2005! For more information on the Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association, please visit [www.niba.ws](http://www.niba.ws).

## ISBA WEBSITE SPORTS NEW ADDITIONS

During the past two months the ISBA website ([www.isba.ws](http://www.isba.ws)) was been updated to include hyperlinks for the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Bees & Apiaries Program website that was developed just recently. In addition, two beekeeping associations have created web pages and these are now hyperlinked through the web site.

The ISBA website is regularly updated with "late breaking news" that generally cannot wait until the next appearance of the *ISBA Bulletin* newsletter. It also contains important information relating to association contacts (*some of which is reportedly out of date; please check for your association listing and provide an update to the web master if necessary*) and web pages, apiary inspectors, association bylaws, Illinois beekeeping statistics, meeting agendas, and much more. To keep up to date on happenings in Illinois beekeeping, visit this site regularly.

## UPCOMING BEEKEEPING MEETINGS

The Heartland Apicultural Society will hold its second annual meeting July 10-12, 2003, at Midway College in Midway, Kentucky. Registration is now taking place online. Visit the HAS website at [www.heartlandbees.com](http://www.heartlandbees.com) for registration information and conference details.

The Eastern Apicultural Society meeting, EAS 2003, will be held a Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, August 6 - 8. The EAS Master Beekeeper short course will be held August 4-6. The theme of the conference is "Something Old - Something New." Details about the meeting can be found on the EAS website at [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org).

## ILLINOIS BEEKEEPER TO SPEAK INTERNATIONALLY

Heart of Illinois Beekeeper, *ISBA Bulletin* editor, and *American Bee Journal* columnist Carl Wenning has been invited to speak before the Moscow Veterinary Academy in Moscow, Russia, on May 22nd. The topic of his presentation will be Reduced Chemical Beekeeping. Wenning will also deliver an invited lecture at the Eastern Apicultural Society meeting in Brunswick, Maine, on August 8th. The title of this second presentation will be Breaking the Chemical Cycle - Can It Be Done?

Since starting his apicultural writing career in July 1999, Wenning has had nearly 50 beekeeping articles published by *American Bee Journal*, Mexico's *Apitec* magazine, and *The Australasian Beekeeper* from Australia. He has been invited to write for *Pchelovodstvo (Beekeeping)* magazine in Russia as well. The latter publication has more than 30,000 subscribers.

## VARROA MITES NEEDED FOR SUSCEPTIBILITY STUDY

Varroa mites have now been reported to be resistant to fluralinate and coumaphos in some areas, but there is no clear understanding of the extent of resistance. To help track this resistance, the Carl Hayden Honey Bee Research Lab in Tucson, Arizona, is currently doing a survey of varroa mites that show resistance to the pesticides. In order to test for resistance, they need *live* mites be shipped to them, after which the mites will be frozen and destroyed. The tests include putting mites in vials with different doses of pesticides.

If you wish to participate in this survey, please contact Dr. Diana Sammataro at the address below.

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Additional information about the work of the Honey Bee Research Lab may be obtained at the following web address: <http://gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov/home/sammataro/index.html>

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)**

	<b>1 Yr.</b>	<b>2 Yr.</b>	<b>3 Yr.</b>
<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

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