

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN

September/October 2004 • Volume 86, Number 4

### President's Message

Fellow Beekeepers:

Summer's end is upon us. Illinois State Fair 2004 is history and we're looking forward to our Annual Fall Meeting scheduled for November 13 in Springfield.

First, I want to focus on **Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) 2004**, the eight-state-plus conference, which several of us Illinois beekeepers attended July 8, 9, and 10 at Cumberland College, Lebanon, Tennessee. Patterned after the Eastern Apicultural Society, HAS brings together some of the smartest beekeeping and entomology talent the U.S. has to offer. Beginners and experienced beekeepers alike can gain an abundance of beekeeping knowledge by attending such a conference. For example, I learned the fine points of **troubleshooting a hive** from Dr. Clarence Collison of Mississippi State University, how to **manage a hive's population** from Dr. Dewey Caron, University of Delaware, and how to **minimize swarming** from Dr. Jim Tew, Ohio State University at Wooster. These were only three of more than ninety-six presentations and workshop sessions by thirty-six presenters. More than 300 beekeepers from 14 states attended this three-day event.

Next year, **HAS 2005** will be held at a college campus here in Illinois on July 7, 8 and 9. Two colleges with facilities that can accommodate HAS have been interviewed and negotiations are currently underway. HAS will select one of these colleges soon. The two colleges lie in the region between Springfield and St. Louis.

Just as the Tennessee Beekeepers Association was heavily involved in helping to organize and support HAS 2004, likewise, ISBA will be heavily involved in doing the same for **HAS 2005**. We'll keep you posted as developments unfold.

The next important conference event for ISBA will be our **Annual Fall Meeting** to be held **November 13, 2004** at the Agriculture Building, State Fair Grounds, Springfield. Dr. Bob Cox, from USDA Bee Research Lab at Weslaco, Texas will be our keynoter and featured speaker. He will cover **Brood Diseases: Detection and Control** and "**Bee Mites or Varroa Mites**". Bob is well known for his interesting and informative presentations. We always have fun at this meeting so I hope you can attend.

As for this season's honey crop, here in the north, we have had a relatively good early flow, better than 2003, but not as good as we'd like to see it. Reports I've received from two local beekeepers here, each running several hundred hives, is that beans did not produce much nectar this year. Neither of these beekeepers has any extra honey for sale. Unfortunately, it seems the honey crop went downhill as you move down the state. One beekeeper from the Springfield area told me it was "the worst year I've ever seen".

Finally, **September is National Honey Month**. The National Honey Board has made available three new items to assist honey industry members publicize the versatility of honey. See the article elsewhere in this Bulletin.

*John Hansen*

# APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard,  
Illinois Department of Agriculture

By the time you read this article, the Illinois State Fair will have come and gone. I'm pleased to report that the Apiary Industry received some excellent exposure at the Fair. Not only did the ISBA and local bee associations have the usual grand display in the Illinois Building, but two observation hives were also placed in Illinois Department of Agriculture tents on the fairgrounds. Those observation hives were accompanied by generous beekeepers who enjoy spreading the good word about beekeeping to the general public. Based upon my observations, everyone from children to seasoned citizens really enjoyed viewing the bees and conversing with the beekeepers. Undoubtedly, this type of interaction helps to foster beekeeping in Illinois.

## Help Wanted

### Apiary Inspector

Work outdoors and spend your days talking to bees.



**IDOA  
wants you!**

Thanks to everyone for their efforts in educating the public on the joys of beekeeping and its overall importance to society. Apiary inspections have gone well this year and few problems with disease and pests have been detected. There has been somewhat of a problem with American foulbrood in the northwestern district and IDOA Apiary Inspector Lynn Osborn is actively working with beekeepers in that area to correct the problem. We haven't found any significant varroa mite infestations to date and fortunately, we have not encountered the spread of the small hive beetle. However, it is incumbent on all of us to be vigilant with closely

monitoring our colonies for problems and taking quick corrective action. Please feel free to contact one of the IDOA's Apiary Inspectors or me 217/785-4233 for needed assistance.

Also by the time you read this report, the ISBA and the IDOA will have met with officials of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) on the manner in which they and local health departments regulate the apiary industry in terms of food safety, sanitation of honey houses, etc. I've received reports that various local health departments are applying differing standards to honey houses and the sale of honey at farmers markets. The IDOA believes it's critical that the IDPH and local health departments administer their programs in a fair and consistent fashion. I'll provide more information on this matter in an upcoming issue of the ISBA Bulletin.

We are still searching for a person who would be interested in serving as an IDOA Apiary Inspector for west central Illinois. We believe it's important to fill this vacancy quickly to provide the best service possible to the apiary industry. If you know of someone who may be interested, please ask that they contact me at 217/785-4233.

I've been receiving reports of a short honey crop in central Illinois. I hope this will not be the case throughout the state this year.

We at the IDOA certainly enjoy working with you to protect and enhance beekeeping in Illinois. Thanks for your cooperation as we continue to carry out Illinois' Apiary Inspection Program.

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## Chasing Wax Moths

By Larry Krengel

Recent European investigations have found traces of paradichloralbenzene (PDB—moth crystals) in both beeswax and honey samples taken from a number of European countries. I, like many of you, use PDB to protect my stored combs from wax moths. This led me to ask a few questions.

I started with the Bee Research Lab in Maryland. To my surprise no system is available to us (or them) to establish the presence of PDB in our honey.

*(Continued on page 5)*

<b>Class</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>
Display of white com honey	Iliana	St. Clair	Lincolnland	Cook-DuPage
Frame of honey for extracting	Iliana	St. Clair	Lincolnland	Cook-DuPage
Frame of white honey for cut-Comb or for packing in glass	Lincolnland	Iliana	Cook DuPage	St. Clair
Frame of amber honey for cut-Comb or for packing in glass	Lincolnland	St. Clair	Iliana	Cook-DuPage
Display of amber cut-comb in plastic 1lb. Boxes (6 Boxes)	Lincolnland	Iliana	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage
Display of white cut-comb in plastic 1 lb. boxes (6 boxes)	Iliana	St. Clair	Lincolnland	Cook-DuPage
White comb honey in round sections (3 sections)	Cook-DuPage	Iliana	Lincolnland	St. Clair
50 lbs. light extracted honey	St. Clair	Iliana	Lincolnland	Cook-DuPage
Amber comb honey in round sections (3 sections)	Iliana	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage	Lincolnland
30 lbs amber extracted honey	St. Clair	Lincolnland	Iliana	Cook-DuPage
Dark extracted honey 6– 1 lb jars	Iliana	St. Clair	Lincolnland	Cook-DuPage
30 lbs. variety of honey in various size containers	Lincolnland	Iliana	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage
Designs in comb honey	Iliana	Lincolnland	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage
Light or amber chunk honey in glass jars—3—2 1/2 lb sq. jars	Lincolnland	Iliana	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage
Light chunk honey, 3—1 lb. jars	Lincolnland	Iliana	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage
Amber chuck honey, 3—1 lb. jars	Lincolnland	St. Clair	Iliana	Cook-DuPage
Beeswax molded in commercial shapes—15 lbs.	Lincolnland	Iliana	Cook DuPage	St. Clair
Art designs in beeswax, 10 lbs.	Lincolnland	St. Clair	Iliana	Cook-DuPage
Color photography	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage	Lincolnland	Iliana
Crystallized (or creamed) honey in 3—1 lb. jars	Lincolnland	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage	Iliana
Honey gift pack	Iliana	Lincolnland	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage
Best display booth	Lincolnland	Iliana	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage
<b>SWEEPSTAKES</b>	Lincolnland	Iliana	St. Clair	Cook-DuPage

Illinois State Fair  
Division 2 Open class 2004

<b>Class</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>Frame of honey for cut-comb or for packing in glass</b>	Leo Spicer Jr.	Kevin Karnes	Valerie Wright
<b>Display of white cut-comb honey in plastic boxes (3)</b>	Bob Walters	Jim Tyan	Valerie Wright
<b>White comb honey, 3 sections</b>	Valerie Wright	Andy Gano	Leo Spicer, Jr.
<b>3 comb honey in round sections</b>	Valerie Wright	Leo Spicer, Jr.	Andy Gano
<b>Light extracted honey 3-1 pound jars</b>	Steve Mayes	James Belli	Leo Spicer, Jr.
<b>Amber extracted honey 3-1 pound jars</b>	Garrett Kaiser	Leo Spicer Jr.	James Belli
<b>Dark extracted honey 3-1 pound jars</b>	Larry Waller	Bob Walters	Andy Gano
<b>Amber chunk honey in glass 3-1 pound jars</b>	Valerie Wright	Bob Walters	Leo Spicer, Jr.
<b>Light chunk honey in glass 3-1 pound jars</b>	Bob Walters	Garrett Kaiser	Kevin Karnes
<b>Chunk honey in glass 3-2 1/2 lb. square jars</b>	Bob Walters	Kevin Karnes	Valerie Wright
<b>Crystallized (or creamed) honey 3-1 pound jars</b>	Leo Spicer, Jr.	Bob Walters	John Dittmann
<b>Beeswax, molded in commercial Forms for sale, 3 lbs</b>	Valerie Wirght	Leo Spicer, Jr.	Andy Gano
<b>Beeswax, art designs, 3 lbs</b>	Dorothy Buckley	Valerie Wright	Leo Spicer, Jr.
<b>Bees wax candles, 1 pr. molded</b>	Grant Kaiser	Valerie Wright	Leo Spicer, Jr.
<b>SWEEPSTAKES</b>	Valerie Wright	Leo Spicer, Jr.	Bob Walters

## The Hospital dialed 911 for help... Beekeeper help

By Bill Buckley

I received a 911 call from the hospital. I said, "You called the wrong number. I am a beekeeper."

"Yes... that is just what we need," was the reply.

When I arrived on the scene—a hospital - the whole entrance and parking lot was blocked off. The administration was frantic. Bees had come from the nearby university that did not want to be bothered. The bees were in a tree about 10 feet up. (This was the largest swarm I had ever seen and I was not ready for that big of a crew.)

I have constructed a vacuum recovery for bees where the extension will go up that high and had no trouble vacuuming them into the hive box, but the box was not large enough. I found a large cardboard box and put the remainder of the bees in it.

There were still some bees in the tree, so I loaded up the one box of bees and when I got back the bees in the tree were all on the outside of the box, so that was the way I transported them home. The hospital administration was pleased to get back to normal.

Editors note—Being beekeepers we all get swarm calls. It is a great challenge to both our beekeeping skills and insights... and our ingenuity. It is the Olympics of beekeeping. Each situation requires us to adapt to the new situation and capture the bees. If you have a story of a swarm capturing adventure and would like to share it, email it to LKrengel@mc.net or send it "snail mail" to the editor—Larry Krengel, 9409 Voss Road, Marengo, IL 60152.

(Continued from page 2)

I checked with the Illinois Department of Agriculture. I was told that PDB was not authorized for use in beekeeping equipment. That didn't make sense to me. Now I understand.

I had learned from rubbing elbows with other beekeepers through the years that of the two "moth crystals" PDB was acceptable because it did not leave residue in the comb (and ultimately in the honey) as would Naphthalene - the other "moth crystal" substance. I have been using PDB both in the form of the commercially available Para-Moth and straight from the hardware store—the familiar

## Materials for National Honey Month

It is here! National Honey Month. Each year September is established honey month and the time for the beekeepers of the country to boast about their fine product.

Is it time for you to hawk your honey? It is natural... great tasting... and healthy. The oldest of man's sweeteners is still the best way for your tea, on your cereal, and makes great cookies.

Two brochures and a fling toy for kids are available from National Honey Board (NHB) to help industry members promote honey.

*Honey, Let's Celebrate* is a brochure featuring six recipes for celebrations throughout the year. Designed to fit in recipe boxes, each full-color recipe card directs consumers online where a full Web page is dedicated to each celebration. The Web page offers additional recipes for a complete party menu. The brochure is available at no charge for assessment-paying members.

A new *Bee Fit* brochure introduces NHB's newest and most agile honeybees in active poses like diving, playing soccer, roller blading and others. The full-color brochure features healthy honey tips and recipes for active kids.

Also available is a light-weight fling toy for kids that feature the Bee Fit bees. Both items are available at cost, 12 cents each for the brochure and \$1.50 for the fling toy. NHB's order line is 888 421-2977.

blue can of PDB moth crystals. I was apparently wrong.

From what I understand from IDOA, only that material labeled as Para-Moth is approved for use with beekeeping equipment. In reading the labels, they both contain 99.45% PDB and .55% inert ingredient, but the labeling is not on—and therefore approval has not been obtained for—the use of hardware store PDB in beekeeping equipment. According to IDOA only ParaMoth is approved for our use. Well, live and learn...

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 2004 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 the association secretary.

Reduced Journal Rates for 2004 (*members only*)

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
American Bee Journal	17.20	32.75	46.05
Bee Culture	17.00	32.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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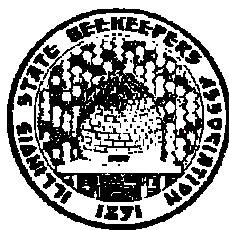
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