



## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

# BULLETIN

September/October 2005 • Volume 87, Number 5



### Watch your step!

Lynn Osborn needs a stepstool to get to the top super on his hives.



A dry year, but many Illinois beekeepers report excellent honey crops.



### A message from Ken Beauchamp, ISBA President.

I want to express my thanks and congratulations to Rich Ramsey who acted as HAS president for 2005 and arranged for the Edwardsville convention.

Rich was responsible for bringing the convention to Illinois and as a result he was named president with the duty of arranging the convention. Finding a site and consulting with the university officials concerning details proved to be extremely difficult tasks, but Rich certainly demonstrated his ability to handle the situation. Due to Rich's efforts the convention was a great success and Indiana will have a tough act to follow next year.

There were several very good presenters recruited by Robin Mountain, but Rich was so busy he missed many of the presentations.

On behalf of ISBA, thanks and congratulations for a job well done, Richard.  $\beta$

## ISBA Insurance

-How it applies to you-

Lea R. Sommers, Agent  
Country Insurance & Financial Services

The policy for the Illinois State Beekeepers Association is a General Liability policy that consists of two parts, Premise Liability and Products & Completed Operations.

General Liability is \$1million protection for losses with a \$2 million aggregate. This simply means that the Illinois State Beekeepers Association is insured up to \$1 million in a given year for a single loss and a total of \$2 million in a year for all losses. Medical protection is \$5,000 per person in the event someone is injured at an ISBA sponsored event.

Premise liability covers premise exposures whenever and wherever the ISBA is conducting an exhibit. It covers the ISBA for accidental injury related to the association and for which the ISBA is negligent. Products & Completed Operations is liability protection where someone buys an ISBA product (i.e. honey) gets sick and makes a claim. Liability and medical coverages do not apply or extend to associations and their members as individuals. Coverage applies only to a third party claimant (not the insured or the insurer). This would be the person who incurs damage and/or injury and presents the ISBA with a medical bill or initiates a lawsuit.

All individual beekeepers are afforded coverage under this policy as long as they are members of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association and they are conducting an event or exhibit in conjunction with the ISBA. To engage coverage, just the fact that the ISBA was invited to do an exhibit for someone (a county fair or school for example), would cause coverage to be in effect. Many times, the party for whom the ISBA is doing an exhibit or event requires a certificate of insurance, but this is not always the case. However, for coverage to apply, it must be an activity sponsored by an association who is a member of the ISBA.

Individual members of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association are covered only if they are doing an exhibit in conjunction with the ISBA and/or are sponsored or approved by one of the sixteen association listed on the policy. Bee yards, hives, etc. owned by individual members of the ISBA would need to be insured by that individual on his/her own policy for liability claims, vandalism, injury or any other property losses, etc.

Product liability insurance applies to each member of the ISBA as long as it is in conjunction with an ISBA event. A roadside stand or market owned, operated or rented by an individual would not be covered under this policy.

Beekeepers who are making presentations in schools and at FFA, 4-H, Scouts, Community Group Meetings, etc. are covered under this policy as long as the event is in conjunction with the ISBA.

In short, as long as an activity is sponsored and/or affiliated with any of the associations who belong to the ISBA, coverage is afforded. Each and every claim presented to COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services by the ISBA and those associations who belong to the ISBA would be given individual consideration. The claims department based on the facts of that particular claims situation would make a determination of coverage.β

### ISBA to Meet in November

ISBA will have its fall meeting on November 12 in the Agricultural Building of the Fair Grounds in Springfield. Registration with coffee and donuts begins at 8:00am, the meeting at 9:00am. A catered lunch will be available.

Speakers will include Ed Levi. Ed is the State Apiary Inspector for Arkansas and the secretary for the Apiary Inspectors of America. He spent his college years in California (marketing and finance) then at an agriculture/technical college in France specializing in Apiculture in the early 1970s. While in France, he kept bees for five years, then he returned to the United States where he kept up to 240 colonies. He has been teaching beekeeping and hive inspection for the past 18 years and continues to keep 50 to 60 colonies. Ed has traveled to more than 100 foreign countries, and has worked as a consultant to help beekeepers in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan (twice), Uzbekistan,, Armenia (three times), Ukraine, Nepal (Three Times), India, Bangladesh, and Guinea (twice). He has also visited beekeepers and their colonies in Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Holland, Morocco, Mexico and Bolivia.

Driving to the meeting? Those coming from most directions will need to be on interstate 55 and should take exit 100 and continue west on Sangamon Avenue until they see the fairgrounds at Peoria Road. They should then continue west in front of the fairgrounds until they reach gate 11. Immediately after entering the gate the ag building will be on the right with parking on the left.β

## The Mystery of Bee Smells

*Bill Bernacchi of B & B Honey Farm talks about one of the products available from them—the pheromone lure.*

A great product that is invaluable to any size beekeeper is pheromone products that will help you catch swarms (yours or someone else's). The "Swarm Catch" lure is simply placed in an empty hive near your apiary. The "Nasonov" pheromone it contains will attract passing swarms into your empty hive. Research and our own experiences have shown that 50% to 80% of your bait hives will catch a swarm. If possible these bait hives should be about 3 feet off the ground and 100 to 300 yards away from your apiary. Each lure will last at least a season and unused lures or leftover lures can be frozen and used again next year. You can also use these lures where bees are a nuisance such as in your honey house.

Ever have a situation where you have found a newly queenless hive or you have made some divides but the queens were late in arriving? "Bee Boost" is a temporary "pheromone" queen. It can keep a queenless colony performing normally for several days. As you probably know, the longer a colony is queenless the less likely it will be to accept your expensive new queen. Bee Boost contains a mixture of 5 pheromones that duplicate those of the queen honeybee. Your bees will stay calm and your acceptance rate will increase.

A combination of Bee Boost and Swarm Catch in your bait hives works even better. We also use Bee Boost with light sugar syrup in a spray bottle when making divisions or installing packages. A couple of sprays on the top bars of the parent colony and the division will drastically reduce drifting. We just cut up a couple of Bee Boost strips into little pieces and put them into the spray bottle with syrup. Unused Bee Boost can be frozen and used the next time you need it. Each strip will last about three weeks in a colony.β

B & B Honey Farm is in Huston, Minnesota. You can reach them at 1-800-342-4811.

## Nominations sought for Illinois State Beekeeper of the Year.

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association is proud to announce the ISBA Beekeeper of the Year Program for 2005. 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
- 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! If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please send the following information via mail or e-mail no later than October 7, 2005.

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.
4. Send to:

Ken Haller

627 South Saylor Avenue  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

E-Mail: [vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net](mailto:vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net)

Phone: 630.359.3991

The ISBA Beekeeper of the Year will be presented a personalized plaque at the ISBA Annual Fall Meeting! Additionally, the recipient will be announced in various Illinois and National Beekeeping media. β

---

*Successful wintering consists in carrying through the winter a good colony of bees, with a vigorous queen, and sufficient stores to allow the colony to build up in the spring.*

## *Illinois Hosts Fourth Annual HAS Conference*

The Heartland Apicultural Society held its fourth annual conference on July 7, 8 and 9 at Southern Illinois University's Edwardsville campus. Nearly 250 beekeepers attended. While this number was somewhat less than attended in 2004, the conference was considered a great success by attendees. In addition to excellent presentations by experts, beekeeping equipment suppliers and related vendors were well represented giving attendees direct contact with suppliers to fill the beekeepers' needs.

Program topics covered a wide range for beginners and advanced beekeepers. When to feed your bees, Basic disease recognition, Two-queen systems, How viruses change beekeeping, and How exocrine glands and pheromones affect bee behavior are a few examples. Presenters included: Dr. Zachary Huang, Michigan State; Dr. Nancy Ostiguy, Penn. State; Dr. Stu Jacobson, University of Illinois, Dr. Tom Webster, Kentucky State University and Dr. Diana Sammataro, USDA Honey Bee Research Lab., Tucson, AZ. Editor Kim Flottum of Bee Culture Magazine and Editor Joe Graham from the American Bee Journal also gave presentations. David Eyre of [www.beeworks.com](http://www.beeworks.com), Ontario, Canada, covered the Nicot-Jenter System of raising queens without grafting.

Eight charter states formed HAS in 2002: Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia, Alabama and Ohio. HAS 2006 will be held July 6-8 at Vincennes, Indiana. The HAS website is [www.heartlandbees.com](http://www.heartlandbees.com). *β*

---

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for Honey Bees Rethinking the tradition—Using Chemicals Only When Necessary Article #2

Ken Haller  
Vice President, Illinois State Beekeepers Association  
[vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net](mailto:vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net)

Throughout the history of Beekeeping one thing has been certain, most Beekeepers use chemical treatments and use them each spring and fall. I am happy to report, in this series of articles, we explore an alternative that may have profound, positive effects on your Honey Bees, your management budget and quite possibly your own health. The alternative, as you already know, is Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

In our previous discussion we introduced IPM as a general strategy, here we explore our next fundamental difference in IPM vs. traditional management techniques, the use of treatment methods only when necessary. It is important to recall that IPM does not attempt to eliminate the chemical treatments we have been using for years, but IPM does allow the use of treatments only when there is a problem that needs our attention.

Since this series of articles is intended only as an introduction to IPM, we will not cover each pest, disease and technique in detail. Further information on all the details will be referenced in upcoming articles for your continued reading.

For the sake of simplicity, let's focus on the Varroa mite as our model pest for this discussion. First, a couple of notes about this exotic pest and their effect on a colony of Honey Bees:

1. Once Varroa has entered a colony, Varroa is there to stay
2. No treatment (chemical or other) will kill 100% of Varroa in a colony
3. Varroa's presence within a colony is not "in and of itself" harmful to a colony – only when the population of Varroa reaches a relatively high level does a colony feel the full, negative effects of Varroa's presence
4. The density of Varroa within a colony varies with seasonal weather conditions (temperature and humidity),

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

Honey Bee population and general conditions within the hive

5. Since some Varroa always survive a treatment, there is a high degree of probability that some survivors will eventually become resistant (or immune) to the chemical agent you are using

6. Most chemical treatments are potentially harmful to non-target organisms, both Beekeeper and Honey Bees

Now, while it is not my intention to say all of the above are 100% absolute fact, but as generalizations, they are true. So what's the result and summary of the above?

By monitoring the population of Varroa mites in a colony of Honey Bees and treating that colony only when Varroa populations are at or approaching an injury level, you will treat less often, with greater kill rates and less potential to develop resistant mites.

Varroa populations can be monitored a variety of ways with the most popular method consisting of sticky paper inside the lower hive body. This paper is slipped inside the lower hive body via the hive entrance with the sticky side facing up. The concept behind this method leverages the reality that throughout the daily life of a Varroa mite, approximately 10% of mites lose their grip on a Honey Bee host and fall to the bottom board. These unfortunate mites are trapped on the sticky paper and are now available for you to count and determine the approximate mite population within the colony. You already know the rest of the story. If this population is at or near the colony injury level, you proceed with treatment. If treatment is not needed, you simply wait until the next monitoring period and repeat the process.

Currently there are many monitoring kits available for purchase. Some use sticky paper with grid lines pre-printed on the face affording a quicker counting technique, while others use a removable tray or drawer under an open mesh floor or screened bottom board. Most kits come with detailed instruction on their use, installation, monitoring periods, mite population calculations, etc. Since the theory and procedures behind each monitoring product varies, we cannot go into this detail here. You may want buy one of each available monitor, try each for a year and see which you like best.

I have used a variety of these monitoring prod-

ucts, over the past 3-4 years, and have found that a screened bottom board with a removable tray to be most convenient, cost effective and a great multi-tasking tool (more on this in the future).

In this article we will have not discussed all the available treatments of Varroa. This is for two reasons: you should already be familiar with the traditional options (Check-Mite, Apistan, etc.) and secondly, non-traditional, new options will be discussed in detail in a later addition of this series. Additionally, don't forget that I am using Varroa as our model pest for this article. By reading additional information on IPM you will find techniques to monitor Tracheal Mites.

My own practical experience with IPM and specifically the monitoring and treatment strategies discussed above, have been very successful. On average, I am treating 1-2 colonies (out of 20 colonies) yearly for Varroa.β

---

#### New "Honey of a BBQ" Recipe Brochures Available

Hot off the press is NHB's most recent recipe brochure "Honey of a BBQ – Winning Recipes from Grilling Fans." The brochure features six, tasty winning recipes from NHB's 2004 Honey of a BBQ Tailgating Recipe Contest. The brochure is available in English and Spanish. Assessment-paying industry members may order up to 500 brochures at no charge, and industry associations may obtain up to 1,000 at no charge. Non-assessment paying industry members may purchase the brochures at cost. To order, send an e-mail to [order@nhb.org](mailto:order@nhb.org) or call the NHB order line at (888) 421-2977, ext. 7.β

---

#### National Honey Report

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has issued the Honey Market report .

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mncs/honey.pdf>

A list of the previous Honey reports is also available:

<http://marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv/honey>

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 2005 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 2005 (*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

## ISBA Executive Board 2005

### President

Ken Beauchamp  
69 Greencastle Cir.  
Springfield, IL 62712-8764  
Phone (217)529-5277  
Kbeauch@aol.com

### Vice President

Ken Haller  
627 S. Saylor Ave.  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
630 359 3991  
kenhaller@comcast.net

### Secretary

Rita Taylor  
4274 Taylor Homestead Rd.  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024  
217 626 1319  
rjandeta@warppnet.net

### Treasurer

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

### Directors

#### Northern Region

William Buckley  
6525 S. Western Ave.  
Willowbrook, IL 60527  
630 654 1867

#### Central Region

Jill Mayes  
P. O. Box 274  
Machinaw, IL 61755  
309 359 8600

#### Southern Region

Ray Chapman  
R. R. 1 Box 215  
Bunker Hill, IL 62014  
618 585 4506  
honey@bhill.com

#### ISBA Bulletin Editor

Larry Krengel  
9409 Voss Road  
Marengo, IL 60152  
815 923 4449  
lkrengel@mc.net

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin (USPS 258-600) is published bimonthly at 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024. Membership is \$6.00 per year that includes a one-year subscription to the Bulletin

POSTMASTER: Send address Corrections to Illinois State Beekeepers Association 42 74 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.



## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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

Periodical  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No 2  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677

- ⇒ *ISBA Insurance and You*
- ⇒ *The Mystery of Bee Smells*
- ⇒ *IPM Part II*
- ⇒ *ISBA Fall Meeting*