

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## *BULLETIN*

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### *Emergency winter feeding*

Marion D. Ellis

University of Nebraska at Lincoln

Emergency winter feeding is stressful to both bees and beekeepers. Fall feeding to add weight not only provides food stores, it also provides a heat sink which moderates temperature fluctuations in the hive. Colonies that are wintered on low food reserves are subjected to more stress. Colonies only require about 3 pounds of honey per month to winter when no brood rearing is occurring; therefore most colonies do not starve until late winter or early spring when they begin brood rearing and accelerate honey consumption. However, waiting until spring to add the necessary weight usually gives unsatisfactory results. The bees are more stressed from winter and they have often restricted brood rearing to conserve stores.



Candy lids can be made by adding 25 pounds of sugar to a quart of boiling water. Candy is cast into 2" rims and allowed to cool. The hard candy board is then placed directly above the cluster.

In general, it is best to avoid emergency winter syrup feeding. Manipulating and curing syrup requires a lot of activity. Activity generates waste, and bees need to take cleansing flights to void their waste when they are active. Winter weather is usually not conducive to cleansing flights. The best way to provide emergency stores is to add supers or combs of honey. Be sure the honey came from colonies that were free of American Foulbrood. If combs of honey are not available, candy lids can be made by boiling a quart of water and adding 25 pounds of sugar. This will require a lot of stirring and a lot of heat. Candy is cast into 2" rims and allowed to cool. The hard candy board is placed directly above the cluster. Making these once in your kitchen will motivate you to remember to fall feed next year. It is a lot of work and mess. Beekeepers who routinely make candy boards have gas burners and mechanical agitators to facilitate the process. Be sure to remove the candy lid in the spring before the bees fill the empty space with comb. Another emergency measure is to remove the lid, place newspaper over the exposed top bars, place a 2" rim on the newspaper, fill the rim with granulated sugar and replace the lid. The sugar will absorb moisture from the cluster and form hard candy-like stores. These can be a mess to work around when doing spring work in your apiary.β

ISBA's newly elected officers. From left to right: Ken Haller, President; Phillip Raines, Vice President; Nathan Sasse, Central Director; Udell Meyer, Treasurer; Rita Taylor, Secretary.



# Illinois Beekeepers Travel to Panama

By Janet Hart

Two years ago, my husband Danny and I went on a Beekeeping and Agricultural Tour to Costa Rica and Panama. This very beautiful part of the world has two seasons, wet or dry. We were there during the dry season when there was little rain and temperatures were 80 to 90 degrees. We rode on a bus from San Jose into Panama and stayed in the city of David. It is much farther north than Panama City and there are very few 'Gringos' (Americans). Among the many sights we saw, we visited a honey processing plant, the home of a beekeeper and a beekeeping business.

The processing plant we toured harvests honey from 600 hives. The honey is taken from the hives frame by frame rather than by the super and the bees are just shaken off. All employees are required to wear a hair net and a mask while working in the plant. The uncapping process is all done by hand with a capping scratcher. The extractor and tanks were stainless steel and the building was very clean. They produce 80 barrels of honey a year and were receiving \$700 per 55-gallon drum at the time. Their biggest nectar source in the area is the orange groves. The trees bloom in May but do not need a pollinator.



In Panama they use BIG smokers!

All of the honeybees in Central America are Africanized. They have been known to kill dogs or horses if they are tied up in an area where the bees are being worked. We had the opportunity to go with a beekeeper into his apiary to work the hives but we hadn't brought our bee suits and veils. A few in our group did go and reported that their leather gloves were covered with stingers and the bees seemed especially attracted to darker colors such as a black camera strap and the dark screen veils. The bees followed them from the apiary 3/8 of a mile down the road to their vehicle.

Africanized bees are "flighty" and will produce many small swarms. They will also abscond a hive if handled too much. There were several swarms that had hived in some boxes in the beekeeper's yard that he opened without wearing any protective clothing. Because they were swarms, they were not aggressive and we stood close to them as he pointed out the queen. He also showed us a

very large smoker and joked that if the bees can't see you, they can't sting you!

We also visited a man who owns a beekeeping business at his home. They build all their own woodenware. He has ten full-time workers that are paid by the piece. He was importing blocks of wax from Dadant's from which they made their own foundation. The businessman had 1600 hives that he wanted to expand to 2,000. His goal is to produce 40 tons of honey. He recently took out a business loan at 16% interest plus 6% to process. He also rents out hives for pollination of melons. His current charge of \$27-\$36 per hive was going to increase to \$45 the next year. Formic acid was used to medicate the hives. Because Africanized bees tend to produce a lot of propolis, he harvested that as well as pollen. The variety of products he produced was interesting.β

## APIARY INSPECTORS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Thanks to all of you who attended the ISBA Annual Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 12 at the Illinois Department of Agriculture. I believe that the event was a major success and I think all attendees came away with a great deal of practical information that will make everyone better beekeepers.

During the meeting, I provided some information on a new product called "TYLAN" for the control of American foulbrood. I indicated in my comments that the product had been approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, but it wasn't clear as to whether Illinois Department of Agriculture approval was needed as well, similar to approval for Checkmite Bee Hive Pest Control Strips (coumaphos) and Api Life VAR (thymol). The Department was not in possession of sufficient information about the new product at that point. Since then, we have received more details. Given the nature of the product, no Department approvals are needed for its use by Illinois beekeepers. Therefore, please feel free to purchase and use the product, according to label directions. TYLAN is comparable to Terramycin in that it controls American foulbrood in the vegetative state, but does not kill or eliminate the spores.

All of you should have received a notice from the Department by now for the annual registration of your honeybee colonies. For those of you who have already responded, thank you. For others, please return the completed form as soon as possible. Besides registration of colonies being a requirement of the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act, it's important that the Department have your address so we can keep you informed of new developments in the apiary industry. It's also very important that we have records on the location of your colonies in case there is a new breakout of diseases or pests of the honeybee. Precautions must be implemented as soon as possible to protect your colonies from these problems. However, please know that this information is always held in confidence by the Department. Thanks for your cooperation.β

# A good day in Springfield November 12, 2005



**BBB  
CCCC = Bees Overseas**



Dan and Janet Hart—Illinois Beekeepers of the year 2005

Ken Haller's IPM series returns in the March issue.

## The Honey Market in the US

Bob Harrison  
Odessa, Missouri

Each fall for years I have shared what is reported to me about the state of the commercial beekeeping industry around this time of year.

I am a few weeks late this year but wanted to hear from Australia and California before sharing. There are any reports of beekeepers losing all their hives. I am not sure why. (source—hive placement service in California & Australian package people taking package pallet orders).

Many reports of very large commercial beekeepers that have gone to almonds for years staying home because their bees were in poor shape (report from beekeeper wintering in Carthage, Texas).

Australian pallets of package bees booked now for all dates from now into February (source - a phone call from and Australian package). I would still try to place an order or put my name on a cancellation list. Beekeepers are starting to place package orders for fall 2006 & spring 2007.

I have been told that the almond crop insurance providers are not giving crop insurance unless the grower can provide a signed contract from a beekeeper for two hives per acre (source - Australia and several commercial beekeepers).

Another year of hive shortage in almonds (source - almond placement service).

After the January conventions I should be better able to provide better information on the deadout problems. Many hives headed to almonds are buried in the snow drifts in North Dakota. Those beekeepers said they were waiting to see the condition of their bees before ordering packages. If you snooze you lose!

Bell Honey of Florida saved the industry last year by selling around 100,000 hives for almond pollination. California almond growers have been in Florida courting the Florida beekeepers. Many Florida beekeepers took the expense paid trip to California to meet the almond growers. The almond growers offered housing, use of RV's, forklifts and trucks while the Florida beekeepers were in California in February. Those beekeepers have been very quiet about the pollination fees offered by the almond growers but many said they were going. Two years ago a member of the California almond growers asked me what it would take to get the interest of Florida beekeepers in doing almond pollination. I said the answer is simple, "Go to Florida and attend the Florida State Beekeepers meeting and ask the beekeepers." It seems they even took things a step further and even paid for air fare and trips to the almond groves.β

Bob Harrison posted this piece on BEE-L, an internet listserve dedicated to bees. Bob is a commercial beekeeper who has published in Bee Culture and ABJ. He does private research and acts as a consultant to beekeeping interests worldwide.

Illinois State Beekeepers' Association  
114th State Convention  
Saturday, November 12, 2005  
Illinois Department of Agriculture Building

President Ken Beauchamp called the 114th Convention of The Illinois State Beekeepers' Association to order at 9:00 a.m. President Beauchamp welcomed the attendees.

President Beauchamp called for the Secretary's report. Secretary Rita Taylor reported all members received the minutes of the 113th Convention via the ISBA Bulletin. Secretary Taylor read the expenses and membership for the period of November 1, 2004 to November 1 2005. The secretary's report was approved as read.

President Beauchamp introduced Steve Chard, Chief Apiary Inspector and Supervisor of Apiary Inspection. Mr. Chard asked Charlie Ott, recently retired Apiary Inspector, to come forward in order to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for his many year of inspection service.

Mr. Chard provided a detailed report on the condition of colonies, mites, diseases, and chemicals approved for use. He also reminded beekeepers to send their registration of colonies in to his office.

Mr. Chard introduced Chuck Hartke, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. Director Hartke welcomed everyone to the Department of Agriculture Building and made several remarks regarding the importance of pollination and inspection that have been conducted. He remarked that he would like to be remembered when he leaves office for the promotion of agriculture he has provided.

President Beauchamp introduced Vice President Ken Haller. Mr. Haller introduced Illinois' 2005 Beekeeper(s) of the year, Danny and Janet Hart of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association. A plaque was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Hart.

President Beauchamp reconvened the meeting following a break by introducing Ed Levi, Apiary Inspection Service, Arkansas who spoke on "Integrated Pest Management." Mr. Levi remarked on problems attacking our bees, detection of disease, treatment with chemicals, and prevention of such diseases.

Local association members reported on their local meetings as well as other activities their associations are involved with through out the year.

Following lunch and a drawing for door prizes, President Beauchamp reconvened the meeting and introduced John Hansen of the Cook-DuPage Beekeepers' Association. Mr. Hansen announced that all proceeds

from the sales of books would be donated to the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association.

Vice President Haller introduced Stu Jackson, University of Illinois, Springfield who spoke on "Raising Queens in Illinois." The following points were covered: (1) Why; (2) Advantages of locally raised queens; (3) Kinds of bees; and (4) Methods of raising queens.

Gadgets were demonstrated by Larry Kregel, Editor of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association Bulletin, Marengo, who shared the bee escape he made and by Rich Ramsey, Rochester, who demonstrated his candle dipping gadget. President Beauchamp, Springfield, displayed a box that he uses when removing honey with Fischer's Bee Gone using a fan run by flashlight batteries to push the smell down through the supers.

President Beauchamp turned the meeting over to Mr. Levi who spoke on "Bees Overseas, Beekeeping in other Countries." Mr. Levi has worked in several countries teach beekeeping. He described the culture of these different countries and showed slides. He also shared his work in Nepal, a place he dearly loves.

Election of officers—President Beauchamp introduced Jill Mayes, Bill Buckley and Raymond Chapman. The election committee selected the following nominees:

President	Ken Haller
Vice President	Phillip Raines
Secretary	Rita Taylor
Treasurer	Udell Meyer
Central Director	Nathan Sasse

Jill Mayes called three times for nominees from the floor for each of the offices. A member nominated John Schalfer for Vice President. Each of the nominees were elected to their office except for Vice President for which written ballots were distributed. After the ballots were tallied, Phillip Raines was declared Vice President. Jill Mayes asked Dr. Earl Lutz to install the officers.

With no further business, President Beauchamp adjourned the 114th Illinois State Beekeepers Association Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita Taylor  
Secretary

## Udell Meyer Talks Money at November Meeting

ISBA continues to be in healthy financial condition under the direction of treasurer, Udell Meyer. In his report dated November 9, 2005 Udell reported a cash on hand of \$3419, and increase from \$2933 a year earlier. The greatest single expense was \$4190 for the honey ice cream sold at the Illinois State Fair. This resulted in an income of \$8103, netting the Association nearly \$4000.

Second to the income from the Fair was membership dues paid—\$1712. On the expense side, the association also paid about \$1300 in insurance premiums for the policy that covers all Association members when involved in business related to ISBA as well as the activities local ISBA chapters.

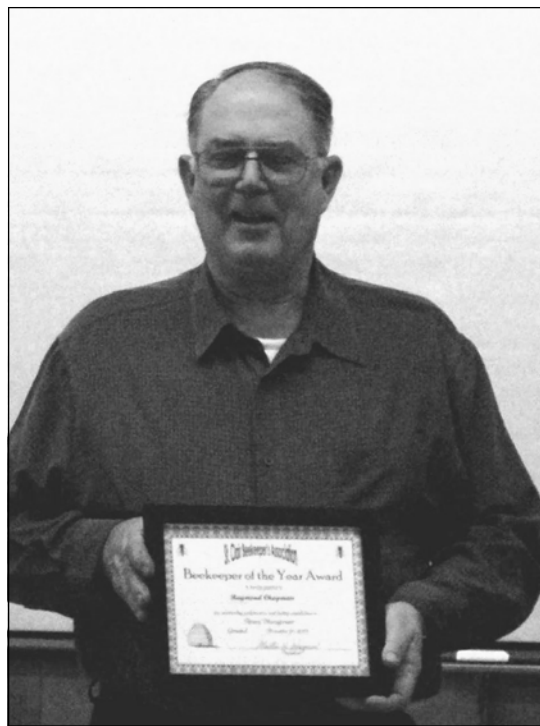
Once again this year, the financial report was examined by a disinterested auditor. For further information on ISBA finances, contact Udell.β

## Wow! A Honey Diet!

If you like honey (as well as bees) you will love a new book, *The Hibernation Diet*, by Mike and Stuart McInnes. The British authors contend that eating honey before retiring for the night will encourage weight loss by energizing the liver's natural fat-burning activities.

*The Hibernation Diet* has a publication date of January 1, 2006 and, say the authors, is likely to increase the demand for honey in the coming year. This diet sounds better tasting, easier to keep, and more profitable for beekeepers than the Atkinson Diet ever could have been. (The Atkinson Diet recently declared bankruptcy.)

For the American beekeeper this is great news. When demand is up, price goes up. When there is a shortage, price goes up even more. According to the US Department of Agriculture—figuring honey stocks before the publication of *The Hibernation Diet*(!) - the demand for honey will outstrip the honey supply by numerous millions of pounds. Wow! A honey diet! Does it get better than that?β



**Ray Chapman**  
St. Clair Beekeeper of the Year

November 25, 2005 - At the annual holiday dinner meeting of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association, in Edwardsville, Mr. Ray Chapman was presented with the 2005 St. Clair Beekeeper of the Year award, by President Marlin Wagner. Ray maintains around 60 colonies of bees in the Bunker Hill, Illinois area where he and his wife Christine (Cookie), produce a lot of comb honey as well as extracted honey for sale. For the past several years, Ray has coordinated the efforts of the local beekeepers to produce the association's Illinois State Fair Bee Culture entries. Ray has also served for several years on the ISBA Executive Board as the Southern Region Director. Along with his many hours of service to the St. Clair Beekeepers Association, Ray also finds the time to serve as Mayor of the City of Bunker Hill. Congratulation's Ray!β



Charlie Ott—Thanks for your years of service as an Apiary Inspector.



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 2006 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 2006 (*members only*)**

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
American Bee Journal	17.96	34.05	47.89
Bee Culture	19.00	36.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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Periodical



## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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- ⇒ Emergency winter feeding
- ⇒ Illinois beekeeper of the year
- ⇒ A honey diet?