



## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

# BULLETIN

July/August 2006 • Volume 88 Number 4

### A Message from Ken Haller, ISBA President

Along with 50 of our fellow beekeepers, I recently attended our annual Spring meeting in Edwardsville. While you will be reading a full report in this bulletin, I wanted to personally thank the St. Clair Beekeepers Association for the wonderful job they did in preparing an excellent meeting. These programs are challenging to put together and Ken, Udell, Nathan and many others truly excelled at putting a valuable experience together.

There are two primary updates I would like to speak to in this issue of the bulletin: our ISBA website and an update on our role in the Evanston Honey Bee Ban situation.

Most of you have noticed, up until recently, that our [www.isba.us](http://www.isba.us) website has been in desperate need of updating. After many years of excellent attention by Carl Wenning, the site was transferred and after many challenges with servers and domain name renewals, I am proud to announce that the site has now completed the first of two phases of renovation. This first phase has primarily focused on updating all content based information to ensure that the site remains a "front line" resource to our Illinois Membership as well as our target audience of potential Illinois Beekeepers. It is my goal for our site to become a "portal" to all ISBA and appropriate Illinois Department of Agriculture resources. Our site should not be an end-all source of Beekeeping information, but should instead be a "hub" that you can use to get the resources and information you need - our site will point you to the information you need.

The second phase will be updating the actual "look and feel" of the site. Currently the site is ultra-simplistic but with up to date information. Soon, the design will marry with the content to cre-

ate a site we can all be proud of! This design phase is in progress now and should be live by September (if not sooner). Our site has been and will continue to be registered with all the primary search engines to maintain, as well as improve, our presence in information searches. I continue to receive numerous, inbound inquiries about the ISBA, from the site, showing that the "googling" public is indeed finding us.

Please have a look at the site and advise if you see any contact info or affiliate association info that needs updating. Additionally, should you have any ideas of how the site can serve us better, please email me directly at: [vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net](mailto:vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net).

Finally, as most of you know, we have been spending a considerable amount of time with the City of Evanston. As you have read from John Hansen's updates, the overall concern of an outright ban of Beekeeping in Evanston has been narrowly avoided by a recent vote. This is the victory we have been striving for! What remains on the table is how the committee will now "regulate" Beekeeping within the city limits. This discussion will take place soon. I would like to personally thank all of those ISBA members who took the time to sign the on-line petition, e-mail letters to the Committee and support this issue! We as an association have come together to help maintain a citizen's right to practice our age-old tradition of Beekeeping. Throughout the past few months, this issue has generated a considerable amount of media attention. You will find links to many of these media reports on our website. Thanks again for all of your time and energy around this issue!β

Evanston Beekeeping Ban Averted  
Question Referred to Full Council  
John Hanson

The City of Evanston's Health and Human Services Committee voted against the proposed ban on beekeeping brought before the Committee a month earlier when 14-year-old Gabriel Jacobs, with the full support of his mother, Susan Dickman, attempted to start a beehive in his backyard. Their neighbor, Dolan McMillan, strongly objected to keeping bees near his property. To further complicate matters at the June 5 Committee meeting, two additional residents in the neighborhood, Messrs. Perry and Black argued with McMillan that "60,000 bees" should not be kept in their neighborhood. Unknown by Black, his argument included guidelines published by Texas A&M University that applied to Africanized bees, making honeybees seem extremely dangerous in any layman's mind. His points were clarified later when this writer asked the Committee to disregard Black's comments taken from those Guidelines.

Evanston beekeeper, Wendy Miller, who currently keeps bees in her Evanston backyard, made an excellent presentation, pointing out that she knows of no person in her neighborhood who has ever been stung by her bees during the several years she has kept bees there. Alderman Bernstein of the Committee, who visited Miller's Apiary as part of his "beekeeping education", spoke strongly in favor of beekeeping. Both Aldermen Holmes and Tisdahl, who were either opposed or unsure of keeping bees in Evanston at the previous Committee meeting, enhanced their respective knowledge of honeybees' value and voted with Bernstein against the ban.

Meanwhile, the Committee's perception of Susan Dickman became frosted when they learned that Susan, despite neighbor objections, moved Gabriel's bees into her backyard from the location outside of Evanston where the bees had been first installed. Chairman Jean-Baptiste called it a "breach of trust", as he was under the impression that the beehive would remain outside of Evanston until the entire matter was resolved. Bernstein questioned the authority of the Committee to order

her to move the bees again, as beekeeping in Evanston is not against the law. The entire matter is now scheduled to come before the full City Council on June 26.

Meanwhile, we have learned that Dickman and McMillan are now speaking to each other over their backyard fence. In fact, they shook hands twice and have joked about the matter. This should be welcome news to the City Council, as having "good neighbor relations" was often stressed by the aldermen as being the best solution to such problems. Dickman believes that everything will turn out okay, but the full Council must still determine the future of beekeeping in Evanston..β

### Tax on Honey Bees?

Have you recently purchased package bees from Dadant in Hamilton, IL? If you have, you may have noticed that Illinois is charging tax on your bees. This tax seems to be unique in the purchase of live stock. When purchasing a dairy cow, for example, there is no tax. ISBA's Political Liaison, Rich Ramsey recently purchased bees in Illinois and noticed this anomaly. Rich has volunteered to research this tax and will report to the ISBA Board his findings. A special thanks to Rich for his excellent work on behalf of the ISBA.β



***Don't miss  
the Illinois State Fair in Springfield  
August 11-20, 2006***

## ISBA Spring Meeting Taps “Packed and Varied” Agenda

More than 40 ISBA members gathered at the Madison County Farm Bureau Bldg. in Edwardsville on June 10 for the annual ISBA Spring meeting. Following a brief intro and Pledge of Allegiance by Ken Kloepper, President of St. Clair Beekeepers Association which hosted the meeting, ISBA President, Ken Haller, greeted the members with an update of the beekeeping ban pending in Evanston. Principal speaker of the day was Missouri Commercial Beekeeper, Sharon Gibbons, Board member of the National Honey Board.

In one of her presentations Sharon reported on the results of a study conducted by the Florida Department of Agriculture that sampled 20 domestic honeys for the chemical Fluoroquinolones found in some foreign honeys. While it is not considered a health hazard, there is no tolerance for it in honey. No U.S. honey tested positive. Sharon also reported on an increasing number of honey blends containing high fructose corn syrup and labeled to look like honey. In a grocery store survey she conducted, 61 percent of customers who purchased the fake products thought they were buying pure honey. The need for tougher food laws and practices is painfully obvious for beekeepers.

### Mead Making in Edwardsville

Wine maker  
Chuck Schwend detailed the art of making mead and wine and offered attendees a sample taste of his art.  
Beekeeper technician

Garrett Dodds of Ohio State University, Columbus, covered queen rearing in his indoor presentation with a practical follow-up for those who traveled to Marlin Wagner’s apiary. Ohio State U. raises New World Carniolans for market to bee breeders. Filling every meeting minute, Sharon Gibbons presented travel pictures she took at Apimondia 2005 held in Dublin, Ireland and pictures from her trip to New Zealand several years ago. Next year, the ISBA Spring meeting will be hosted by the Northern District Associations.β



Sharon Gibbons, commercial beekeeper, represented the National Honey Board at the ISBA summer meeting.

### Bees Are Buzzing on Stephan & Brady’s Rooftop

Stephan & Brady, NHB’s new consumer public relations firm, is getting firsthand experience with the business of beekeeping. The firm recently installed a beehive on the firm’s building roof in Madison, Wisconsin. Assisting in the efforts were NHB Chairman Lee Heine of Hillsboro, Wis., and local beekeeper Sue Richards.β



From left to right—Stephan & Brady’s Kristina Hoffman and Megan Bykowski with local beekeeper Sue Richards.

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

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Greetings. Hopefully you are having good success with your bees this year. Without a doubt, bees have built up rapidly in the first part of 2006. I've received many more swarm calls this year than in previous years. Many of you have probably had the opportunity to capture swarms this year.

Unfortunately, the small hive beetle is expanding its territory into new areas. We have confirmation that the SHB has now made its way into Sangamon and Jackson Counties. At the present time, a total of 9 counties in Illinois have confirmed cases of SHB. We remain fortunate that there are no major infestations in any of the affected counties at the present time. However, that situation can change very quickly. Please remain vigilant for this major pest of the honeybee. As you know, this pest can seriously damage your colonies and can easily spread to other colonies in your general area. If you suspect that you have the SHB in your colonies, please contact your respective Department Apiary Inspector or me at 217/782-6297. We will be glad to collect a beetle sample from your apiary and send it to the USDA Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland for a free analysis.

Speaking of Department Apiary Inspectors, I'm pleased to announce that Steve Mayes and Nathan Sasse have joined the Department's inspection team. These gentlemen are serving the central portion of the state and are anxious to assist you. They are experienced beekeepers and will be a valuable asset to the Apiary Industry. Please feel free to contact Steve at 309/359-8600 or Nathan at 217/796-3597 if you are interested in an inspection or have apiary questions. The specific counties that Steve and Nathan are working in are shown on the Department's Apiary web page at [www.agr.state.il.us](http://www.agr.state.il.us) With Steve and Nathan joining our ranks, we are back to full strength in terms of our inspection team.

As a reminder, please be sure to contact your Department Apiary Inspector if you intend to move bees across county lines, from another state into Illinois, or from Illinois to another state, as required by the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act. Moving permits are important to prevent the spread of diseases and pests of the honeybee. Be sure to give your Apiary Inspector plenty of advance notice of when you plan to move your colonies, so an inspection can be performed and the moving permit issued in a timely manner, unless significant disease or pest problems are present. Thank you for your cooperation concerning this very important process.

Finally, it seems nowadays that society in general has to deal with the introduction of new invasive species into our ecosystem on a more frequent basis. During the week June 5, there was confirmation that the Emerald Ash Borer was found in a wooded subdivision in Kane County. As you would guess, the borer can devastate ash trees. It's believed that the borer accompanied fire wood brought in from the State of Michigan. Hopefully, the detection was made early enough to prevent the spread of the borer to other counties in Illinois. This demonstrates that all of us need to be alert to the presence of these invasive species, report them to the appropriate federal, state or local agencies in a timely fashion and cooperate with those agencies on prescribed control measures to control/eradicate those species before they can cause major harm to our environment..β

the small  
hive beetle is  
expanding its  
territory

New inspectors  
join the IDOA  
team

Visit the new Illinois State Beekeepers Website  
[www.isba.us](http://www.isba.us)

## News Release

From Vita, Ltd.

Apiguard now approved for use in Illinois

Beekeepers in Illinois now have a new treatment to use in the fight against varroa. Apiguard, the easily applied, near-natural, anti-varroa treatment, has been approved for use by the authorities in Illinois following its registration with the USA Environmental Protection Agency late last year.

Max Watkins of Vita (Europe) Ltd explained, "Apiguard is proving highly successful in the fight against varroa in a variety of climatic conditions across the world. The product's active ingredient is thymol, a naturally occurring substance derived from thyme. We have developed Apiguard as a slow-release gel which is very easy to apply and is highly effective in killing varroa mites. It is entirely safe for users, consumers and bees and leaves no harmful residues."

A small dosing tray of Apiguard is placed on top of the brood frames in the hive and replaced with a second dosing tray when its contents have evaporated (usually after 10 to 14 days). The bees' normal social and cleaning behavior disperses the treatment throughout the colony. Apiguard is normally best used towards the end of the season whilst temperatures are still high enough to maintain colony activity.

Apiguard is an ideal component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program which is essential to control the development of mites that inevitably become resistant to any single treatment regime.

"As Apiguard becomes more widely available and used, we are receiving many, very positive reports from beekeepers about its effectiveness," continued Max Watkins. "Recent scientific tests have even shown that also it also helps to control tracheal mites and chalkbrood."

Apiguard is being distributed in Illinois by Dadant & Sons Inc. Full details about Apiguard can be found on the Dadant website: [www.dadant.com](http://www.dadant.com) and on the Vita website: [www.vita-europe.com/faq.htm](http://www.vita-europe.com/faq.htm)β

## On the Subject of Royal Jelly

From the Draper Super Bee Website

Royal Jelly is a substance of complex chemical structure produced by the young nurse bees as larva food. Although it is not quite as well known as bee pollen, royal jelly equals pollen in its salutary effects.

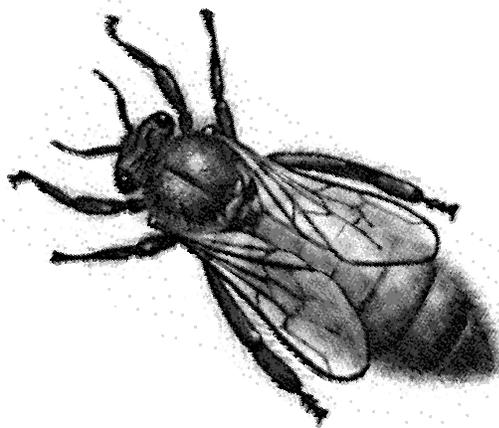
The young nurse bees make royal jelly, it is a secretion from glands on the tops of their heads. For 2-3 days, royal jelly is the only food given to all young larvae in their maturation process, while for the queen larvae, it is the specific food for their whole life period. During the 3 days in which the worker bee larvae are fed on royal jelly, they reach the maximum development; their weight multiplies about 250 times. The queen (fed only on royal jelly for her entire life) reaches maturity 5 days earlier than the worker bees; and, when she is fully grown, her weight is double that of the working bee. The span of the worker bee's life is about 35-40 days; while the queen lives 5-6 years and is extremely prolific. She is fertilized once, and from that moment on can lay as many as three thousand eggs a day during the season. As incredible as this may seem, she can lay that many eggs for five years. Any creature that has that amount of energy and vitality has to be respected!

This rich concentrated food is not just useful for the bees. It contains remarkable amounts of proteins, lipids, glucides, vitamins, hormones, enzymes, mineral substances, and specific vital factors that act as biocatalysts in cell regeneration processes within the human

body.

Although some of the elements found in royal jelly are in microgram quantities, they still can act supremely with co-enzymes as catalysts or can act synergistically. (That is, the elements' action combined is greater than the sum of their actions taken separately.) Royal jelly is rich in protein, vitamins B-1, B-2, B-6, C, E, niacin, pantothenic acid, biotin, inositol and folic

acid. In fact, it contains seventeen times as much pantothenic acid as that found in dry pollen. β



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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- ⇒ *Evanston Update*
- ⇒ *ISBA summer meeting*
- ⇒ *Royal jelly*