

# ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## *BULLETIN*

November/December 2007 • Volume 89 Number 6

### 2007 Annual Fall Meeting

Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Conference Center  
11.17.2007

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
8-9am	Meeting Registration ~ Lunch Orders ~ Coffee and Donuts
9-9:10am	<b>Welcome</b> Ken Haller, ISBA President Steve Chard, Supervisor -- Illinois Department of Agriculture Charles (Chuck) Hartke, Director -- Illinois Department of Agriculture
9:10-9:15am	<b>Secretary's Report</b> ~ Rita Taylor, ISBA Secretary
9:15-9:20am	<b>Treasurer's Report</b> ~ Udell Myer, ISBA Treasurer
9:20-9:45am	<b>Apiary Inspection Report</b> ~ Steve Chard, Apiary Inspection Supervisor Questions and Answers
9:45-10:15am	<b>State of the Association</b> ~ Ken Haller, ISBA President
10:15-10:20am	<b>Beekeeper of the Year Presentation</b> ~ Ken Haller, ISBA President
10:20-10:30am	Break
10:30-10:40am	Raffle & Dr. Ellis Introduction ~ Bill Buckley, ISBA Northern Region Director
10:40-11:30am	<b>Dr. Jamie Ellis</b> ~ Assistant Professor of Entomology, University of Florida "The Life History of Small Hive Beetles, In a Nutshell"
11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch ~ On Your Own or Catered (pre-pay at registration by 9:30am)
12:30-12:40pm	Raffle, Affiliate News & Intro Ms. Watkins ~ Philip Raines, ISBA Vice President
12:40-12:50pm	<b>ISBA Affiliate Association News</b> ~ Volunteer Affiliate Representatives
12:50-1:30pm	<b>Elizabeth Watkins</b> ~ Food Processing Program Coordinator Illinois Department of Public Health Honey: Processed/Un-Processed and Selling at Farmer's Markets
1:30-1:40pm	Break Intro Dr. Ellis - Nathan Sasse, ISBA Central Region Director
1:40-2:30pm	<b>Dr. Jamie Ellis</b> ~ Assistant Professor of Entomology, University of Florida
2:30-2:45pm	<b>2008 ISBA Board of Directors Nominees, Election and Installation</b> Jill Mayes, Chairperson ISBA Nominating and Elections Committee
2:45-3pm	Raffle ~ Nathan Sasse, ISBA Central Region Director
3pm	Close ~ Ken Haller, ISBA President

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## Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Beekeepers and ISBA Members,

As I end my second year as your President I reflect on the numerous challenges we have faced together as well as the countless opportunities we have had together. These past two years have certainly been full of both and I am hopeful that 2008 is as productive and bountiful for Illinois Beekeeping.

If I were to summarize our previous year, (2006) it must be remembered as the year of community awareness. The awareness we raised with Beekeeping, in an urban environment, within the city of Evanston remains a key recent highlight for the ISBA. The experience we gained and friends we made continue to pay dividends. I am frequently contacted by Illinois communities looking for our guidance and leadership with their citizens. Thankfully, a vast majority of pending issues have been avoided well before city councils and angry neighbors get deep in the mix. As we all know, beekeeping within densely populated communities can easily stir emotions within a neighborhood.

Needless to say, 2007 has been the year of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). What started in the Fall of 2006 as an anomaly, quickly grew into what historians may call Beekeeping's greatest challenge in recorded history. CCD and its high media interest continue to be in the forefront of general public interest. At our annual Fall meeting I will report the details of this years long media frenzy and how the ISBA has leveraged its respected position to both keep the public up to date on CCD and Beekeeping in Illinois. Thankfully, Illinois still has yet to report an official case of CCD within its boundaries.

As we look back at 2007 we also celebrate new friends. This past Summer, the Central Eastern Beekeepers Association (CEBA) joined the ISBA, becoming our 12<sup>th</sup> affiliate association. We look forward to supporting the CEBA in their representation of Beekeeping in central Illinois. Additionally, the Kankakee River Valley Beekeepers Association has recently formed. This group of 20-30 energetic Beekeepers are very excited for their new association and we wish them all the best. I recently spoke to this group and was very impressed with their leadership and goals for the future.

I am proud to have been your President and should you have me as your leader for one more year, I would welcome the opportunity. As defined by the ISBA Constitution, if you select me as your President for one more year that will be my last as three consecutive years is the maximum run.

Finally, the planning of our annual Spring meeting is in full swing. While details are not ready for publication, please note on your calendar that June will once again be the timeframe. As you may recall, each year the Spring meeting rotates between our regions (North, Central and South). 2008 will be hosted by the Central region. We look forward to an awesome gathering of Illinois Beekeepers!

Below is listed an executive summary of those most pressing updates and issues facing the ISBA. Much more detail will be outlined on our website as well as at the annual meeting. See you there!

### 2008 Annual Fall Meeting of the ISBA

The ISBA Board is very excited about our upcoming annual Fall meeting on Saturday, November 17. Please join us at the Illinois Dept of Agriculture Headquarters in Springfield. See the final and full meeting agenda printed in this newsletter. You will see we have a long day planned. Please arrive between 8am and 9am to register and to sign-up for lunch. Registration will be \$5 and lunch around \$9, for those who would like to take advantage of our catered lunch. Otherwise you may have lunch at any of the local restaurants in the area. The address to the meeting is included below. Should you also want a map and directions, please see the News and Events section of our website: [www.isba.us](http://www.isba.us)

Illinois Department of Agriculture  
801 East Sangamon Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62706

## Colony Collapse Disorder

Some of you may have seen the excellent reporting on the status of CCD on both CBS' 60 Minutes and on PBS' Nature. While not much has changed since our last update, we look forward to hearing a substantial report from our keynote speaker, Dr. Jamie Ellis at our November 17<sup>th</sup> Fall Meeting. I recorded both programs and will attempt to get them up on our website for your viewing soon.

## 2008 ISBA Elections Just Around the Corner

As most of you know, the ISBA is completely run by volunteers! We are very proud to have some of the best in the industry on our Board of Directors and team of Delegates! Each year our annual Board positions come up for election. Any member of the ISBA and resident of Illinois is eligible to be a nominee for a position. Members at the annual meeting then vote on these nominees. The positions that are up for election this year are listed below for your convenience. If you are interested in becoming a part of the ISBA leadership and can commit to four board meetings a year, please contact ISBA Nominations and Election Chair, Jill Mayes at [jmayes@cityblm.org](mailto:jmayes@cityblm.org)

The 2008 positions open for election are:

- President (one year term)
- Vice President (one year term)
- Treasurer (one year term)
- Secretary (one year term)
- Northern Region Director (three year term)



## Sales Tax and Honey Bees

This past Spring, many of you ran into a new tax policy when purchasing package Honey Bees from Dadant, you were charged Sales Tax. Since sales tax on other livestock (cows, pigs, etc.) is not within the IL tax law/code, this caught many of us by surprise. ISBA Political Liaison, Rich Ramsey has been looking into this issue since this Summer. Despite numerous letters and phone calls, Rich was unable to get any comment on the situation from the State. Dadant had suspended its sales of Bee Packages but recently announced that it would once again sell packages but now without any sales tax. Thanks Rich for all of your help on this issue!

## Selling Honey at Farmer's Markets and at Retail

This past Summer the ISBA BOD received many concerned inquiries into local health department officials not allowing Beekeepers to sell Honey at Farmer's Markets. Apparently Beekeepers who were not able to show an approved "inspection report" of processing facilities were not allowed to sell. This issue has raised serious concern over what the State defines as "processed" food vs. food that does not need to be processed in order to sell. As you will see from the attached Fall meeting agenda Elizabeth Watkins, Food Processing Program Coordinator with the Illinois Department of Public Health has agreed to speak to the ISBA about these issues. We look forward to hearing her presentation.

## Search for Beekeeper Pollinators

The ISBA continues to look for opportunities to strengthen its relationship with growers in need of pollinators. We are planning a Pollination section to our website that connects growers with Illinois pollinator providers. If you are an ISBA member and provide pollination services, please send your name, address and phone number to me. We will provide for you a free listing on our website allowing buyers of your services to contact you directly!

Ken Haller  
President, Illinois State Beekeepers Association  
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## APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

The time of year for the annual fall meeting is rapidly approaching. The event will be held on Saturday, November 17 and the Illinois Department of Agriculture is pleased again to host the conference. To locate the Department's building at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, enter Gate 11, which is directly west of the State Fairgrounds Main Gate on Sangamon Avenue. As you travel through Gate 11, you will see the Department's red brick building just ahead and to your right. Please park in the large parking lot just west and across the street from our building. Parking spaces directly in front of the building are limited to handicapped and 1-hour parking. Access to the building is through the main entrance on the west side. Once you enter our building, you will be guided to the auditorium and the respective registration table. The ISBA has an excellent agenda in store for you. Please attend and actively participate in this important meeting.

During the annual fall meeting, I will report on the findings of our apiary inspections this year. I will also cover issues such as Colony Collapse Disorder, Small Hive Beetle, Varroa Mites, Africanized honeybees (IL has none!), etc. This meeting

is always a good venue for information exchange, so I look forward to learning a lot from all of you.

For those of you who have attempted to purchase the newest product on the market for effective varroa mite control - "Hivastan", more than likely, you have come away empty handed. Apparently, the release of this product to distributors has been delayed due to a honeybee mortality issue. The manufacturer of Hivastan, Wellmark International, hopes to have this problem resolved so distribution of the product can take place before the spring of 2008. A bulletin from Wellmark will be available at the Association meeting.

See you at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Fall Meeting!

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### Short Notes

- ⇒ Rita Taylor reminds all that the registration fee for the fall meeting is \$5.00 and an excellent lunch will be catered for a modest price.
- ⇒ U of I's Dr. May Berenbaum has a new website— <http://beespotter.mste.uiuc.edu/>. Many ISBA members met Dr. Berenbaum at the spring symposium.
- ⇒ Next year's spring meeting will be hosted by ISBA's central region.



## Ecology and Control of Small Hive Beetles



Dr. James D. Ellis Jr. will be the keynote speaker at the ISBA fall meeting in Springfield on November 17, 2007. He earned his doctorate in 2004 at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa.

The small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida* Murray) is an endemic scavenger in colonies of honey bee (*Apis mellifera* L.) subspecies inhabiting sub-Saharan Africa. The beetle only occasionally damages host colonies in its native range and such damage is usually restricted to weakened/diseased colonies or is associated with after absconding events due to behavioral resistance mechanisms of its host.

The beetle has recently been introduced into North America and Australia where populations of managed subspecies of European honey bees have proven highly susceptible to beetle depredation. Beetles are able to reproduce in large numbers in European colonies and their larvae weaken colonies by eating honey, pollen, and bee brood. Further, adult and larval defecation is thought to promote the fermentation of honey and large populations of beetles can cause European colonies to abscond, both resulting in additional colony damage. The economic losses attributed to the beetle since its introduction into the United States have been estimated in millions of US dollars.

Although beetles feed on foodstuffs found within colonies, experiments *in vitro* show that they can also complete entire life cycles on fruit. Regardless, they reproduce best on diets of honey, pollen, and bee brood. After feeding, beetle larvae exit the colony

and burrow into the ground where they pupate. Neither soil type nor density affects a beetle's ability to successfully pupate. Instead, successful pupation appears to be closely tied to soil moisture.

African subspecies of honey bees employ a complicated scheme of confinement (aggressive behavior toward and guarding of beetles) to limit beetle reproduction in a colony. Despite being confined away from food, adult beetles are able to solicit food and feed from the mouths of their honey bee guards. Remarkably, beetle-naïve European honey bees also confine beetles and this behavior is quantitatively similar to that in African bees.

If confinement efforts fail, beetles access the combs where they feed and reproduce. Two modes of beetle oviposition in sealed bee brood have been identified. In the first mode, beetles bite holes in the cappings of cells and oviposit on the pupa contained within. In the second mode, beetles enter empty cells, bite a hole in the wall of the cell, and oviposit on the brood in the adjacent cell. Despite this, African bees detect and remove all of the infected brood (hygienic behavior). Similarly, European bees can detect and remove brood that has been oviposited on by beetles. Enhancing the removal rate of infected brood in European colonies through selective breeding may achieve genetic control of beetles.

Additional avenues of control were tested for efficacy against beetles. Reducing colony entrances slowed beetle ingress but the efficacy of this method probably depends on other factors. Further, the mortality of beetle pupae was higher when contacting species of the fungus *Aspergillus* than when not, making biological control an option. Regardless, no control tested to date proved efficacious at the level needed by beekeepers so an integrated approach to controlling beetles remains preferred. β

The above is excerpted from Dr. Ellis' dissertation abstract. At our meeting he will discuss the life cycle of the small hive beetle "in a nutshell."



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	18.70	35.40	49.80
Bee Culture	21.00	38.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

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**ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

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- ⇒ *Fall meeting agenda*
- ⇒ *Letter from our president*
- ⇒ *Research on small hive beetle*