



Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin

May/June 2012 Volume 94 Number 3

Letter from the President

Jim Belli

There is nothing that compares to the coming of Spring in Illinois, and what a Spring this is shaping up to be! This past March set records as the warmest in recorded history. We had eight consecutive days of record breaking heat with temperatures in the eighties. This heatwave has affected the entire nation with Illinois and eight other Midwest states recording their warmest March in history. On Sunday, March 25th, the Chicago Tribune reported that the snow cover was virtually gone from the continental U.S. and here in northeastern Illinois we are experiencing blooms that are four to six weeks ahead of their normal schedule. This warm weather has allowed our bees to fly much earlier than normal and hopefully will decrease the severity of nosema we have suffered in the past few years.

This season's weather is not the only change we are experiencing this year. The Executive Board of the ISBA is extremely excited about the appointment of our new ISBA Bulletin editor, Eleanor Balson. Eleanor's enthusiasm, journalistic skills and beekeeping knowledge make her a natural for this appointment. My sincere thanks go to her for accepting this position. I also want to thank our past editor, Larry Krengel, for all of his years of service. The ISBA Board has accepted

his resignation and wishes him well.

Please mark your calendars for this year's Annual Summer Meeting which will be held on Saturday, June 30th at Kaskaskia College in Vandalia, Illinois. Co-sponsoring the meeting will be the St. Clair Beekeepers Association. My sincere thanks go to Terry Combs and the members of the St. Clair Beekeepers for all their hard work in organizing this meeting. The Summer Meeting keynote speaker will be Dr. Dewey Caron, Professor Emeritus University of Delaware. Dr. Caron will speak on 'What We Can Do to Reduce Losses and Keep Our Bees Healthy' and on 'Inspecting the Hive or How Best to Read What the Bees Know'. Joining Dr. Caron will be Kathleen Prough, the Chief Apiary Inspector for the State of Indiana. Ms. Prough will talk on 'Gardening for Honeybees' and 'Diseases that Affect the Hive'. Please note that those who wish to have the catered lunch must contact Kevin Gerstenecker at kgersty@gmail.com no later than Friday June 22, 2012. I hope to see all of you there.



Plenty of Time to Prepare for the EAS Honey Show Anne Frey

EAS is speeding towards us, with only a few months left to wait! What do you need to do to besides register, reserve lodging, and hire a pet sitter? Well, plan out your Honey Show entries, of course! Check out the new informative **Honey Show Page on the Eastern Apicultural Society website** and you'll find tips, instructions, photos, videos, webinars, rules and more. This webpage is extremely useful for simply preparing items for market even if you don't plan to enter a show. It has been created with learning in mind, and the highest-quality links, articles, and presentations on the internet have been gathered here for you. Take a look at the recently added Photography segment provided by Zachary Huang. Just search for Eastern Apiculture 2012 using any search engine.

While you work your hives this spring and summer, remember to leave some time to get your Honey Show entries ready. Instead of being bummed out on that rainy or cold day that's no good for beekeeping, why not melt some wax and make some candles or a 'Wax Cake, 2lbs. or More'? Also, a *Gift Arrangement* takes some thought and attention. It should include a variety of hive products, arranged attractively. What about that weird little thingy you built a few years ago that works just right but will never be found in any catalog? That would be great for

the Gadgets classes (*small or large device*). Do you have a basement full of mead or honey beer? Check out all those bottles for the best ones. Do you have a computer file or an actual box of prints of bees and beekeeping-themed subjects? Riffle through those and find the best ones. There's still time to get them mounted according to the Show Rules. Consult the EAS Honey Show Rules before preparing any entries. Read the General Rules as well as the rules for the classes you are entering.

Honey Show Foibles

As a novice, I was so excited to enter shows, I tended to skim the Rules and rush to prepare my entries. Early on, I arrived at the County Fair with my submission, a lovely jar of honey with my own label on it. No labels allowed! Another time, at EAS, I proudly showed up at the drop-off table with a single jar for each honey class I was entering. Foolish me – you need to bring 3 jars for each class. I once arrived at EAS and immediately went out to lunch with friends, forgetting my creamed honey entries were still locked in the car. Hot cars also endanger comb, candle and wax entries. Transportation is a serious consideration. If you're flying, think about passing your entries to a friend who is driving. No glass jars in carry-on bags!

I've never yet entered a photography class, but I've heard of people arriving with their photos framed (not allowed), mounted incorrectly, or wanting to enter a whole stack (only one entry per class permitted). I've heard of exhibitors getting pretty steamed at the volunteers at the drop-off table. Before the Rules were published they were examined with a fine-tooth comb by the Honey Show Committee, and are very clear. Please read them carefully! EAS volunteers and judges will be using the same Rules you are using and there should be no need for disputes. Have you ever noticed that the angriest you've ever been was when you were angry at yourself? Please be kind to the volunteers and honest with yourself.

It's fun to enter a Show, and later you'll learn a lot from your score card which will help you improve for future Shows. Check out the **Honey Show page on the EAS website**, and let's make 2012 a year to remember!

EAS is August 13-17 in Burlington, Vermont. People can come to the Short Course (2 1/2 days of workshops and beeyard instruction), or the Conference (2 1/2 days of presentations both large and small), choose a single day to visit, or stay the whole 5 days! Registration begins in May. For more information, visit www.easternapiculture.org/conferences/eas-2012/2012-honey-show.html

Letter from the Editor...

Hello ISBA Bulletin Readers,

I feel very fortunate to work on the ISBA Bulletin. Connecting and collaborating with beekeepers throughout our state is a fantastic privilege!

We have a lot to look forward to as members of the ISBA. Along with new officers come new aspirations. We want not only to expand membership, but also to have more significant relationships with members. One priority is finding ways of connecting.

We hope to deepen the quality of an ISBA membership. To enrich the value of club membership, we call on you, our members, to step forward and contribute. We encourage your participation in the club. We'd like to hear from you about what you'd like to see in the ISBA. An excellent way to do this would be to write to the ISBA Bulletin.

Consider this Bulletin to be a forum

where Illinois voices in beekeeping can be heard. Think of the Bulletin as a platform to share your ideas, and a resource to stay informed about all that is happening in Illinois beekeeping. The ISBA can best be what you would like it to be with your input. Whether you'd like just to send us a comment or criticism, or involve yourself actively in ISBA developments – we hope you'll take part in helping us grow!

Enjoy the Bulletin. You'll see some new features, some of which will improve with your involvement. You'll notice a page called the "Brood Chamber". We want to recognize the young beekeepers in Illinois for their experiences and hear what they have to say. We also have a new feature called "Waxing Philosophical." Every issue, we'll present a puzzling question that deals with 'problem solving in beekeeping,' and looks for answers to less-solved mysteries about why bees do what they do.

We'll publish the best answers we get from beekeepers around the state.

These new features are dependent on your contributions, and we are counting on your input. We're also looking for new writers of informative articles. We want you to take us up on this invitation to share what you know by submitting articles and ideas to your ISBA Bulletin.

Please feel free to contact me directly with comments and contributions. Send them by email or USPS. I can't wait to hear from you!

Your new ISBA Bulletin Editor,
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APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Greetings! Things are really booming so far this year with honeybees. The mild winter and very favorable spring weather have created some excellent conditions for honeybees and beekeepers. For example, we have received a much higher number of swarm calls this year than usual and this has been going on since early April. We even had a large swarm at our Community Garden that was unrelated to the 2 colonies we keep nearby. Hope that your bees came through the winter fine and are flourishing.

I would like to make you aware of a new development that impacts our Apiary Inspection Program. Department Apiary Inspectors Eleanor Balson, Susan Kivikko, Peter Hansen and Jim Wellwood are under a yearly contract with the Department to provide inspection services. Their contracts with the Department have expired and unfortunately getting new contracts approved is taking quite a bit of time. Due to the State's current fiscal crises, contract approvals in general are making their way through the system at a slower pace than usual. What this means is that Eleanor, Susan, Peter and Jim cannot perform apiary inspections, handle moving permits, attend meetings on behalf of the Department, etc. until the new contracts are approved. This situation is very frustrating for us and I'm sure for you as well. If you need

inspections in the meantime, please call me at 217/785-2661 and we'll do our best to accommodate. I'm hoping that this will all be resolved soon and things can get back to normal. Thank you for your patience.

On a different note, surprisingly, we have received what I consider to be a high number of calls from citizens who have quite a bit of concern over their next door neighbor keeping honeybees. The Department has also received several calls from Chicago property owners complaining that their next door neighbor's bees prevent them from fully using their back yards. Tighter urban spaces are contributing to these problems in Chicago. We are generally surprised about the high number of calls of this nature, particularly considering all the media attention given to CCD and its affects on honeybee populations. The Department has advised these folks to visit with their beekeeper neighbors to see if they can reach some common ground. On the otherhand, it's always advantageous for beekeepers to work positively with their neighbors to achieve as much compatibility as possible between their apiary and their neighbor's property. Good neighborly relations will always benefit beekeeping operations.

On the good news front, new apiary registrations are coming in fast and furious

to the Department. From January 1 to the present, almost 150 beekeepers have registered with the Department for the first time. We presume that the vast majority of the registrants are new beekeepers, so it's really great to see this happening. If you haven't registered with the Department, please do so as soon as possible. It's free, as well as the inspections that the Department performs. In this day in age, that's unusual!

The Department has been asked if beekeepers previously enrolled into the *Driftwatch*™ program must re-register their colony locations into the program for 2012. The answer is no, those locations automatically have carried over to this year's database. If you haven't registered your colony locations(s) on *Driftwatch*™ program, you can do so on the Illinois Department of Agriculture's website at www.agr.state.il.us and clicking on the *Driftwatch*™ link. Another way of quickly gaining access to *Driftwatch*™ is by logging on to www.Illinoisbees.com

The pest Small Hive Beetle continues to spread across the state. The beetle has now been found in 48 Illinois counties. Be on the lookout for this destructive pest to protect your colonies. We understand that there has been success with the SHB traps currently on the market.

Illinois Apiary Inspection Program Page

AN INSPECTOR'S POINT OF VIEW

by Susan Kivikko

As an inspector, I see all different types of bees and beekeepers. There doesn't seem to be a more diverse group of people than beekeepers. Just as diverse are their opinions on keeping bees – there are as many schools of thought as there are beekeepers! There are also quite a few constants. Beekeepers an enthusiastic bunch! Get us talking about our bees and you might as well put on a fresh pot of coffee. As a society, beekeepers are very helpful to our brethren. The love of our honey bees dissolves any difference we might have otherwise. If we didn't know before we started, we quickly learned that honey bees are an important part of agriculture and subsequently an integral part of our lives. This is a good thing. If there is one that doesn't care about his or her bees, you know as well as I do they won't be doing it for long. This too, is a good thing.

There is much hardship today that the honey bee faces. We are all keeping track of the multitude of viruses, bacterium, pests, and chemicals that are impacting honeybees nationwide. Now more than ever we need to pay attention to our bees.

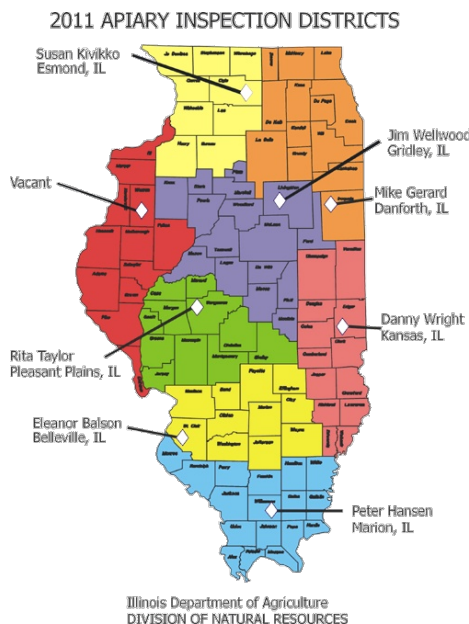
Even though beekeeping is in the field of agriculture, there are some common agricultural practices that are often overlooked. In animal husbandry, farmers use hygienic behavior as they move among their livestock, sanitizing so as not to spread disease. As a society of beekeepers why don't we promote sanitizing when we move from one yard to another? Or when going to visit another beekeeper for mentoring or giving them a hand? We really should. A few simple steps will alleviate a substantial portion of disease transmission. Scrapping down tools and flushing gloves with bleach water should be an essential when moving from yard to yard. If a disease is suspected, sanitizing between hives couldn't hurt either.

Another detriment we often face is in our own frugality. New stuff is expensive. Whether it is buying cheap used equipment, or trying to ration treatments, both are wrought with pitfalls. If you absolutely HAVE to have that equipment another beekeeper is selling cheap, save yourself some anguish- STERLIZE! Burn any frames and comb. Use a mapp gas torch and apply a scorching flame to all of the wooden-ware. Follow it up with a strong bleach cleansing after it cools. You'll never be sorry that you took the extra time and effort. You'll always be sorry if

you didn't and your bees come down with something.

As for treatments, don't bother going to your local farm supply store to get the big bag of supplement that has some of the treatment substance you need. If it doesn't list honey bees on the application label, it is not meant for bees and will not be the right dosage. Then, there are some that think if a little is good then a lot is better. Or there are those that don't like treating at all so the dosage is cut by 2/3. As tight as I like to run my bee operation, pinching a penny to make Lincoln squeal, I also keep in mind that there are scientists studying this stuff for a living. They don't publish their findings until their tests are repeated several times. We need to follow their recommendations.

As beekeepers in our quest to help others, we apiary inspectors need your help in conveying this to those that may not be familiar with the age old agricultural practice of sanitizing to prevent the spread of diseases. These little things will go a long way to help preserve and protect the honey and pollination industry in Illinois of which every beekeeper is a part.



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Measure Twice, Cut Once

from the round table of L. L. Studer and Farmer Fred (sometimes)

Fred and I sat across from each other at a large round oak table, as Fred would describe, in the semi-comfort of some nicely styled kitchen chairs to explore, generate ideas, and develop an effective strategy to care for our honey bees in case of a long, hot, dry summer.

We both recall trying to keep things alive while lacking adequate moisture during summers so continuously hot that plants stopped growing just to survive. Our collaborative practices have given us great results in getting our hives through the long, cold Northern Illinois winters. Now Fred and I outlined a plan for an opposite environment.

Anticipating that the summer could get so extremely hot and dry that the summer floral resources for the bees disappear, we asked “what should we be doing differently or better, to care for our colonies?”

First, we set ground rules for our brainstorming session: we would go back and forth, offering ideas to be written on a list. While writing the list, no judgemental comments were allowed, only questions for clarification. We flipped a coin to see who would go first. Fred lost, so I placed my first thought on the yellow tablet without Fred’s comments. Fred offered the next and recorded it. I offered no comment. Amazingly, the ideas got recorded fairly quickly, even when out of turn, all without comment or evaluation.

The second step included ranking them as to their importance and placing them so in our outline. This created a spirited and lively atmosphere for the judgmental debate. Lively and spirited it was, but we got it done. We recorded the following:

PRE SUMMER SEASON COLONY PREPARATION

1. Address and eliminate stressful situations as quickly as possible

- Allow our honey bee population in each colony to grow to capacity
- Consider relocating hives if colonies receive location based stress

2. Only keep healthy colonies

- Re-queen introducing VSH quality stock (Varroa Sensitive Hygiene)
- Combine or destroy failing colonies
- Divide or reallocate surplus resources from oversized colonies

3. Monitor Varroa mite populations monthly

- Visual observation is not effective, use ether or powdered sugar rolls
 - Respond with approved treatments when mite populations dictate
- (This is a lot of work, but it will keep our bees alive and productive!)*

4. Maintain the health of the honey bee colonies

- Supplement the nutrition as insurance against deficiencies

5. Place water in hive feeders for 24/7 availability

- While weather offers hot or dry conditions
- Mandatory, when day time temperatures are above 90°F

(Fred said we finally have a use for that box of old rusty entrance feeders!)

6. Increase effective hive ventilation

- Elevate the edge of covers using a thin block of wood or other material
- Replace solid bottom boards with



screened bottom boards

(Fred would like to see the bottom boards taken off all the time if we could be sure to kill all the rodents!)

7. When extreme summer heat conditions arrive

- Get the hives out of the direct afternoon sun
- Construct temporary shade for hives
- Relocate hives to better environment

Much of beekeeping as we see it requires thinking ahead. Our plan of action is based on anticipated conditions. Our experience and observation of conditions will trigger our management choices. Please use our information as a guide to create your own plan that suits your location, beekeeping skills, resources, and objectives. They may or may not be the same as ours.

Wishing you enjoyable and successful beekeeping,

Larry and Fred (sometimes)



Register Your Hives with Driftwatch

www.Driftwatch.org

ISBA Summer Meeting

Kevin Gerstenecker

The Officers and Members of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association are as busy as bees, preparing to host the Illinois State Beekeepers Association Summer Meeting. We are looking forward to hosting Beekeepers from the Midwest for an informative day in Vandalia, IL.

The ISBA invites you to join us on Saturday, June 30th for a day of fun, information, and fellowship with other beekeepers. Event registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 9:00 a.m. by ISBA President Jim Belli. After the various reports from the officers of the ISBA, a packed schedule of informative and knowledgeable speakers will round out the day.

Dr. Dewey M. Caron, Professor Emeritus, University of Delaware, will give a presentation on the things we can do to reduce losses and keep

bees healthy and productive. Dr. Caron's afternoon presentation will be on the best way to inspect a hive, and how to best read what the bees know.

Kathleen Prough, Chief Apiary Inspector for the State of Indiana will give a presentation on gardening for honey bees. She will also have an afternoon presentation on diseases that affect the hive.

Steve Chard, Acting Chief of the Illinois Bureau of Land and Water Resources will give his report on Illinois Bees.

There will also be reports from the regional directors of the ISBA, as well as a presentation from a University of Illinois Graduate Student featuring an update from the U of I in Urbana, IL.

This is a wonderful opportunity for beekeepers from the Midwest to meet with other beekeepers, and gain some valuable information from

leading honey bee experts. The St. Clair Beekeepers Association, along with the Illinois State Beekeepers Association is excited about the 2012 Annual Summer Meeting. Make plans to join us, we would love to see you there!

For more information regarding the ISBA Summer Meeting, or to reserve your spot, please contact:

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208 Hazel Street
Troy, IL 62294
(618) 795-4633
kgersty@gmail.com
The ISBA Summer Meeting cost is \$20.00 per person
A catered lunch is available for \$10.00 per person
We ask that lunch reservations be made and paid for in advance of meeting, so we have an accurate number of meals for the caterer. Thank you!

Heartland Apicultural Society Annual Conference

University of Missouri at St. Louis, July 12 – 14, 2012

The 2012 Heartland Apicultural Society Conference will be held July 12 – 14th on the UMSL campus in St. Louis. The three-day conference will be swarming with instructional programs in the classroom, and "hands-on" classes in the apiary. The program will include sessions designed for beekeepers at all levels of beekeeping skill development including: beginners - with a special track for those with no beekeeping experience, beekeepers with limited and many years' experience and

those in between. A three-day queen rearing course will also be part of the program. There will be a large vendor show, evening social events, and sightseeing tours in the St. Louis area during the day.

Speakers attending HAS this year include: Dr. Greg Hunt – Purdue University, Dr. Tom Webster – Kentucky State University, Dr. Jim Tew – Ohio State University, Kim Flottum – Bee Culture Magazine, Jerry Hayes – Monsanto Corporation and the American Bee Journal, Michael Bush – Bush Farm and

Phil Craft and others.

There will be college dormitory housing and meals available at an economical cost for participants, as well as special rates at nearby hotels. Virtually all of the conference activities will take place under one roof at the UMSL JC Penny Conference Center. Labs and the apiary will be about 200 yards away.

Pre-registration forms and program details will be available for downloading at <http://www.heartlandbees.com/> within a few days.

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Waxing Philosophical ~ the Beekeeping Puzzle

What to do with empty boxes filled with wild comb?

Here is a fun new feature – one that will depend on your contribution! Every issue, we will publish a “puzzling question” that has been submitted to the Bulletin by an ISBA member. You, the reader, will send to the editor your own ideas of what an answer to that puzzling question might be. We will publish the top answers, and vote on the best one. Please participate in Waxing Philosophical!

This from the wire of the unofficial, samaritan DBHS – the Department of Bee Hive Services – one of the many wildlife rescue involvements of beekeeper Jesse Will, an officer of the new Southern Illinois Beekeepers Association in Murphysboro. Also known as S.I. All-A-Buzz, this newest Illinois beekeepers club is extremely active in mentoring and holds frequent hands-on demos. That deep-south Illinois climate affords them plenty of outside time together as a club.

Question:

“A man called me for help the other day. He was having trouble with swarms; F-5 swarms, mutiple-vortex-swarms, an unpredictable meilei of swarming.

“We opened the first hive to find nothing but a gob pile all stuffed in. The girls made use of all of that frameless area. He said that hive had swarmed numerous times, and he caught them every time. What did he do with each swarm he caught? He put it right back in the hive it came from.

“It took over an hour to cut out and patch together enough comb to get it to a proper two deeps and one medium. While in it, there was no sign of a queen or queen cells. It looked like they were just trying to leave because the house was a mess. When I pulled into the driveway there was a swarm that just took off and I bet that was the queen from that hive.

“We finished patching up that hive and he asked me to look at the rest of his hives.

“Oh my, you have more?” I said. Around the corner he had six more, and at first glance, I was afraid. We opened up two more and found a bigger mess in each and it just got worse. I wondered if there were any other ways of dealing with all of these boxes full of wild comb, because seven hives of untamed honey maze can get tedious. How to mix it up?”

Answers:

“I have my own little “honey icecream” recipe for situations like this. I put two scoops of vanilla icecream in a bowl, and with a melon-baller, I scoop out little honey-globes and position them around the icecream. Then add strawberries, drizzle coco or rum – voila! Call it a “Skep Split!” Leave the bees on it, you get a Skep

Split Surprise!” - Beelinda Honeydew, Big Neck, Illinois ~ 1 vote

“What CAN'T you do with wild honeycomb?!” - Burt Beeherder, Chillicothe, Illinois ~ 3 votes

“Keeping a queen excluder between the two, combine a weaker hive with the wild hive, first using newspaper to acquaint bees with one-another, putting the wild hive on top (make sure they have their own entrance and can come and go independently). After several days, remove the paper. Find the queen in the weaker hive. Move the wild hive beneath a super or two, making sure the queen you just found in the weaker hive is kept below the queen excluder. The hope is that the wild queen will begin laying in the supers. Once the wild queen is caught in the super, use that super to start a split, or combine it with a queenless hive.

“Keep the wild-comb on top of which ever hive you prefer – using a queen excluder to keep it free of queen and brood. Come fall, bees should move honey down into properly drawn comb, leaving the box free for you to clean out and try again. You'll have a lot of wax to work with. Don't let the wax moths get it!” - Ozzy Beezborn, Frogtown, Illinois ~ 3 votes

Top Answer - 5 votes:

“Drumming – Put a new hive body on top of the hive with the wild comb. Take a couple of sticks and drum like crazy on the bottom box. The bees will go up into the new box (but you'd better be wearing a bee suit). Slip a queen excluder in between the boxes. It works best if you treat the super like a swarm, i.e. give them some properly drawn comb and put a frame of brood and a frame of honey in the new box to encourage the bees to stay in there. Then add supers as summer goes on.

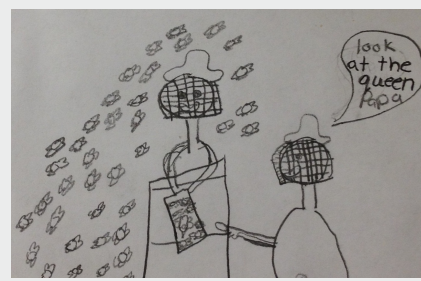
In the earliest spring, before the honey flow, that bottom box should be empty of honey and brood. You can take that box away and melt down the wax”. - Ray Chapman, Bunker Hill, Illinois

“The solution only requires some new frames, a hair dryer, some bailing wire, a little Elmer's glue and a little “grit.” Suit up well for this first - as it's hard work. It's best done outdoors, by the way. Cut the combs out, one by one, near the top and use the hair dryer to warm, soften, straighten and reshape the comb, if it is needed. Cross-wire the straightened comb with some of the bailing wire and be sure to glue the combs to the top of the new frame using the glue. You might then want to visit the Emergency Room for treatment and then hope you actually recover before having to go check on the girls again.” -Derek W. Beedersen, Gringo Stove, Illinois ~ 3 votes

Next issue's puzzling question: Why do bees sometimes up and decide to stop working a certain kind of flower, like clover?

Please submit your own questions to the editor by emailing bubbleubb@gmail.com. Would you like to be on the voting panel? Just email and ask! We need you!

The Brood Chamber



Grace Baum
Age-10
May 15 2012

Drawings by
beekeeper
Grace Baum
Greenville IL

Last week my Dad and I got a call from our local Extension Office in Monroe County, Illinois. The lady on the phone said "I have a cluster of bees on the tree outside. Can you come and get them?" My Dad said "Yes." I got really excited when he asked me if I wanted to come with him to see if it was a swarm. I said "Yes I do."

I am a Beekeeper like my Dad. Each swarm seems like a new adventure to see and learn. On the way there, I was thinking of the benefits for the Beekeeper, Bees and the local Community by what we were doing. How it helps the Beekeeper is you get a new hive of bees and you get to have the knowledge of how to get that swarm. Each swarm is different in it's recovery. How it helps the bees - they do not get sprayed with an insect killer and get killed. They get a new home with us. How it helps the Community is the increased pollination for local crops, expanding knowledge about bees/beekeeping and increased ties to local Honey Producers.

When we got to the Extension Office, we looked at the tree and saw the bees on a low Pear branch. Dad went to the car and came back with a 5 frame nuc. He went to the tree and put the nuc

under the swarm. Then, he carefully shook the branch. The bees fell right into the box. While we were taking care of the swarm, a few people came out and took some photos.

After we were done, a nice Lady came up. We started to talk about bees and how smart they are. She asked about why they swarmed. I said "When a new queen hatches, she takes some of the bees and goes away from the hive to make her own place to live. She sends out scouts bees to find a new home. That may be a tree, house, shed or a barn. When the scouts come back they do a dance. That dance says how good the place is and how far away it is. Then the bees go to their new home. If you see them while they are heading for their new home, it will be like a small black cloud." Then she asked, "Why do we need bees?" I told her that some of our plants need the bees to pollinate them.

We had to go so we said goodbye. A little after dark we came back to get them. It is best to transport your recovered swarm in the dark. Especially when you'll be moving them in the back of your Van right behind where you are sitting! Even if you have your bee suit on – safety first.

As Beekeepers, we are the Ambassadors between Bees and People. Swarms provide a new learning experience and brings awareness for our Honey Bees.



11 year old Astrid Sabo keeps between 7 and 9 beehives in Monroe County. She began beekeeping with her Dad, Mike Sabo when she was 6. In 2010, Astrid worked with her father as a leader in the movement to draft and pass Public Act 96-1028, a law ensuring that beekeepers who produce or sell less than 500 lbs of honey will continue to process and package their honey in their un-modified honey houses, or kitchens. Their efforts were recognized when they were awarded ISBA's Beekeepers of the Year in 2010.

Old Time Apiculture

*Retired Illinois Apiary Inspector
Udell Meyer shares some memories
of keeping and inspecting bees.*

I bought my first bees before I was married in 1953 and brought them home to Collinsville. I had the bees sitting there in a pasture. One day a gentleman came up and he introduced himself as the bee inspector and asked if he cold have a look at my bees. I said "Sure, you just go right ahead and do what you've got to do." Before that, I'd never stuck my head in a beehive or knew what was going on. Mr. Leiper really took me under his wing and helped me out a whole lot. He was one I've really got to give credit to for keeping bees. He was my mentor.

I remember times working with Lawrence Leiper. We'd had our state meeting. Once I got home, that night or so, Gene Killian, the Chief Inspector called and said, "Come back

up here by the crack of dawn. There's a truck of bees that's overturned." I left at 4 o'clock in the morning and got started right away. I went up there and met Mr. Leiper, and Gene and Ron Hunter. There were 450 colonies of bees on a flat bed truck. What they'd done was barreled through a sharp turn and rolled it in one complete revolution. Even though the hives were all strapped down and under netting, everything broke loose. They really busted everything up. It was all messed up and mixed up, just a tangled mess.

Out of the 450 colonies, we saved 90 just by putting pieces together. If we found a hive body or a super that wasn't smashed, why we just stacked them on top of each other. Then we started to burn what was left and the first thing you know, the EPA came along and said "Hey – you gotta quit burning that. You gotta put that stuff in barrels and burn it." Well we had no barrels or anything, so we went around town and

finally rounded up four or five 55 gallon drums. And that's what we did with that old busted up comb and everything. The air was just full of bees.

After a while, the bees started getting rowdy, so they had state cops on both sides of the accident and directing traffic around that turned-over truck. But the bees weren't really too bad. I think I got one sting on the leg out of the whole thing. But our clothes and everything were just covered with honey. We had honey on our shoes like mud. You never know what you'll run into.



Do you have an old story, or know something about the history of Illinois beekeeping? Please share it with the ISBA Bulletin!

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 or individually if no local associations are available. Dues for 2012 are \$10 for the calendar year January 1 through December 31 only. Dues include a subscription to this newsletter, the ISBA Bulletin. Beekeeping journals are available to ISBA members at about 25% discount. Mention membership in ISBA when sending your subscription payment to the publishers. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

Make checks for membership payable to: Illinois State Beekeepers Association and mail to: Mike Mason, Treasurer, P.O. Box 21094, Springfield, IL 62703.

Address Changes: Send old and new address six weeks prior to date of change when practical to the association secretary.

Reduced Journal Rates for 2012 (members only)

	<u>1 yr</u>	<u>2 yr</u>	<u>3 yr</u>
<u>American Bee Journal</u>	19.50	37.00	52.15
<u>Bee Culture</u>	21.00	38.00	N/A
<u>The Speedy Bee</u>	13.25	25.25	34.00

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