



Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin

September/October 2013 Volume 96 Number 5

Letter from the President

Jim Belli

Please mark your calendars for the ISBA Annual Fall Meeting to be held on Saturday, November 9, 2013 in Springfield, Illinois. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Medhat Nasr, Provincial Apiculturist, Crop Research and Extension Division, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Our additional speakers are Dr. Rodger Hoopengartner, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University and Richard E. L. Rogers, Entomologist and Apiologist for Bayer Crop Science. See the ISBA website at www.ilsba.com for additional information and the registration form.

This year, the ISBA will also co-host the Wisconsin Honey Producers Associations Annual Fall Convention at the Racine Marriot Hotel and Convention Center, Racine, Wisconsin. Presentations by David Hackenberg and Dr. Larry Connor are scheduled for Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2, 2013. Visit the ISBA web site and the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association's web site at www.wihoney.org for more information on this meeting.

Sue Kivikko resigned from her position as Membership Director last August due to family health issues. We wish Sue all the best. Steve Petrilli has agreed to fill this position. Steve is the individual who redesigned and manages our website. We all welcome Steve to the Board of the ISBA.

This is my final letter to be published as President of the ISBA. It has been a most memorable three years and I thank each of you, the members of the ISBA, for giving me the opportunity to serve in this position. I would like to acknowledge and thank Maggie Watcher. Maggie was the first person to approach me after I was elected President to ask me what she could do for this organization. In many respects, Maggie represents the best of this organization's membership and what I saw over and over again in attending many club meetings. You are the finest group of people I have ever been associated with.

As part of the ISBA Board of Directors team we have accomplished much. We took this organization from a declining association of less than 460 members to over 1,100 members, making us one of the nation's leading

beekeeping organizations rivaled only by California in size. There are certain individuals that need to be thanked for this. Eleanor Schumacher, our Bulletin Editor, took the ISBA publication and made it a model for other organizations to follow. Steve Petrilli, our ISBA webmaster, redesigned our mediocre internet presence into the finest, most professional website in use today. Rich Ramsey, ISBA Vice-President, with his years of experience in the ISBA and his familiarity with State politics has provided me with the guidance I so desperately needed in the many issues we were confronted with in bringing the ISBA up-to-date for the new millennium. Rich is a great individual and a dear friend. Mike Mason, our Treasurer, has done an enormous amount of work in opening our accounts to our members, filing all the paperwork to get ISBA status as a legal government entity, and completing countless reports and presentations. His efforts have even been noticed at the national level; he was placed on the American Beekeeping Federation Board of Directors when he attended their Annual Convention last winter in Hershey, Pennsylvania. My friend and President of the Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association, Corky Schnadt, ISBA Secretary, has been a wonderful sounding board and advisor for the many issues that arose in the process of updating the ISBA. Janet Hart, Central Regional Director, has worked tirelessly in visiting new clubs and promoting the ISBA. Her efforts have contributed to the increased interest and growth of the ISBA membership. Ray Chapman, Southern Regional Director, has a long history of promoting ISBA through his active participation in affiliated club meetings. Last and certainly not least, I thank my wife Karen. Karen has typed meeting minutes and notices, membership rosters, run raffles, typed registration forms and supplied coffee and donuts all the while letting her husband take the bows. She has done this for 42 years of marriage. Anyone who has been associated with us over this last three years knows that Karen is the one who has made it work. She is the love of my life.

Many thanks to all of you.



APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

Happy Fall to everyone! Things are looking up with more Fall like temperatures arriving on the scene. Hope your honey crop met your expectations for the year.

Fortunately, we once more have a full Apiary Inspector Team. I'm pleased to announce that Larry Roth, from Auburn, Illinois has joined the Department as an Apiary Inspector for central Illinois, succeeding Rita Taylor. Larry brings vast beekeeping experience with him and he has really hit the ground running. He also serves as the Superintendent of the ISBA exhibit and you may have met Larry at this year's Illinois State Fair. Feel free to contact Larry at 217/341-8072 or at waxman@royell.com for an inspection or for advice on honeybee management.

Just recently coming off the Illinois State Fair, I wanted to mention that the ISBA booth in the Illinois Building looked excellent and was very well received by the public. A lot of hard work from folks all over the state goes into making the exhibit the best it can be and this year was no exception. Of course, all of us really enjoy the honey ice cream! Congratulations on a job well done!

Previously, I mentioned that at the request of the USDA-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the Department was participating in a national honeybee survey in an attempt to help document which bee diseases/parasites/pests of honey bees are and are not present in the US. This survey was also being conducted to investigate potential causes of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). As part of this survey, samples are collected by each participating state and analyzed by APHIS. The Department has completed Illinois' portion of the APHIS survey for 2013. I wish to thank the beekeepers who participated in the survey and to Department Apiary Inspectors Eleanor Schumacher, Susan Kivikko, Dan Wright, Jim Wellwood, Mike Gerard, Peter Hansen and Larry Roth for all their hard work in collecting the needed samples. APHIS has indicated that participating beekeepers will receive reports showing the survey results and those results will also be sent to the Department. It's unknown at this point if there will be a 2014 national survey.

The Department had an experience late this summer with some extraordinarily aggressive bees. Back in August, we received a call from a beekeeper in Clark County that one of his hives was extremely defensive. In response, two of the Department's Apiary Inspectors conducted an inspection of the subject colony and found the bees to be exceptionally aggressive. In following our usual protocol, the inspectors collected honeybee samples and mailed them to the USDA lab in Tucson, Arizona to be tested for possible Africanized genes. In the meantime, the Department recommended to the beekeeper that the bees be eradicated as soon as possible to eliminate the hazard and to protect public safety. The beekeeper granted permission to the Department to depopulate the bees and the procedure was carried out. As a precaution, the Department also inspected other beekeepers' colonies in the general area of the subject site to determine if very aggressive bees are present and there were none. Ultimately, the Department received the official test results from the USDA Tucson Laboratory and the subject bees were determined to be non-Africanized fortunately. If you encounter bees of this nature, please contact your Department Apiary Inspector to investigate and to discuss a plan, as needed.

Some important work is taking place on the honeybee/pesticide exposure issue. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced and issued guidance to "Registrants of Nitroguanidine Neonicotinoid Products" (companies such as Bayer, Monsanto and Syngenta), for developing new

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pesticide labels that limit use of some neonicotinoid pesticide products as a means to protect bees and other pollinators. The announcement affects products containing the neonicotinoids imidacloprid, dinotefuran, clothianidin and thiamethoxam. The EPA will work with pesticide manufacturers to change labels so that they will meet the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) safety standard. It's currently unknown as to when the new labeling process becomes effective. The EPA is also working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with agricultural equipment manufacturers and the pesticide and seed industry to develop and apply technologies to reduce pesticide dust drift during planting activities. The Department is monitoring this entire matter and will keep ISBA and others informed as new

information becomes available. In the meantime, if you would like to read up on the information from USEPA on this effort, go to <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ecosystem/pollinator/risk-mgmt.html>

The Small Hive Beetle continues to spread across Illinois. According to information we have, the beetle has been found in 55 counties to date. We're hearing that many of the traps currently on the market are providing effective control. You may want to check them out. Strong colonies and traps have proven to be a good defense against the beetles.

The Department will again host the ISBA Fall Meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 9. We look forward to seeing you there.

Letter from our new Honey Show Superintendent ~ Larry Roth

The 2013 State Fair attendance was way up this year due to the beautiful weather. I want to thank everyone that participated in the 2013 Illinois Honey Show! I specifically want to thank the behind the scene volunteers from the following beekeeping clubs, Central Eastern Illinois, Cook DuPage, Illiana, Heart of Illinois, Lincoln Land, Mississippi Valley and St. Clair. Knowing that I'll not be able to thank each and every person who was instrumental in making the fair a success, I would like to specifically thank the judge, Warren Nelson, the judge's assistant, Norma Myers and Udell for volunteering and the Assistant Superintendents, Rich Ramsey and Steve Petrilli. Mike Mason was a volunteer who was instrumental in getting our food handler's license for selling the ISBA Ice Cream which was excellent as always.

If you didn't attend the 2013 State Fair, you missed the Honey Display, beekeepers visiting with each other specifically about "what did you do differently to get your blue ribbon?" So many conversations were overheard about "how are the bees doing?", "what are you doing about mites?", "how much honey did you

get?" and "how is your family doing?" The camaraderie between beekeepers was heartwarming for this beekeeper. Each one is hoping to see the other during the 2014 State Fair.

If you didn't attend, there are too many things that you missed to name, but a few are the visit from Abraham Lincoln (running for election), the GREAT tasting ice cream, the antique bee closet (a temporary new addition this year), the observation hive, and all the different honey and beeswax on display. Amy Bachmann's 2 ½ lb. chunk honey sold for a record \$1,400 at the Auction Sale of Champions. The honey cook off had a record 19 registered entries sponsored by the Lincoln Land Beekeepers.

This was my first year as Superintendent of the Illinois Honey Show and the cooperation and help provided to me by each and everyone was "SUPER". My heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the 2013 Show a success!

P.S. Less than one year left to get ready for 2014.
May your supers be full!



Junior Beekeeping Camp at Lyman Woods



This year Mrs. Marge Trocki of The Lyman Woods Nature Center, held a week long children's beekeeping camp. The event took place at Lyman Woods in Downers Grove. All the kids were very interested and excited. All week they had fun learning and doing activities like; harvesting honey, making honey butter, honey lemonade and honey popsicles, wax candle making, painting hive bodies, and touring bee yards. They also made a solar wax melter and turkey feather bee brushes.

Another special occasion was a visit from fellow beekeeper and storyteller Patrice Beal, who told the story of "How the Elephant Got His Trunk." Believe it or not, it was all because of the honey bee!

I called the camp for a conference so we could present an article here in the Brood Chamber. The kids were very happy to share all that they been doing and learning. The campers had fun visiting the bee yard and learned all about how to take care of the bees. At the end of camp, all the children were happy to show their parents what they had learned.

Let's hear from all of the participants about their experiences at bee camp.

~Astrid Sabo



Marge Trocki (creator, coordinator, and camp counselor)

This summer I had the pleasure of teaching the Junior Beekeeping Camp at Lyman Woods in Downers Grove. The participants, ranging in age from 9-14, joined me as we touched on the many facets of beekeeping. They all seemed very confident as they donned full bee suits and inspected hives. Whether harvesting honey, melting wax, painting hive bodies, or creating honey snacks, these campers seemed to be naturals when it came to beekeeping and everything it entails. The camp proved to be a huge success and certainly broke ground for future beekeeping camps and programs at Lyman Woods!



Nick

What I liked about this camp is that we could go to the bee hive. Also I liked when we made honey. I also liked making candles. It was cool when we got to hold a drone. I learned the worker bees are female.

Logan

The best part of camp was using a hot knife to get the capping off the honey frames. Another fun activity was painting honey supers. I wish I could do this camp every day because it is so fun! I didn't know that drones didn't have stingers.

Sam N.

My favorite part of bee camp was making honey lemonade. I also like to go to the bee hives. Another thing was extracting the honey. I did not know that workers were females.

Charlie

My favorite part of camp was harvesting honey. I learned how bees take care of other bees and how hives are made.



Sam G.

I had a ton of fun at this camp. My favorite part was extracting the honey. It was really good. We melted wax and painted hives. I had a lot of fun beekeeping.

Ki' Ayana

I like this camp because I made new friends. I also liked it here because we did a lot of fun stuff, like harvesting honey. We painted and other great stuff. But my favorite part about this camp is learning about the Bees - "Buzz Buzz". First we learned that the Queen



bee is bigger and longer than the workers and the drones. And we learned that the workers are females and do all the work; and that drones are males and mate with the queen so the queen can lay eggs.



Maggie

My favorite part of Bee camp was harvesting the honey. I loved it because it was really cool shaving the wax and stirring the honey out. I also liked going down to the hives and seeing the bees work, it's very interesting! I think it is worth going to bee camp because you do really cool activities that I didn't even know we can do! All animal lovers should try this camp because I bet most of them would love it!



Matt

Hi, I'm Matt. I've been studying bees for a while and I want to keep a hive next year, so it's really good I found this camp. I've learned a lot of stuff already, and it's been a lot of fun. We've been to the bee yard almost every day, so it's great to know what you're looking for when you're checking your hives. The camp has been very hands on, and I've really enjoyed it. My favorite parts were going to the bee yard, and harvesting honey. I also learned quite a bit about how things work in the hive. All in all, I'm really glad I signed up.



The Trouble with Fumagillin...

Leellen Solter¹ and Wei-Fone Huang¹, Peter Yau² and Brian Imai²

¹ Illinois Natural History Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois

² Roy J. Carver Biotechnology Center, Protein Sciences Immunological Resource Center, University of Illinois

Is *Nosema ceranae*, a globally distributed microsporidian pathogen of honey bees, less responsive to applications of fumagillin than its sister species *Nosema apis*? This issue is controversial, not the least because *N. apis* is no longer the dominant (or only) microsporidian pathogen causing nosemosis in honey bees. There is no question that, at concentrations recommended by manufacturers, fumagillin suppresses reproduction of both pathogens. We also understand that the antibiotic rarely completely destroys microsporidia and that discontinuing use causes resurgences in many mass-reared insect species.

Our research with the recent USDA NIFA CAP project on honey bee health focused on comparisons of infectivity, host mortality and development of the two *Nosema* species in order to understand the biological differences between them, and to better understand the effects of *N. ceranae* on US honey bees. We also explored the response of both pathogens to fumagillin treatment.

Fumagillin is potentially toxic to animals (including humans) because it targets MetAP2, a highly conserved enzyme that is common to all animals, including some microbes like microsporidia. MetAP2 is important for the proper configuration of many metabolic and structural proteins. To prevent fumagillin residues in honey, treatment is discontinued during foraging season.

Recent anecdotal reports of *N. ceranae* resurgences suggest that fumagillin may not be as effective against this pathogen as it has been for 50+ years against *N. apis*. In our recent paper published in PLoS Pathogens:

<http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1003185> we reported on results of laboratory *Nosema* infections in response to fumagillin treatments.

We used data from Spain to estimate the degradation rate of the final spring fumagillin treatment in hives and selected treatments that corresponded with the gradually decreasing exposure of bees in treated hives. Both *Nosema* species were, as expected, suppressed at the manufacturers' recommended concentration. The table right shows results of infections at the declining concentrations. Based on the Spain data, we calculated that approximately 1/1000th of the manufacturers' recommended fumagillin concentration (here "standard") would be present in hives in June, approximately three months after terminating treatment.

Our data showed that *N. apis* was suppressed until fumagillin was reduced to 1/500th of standard, but *N.*

ceranae was no longer suppressed at 1/50th standard concentration. Beginning at 1/500th standard, *N. ceranae* produced significantly more mature infective spores than in untreated bees and, at 1/1000th standard, produced twice as many spores. Spore production didn't level off to that of untreated bees until between 1/100,000th and 1/300,000th the recommended concentration.

We asked why we would observe higher *Nosema ceranae* spore production in bees treated with low fumagillin concentrations than in bees that had not been treated. We evaluated proteins in the midgut tissues of treated vs. untreated bees and found that there were significant protein alterations in treated bees, even at 1/1000th the recommended concentration. We suggest that fumagillin, due to its known activity against the MetAP2 enzyme, impacts the physiology of the honey bee more than it impacts *N. ceranae* at low concentrations, and allows the pathogen to 'hyperproliferate' in the compromised tissues.

We have not yet tested these responses in apiaries. We anticipate that concentrations of fumagillin would vary among hives because of varying amounts of honey and numbers of individuals in each colony ingesting the

Fumagillin concentration	<i>Nosema apis</i>	<i>Nosema ceranae</i>
Standard (std.)	suppressed	suppressed
1/25 th of std.	—	suppressed
1/50 th of std.	—	not suppressed
1/100 th of std.	suppressed	not suppressed
1/500 th of std.	not suppressed	significantly more spores
1/1000 th of std.	not suppressed	2x spores as untreated bees
1/5000 th of std.	not suppressed	significantly more spores
~1/15,000 th of std.	—	significantly more spores
~1/100,000 th of std.	—	significantly more spores
~1/300,000 th of std.	—	not suppressed

provisioned honey. There may also be differences in fumagillin degradation compared to hives in Spain. Antibiotics work by targeting specific biotic pathways and it may be that fumagillin will remain useful in specific situations, but perhaps used differently than currently recommended. Meanwhile, evidence that fumagillin also impacts the host we are trying to help suggests that the drug be used judiciously if at all.

Illinois State Beekeepers Association 122nd Annual Fall Meeting

Illinois Department of Agriculture Building, State Fairgrounds, Springfield, Illinois 62794
Saturday, November 9, 2013

All attendees interested in the catered lunch must register and pay in advance by November 1, 2013. We will accept walk-in registrations without the catered lunch on the day of the event.

Registration will open at 7:30 a.m. The Meeting will commence at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

Speakers

Dr. Medhat Nasr, our keynote speaker, is Provincial Apiculturist, Crop Research and Extension Division, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. For over 35 years he has been working on honeybee genetics, breeding, bee pest surveillance, and integrated pest management of tracheal and varroa mites.

Dr. Roger Hoopingarner, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University, will also speak at the Meeting. Dr. Hoopingarner has done research on the genetics and environmental effects in rearing queen bees. He has also worked on some of the many problems facing the beekeeping industry including European foulbrood disease, pollination topics and varroa population dynamics and its control.

Richard E. L. Rogers, Entomologist and Apiologist for Bayer CropScience, will also give a presentation at the Fall Meeting. Richard has been a professional entomologist for more than 35 years and is an authority on pollination and apiculture. He has been coordinator for the International Apis Health Assessment Committee, and currently plans and coordinates bee studies and honeybee health investigations and research.

Additional agenda information will be posted on the ISBA website as it becomes available.

Fall Meeting registration fee: \$35.00 per person for ISBA members & Spouse (lunch not included)
You may fill out the ISBA \$10.00 annual membership application (available on the ISBA website ilsba.com) and include it with your registration to register at ISBA member rates.
\$45.00 per person for non-ISBA members (lunch not included)

To register: Complete the form below and return with your check or money order payable to the Illinois State Beekeepers Association. Mail completed form to:

Illinois State Beekeepers Association
P.O. Box 21094
Springfield IL 62703

Illinois State Beekeepers Association Fall Meeting Registration Form for Saturday, November 9, 2013

Individuals interested in the catered lunch must send in the form by November 1, 2013.

For advanced registration, return this bottom portion with payment by November 1, 2013.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone () _____ e-mail _____

Additional attendees _____

Affiliated ISBA Chapter (or indicate member at large) _____

Total Number of ISBA member & Spouse attendees _____ @ \$35.00 ea _____

Number of non-ISBA member attendees _____ @ \$45.00 ea _____

Number of catered lunches _____ @ \$10.00 ea _____

Total payment enclosed _____

The Buzz About Town

2 LET IT BEE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION April Morgano ~ Joliet, IL Phone: 815.207.9435 2letitbee@sbcglobal.net
BIG RIVERS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Dave Feltes ~ Morrison, IL Phone: 815.772.3413 dfeltes@thewisp.net
CENTRAL EASTERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Lorraine Wirges ~ Rantoul, IL momwirges@aol.com
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FOX RIVER VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Kim Luppino ~ Batavia, IL Phone: 630.835.4495 t.luppino@yahoo.com
HEART OF ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Janet Hart ~ Brimfield, IL Phone: 309.446.3004 harthoney@msn.com
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KANKAKEE RIVER VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Mike Rusnak www.krvba.blogspot.com

The 4th Annual Fall Meeting of the Illinois Queen Initiative will be held **Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 9 AM to 4 PM at the Evergreen FS facility** at 402 Hershey Road in Bloomington, IL. This year's speaker is Dr. Jeff Harris Extension Apiarist for Mississippi State University and formerly a scientist for the USDA Honey Bee Lab in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He will be speaking about honey bee breeding and introducing hygienic genetics to control varroa. Cost is \$30 for paid members; \$45 for non-members. Make check payable to the IQI and send reservations to treasurer Carolyn Gerberding, 1 Vernon Dr., Rochester, IL 62563. Direct questions to her at cboy8307@aol.com or 217-498-8307.

We invite you to join **BeeSpeakSTL.com** and beekeepers from across the region as we welcome **Kim Flottum to St. Louis, Missouri.**

Kim will join us at Maritz Inc. in the **Raymond E. Maritz Theater on Saturday, October 12th, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm.** Get more information and reserve your seat at www.BeeSpeakSTL.com.

Kim is Editor of Bee Culture Magazine, and brings a wealth of knowledge as he presents to us:

- Urban Hive Management Techniques
- Keeping Healthy Bees in an Ever Changing Landscape ... and more

The 2014 North American Beekeeping Conference & Tradeshow will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Baton Rouge River Center, January 7-11, 2014.

We are introducing many new features this year!

- Optional field trip to the Baton Rouge Bee Lab, Tuesday
- General Session followed by SIG meetings, Wednesday
- Welcome reception and Tradeshow begin Wednesday
- General Session and Auxiliary Meeting on Thursday followed by an optional social activity that night
- Track sessions on Friday morning, followed by the Foundation luncheon, a keynote presentation, ABF Business meeting and the Honey Show Live Auction.
- Saturday presentations running from 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM, followed by the ABF annual banquet.

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Proposed BYLAW CHANGE

The Executive Board of Directors, at a meeting held in Champaign, Illinois on September 7, 2013 voted unanimously to present the following change to the BYLAWS of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association. In accordance with Article VII- Amending the Associations Constitution and Bylaws, Section 1. Proposed changes and required action for adoption, paragraph a, states:

A 30 day notice of proposal to amend the Constitution and/or Bylaws shall be sent to each active member, stating the exact present wording, and identifying it by Article Number and Section Letter, and state in exact wording and changes that are proposed.

The proposed changes are to eliminate in its entirety

Article III- Elections, Section 3. Nominations, paragraph i, which states:

i. “An elected Executive Board member currently serving may submit his/her resignation from his/her present office before the Nominating Committee presents its report, so that his/her name may be placed in nomination for another office. In that case, the President shall appoint another member to complete the unexpired term so created.” and to renumber paragraph j to paragraph i.

The Constitution and Bylaws in their entirety may be accessed on the website under Documents.

Waxing Philosophical ~ the Beekeeping Puzzle

"Queen Wrong?"

Question: What is the most efficient way to deal with drone laying colonies, or colonies with laying workers?
~ Alan Guttersohn, Breese, IL

Answer #1: Combine them with a queen right colony until they stabilize and then if overall population is sufficient and it is early in the season, split as you would normally with a new queen for creating a new nuc/hive.
~ Jerry Hayes, St. Louis, MO ~ **3 votes**

Answer #2: Essentially sacrifice the house bees to root out the laying workers. Take the frames ~20 yards away and shake all the bees off the frames before replacing the frames in the hive. The assumption is the foragers will find their way back to the hive, but the house bees (including laying workers) having not flown outside of the hive, will not. I would then add a frame of brood and introduce a new queen.

OR following the assumption that laying workers are suckers for Tupperware, hold an impromptu Tupperware party in a corner section of the hive and schedule a drone strike to take out the party. ~ Dale Cooney, Chicago ~ **3 votes**

Answer #3: If the colony is small at this time of year, the most efficient way to deal with laying workers is to shake out the frames of bees 15-20 ft. or so from the hive then give the frames of brood, honey or pollen (assuming they are disease-free) to another colony and let the adult bees in the bee yard join another hive. Store any unused boxes and frames.

If the colony is still large and you want to try to save it, shake them out like above, feed for a couple of days and introduce a caged, mated queen. Good luck! ~ Jane Sueme, St. Louis, MO ~ **3 votes**

Answer #4: The easiest way with the highest success rate I have and suggest is to combine two colonies. When combining them spray with cherry kool aid or something similar to mask every scent. When the scent wears off the queen scent will be stronger than the laying worker(s). A week or so later you can do a walk away split. ~ Susan Kivikko, Esmond ~ **4 votes**

Answer #5: Drone layers and laying workers are actually two separate issues, so I would address them differently. Drone layers are queens. She may be laying an excess of drones, or ran out of sperm to fertilize eggs and lays only drones. Two choices: order another queen, pinch her and wait about 6 hours. Then introduce the new queen in a cage. Second choice would be to have them raise their own replacement queen. This would be done by locating an egg in non-drone areas, taking the hive tool and breaking out the bottom of that cell with the egg. This will prompt them to build it into a Queen cell. I would do that in 2-3 spots about an inch apart. If no normal brood is present at all, you would need brood from another hive or a queen from another source.

Drone laying workers are another story. Biggest clue to this issue is how the eggs are laid. The workers' abdomen is not long enough to reach the bottom of the cell, so the eggs will be located on the sides. Multiple eggs is also a clue, but good queens will do that also, so it's not foolproof. Eggs on the side of the cell instead of the bottom is.

There are a lot of theories out there on shaking out the hive and such. But the fastest, easiest and most reliable method is the standard introduction of a new queen. The pheromones of the new queen will quickly put an end to the laying workers success. Laying workers occur from time to time in many hives, but the eggs are disposed of by nurse bees. Introduce a good queen and the problem will quickly be over. ~ Charlie Linder, Flora, IL ~ **8 votes**

Submitted after voting: Place frames of eggs/open brood in a hive once a week for three weeks or until they start queen cells. The open brood pheromone is what suppresses the laying workers. ~ David Moechnig, East Peoria, IL

The ISBA would like to thank Dan and Annette Rubino of Cook-DuPage Beekeepers for helping and volunteering with the Honey Show at the State Fair. **Dan and Annette ask this next Waxing Philosophical Question:** "We have often seen bees on the "front porch" of the hive just in front of the entrance (facing the entrance) shuffling forward and back in a straight line. What causes this behavior?"



Illinois State Beekeepers Association

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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.

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