



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

# BULLETIN

May/June 2000 • Volume 82, Number 3

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Beekeepers,

Spring planting is pretty much over and the bees' swarming has been in full swing for about a month. Most of the swarms I had calls on have been quite small — could be afterswarms. If this is true, where did the big swarms go?

We finally got a much needed rain in central Illinois last weekend. Up to that time it was very dry, but the bees seemed to be working overtime. I have one colony with four shallows of honey, two capped. It must be black locust. Got other colonies with not enough honey to put on a slice of toast — must have swarmed.

I hope many of you can attend the summer meeting at Fairfield June 24. The Little Egypt Beekeepers have put in a lot of effort to try and make this a successful and interesting meeting.

See you at Fairfield.

Richard E. Ramsey, ISBA President

## ISBA SUMMER MEETING

The ISBA Summer Meeting will be hosted by the Little Egypt Beekeepers' Association on Saturday, June, 24, 2000. The meeting will be held in Floral Hall at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds is located on Route 15, west of Fairfield, IL. Registration will begin at 8:45 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:15 a.m. Details will be found on the accompanying insert.

## MIDWEST BEEKEEPING SYMPOSIUM TERMED A SUCCESS

-- by Larry Krengel

Northern Illinois Beekeepers' Association

On March 25, one hundred thirty beekeepers from four states gathered for the Third Midwest Beekeeping Symposium at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake. The keynote speaker was Dr. Mark Winston, *Bee Culture* columnist and bee researcher from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. A committee from the Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association worked with the staff at McHenry County College to organize the event.

Over a dozen presenters conducted breakout sessions throughout the day. Each beekeeper had the opportunity to attend four small group sessions in addition to the two general sessions. Other presenters included Illinois' own Gene Killion talking about comb honey, Iowa's state apiary inspector Bob Cox talking on beekeeping in the Ukraine, and a local panel fielding questions from beginning beekeepers. Apitherapy and mead, hiving bees and — of course — mites, were all topics of sessions.

One of the highest rated sessions was a question and answer session with four experts, Elizabeth Capaldi, Mark Winston, Gene Killion, and Bob Cox. They bravely responded to questions on a wide variety of beekeeping issues. Seldom do beekeeper meetings have that much expertise on the same stage.

B & B Beekeeping Supply made the trek from Minnesota to tantalize the attendees with their wares. B & B has attended every Midwest Beekeeping Symposium and their support is appreciated. The great lunch (made with lots of honey) provided a time to raffle off scores of door prizes provided by many beekeeping suppliers who did not attend.

Phil May, a long time beekeeper known to many in Illinois, installed a 3-pound package of bees for the assembled, including a half dozen news reporters and photographers.

The following day found Phil on at least one newspaper's front page - dressed in a shirt and fancy tie - pouring bees into a hive. "Do all beekeepers go to work in a Sunday suit?" The public wants to know!

It was a day enjoyed by all. It inevitably brought the question, "When is the Fourth Midwest Beekeeping Symposium?" The committee has gone into seclusion and after mediation is complete, there may be an answer!

### ***NEW CHIEF STATE BEE INSPECTOR NAMED***

Recently Scott Frank stepped down as chief state bee inspector. Replacing him will be Steve Chard. We had hoped that Steve would be able to be present at the ISBA Summer Meeting, but a schedule conflict will prevent him from doing so. Watch for the next issue of the *ISBA Bulletin* in which the editor hopes to a feature article introducing Mr. Chard.

### ***ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS PUBLISH ON LINE***

Illinois beekeeping researchers Stu Jacobson and Steve Staley have published the results of their recent research online. The article, "Why Buying Package Bees is Like Lighting Smokers with \$20 Bills," may be found in a hyperlink on the ISBA Web page. Jacobson, a member of the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Illinois -- Springfield, cooperated with Staley to conduct the research and prepare the article.

In a telephone interview with the editor of the *ISBA Bulletin*, Jacobson described how it makes economic sense for beekeepers to take advantage of their own colonies to produce nucs. This process of making nucs can be used as a form of swarming control, and as a form of "insurance" for colonies that fail to requeen following supersedure.

Jacobson said that the research has shown that colonies fail to requeen approximately 30% of the time following supersedure. The authors go on to relate how nucs can be used to achieve a much higher rate of success in requeening. In addition, the authors of the article describe how nucs can be safely overwintered using standard hives with division boards.

If you have access to a web browser, you may access the article using the hyperlink "Jacobson/Staley article" on the ISBA web site. The URL of the web site is the following: <http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wensing/ISBA/ISBA.html>.

### ***EAS MEETING REMINDER & UPDATE***

The Eastern Apicultural Society's Summer 2000 conference is fast approaching. Organizers are working hard to prepare the best possible meeting. Mark your calendar now for Monday, July 31 to Friday, August 4 so you can enjoy a wonderful bee meeting and short course on the beautiful eastern shore of Maryland at Salisbury.

EAS 2000 currently has a web site with information about the meeting. It may be accessed at the following URL: <http://iaa.umd.edu/mdbee/EAS2000.html>. If you would like to request printed information, send your name, address, phone number, e-mail address to EAS 2000 Registrar, David Morris; 9309 Montpelier Drive; Laurel, MD 20708-2553 or e-mail this information to [beefriend@aol.com](mailto:beefriend@aol.com).

To increase participation in the honey shows at Eastern Apiculture Society meetings, Gamber Container Inc., will award the first place winner of each class a \$100 Savings Bond and a \$25 gift certificate for second place. To receive the award, the honey must be entered in one of Gamber's Classic honey containers.

### ***FOUNDATION CALLS FOR PRE-PROPOSALS***

The Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc., is soliciting short pre-proposals describing innovative honey bee projects that the Foundation might fund. Honey bee projects involving the creation of new scientific knowledge and/or increasing public awareness of the need for honey bees in the environment will be given preference.

Pre-proposals should be limited to one page, typed using a 12-point font, and single spaced. Project descriptions should include the general concept, objectives, expected duration (1-2 years preferred), and the project leader's affiliation. A detailed budget is not required.

The pre-proposals should be sent to Ann W. Harman, Chairperson, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc., 1214 North Poes Road, Flint Hill, VA 22627. Pre-proposals must be postmarked no later than August 30, 2000. The Foundation will request full proposals from selected applicants on or about October 1, 2000.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 educational venture sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation. Trustees include Dr. Frank Eischen, David Hackenberg, Pat Heitkam, Dr. Tom Sanford, Binford Weaver, Clint Walker, and others.

At this time there is at least one pre-proposal expected to come from Illinois. Plans are being formulated now for a 3-day "Teens in Beekeeping Institute" to be held at Illinois State University in Normal during the summer of 2001.

## ***ABF/2001 TO MEET IN SAN DIEGO***

The 2001 convention of the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF) will be held in San Diego, CA, from Friday, January 12, through Monday, January 15. The annual convention features a large number of talks by prominent beekeepers, and hosts one of the largest beekeeping trade shows anywhere. Following the convention this year, there will be a study tour to Hawaii.

Discount rates apply to ABF members. Other benefits also accompany membership. To learn more about membership benefits and the 2001 convention, contact: ABF Office, P. O. Box 1038, Jesup, GA 31598, phone (912) 427-4233, fax (912) 427-8447, or e-mail <info@ABFnet.org>.

## ***HIBA TURNS 100 THIS YEAR***

The Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association turns 100 years old during 2000. This makes HIBA the second oldest beekeeping association in the state of Illinois. The only association with greater longevity is the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association which was itself founded in 1891. In honor of HIBA, the following short history, prepared by Robert J. Dubois back in 1984, is shared with the ISBA membership.

*Our Association dates back to the early part of 1900 when Tazewell County, as well as most of the surrounding counties in Central Illinois, had a local beekeepers' group. Since the order of that era was to name the various groups by the county in which they were organized, our Association started as the Tazewell County Beekeepers' Association. Meetings were held during the season at the homes of the members throughout the county.*

*In the late '30's and early '40's as membership in the various county groups dwindled, many county associations ceased to exist. But the Tazewell County group remained viable and became "home" for beekeepers outside of Tazewell County who no longer had their own local county organizations. As an example, during this period Peoria County Beekeepers' Association disbanded and gave the remains of their treasury to the Tazewell County association. And with the donation came a few beekeepers from the west side of the Illinois River into the Tazewell County group. In order to "welcome" these and other out-of-county members, the group changed its name in 1943 from the single county designation to the name of Tazewell Beekeepers' Association.*

*Membership in the Tazewell Beekeepers', although composed of many die-hard dedicated and loyal beekeepers who were determined not to allow the group to vanish from existence, did not develop into a strong body until around the mid*

*'1900's. At this time a concentrated effort was made to increase interest in beekeeping, increase attendance, and thereby increase support in the beekeeping industry. Because of these efforts, new members were drawn from numerous counties throughout the Central Illinois area. In 1982 it was decided to rename the Association in order to better reflect this multi-county membership and to get away from the image that it was only a Tazewell (County) group. At this time, the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association name was born.*

Congratulations to the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers! The 100th anniversary will be celebrated next October with a banquet in Pekin, IL. It is anticipated that the association will be starting off the new century by naming its first Honey Princess for 2001. Stay tuned for details.

## ***BIBLIOPHILES TAKE NOTE!***

It has come to the attention of the editor of the ISBA Bulletin that a significant number of Illinois beekeepers are actually book collectors -- that is, when it comes to beekeeping books. In the event that any of these bibliophiles (literally book lovers) doesn't know about it, there is a purveyor of fine used beekeeping books. Many of these books may be considered quite antique.

Joseph J. Bray of New Haven, CT, publishes an "occasional list" entitled *BEEKEEPING And Related Subjects*. The list typically describes more than 100 books that he has for sale. One probably won't find a real bargain among the books listed, but one can probably find missing items that can be used to "complete" a beekeeper's beekeeping book collection if ever a collection such as this can be termed complete. Bray may be contacted at the following address: P. O. Box 203305, New Haven, CT 06520.

## ***U OF I SHORT COURSE REMINDER***

Lest anyone should forget, now is the time to register for the Bees and Beekeeping Short Course to be held at the University of Illinois July 29-30. Registration may be completed by phone and complete details may also be obtained by phone by dialing (217) 333-2910. Details also may be found in the last issue of the *ISBA Bulletin*.

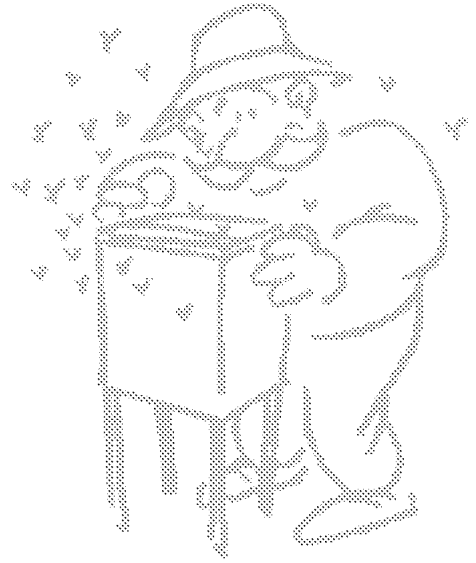
If you have misplaced or pitched your last issue of the *ISBA Bulletin*, you should note that back issues for 2000 may be obtained from the ISBA web site at the following URL: <<http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wening/ISBA/ISBA.html>>. Please note this address is case sensitive. The site received over 200 "hits" during the past month.

# ISBA Summer Meeting

Saturday, June 24, 2000

Hosted by Little Egypt Beekeepers' Association

Wayne County Fairgrounds  
in the FLORAL HALL  
Fairfield, Illinois  
[Route 15 west]



## Tentative Agenda

- 8:45 - 9:15 Registration -- \$2.00 per person  
[coffee & treats, displays, selling of raffle tickets, etc.]
- 9:15 - 9:30 Welcome by Howard Tanner, President of the Little Egypt Association  
Opening comments by Rich Ramsey, ISBA President
- 9:30 - 10:15 Bob Holloway -- VCR on "African Artifacts"
- 10:15 - 11:00 Carl J. Wenning -- "The Best Smoker Fuels"  
[Editor of the *ISBA Bulletin* newsletter]
- 11:00 - 11:15 Break and door prizes
- 11:15 - 12:00 Kevin Jester -- "Raising Queen Bees & Packaging"  
[Jester Bee Company, West Ridge, AR]
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch [on your own]
- 1:00 - 2:00 Jan McAdams -- "Apitherapy"
- 2:00 - 2:45 Mike Kotcher -- Slides on "Native Honey Plants"  
[Forest Glen County Preserve]
- 2:45 - 3:00 Break and door prizes
- 3:00 - 4:00 Roger & Juanita Grahams -- "Products of the Hive"  
[Graham Bee Works, Morgantown, IN]
- 4:00 - 4:15 Raffle Prize
- 4:15 - 4:30 Udell Meyer -- "Varoa Mite Testing with Powdered Sugar"  
[Treasurer of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association]
-

## EDITOR'S BUZZ

I certainly hope that all ISBA members will make an effort to attend the Summer Meeting hosted by the Little Egypt Beekeepers' Association. Our hosts, Howard and Beverly Tanner, along with other members of the Little Egypt Beekeepers' Association, have worked hard to produce an interesting and informative day of events for us. Having managed last summer's ISBA meeting, I can tell you that a good attendance is greatly appreciated by the hosts. By attending, you will benefit greatly too. Yes, the driving distances to Fairfield from points across Illinois is fairly large, but you might want to take the opportunity to make a weekend vacation of it by staying over night in a motel in southern Illinois. There are lots of things to see in do in downstate Illinois, so bring the family along and make it a weekend to remember.

By the way, the latest Summer Meeting updates will be available through the ISBA web site. Don't forget to check out our web site at the following URL:

<http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/ISBA/ISBA.html>

### Driving Distances

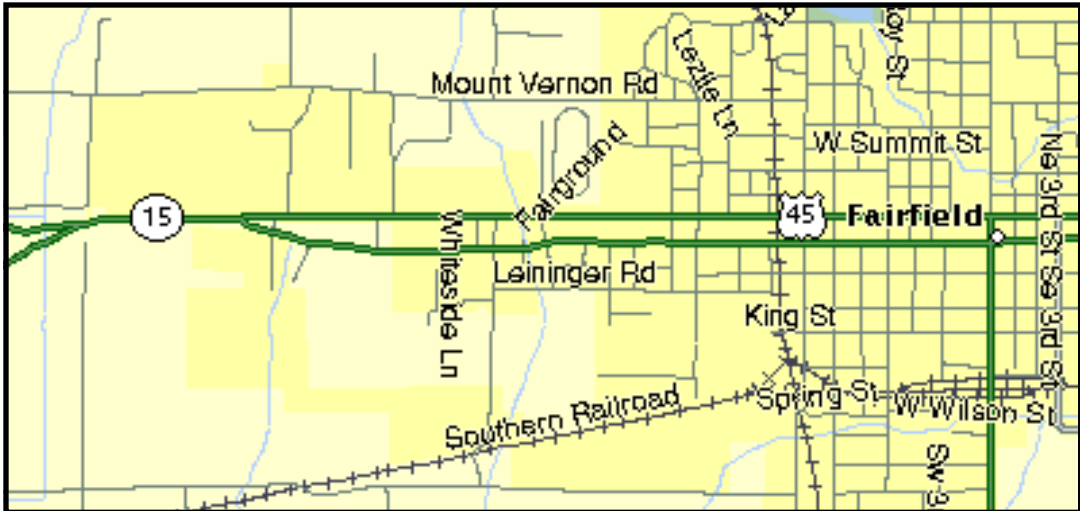
The table below gives the driving distances from selected Illinois cities to Fairfield, IL.

City	Distance
Bloomington	192 miles
Carbondale	93 miles
Champaign	147 miles
Chicago	276 miles
Edwardsville	122 miles
Galesburg	279 miles
Paris	134 miles
Peoria	230 miles
Rantoul	160 miles
Rock Island	331 miles

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For information, contact Howard or Bev Tanner via e-mail at [ffpro2@midwest.net](mailto:ffpro2@midwest.net), or by phone at (618) 842-6016 (day) or (618) 842-3386 (night).

Right: City map of Fairfield. Floral Hall is located just west of the oval track labeled "Fairground." Note that Routes 15/45 split and are one-way westbound to the north and one-way eastbound to the south.



Left: Fairfield (marked with a star) is located in southeastern Illinois not far from a variety of natural wonders. Above: A more detailed map showing towns in the vicinity of Fairfield. A number of hotels and motels are conveniently located in and near Fairfield.

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 are \$2.00 per year, **good only January 1st through December 31st each year**, and includes subscription to this newsletter. 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: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

**Reduced Journal Rates (members only)**

	<b>1 Yr.</b>	<b>2 Yr.</b>	<b>3 Yr.</b>
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$14.44	\$27.38	\$38.96
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$16.00	\$31.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	\$13.25	\$25.25	\$34.00

**ISBA Executive Board 2000**

**President**

Rich Ramsey  
5455 Ramsey Road  
Rochester, IL 62563  
217/498-9374

**Vice President**

John Hansen  
127 N. Madison Ave.  
LaGrange, IL 60525  
708/579-9498

**Secretary**

Rita Taylor  
4274 Taylor Homestead Rd.  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024  
217/626-1319

**Treasurer**

Udell Meyer  
8844 Trio Lane  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
618/633-2429

**Directors**

**Northern Region**

William Buckley  
6525 S. Western Ave.  
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514  
630/654-1867

**Central Region**

Steve Mayes  
P. O. Box 274  
Mackinaw, IL 61755  
309/359-8600

**Southern Region**

Dan Wright  
P. O. Box 83  
Kansas, IL 61933  
217/948-5353

**Editor**

Carl J. Wenning  
21 Grandview Drive  
Normal, IL 61761-4071  
309/454-4164

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER (USPS 258-600) is published bimonthly at 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024. Second Class postage paid at Pleasant Plains, IL. Membership is \$2.00 per year which includes a year subscription to this newsletter. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Illinois State Beekeepers' Association, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.



**ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION**

Rita Taylor, Secretary  
4274 Taylor Homestead Road  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024

Second Class  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 2  
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677