



## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

# BULLETIN

September/October 2000 • Volume 82, Number 5

### *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

The 2000 State Fair is history, and honey set a new record at the Sale of Champions -- \$1,000. Congratulations to Valerie Wright on her success!

The honey crop is coming in, but I have been surprised in central Illinois. What seemed like what would have been a great crop, turned out to be somewhat mediocre. If it wasn't for the black locust flow in the spring, there wouldn't be a lot of honey here. The bees filled the supers, but moved it down during the dry summer. Well, it's kinda like rooting for the Cubs. "Wait till next year!"

It's time to get mite medication on if you use it. It's good to put it on when you remove the supers. That way you can remove the used strips while the weather is still fairly warm. Please remove the strips 45 days after treatment begins.

Harvest is in full swing, so I must run. Hope you all have a bountiful honey crop, and to see you in November.

### *FALL ISBA MEETING, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11*

If you haven't already done so, mark your calendar now for the ISBA Fall Meeting. The meeting will be held in Springfield on Saturday, November 11th. Full details will be available in the next issue of the *ISBA Bulletin*. Keep your eyes on the ISBA web site for the latest information about the autumn meeting.

### *ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ISBA DISPLAY AT STATE FAIR*

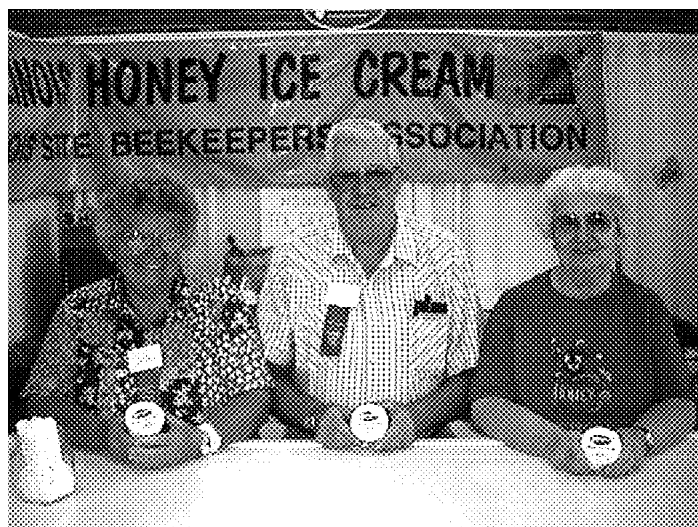
The 2000 ISBA display at the Illinois State Fair will go down in the record books as another success. Four associations put up Professional displays, and 22 beekeepers entered Open Class competition. Lots of honey ice cream was sold. A number of dedicated ISBA volunteers made the display quite a success. We thank them for their many hours of service.

Results of judging in all categories may be found as a centerfold in this edition of the *ISBA Bulletin* thanks to Rita Taylor and Norma Meyer. Here and there readers will also find pictures showing all the hard work that went into the display.

### *UPDATE ON ISBA BOARD ACTIONS*

ISBA Secretary Rita Taylor has compiled highlights of actions taken by the Board of Directors during the first six months of 2000. Note that all activities requiring payment were funded by proceeds from the annual honey ice cream sale at the Illinois State Fair.

- ISBA made a donation of \$100 to the Heart of Illinois Chapter. They are beginning a Honey Princess/Beekeeping Ambassador program to promote the beekeeping industry.
- ISBA is a member of the Council for Food and Agriculture Research (C-Far). Lincolnland chapter paid one half of the ISBA membership dues of \$250.
- ISBA had a booth at the Illinois Products Expo held at the State Fairgrounds in March. Tom Elston, Rich Ramsey, and Ken Beauchamp attended the booth, selling honey products and providing information to visitors. The Association paid \$150 for the booth.
- ISBA sent a letter requesting renewal of Coumaphos permit(s) to the Department of Agriculture.



*Rita Taylor, Udell Meyer, and Norma Meyer pose where they spent so many hours at the ISBA display during the Illinois State Fair. One might say that they just froze for this shot!*

- ISBA made a contribution of \$150 to Future Farmers of America. This organization is building a new state center in Springfield. An individual or organization contributing \$150 will have their names engraved on a brick at the new center.
- ISBA is allocating \$350 for door prizes at the ISBA Convention in Springfield on November 11th. This sum will be divided up among 14 vendors who in past years have been very generous.
- The Illinois State Fair Bee Culture Exhibit has received an additional \$1,000 for premiums.
- ISBA has voted to be part of the Department of Agriculture exhibit at the Farm Progress Show to be held near Springfield September 26 - 28. The Association paid \$100 for booth space.

### ***ISBA TO DISPLAY AT FARM PROGRESS SHOW***

The ISBA has made arrangements to set up an informational display booth at the Illinois Farm Progress Show that will be held September 26th through 28th (Tuesday through Thursday). The event takes place annually on farm sites throughout Illinois; this year it takes place in Cantrall, IL, just north of Springfield. ISBA President Rich Ramsey is making arrangements to have various association members staff the display during the three-day event. Several beekeepers were recruited at the Illinois State Fair to assist with this effort, but more help would be both fun and appreciated. If you'd like to participate in this endeavor to spread the good news about honey, honey bees, and beekeeping, give Rich a call at (217) 498-9374 or e-mail him at [rramsey@famvid.com](mailto:rramsey@famvid.com).

### ***HONEY ICE CREAM FOR SALE***

Nearly 2,000 cups of honey ice cream remain from the Bee Culture display booth at the Illinois State Fair. It appears that a new ice cream manufacturer produced more ice cream than is usual for the amount of ingredients used, and this resulted in the surplus. On the last day of the fair, August 20th, boxes of ice cream were being sold to ISBA members roughly at cost. A case of 24 cups was being sold for \$12. Ice cream will be available to ISBA members at the same price. If you would like to arrange for the purchase of honey ice cream, contact ISBA President Rich Ramsey at (217) 498-9374 or e-mail him at [rramsey@famvid.com](mailto:rramsey@famvid.com).

### ***2000 PARIS HONEYBEE FESTIVAL***

The 2000 Paris Honeybee Festival will be held at the Edgar County Fairgrounds September 22-24. This annual weekend event is presented by the Paris Honeybee Antique Association. The festival, which has a honeybee theme, welcomes beekeepers to sell their wares and display their craft. In addition, there will be a Civil War encampment, a craft market, antiques and collectibles market, demonstrations and displays of working antiques, plus much, much more.

If you sold honey at this event last year, note that there will be significant changes this year. During 2000, honey booths will be located in no special places. You may indicate booth location preference for under the grandstand, in an open building, or outside at locations throughout the fair grounds. Eight-foot tables will be

available for rent at \$5 each, if needed. There will be no charge for honey vendors this year. However, organizers are having an auction on Sunday afternoon of various items, and they would like beekeepers to donate 1 to 3 honey-related items for this auction.

Should you like to investigate this possibility for selling your apicultural products, please call Betty Smithson at (217) 466-8490 or write her at Paris Honeybee Antique Association, P. O. Box 1122, Paris, IL 61944. If you receive this information too late to be of use but you are still interested in participating in the future, please contact Betty to make certain that you are on her mailing list for next year. Notification is usually made during early August each year.

It's good to note that this year there will be a new twist at the Festival as well. The ISBA has made arrangements to set up a booth to sell honey ice cream. With nearly 2,000 cups of honey ice cream left over from the Illinois State Fair, this should provide a golden opportunity to generate a bit of income for the Association. Staffing of the booth has already been arranged, so if you happen to wander by, make certain to stop and say hello to the volunteers who are contributing so magnificently to our Association.

### ***SEPTEMBER -- NATIONAL HONEY MONTH***

(adapted from a NHP press release)

Many of the crops honey bees have a vested interest in are harvested in September, so each year it's appropriate to pay tribute to honey bees and all the work they do down on the farm! The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has once again proclaimed September as National Honey Month. Since 1987, September has been set aside to pay tribute to the hard-working honey bees, their naturally nutritious honey, and the role that bees play in the nation's farming success story.

Honey bees not only make honey, nature's sweetener, but they are also farmers of sorts, as they play a vital role in crop fertilization. Once bee scouts find a source of nectar, they relate its whereabouts to the colony by way of a "map dance." The rest of the colony then uses these directions to locate the nectar source. As honey bees pass from blossom to blossom, gathering the nectar



*Open Class display with dozens of dandy entries.*

they need to make honey, bees collect and redistribute pollen around the crop. As the pollinated seeds develop, they produce natural hormones that promote growth and flavor development. Some crops such as peaches only need one dusting of pollen to ripen well, but for most it's important that each blossom gets dusted several times to ensure a healthy and tasty fruit.

The national's migratory beekeepers work closely with farmers, and truck as many as two million beehives around the country. This is to ensure there are enough bees to effectively pollinate crops during the short flowering season. There are many fruits, nuts, and vegetables that are dependent on the honey bee for pollination — apples, blueberries, blackberries, cantaloupes, cherries, kiwifruit, melons, oranges, pears, peaches, plums, raspberries and watermelons, to name just a few.

In fact, the entire almond crop would not survive without bee pollination and apples and cherries are 90 percent reliant upon bee pollination. Vegetables such as beans, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peppers, tomatoes, squash and some varieties of peas all rely on honey bees for good quality yields.

Honey bees play a vital role in cattle and dairy farming too. Feed crops such as clover, alfalfa and legumes must be pollinated by honey bees to produce seeds needed for replanting. All this amounts to substantial savings for American farmers. In fact, a 1999 Cornell University study estimated that the dollar value of the honey bees' contribution to U.S. agriculture is over \$14 billion. The beekeeping industry is important for a strong agricultural economy, and the honey bee is important for helping the farmer put good food on our tables.

As you work to sell your honey this month, be certain to inform your customers about the good work of honey bees, and let them know about the need for beekeepers. In order to help them become beekeepers, let them know about the 4th annual beekeeping course to be presented by the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association in



Observation hive near Professional displays.

Association in Bloomington during February 2001. Complete details will be published on that Association's web site as soon as they become available. The HIBA web page can be accessed through the ISBA web site whose address may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

## NHB SEEKS HONEY RECIPES

The National Honey Board (NHB) is seeking beekeepers' favorite honey recipes for use in future promotions. The Board is sponsoring a contest open to local, state, and national beekeeping and honey associations. Each is invited to submit recipes to the contest on behalf of their members. Every association that submits a recipe is already a winner. Submitting associations will receive a honey promotion kit that contains a honey apron, honey cookbook and honey recipe brochures. These items can be used in a raffle or auction at your next association meeting or event.

The NHB will select one grand prize recipe along with the best recipe for each of these five categories:

- ❖ Appetizers
- ❖ Baked goods/desserts
- ❖ Miscellaneous (candies, jams beverages, lip balms, etc.)
- ❖ Main dishes
- ❖ Salads/side dishes

The winning recipes will be used in upcoming publicity and will be featured in the NHB's 2001 recipe cards. The association that submits the grand prize recipe will receive a gift certificate for \$300 in NHB merchandise. Associations submitting the winning recipe in each of the above categories will receive a \$150 NHB merchandise gift certificate.

Entries must be received by the NHB by September 30, 2000. They must be submitted on association stationery or in published form. The contest is open to beekeeping/honey associations only, and all association contacts should have received a descriptive brochure explaining this program. For complete rules and an entry form, contact the National Honey Board at 303-776-2337 or you can download the entry form by visiting the industry visitors' desk at [www.nhb.org](http://www.nhb.org).

## ONLINE BEEKEEPER PUBLICATIONS

Many beekeepers today have access to the Internet and the World Wide Web. With this in mind, we should all be aware of the free beekeeping publications that are either available online or electronically distributed via e-mail. Five such publications are worthy of note. To read current and past issues or to subscribe, access the following URL's:

**APIS** by Dr. Malcolm T. Sanford <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~mts/apistm/apis.htm>

**Apicultural Newsletters** by Dr. Eric Mussen <http://entomology.ucdavis.edu/faculty/mussen/news.thml>

**B-Plus** by Dr. Roger Hoopingarner <http://www.ent.msu.edu/bplus/index.html>

**Bee Tidings** by Dr. Marian Ellis <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/entomol/beekepg/beekepg.htm>

**The Bee-Line** (Maine State Beekeepers' Association) [http://www.cybertours.com/~midnitebee/html/bee-line\\_news.html](http://www.cybertours.com/~midnitebee/html/bee-line_news.html)

And, of course, don't forget to periodically check out the home page of the ISBA. The web page is frequently updated with important information, and back issues of the *ISBA Bulletin* also may be downloaded from this site. The ISBA website URL is as follows: <http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/ISBA/ISBA.html>

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

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