



## ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

# BULLETIN

May/June 2002 • Volume 84, Number 3

### *From The President*

#### **Beekeeper Education – Are You Up to the Challenge?**

When I started beekeeping in the mid-1970s, it was relatively easy to keep bees and get a bountiful crop of honey with minimal effort and knowledge of bees. Sure, American foulbrood (AFB) hit one of my hives in my third year, but I got a lot of help and guidance from Joe Sedlak, my local bee inspector. He told me what to do – burn the frames and honey, bury the debris, and scorch the inside of the hive bodies and supers. After installing new frames with foundation and a package of bees the next Spring, that hive was off and running again, free of disease. If I get a case of AFB these days, I have to treat it in the same way as I did then. Nothing has changed, except that my “local” bee inspector is now “regional”. Ah! How I long for those good old days when AFB and an occasional wax moth attack on my idle combs were my main beekeeping headaches.

Today, beekeeping has become far more challenging with the invasion of varroa mites, tracheal mites, the small hive beetles and a host of other pests and predators. Now more than ever before, beekeeper education is the key to success. It is essential that each of us learn as much as we can about bees and the pests or diseases that invade our hives. And, when the colony is invaded, we need to be able to recognize the problem early and identify the cause so it can be treated in time to save the colony or, in serious cases, save the entire apiary. Certainly, when a problem is obvious, your regional bee inspector is still available for help. But, even with expert help, the problem can be addressed more effectively when we can recognize all of the symptoms and describe them accurately.

So, I want to bring to your attention three inexpensive handbooks that can help you identify problems in your bee colonies. You might want to take a copy with you to the bee yard as a handy reference.

1. *Honey Bee Diseases and Pests* — Prepared by the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, this book is available through several of the popular bee supply catalogs for about \$5.00.

2. *Diagnosis of Honey Bee Diseases* — by Hachiro Shimanuki and David A. Knox. While supplies last, single copies can be obtained at no cost from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Write to:

Bee Research Laboratory,  
Building 476, BARC-East  
Beltsville, MD 20705

3. *Honey Bee Parasites, Pests, Predators and Diseases*—by Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. Cost is \$9.00. Order toll free, 1-877 345-0691, or write to:

Penn State Publication Distribution Dept.  
112 Ag. Admin. Bldg.  
University Park, PA 16802

Finally, I extend a hearty welcome to all new beekeepers who are getting their “feet wet” for the first time. You are embarking on one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. The more you learn about bees, the more fun you’ll have.

*John Hansen*  
ISBA President

#### **2002 TRI-STATE BEEKEEPERS MEETING A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!**

The 2002 Tri-State Beekeepers Meeting on March 8/9 has been termed a resounding success by Tim and Nick Dadant, President and Vice President respectively of Dadant and Sons, who hosted this meeting. The registration was so much greater than first expected that the conference had to be moved to handle the enormous turnout. The gathering was originally scheduled for a hotel, but later was moved into a huge shopping center store that recently had gone out of business. This was in addition to the three rooms used for break-out sessions within the hotel.

The meeting was attended on Saturday by 427 pre-registrants, including 15 Dadant employees. Some 179 conference participants were from Missouri, 150 from Illinois, 67 from Iowa, 7 from Kansas, 3 from Wisconsin, 2 from Texas, 2 from Nebraska, and one each from Oklahoma and Kentucky. In attendance at a Friday evening banquet were 275 participants.

According to Joe Graham, editor of *American Bee Journal*, “By my estimate that makes our Tri-State meeting larger than [any in] many years, [even among American Beekeeping] Federation meetings.” Without a doubt, this was the single largest beekeeping event in the Tri-State region ever.

On Saturday morning the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association's Carl Wenning lead off the meeting with *The Pro's of Sustainable Beekeeping* which was central to the meeting's theme *Sustainable Beekeeping in the Midwest*. Also presenting along these lines were Kentucky's Dr. Tom Webster and Nebraska's Dr. Marion Ellis. Both of their talks focused on dealing with mites. Four break-out sessions on Saturday afternoon featured comb honey production, cooking with honey, setting up a honey house, and making creamed honey. Complete details and pictures undoubtedly will appear in *American Bee Journal* in coming months.

This gathering constituted the summer meeting of the ISBA for 2002. It was coordinated by the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association from the central region. Know that if you missed this meeting, you missed a good one!

**ARS HONEY BEE LABS THREATENED  
WITH SHUTDOWN**

ARS Honey Bee Labs are threatened by a very significant loss of funding. Five labs are scheduled to be consolidated to one with a very significant loss of research positions. Complete details about this loss and what it will mean to beekeeping can be found in the April issue of *American Bee Journal*. The editor of this publication urges beekeepers to make their voices heard on this issue. If Illinois

beekeepers would like to write their elected Federal officials about the threatened shutdown of the ARS Honey Bee Labs, they may contact them through the following electronic means. (Please note that since the events of 9-11 the US Mail moves very slowly in Washington, DC. It is best to e-mail, phone, or fax your elected officials if you want to provide them with timely input.)

Here is the e-mail contact information for the US Senators from Illinois: Senator Richard Durbin (Democrat) [dick@durbin.senate.gov](mailto:dick@durbin.senate.gov); Senator Peter G. Fitzgerald (Republican) [Senator\\_Fitzgerald@fitzgerald.senate.gov](mailto:Senator_Fitzgerald@fitzgerald.senate.gov). Fax and phone numbers can be obtained through the Senate website at <http://www.senate.gov>. Because of the numerous State Representatives for Illinois, no specific information is provided here. Contact information for local reps (specific to town) can be found on the website of the US House of Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/writerep>.

**TIME TO UPDATE ISBA WEB SITE**

(Promotional goal for 2002:

Create a web page for all ISBA affiliates.)

The ISBE web site (<http://www.isba.ws/>) is visited hundreds of times each year by people interested in finding out more about beekeeping and purchasing local honey. To assist with this process, the ISBA web site maintains contact information for each association. It has been brought to the attention of the web master that several of these listings are now out of date. Please view this web site and examine current contact information for your association. Please verify that your association's contact information is correct by contacting the web master. Unverified information for associations will be withdrawn from the web site on May 30. If an update is needed, drop a note to the web master immediately and inform him of the necessary changes.

The web site is a good place to disseminate information in a very timely fashion. Also, it's a central location for sharing information about our statewide and local associations. If your local association has a web page, please forward the URL to Carl Wenning so that he might hyperlink your web site to that of the ISBA. If your association would like to have its own web page and is an affiliate of the ISBA but does not have a place to host it, Carl is willing to provide the service at no cost using his personal computer.

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***Beekeepers can't live in the past if they  
expect to see beekeeping with a future.***

Carl J. Wenning, 2002 Tri-State Beekeepers Meeting

If nothing else, please consider creating a very simple web page for your association during 2002 as a way to promote beekeeping and honey consumption within Illinois. A very basic web page can be created directly from a Microsoft Word document. If you don't know how to create the HTML code from within the MS Word document, just forward it to Carl and he will create the web page for you. If you have any questions, write, phone, or e-

mail Carl at today. Carl's e-mail address is [wenning@phy.ilstu.edu](mailto:wenning@phy.ilstu.edu); other contact information can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

### ILLINOIS BEEKEEPER WINS BIG AT FEDERATION MEETING

Mr. Eugene Killion of Paris, Illinois, entered the American Beekeeping Federation honey show held in January 2002 at Savannah, Georgia. Continuing a tradition began long ago by his father Carl, Gene entered and won or placed in the following divisions:

Section comb honey	1 <sup>st</sup> place
Cut comb honey	1 <sup>st</sup> place
Round comb honey	1 <sup>st</sup> place
Chunk honey	1 <sup>st</sup> place
Creamed honey	2 <sup>nd</sup> place

In 1981 Gene authored the now standard work *Honey in the Comb* which focused on comb honey production. The book is available from Dadant and Sons of Hamilton, IL. Gene received several trophies and ribbons for his accomplishments. Way to go, Gene!

### 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HIBA BEEKEEPING COURSE SLATED FOR MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>

The Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association will present their fifth annual Beekeeping Course on Saturday, May 11, 2002. The course will be held at the McLean County Farm Bureau Building in Bloomington, IL. The all-day course is designed to help members of the general public become involved in beekeeping, and will provide the basic information and skills necessary to do so. *The course is also suitable for novice beekeepers seeking to improve their beekeeping knowledge.*

The course will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is a \$25 materials fee per household, and pre-registration is required. Registrants receive the book *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by C.P. Dadant (or similar), as well as numerous handouts.

The course will focus on four main themes: the honey bee colony, beekeeping equipment, managing a colony, and getting started in beekeeping. Participants will assist in the assembly of a beehive — from bottom board to telescoping cover. The finished hive, along with many other items, will be given away in a door prize drawing at the end of the day.

For additional course information, contact course coordinator Rebecca Wenning by phone at (309) 454-4164; you may also e-mail her at [rebecca1985@starmedia.com](mailto:rebecca1985@starmedia.com). To pre-register, send the names of all participants from your household who will be attending, your mailing address, phone number, and a check for \$25 made payable to HIBA and send to Rebecca E. Wenning, 21 Grandview Dr., Normal, IL 61761-4071. Pre-registration deadline is April 30, 2002, though additional registrants will be accepted after this date if sufficient materials are available. Confirmation,

map, and agenda will be sent by return mail after the deadline date.

Complete information, including location, tentative agenda and detailed outline may be found on the HIBA Web site at the following URL: <http://www.hiba.ws/>. Because most of the 200 prospective beekeepers who attended the beekeeping courses in previous years have heard about the program from active beekeepers, readers are asked to spread information about the availability of this course far and wide.

### HEARTLAND APICULTURAL SOCIETY HOSTS FIRST CONFERENCE

July 11 – 13, 2002  
Goshen College, Goshen Indiana

A regional beekeeping society is in the works. Under the leadership of Tom Webster and Greg Hunt, the central states region is attempting to organize a regional association similar to the Eastern and Western Apicultural Societies.

The Heartland Beekeepers Association will initiate itself at its first conference on the beautiful campus of Goshen College, just southeast of Elkhart, Indiana. Plans are now being made for three days of beekeeping education and fun. All beekeepers and prospective beekeepers are invited to attend.

Speakers and workshop leaders include the following: Dr. Dewey Caron, University of Delaware; Dr. Greg Hunt, Purdue University; Dr. Jim Tew, Ohio State University; Dr. Zachary Huang, Michigan State University; Dr. Ernesto Guzman, Mexico; Dr. John Skinner, University of Tennessee; Dr. Tom Webster, Kentucky State University; Miguel Arechavaleta, Purdue University; Kathleen Prough, Indiana Apiary Inspector; and Phil Craft, Kentucky Apiary Inspector.

The tentative program includes presentations, demonstrations, and talks on over 40 topics for beginning and experienced beekeepers. A few of these topics are: Seasonal Management; New Ideas in Varroa Mite Control; Honey Basics; Making Increase with Nucs and Divides; Queen Rearing for Beginners; Essentials of Using Bees for Crop Pollination; Queen Introduction Techniques; Beeswax Product Workshop; Honey House Essentials; and How to Advise Beekeeping Projects in Developing Countries.

Registration will be \$45 for the 3-day event, or \$20 per day (meals and lodging not included). Registration begins May 1, 2002. See the Association's web site at [www.heartlandbees.com](http://www.heartlandbees.com). Additional information will be found in future issues of *American Bee Journal*.

Join in as this new Society is formulated. Themes of the Society will include, but will not be limited to, education and profitability, discussion and collaboration on regional beekeeping concerns, Master Beekeeper program, and regular conferences. See the H.B.A. website for the latest information.



Membership in the Illinois State Beekeepers Association is open to all persons interested in bees and beekeeping. Beekeepers are urged to join through their local associations. Dues for 2002 are \$6 for the calendar year, **January 1 through December 31 only**. Dues include a subscription to this newsletter, the *ISBA Bulletin*. Beekeeping journals are available at about 25% discount to members as listed below; rates are subject to change without prior notice. **Make checks payable to:** Illinois State Beekeepers' Association and mail to: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

**Please indicate new or renewal subscription when ordering journals.**

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Send old and new address six weeks prior to date of change when practical to: Rita Taylor, Secretary, 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

**Reduced Journal Rates for 2002 (members only)**

	<b>1 Yr.</b>	<b>2 Yr.</b>	<b>3 Yr.</b>
<i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$15.70	\$29.88	\$42.15
<i>Bee Culture</i>	\$17.00	\$32.00	N/A
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	<b>\$13.25</b>	<b>\$25.25</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>

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