



BULLETIN

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking Ahead In 2004

Here we are beginning a new year. I find it hard to believe how quickly the months and years have been flying by. Once again, it's time to firm plans for the next twelve months. We have some exciting events in the works. I've summarized some of them in the box on this page.

On Wednesday, February 11, ISBA members are invited to attend the **2004 Southern Illinois Vegetable School**, sponsored by the UI Extension Service. The school will be held at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Vernon from 8:00am to 4:00pm. UI Extension Educator, Mark Hoard, and UI Research Specialist Stu Jacobson will conduct a Beekeeping and Pollination Workshop from 9:00-11:45am. Pre-registration is \$20.00; at the door, \$25.00. Call the Edwardsville Extension Center at the number shown, for complete details.

This year, the **ISBA Spring/Summer meeting** will be held on Saturday, June 26, and will be hosted by the Northern Region. Place, time and program will be announced as plans develop. Be assured the program will cover a variety of topics by expert speakers.

Less than two weeks later, July 8 through July 10, we'll be traveling to Cumberland College in Lebanon, Tennessee to attend the **Third Annual Convention of the Heartland Apiculture Society**. ISBA helped found the eight-state regional organization three years ago under the leadership of Dr. Tom Webster of Kentucky State University. I urge everyone who can attend this conference to do so, as it offers an excellent learning opportunity for experienced and beginning beekeepers alike. We'll keep you posted as plans become finalized.

I also urge individual beekeepers to enter the Open Class honey competition at the **Illinois State Fair** in August. Prize money is awarded for each category. We'll publish the various honey categories and details in a later Bulletin.

Finally, please mark your calendar for our **ISBA Annual Fall Convention** on November 13. The Convention always offers a great opportunity to keep up-

to-date on important Illinois beekeeping issues, exchange ideas with your fellow beekeepers and renew old friendships.

Now, I urge you to read Steve Chard's report that follows immediately on Page 2. Part of Steve's report concerns the new U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rules aimed to protect the U.S. food supply from bioterrorism. The rules stem from The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, and affect some beekeepers. As I understand it, beekeepers that "process" honey for sale to packers and retail consumers through stores must register with the FDA. Steve explains it more thoroughly.

That's all for now. May your honey harvest be bountiful and your pestilence minimal.

John Hansen,
ISBA President

Some Coming Events in 2004

- Feb. 11** Southern Illinois Vegetable School
Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn, 8am-4pm
Info: Extension Center 618 692-9434
- June 26** ISBA Spring/Summer Meeting
Hosted by Northern Region
Info: ISBA Bulletin and www.isba.ws
- July 8-10** HAS Third Annual Convention
Cumberland College, Lebanon, TN
Info: www.heartlandbees.com
- Aug.13-22** Illinois State Fair, Honey Exhibit
Info: ISBA Bulletin and www.isba.ws
- Nov. 13** ISBA Annual Fall Convention
State Fair Grounds, Springfield, IL
Info: ISBA Bulletin and www.isba.ws

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

By *Steve Chard*,
Chief Apiary Inspector, IDOA

I believe that those of you who attended the Illinois State Beekeepers Annual Fall Meeting, November 8, 2003 at the Illinois Department of Agriculture Building had a great experience. The meeting was excellent and a significant amount of useful information was presented. For those of you who couldn't be there, I highly recommend that you mark your calendar for the 2004 annual fall meeting. I guarantee it will be worth your time.

A little more than a day following the fall annual meeting, my father passed away due to a car-truck accident. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for your cards, thoughtful words and overall support. Your generosity meant so very much to my family and I during this difficult period.

USEPA Approval Requested

By the time you read this newsletter, the Department should have received approval from the USEPA for Checkmite+ Bee Hive Pest Control Strips to be sold and used in Illinois for combating varroa mites and small hive beetle during 2004. The Department must file annually for this emergency approval with the USEPA. In a month or so, the Department will send another filing to the USEPA for Api Life VAR to be sold and used in Illinois for varroa mite control for 2004. As is the case with Checkmite+, the Department must file with USEPA annually to gain approval for the use of Api Life VAR in Illinois under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

New FDA Requirement

I have just learned of a new U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirement that can have an impact on some of Illinois' beekeepers. According to The Public Health, Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, all domestic or foreign facilities that manufacture, **process**, pack, distribute, receive or hold food for consumption by humans or animals must register their facility with the FDA by December 12, 2003. Registration is free. The purpose of the registration and associated record-keeping process is to assist FDA in tracking food that may have been contaminated by a terrorist event.

Now, how does this requirement relate to beekeeping? Apparently, under the Act, the extraction of honey is considered to be food "**processing**". Hence, the

FDA wants certain beekeepers to register their facility and to maintain associated records.

FDA Contacted

Not being satisfied with the general information I had read concerning which specific beekeepers would be exempt from the registration process and which ones would have to register, I elected to contact FDA directly in Chicago. During my discussion with FDA, I received the following guidance:

1. If you are a beekeeper who consumes all surplus honey from his or her hives, or sells harvested honey at a roadside stand/farmer's market/food festival/etc., **you don't need to register with FDA.**
2. If you are a beekeeper who sells honey to a packer or to a grocery store, **then you are required to register with FDA.**

To learn more about the registration process and to obtain the necessary forms, I recommend that you contact the FDA at 1-800/216-7331 or 301/575-0156 for more information. You can also contact the FDA through the internet at: <http://www.access.fda.gov/> Registration was supposed to be completed by December 12, 2003, but I understand that FDA is very flexible on when the completed registration forms are submitted.

Certainly, the process to notify all interested parties about registration and record keeping procedures has not been the best. I stumbled onto this requirement by scanning the National Honey Board's web page one day. I know of only one beekeeper who has been contacted by FDA on this program. It is indeed frustrating that the Illinois State Beekeepers Association and the Illinois Department of Agriculture were not apprised of this new program long before now. Both the ISBA and the IDOA will do our best to stay on top of this development.

Apiary Inspector Needed

The Department continues to search for a person who is willing to serve as a Department Apiary Inspector to work in the counties of Calhoun, Pike, Brown, Adams, Schuyler, Hancock, McDonough, Fulton, Henderson, Warren, Mercer and Rock Island for 2004. If you are interested in this position or know of anyone who may be interested, please contact Steve Chard at 217/785-4233. We believe it's critical to fill this vacancy in order to provide the best possible service to the Apiary Industry.

Here's hoping that your bees are doing well this winter and we at the Illinois Department of Agriculture wish you a Happy New Year!

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Illinois Department of Agriculture

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SECRETARY'S REPORT
ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

112th State Convention Minutes
Saturday, November 8, 2003
Illinois State Fairgrounds, Agriculture Building
Springfield, Illinois

President John Hansen called the 112th Convention of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association to order at 9:05 a.m. President Hansen welcomed the attendees and made several remarks of honey crops, prices, and the shortage of honey.

President Hansen called for the Secretary's Report. **Secretary Rita Taylor** reported all members had received the Minutes of the 111th Convention via the State Beekeepers' Association bulletin. Secretary Taylor read the expenses and membership for the period of November 1, 2002 to November 1, 2003. **The Secretary's Report was approved as read.**

President Hansen called for the Treasurer's Report. **Treasurer Udell Meyer** presented his report of income and expenditures of the Association for November 1, 2002 to November 1, 2003. A question concerning sales tax was asked to which Treasurer Meyer responded. **Bill Buckley motioned the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read. Earl Lutz seconded the motion. All votes aye. The Treasurer's Report was approved.**

Ken Haller, Northern Director, presented a "sales pitch" for the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association T-shirts and long-sleeve dress-up shirts.

President Hansen introduced our **Chief Apiary Inspector, Steve Chard**. Mr. Chard began his report with the conditions and treatments of the small hive beetle. He stated that **Api-Life-Var** has been approved for use in Illinois for varroa mites. AFB is becoming a big concern in the north and west part of the state. Mr. Chard also elaborated on moving permits and recommended only registered chemicals be used

Ken Haller, Chairman of the **Beekeeper of the Year Award**, which was reinstated this year, introduced the 2003 recipient, **Charles Lorence** of Aurora, Illinois, member of the Cook DuPage Beekeepers' Association. Mr. Lorence retired from teaching after 32 years, taught a beekeeping class for 25 years, served as President and Director of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association, bee inspector, active in Cook DuPage Beekeepers' Association, represents the State Beekeepers' Association in the American Beekeeping Federation, and is a very successful beekeeper. **Mr. Lorence graciously accepted the plaque** presented by the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association.

Break – Door Prizes/Meeting Resumed at 11:00 a.m.

President Hansen introduced the keynote speaker, **Robin John Mountain**, Apiculture Extension Associate, Kentucky State University, - Topic: **"Raising and Installing Local Queens"**.

In raising queens, climate is very important. Mr. Mountain included the following statements: Ask suppliers what they do or do not do about breeding for tracheal mite resistance; Buy bees from your geographic region; What is being spread by bees with undesirable traits; and The African bee in California is moving in on the largest queen breeders. Kentucky acquired the small hive beetle by a beekeeper moving honey supers to be extracted. Certain queen breeders are using honey in queen cages spreading AFB. **Virtually every disease or pest known to bees has been spread by beekeepers.** Mr. Mountain recommends keeping records of gentle hives, best producers, good brood pattern, and strongest hives after winter. He suggested attending classes, meetings and queen raising classes. Also, to encourage one another and remember timing is most important in raising queens.

Lunch Served / Meeting Resumed at 1:00 p.m. with Door Prizes

In his second session, **Mr. Mountain** spoke on, **"Beekeeping in South Africa as a Second-Generation**

Commercial Beekeeper”. He speaks five languages. His presentation included the climate, customs and methods of keeping bees and honey sources. Mr. Mountain closed with the age-old adage of, “If a job is worth doing, then it is worth doing it well!” Do you know who designed the Mountain beekeeper suit? -- Mr. Mountain’s wife.

Next, **Charles Lorence** was introduced. He and his wife, Karen, had taken a very interesting trip to **New Zealand and Australia**. Mr. Lorence showed slides of the entire journey indicating shops, extracting plants, flowers, mountain ranges and other scenery.

As President Hansen had to depart the meeting, Bill Buckley took the helm and introduced the **Nomination and Election Committee of Jill Mayes and Ken Haller**. Ms. Mayes conducted the election and asked for nominations from the floor for **President**. John Hansen was nominated. Three calls were heard. With no other nominations, **John Hansen was unanimously elected President**.

Ms. Mayes called for nominations for **Vice President**. Bill Buckley was nominated and three calls were heard for nominations. With none being heard, **Bill Buckley was unanimously elected Vice President**.

Ms. Mayes called for nominations for **Secretary**. Rita Taylor was nominated and three calls were heard for nominations. With none being heard, **Rita Taylor was unanimously elected Secretary**.

Ms. Mayes called for nominations for **Treasurer**. Udell Meyer was nominated and three calls were heard for nominations. With none being heard, **Udell Meyer was unanimously elected Treasurer**.

Ms. Mayes called for nominations for Southern Director. Raymond Chapman was nominated and three calls were heard for nominations. With none being heard, **Raymond Chapman was unanimously elected Southern Director**.

With all officers duly elected, **Earl Lutz** was asked to install each officer to their respective office. Vice-President Bill Buckley thanked Steve Chard and Rich Ramsey for the arrangements they made for this meeting. With no further business, **Vice-President Bill Buckley adjourned the 112th Illinois State Beekeepers’ Association Convention at 3:40 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita C. Taylor, Secretary
Illinois State Beekeepers Association

SECRETARY OFFICE EXPENSES

November 1, 2003

November 1, 2002 to November 1, 2003

Expenses:

Postage on <i>ISBA Bulletin</i> (7 issues)	\$995.21
Postage Stamps	74.00
Postage on Returned <i>ISBA Bulletin</i>	18.30
Copying (Letterhead, Handouts, etc.)	30.64
Postage on Mailing T-Shirts	7.80
Telephone	61.16
String for <i>ISBA Bulletin</i>	15.00

Total Expenses \$1,202.11

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita C. Taylor, Secretary
Illinois State Beekeepers Association

MEMBERSHIP DUES REPORT

November 1, 2003

November 1, 220 to November 1, 2003

ISBA Chapters:

Cook-DuPage	\$870.00
Heart of Illinois	336.00
Illiana	66.00
Lake County	144.00
Lincolnland	198.00
Little Egypt	48.00
Mississippi Valley	90.00
Northern Illinois	204.00
St. Clair	210.00
Spoon River	72.00
Stateline	180.00
Membership at Large	308.00

Total Membership \$2,726.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita C. Taylor, Secretary
Illinois State Beekeepers Association

Illinois Beekeeper Stats

At the end of Fiscal Year 2003 (July), 1,117 registered beekeepers were managing 18,649 colonies in 1,926 apiaries.

Jo Daviess County has the highest number of colonies with 2,123; Hardin County has the least, with 1.

