

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

March/April 2006 • Volume 88 Number 2

New natural treatment kills varroa resistant to other treatments

News Release—5 January 2006. American beekeepers now have a new treatment in their fight against varroa. Vita (Europe) Ltd has just received US approval for Apiguard®, an easily applied, herbal-based, anti-varroa treatment that is already proving highly effective in the fight against the mite in many countries across the globe.

Apiguard is easy to apply, is entirely safe for users, consumers and bees and leaves no harmful residues. It is an ideal component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program which is essential to control the development of mites that inevitably become resistant to any single treatment regime. Apiguard also helps to control tracheal mites and chalkbrood.

"We have watched with growing concern the damage that varroa resistant to pyrethroids and coumaphos is causing to the United States beekeeping industry," said Dr Max Watkins, Technical Director of Vita (Europe) Ltd. "Apiguard, our new naturally based product, has been thoroughly tested and is already proving to be very effective in regions as diverse as Western Europe, the Middle East, Mexico and New Zealand."

Pollination in America has been severely affected by the decimation of honeybee colonies this year. The Californian almond crop in particular has been particularly badly hit. California supplies 80% of the world's almonds, but this year the lack of honeybee pollinators was a major factor in an the 18% fall in almond production. For the forthcoming season, bees are expected in be in even shorter supply - with corresponding increases in the price for pollinating colonies.

Dan Cummings, Director of the US Almond Board, said: "We need 1.4 million bee colonies - that's approximately half of the total number of colonies in the US - to pollinate California's almond crop. These colonies are becoming increasingly hard to find and in 2005 we heard about colony losses of between 10% and 50% across the country. We are therefore delighted that Apiguard has been officially approved for use in the USA."

Apiguard is a sophisticated slow release gel that ensures the correct dosage of the active ingredient, thymol, a naturally occurring substance derived from thyme,

the well-known herb. It is extremely easy to apply. A small opened tray of Apiguard is placed on top of brood frames in the hive and replaced with a second tray when its contents have evaporated (usually after ten days). Bees' normal social behavior (feeding exchange and cleaning activities) disperse the treatment throughout the colony.

Apiguard is very competitively priced and usually costs less than other existing treatments. It is ideal for use by large beefarming operations where individual hive management times must be minimized.

Apiguard has now been approved by the USA Environmental Protection Agency and by the State of Illinois. It is available for use in Illinois immediately.

Apiguard will be distributed in the USA by Dadant & Sons Inc. β



Illinois Gold strikes Red, White, and Blue at American Beekeeping Federation Convention. More photos on Page 3.

Presidential Thoughts

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It is with excitement and anticipation that I peer into the summer of 2006. I hope you share my enthusiasm. Personally, 2005 was a difficult year in beekeeping. Presumably the drought of last summer significantly affected my honey crop. In contrast, 2004 was a banner year for both quantity and quality. As fate would have it, a banner year was not succeeded with another record setting crop. If there is reason behind all happenings, this past summer was a humbling one for me.

Across the state of Illinois these results were not typical. News from many of you has shown that there were many inconsistencies last summer. Some had excellent crops while others experienced similar results to my own.

As you plan your management year please join me in viewing 2006 as a year of welcoming and embracing change. As beekeepers, we face the same pressures as our fellow fruit and vegetable farmers. Although most of our ISBA members are hobbyists and sideliners, we still are hard-core advocates of our products, livestock and management practices. With this in mind, our passion for beekeeping has and continues to be threatened by:

- ⇒ Climate change
- ⇒ Continued influx of exotic pests and diseases
- ⇒ Increasing resistance of pests and diseases to our treatments
- ⇒ Decreasing numbers of beekeepers

While these challenges are not new to 2006, I would encourage each of you to look at 2006 in a slightly new light. Join me this year in vowing to increase your awareness of these issues and coming along side your 2006 Board of Directors in bringing these challenges from the headlines and into your day to day operations.

If you have not read a beekeeping periodical in a while, begin again. These journals contain many up-to-date articles on the latest and greatest in beekeeping. If you have not attended a club meeting in a while, join us this summer at the annual ISBA summer

meeting and please support your local affiliate associations. These organizations discuss timely topics and are of huge value in increasing your beekeeping skills. Invite a friend to join you at a club meeting. If each of us do this and only 10% become beekeepers, we are looking at hundreds of new beekeepers!

Join me in 2006 and cheers to a great beekeeping year!β

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard
Illinois Department of Agriculture

Greetings. In my last report, I mentioned that a new product, "Tylan®", is now available for use in controlling American foulbrood. However, at that point, we didn't have the names of any suppliers for the product. Since then, we have found that Tylan® can be purchased through Dadant & Sons, Inc.

Two new products are now commercially available to beekeepers for combating varroa mites in honeybee colonies. APIGUARD®, which is a thymol based product, and Mite-Away II™ (formic acid) are products that can be purchased through Dadant. It's great to see that the arsenal of products available for controlling varroa mites is expanding. However, it's critical that beekeepers specifically follow label instructions when using these products. Otherwise, varroa mite resistance may develop and of course, no one wants chemical residues to carry over into honey. Penalties for label violations can also be levied by the Department.

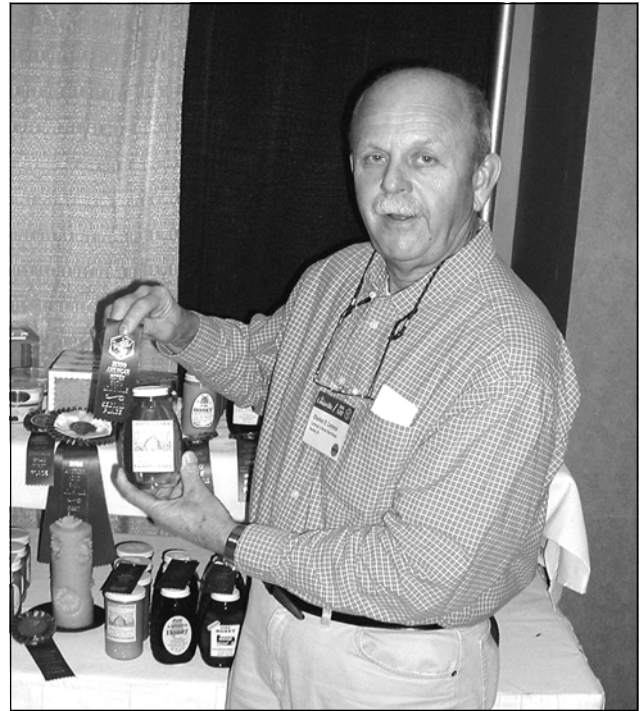
The beginning of inspection season will soon be upon us. If you are interested in an inspection from the Department, feel free to contact me or one of our Apiary Inspectors listed on our Department website. The inspections will continue to be done free of charge and we very much look forward to working with you again this year.

For those of you who did not recently renew your apiary registration with the Department, a second notice should have arrived at your door by now. As discussed in my last report, it's very important that you register your colonies with the Department. Registration is required by the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act and it's essential that the Department be in possession of that information in case there is a major pest or disease breakout. Thanks again for your cooperation.β

Illinois at the ABF Convention January 10-14, 2006

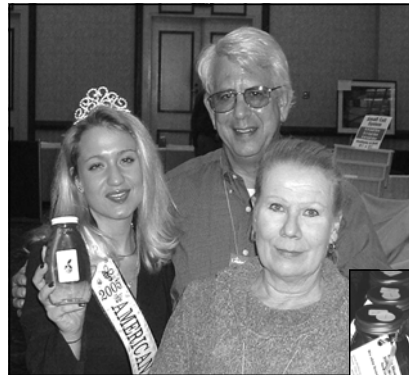


A long-time member of the Illinois beekeeping community, Gene Killion, received the American Beekeeping Federation's distinguished Presidential Award for Outstanding Service to the beekeeping community.



Above: Chuck Lorenze, Aurora, sports his second place ribbon, one of three of Chuck's entries that placed in the competition.

Below: Jim and Karen Belli of Wadsworth with the American Honey Princess. The Bellis earned three blue ribbons for their competition entries.



Thanks to Ron Fischer for the photographs

WORLD APITHERAPY DAY

- A CELEBRATION OF THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF BEE PRODUCTS -

First annual event marks birth of scientist who studied bee venom

March 30, 2006, will mark the first annual celebration of "World Apitherapy Day," an event designed to enhance international understanding of the therapeutic use and health benefits of bee products. For more information visit www.worldapitherapyday.org.

Apitherapy is the use of bee hive products such as honey, propolis, bee-collected pollen, beeswax, drone larvae extract, bee venom, and royal jelly to maintain good health and in the treatment of a variety of medical conditions.

The use of bee products as "green medicine" is growing worldwide. A recently-concluded program in Cuba, sponsored by the Apitherapy Commission of Apimondia, trained 600 medical personnel to treat conditions such as antibiotic-resistant infections, septicemia and burns. (Apimondia is the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations.) A similar program, co-sponsored by the United Nations, is being planned in Burkina Faso.

"Bee hive products offer tremendous benefits to developing nations in need of low-cost, indigenous and self-sustaining health care systems," said Dr. Moisés Asís, one of the international coordinators of Bees for Life - World Apitherapy Network Inc. (<http://beesforlife.org/>)

Moisés said March 30 was chosen for the first annual World Apitherapy Day because it is the birth date of Dr. Philipp Terc the first scientific researcher to investigate the medical uses of "apitoxin," or bee venom. Terc was born on March 30, 1844, in Praporiste, Czech Republic.

Terc's home town is also near Passau, Germany, the location of the upcoming 4th German Congress and Workshop on Apitherapy (March 24-29, 2006). Participants in that event will visit Praporiste to meet Czech beekeepers and apitherapists.

Dr. Stefan Stangaciu, a specialist in family medicine and president of the German Apitherapy Society, is the main presenter at the Apitherapy conference in Passau. Stangaciu has presented scientific papers on Apitherapy at more than 100 conferences, seminars and workshops in 34 countries.

Products promoting World Apitherapy Day are available at: www.cafepress.com/apitherapy (All proceeds will go to the World Apitherapy Network.)

The latest news and information about Apitherapy is available at Apitherapy News: www.apitherapy.blogspot.com

In August, Apitherapy researchers from around the world will gather at the 1st International Conference on the Medicinal Use of Honey in Malaysia. (More information at <http://www.honey2006.kk.usm.my/>). β

Are you Registered? You should be...

The Editor's thoughts

Just do it!

Illinois beekeepers are required to register their bee yards and colonies. This law first came into being in an era when American Foul Brood disease was rampant and without treatment. When a colony was found with AFB the entire apiary was destroyed to stem the spread of this every contagious disease. It was in a time before terramycin was used to prevent the dreaded disease from rearing its ugly head. But times have changed.

Today the law still exists, but the fear of seeing the bee inspector—matches in hand—drive up no longer exists. AFB still occurs, but the conscientious

beekeeper can greatly limit the risk. Today's registration allows the Department of Agriculture to provide insightful guidance about the prevalence of the many pests with which the beekeeper needs to deal.

Beyond this, registration allows the DOA to oversee the motion of bee between counties as well as in and out of the state. It was interstate bee shipments that brought us varroa and small hive beetles.

The bottom line... It is in all our best interest to register our bee yards. Experience leads most beekeepers to realize that DOA is not Big Brother and that we are all the better for their efforts.β

Honey Shines in Athletic Research - Has Scientific Community Abuzz



EAS conference begins July 31

The Eastern Apicultural Society will hold its annual convention and conduct its 51st short course from July 31 to August 4, 2006 in Athens, Georgia. Organizers expect 400 beekeepers to attend the event that will include a hog roast and a costume ball. Now that is going to be hard to beat!



Information at
www.easternapiculture.org. β

A Sweet Stop

Do you travel to our northern neighbor, Wisconsin? If you do, you deserve a delightful stop at the Honey Museum. On Route 67, a short trip west of Milwaukee, in the town of Ashippun the Diehnelt family maintain a beautiful, private museum dedicated to the past and present of the honey bee.

In 1852, C. F. Diehnelt immigrated from Germany and set about making a new home using his talents as a beekeeper. In 2005 the sixth generation of the Diehnelt family now reported for work with the bees.

It is worth the stop... even worth the trip. β

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 2006 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 the association secretary.

Reduced Journal Rates for 2006 (*members only*)

| | 1 yr | 2 yr | 3 yr |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| American Bee Journal | 17.96 | 34.05 | 47.89 |
| Bee Culture | 19.00 | 36.00 | N/A |
| The Speedy Bee | 13.25 | 25.25 | 34.00 |

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The Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin (USPS 258-600) is published bimonthly at 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024. Membership is \$6.00 per year that includes a one-year subscription to the Bulletin

POSTMASTER: Send address Corrections to Illinois State Beekeepers Association 42 74 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

Periodical



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- ⇒ *Apiguard is here!*
- ⇒ *ABF photos*
- ⇒ *Honey and athletics*