

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN

May/June 2006 • Volume 88 Number 3

### Beekeeping Ban May Be Thwarted In Evanston ISBA Plays Major Role

John Hansen

It all started about April 18<sup>th</sup> when Gabriel Jacobs, a 14-year old anxiously awaiting his package of bees after studying beekeeping for a year, was assembling his hive boxes in his backyard. Noticing Gabriel's construction project, his next-door neighbor, Dolan McMillan, asked him what he was building. When Gabriel told him he was planning to raise bees, nothing seemed out of the ordinary until Gabriel's mother, Susan Dickman, received a phone call from a City of Evanston official notifying her that they had received a complaint from Mr. McMillan, who ... "did not want bees in his back yard."

Soon, Susan was also notified that the City's Director of Human Services, Jay Terry, proposed a ban on beekeeping and that a hearing was set for May 1<sup>st</sup> before the Human Services Committee. Now in "panic mode", Susan, an active teacher and mother of three, quickly got on the Internet to get some help. It didn't take her long to call the IDOA and ISBA. Phone calls and emails flew wildly for the following week, nearly up to the time of the hearing. Two days before the hearing, President Ken Haller was interviewed on WGN radio's "Garden Talk" show about the proposed ban and upcoming hearing.

On the night of the hearing all fifty chairs in the hearing room were filled, leaving a few people standing in the back. Seated in front were the Committee, made up of five aldermen and Director Terry. Cool heads prevailed. With his wife and a neighbor seated nearby, and armed with a

laptop and Power Point, Mr. McMillan gave a well thought-out presentation, showing some very definitive beekeeping pictures taken off the Internet. His pictures were so good that it seemed he was presenting a case in favor of beekeeping, but the text of his message was clearly opposed. His concerns were for his young dog, family and visitors to his home, who might get stung. He also was concerned with swarms.

Next, Susan and her son presented their case. Susan had studied beekeeping with Gabriel and gave a convincing argument of why keeping bees is safe. Gabriel displayed a drawing of his back yard and where the bees could be placed where they would not be a hazard to anyone. Ken Haller spoke next, acknowledging that McMillan's concerns were valid offering ISBA's support to him, Susan, and Gabriel. Haller also pointed out that bees are docile and not a threat. John Hansen emphasized the safety of bees pointing out bees are kept on the roof garden of the Chicago City Hall and in such parks as Lincoln Park Zoo, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago Botanical Gardens and North Park Village Nature Center.

Beekeepers Bill Buckley and Joe Koller, who keeps bees in North Park Village near Evanston, strengthened the argument against a beekeeping ban with Skip Pronger, Ric Andorf, Jane Koller and other beekeepers lending their support. In all, nineteen people spoke, the majority of them being Evanston Residents. Two of the beekeepers

*(Continued on page 2)*

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who spoke were Evanston residents, one kept her bees in Evanston, the other did not. Among other presenters against the ban were at least two gardeners, one a professional organic gardener, and other residents concerned about any decline of Evanston's ecology. At least two residents who lived in the Dickman's neighborhood were strongly opposed to beekeeping, citing the same fears as the McMillan's. Of the nineteen people who spoke, the vast majority were for beekeeping and against the ban. But all of this was not enough. The Committee decided it did not have enough information to make a decision and McMillan remained opposed to the bees. But all is not lost, Mr. Terry asked to confer further with Ken Haller, and one of the alderman, Mr. Bronstein, asked the Evanston resident who keeps bees if he could visit her apiary to learn more about it. Meanwhile, what will Gabriel do when his package arrives but he will not yet be allowed to install them in his backyard hive. Stay tuned.β

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Do you know of any plans to restrict beekeeping? If so, contact President Ken Haller. ISBA wants to be involved.

*Is Apimondia in you 2007 plans?*  
*Melbourne, Australia 9 – 14 September, 2007*

A note from  
the Apimondia Steering Committee

The Call for Abstracts has been posted on the Apimondia website which is [www.apimondia2007.com](http://www.apimondia2007.com). Go to the website then click on the "Call for Abstracts" in the menu on the left hand side.

We would encourage bee researchers and beekeepers from all around the world to consider submitting an abstract with a view to presenting a paper at Apimondia 2007. We will be looking for papers on various topics. Please note the dates for acceptance of the abstracts and also the deadline for registration by presenters.

It may seem a long way off but for those coming to Australia from overseas please visit the website and look at the Travel Information. You will need to obtain a visa to come to Australia and, except for New Zealand residents, this visa **must** be obtained before leaving home. Secure your visa early to avoid any delays.

We are pleased to announce that His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia has agreed to be the Patron for Apimondia 2007.β

## Illinois Beekeepers Swarm to Edwardsville for Summer Meeting

June 10, 2006

9am-5pm

Madison County Farm Bureau Building  
900 Hillsboro Avenue  
Edwardsville, IL

The ISBA, in association with the St. Clair Beekeepers Association, are proud to announce the ISBA annual Spring Meeting. Join your fellow Beekeepers on June 10, in Edwardsville, for a day of education and collaboration. This day will be packed with informative presentations, raffles, hands-on activities and time to catch-up and network with your fellow Beekeepers. No pre-registration needed but there will be a small registration fee on-site. For more information, see the [www.isba.us](http://www.isba.us) or call Udell Myer at 618.633.2429. We look forward to seeing you there. Please spread the news to your fellow Beekeepers and new-bees alike!

### Summary of Agenda

- ⇒ Registration—9:00am
- ⇒ Presentation by Sharon Gibbons, National Honey Board
- ⇒ Queen Rearing in Illinois Presentation
- ⇒ Afternoon Queen Rearing Workshop at Local Apiary
- ⇒ Board of Directors Meeting to Follow Workshop

## A Letter from the ISBA President

This is an exciting time to be a Beekeeper. Spring is here, our winter slumber is over, association meetings are starting up again and Honey Bee and Beekeeping stories are appearing in local and national media.

As Beekeepers we have the best of both worlds, our Springs and Summers are crazy busy but, for the most part, we enjoy a bit of rest in the Winter. With the transition into Spring, in addition to our management responsibilities we also see a wellspring of interest in Beekeeping. Local media outlets begin to print and air stories of Swarms, Bee Meetings and the benefits of Beekeeping. This media needs to turn to Beekeepers to support these stories and provide the facts. For this reason, I call each of us, "Advocates of Honey Bees and Beekeeping". Each of us has the daily opportunities to spread the news about our passion and get others involved in this Hobby, Business and Sideline. I encourage each of you to be an advocate of Illinois Beekeeping!

Your ISBA Board of Directors has been putting together a strategic plan for the future of the ISBA. We have vowed to develop two core strategies. 1) Each board member will be leading a committee that focuses

on a specific strategy. For example, Membership Services. This focus by a board member will help the ISBA to move more quickly and more efficiently towards meeting our goals and responsibilities to you, our membership. 2) I have challenged the board to "broaden its RADAR". In other words, we as an association must look to the future of Beekeeping in Illinois as well as manage the day to day responsibilities and tasks we face. This long-term, forward looking concept, will help us board members to better meet your needs as Illinois Beekeepers now and into the future.

Two remaining thoughts. Please consider your role in the ISBA. We would be honored to have your assistance on an ISBA committee. With your help, we can best and most effectively take the ISBA to new heights. Secondly, we as a Board are here to serve your needs and those of the Illinois Beekeeping sector. If you ever have an issues, concerns or comments, please send them directly to me. We look forward to serving you better!

Ken Haller, President  
Illinois State Beekeepers Association  
630.969.1800  
[vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net](mailto:vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net)

### A Real Bee Emergency From the Guardian Newspaper London, England

*April 30, 2006. When a fire hazard light flashed in the cockpit of a British Airways jumbo jet that was heading from Sydney to London two weeks ago, its pilot, Dave Meggs, knew he had only one course of action. He diverted his craft, and its complement of 350 passengers, to the nearest airport, a tiny landing strip at Uralsk in Kazakhstan.*

*His emergency touchdown was a flawless copybook affair. It was also, as it turned out, completely unnecessary. There was no fire in the hold of the plane despite sensors indicating this was the source of the raging flames. All that could be found was a package of disgruntled bees, en route from Australia to Britain, which investigators now believe was the most probable source of the heat that caused the alarm and the ensuing aviation emergency.*

*In the end it took 20 hours to ferry passengers back to London in a flotilla of smaller craft (the airstrip was too short for the jumbo to take off with its passengers on board) and all thanks to a bunch of errant insects.β*

## ISBA insurance Revisited

*At the request of the ISBA Board this article written last year by our insurance agent, Lea Sommers, is being reprinted. Clarifications follow the article.*

The policy for the Illinois State Beekeepers Association is a General Liability policy that consists of two parts, Premise Liability and Products & Completed Operations.

General Liability is \$1million protection for losses with a \$2 million aggregate. This simply means that the Illinois State Beekeepers Association is insured up to \$1 million in a given year for a single loss and a total of \$2 million in a year for all losses. Medical protection is \$5,000 per person in the event someone is injured at an ISBA sponsored event.

Premise liability covers premise exposures whenever and wherever the ISBA is conducting an exhibit. It covers the ISBA for accidental injury related to the association and for which the ISBA is negligent. Products & Completed Operations is liability protection where someone buys an ISBA product (i.e. honey) gets sick and makes a claim. Liability and medical coverages do not apply or extend to associations and their members as individuals. Coverage applies only to a third party claimant (not the insured or the insurer). This would be the person who incurs damage and/or injury and presents the ISBA with a medical bill or initiates a lawsuit.

All individual beekeepers are afforded coverage under this policy as long as they are members of the Illinois State Beekeepers Association and they are conducting an event or exhibit in conjunction with the ISBA. To engage coverage, just the fact that the ISBA was invited to do an exhibit for someone (a county fair or school for example), would cause coverage to be in effect. Many times, the party for whom the ISBA is doing an exhibit or event requires a certificate of insurance, but this is not always the case. However, for coverage to apply, it must be an activity sponsored by an association who is a member of the ISBA.

Individual members of the Illinois State

Beekeepers Association are covered only if they are doing an exhibit in conjunction with the ISBA and/or are sponsored or approved by one of the sixteen association listed on the policy. Bee yards, hives, etc. owned by individual members of the ISBA would need to be insured by that individual on his/her own policy for liability claims, vandalism, injury or any other property losses, etc.

Product liability insurance applies to each member of the ISBA as long as it is in conjunction with an ISBA event. A roadside stand or market owned, operated or rented by an individual would not be covered under this policy.

Beekeepers who are making presentations in schools and at FFA, 4-H, Scouts, Community Group Meetings, etc. are covered under this policy as long as the event is in conjunction with the ISBA.

In short, as long as an activity is sponsored and/or affiliated with any of the associations who belong to the ISBA, coverage is afforded. Each and every claim presented to COUNTRY Insurance & Financial Services by the ISBA and those associations who belong to the ISBA would be given individual consideration. The claims department based on the facts of that particular claims situation would make a determination of coverage.

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*There is a change in the procedure used by ISBA members requesting insurance certificates.*

*A) ISBA affiliate associations do not need to get pre-approval to be covered by our ISBA policy.*

*B) If you are asked for an official copy of the ISBA coverage (certificate of insurance), you may request a copy but **only if this certificate is required.** ISBA is charged \$33 for each certificate created.*

*C) Please make your certificate request through your local affiliate President or Treasurer) The President or Treasurer then is to contact Udell Myer (ISBA Treasurer).*

*E) Udell will review the request for validity of coverage and when appropriate will then inform Country Companies of the request.*

*F) When Udell is invoiced for the \$33 fee, he will in turn invoice the local ISBA affiliate.*

*Please direct any questions to ISBA President, Ken Haller, or ISBA Treasurer, Udell Myer.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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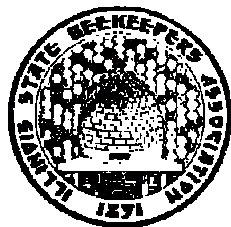
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Periodical



**ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

Rita Taylor, Secretary  
4274 Taylor Homestead Road  
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- ⇒ ISBA summer meeting
- ⇒ City considers beekeeping ban
- ⇒ State Fair time!
- ⇒ Honey wafers—a new product