

# ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## *BULLETIN*

July/August 2007 • Volume 89 Number 4

### Letter from the President

Ken Haller

President, Illinois State Beekeepers Association

Dear Fellow Beekeepers and ISBA Members,

I hope you are enjoying good health and a good harvest. It seems 2007 will be a good year for honey harvests. Although harvests vary significantly across the state and beekeeper to beekeeper, my total honey will be the best of the past three years. I hope you are experiencing similar success.

This year has thus far been an incredibly busy time with planning the Midwest Beekeeping Symposium, responding to the never ending media inquiries of CCD and the day to day responsibilities of the ISBA. I continue to be proud of our state and its Beekeeping brand across the USA. Alongside Steve Chard, his team and your ISBA Board of Directors, we truly have a strong leadership team in Illinois!

#### Colony Collapse Disorder

The media buzz around CCD continues at a fever pitch. With the daily media coverage, public interest continues to be high. Although there nothing good about CCD, the awareness it is bringing to the public has been unprecedented. I am sure you have also seen an increase of awareness from your friends and family. I am asked daily by random people how the Honey Bee is doing and what is happening with CCD research. CCD continues to provide a very rare opportunity to raise awareness of Honey Bees and Beekeeping and I hope you are maximizing this opportunity.

If you attended the Midwest Beekeeping Symposium, you heard the latest information on the situation. In short time, I will be updating the ISBA website with both the most recent media coverage as

well as research information. You can always see the latest info via the links on [www.isba.us](http://www.isba.us), in the News and Events Section. Additionally, please view our ISBA Members in the News section for the latest radio, television and newspaper articles about our ISBA members. Our members are very busy educating the media and public and this is a great way to see the coverage.

#### 2007 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium

A huge thanks to the Symposium organizing committee! If you were one of the 240 people in attendance, you know the Symposium was an excellent program. The attendee survey results showed very high ratings across the board, from the food, to the facility, presenters and topics. What a great day! We should be very proud of this event as it truly is unique across the USA. Rarely does a program of this magnitude get organized and so well attended!

#### Call for Chicago Beekeepers

Beginning Beekeeper, David Furer is looking to form a Chicago based Beekeeping Association! This group will focus on unique learnings and issues facing Beekeeping in an urban environment. If you live or keep Honey Bees within the city limits of Chicago, please contact David for more information.

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# ***APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT***

*Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture*

Greetings! We hope all is going well with your bees.

Colony Collapse Disorder continues to be on everyone's mind in the apiary industry and in some circles outside the industry. CCD also continues to draw media attention, although less now as compared to a few weeks ago. While news stories are fewer in number, the scientific community is moving forward as quickly as possible with their research to determine the cause(s) of CCD. There are many theories on the possible cause(s), but nothing conclusive at this time. In spite of what you may have heard or seen on a national map, there have been no confirmed cases of CCD in Illinois. The national surveys that have been conducted have anonymous information, with no opportunity to follow up for confirmation. Regardless, all of us are continue to be very concerned about the ailment possibly emerging in Illinois and are closely monitoring this situation. If you believe your colonies may have CCD, please contact me at 217/782-6297 or your Department Apiary Inspector so arrangements can be made for an inspection.

While CCD is a significant problem, it seems all the media attention given to it has made the public in general much more aware of the importance of honeybees to humankind. Nowadays, when I receive swarm calls, and there have been many recently, most people ask what can be done to save the bees, instead of exterminating them. That is quite a change from last year. It's good to see some positives come out of the CCD issue.

On the good news front, most of the colonies we have inspected (routine inspections and for moving permits) thus far this year have been in good to excellent condition. There have been no large concentrations of varroa mites, American foulbrood, small hive beetle or chalkbrood. Small hive beetle is now also located in Logan County, bringing the to-

tal counties statewide with small hive beetle to 15. These continue to be in isolated spots in each county. Please continue to be on the lookout for the beetle, and report suspected finds to the Department so we can confirm whether the beetle is actually present.

Some more good news to share, Eric Shahlheber is now the Department's Apiary Inspector for the northwestern Illinois district, succeeding Lynn Osborn. Eric is a United States Air Force veteran, a beekeeper, soon to be married and is anxious to work with all beekeepers in his district. If you wish to contact Eric for an inspection, he can be reached at 815/298-7168 or at [crash2usaf@msn.com](mailto:crash2usaf@msn.com) The e-mail address really gets your attention, doesn't it? In addition, the Department's Apiary Inspector's position in our southern district continues to be vacant. If you reside in that region and need an inspection, please contact me or Udell Meyer at 618/633-2429.

The Illinois State Fair is just around the corner- August 10-19. We very much look forward to seeing your entries at the ISBA booth in the Illinois Building. The folks that volunteer to set up and work the booth throughout the Fair play a very important role in spreading the beekeeping message to the public at large. The observation hive really attracts the kids and your entries fascinate kids and adults alike. My thanks go to not only the folks who work to make the State Fair display a major success, but to everyone who contributes to events across the state for raising public awareness on the importance of beekeeping. Great job!!β

**“... meet me at the fair...”**

Sure, why not do it? Visit the Illinois State Fair— August 10-19 ISBA will again have a presence at the Fair. Volunteers are needed to sell honey and talk beekeeping. It is a great experience for you and the for the family. For more information contact Ken Haller or Rita Taylor at the addresses on the back cover.β

# 2007 ISBA Annual Fall Meeting November 17, 2007

The ISBA Meetings and Events Committee is busy planning our 2007 Annual Fall Meeting. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, November 17, 2007. Once again we are honored to have the Illinois Department of Agriculture host our meeting in their Springfield Auditorium! Our keynote speaker will be University of Florida Professor and Entomologist Jamie Ellis! Please plan on joining your fellow ISBA members for this excellent meeting!β

## The Midwest Beekeeping Symposium June 9, 2007



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	18.70	35.40	49.80
Bee Culture	21.00	38.00	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

**ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION**

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- ⇒ *Comments from Steve Chard*