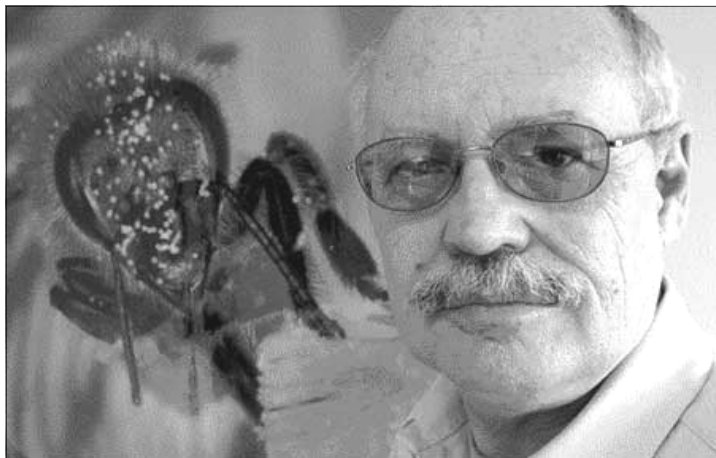


ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

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Meet Jerry Bromenshenk, bee researcher and CEO of Bee Alert Technology at the Midwest Beekeeping Symposium. Photo Michael Gallacher. β

Midwest Beekeeping Symposium

Come explore the cutting edge of beekeeping today at the June 9 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium. Sponsored by the Illinois State Beekeepers Association speakers will include Jerry Bromenshenk. Jerry is a dynamic researcher who has many interesting research credits. He has used bees to measure the environmental quality of superfund sites and is developing the use of honey bees to detect land mines in former war zones. Recently Jerry has been traveling the country gathering apiary samples in an attempt to find the cause of the Colony Collapse Disorder. Jerry will take the Symposium participants to the forefront of the honey bee world.

Dr. May Berenbaum - from the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign—will discuss the Nutraceutical Properties of Honey. “What are nutraceutical properties?” they ask. Nutraceutical is a term covering the nutritional and the pharmaceutical qualities in honey. There is a lot of folklore about the uses of honey to promote health and cure disease. May will join us with the scientist’s view of these claims.

For the newcomer to the bee world, the Symposium will offer a “basic bee” track” where the rudiments of keeping bees successfully will be discussed.

Watch for more on the Symposium in the next issue of the Bulletin.β

June 9th—*Bee There—the ISBA Spring Meeting*

The ISBA spring meeting will be combined with the Midwest Beekeeping Symposium on June 9th at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, IL. Jerry Bromenshenk, headlining bee researcher from the University of Montana will present the keynote address. Jerry has been actively involved in the mystery of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Numerous breakout sessions on subject of interest to all—beginner and old-timer alike—will be presented. Along with the beekeeping community of Illinois, beekeepers from nearby states will also be present.

Catch up on the latest research on CCD and learn the fine points of making mead. Sit in on discussions about starting in beekeeping and talk about the medical properties of honey. There are those who will attend, and there are those who will wish they had attended. Mark your calendar and *bee there*. β

Honeybee Genome Completed

The Honeybee Genome Sequencing Consortium recently announced it had finished copying out the genetic message of Honeybees. Comparisons with the fruit fly and mosquito genomes suggest that bees evolved more slowly than



Photo courtesy of USDA

either of those other insects. Some bee genes, notably the ones responsible for internal "clocks" and circadian rhythms, are more similar to mammals' genes than flies'.

Compared with other insects, honeybees have only one-third as many genes involved in recognizing and killing their microbial enemies. Overall, it appears that com-

pared with those of other insects, a bee's genome is less concerned with protecting the individual from disease and more concerned with protecting a larger organism -- the entire colony.

What is lost in the immune system is gained in the bee equivalent of the nose. *A. mellifera* has 170 genes for "odorant receptors," of which 157 are in a gene family so far found only in honeybees. This is far more smelling apparatus than either fruit flies (with 62 receptor genes) or mosquitoes (with 79) possess. It probably reflects the extreme importance of smell in helping bees find flowers and communicate with one another, including with their queen, through pheromones.

The consortium's work was done over the last three years by 150 people in 20 countries. More information is available at

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/11/05/MNGJ9M400B1.DTL&feed=rss.news> β

The honey bee is the third insect to have its genome mapped. It is preceded by the fruit fly (in 2000) and the mosquito (in 2003).

American Beekeeping Federation

Karen Lorence

Here are the winners of the ABF honey competition. Illinois was well represented. Each winning entry is auctioned and the proceeds are donated to ABF programs.

All of the classifications of liquid honey required four jars to be entered. In the water white honey category, Jim and Karen Belli placed first. The jars sold at auction for \$100 a jar, generating \$400.00 for the queen fund. Charles Lorence placed second in the water white honey category. His jars sold for \$12.50 each, generating \$50.00. In the white honey category, Charles Lorence placed third and the honey sold for \$17.50 a jar with a net proceeds of \$70.00. In the extra light amber honey category, the Bellis placed 3rd. The jars auctioned for \$17.50 a pound for a total of \$70.00. In the light amber category, the Belli honey won a blue ribbon, contributing \$100.00 to the queen fund. Charles Lorence's dark honey earned a red ribbon and gained another \$80.00 for the queen fund.

In the creamed honey category, the Bellis placed 2nd, for a total of \$100.00 in the auction. John Hansen's creamed honey did not place but, in the auction, sold for \$12.50 a jar for a total of \$50.00. Larry Dieckman exhibited a beautiful set of Ross round sections which brought a nice sum of money for the fund. The block of beeswax entered by Karen Lorence came in 1st. This 3 pound block earned \$40.00 in the sale. Charles Lorence exhibited a block of beeswax that did not place but was auctioned off for \$20.00.

Those attending the convention in Austin from the state of Illinois included Karen and Jim Belli, Lawrence DuBose, Ron Fischer, Joe Graham (editor of ABJ,) Charles and Karen Lorence, and Phil and Tim May. More involvement and attendance from Illinois beekeepers, through supporting the programs of the American Beekeeping Federation in 2007 and 2008, would be much appreciated. The next convention will be held in Sacramento, California in January of 2008.β

Visit your website—

www.isba.us

You can find the latest on the Midwest Beekeeping Symposium there.

Bee related items for sale?

List them in the Bulletin. No charge for ISBA members. Send listings and contact information to LKrengel@mc.net

A New Look At the Old Hive Cover

FRANK GORDON

ISBA member

I have been using these tops for decades. They solve the problem of moisture in the winter hive. They work great in summer. They are designed to be used without an inner cover.

I use scrap lumber I have. It measures 2-3/8" x 3/4" x various lengths. I make a 1/4" deep groove 1-1/2" down from the top in all four sides and ends because the solid insulating material I use is 3/4" thick. Two layers make it level with the top. I get it from *The Daily Journal*. It comes with film as packing.

The sides are 21-1/8" long, two needed for each top. I cut out a 1/4" deep x 3/4" on each end of the sides to receive the 3/4" lumber ends so they come out flush with the ends. The ends fit in the sides.

The front end is 17-1/4" long x 2-3/8". Remember, don't cut a notch in the ends. The logic here is 1/4" play on each side overhang and 3/8" on the front, no overhang on the back in winter. The front margin gives the bees room to drop out from the hole of their top entrance.

The back end is usually the same size only cut off 5.2 mm below the groove. That's probably 1-7/8". The width of the groove is determined by whatever thickness your plywood is that goes in the groove. I use that plywood to trim the underside so that there is a space over the frames. I cut mine in strips 1-1/8" wide for the front end and 1" wide for the two sides. That way the edges reach to the hive sides and front and reach to the inside measurements of the hive body. They come out flush with the bottom of the back end. Cut to fit after making the 1" hole I describe later.

There is no strip for the back because the 5.2 mm spacer between the bottom of the lid and the hive is part of the 1-7/8" x 17-1/4" board for the back end. There is no overhang unless pulled backward. That pulls the front up against the hive body, shutting off the hole in the lid.

The exterior plywood I use I buy at Lowe's. It is exterior grade, 5.2 mm thick x 4' x 8'.

The exact size for the bottom of the cover is 20-1/8" x 17-1/4". 1/4" on each of four sides will fit in the grooved side and end pieces. It can be cut 1/16" shorter on an end and a side to make it fit.

The top plywood should measure 21-1/8" x 18-1/4". You can custom fit each top by drawing around the assembled frame on plywood before cutting it out. I glue and nail my ends and sides, inserting the plywood bottom as I nail.



Drill a 1" hole in the center of the underside plywood bottom, 1-5/8" center from the inside front board centered from each side once the top is assembled that far. Cut out this hole in the plywood bottom 1" wide to the front board. Since the bees should be able to move freely across the tops of the frames that will give them a 1" wide x 10 mm hole access to the outside in the winter if the top is put on even with the back of the hive. That hole to the front will be a little more than 3/8" deep. Hive frames in the hive usually have some space above. That space plus the 5.2 mm on the underside of the lid allows bee movement above the frames.

Depending on your solid insulation material, cut out a big enough piece of wood to well cover the hole in the lid plywood. I glue mine and clamp. When dry I add insulation, trimming with a knife. Add lots of salt in with the insulation. It will help deter ants. Put the plywood top of 5.2 mm plywood on and nail with small nails. Now you are ready for the aluminum sheet. If the plywood tears out in the groove in front of the 1" hole I use glue and sawdust to plug the groove and make it look and weather better.

I use double-truck aluminum plates from the local paper on the top, cut 1" extra all around, bent over and stapled with 1/4" aluminum staples to the sides and ends. I use 3/8" staples and Tightbond II glue to attach the 5.2 mm plywood strips on the underside. I use exterior latex primer and exterior white paint.

This is still a work in progress. Improve it if you can. Have fun!

W. Frank Gordon
863 S. Greenwood Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901-5208
Phone 815-932-7587
ananointed@daily-journal.com β



Save the Queen! (Bee)

Scott Bretthauer
University of Illinois Extension Specialist

Protecting nontarget organisms during a pesticide application is always important. It can be especially difficult, however, if you don't know exactly what or where those nontarget organisms are. Such can be the case with bees. Although most applicators are aware that protecting bees from pesticides is important, many don't know exactly how to go about determining whether or not there is a potential for bees to be near their application site.

Bees, whether they are honey bees or wild bees, are beneficial insects. One of their most important roles is pollinating plants, including field crops, fruit, vegetables, and other crops. Applying a pesticide directly to blooming plants or allowing a pesticide to drift onto blooming plants can be fatal to bees. To protect their important role in agricultural production, it is critical to prevent inadvertent injury to bees from pesticides. While the following guidelines can help protect bees, remember to always read the label for more specific information on bee safety. The label tells you whether or not the pesticide is toxic to bees. If possible, use a pesticide with low toxicity to bees.

Insecticides are generally more toxic to bees than other types of pesticides. If bees are near the application site, it is especially important to select a pesticide with low toxicity to bees if possible. The type of formulation also affects a pesticide's toxicity to bees. In general, granules and or pellets are safer to bees than sprays. Emulsifiable concentrates are less toxic to bees than wettable powders. Microencapsulated formulations of insecticides that are toxic to bees can be especially hazardous because the bees can carry the capsules back to their hive and wipe out the entire colony.

If you have to use a pesticide that is toxic to bees for an application near bees, try to make the application during a time when bees are least active. This can greatly reduce the risk of bee deaths. Before dawn and after dusk are times when bee activity is lower, so these would be safer times to make an application. Because bees do not fly actively at temperatures lower than 55 degrees F, cooler weather is also a safer time to make applications when bee safety is a concern. If using a less-toxic pesticide or spraying when bees are not active is not possible, you will need to notify beekeepers about the upcoming application so they can take the appropriate measures to protect their bees. This could involve moving the colony or protecting by other means. You need to notify beekeepers at least 48 hours before the application is to be made. All beekeepers within 3 miles of the application site should be notified because bees can fly up to 3 miles.

All three options discussed above—using a product less toxic to bees when spraying near them, spraying when bees are less active, or notifying a beekeeper about the coming application—require you to be aware of beekeepers near the application site. So how do you find out about nearby beekeepers? The Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act requires beekeepers to register their hives with the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Illinois Bees and Apiaries Program, which maintains a list of all beekeepers and the locations for all colonies in Illinois. To register their colonies with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, beekeepers need only to submit a one-page form, which is available online. There is no charge for registration, and a registration certificate is provided as proof of the registration. You can learn more about the Illinois Bees and apiaries Act and Program by visiting <http://www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/index.html>.

New beekeepers are required to register within 10 days of acquiring bees, and beekeepers moving to Illinois have a 10-day period in which to register after arriving in the state. In addition to this initial registration, Illinois beekeepers are required every November to renew their registration. This ensures that an accurate and up-to-date list of bee colonies within Illinois is maintained. Required information for registration includes the beekeeper's name, address, county of residence, and phone number. For each apiary maintained by the beekeeper, the county, township, section number, address (or directions to), and number of colonies at the apiary must be provided. In addition, the name of the land-owner or person on the premise where the apiary is located must also be provided. Apiaries registered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture may be identified by weatherproof lettering at least a half an inch in height on the front of a hive.

Pesticide applicators can use this list of bee colonies in Illinois to determine if any hives are near the intended application site. There are two ways to access the list. The first is to phone the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Program at (217)782-6297. Another option is to contact your local University of Illinois Extension office. Each Extension office annually receives the list of beehives. To find the Extension office nearest you, visit <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state/findoffice.html>. By checking for nearby bee apiaries before making a pesticide application, you can help protect bees and the prominent role they play in Illinois Agriculture. β

As reported at the 2006 Annual Fall meeting, the ISBA Board of Directors is looking into a recent surge of pesticide "kills" of Honey Bee colonies. ISBA Central Region Director, Nathan Sasse is championing the effort to better understand Illinois Pesticide law, processes and procedures and the rights of a Beekeeper who has lost colonies to a pesticide application. The article below recently appeared in the January issue of Illinois Pesticide Review and was brought to the ISBA BOD by Steve Chard.β

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Steve Chard,

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Greetings. I'm sure you have heard or read by now that there is a mysterious ailment that is causing heavy honey-bee losses in eastern and western US states, with migratory operations sustaining the most damage. The ailment is being called many things, such as Fall Dwindling Disease, Disappearing Disease, Autumn Collapse, Bee Depopulation Syndrome and Colony Collapse Disorder. At the present time, the scientific community has not determined what exactly is causing the problem. Symptoms of this ailment include strong colonies losing their workforce over the course of a few weeks (even though the colonies have adequate food stores), there is capped brood present and there are no signs of serious parasitic or disease problems. Along with these symptoms, there is no build-up of dead honeybees inside or at the entrance of the hive. In addition, food stores are not quickly robbed and problems with wax moths don't appear as quick as usual. It seems there are a lot of theories being batted around, but no firm conclusions have been reached on what may be the cause of this problem.

The Department has not been informed of this problem occurring in the state up to this point. However, everyone needs to be on the lookout for symptoms similar to the ones described above. If you suspect that your colonies have this ailment, please contact me at [217/782-6297](tel:217782-6297) and we will make arrangements for an inspection. Current articles on this ailment can be found on the ISBA website at www.isba.us

Speaking of inspections, the new inspection season will soon be upon us. We hope to have all of our inspectors back this coming season. A few of our inspectors are under a yearly contract with the Department and we have yet to receive approval on their contracts through the normal personnel process. I'm sure that things will work out in time for our Apiary Inspectors to put in a full season. If you wish to have an inspection done within the next few weeks, please call me directly at the office and I can make the needed arrangements accordingly. Following the approval of the contracts, we will again publish the names and contact information of our full inspection team on the Department and ISBA websites.

As a reminder, please continue to closely monitor your hives for Small Hive Beetle. The number of counties where SHBs were detected in 2006 doubled as compared to the previous years of 2001-2005. We hope this is not the beginning of a new trend. Be particularly careful of SHBs possibly being contained in packages. If you believe your colonies may have SHB, please contact me or your Apiary Inspector and we can arrange for an inspection. It's very important to the vitality of Illinois' Apiary Industry that measures be taken to prevent the spread of SHB to the extent possible.

Within the next few months, many beekeepers will move their bees to a different location. For those times when colonies will be moved across county or state lines, please be sure to contact me or your Apiary Inspector. The appropriate Apiary Inspector will do an inspection and submit the needed paperwork to me for the issuance of a moving permit. Please give us a 10-day advance notice before you intend to move the colonies. We will quickly do an inspection and provide the moving permit to you, unless major problems are found. Thanks for your cooperation! β



Yes, it will be that time again soon. By the way... does this photo look familiar? It was left at the state fair last year and Udell Meyer has been taking care of it for the owner. You can reclaim it by contacting Udell at 8844 Trio Lane, Edwardsville, IL 62025-6336.

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Beekeepers and ISBA Members,

I hope you are all weathering what has turned out to be a very interesting and challenging winter. I cannot remember the last time I have shoveled snow as much as in the past few months! True to form, this time of year, I recently conducted my quick colony inspection (lift and peek) and it looks like my colonies are fairing a bit better than I am!

As noted in previous Letter's from the ISBA President, I look forward to both the opportunities and challenges that 2007 will pose. Below, I have outlined my update to you on some of these "top-line" opportunities and challenges. I provide you with this update so you may see what is happening within the ISBA but so that you may also assist the ISBA. If you are ever interested in becoming more involved, or if I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Colony Collapse Disorder

Many of you are aware of this mysterious condition plaguing many colonies throughout the U.S. Also called Disappearing Bee Disease, there is little known about this issue, but what is known is that it is devastating to Honey Bees and Beekeepers. There are many active research projects looking at the issue and we will have first-hand information to provide you soon. By the time you receive this newsletter, the www.isba.us website will have been updated containing the latest information and links for additional info. Additionally, at the upcoming Midwest Beekeeping Symposium, we will have at least two updates on the issue from researchers actively pursuing answers and solutions!

Central Eastern Illinois Beekeepers Association

Please join the ISBA Board of Directors in welcoming the Central Eastern Illinois Beekeepers Association to the ISBA! Recently this association of 20 Central Illinois Beekeepers voted to join the ISBA! We are very excited to welcome them to the state association and hope to see them soon at our meetings and events. I will soon post their contact information on our website.

2007 Midwest Beekeeping Symposium / ISBA Annual Spring Meeting ~ June 9, 2007

If you have not heard of this upcoming premier Beekeeping event, you soon will. Please mark your calendars for June 9 and join us at McHenry County College for this full day series of General Sessions, Breakout Sessions, Lunch, Beekeeping Vendor Marketplace and Raffle. By the time you receive this newsletter, the www.isba.us website will have been updated with the full meeting agenda, map, directions, registration fee info and everything else you may want to know about this event.

2007 ISBA Annual Fall Meeting ~ November 17, 2007

The ISBA Meetings and Events Committee is already busy planning our 2007 Annual Fall Meeting. Please mark your calendars 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 us for this excellent meeting!

Ken Haller
President, Illinois State Beekeepers Association
630.359.3991
vikinghoneyfarm@comcast.net .β

Be a part of the action at The Midwest Beekeeping Symposium

ISBA is looking for a few members willing to volunteer time to help with setup, sell raffle ticket and man the membership booth at the June 9th Symposium. Are you willing? If so, contact Ken Haller at the address on the back cover. This good deed will be rewarded... free admission to the symposium.β

Illinois State Fair is August 10-19, 2007

ISBA will again have a presence at the State Fair. Volunteers are needed to sell honey and talk beekeeping. For more information contact Ken Haller or Rita Taylor at the addresses on the back cover.β

Calling Illinois Pollinators (no, not the bees... the beekeepers)

ISBA maintains a membership in the Illinois Specialty Growers Association and is interested in preparing a listing of Illinois beekeepers who are interested in providing pollination services to be distributed to the ISGA. All interested members can add their name to the list by contacting Ken Haller at kenhaller@comcast.net.β

Dues are Due

Treasurers of the ISBA affiliate associations need to submit membership dues by a May 1 deadline. The next issue of the Bulletin will be sent to all members whose dues are current.β

Bees at a Theater Near You Coming this Fall

The honey industry will have an exciting and unprecedented marketing opportunity this fall when the animated “Bee Movie” is scheduled to play in movie theaters throughout the United States. “Bee Movie” is a production of DreamWorks, which has produced such popular animated movies as “Shrek” and other films. The movie was written by comedian Jerry Seinfeld, who also provides the voice of the movie’s main character, Barry Bee. The movie is expected to generate positive publicity about beekeeping and highlight the important role bee pollination plays in plant production. For more information about the movie, visit www.beemovie.com. β

Help with the Honey Bee Survey

→ As part of the effort to find the cause of the new honey bee malady— the Colony Collapse Disorder— you can be of help. Whether or not you have had a problem with increased colony losses, log on to the National Honey Bee Survey and take 10 minutes to help the beekeeping world. Your data is important. This is important! .β ←

<http://www.beesurvey.com>

 **HAS** the heartland apicultural society

HAS 2007
July 12, 13 and 14, 2007
Kentucky State University
Frankfort, Kentucky

The latest information on the 2007 HAS meeting can be found on their website— www.heartlandbees.com/

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	19.00	36.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

ISBA Executive Board 2006

President

Ken Haller
627 S. Saylor Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126
630 359 3991
kenhaller@comcast.net

Vice President

Phillip Raines
16566 Best Road
Davis, IL 61019
815 988 3000
raines@rainesridgefarm.com

Secretary

Rita Taylor
4274 Taylor Homestead Rd.
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024
217 626 1319
rjandeta@warpsnet.net

Treasurer

Udell Meyer
8844 Trio Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618 633 2429

Directors

Northern Region

William Buckley
6525 S. Western Ave.
Willowbrook, IL 60527
630 654 1867

Central Region

Nathan Sasse,
1020 2000th Avenue
Chestnut, IL 62518
217 737 8219
nasasse@frontiernet.net

Southern Region

Ray Chapman
R. R. 1 Box 215
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618 585 4506
honey@bhil.com

ISBA Bulletin Editor

Larry Krengel
9409 Voss Road
Marengo, IL 60152
815 923 4449
lkrengel@mc.net

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Periodical



ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Rita Taylor, Secretary
4274 Taylor Homestead Road
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024

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