

# ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN

November/December 2008 • Volume 90 Number 6

### Illinois Queens for Illinois Beekeepers

The Illinois Queen Initiative is in its early stages and in the spring of '09 we will be holding two courses to further educate experienced beekeepers to sharpen their queen rearing skills. Our trainer will be Dr. Joe Latshaw of Latshaw Apiaries in Ohio. Dr. Latshaw is the director of the Ohio Queen Project. We will be offering one course in Northern Illinois and one course in Central Illinois. If you are seriously interested in raising queens to assist with the Illinois Queen Initiative and would like to pursue one of our upcoming courses, here is the contact information: Northern Illinois Class contact Phillip Raines 815-248-3321 Central Illinois Class contact David Burns 217-427-2678.

The goal of the Illinois Queen Initiative is first to begin sharing stock from Illinois beekeepers that proves hardy and hygienic. Our long term goal is to improve upon the stock eventually having a queen that is gentle, winter hardy, hygienic and a good honey producer. With the spread of Africanized bees in the southern states, this project will give Illinois beekeepers a better option for obtaining queens that are accustomed to a northern climate as well as the diseases and viruses common to our area. Certain stressors are placed upon queens during long shipping periods. With queens available in Illinois this will minimize shipping times as well.

In addition to training those interested in queen rearing, We are also working to obtain necessary funding to support the Illinois Queen Initiative. If you or your local association would like to make a contribution toward the Illinois Queen Initiative, email Dr. Stu Jacobson at [sjacobson@warpsnet.net](mailto:sjacobson@warpsnet.net).



### Illinois Announces 2008 Beekeeper of the Year

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association is proud to announce its Beekeeper of the Year, John Hansen! The ISBA, each year, recognizes a member who has shown incredible passion and dedication to the ISBA's key objectives and the Illinois Beekeeping industry. At its recent Annual Fall Meeting, ISBA

President, Ken Haller presented John Hansen with a plaque of recognition.



Please join the ISBA in congratulating John as the 2008 Illinois State Beekeepers Association Beekeeper of the Year! β



## A Letter from Outgoing ISBA President, Ken Haller

Dear ISBA Member and Fellow Beekeepers,

I have been honored and humbled to serve you as President for the past 3 years. My involvement with the ISBA began eight years ago as Northern Region Director and I look back on these years as a true highlight in my life. First working under the leadership of John Hansen (your 2008 Beekeeper of the Year), I have been honored to work with fantastic teams of board members.

As I look back at the past eight years on the board and the past three years as President, I am amazed at the dedication and passion for the ISBA by Udell Myer and Rita Taylor. These two individuals have been volunteering their time to the ISBA for many years! Both provide an amazing level of service to the board and to the members of the ISBA. I am truly amazed at their dedication and selfless service to all of us.

Sixty of you joined us November 1 for the ISBA annual fall meeting in Springfield. Your board of directors put together another amazing program this year all within the confines of the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Conference Center. The center provided a suitable backdrop for a program full of information for both beginner and veteran Beekeeper. Karen and Jim Belli spoke of their key learning's and observations at Honey competitions and Robin Mountain spoke of Beekeeping for the Hobbyist and Raising Queens. All three speakers were truly awe-inspiring! Additionally, we were proud to welcome our new Central Region Director, David Burns.

For the third year, I delivered a State of the Association presentation and have included some highlights below for your reference:

1. 2008 Continues to be a year of uncertainly with CCD. While there is still no CCD in Illinois, it has provided concern as well as a media frenzy The ISBA has benefited greatly from this media attention. The ISBA has had the following media impressions over the past year:
  - April ~ Chicagoland Gardening Magazine Article
  - July ~ 90 Minute WCPT Radio Interview
  - July ~ Daily Herald Article
  - August ~ Midwest Living Magazine Article
  - October ~ 10 Minute WCPT CCD Update Interview
  - October ~ Department of Agriculture Video Interview for Children
  - October ~ Nationwide Broadcast of "Current TV" Report on the ISBA
  - October ~ Pumpkin Pollination Video News Release
  - October ~ Pumpkin Pollination Press Release and Radio Coverage
3. We had an amazing presence at the IL State Fair, thanks to Rita Taylor for her leadership!
4. The ISBA has seen 258 new members since 2006! We are now 678 strong!
5. The ISBA will be hosting a booth at the 2009 Illinois Specialty Growers Association Expo in Springfield
6. Our ISBA Yahoo Group now has 68 members
7. Our summer meeting was a resounding success, thanks to Janet Hart and her team!
8. The ISBA presented Steve Chard and the Illinois Department of Agriculture Director, Tom Jennings with a framed picture of a Honey Bee to display in the main hallway of the department headquarters
9. The ISBA Newsletter and the Yahoo Group are the ISBA's communication pathways within its membership while the website is our entry point and window to both members and the general public

10. Our internet home [www.isba.us](http://www.isba.us) continues to gain momentum and is arguably one of the best state association websites in the country
  11. In 2008 we had the following major additions to our website:
    - o Illinois Honey processing rules and regulations
    - o State Fair Honey competition winners listing
    - o A section focusing on Honey Bees and Pesticide danger, including downloadable brochures for distribution to Beekeepers and Farmers
    - o As of June of 2008, our website is now registered and verified with Google, allowing for a dramatic increase in traffic to the site:
      - o In July 334 people visited our site viewing 1,180 pages
      - o In August 603 people visited our site viewing 1,789 pages
      - o In September 1,029 people visited our site viewing 3,270 pages
      - o In October 1,043 people visited our site viewing 3,197 pages
    - o When visitors viewed our site they primarily focused on:
      - o 30% Static pages
      - o 30% PDF/Instructional Documents
      - o 40% Photos, Videos and Audio Files (interviews and media coverage)
    - o The ISBA is underway with the following initiatives for 2009:
      - o Developing a model Beekeeping ordinance for reference by cities in Illinois
      - o A new website section detailing Organic Beekeeping guidelines
      - o A listing of Beekeeping classes within the state
      - o An introduction to Honey Bees and Beekeeping brochure for download and use by Illinois Beekeepers at meetings and events
- A web-based mapping initiative to highlight Apiary locations to pesticide applicators

I am very proud of our association history and the legacy we are creating daily for our members and the State of Illinois! If you would like to participate and be a part of this legacy, please do not hesitate to contact me. We could use your talents!

Have an amazing Holiday season and see you in the Apiary!

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

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### Hivastan now approved in Illinois

A note from Steve Chard at the Illinois Department of Agriculture... Hivastan is now approved by the US EPA and the Illinois DOA for the treatment of varroa in bee hives. It is available from Dadant as well as other sources. β

### Specialty Growers Meet in Springfield

ISBA will be participating in the Illinois Specialty Growers Association meeting and expo in Springfield January 7-9, 2009. For more information contact Rita Taylor. β



**ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION  
117<sup>th</sup> State Convention**

**Saturday, November 1, 2008  
Illinois Department of Agriculture  
Springfield, Illinois**

President Ken Haller called the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association to order at 9:00 a.m. President Haller welcomed everyone in attendance.

Steve Chard, Chief Apiary Inspector and Supervisor of Apiary Inspection, introduced Tom Jennings, Director of Agriculture. Director Jennings assured everyone that he and Supervisor Chard will work closely together for the good of beekeepers and the beekeeping industry. President Haller presented a framed honey bee print to be displayed in the Department of Agriculture building.

President Haller called for the Secretary's Report. Secretary Rita Taylor reported all members had received the Minutes of the 116<sup>th</sup> Convention via the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association bulletin. Secretary Taylor read the expenses and membership for the period of November 1, 2007 to November 1, 2008. The Secretary's Report was approved as read.

President Haller called for the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Udell Meyer reported the income and expenditures of the Association for the period of November 1, 2007 to November 1, 2008. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

President Haller reintroduced Steve Chard. Supervisor Chard shared a detailed report on the condition of hives around the state by providing statistics of disease, mites, inspection, etc. He stated there are 133 newly registered beekeepers in Illinois.

President Haller announced the 2008 Beekeeper of the Year by presenting John Hansen of Cook DuPage Beekeepers' Association with a plaque. Mr. Hansen was recognized for his dedication to beekeeping.

President Haller provided a report on the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association and its website. He invited members to get involved with the Yahoo group and further reviewed what is currently displayed on the website and what he plans to add in the future.

*(Break / Door Prizes)*

Erik Whalen-Pedersen, Northern Director, presented President Haller an engraved gavel for his service for the past three years.

Next Mr. Whalen-Pedersen introduced Robin Mountain, Apiculture Extension Associate, Kentucky State University, to discuss, "Beekeeping for the Hobbyist".

Mr. Mountain shared slides to accompany his presentation. A few discussion points included: the need not to put chemicals in our beehives; check-mite stays in beeswax forever; diet makes a laying worker; all bees come from an egg; fertilization determines whether a drone or worker; queens best raised in your own area; support anyone raising queens. Time was provided for questions and answers.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Lunch)*

President Haller reconvened the meeting by asking local beekeeping associations to report on what is happening in their areas of the state.

David Burns discussed the Illinois queen rearing plans. He explained why there is a need to get a queen project started in Illinois.

Erik Whalen-Pedersen introduced honey competitors Jim and Karen Belli from Wadsworth, Illinois. Jim and Karen started out as hobbyists and still proclaim to be hobbyists, but have entered several competitions by first entering at local fairs, on to the state fair, and then the American Beekeeping Federation honey show winning many blue ribbons.

*(Break / Door Prizes)*

Erik Whalen-Pedersen reintroduced Robin Mountain who presented, “Rearing Queen Honey Bees”. Mr. Mountain is from South Africa; he ventured to California and now is in Frankfort, Kentucky. He shared slides and discussed the beginning steps of selection and ending with the equipment needed to rear queens. Time was provided for questions and answers.

Election of Officers – President Haller introduced Erik Whalen-Pedersen, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee selected the following members as nominees:

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| President        | Vacant Position |
| Vice President   | William Buckley |
| Secretary        | Rita Taylor     |
| Treasurer        | Udell Meyer     |
| Central Director | David Burns     |

Mr. Whalen-Pedersen called three times for nominees from the floor for each of the offices. After no other nominations were heard, each of the nominees listed above were elected to their respective office. There were no nominations received for office of president.

*(Door Prizes)*

A special “thank you” was given to Robin Mountain; Jim and Karen Belli, Udell and Norma Meyer (refreshments); Steve Chard (acquiring use of the Department of Agriculture building) and Rich Ramsey (arrangements for catering).

President Haller thanked everyone for their attendance, and with no further business the 117<sup>th</sup> Illinois State Beekeepers’ Association Convention adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Rita C. Taylor  
Secretary  
Illinois State Beekeepers’ Association β

## ISBA Executive Board 2006

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 | 19.10 | 36.15 | 50.95 |
| Bee Culture          | 21.00 | 38.00 | N/A   |
| The Speedy Bee       | 13.25 | 25.25 | 34.00 |

### Past President

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- ⇒ *Haller farewell letter*
- ⇒ *Beekeeper of the year*
- ⇒ *Notes from fall meeting*

