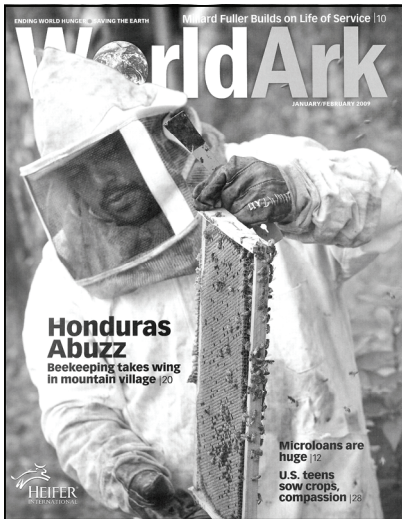


# ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

## BULLETIN

March/April 2009 • Volume 91 Number 2



### Northern Illinois Beekeepers Help Third-World Beekeepers

In the year 2009 the Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association is setting a goal that will help beekeeper in developing nations. Heifer International offers a program that provides livestock to farmers in these parts of the world with the stipulation that the favor be passes along to another farmer.

Heifer International has been supported by a number of NIBA members in the past. Now the Association will get behind the effort. Doug Hawthorne is the treasurer of NIBA point out, “Each meeting during the coming year we will hold a raffle with the proceeds going to support the Heifer project.” Raffle items are donated by members and bee suppliers.

A donation of \$30 will provide a complete hive with bees for a recipient in the project. Featured in a recent issue of *World Ark*, the Heifer magazine, is the story of a Honduran farmer and his family. After being trained as a beekeeper and provided with his first hives, he will produce splits that will be passed on to another future beekeeper.β

### Passing on the Bees

The partnership between Heifer International and Cooperativa Apícola Pionera de Honduras Limitada, or COAPIHL, began six years ago when the main cash crop, coffee, fell to 30-year lows because of a glut on the market. Throughout the course of this project, Heifer offered beehives, flowering trees and training to help small farmers increase pollination, family income and to diversify operations so they had another product, honey, to sell at local markets.

Because it is difficult to pass on the gift of an offspring from the original bees, recipients were given different options to fulfill this important aspect of each Heifer project. Beekeepers could choose among three ways to pass on

the gift. The first was to repay in cash the cost of the beehives they received, which COAPIHL would then use to buy 10 more hives for a new beekeeper. Another way was to produce the amount of honey or pollen that would cover the cost of 10 hives. Lastly, because each beneficiary received training on reproducing bees, he or she could choose to reproduce the hives for another in need. In that case, the cooperative would transport the hives to the pass-on recipient.

Because of its success, Heifer completed its investment in this specific project in the summer of 2008, though it will work with COAPIHL and eight other groups through 2012 to strengthen microenterprise initiatives, including beekeeping work, in other areas of Honduras.β



From World Ark, January 2009



## Illinois Queen Initiative Queen Rearing Classes

Two queen rearing classes are being offered by the Illinois Queen Initiative Group. These one day courses will focus on training interested beekeepers on the fine art of grafting and the fundamentals of raising Illinois queens. Our instructor at both classes is Dr. Joe Latshaw of Latshaw Apiaries. Dr. Latshaw is a commercial queen breeder. Students should be experienced beekeepers and are required, once trained, to give back to the Illinois queen initiative, either service, nucs, queen stock etc.,



Students are required to obtain and read one of the following books before arriving at the class: "Bee Sex Essentials" by Larry Connors or "Queen Rearing and Bee Breeding" by Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. and Robert E. Page Jr. These classes will be hands on, grafting and working out in the bee yard (weather permitting) as well as class room instruction.

The first class will be hosted by David Burns at Long Lane Honey Bee Farms located outside of Catlin, Illinois, Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There are still openings for this class. Registration is limited to 15. The cost is \$75. Contact David at: 217-427-2678 for more information.

The second class will be hosted by Phillip Raines of Raines Honey Farm and will be held at the Byron Forrest Preserve in the Jarrett Prairie Center Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>. This class is now full. Registration is closed.β



### Bob Quick was selected as the St. Clair Beekeepers Association's "2008 Beekeeper of the Year"

Each year, the SCBA Board of Directors searches for and selects a member who has worked hard to promote interest in beekeeping and deserves to be recognized for that effort. This year's award winner, Bob Quick, has attended meetings regularly and acted as a true ambassador of beekeeping by encouraging many people to become beekeepers.

Bob has opened his home and apiary to our members for meetings on a number of occasions and has worked tirelessly to promote beekeeping which is evidenced by the growing number of new members he has brought into the club. This year he demonstrated his dedication to helping new beekeepers by arranging to purchase a large quantity of used beekeeping equipment and then making it available to our members at a very reasonable cost.

Bob is always friendly, outgoing, and willing to help in any way possible with putting on a program or teaching others what he has learned about bees over the years. Please join us in congratulating Bob on a job well done, and thank him for all the efforts he makes behind the scenes.

Bob cares for his bees at his home near Edgewood, Illinois. β

The BBC reports on the plight of the honeybee

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7925397.stm>

## Notes from the President

This year hive registration is asking for more specific apiary location information. The plat information from real estate tax bill will provide this information. For outyards where this information is difficult to obtain, GPS coordinates are acceptable. This information should help aerial sprayers prevent pesticide kills. Hopefully the state will use G.P.S. as the best way to go.

Pesticides & Herbicides are used to clear all areas around farmed fields to eliminate weeds and insects that could affect crops. This is eliminating the native pollinators, and the native plants that provide Honey Bees with nectar and pollen. Systemic pesticides are being more widely used by everyone to keep shrubs and trees free of different insects not realizing the leaves and blooms also have it in them which will also kill bees. A good book on the subject is called *Fruitless Fall* by Jacobson. Reading it will open your eyes. Local libraries will have it or can get it for you.

The summer meeting date and time has not be finalized. The southern region will be the host, more information to follow.

We have a new Central Region director, David Burns from near Danville. We welcomed him to our board of directors and look forward to working with him. He also raises Queens along with his bee operation.

ISBA will have a booth at the Illinois Products Expo in Springfield on March 7Th & 8Th at the Orr building in the State Fair Grounds. It's a very interesting show and should be attended by all who can visit. We had a booth at the Illinois Specialty Growers Show in Springfield on January 9Th. They are still looking for beekeepers who pollinate for rent. If you do this please let us know who you are. Thanks

### LATEST PESTICIDE TO LOOK OUT FOR

From a web article ([www.seedquest.com/News/release/2008/july/23156.htm](http://www.seedquest.com/News/release/2008/july/23156.htm)): Movento insecticide (spirotetramat), a new foliar product from Bayer Corp Sciences, has been registered for us in United states. After application, the 2-way systemic material moves upward and downward through the plants vascular system, ensuring even and continuous distribution and better overall protection of young shoots, leaves and roots. Movento protects against a broad spectrum of troublesome sucking insects such as aphids mealy bugs, white flies, scales and many more. Looking at the label for this product it can be applied by aircraft, ground sprayer or through irrigation systems. Crops listed for treatment: citrus, small fruit vine climbing subgroup (grape gooseberry), pome fruit (apples, pears, quince, crab apple), stone fruit (cherry, peach, plum, apricot), tree nuts (almonds, beechnut, chestnut, pecans, walnuts), Hops Christmas free plantations, fruit (artichokes, sweet potato, yam). vegetables (eggplant, peppers, tomato), leafy vegetables (celery, lettuce, parsley, cabbage,, spinach), and tuberous and corm vegetables.

**Environmental Hazards** from the label: This product is potentially toxic to honey bee larvae through residues in pollen and nectar, but not to adult honey bees. Exposure to adult bees to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops can lead to effect on honey bee larvae. See the "**Direction for use**" section of this label has directions for each type of crop. when and how to apply. For pome and stone fruit and tree nets, it states "do not apply until after petal fall. For citrus, do not apply this product within 20 days prior to bloom, during bloom or until petal fall is complete. It also has a 24-hour reentry interval for workers.

I will tell you they covered their tails by being specific on how and when to use the pesticide. I do not like that this is a two-way systemic - which they state **will harm honey bee larvae**. Systemic chemicals usually stay in the plant longer and reside throughout the plant. That is why they say something about the pollen and nectar.

Do they not think adult bees eat nectar????

Also, one apiary inspector in another state noted that the insecticide may harm female reproduction. Will it harm honey bee queens and their egg laying???

More beekeepers in the U.S. are demanding that growers not use certain pesticides on the crops. if they are to move their bees in for pollination..

If you don't, you may want to. **Learn** more about what is sprayed on the crops that your bees pollinate. Become informed to protect your bees. Any questions feel free to call me, Bill Buckley(630-654-1867) or Steve Chard Steve at 217-785-2661. β



## APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

*Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture*

Greetings! It's always a pleasure to visit with beekeepers around Illinois. During the evening of March 6, I will be attending the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association monthly meeting in Pekin. There is always a great exchange of information during these types of meetings and the refreshments aren't bad either!

In the January/February 2009 bulletin, previous ISBA President Ken Haller and I reported on a joint ISBA-IDOA project to provide better protection to honeybees from possible pesticide damage. I'm happy to report that the project is well underway and should be completed shortly. Licensed pesticide applicators soon will have the ability to access beekeeper name/address/telephone number information through the Department's apiary webpage. After obtaining that confidential information, the pesticide applicator can call beekeepers to discuss plans for spraying and for avoiding damage to honeybee colonies well before an application. As part of this process, instructions on how applicators can access this information will be included in the yearly license distributed to them by the Department. Those licenses will be sent out to applicators by mid-March. In addition, information on the importance of this needed communication between pesticide applicators and beekeepers is included in the annual testing packet for the applicators. This problem will not go away overnight, but this project should be helpful in greatly reducing the incidents where bees are affected.

There has been a lot of information in the news about the current federal and state budget problems. To date, the funding news is good for the Department's Bees and Apiaries Program. We should be able to inspect as many or more hives this year as compared to 2008. However, the process for approving contracts for most of the Department's Apiary Inspectors is running a little slow this year. Feel free to contact your Inspector as usual for assistance. If that person is not authorized to conduct inspections yet this year, please contact me at 217/782-6297 and we will do our best to provide an inspection to you. Thanks for your patience.

The response to our annual registration process has been excellent. Thanks very much for furnishing the legal description information as requested. All the information has been very helpful on the project to reduce potential pesticide damage to honeybees.

On the topic of winterkill, I've received reports indicating light to moderate damage. I would appreciate hearing from you on this topic as we are very interested in winter damage occurrences around Illinois.

Nothing new to report on Colony Collapse Disorder. Everyone needs to continue to closely watch for this problem. Please report any CCD-like symptoms to your Apiary Inspector or to me. The Department is continuously pursuing research information on CCD.

Here's hoping you have a prosperous Spring season!! β



### Have Registered Your Apiary?

You should. It's Free. It's the Law. And now it protects you from pesticide application. You can find the registration form on the Illinois Department of Agriculture website -

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/programs/bees/beekeep.pdf>



## 3000 Year Old Beehive Found In Israel

The Bible refers to ancient Israel as the “land flowing with milk and honey,” so it’s fitting that one of its towns milked honey for all it was worth. Scientists have unearthed the remains of a large-scale beekeeping operation at a nearly 3,000-year-old Israeli site, which dates to the time of biblical accounts of King David and King Solomon.

Excavations in northern Israel at a huge earthen mound called Tel Rehov revealed the Iron Age settlement. From 2005 to 2007, workers at Tel Rehov uncovered the oldest known remnants of human-made beehives, excavation director Amihai Mazar and colleagues report in the September *Antiquity*. No evidence of beekeeping has emerged at any other archaeological sites in the Middle East or surrounding regions.

The earliest known depiction of beekeeping appears on a carving from an Egyptian temple that dates to 4,500 years ago. It shows men collecting honeycombs from cylindrical containers, pouring honey into jars and possibly separating honey from beeswax. Beehives portrayed in ancient Egyptian art resemble those found at Tel Rehov, as well as hives used today by traditional Mediterranean and Middle Eastern groups, says entomologist Gene Kritsky of the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati. “Tel Rehov is so important because it contains a full apiary, demonstrating that this was a large-scale operation,” Kritsky says.

Mazar’s team has so far uncovered 25 cylindrical containers for bees in a structure that is centrally located in the ancient city at Tel Rehov. High brick

walls surrounded the apiary. Beehives sat in three parallel rows, each containing at least three tiers. Each beehive measured 80 centimeters long and about 40 centimeters wide. In the best-preserved beehives, one end contains a small hole for bees to enter and exit. A removable lid with a handle covers the other end.

Chemical analyses of two Tel Rehov beehives revealed degraded beeswax residue in the containers’ unfired clay walls. The researchers are now examining pollen remains and bee bodies found in charred honeycombs from inside the hives. A violent fire in ancient times caused walls surrounding the hives to collapse and destroy many of the bee containers. Radiocarbon measures of burned grain from the apiary floor and nearby structures provided an age estimate for the finds.

Mazar estimates that the ancient apiary contained at least 75 and perhaps as many as 200 beehives. A clay platform of the same width as a nearby row of hives probably served as a foundation for some of the hives. The facility had a potential annual yield of 500 kilograms of honey and 70 kilograms of beeswax, Mazar says.

Writings and paintings from ancient Egypt suggest beehives possessed considerable value at the time. Honey was used as a sweetener, a salve for wounds and a ritual substance. Beeswax also had various uses, including being molded into casts for bronze objects.

The apiary apparently hosted ceremonies intended to spur honey production and ensure the operation’s success. Ritual finds near the hives include a four-horned clay altar that features carved figures of two female goddesses flanking an incised tree. β

From *Archaeology News Report*



## ISBA Executive Board 2009

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 2009 are \$10 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 2009 (*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

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- ⇒ *Hives for Heifer*
- ⇒ *IQI*
- ⇒ *3000 year old hives*
- ⇒ *Thoughts from Steve Chard*

