

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

January/February 2010 • Volume 92 Number 1

A Resolution Concerning the Sale of Honey in the State of Illinois

WHEREAS, the Illinois State Beekeepers Association (ISBA), an organization, first established in 1891 to promote interest in honey bees and beekeeping by encouraging good beekeeping in Illinois, the utilization of honey bees for pollination of agricultural crops, and the dissemination of information about bees and beekeeping; and

WHEREAS, the ISBA has found the present articulation and enforcement of the Illinois food preparation and facility regulations has caused, and continues to cause, harm to Illinois Beekeepers, Illinois Farmers and to the Illinois Public. The present regulatory language causing numerous hobbyist and sideline Beekeepers, the backbone of Illinois pollination services, to leave their craft, as they are no longer allowed to reasonably sell honey in local markets; and

WHEREAS, fewer Beekeepers are managing fewer honey bee colonies leaving reduced numbers of honey bees to pollinate the 130 crops that rely upon Honey Bee pollination. Illinois' vegetable and fruit producers depend upon Illinois' Beekeepers to keep and maintain 19,000 colonies. The number of Beekeepers in Illinois has declined precipitously from 2,966 in 1988 to 1,329 in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Honey naturally has highly unique characteristics therefore does not require the broad, all-inclusive and excessive regulations, currently in place; and

WHEREAS, a vast majority of Illinois Beekeepers are hobbyists and sideliners who rely upon honey sales, including those at local Farmers Markets and other local retail outlets, to maintain these colonies; and

WHEREAS, locally produced honey has historically been the safest and most healthful honey source for consumers. The majority of honey currently sold within the United States is imported from foreign countries, having repeatedly tested positive for chemical contamination and adulteration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the ISBA shall petition, on behalf of Illinois beekeepers, the Illinois Department of Public Health for the revision of its documentation to responsibly differentiate honey from other food products and their processing requirements, so that their guidelines account for, and embrace Honey's unique characteristics while protecting public health in Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ISBA shall work with the Illinois State Legislature to amend the Illinois Sanitary Food Preparation Act to exempt small Beekeepers who produce honey.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ISBA shall work with the Illinois State Legislature to expand the definition of "raw agricultural commodity" in the Illinois Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Illinois Criminal Code, to include honey within the comb, or honey that has been extracted from the comb, left unadulterated, and bottled. β

ISBA Legislative Initiative
Mike Sabo

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association will be working to pass legislation on behalf of its membership during the legislative Spring Session in just a few short weeks. See the resolution on page 1. What we are asking for is an exemption to food processing regulations for individuals who bottle non-commercial quantities of honey for sale to their customers. Several surrounding states already have such an exemption in place. We will also be asking that the definition of *raw agricultural commodity* be expanded to include honey that hasn't been adulterated by adding such things as flavorings and colorings.

The first step will be getting our bill introduced in both houses and assigned numbers. We will let our membership know when the bill has been assigned a number. This number is important because it will allow your representative to easily locate it among the hundreds of other bills. We will be encouraging members to call their representative at that point, asking them to “co-sponsor” the bill. Generally speaking, the more cosponsors a bill has, the easier it will be to get it to the Floor where it can be read several times, then finally called for a vote.

Our first goal though will be to get it passed out of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees. The House Ag committee is made up of Reps. Phelps-D, Verschoore-D, Sacia-R, Cavaletto-R, Cultra-R, Dugan-D, Flider-D, Flowers-D, Hamos-D, Moffitt-R, Myers-R, Reis-R, and Reitz-D. The Senate Ag committee is made up of Sens. Frerichs-D, Wilhelmi-D, Demuzio-D, Holmes-D, Hutchinson-D, Koehler-D, Jones-R, Bivins-R, Dahl-R, and McCarter-R. *ISBA members who have one of these individuals representing their district will be playing a key role early on and I encourage you to contact me (Mike Sabo) at 618-458-7745 or email at muttipie@htc.net.*

To find out who your state senator and state representative are you can enter your zip code on the Illinois Elections website: <http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/SelectSearchType.aspx>.

To keep everyone updated on the latest information concerning the ISBA legislative efforts, there will be regular updates on the ISBA website: www.isba.us.

I encourage everyone to read our Resolution and feel free to use any of its justifications when speaking to their representative. In addition, please make the point of mentioning the inherent safety of raw unadulterated honey due to its low pH, high osmolarity, and naturally occurring antimicrobial compounds. β

**- Summer ISBA meeting -
the Klein Creek Farm, Wheaton Illinois
Sunday June 13th 2010**

Contact Your Representatives -Talking Points-

When discussing ISBA's pending legislation consider including these facts -

- ⇒ Honey has been consumed by humans for centuries with no health concerns.
- ⇒ Bees are important to American agriculture.
- ⇒ Bees are endangered and we need to encourage their husbandry.
- ⇒ Honey has a very low pH impeding the growth of bacteria.
- ⇒ "High osmolarity" destroys bacteria.
- ⇒ Honey naturally produces hydrogen peroxide, a strong antibacterial.
- ⇒ Honey is used around the world as a wound dressing because of its antibacterial nature.
- ⇒ Honey by its nature is a healthier sweetener choice.β

Beekeeping Business for Sale

Thriving west-suburban Chicago mid-sized beekeeping operation for sale. Includes 6 bee yards (100+ hives) along with extracting equipment, supers, and other miscellaneous beekeeping equipment. Included also are many wholesale and retail accounts, honey, and value added products (candles, skin care, furniture polish,) and a pollination contract.

Business is located in Aurora, IL and serves the surrounding area. Serious, experienced beekeepers inquire only. Lorences' Honey Bee Haven, Charles and Karen Lorence, 1634 Garfield Avenue, Aurora, IL 60506. (630) 801-0979. Willing to negotiate a multi-year sale contract and mentor purchaser for given number of hours in 2010. β

Visit the ISBA website
for the latest news—
WWW.ISBA.US

Beekeeping in McHenry County

Three beekeeping classes are being offered at McHenry County College.

NPGS38002 Beekeeping 101
Five Thursdays starting February 4

NPGS41002 Beehive Construction
Saturday February 27

NPGS39004 Field Study in Beekeeping
Two Saturdays starting April 3.

Register by phone at (815) 455-8588 β

January Class at Long Lane Bee Farms

Sheri and David Burns will be offering a beekeeping course on Saturday January 30th, at Long Lane Honey Bee Farms near Danville from 9am-4pm. It is a basic beekeeping course with a special one hour lecture on queen rearing. Lunch is provided and registration is limited. More info at www.honeybeesonline.com.β

February Beekeeping Class At Lake County College

CAVO 3-001 Beekeeping 101
One Saturday February 13

Register by calling 815 543 2000. β

Lincolnland Beekeepers

Beginning Beekeepers Class
Three Thursdays starting February 25
Illinois State Fair Grounds
Contact Rich Ramsey— 217 498 9374 β

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
118th State Convention

Saturday, November 7, 2009
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Springfield, Illinois

Acting President William "Bill" Buckley called the 118th Convention of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association (ISBA) to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Steve Chard, Chief Apiary Inspector and Supervisor of Apiary Inspection, introduced Thomas Jennings, Director of Agriculture. Director Jennings welcomed everyone and reported on activities such as the farmers' market at the State Fairgrounds and a garden where the produce harvested goes to feed the hungry population of Springfield. He also stated he would like to have a hive of honeybees by the garden.

Acting President Buckley called for the Secretary's Report. Secretary Rita Taylor reported all members had received the Minutes of the 117th Convention via the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association bulletin. Secretary Taylor read the expenses and membership for the period of November 1, 2008 to November 1, 2009. The Secretary's Report was approved as read. (Secretary's Report Attached)

Acting President Buckley called for the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Udell Meyer reported the income and expenditures of the Association for the period of November 1, 2008 to November 1, 2009. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read. (Treasurer's Report Attached)

Acting President Buckley reported that more ISBA members are needed to belong to the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). Charles "Chuck" Lorence and Ron Fischer attend the annual meetings of the ABF and share a report to the ISBA each year. To that end, a report was made available for Mr. Buckley to read.

Acting President Buckley reintroduced Steve Chard. Supervisor Chard covered registration, mite treatments, Africanized honeybees (locations), small hive beetle (now in 27 counties), and pesticide concerns. He then introduced the current state apiary inspectors as well as retired state inspectors in attendance, Charlie Ott and Udell Meyer.

(Break / Door Prizes)

The meeting resumed with the introduction of Dr. Lawrence DuBose. Dr. DuBose told of his career as a beekeeper which began at a young age. His presentation also included his difficulties with queens, the use of pesticides by farmers, importation of honeybees for pollination, the research being conducted to keep honeybees from dying and also over wintering.

Announcement: The ISBA annual summer meeting will be held in Northern Illinois in June. Further notice will be given when available.

(Lunch)

The meeting resumed at 12:05 p.m. with the introduction of David Burns – Topic: Queen Rearing Program. Mr. Burns showed slides of the queen rearing school held at his home. He will be holding classes again in 2010. Time was given for questions and answers.

Acting President Buckley next presented a proposal on the Farmers' Market. Mr. Buckley read the Resolution. Make Sabo and Larry Krengel presented another Resolution. After a lengthy discussion, Karen Belli moved that the ISBA recommend Resolution A or Resolution B. John Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed by unani-

mous vote with members voting for Resolution B. A committee was selected (Mike Sabo, Bill Buckley, John Hansen and Rich Ramsey) to refine/finalize the proposal.

Acting President Buckley introduced the next speakers, Jim and Karen Belli – Topic: Honey Grading and Showing Honey. Jim and Karen began their bee venture in 2003 later showing honey at local fairs, the state fair and on to the American Beekeeping Federation. They explained the “tricks of the trade” so to speak on getting honey ready for competition as well as experiences that happened (good and bad).

(Break / Door Prizes)

Raymond Chapman announced the 2009 Beekeeper of the Year by presenting Rita Taylor, Secretary, Illinois State Beekeepers’ Association with a plaque. Unfortunately, the plaque was not available for the presentation. Secretary Taylor was recognized for her dedication to beekeeping.

Election of Officers – John Hansen, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, was introduced. The Nominating Committee selected the following members as nominees:

President	Bill Buckley
Vice President	Rich Ramsey
Secretary	Rita Taylor
Treasurer	Udell Meyer
Southern Director	Raymond Chapman

Mr. Hansen 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 to serve the term of 2010.

Seven local beekeeping associations reported on happenings in their areas of the state.

Carolyn Gerberding explained what some of the antique beekeeping equipment was that she had on display at today’s meeting.

Acting President Buckley thanked everyone for their attendance with a special note of thanks to the Dadant Company for having a display at the meeting. With no further business the 118th Illinois State Beekeepers’ Association Convention adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita C. Taylor
Secretary
Illinois State Beekeepers’ Association

Attachments: Secretary’s Report
Treasurer’s Report



So... Who Becomes a Beekeeper?

I, along with Wendy Schweigert and a team of her students from Bradley University, will be conducting research about beekeepers and their characteristics. The results of this research will be used to identify characteristics of those who chose to become beekeepers, to compare various subgroups of beekeepers with each other, and to compare other groups with beekeepers.

If you are 18 years or older and keep bees you are invited to be a part of this research by completing short anonymous survey about beekeepers. We are interested in new beekeeper as well as those who are experienced. Hobbyist, sideliners and commercial beekeepers are all invited to participate. The survey will be available online until February 14, 2010.

To access the survey enter the following address in your browser.—
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9NSWHZ5>

If you have any questions about this research please feel free to contact Dr. Wendy Schweigert at wendy@bumail.bradley.edu or me.

We appreciate you participation.

Larry Kregel
lkregel@mc.net



Brenda Tracey Honored

Brenda Tracey was selected as this year's recipient of St. Clair Beekeepers Association's

"Beekeeper of the Year" award in recognition of her efforts over the past year to encourage people to become new and better beekeepers.



Brenda worked hard this year to promote beekeeping on behalf of the SCBA by:

- Participation in the planning, promotion, and training of new beekeepers at this year's Beginning Beekeeper training class held in Belleville. The class was well attended, and resulted in a number of people becoming new beekeepers here in Southern Illinois.
- Serving as the Public Information Officer of the SCBA and editing and distributing our club Newsletter each month.
- Creating and writing a new "From the BeeYard" column in the club newsletter each month about her experiences in beekeeping.
- Assisting the President with the planning and hosting of the Illinois State Beekeepers Summer Meeting this year in Edwardsville.
- Organizing and finishing a special project to have embroidered patches of our new SCBA club logo manufactured and made available to our members for application to shirts, hats, and jackets etc.
- Warmly greeting members at monthly meetings and assisting in any way possible with putting on a meeting they will enjoy!

Brenda cares for her bees near her home in Belleville, Illinois. β

HELP Wanted

Research Specialist in Life Sciences

Department of Entomology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

A full-time position as Research Specialist in Life Sciences is available in the Department of Entomology. The successful candidate will participate in an established research program that uses genomics to study the molecular basis of honey bee social behavior. Duties include managing a newly constructed state-of-the-art bee research facility by: maintaining approximately 100 colonies of honey bees; training undergraduate and graduate research students in working with bees and assisting them in their research; assisting in planning, setting up and performing experiments; assisting in the collection of behavioral data in the field and molecular data in the laboratory; repairing beekeeping equipment; and constructing specialized research equipment out of wood and metal.

Requirements: Bachelor's degree (preferably in biology or one of the life sciences), prior experience in the care and rearing of honey bees, and skills in carpentry, metal-working, and electronics. Experience in field and/or laboratory research is desirable. Salary will be commensurate with training and experience. Start date: Start date: As soon as possible after closing date.

To apply for this position, please create your candidate profile through <https://jobs.illinois.edu> and upload a resume and a letter detailing your experience with honey bees and explaining why you are interested in this position. In addition, three letters of reference must be sent to: Prof. Gene E. Robinson, Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, 320 Morrill Hall, 505 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, IL 61801, (217) 265-0309, or e-mail gen-erobi@illinois.edu.

Full consideration will be given to applications received by December 23, 2009. Interviews may take place prior to the application deadline; however, no final decision will be made until after that date.

The University of Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. The administration, faculty, and staff embrace diversity and are committed to attracting qualified candidates who also embrace and value diversity and inclusivity. β

Rita Taylor ISBA Beekeeper of the Year



Rita Taylor, ISBA secretary for many years, was awarded the ISBA Beekeeper of the Year Award for 2009 at the November meeting. She has long served as an IDOA bee inspector. Congratulations Rita! β

No-Nonsense Honey The Competitor's Edge



Jim and Karen Belli shared their secrets of their exceptional success in honey shows. From cleaning the caps to the use of polarized light, they led the November meeting attendees through their winning techniques. Though relatively new to beekeeping, the Belli's have established themselves as journeymen honey competitors. β



ISBA Executive Board 2009

Directors

Northern Region

Erik Whalen-Pedersen
9810 N. Hunters Lane
Spring Grove, IL 60081
815 675 0426
NIBA@mchsi.com

Central Region

David Burns
14556 N. 1020 East Road
Fairmont, IL 61841
217-427-2678
david@honeybeesonline.com

Southern Region

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

ISBA Bulletin Editor

Larry Kregel
9409 Voss Road
Marengo, IL 60152
815 923 4449
lkregel@mc.net

President

William Buckley
6525 S. Western Avenue
Willowbrook, IL 60527
630 654 1867
dotbuckbee@att.net

Vice President

Rich Ramsey
5455 Ramsey Road
Rochester, IL 62463
Phone (217) 4989374
rramsey2@gmail.com

Secretary

Rita Taylor
4274 Taylor Homestead Road
Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024
217 626 1319
rtaylor39@hughes.net

Treasurer

Udell Meyer
8844 Trio Lane
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618 633 2429
udenor06@madisonelco.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 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	19.50	37.00	52.15
Bee Culture	21.00	38.00	N/A
The Speedy Bee	13.25	25.25	34.00

The Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin (USPS 258-600) is published bimonthly at 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024. Membership is \$10.00 per year that includes a one-year subscription to the Bulletin

POSTMASTER: Send address Corrections to Illinois State Beekeepers Association 4274 Taylor Homestead Road, Pleasant Plains, IL 62677-4024.

ILLINOIS STATE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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

- ⇒ *Honey in the legislature*
- ⇒ *Beekeeping classes*
- ⇒ *Minutes of the November meeting*
- ⇒ *Want a job?*

