



Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin

July/August 2012 Volume 95 Number 4

Letter from the President

My sincere thanks to Terry Combs, President of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association, for making this year's ISBA meeting a huge success. I specifically want to mention Kevin and Angie Gerstenecker, Lonnie Langley, Bill Mattatall, Norma Meyer, Dan Michael, Vickie and John Piel, Larry Quicksall, Jane Sueme and Jason Weaver. A special thank you goes to Dr. James Underwood, President, Mary Schultze, Campus Coordinator, and the Board of the Kaskaskia College for providing us the use of their outstanding facility. I also want to thank all the members of the ISBA Board and the ISBA Bulletin Editor for all their hard work in making this event a success.

It is now time to turn our attention to the upcoming Illinois State Fair. The dates for this year's Fair are August 9th through August 19th. I urge all of our members to enter the Honey Competition. There is no

better way to sharpen your skills regarding the packaging and display of honey products than entering a competition. The Honey Competition showcases the products of our Illinois hives. Our display is in the air conditioned Illinois Building so the products, and all the volunteer beekeepers working the display and honey ice cream sales, are not exposed to excessive heat. The sale of honey ice cream in the booth adjoining the display is our biggest ISBA income producer. I hope all of you have a chance to participate in the Honey Competition and attend the Fair this year.

In closing, I want to thank the St. Clair Beekeepers Association again for all their work at making the ISBA Summer Meeting such a memorable event.

Jim Belli



Heartland Apicultural Society Conference 2012 by Nick Lauerman

The Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) held their annual conference at the University of Missouri at St Louis on July 12th through the 14th. The meeting was attended by about 200 beekeepers and their partners. This year's keynote speakers were Kim Flottum who spoke on what was "On the Radar" as he saw it, Jerry Hayes who spoke on Monsanto's Commitment to Honey Bee Health through it's acquisition of Beeologics, and author Marina Marchese talked about The Sensory Analysis Of Honey. Dr Jim Tew presented "Parasitic Mites and Honey Bees over 25 years", Christi Heintz talked about Project Apis m. and Christi had the dubious honor of following the self proclaimed "gnat on crack," Dr. Jon Hagler the Missouri State Director of Agriculture's welcoming comments. Dr Hagler is a very energetic speaker and supporter of not just Missouri agriculture, as demonstrated by his installation of a large garden in front of the building, but also of honey bees as now there are two hives in that garden.

While each of the Keynote speakers presented informative talks, the true value in HAS were the breakout sessions, of which there were four each

day. These sessions were held in six class rooms within the JC Penny Conference center plus one "bee lab" in the adjacent Stadler Hall. There were also sessions conducted "in the apiary" - even a small apiary had been set up. If that wasn't enough, there was also a queen rearing course conducted amongst all this other activity.

In the classroom, there was a beginners track that covered such topics as honey bee biology, getting started and equipment for the new beekeeper. For the nonbeekeepers in attendance there were several classes offered on topics such as candle making, soap making and making lotions, balms and salves. For the beekeepers, the breakout sessions covered a wide range of topics, including such things as observation hives, building a new honey house, re-queening a hive, urban beekeeping, various beekeeping business topics, Africanized bees, and photography. Jerry Hayes conducted a couple "In the Classroom" sessions reminiscent of his column in American Bee Journal. One of the nice things about the break out sessions is that they were conducted by a wide range of people from hobbyist to large scale beekeepers, apiary inspectors

and university professors.

To top it all off, this year's conference had two daytime tours available - the first to the Missouri Botanical Garden. The other tour was to the St Louis Zoo. Both of these locations are well known and popular.

There were also two social events held. A honey tasting followed up Marina Marchese's keynote address. The tastings featured local honey supplied by Missouri beekeepers and honey from various locations around the world. The honey varied in color from water white to very dark. And almost all were a delight to taste. However, I would recommend if you are given the opportunity to taste Chestnut Honey, avoid it. The group I went down the table with could still be arguing as to what honey was the most tasty but they all agreed that it was the last time that they will taste Chestnut Honey. The honey tasting was a very enjoyable time.

If you found a free moment, there was time to visit the vendors area. Dadant and Walter Kelly were present with their selections, but so were several smaller companies offering specialized beekeeping equipment or bee related

Letter from the Editor...

My Grandfather Voyné lived in Oklahoma during "The Dust Bowl Days". With a little nervousness, I think of his drought stories. I know how much worse it was back then. In 1936, there was a stretch of 100 degree days that was longer than what we just went through. And, of course, they had the dust storms. We have soil conservation practices. Even on some of these hot days, though, I've worked mine and other people's bees. I've been amazed, seeing how well our super-organism friends take this hot drought one day at a time.

Next to seven acres of burnt-up corn, in the sweltering heat, I stood and watched a friend's hives last week, while his bees came and went in their jolly way. "I don't know where they're getting it, but there's a honey flow going right now." "I think they're just bringing water into your hives." I said. But when we went through his

frames, we found his bees still putting honey away – it was a darker honey – very pretty. "Do you think they're somehow working the Red Clover? How would they reach it?" I asked. "I do think that's what they're working," he said, "When the Red Clover gets stressed, it draws its petals tighter and the nectar gets pushed up to where the bees can reach it." I loved this theory, and I do think it's true. In any case, it put a silver lining on the cloud that is this extreme drought. This is my favorite thing about working with honey bees: They will always surprise you, and show you things about nature that you might never have guessed.

I hope everyone's bees are making it through the adverse weather. I had a great time seeing friends from around the state at the ISBA Summer Meeting in Vandalia. The speakers were phenomenal, the food and

friendliness was first-rate. I had the joy of bringing my fiancé to meet all of my state-wide beekeeper pals. Raph (pronounced Raif) got a real boost in his beekeeping knowledge – that will make our co-endeavors with the bees even more fun.

I mentioned at the Summer Meeting: I would like to get to know the Beekeepers Associations throughout the state. I'd like to know when your meetings and events are, so that if I happen to be up your way, I can drop in and meet people. This is what I love about our Bulletin – that we can hear from all of the talented and interesting beekeepers throughout Illinois. Please contact me and tell me how to get involved with your Association. As always, I anxiously await your feedback, your article submissions, or even simple "Hello!" Don't be a stranger!
-Eleanor Balson
bubblebubb@gmail.com (510) 285-7879

ISBA Bulletin Interviews Jerry Hayes, Beeologics' Honey Bee Lead

For newer beekeepers, can you give us a little background information about yourself? And for beekeepers who know you, tell us how your relocation is going.
~Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and Illinois Beekeepers. I was the Chief of the Apiary Inspection Section for the Florida Department of Agriculture for almost 9 years but before that I worked for Dadant in Hamilton, Illinois for almost 18 years. So, my family and I like the Midwest and are quite familiar with it. Three of our children were born across the river (Mississippi) in Iowa when we lived in west central Illinois. Earlier this year, right after I started in St. Louis, the Missouri State Beekeepers Association met in St. Louis, so I had the opportunity to speak to them and renew old friendships. Lots of beekeepers know me from the 25+ years of writing the Classroom Q&A Column in the American Bee Journal and the book of the same name. The beekeeping fraternity is a small community where everyone knows or knows of everybody else, kind of like a family. It's been fun for lots of years for me. ~Hayes

I read your interview in the American Bee Journal. You shed some light on the social goal of Monsanto. I was struck by the humanitarian implications, that Monsanto's goal is to enable farmers to double crop yields by 2030, and that one tier of this goal is to improve the lives of small scale and resource-poor farmers on an international level, such as by donating water-use efficiency genes to

struggling farmers in Africa. Its an ambitious and inspiring goal, to feed the projected world population of 9 billion people in 2050. Can you talk specifically about how honeybees fit into this equation and the work you're doing with RNA? ~Editor

Let me explain what RNA is and why I have chosen to come to Monsanto at this time. I think everybody probably knows what DNA is. DNA is the code, the instructions, the library of everything that makes you, and is fundamental to every cell function in our bodies. But how do these instructions get out of the cell? To do that, the cell uses RNA to take the instructions to where they need to go. RNA is the messenger to take instructions from DNA to make proteins. And the reverse is also a function of RNA taking instructions from DNA to turn off the making of proteins.

As an example, there are viruses that we come in contact with from time to time, like colds and flu that make us sick. Given some time, your body is successful in turning off these viruses using antibodies, fever and specific RNA. This RNA takes instructions that target the viruses and turns off the viruses' ability to make proteins that make more viruses. In honey bees it has been proven that a specific RNA can boost their ability to fight the Israeli Acute Paralysis Virus by using the specific RNA in a very focused way to target the virus protein machinery and keep it from making more viruses. RNA and its function in a honey bee, a chicken, a plant or you and I is a normal natural process that is specific and in no way changes the original DNA code.

Monsanto has made the commitment to honey bee health to discover how to use RNA as the platform to address viruses and, hopefully, the Varroa mites in the future as well. That's why I am here - to help this process move forward to the benefit of all beekeepers. I will continue to write the Classroom Q&A and keep in contact with the Industry at all levels to keep them apprised of progress here. I'm here to serve beekeepers as I have been a beekeeper for 30+ years and understand what they need.

Monsanto is a very large and successful agricultural seed company that knows the value of honey bees to sustainable agricultural success and the food that feeds us, our livestock, and companion animals, and sustains the plants and animals in the environment. This project using RNA is not some short-term temporary commitment by Monsanto but a long-term, reasoned response to use this new understanding of RNA to solve honey bee health issues. All of the research is conducted by scientists in the lab and FDA-approved field trials.

I've said it before and will again that the beekeeping industry has always been the "ugly stepsister" of agriculture. It's vital and hugely important but small and ignored more times than not. Beekeepers have always survived somehow, but not in a smooth, supported way like other agriculture systems. Now we have a large successful company, Monsanto, who has the technology, scientists and know-how to bring solutions to farmers - and now to beekeepers. We can't miss this opportunity.
~Hayes

Illinois Apiary Inspection Program Page

Watching for Aggressive Bees by Dan Wright

Many of you may have heard that a partially Africanized bee colony was found this year in Eastern Tennessee. With so many new beekeepers getting started with packages now-a-days, it is also possible that this could happen in Illinois. Purchasing bees that have Africanized genes, or purchasing a queen from an area that has Africanized bees is how these aggressive genetics move about the country. The beekeeper has to be the watchdog.

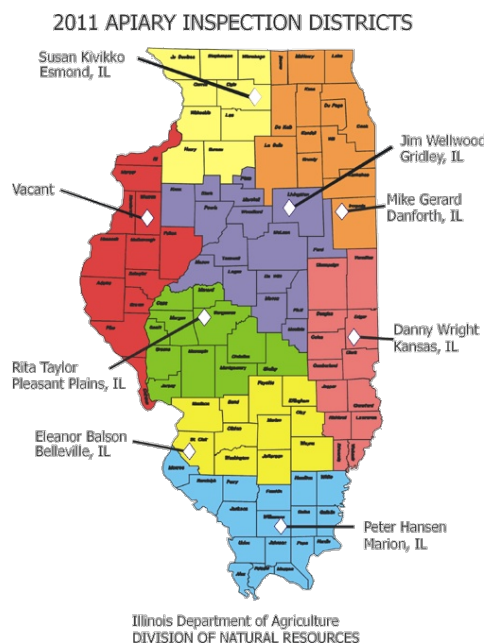
I don't want to create a scare by saying that "All mean bees are Africanized." This is far from the truth.

Mean colonies can also come about from several other reasons. A colony can become aggressive from years of inbreeding. Yes, letting the bees raise their own queen year after year, and never introducing a new queen can give you mean bees. But another way is when a supercedure queen is raised by the bees from a hybrid cross. Of course, you get mean bees when you have a queenless hive, and you get cranky bees when a skunk has been paying a nightly visit. Colonies also tend to be more aggressive as the colony grows in strength. Figure in other factors, such as when the honey flow shuts off and robbing starts. The weather can make them mean, or it may even be the beekeeper that gets them on edge. Not smoking the entrance or allowing some time before opening the hive will set off their alarms. When a beekeeper uses no smoke at all and pries the inner cover off and it goes "Pop" - the noise, or even fast actions will set off a colony. Frames sticking to the super above is another problem that bees don't like. A

bee brush can also aggravate the bees. Would you like a giant broom or brush trying to move you? As you can tell, I'm not much of a fan of a bee brush.

When beekeepers are called to collect a swarm and, arriving on the scene, suspect they might have encountered an Africanized hive, their suspicions could be correct, but there could be other factors. Catching a swarm and moving it in the middle of the day can turn bees aggressive. The field force that was out and coming back in is disoriented. Swarms with no queen or virgin queens can be nervous.

In closing, consider the disposition of each colony that has vacated the hive. Are they going for your head and constantly hitting your veil? Do you have a cloud of bees around your head? If you observe any of these conditions, call an inspector. There is no charge for sending a bee sample in alcohol to the USDA Bee Laboratory in Tuscon, AZ.



Steve Chard, Supervisor
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Division of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281
217/782-6297

Eleanor Balson Inspector
P.O. Box 361
Pocahontas, IL 62275
Cell: 510/285-7879
bubblebubb@gmail.com

Mike Gerard Inspector
206 N. 4th, Box 79
Danforth, IL 60930
mikegerard333@gmail.com
815/269-2026
cell: 217/390-4399

Peter Hansen Inspector
P.O. Box 596
Ashkum, IL 60911
Cell: 815/341-0248
peterbeekeep@gmail.com

Susan Kivikko Inspector
18029 East Mowers Road
Esmond, IL 60129
815/494-1403 or 815/393-3524
northernbeekeepers@gmail.com

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

Jim Wellwood Inspector
12410 North 500 East Road
Gridley, IL 61744
309/310-4843
jowell@gridcom.net

Dan Wright Inspector
P.O. Box 83
Kansas, IL 61933
217/948-5121 (place of business)
dwrightbc@mchsi.com

Ron Abernathy Inspector
Bartonville, IL
309/256-4264
honeybees62@hotmail.com



Epidemic of Bee Losses and the BeeInformed Partnership

by Dewey Caron

Since the winter of 2006 - 2007, national overwintering colony surveys, collected from ~20% of US bee colony owners, have

documented high (>30%) losses of managed bee colonies. Affected beekeepers span the entire spectrum of the industry: migratory beekeepers to stationary beekeepers; commercial beekeepers, part-time beekeepers, to backyard (side-line) beekeepers. This most recent season losses were somewhat lower at 21.9% and in fact, for the last 3 seasons, overwinter losses have been lower than the previous winter. Survey returns from Illinois beekeepers report higher loss levels (>70% in 2011 and 49% this past overwinter period) than national loss levels.

The BeeInformed Partnership(BIP) is a National 5-year CAP(Coordinated Agricultural Project) grant project funded by National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), part of the US Department of Agriculture. At the recent Summer ISBA meeting, I discussed the National loss epidemic and presented a snapshot of BIP survey results. [I am a member of the scientific advisory panel of BIP].I also presented loss survey information from the Pacific northwest, collected and analyzed independent of the BIP project.

With a series of activities, including conducting an electronic National overwinter loss survey in April (see the website BeeInformed.org for past survey details and our press release on the latest survey which explains how we arrived at the percentages in the first paragraph) the BIP project is using an epidemiological approach to identify risk factors associated with the high bee losses. Using survey and field team generated data, along with analysis of historical loss data, we are seeking to identify factors that contribute to bee disease occurrence, to advocate for and promote ways to reduce exposure to risk factors to ultimately assist beekeepers to reduce disease incidence at the population level.

One of the graphs I presented at the Vandalia meeting demonstrated that about a quarter of all beekeepers responding to the 2010-2011 winter loss survey lost fewer than 15% of their hives - an acceptable rate. Unfortunately, however, another 25% of all beekeepers lost over 55% of their colonies. We have another season of survey data to extend and help verify/explain these data currently undergoing analysis. We believe our BIP effort can help identify key factors to determine why some beekeepers are losing a few colonies while others are losing many.

All beekeepers know that keeping bees healthy and productive is a complicated endeavor. There is no "one

right way" to keep bees. Keeping colonies alive is not always about what beekeepers do, but where the bee colonies are located, and for those who practice more intensive management, also about how skillfully we manage our colonies . Given these many complex factors, BIP using an epidemiological approach, offers tools to help make sense of complicated issues such as epidemic bee losses.

At its core, the Bee Informed Partnership is motivated by the conviction that beekeepers, when presented with beekeeper-derived data that objectively shows which management practices worked and which did not, will adopt and make more informed decisions for more success in bee colony care. It is a means for beekeepers to look over their neighbor's fence and benefit and learn from other beekeepers. Ultimately the aim is to reduce colony losses. It starts with your participation. Thanks to those Illinois beekeepers who have participated in the past...we seek greater input to help get a better understanding of the situation in Illinois. BIP will statistically analyze and present results using tools that will enable you to interact with the results to compare your practices and successes with others in your region and operational size. With increasing data, BIP will develop means to assess and present the economic costs (through participation of an economics team lead by Dr. Susan Bayliss of U of I) of treatment strategies in real time over the course of a year. By compiling a comprehensive honey bee disease data base, beekeepers will eventually be able to compare their Varroa mite and Nosema infection levels with historical levels and with other beekeepers in their region. In short, this project will try to give beekeepers the tools they need to make well informed, data-driven decisions.

The website has more information and I encourage you to look it over. Included is a blog (some of the material may not be relevant or of interest) and material from a National Honey Bee Extension website developed by a previous CAP project that included Dr. Gene Robinson's Honey Bee Lab at U of Illinois and the Project Apis m newsletter. An informative article on the outreach (extension) rationale of BIP was just published in *American Entomologist*. I encourage ALL Illinois beekeepers to be informed – Bee included - Bee involved.

See also: Preliminary Results: Honey Bee Colony Losses in the U.S., Winter 2011-2012 Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Jeffery Pettis, Karen Rennich, , Robyn Rose , Dewey Caron, Keith S. Delaplane, James T. Wilkes, Eugene J. Lengerich, Kathy Baylis, and the Bee Informed Partnership.

Dewey M. Caron carond@hort.oregonstate.edu

CENTRAL EASTERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Lorraine Wirges ~ Rantoul, IL momwirges@aol.com
COOK-DUPAGE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Charles Williams ~ Glen Ellyn, IL Phone: 630.858.6308 charles.w.williams@hud.gov
HEART OF ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Janet Hart ~ Brimfield, IL Phone: 309.446.3004 harthoney@msn.com
KANKAKEE VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Cindy Gustafson Phone: 708.468.4315
LAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Perry Plescia ~ Grayslake, IL Phone: 847.223.6613 p.plescia@sbcglobal.net
LINCOLN LAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Steve Petrilli ~ Springfield, IL Phone: 217.638.7891 s.petrilli@comcast.net
LITTLE EGYPT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Beverly Tanner ~ Fairfield, IL Phone: 618.842.3386 ffpro2@verizon.net
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Cara Bowman ~ Hannibal, MO bowman@mywdo.com
NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Corky Schnadt ~ Hainesville, IL corkyschnadt@gmail.com
ST. CLAIR BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Vickie Piel ~ Edwardsville, IL Phone: 618.978.4369 sleepyp@att.net
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Susan Nellis ~ Ava, IL Phone: 618.319.0285 teachmychild2@gmail.com
SPOON RIVER VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Rick Camp ~ Roseville, IL Phone: 309.255.2195 campgroveorchard@mtcnow.net
WILL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION Darien Kruss ~ Joliet, IL Phone: 630.557.6233 info@willbees.org

ISBA Goes to the 84th Illinois FFA State Convention by Janet Hart, Rich Ramsey, and Susan Kivikko

What better way to take beekeeping into the future than with the Future Farmers of America? ISBA set-up an educational booth at the Illinois FFA State Convention at the Prairie Capitol Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois on June 12 - 14. Last year had been quite a success with a number of FFA chapters requesting full beekeeping presentations. This year, it was again a very popular spot as high school students and agriculture teachers crowded around the observation hive and a variety of hive products. The importance of Driftwatch was explained to them and a laptop computer was set up to demonstrate how easily it can be accessed through illinoisbees.com. Not only could they take the Driftwatch information, but they could sample different types of Illinois honey and enter their chapter in a drawing. The kids were very polite and asked many questions.

ISBA wants to thank the members that volunteered their time, especially Steve Kivikko for setting up his computer, Carolyn Gerberding for her honey and displays, and Leslie Deem from the Pollintarium for her beaded bees and all-ages talks about bee behavior and biology. Also volunteering were Mike Mason, Jerry Wasson, David Bridges, and Arvin Pierce. Thanks to Dadant and Brushy Mountain Bee Farm, and Northern Beekeepers for providing books, mugs and honey for the drawing each day.

Several FFA chapters are interested in starting hives of their own. If your association is interested in giving a presentation, please contact ISBA secretary Susan Kivikko to see if their is a chapter in your area:
northernbeekeeper@gmail.com

Spend a Day at the Illinois State Fair by Janet Hart

This year we are inviting the affiliated associations to pick a day during the state fair to man the ISBA honey ice cream booth (Heart of Illinois Beekeepers have Tuesday the 14th). The ISBA sells honey ice cream as its major fund-raising activity. The Honey Show is located in the Illinois Building which is air-conditioned! In the past, Lincoln Land Beekeepers have taken the majority of responsibility for the booth. This year we are hoping that other associations step up to help.

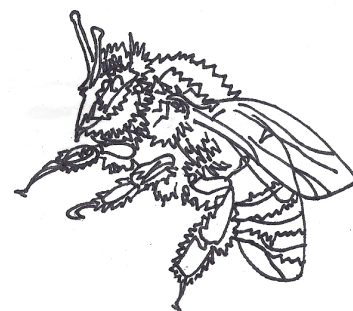
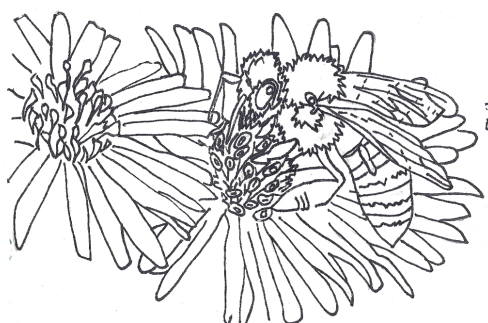
Associations are encouraged to bring honey to sell to the public. You are responsible for your own sales tax.

Besides selling honey and ice cream, there is also the very popular observation hive and the honey show with a beautiful display of honey bee products from throughout the state. It is a great reason to take a day off of work and spend it at the state fair!

The building is open from 9 to 5 pm. To schedule your time, contact Rich Ramsey or Janet Hart (harthoney@msn.com, ph. 309 446-3004)

Attention ISBA Members and Officers of ISBA Affiliated Associations:

Pass it on! Let us know about your meetings and coming events. We'd like to spread the word.



Waxing Philosophical ~ the Beekeeping Puzzle

Why are bees sometimes fickle about flowers?

Question:

Why do bees sometimes quit working a certain flower. For example, why will you see lots of bees on clover one week, and later, they just don't seem interested? Another example, some years, bees will work and put a little honey away from soybeans. Other years they won't touch them. Why is this?

Answers:

Nectar secretion is very temperamental--different environmental conditions can lead to either more or less nectar production, rendering flowers more or less attractive.

- Gene Robinson ~ University of Illinois, Champagne
4 votes

It could be that the nectar supply ran out and the bees moved on to the next source. Or there is nectar still in that flower but a better source has been located.

Dandelions are being worked, then fruit trees bloom - the fruit trees will get top supply status. Its like the difference between a steak and a hot dog. I will eat the hot dogs but if someone puts a big ole steak in front of me, the dog is on the back burner.

- J. Charles Jessup ~Vergenes **3 votes**

I don't know! Why does one hive suck up all the sugar water you give it and the one next door won't hardly touch it?

- Janet Hart ~ Brimfield **2 votes**

Foraging bees are females. Their behaviors mimic those that their human counterparts exhibit when shopping.

- Jim Belli ~ Wadsworth **4 votes**

You have to have the right amount of moisture and heat to get a nectar flow. Some varieties of plant, like

buckwheat, only have nectar in the morning, so that is why they will work it for a while and later ignore it. Some varieties of soybeans, bees will not work. Whether they will work soybeans depends on the moisture and content of the soil.

- Lonnie Langley ~ Vandalia **3 votes**

Just because a flower is in bloom doesn't mean that there is nectar in it. At the Summer Meeting one of our speakers, Nicholas Naeger, touched on this principle of flowers opening at different times of the day. You can have flowers but there may be nectar (early) or maybe not (later). I know some who taste-test the clover, for example, by pulling a bloom stem and tasting it. Actually, some clover is just plain too deep for the bees to get the nectar out of as it grows. The notion is clearly to draw the pollinators. The bees seem to know where the nectar flow is though communication.

- Erik Whalen Pedersen ~ Spring Grove **3 votes**

Top Answer - 6 votes:

Bees will work a nectar source until there is a more productive source or, some flowers produce nectar at certain times of the day so you might see bees in the morning and not in the afternoon.

But take soybeans - some varieties produce nectar and some don't. The U of I has been studying soybeans as a nectar source for over thirty years and that data is available somewhere... - Rich Ramsey ~Rochester

*Next issue's puzzling question: How do you know if your bees have this new *Nosema ceranae*, and how do you treat it?*

Please submit your own questions to the editor, bubblebubb@gmail.com. Would you like to be on the voting panel? Just email and ask! We need you!

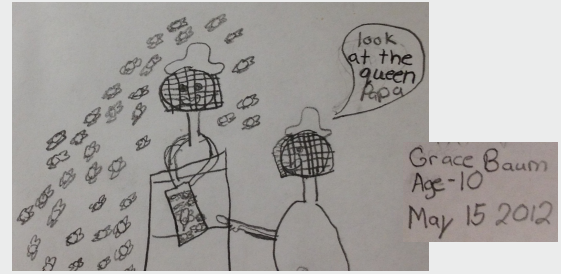
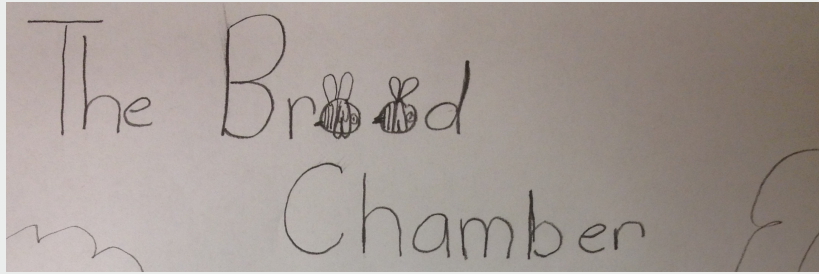
HAS Conference Continued...

items such as tee-shirts and jewelry. I have it on good authority that some of the jewelry was gorgeous. There were 17 vendors according to the program, but it seemed as if there were more to me. One of the wonderful things about the vendor area is that it also served as an area for beekeepers from different areas to interact and discuss how they were doing and did things.

The conference was also attended this year by the American Beekeeping Federation Honey Queen, Alyssa Fine, and the Indiana State Honey Queen, Elisabeth Burnell, and Princess, Brook Mandel. In addition to visits with beekeepers in the vendor area, they presented sessions on cooking with honey. Alyssa also conducted a great breakout session on "Giving

Beekeeping Presentations to the Public."

The conference ended with door prizes and announcements. The 2013 conference will be at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tennessee. The 2014 conference is planned for Michigan and the 2015 Conference might possibly be held in Illinois. I would highly recommend that if you have an opportunity to attend HAS in the future, you do. The amount of information there is to learn, and the relatively low cost (in addition to the low conference fee, usually there is low cost housing available at the host university) make the conference an outstanding value.



If You Take Care of the Bees, They Will Take Care of You!

By Arianna Goss

Sometimes just having bees can help your health. So let's take a ride through the hive and see what the bees can do for you.

Bees can help with your health. Just getting stung by a bee can be a problem for some people who are allergic to their venom, but for others a bees sting can help you be healthier. Bee stings can help prevent you from getting arthritis. It does so by the sting shocking your joints, rather than them being stiff and becoming stuck. It is even believed to help with some diseases.

Honey, a major product of the bee, is one of the oldest medical miracles. It never spoils and was even found inside the Egyptian

pyramids. Honey was often used as an Egyptian health remedy to get rid of sore throats and strep throat.

Bee pollen can also help your health. The pollen can: help you recover from a chronic disease, build new blood, and can prevent you from getting infectious diseases such as the cold or flu.

My favorite recipe with honey is Honey Hot Tea. Many people add sugar to their tea. But on the healthier side, add honey. Many people think honey is just like sugar, but it's not. Honey is full of nutrients, vitamins, and minerals. So just substitute honey for sugar in your hot tea.

A lot of civilians think that bee

stings are annoying, painful things, but they're so much more. So when you get stung, don't curse to the wind. Just think "It's helping me on the inside."

Arianna is 11 years old. Her uncle, David Dhom, got Arianna and her granddad started in beekeeping when Arianna was 8. She has 1 hive, which her granddad, John Michl, helps supervise. She resides in Sainte Marie, IL

The Brood Chamber features the writing of young beekeepers, as well as the historical memories of our elder beekeepers. Do you know a young beekeeper with fresh ideas? Or someone who's been keeping bees for decades? Contact the editor if you think they have something to share.

Crystallized Honey by Astrid Sabo

We know that when Honey gets too cold it crystallizes. You probably put it in really warm water or in a small pan, but what if you have a full honey bucket and it will not fit in the sink? Well here is a cool way to warm up your honey! You will need: a Cooler, your Honey, Mini incandescent Christmas lights and a Thermometer. Have a grownup help put the honey in the cooler and put the lights around the bucket. And close the lid. Then put the thermometer on top of the bucket. Look at it 2 hours later - if it is less than 96 degrees wait a little bit then look again. It should read 96-100F - if that is right you are doing good. It will take about 2 hours to start liquifying. It took about 2 days to liquify 5 gallons of our honey

recently.

One thing that is really cool about honey is that it does not spoil! In King Tut's tomb, honey was found that was thousands of years old. And guess what? It was edible! You can use honey in place of sugar. It has no fat, cholesterol or sodium. You can use honey for many things like making the recipe your Grandma sent, Candy, Cakes, making ice cream or just having it on your sandwich. Any WWII cookbook will have great suggestions as sugar was rationed at that time. So people used honey as a replacement.

Now we know about how to warm up your honey, but why does it crystallize? Honey is made primarily with water and nectar from flowers. The sugary substance's inherent

dryness can also lead to crystallization. If you want to use the crystallized honey, you can use it to make whipped honey butter. The only thing you need for this recipe is honey (1/4 cup) and soft butter (1/2 cup). Just mix it up till fluffy. You can use this on top of pies, cakes, doughnuts and pancakes.

So when your honey goes solid it is not bad! Warm it up!



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 or individually if no local associations are available. Dues for 2012 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 to ISBA members at about 25% discount. Mention membership in ISBA when sending your subscription payment to the publishers. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

Make checks for membership payable to: Illinois State Beekeepers Association and mail to: Mike Mason, Treasurer, P.O. Box 21094, Springfield, IL 62703.

Address Changes: Send old and new address six weeks prior to date of change when practical to the association secretary.

Reduced Journal Rates for 2012 (members only)

	<u>1 yr</u>	<u>2 yr</u>	<u>3 yr</u>
<u>American Bee Journal</u>	19.50	37.00	52.15
<u>Bee Culture</u>	21.00	38.00	N/A
<u>The Speedy Bee</u>	13.25	25.25	34.00

OFFICERS:

President
Jim Belli
Wadsworth, IL
(847) 838-0207
jim@belli-belli.com

Vice President
Rich Ramsey
Rochester, IL
(217) 498-9374
rramsey2@gmail.com

Secretary
Susan Kivikko
Esmond, IL
(815) 393-3524
northernbeekeeper@gmail.com

Treasurer
Michael Mason
Riverton, IL
(217) 629-5436
mike.r.mason@comcast.net

DIRECTORS:

Northern Region
Erik Whalen-Pedersen
Spring Grove, IL
(815) 675-0426
niba@mchsi.com

Central Region
Janet Hart
Brimfield, IL
(309) 446-3004
harthoney@msn.com

Southern Region
Ray Chapman
Bunker Hill, IL
(618) 585-4506
honey.1@frontier.com

ISBA Bulletin Editor
Eleanor Balson
P.O. Box 361
Pocahontas, IL
(510) 285-7879
bubblebubb@gmail.com



Illinois State Beekeepers Association

P.O. Box 21094
Springfield IL 62703

