



# Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin

July/August 2015 Volume 98 Number 4

## Letter from the President

Mike Mason

Hello Beekeepers,

First, I would like to commend Eleanor Schumacher for her tremendous and successful effort in coordinating all the participating affiliates in the Southern Region to put on a great summer meeting. There were many people in many associations that did a great job. The meeting realized a profit of \$1442.76 which was divided up amongst 6 different associations. Thank you to all the volunteers and to Eleanor for her leadership. It was a lot of fun with the Bakers Challenge and the Jamboree. Quite a few people stayed for the evening meal and music which was great.

For many beekeepers, it has been a struggle this year. The periodic rains that came in waves had a definite impact on the ability of bees to get out and forage. This led to intermittent shortages of pollen and nectar which slowed buildup when bees utilized the stores in the colony and had to wait for better conditions to gather food stores to replace what was consumed. These conditions often lead to disease issues but I have not heard of too many problems there. Even with the adverse weather, some beekeepers had pretty good honey production but it

was highly variable based on the reports coming in from around the State.

There is a pretty good showing at the Illinois State Fair in the open class along with three professional classes entered. A lot of work goes into coordinating and setting up these displays and those efforts are appreciated. This year we have an ISBA medal pin with ribbon for all the first place winners in each class. The idea for the pin was taken from an antique owned by Anna Stone that her Great Grandfather had from ISBA. He was one of the founding members. An added incentive to show at the Illinois State Fair.

Hope your hives produce well and bees stay healthy.  
Mike



## 2015 Beekeeper of the Year Is...

More and more beekeepers are sharing the craft of beekeeping by helping friends, neighbors, and strangers get started on the right foot with their own hives. Some beekeepers teach classes, while others open their apiaries to curious potential beekeepers, or drive long distances to provide mentoring. What a difference it makes in our world of beekeeping when generous people share their knowledge and time to promote up-to-date tips on successful beekeeping, and what better way to thank a great beekeeper than by nominating him or her for ISBA Beekeeper of the Year.

The prestigious Beekeeper of the Year program started in 2003. Every year, the ISBA seeks to recognize a beekeeper who best reflects the key objectives of the ISBA by promoting:

1. An interest in honey bees and beekeeping by encouraging good beekeeping practices in Illinois
2. The utilization of honey bees for pollination of agricultural crops
3. The dissemination of information about honey bees and beekeeping

As long as the candidate for ISBA Beekeeper of the Year is a current ISBA member in good standing, and a resident of Illinois, your nomination for ISBA Beekeeper of the year will be in the running as the ISBA board members consider a selection.

Recognize a great beekeeper in your community!  
Nominate a local beekeeper for ISBA Beekeeper of the Year!

Did you sometimes get the feeling this summer that you lived in a different part of the world? Perhaps a country with monsoon? When the waters began to rise, I thought “the bees have it right, living 10 feet up in a tree.” Well, as long as that tree wasn't on the river banks.

Myself, I also get the feeling sometimes that I live in a different part of time – the future. I see other people that must be caught up in that feeling. With so much information at our fingertips, and youtube videos on every subject imaginable, how does one keep from being inspired to “take it up a notch” in whatever their current endeavors or passions? Here's an example: Instrumental Insemination of Queen Bees. A fantastic, fast 10 minute tutorial exists on youtube, demonstrating “How to Instrumentally Inseminate a Queen Bee”. This video was posted by Dr. Peter Schley, a German beekeeper who developed a line of laboratory equipment for II (Instrumental Insemination). I know I'm not the only fool who can watch a video like this, and instantly dream of saving up for the equipment. How do I know I'm not the only fool? Because another beekeeper told me about the video and his plans to get into the business of II himself. Not that I think he couldn't do it.

Our world is full of inspiration. So many people you meet are working on a dream of their own, despite any obstacle or set back. In the world of beekeeping, the potential to dream is huge, and thankfully, so many of these dreams are supported and encouraged among beekeepers in their communities. Hence, we get to witness brilliant ideas bearing fruit season after season. I say a big “Kudos!” to all of the Illinois beekeepers

who take part in their local beekeeping organization. Its people taking positions like “club librarian”, “program director”, “public information officer”, and “hospitality coordinator” that make a beekeeping association flourish and inspire.

The downside to this inspired world of bringing dreams to life is that we can't invent more time, and it's extremely easy to pack a calendar too tightly. I've been completely deluged this summer with work, as well as my own beekeeping dreams. I was sorry to miss out entirely on the State Fair, and I am enamored of all the beekeepers who took the time to help sell honey ice cream, and man the great Bee Culture Exhibit. More so, I enjoy looking online at the honey competition results, (you will find the link on the home page of our ISBA website, [www.ilsba.com](http://www.ilsba.com)) and seeing some of those good-ol' blue ribbon names, and in what categories they took the ribbon. There are also new names in the game of “refining perfection” of their bee-made product.

How do they do it? That kind of craftsmanship, can it be learned from a youtube video? If you find the video that teaches craftsmanship, please let me know, because I don't think there is any way to achieve craftsmanship other than to set down the butterfly net of dream chasing, and consider mastery of the talents we already possess.

Hats off to the beekeepers from all parts of Illinois who give their craft all they've got, placing their fantastic honey and wax products on display. The time and energy you put into this keystone tradition of beekeeping is most inspiring, and can't be taught on a youtube video. Thanks to all who participated in the State Fair!

## Literacy Course for Honey Bees

Have trouble overwintering your honey bees? Do you have other late season problems, such as robbing and fall swarming? Are you frustrated because your bees obviously “haven't read the book”? Consider enrolling your bees in the “Literacy Program for Honey Bees”.

Choose the right classroom scenario for your bees. Classes come in two formats: Economy and Deluxe. **Deluxe Package:** your hives will ship to sunny Florida. Classes are held daily, with subjects such as “The Fall Flow: All Work and No Play.” This course explores the dynamics of the goldenrod flow. The back-to-school spirit of this class should inspire lazy bees (that were fed during the dearth) to actually forage the fall blooms. A helpful section in statistics illustrates the slim-to-none chance of a fall swarm's winter survival, especially if they don't let the beekeeper catch them. Other courses in the program include “Brood Rearing 101: anticipating winter, and

slowing down on brood rearing (presented in English and Italian) and “Leg-Biting: If they can do it at Purdue, so can you”. Spelling Bees are another essential weekly course offering.

These classes are available at the Economy level, offered as online courses. Tech requirements: a smart phone with unlimited data package. Simply slide the phone into the hive via the hive entrance, secure with mouse guards and entrance reducers, and your bees are “plugged in” for the winter.

Already tried the Honey Bee Literacy Program last year? Didn't work? Don't give up. New this year, the Honey Bee Internship. Some bees learn by doing. Send them to California, so they can work while they network with smarter bees.

For pricing, enrollment, or to file suit for fraud, please email [bubblebubb@gmail.com](mailto:bubblebubb@gmail.com).

“Nice job, Svetlana! Great brood pattern! You’re a good little Russian queen.” That’s just me talking to the queen. I’ve been a beekeeper now for 17 years, but only in the last two have I discovered what fun it is to name the queens.

You have to understand, I am the record-keeper of our beekeeping business. My husband and his brother are also at the hives with me, but my main job is to keep a good account of each hive’s progress. The year we increased our small hobbyist business of 25 hives to 45, it became increasingly difficult for us to discuss each hive after we had left the bee yard. “Oh, you know, hive number 12 at the Wiedman place; not hive number 12 at Kruno’s.” You get the picture. Without digging out my records, I couldn’t be for sure which queen was which. Problem solved! Name your queens! It not only gives them more of an identity, but it’s also proved to be a whole lot of fun.

Now there are rules here. Of course the obvious—you must use female names. And be careful. Mother Teresa was a great person, and we wanted to give her honor especially because we were Catholic, and the family’s property where we placed her was Catholic as well. Sadly enough, she was celibate. But now Mary Magdalene was the exact opposite!

We also have established rules in regards to unmarried questionable females. Without mentioning names, trust me, it won’t work! Now Liz Taylor turned out to be a good name. The more husbands (drones) the better! Octomom also proved to be a great choice. (We aren’t worried about **where** that fertilization came from, only that it happened.) At first, the Octomom didn’t like hive number 6 where we originally placed her. She swarmed on us, leaving only a few bees in the original colony. We were lucky enough to see it happen, and placed her instead at what happened to be a blank spot in the apiary...number 8! Wha-la! Now she is doing great...having lots of babies!

Here’s another rule: only name your queens “nice people” names. The first year we chose all popular entertainer names. Sharon Stone was one of my husband’s favorite actresses, so the name was a top choice. Apparently, he knew that as an actress she had a real problem getting along with others on the set. Well, that hive had the worst attitude! We eventually had to requeen it. Nicer names: Lady Gaga, J-Lo, and Cher.

Some names are just winners at the get go. Take for instance this year when all of our names were after famous women. A good friend of mine suggested “BEE”-atrix Potter and Susan “BEE” Anthony. Both were stellar examples of successful first year hives.

I thought of Amelia Earhart as a really great choice. Fortunately, after Amelia “crashed and burned” two days after installation, we found what appeared to be a “double-sized” hive just 3 doors down. That hive, Harriet Tubman, was taking a few others with her! (In case you are unfamiliar with that name...she led many slaves to freedom by way of the Underground Railroad.) I’m glad we are already north of the Mason-Dixon Line otherwise they might travel further!

Some names we just gave to queens based on their personalities. The “Bomber” is a good example. That queen just kept dropping eggs like bombs out of a B-52! Sometimes we commemorate a person who has passed. We have a Maya Angelou and a Shirley Temple Black from the 2014 year. We tried the name Lady Di, but you know what happened to her. That hive didn’t last long.

And then there was the “Jane” swarm. It all happened on a very busy day in early July. We had really stirred up the bees at one of our apiaries because we were checking to see if we could start to pull honey yet. As we got ready to leave, I walked away from the hives to stand under a nearby shady tree to let the bees leave me. It seemed like instead there were more bees following me. Sure enough I looked up and there was a feral swarm hanging in the tree above me. We backed up the truck and as my husband and brother-in-law held an empty box below, I knocked that swarm into the box, christening it the “Jane” swarm (after me). That swarm produced 97 frames of honey last summer! I’m pretty proud of my baby.

We are still counting on some of our new starts from 2014 to really produce in the future. We named a hive Hillary. We will see who wins in 2016! We also named one Julia Child. I think she’ll be a real cooker!

We haven’t decided what names we’ll use for next year’s queens. Maybe we will have women from the Bible (a blessed year for sure), famous women in sports (a really hopping year), women comedians (what a laugh that might be!), or famous authors (we all need a little education). Whatever we use, I know we will have fun with it. Beekeeping is meant to be fun!

*Jane Graham is an 18 year beekeeper in LaSalle County, IL. She and her husband David are members of the Illinois Valley Beekeepers Association. They currently manage 58 hives.*



# Best Management Practices Guide for Illinois Beekeeping

## Late Summer, Fall Management, and Overwintering

The ISBA, in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Agriculture Apiary Division, brings you this next section of the "Best Management Practices Guide for Illinois Beekeeping". This section on Late Summer, Fall Management, and Overwintering was drafted by a panel of beekeepers who worked together to create, review, and revise this guide of research-based methods of beekeeping. Thanks to the Illinois beekeepers, both anonymous and listed here, for cooperating to create this portion of "Best Management Practices for Illinois":

Ted Bradford, Steve Chard, Terry Combs, Dennis Inboden, Susan Kivikko, Charles Linder, Scott Martin, Steve Petrilli, Arvin Pierce, Eleanor Schumacher, Jim Wellwood, and Dan Wright.

### **General (Robbing, Mite Monitoring, and Mite Treatment)**

When the beekeeper is finished harvesting honey, it's a good time to check a hive's mite load. At this time of year, while there is likely less forage available for bees, and the hive is maintaining a smaller brood nest, the mite-to-bee ratio can begin to skyrocket without intervention. High mite populations this time of year can result in a spread of honey bee viruses, and damage to the pattern in the brood nest which can be an invitation for Small Hive Beetle infestation. By checking mite loads a time or two in the late summer, a beekeeper will be aware of any potential danger brought on by high mite levels.

In the late summer, beekeepers should work hives in a way that discourages robbing and drifting. When a stronger hive begins to rob a more vulnerable hive, the robbing episode might continue until the more vulnerable hive is destroyed. Also, the strong robber bees may decide to attack other hives, which can result in piles of dead bees on the ground in front of hive entrances. Aside from this, robbing can create defensiveness, and make an apiary more difficult to work. Working hives for shorter periods, and smoking the entrances of all hives in the apiary will help. Limit the exposure of honey. Clean up any spills, wax, and debris. Keep entrances guardable. Reduce entrances on weak or small colonies down to one bee at a time if necessary.

### **Tips on Harvesting Honey**

Depending on a beekeeper's primary motivation for keeping bees, honey harvests are performed at different times of the year. Some beekeepers like to harvest more than once, collecting "varietals", or different flavors of honey as different sources of nectar may come into the hive at different times, like Black Locust honey, or Buckwheat honey.

Some beekeepers find it advantageous to harvest heavily from a hive, replacing the stores with sugar syrup or corn syrup, while others strive to leave enough

honey on the hive that no supplementary feeding would be necessary. Either way, beekeepers pay close attention to what is blooming throughout the season.

More beekeepers choose to harvest earlier, rather than later in the season, as soon as the honey is capped. There are added challenges for beekeepers who wait until August/September to harvest. Harvesting later can cause robbing, and robbing can heighten their defensiveness. Also, Small Hive Beetle numbers are higher in the late summer. SHB can pose a threat to supers that are stored for any amount of time in the honey house, and can wreak havoc on unattended comb.

### **How Much Honey Should Be Left for the Bees?**

There are several factors that influence a beehive's honey consumption, such as genetics, or weather, that make it difficult to say exactly how much honey a given colony will need. Most beekeepers agree, it's better to leave too much than not enough.

60 to 70 pounds of honey is the ideal weight of stores a hive should take into winter. At the time of the honey harvest, there is no way to know how strong the fall honey flow will be, and no way to know if the hive will gain the weight back. For this reason, many beekeepers maintain hives of two or even three deep brood boxes. Swapping around the boxes midway through the honey flow encourages the hive to fill the top deep with stores. Managed like this, the beekeeper can harvest all boxes above the first full box of capped honey. Some beekeepers will follow this rule similarly, but use a medium instead of a deep as the top brood box, and many of these beekeepers have success over wintering.

### **Feeding Bees**

The most nutritious food for a hive is the honey that it collected over the season. It's a good practice to monitor a hive's honey stores throughout the summer. More visits to the bee yard help the beekeeper estimate



# Best Management Practices Guide for Illinois Beekeeping, cont.

whether or not the late summer/fall honey flow will result in sufficient stores for bees to over winter - especially if a beekeeper suspects they have over harvested, and a hive is not going into winter with the stores they need to survive.

If fall flowers like goldenrod have been in bloom for a week, but a hive is still light on stores, feed 50/50 sugar water. Honey Bee Healthy can be added as a feeding stimulant, however, feeding a stimulant becomes more risky, encouraging robbing behavior if fed during a dearth. For this reason, when adding stimulant to sugar syrup in summer and fall, add entrance reducers to discourage robbing.

Switch to a heavier syrup when the temperatures begin to cool down in the fall. 50/50 sugar syrup has to be dehydrated down for storage by the bees. As we get later into the fall season, bees have less opportunity to do this, and make better use of heavier syrup. At the end of the season, syrup the consistency of honey is more likely to be consumed and stored.

Consider winter feeding for hives that feel light or have less than 60 lbs of honey stored. Also consider winter feeding as soon as the cluster can be seen at the top bars of the frames. Dry feed such as candy boards or sugar bricks placed directly over the tops of frames can absorb moisture and contain some heat in the hive. In a pinch, when temperatures will be below clustering (in the 30s and 40s) for several days, a piece of newspaper with a few tiny slits can be placed directly on top of the frames, and dry granulated sugar can be poured onto the newspaper. Place a spacer on top to contain the sugar, and cover with the lids.

## Monitoring Stored Honey and Pollen

There always needs to be honey and pollen present in the hive, and only by inspecting will you know the status of honey and pollen stores. There is debate between beekeepers who prefer inspecting hives every couple of weeks or so, versus beekeepers who like to leave their bees alone to do their jobs. This delicate balance of disturbing the hives least, yet knowing the current state of the hive, hinges on such factors as “what hive activity am I interrupting if I inspect them today” and “how can I do my job of inspecting thoroughly, yet not set them back with too much damage to their comb and social structure?” Having a clear idea of what to assess in the hive, and knowing how to look for these assessments keeps a beekeeper from interrupting hive activities too much. A hive can be kept in better health if nutritional concerns are

noticed *before* the bees are in deficit. If stores grow light during a dearth, pollen and sugar can be supplemented before the bees go into starvation mode, eating their own brood.

Alternately, during a nectar flow, the supers need much more attention because a strong colony in a heavy nectar flow can fill them rather quickly. However, a hive with 3 supers full of nectar in May can easily condense it's stores down to two or even one super of honey by mid July. Then the hive may be left with two empty supers, a place for small hive beetle to hide and thrive if the numbers get too high. Adequate visits to the bee yard will keep the beekeeper in-the-know, helping him or her prepare for the honey harvest, and keep the hive in top nutrition.

## Preparing for Winter (wrapping, wind breaks, mouse guards, ventilation, etc.)

A healthy hive going into winter has to face these winter adversities: cold, starvation, too much moisture in the hive, protection of queen and brood, and mouse damage. It is easy to keep mice out of a hive with a mouse guard. Mouse guards made of metal work best, and can be placed over entrances in the fall. There are pre-made mouse guards available from bee supply companies, but something as simple as ¼ inch hardware cloth can be used to keep mice from entering and destroying hives in winter.

Many beekeepers, especially in the north, have had excellent overwintering results by wrapping their hives. Some people use black roofing paper, while others cut pieces from sheets of foam insulation and add these to the outside of the hive. Other beekeepers believe that only the top of the hive needs the added layer of warmth, like a hat, and with a hive that has 60 lbs of honey stored in its top hive body, this "hat" is already in place. In every case, there needs to be an open space left at the top of the hive for moisture to escape.

It is said that for every 10 lbs of honey consumed by bees in the winter, 1 gallon of water is exhaled by the cluster. This condensation needs to flow out of the top of the hive through some kind of vent, or the moisture will collect inside the hive and drip down on the cluster, causing bees to literally freeze. A cluster can die quickly this way. Having a notch cut at one end of the inner cover or putting popsicle sticks between the inner cover and top cover on one side of the hive provides an adequate vent for moisture.

Queen and brood health have a great influence on winter survival. Going into winter, the queen should be vigorous and no older than 3 years. Besides a sufficient amount of winter bees and a healthy queen, the colony needs to be as disease and pest free as possible.

Keeping bees fed in the winter is an easier task if the hive went into winter with adequate stores, properly arranged. If a colony begins brood rearing in winter away from honey and the weather turns cold for an extended period they may starve with honey only inches away. Also, they may wind up in a top corner of the hive, again cut off from food, and starve with honey left on the hive. On a milder day, a quick peak under the inner cover to make sure bees haven't surfaced at the top, or haven't isolated themselves from stores can rescue a hive in danger of starving.

Windbreaks can do wonders in helping hives overwinter. Stacking straw bales beside hives is very helpful in keeping hard drafts from chilling a hive. It becomes especially important to use a mouse guard when placing straw bales beside hives.

## Feeding Bees in the Winter, and Snow Removal

Once temperatures are cold enough to keep bees in cluster day after day, bees that need supplementary feeding should be switched to dry sugar or candy boards. A colony with adequate food reserves properly organized should not need additional feeding during the winter. With a full super of honey over the winter cluster, a beekeeper hopes, when peeking inside the hive only to see sealed honey and no visible cluster. A good sign that winter bees have run out of stores is that they are clustered at the top of the hive, and are visible when the cover is removed. Never disturb the frames the cluster is on or keep the hive open for too long in the winter. Try to keep the entrance clean of snow/dead bees, but this may be impossible in big snows/icy conditions for rural locations which is when the upper entrance becomes all important. After a snow fall, check to make sure that hives are not entirely sealed in by snow, or bees may suffocate. Make sure that vents near the top are still open for moisture to escape.

## Rich Ramsey Acheives Pioneer Award at ISBA Summer Meeting

Rich Ramsey is a farmer located South of Rochester, IL and a lifelong Farm Bureau member who has never met a stranger. When Rich talks about his history in beekeeping he mentions he should have started beekeeping about 10 years earlier than he did. He attended a local beekeeping meeting and several of the "old" beekeepers at the meeting did nothing but complain about their bees dying (please keep in mind this was in the 1970s). Rich did not want to spend money on equipment and bees just to have them die so it was another 10 years before he considered beekeeping again.

He finally started beekeeping in 1984 when he came across a swarm and a friend (Larry Roth) who was a beekeeper, helped him capture the swarm. By 1988, Rich had 12 colonies from which he harvested 2,400+ pounds of honey (average of 200 lbs per hive). His thought was, there is nothing to this beekeeping and he should have started 10 years earlier.

In 1989 the Varroa Destructor mite established its presence in his area and forever changed how beekeepers managed their hives.

Rich was instrumental in the development of Introduction to Beekeeping classes in his local association (Lincoln Land Bee Keepers Association), and in several other beekeeping associations across the state. Rich was one of the founding members of the



Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS), and is long time member of the Lincoln Land Bee Keepers Association, the Illinois State Beekeepers Association and the American Beekeeping Federation (ABF). He has been or is a current officer in all the organizations except the ABF. He is currently the Vice President of the ISBA. He facilitates and promotes beekeeping to adults and youth whenever and where ever he can and he does so with more than just the spoken word. Rich was key to securing a source of bees for beginning beekeepers as well as providing a local source for wooden ware. He is also a proponent and supporter of Ag in the Classroom, the Farm Bureau, the local University of Illinois Extension, 4H and the FFA. Rich was the



# In Memory of Norma Meyer

This summer, Illinois beekeepers said “goodbye” to a beloved matriarch, Norma Meyer. Wife of past ISBA Treasurer, and Illinois Department of Agriculture Apiary Inspector Udell Meyer, Norma was a marvelously strong, and joyful personality. Courageous, honest, and funny, Norma tirelessly helped in hosting St. Clair and Illinois State Beekeepers meetings for decades. Many of her friends come together in this article to dedicate heart-felt words to Norma and Udell.



I knew Udell and Norma almost as long as I've been a beekeeper. I knew them to be devoted to the church, family, and beekeeping. Udell and Norma were an example of how to live life to the fullest. Udell, Norma, Cookie and I attended many beekeepers meetings together. They were a great joy to be with. We are grateful to have known them.

~ Ray Chapman, Bunker Hill, IL

I write this in honor of Norma and Udell Meyer. Norma was a neighbor and a friend of my sister Louise. In 1965, I decided to get back into bees. I mentioned it to someone, he said to talk to Udell Meyer. I went to his home and told him my story. He invited me to a Friday night meeting of the St. Clair Beekeepers. I joined that night. Norma and Udell were the most active couple in the St. Clair and ISBA. When Udell got busier with inspections, he dropped back on his own bees. An inspector once myself, you help other beekeepers and don't have time for your own bees. Udell was the best. I watched him inspect 20 of my hives and he did not kill one bee.

~ Chuck Leitner, Troy, IL

I've known Norma and Udell since 1963. We've always been very good friends. There was never a harsh word between us. Udell and I worked together

for many years as officers in the ISBA, and also as bee inspectors. Norma did lots of volunteer work for the Association. We got along well together.

Every year, they always came up and stayed with me while they worked the State Fair. Then Meyers and the Taylors drove many miles selling honey ice cream left over from the fair. We were together forever, it seems like, and I miss them very much.

~ Rita Taylor, Pleasant Plains, IL

Norma, every time we enjoyed visiting with you, you always had a warm smile and encouraging way about you. I enjoyed sharing recipes with you at bee meetings. I will always cherish those memories. Heaven has another Angel.

~ Duane and Debbie Zobrist, St. Jacob, IL

Since Udell's passing, there has been a void at the St. Clair Beekeepers' meetings. Now with Norma's passing, it is the end of an era. All her efforts for the group were greatly appreciated. I'm honored to have known the Meyers and will deeply miss them.

~ Ken Schaefer, Belleville, IL

## Rich Ramsey Achieves Pioneer Award, continued

driving force behind his local association setting aside money to get youth started in beekeeping. He was also a key person in helping to get beekeeping legalized within the limits of Springfield, IL in 2012 even though he resides in the country outside of the municipal boundaries.

Rich believes a real beekeeper will never stop learning and the day a beekeeper thinks they know it

all is the day they should give up beekeeping as they are a disservice to themselves and beekeeping in general.

In recognition for his contributions to the ISBA and Beekeeping in general, Rich was presented the Pioneer Award at the ISBA Annual Summer Meeting which was held on June 27, 2015 in Effingham, Illinois.



# Waxing Philosophical, LIVE!

## "Ousting Her Royal Highness"

We took Waxing Philosophical to the Summer Meeting, and asked a question to the audience in the LIVE setting. The winner of Waxing Philosophical LIVE is specially featured here! Thanks for playing, beekeepers! Congratulations for your winning answer, Katrina Kloepper!

**Question:** What's the best way to right a colony with a drone-laying queen?

**Answer 1:** I experienced a hive this spring that was loaded with hundreds of drones and was not sure what was happening in the hive – my best guess was I recently had a swarm leave the hive. However, now with this question, I am wondering if this was my problem – a queen laying drones. What straightened out my hive was I completely replaced the whole bottom box – all new frames and a new box – removed any frames with larvae in the second box – replaced with new frames. A month later I have good numbers of worker bees and back to an active colony.

~Lisa Helmink, Breese, IL ~ **2 votes**

**Answer 2:** Introduce her to your hive tool. Wait 24 hours.

Introduce new queen.

~Katrina Kloepper, Waterloo, IL ~ **11 votes**

**Answer 3:** I had success once. I took a drone layer to a different yard. Not sure if that mattered or not. Then I joined it with another hive. I took off the outer cover,

added a couple of queen excluders, then newspaper under that with a few slits. On top of excluders, I used a screened bottom board without screen and faced it in the opposite direction. It took a couple of weeks to join, and longer yet to consolidate the equipment.

~Tom Simpson, Edwardsville, IL ~ **3 votes**

**Answer 4:** To requeen a drone-laying colony, replace the colony with a nuc and move the frames to the nuc after shaking the bees off some distance away. Put the nuc in a standard hive and leave it in the same place as the original colony.

~Rich Ramsey, Rochester, IL ~ **6 votes**

**Answer 5:** Place the new queen in the hive. Rotate the hive 90 degrees to the left and pause. Then rotate another 90 degrees to the left and pause. Then rotate another 90 degrees to the left and you are done.

Because 3 lefts make a right!

~Larry Quicksall, Effingham, IL ~ **4 votes**

**Next Issue's Question:** What's the secret to keeping a smoker lit?

Computer savvy **Katrina Kloepper** currently serves as the Public Information Officer for the St. Clair Beekeeper's Association and produces and distributes the club's newsletter. In addition, she loves to practice her skills as an amateur photographer, and takes many wonderful pictures of her precious honey bees.

Kat and Ken Kloepper were married on July 14, 2001. One year later, they celebrated their first anniversary by enjoying a trip through Tennessee and Kentucky. Ken had kept bees starting in 1974, but hadn't kept any bees for years. Just by chance, while driving back through Kentucky on their anniversary trip, Ken recognized an exit along the interstate that brought back old memories of visiting the Walter T. Kelley Company in Clarkson. Upon mentioning it to Kat, she suggested going in for a visit.

If you hadn't guessed already, by the time Ken and Katrina left Clarkson, they had 3 brand new beehives in the back of the car. Kat was immediately fascinated with the bees, and as time went on, she was hooked on beekeeping herself. Over the years, she has learned a great deal about beekeeping and regularly helps with extracting and selling honey, taking care of 80 to 90 hives, and leads hive inspections at the St. Clair Beekeeper's summer meetings. **Way to go, Katrina!**



# The Buzz About Town

CENTRAL EASTERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Joan Jach ~ Champaign, IL  
jyjach@gmail.com

COOK-DUPAGE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Thad Smith ~ Chicago, IL  
Phone: 312.833.4205  
smittyd1@hotmail.com

CROSSROADS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Michelle Barnick ~ Cowden  
Phone: 217.853.1862  
michelle@gypsysbees.com

FOX VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Kim Luppino ~ St. Charles, IL  
Phone: 630.584.6419  
foxvalleybeekeepers@gmail.com

HEART OF ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Dale Martin  
Phone: 309.446.9220  
dalefmartin@juno.com

HISTORIC PULLMAN DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Edie McDonald ~ Chicago, IL  
Phone: 773.259.1295  
BeekeepersinPullman@gmail.com

ILLIANA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Dan Wright ~ Kansas, IL  
Phone: 217.232.5354  
dwrightkbc@mchsi.com

ILLINOIS VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Warren Norris ~ Ottawa, IL  
Phone: 815.228.3330  
stateboyw@hotmail.com

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY BEEKEEPING CLUB  
Dr. Carl Wenning ~ Normal, IL  
Phone: 309.830.4085  
cjlwennin@ilstu.edu

KASKASKIA COUNTRY BEEKEEPERS CONSORTIUM  
Eleanor Schumacher ~ Pocahontas, IL  
Phone: 510.285.7879  
bubblebubb@gmail.com

LAKE COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
David Bergman ~ Grayslake, IL  
bergda@ipc.org  
www.lakecountybeekeepers.org

The **2016 American Beekeeping Federation Conference & Tradeshow** will be held in **Ponte Vedra Beach (Jacksonville) Florida** at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, **January 5-9, 2016**. Join us in sunny Florida for Palm Trees & Healthy Bees - where we'll focus on improving bee colony health and sustainability during a challenging time for beekeepers. As always, this conference promises to bring you the most up-to-date information within the beekeeping industry, the latest products and services offered by our many exhibitors and sponsors and fantastic opportunities for you to network with your fellow beekeepers. Visit **www.abfnet.org** for more information and to register.

## Save the Date! Illinois State Beekeepers Association Annual Fall Meeting Saturday, November 14, 2015

The meeting will be held at the Illinois Department of Agriculture, 800 E. Sangamon Avenue in Springfield.

Great presenters are confirming, such as Scott Carter, President of Lincoln Land Bee Keepers Association, will present on Shook Swarms. Stay tuned for more information.

## Illinois State Beekeepers Association On The Web

Keep up with up-to-the-moment Illinois beekeeping news and events with our fantastic ISBA website [www.ilsba.com](http://www.ilsba.com)

A hub of helpful resources, read about current events on our homepage. Find contacts of local Illinois beekeeping clubs as well as links to relevant beekeeping publications, and major beekeeping organizations. Find contact information of your local apiary inspectors, gain access to the ISBA google group, and peruse the archives of the ISBA blog. Take interest in the trends of Illinois beekeeping and honey bee pests and diseases with the archives of the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Annual Apiary Reports. Bee Involved! Bee In-The-Know!

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: 618.842.6016  
ffpro2@frontier.com

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Guy Spoonmore ~ Quincy, IL  
Phone: 217.653.9804  
gespoon79@hotmail.com

NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Corky Schnadt ~ Hainesville, IL  
Phone: 847.404.0421  
corkyhilary@sbcglobal.net

SANGAMON VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Don Miller ~ Decatur, IL  
Phone: 217.425.2998  
otiefam@yahoo.com

ST. CLAIR BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Vickie Piel ~ Edwardsville, IL  
Phone: 618.978.4369  
beesrgr8@att.net

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Rose Leedle ~ Mulkeytown, IL  
Phone: 618.724.2786  
r.leedle@hotmail.com

TRI COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Tim Lindley ~ Greenville, IL  
Phone: 618.780.3772  
timlhoney2@yahoo.com

WABASH VALLEY POLLINATORS CLUB  
Greg Hevron ~ Robinson, IL  
hevrong@ftrci.net

WESTERN ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Mike Kraynak ~ Oneida, IL  
kraynakmike@gmail.com

WILL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
Darien Kruss ~ Joliet, IL  
Phone: 630.557.6233  
info@willbees.org

### Affiliate Associations: Publicize your bee events here!

Contact  
**Eleanor Schumacher**  
with your club news at  
**bubblebubb@gmail.com**.  
List news and events on the  
ISBA website as well by  
sending the information to  
the ISBA webmaster,  
**Steve Petrilli**,  
**s.petrilli@comcast.net**.

Please see our **Summary of Events** page on our ISBA website - even MORE classes are listed there! <http://www.ilsba.com/summary-of-events.html>



Illinois State Beekeepers Association  
 P.O. Box 21094  
 Springfield IL 62708



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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 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: Illinois State Beekeepers Association, Membership, P.O. Box 21094, Springfield, IL 62708.

Address Changes: Send old and new address six weeks prior to date of change when practical to the Association Secretary. At large members can send the changes to the ISBA Membership Director via email.

Reduced Journal Rates for 2015 (members only)

	<u>1 yr</u>	<u>2 yr</u>	<u>3 yr</u>
<u>American Bee Journal</u>	21.00	39.75	56.25

**OFFICERS:**

**President**

Mike Mason  
 Riverton, IL  
 (217) 629-5436  
[mike.r.mason@comcast.net](mailto:mike.r.mason@comcast.net)

**Vice President**

Rich Ramsey  
 Rochester, IL  
 (217) 691-9354  
[r Ramsey2@gmail.com](mailto:r Ramsey2@gmail.com)

**Secretary**

Corky Schnadt  
 Hainesville, IL  
 (847) 548-3006  
[corkyhilary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corkyhilary@sbcglobal.net)

**Treasurer**

Rose Leedle  
 Mulkeytown, IL  
 (618) 724-2786  
[r.leedle@hotmail.com](mailto:r.leedle@hotmail.com)

**ISBA Bulletin Editor**

Eleanor Schumacher  
 520 Trestle Ave  
 Pocahontas, IL  
 (510) 285-7879  
[bubblebubb@gmail.com](mailto:bubblebubb@gmail.com)

**DIRECTORS:**

**Northern Region**

Jim Belli  
 Old Mill Creek, IL  
 (847) 838-0207  
[jim@belli-belli.com](mailto:jim@belli-belli.com)

**Central Region**

Dale Hill  
 Quincy, IL  
 (217) 885-3147  
[djbeefarm@gmail.com](mailto:djbeefarm@gmail.com)

**Southern Region**

Ray Chapman  
 Bunker Hill, IL  
 (618) 585-4506  
[honey.1@frontier.com](mailto:honey.1@frontier.com)

**Membership Director**

Steve Petrilli  
 Springfield, IL  
 (217) 638-7891  
[s.petrilli@comcast.net](mailto:s.petrilli@comcast.net)