Illinois State Beekeepers Association
Bulletin
March/April 2015 Volume 98 Number 2

Letter from the President — Mike Mason

Hello Beekeepers,

All of the sudden the weather is breaking and they are calling for 60 degrees next week. This weekend it will be sunny and in the 50's here in Central Illinois. I find myself consumed by things that need to be accomplished yesterday. I suspect many of you are experiencing the same anxieties. Colonies need to be checked to see which ones have survived. Deadouts need to be cleaned up and prepared for the next package, split or swarm acquired or produced later. The surviving colonies need to be checked again for food reserves, both honey and protein. If low, we need to feed them. Supers need to be prepared, cut comb, ross rounds, basswood boxes. Old foundation needs to be rotated out before the bees move into it. The list goes on and on. Many of us are teaching beekeeping classes and going to Association meetings. Where do we find the time? Not to mention, the drive to secure beekeeping supplies, or to Wisconsin for bee packages, or Minnesota, or Georgia….. Also, if you are like many beekeepers, you have fruit trees to prune. Last week I was thinking it was too early when we were at 5 degrees and freeze damage would have been an issue on freshly pruned trees. Oh, and that day job that pays for the small sideliner hobby always seems to get in the way. Not an issue with a commercial operation, their concerns are very different, but for both, time management is so important. It is worth it to sit down and schedule your management and follow it. That will help you to be successful.

Planning is well underway for the ISBA Summer Meeting to be hosted by Southern Illinois. Representatives from a couple southern affiliates thought of bringing together all the affiliations in the southern region to host this year's Summer Meeting. It has been well received and they have got things pretty much squared away. The various groups have been working hard to put on a great meeting and I think they are well on their way to making this a huge success. Good job to the Southern Region beekeepers! See details in this Bulletin.

Another meeting occurring this summer is the Annual Heartland Apicultural Society Meeting. This year it will be held in Albion, Michigan July 9 – 11. More information can be found at www.heartlandbees.org. Always a great meeting.

Enjoy the bulletin that Eleanor Schumacher has skillfully crafted for our benefit. Also visit the ISBA website that Steve Petrilli does such a great job on. It is never static, constantly changing, which is a difficult skill that is not typically done well. These two people do a lot of work for our benefit and are greatly appreciated and they do it well. Thanks to them and their talents.

Time to put together that time schedule and go check colonies.
Mike

Need to Renew Your ISBA Membership?

ISBA members, is your registration current? Please take a moment to look at the expiration date on the address label of your ISBA Bulletin. If the expiration date shows 12/31/2014, then this March/April Bulletin will be the last issue you receive until you renew.

Members at Large can renew directly with the ISBA. Members of ISBA Affiliated Associations should renew through their respective association. If you have renewed as a member of an Affiliated Association this year, but your expiration date still shows 12/31/2014, this means that your Association has not yet forwarded the renewals to the ISBA. The Associations have until the end of April to submit the renewals for the year.

APIARY INSPECTION SUPERVISOR'S REPORT
Steve Chard, Illinois Department of Agriculture

HopGuardII

Good news! The USEPA has granted a specific exemption under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act to the Department for the use of the product, HopGuardII in honeybee colonies to help control varroa mites. In addition, the manufacturer of the miticide, BetaTec Hop Products, has fully registered the product with the Department. Hence, beekeepers can start using this product in their hives this spring. HopGuard II will be another tool in the arsenal for successful varroa mite control. The Department has also notified suppliers of the product of this development so they can stock up quickly to accommodate interested beekeepers.

CTIC Pollinator Conservation Innovation Grant

The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) has been awarded a Conservation Innovation Grant from USDA to help foster the establishment of pollinator forage. Below is a description of the project. If you are interested in participating, please see the links below or contact Mr. Tim Healey at 314-449-4574 at CTIC. Looks like a great opportunity!

Project Partners:

At present the project partners are the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC), Bayer Crop Science, Corn and Soybean Digest, CropLife America, Monsanto, National Corn Growers Association, The Nature Conservancy, DuPont Pioneer, Purdue University and Syngenta.

Timeframe: The project is scheduled to begin late March – early April 2015 and will conclude Autumn of 2016.

Deliverables:

Suitable plantings, carrying capacity of fields, honey bee health benefits associated with plantings and cost will be documented in association with bee researchers, beekeepers and farmers.

Operating Plan Synopsis:

Five beekeeper/farmer partners will work together to:

1) improve and provide season long (April through September) pollinator forage

2) improve communication among beekeepers and farmers in order to mitigate row crop production practices that may affect hive health, and

3) educate the beekeepers and farmers about best management practices to improve hive health.

There will be a total of five sites participating in this project by improving forage, communication and education with the participants. Three of the beekeeper/farmer partner sites will be in South Dakota, two beekeeper partner sites will be in two of the following states; Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio.

All participating hives will be overwintered on site. Participating State Apiarists will be provided the opportunity to consult on local hive management best management practices and monthly hive health assessments, and State NRCS Biologists will be consulted on optimal local pollinator forage.

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Apiary Inspection Supervisor's Report, Continued

There will be a maximum of twenty participating hives per site. Generally one acre of pollinator forage is required to support one hive. The intent of this project is to recruit beekeeper and farmer pairs already working with each other (although this is not an imperative) and to tweak the existing pollinator forage on site through annual landscape assessments and three additional assessments throughout the forage season.

Final Product:
Recommendations for cover crop and farm management modifications that can provide increased capability to support bees will be transmitted through existing channels identified by CTIC's communications director, project partners and additionally through the beekeeping community. This will occur through presentations at national and state beekeeping association meetings, agricultural trade associations and USDA/NRCS.

Beekeepers interested in participating are asked to complete the survey at the following link:

http://goo.gl/forms/c3tMv3IKfO
CTIC is seeking farmers to participate too. Farmers wishing to participate are asked to complete the survey at the following link:

http://goo.gl/forms/UShI9BTHm9

For more information about CTIC, the Conservation Technology Information Center and its projects please visit CTIC's website at www.ctic.org

Best Management Practices Guide for Illinois Beekeeping
Varroa Mites

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 the Varroa Mite 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.

Information About Mites

Varroa Mites are an extremely damaging pest to a bee hive. In North America, they are present in virtually every hive. They pose several problems. Aside from feeding on the hemolymph of the pupae and the adult honey bee, Varroa mites carry and spread several diseases and viruses. When mites are allowed to increase in a hive, the resulting viruses can shorten the lives of the individual bees, lessening a hive's chances of survival.

On an average, each female mite can potentially bear 3 to 8 viable females in their lifetime. As the number of mites increases over the summer, there is a potential situation for the mite-to-bee ratio to soar, as the hive slows down its brood rearing during a dearth of nectar. A higher mite-to-bee ratio can injure a hive's immunity, longevity, and hinder a hive's preparation for winter.

Most approaches towards combating Varroa mites are geared at their "phoretic" stage, or the stage when they are roaming freely in the comb and are at their most vulnerable. When a hive is queen-right, roughly a third of the mite population is roaming the comb and feeding on adult bees, while the other two thirds are breeding in capped cells. There are several methods for attacking the phoretic mites in the hive.

Monitoring Mite Loads

Being able to estimate of the number of Varroa mites in a hive is essential in beekeeping today. When Varroa mite loads are high, a beehive's immunity is usually weakened, and bees can become susceptible to diseases that they might otherwise have been able to fight off. Monitor mites periodically throughout the year, definitely in midsummer, after the nectar flow, and in late summer, when bees are beginning to prepare for winter.

1) **Collect a Bee Sample**: Shake bees into a large container, such as a dishwashing tub, and tip the tub up, shaking the bees to one side. Collect exactly one level 1/2 cup, which equals about 315 bees. (It is easiest to take bee samples from the uppermost box. If you do, adjust your mite threshold lower by one mite. Otherwise, take your sample from the brood area, but be careful not to collect your queen in the sample.)

2) Powdered Sugar Method: Use a wide-mouth jar with a 2 piece lid. Retain ring, discard lid and replace with 1/8" mesh screen. Collect bee sample. Add 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar through the screen. Roll jar and agitate the bees to get them to raise their body temperature to cause the mites to release. Then let the jar sit for 2-3 minutes. Invert jar and shake over a white background or container until all debris has fallen from jar. 90% or more of the mites should have fallen from the bees. Count the number of mites and return bees to the hive.

3) Alcohol Wash Method: This will kill the bee sample. Use a wide-mouth jar or plastic container with a leak-proof lid. Place 3 ounces of rubbing alcohol into the container with the bee sample and seal tightly. Shake container to dislodge mites from bees for 2 - 3 minutes. Strain the alcohol through a 1/8" screen into a white bowl. This will recover 95-100% of the mites in the sample. Count the mites and calculate the mite ratio. For example, if 16 mites are counted from your ½ cup sample, you have a 3% infestation ratio.

Different beekeepers and bee researchers will have different opinions about the mite-per-bee treatment threshold. For example, bee researcher Dr. Jeff Harris holds his hives to a standard of 3% infestation ratio before treating. Beekeepers who follow a more "treatment free" doctrine will tolerate a higher threshold of 8%-12% infestation before treatment. Set your own threshold based on how well your hives tend to overwinter. If you have high winter losses year after year, treating at a 3% ratio could save more of your hives. If your bees tend to survive winter well, set your ratio higher.

Managing and Treating for Mites

There are several optimal times of year to treat for Varroa mites. Commonly, beekeepers treat in the early spring before adding supers, midsummer, after the honey supers have been removed, and/or in early fall. It is very beneficial for hives to have low levels of mites when going into winter. Management practices can control, but won't eliminate, a mite infestation.

Beekeepers have a lot of choices when it comes to methods of treating for mites. There are chemical treatments, "soft chemical" treatments, which are sometimes referred to as "organic", because they are derived from organic components, and there are mechanical, cultural, and genetic management techniques that can lower mite loads.

Chemical Treatments: As of January 2015, in Illinois, these chemical treatments are permitted:

- Apistan – (Fluvalinate Product)
- Apivar – (Amitraz Product)
- Checkmite+ Bee Hive Pest Control Strips - (Coumaphos Product)

Soft Chemical Treatments: As of January 2015, in Illinois, these soft chemical treatments are permitted:

- Api Life VAR - Thymol Based Product
- Apiguard - Thymol Based Product
- Mite-Away II - Formic Acid Product
- Mite-Away Quick Strips - Formic Acid Product
- Hopguard II - Potassium Salt of Hop Beta Acid Product

Always follow the directions on the label, and be sure to observe the proper time limit before placing honey supers on top of hives after treatment.

Mechanical Techniques:

Powdered sugar dusting: This method reduces number of mites on adult bees. Best results have been found when applying this treatment every three weeks to monthly. Hive bodies are taken apart, and set one box at a time on a separate stand, several feet from the original hive stand, with the bottom of the hive exposed. A screen is placed over the top of the box, and a cup of powdered sugar is spread with a bee brush over the box, so that the sugar falls over and in between every frame. As the sugar coats the bodies of the bees, the bees groom themselves, and the mites are dislodged, falling out of the hive body onto the ground. Placing a piece of newspaper under the hive body will allow you to observe and count mites falling from bees. After each box has been dusted and allowed to sit for several minutes, reset the hive on its stand. Repeat again in 3 weeks to 1 month.

Drone brood trapping: Varroa mites have learned to prefer multiplying in drone cells, rather than worker cells. Drone cells stay capped 3 to 4 days longer than worker cells, allowing more mite daughters to reach maturity. Frames that encourage bees to build drone comb can be useful in trapping large numbers of Varroa mites, and can be a favorable method of controlling mite populations. When frames of drone brood are capped, a beekeeper can cycle the frames through the freezer for a couple of days, killing mites and drone pupae. Then the cappings are scraped open and the

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Comb Honey Management — Bernie Andrew

Comb Honey is my hobby. It has paid for itself. I produce ross rounds, section honey and cut comb. Ross rounds are my favorite, section honey is a little more difficult, and the cut comb gives me the most problems. Unlike extracted honey supers, each year you must reload the comb supers which increases the labor time.

I use a method developed by Gene and Carl Killion. Around the middle of May I take a heavily populated double story hive and make a 10 frame nuc and a comb honey colony from it. The comb honey colony will be queenless and consist of most of the capped brood, about 80% of the adult bees, and a small amount of honey, and an empty comb honey super on it. You can use other kinds of super types, however, I have not had satisfactory results with them.

The nuc will consist of the queen, about 20% of the bees, a small amount of young brood and pollen and honey. Move the nuc away and feed it. When it is ready, you can put a second story on it.

You'll return to the comb honey hive every few days. On days 3, 5, and 8, pull each frame out, search carefully for queen cells, and cut off any and all that you find. You'll find it necessary to remove each frame and shake the bees off, onto the ground in front of the hive in order to find the queen cells. Day 8 is the day you'll give your comb honey hive a new queen. If while you've searched for queen cells, you missed one, the hive won't accept your queen and they will swarm on you.

Queen excluders can be handy for managing cut comb, but like in a lot of other beekeeping situations, they're not always necessary. You must use a queen excluder on cut comb, but not ross rounds or section honey.

You'll want to pull your comb honey fairly early. Bottom super. They'll quit working it when the hot weather arrives. Take your comb honey immediately to the freezer! This is important, because wax moth eggs, and Small Hive Beetle eggs will hatch, and those invaders will do their thing quickly. It doesn't take much for them to mess up your beautiful comb honey. It's recommended to leave your comb honey in the freezer for 3 to 4 days, but it can be stored in the freezer for longer. I usually leave my comb honey in the freezer for about 30 days.

Going back to your parent hive, after you've taken the comb honey, you can give them a second deep now. With the timing of the honey flow, and depending on when the bees capped your comb honey, it's usually best to give them a second deep full of drawn comb. Usually, it's too late to get them to draw out a second deep of foundation, unless you want to come back every several days and feed them heavily. They don't like drawing comb in July otherwise.

Hopefully the nuc you made should be holding its own, especially if you stimulated it right away by feeding it when you made it. If you're lucky, and your timing was good, you might even have honey to extract later on.

I've enjoyed this technique for years. I learned it from Honey in the Comb by Eugene Killion – a Dadant Publication. Personally, I recommend the CD over the book. There are too many details in the book now for me. I'm used to making comb honey this way. It's always worked for me, and I hope it works for you.

ISBA Summer Meeting, June 27th in Effingham, IL

The ISBA Summer Meeting heads South for 2015, hosted this year by 6 ISBA Affiliate Associations: Crossroads Beekeepers, Kaskaskia Country Beekeepers, Little Egypt Beekeepers, St. Clair Beekeepers, S.I. All-A-Buzz, and Tri-County Beekeepers.

Our keynote speaker is Mark Antunes, past president of Pennsylvania State Beekeepers. He will present on Hive Irradiation. Other presentations from Kentucky beekeeper Kent Williams, U of I Graduate Student Terry Harrison, and Rick Graden from the USDA FSA.

For the first time in a long time, we will hold this meeting outdoors, under a large pavilion at the Effingham Community Park in Effingham, IL. We'll also enjoy a live bee yard with a rotation of bee demos in the afternoon.

Stay tuned for more details.

Waxing Philosophical ~ the Beekeeping Puzzle

"Supering: Know Your Flow"

Question: "What do you watch for to help you decide when to add the first honey super?" *or* "What is the first day of the honey flow?"

Answer #1: I watch the "front-door" traffic to indicate a honey flow. If the bees are really zipping out and heading in a particular direction - and are returning to the hive without pollen-baskets full - they are foraging either for nectar or water. It is unlikely a large number of bees would forage for water, even in hot, dry weather, or when crystallized honey needs reconstitution. The old beekeepers' adage to "over-super in the spring..." is pertinent to this question. I prefer to put on honey supers as soon as there is a significant early bloom. This makes it necessary to know and understand the honeyflow and blooming tendencies of plants in your area. It is quite possible that you might need to put supers on two weeks or more before I would, due to having bees located near black locust; or maybe my bees would be near a large amount of henbit/deadnettle, while your bees have little forage available. If you wait until you see white tips on the comb, or newly drawn wax, though these are sure signs of a honeyflow in progress, it is possible you might miss the opportunity for honey production in the first few days of the 'flow. The one drawback to early supering is the possibility of the colony building straight up through the supers, storing brood, pollen, etc in the honey super, rather than just honey. One solution is to use a queen excluder, but this also leaves open the possibility that the bees will choose to not work through the excluder, seeing it rather as a ceiling. Also, if you are using undrawn plastic foundation, wait until the 'flow is in progress (white tipped cells) before installing the supers. If the plastic foundation is in place during a dearth of nectar, it is likely the bees will remove the wax from the plastic foundation, and not use the unwaxed plastic at all, even when the 'flow begins. There is one truism associated with supering hives: there has yet to be a line of honeybees developed that will come to your garage to put their honey in your supers...the supers have to be put on the hives.

A companion question is to know when to add a second, or third super. The best advice for this is to never let the bees work more than 1/3 of the way up into the uppermost super before adding. As soon as I see the bees working comb, or foundation, along the bottom rail of the top super, I add an additional super.
~ Kent Williams, Wingo, KY ~ **9 votes**

Answer #2: Every year can be slightly different, and every hive is not always ready at the same time.
Just wait and watch for the bees to start building "small amounts of new snow white wax along the top bars of the top brood box." When this happens, it is time to start adding supers.
It does not always happen on a certain date, or when you see a specific bloom.
Bee observant and Bee ready!
The Bees will tell you when it is time.
~ Dennis Inboden, Palestine, IL ~ **4 votes**

Answer #3: According to Walt Wright (started checker boarding and nectar management) a typical bee habitat of mixed hardwood forest has peak nectar and pollen availability at hardwood green up, which is about April 15th in south central Illinois. He believes that nectar does not trigger excess honey storage until the colony has swarmed or better yet abandoned the swarm impulse and switched to nectar collection. His checker boarding is designed to break up the overhead layer of reserved food and create within the colony a desire to forage furiously and restore a safe food margin. He tries to fool the colony into thinking they do not have sufficient stored honey to risk the parent colony by swarming. According to Walt, swarm prevention and an early foraging commitment yield very large honey crops. We probably need 1 or 2 supers on by the end of March to catch the early flow. A strong colony will choke out a double deep very quickly and swarm due to brood nest restriction. We must strive to be ahead of the colony.
~ Dave Dohm, Newton, IL ~ **7 votes**

Answer #4: I watch the bees to see how they are working. I try to estimate the percentage of the workers that are bringing in pollen and figure that the rest are bringing nectar. To me, when I do an estimation, that is the beginning of the honey flow.
~ Chuck Schwend, Marine, IL ~ **3 votes**

Answer #5: The temp here (Northern Illinois) is 12. I can't even get to my bees with some 20" of snow on the ground. The last time (Jan 17-temp 40's) I talked with the girls they were pleased to be getting some spring sugar water and patties.

But to your question: I'm starting to look for the willow's to begin turning light colors with buds which

Waxing Philosophical, continued

means nectar/pollen about ten days following--same with some varieties of the maples. Last year about the same time some long needle spruce pine buds were covered with bees by middle of March, Dandelions were forming by end of March, and that can be the beginning of a "flow". But I do not "super" unless the Hive Deeps are strong enough (8-10 Deep Frames full of bees/brood/pollen) to be bringing home nectar to put in Supers. This year I'm hopeful for a flow by early April--may be wishful thinking.
~ Bob McDonell, Winfield, IL ~ **4 votes**

Answer #6: Thomas Rinderer, USDA (via the Bee Breeding and Stock Center Laboratory in Baton Rouge, LA) did some research in the late 1970s which showed that a Honey Bee colony knew or was aware of how much volume was in their hive cavity. If supers were put on weeks before the actual honey flow, the colony would have time to calculate or recalculate the volume and actually store about 10% more honey than if supers were put on as the flow was starting. Here is a summary quote from the study. "The results of these experiments provide a basis for the conclusion that empty comb functions in a hive as a stimulus of nectar-foraging behavior. With empty comb accepted as a stimulus, certain features of nectar foraging can be understood. First, the nature of what von Frisch (1967) termed "scout bees" becomes clear. "Scout bees" are those bees with a threshold to empty comb low enough that empty comb stimulates them to seek nectar sources. Upon their return to the hive they dance and recruit additional foragers. The number and intensity of dances has been seen to increase in colonies with a small amount of honey (Wittekindt, 1961). The amount of the honey in the colony was interpreted as the stimulus for this activity. With the information supplied by our experiments now available, empty comb appears as the more likely stimulus. Second, empty comb may predispose the recruits to be more receptive to the dance of returning "scout bees" and thus result in more candidates for recruitment. Third, empty comb may provide a continuing source of stimulation which elicits a continuing high level of nectar foraging. This stimulation may either operate directly on foraging bees or indirectly though nonforaging bees which receive nectar loads from returning foragers."
~ Jerry Hayes, St. Louis, MO ~ **10 votes**

Answer #7: Time to super when there is white wax on top bars of top hive body usually early May in Central Illinois.
~ Rich Ramsey, Rochester, IL ~ **5 votes**

Answer #8: White Dutch clover in my yard is the first truly significant flow if the weather is poor during locust bloom week. Around here, that's usually May 20. The year of the drought it was probably April 20 since spring was so warm.
~ Greg Hevron, Flat Rock, IL ~ **4 votes**

Next issue's question: What is the benefit of drone saturation? How do you manage for that? ~ Sharon Haas, Blue Mound, IL

Best Management ~ Varroa Mites ...Continued

frames are replaced in the hive for the bees to clean up. This is only effective if the worker population is strong enough to complete the clean-up task. Alternately, the capped drone brood can be destroyed, and the comb discarded, however, once the main nectar flow has ended, it is doubtful that the bees will rebuild wax in the drone frame.

Breaking the Brood Cycle: Spring and summer brood breaks are very handy. Many "treatment-free" and "natural" beekeepers have observed success in controlling mite numbers by allowing a break in the brood pattern once a year. When a hive is without capped brood for 2 -3 weeks, mites have nowhere to mate and multiply. The swarm preventing techniques of making splits go hand in hand with natural mite control. Removing the old queen and allowing hives to raise a new queen, or removing the old queen and introducing a new queen after a period of queenlessness can reduce mite numbers.

Breeding for Mite Resistance: Select established hives from your apiary that have survived and prospered year after year. Raise queens from these hives to influence local genetics that are adapted to your area. A good mechanical technique for beekeepers against the use of any chemicals in the hive is to re-queen colonies with mite loads over 12%. This school of thought takes a long-term approach towards a solution to the Varroa mite problem via "Natural Selection".

Editor's Letter

Eleanor Schumacher

Mother Nature, what's your secret? Every friend I've heard from this week tells me their surprise when the spring suddenly arrived, and their hives were bursting with bees. We all went into winter, complaining of how meager the fall flow was, and the low pollen reserves. But as we make this first spring trip out to our hives, these bees are the prettiest, most lively things in the landscape!

I've been turning nerdy at the end of winter, curling up with books. “What are the Master Beekeepers reading?” I wondered, and I found the suggested reading list on the Eastern Apiculture Society's website. Mark L. Winston's “Biology of the Honey Bee” is on the list. Every page is vibrating with the living building blocks that make up the bodies of bees, the members of hives, and the science behind every facet of their behavior. I find myself saying “Aha!” several times throughout a page.

Another EAS recommended book is “The Backyard Beekeeper's Honey Handbook” by Kim Flottum, the editor of Bee Culture Magazine. It talks about the dynamics of foraging bees, and the fine details of pulling a great crop. But I read something in it last night that made me pause for thought. He talks about “The Artificial Calendar System” of boosting honey bees into production in early spring, and he talks about protein supplement patties as if they are “pink slime”. One of the points he makes is that it is unhealthy to feed bees ingredients not originating from flowers, and it creates stress in the hive when a beekeeper shifts a hive's dependency from nature onto the beekeeper. He makes a point that when a beekeeper wants to mimic nature, the beekeeper should stick to the recipes closer to nature for supplementing, such as trapping surplus pollen, and mixing it with a hive's own honey and feeding it back to the bees, and that once this supplementary feeding starts, it needs to continue until pollen and nectar become plentiful in nature.

When I think about my friends who are so happy with the number of hives that pulled through the winter, and I think about how hard they worked to beef them up in the fall, trucking out to them with Christmas candy boards, and winter patties, I want to stick this book in a bee club library and never look at it again. I want to say “Mother Nature doesn't always take care of her bees, either.” On the other hand, when I think of my own beekeeping, and think with dread that according to Kim Flottum, I'm all but stuffing Happy Meals into my feeders, I know I can keep trying. I know beekeepers who DO make their own pollen patties from pollen and honey. And I have noticed the twinkle in their eyes when they tell me how they collected and stored the pollen, and how they think their bees flourish with these nature-made supplements. In fact, when I've really gotten to know the ins and outs of how some of my die-hard natural beekeeper friends manage their bees, I can't help but notice a common thread of disease resistance – sometimes even miraculous disease evasion.

Isn't it funny how, to do something naturally, it either takes years and years of practice, or sometimes a revolution in one's self?

14th Annual Heartland Apicultural Society Conference

July 9-11, 2015

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Michigan Beekeepers Association, the Heartland Apicultural Society is gearing up for its largest conference yet, featuring hands-on workshops and presentations for all experience levels.

Presentations and workshops include queen rearing, drone catching, making splits, and apitherapy.

Speakers include: Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Sue Cobey, Joe Traynor, Roger Hoopingarner, Kim Flottum, Larry Connor, Ken Schramm, Renata Borba, Meghan Milbrath.

And don't miss our Midwest-wide mead tasting.

Our conference is held at Albion College in Albion, Michigan this year, a convenient and accessible location with a walkable small campus, and excellent food.

Due to space limitation, we have to limit participation to the first 1000 attendees.

Co-sponsors: Michigan Beekeepers Association, Mann Lake, Wicwas Press, Bee Culture, Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association.

Pre-registration begins April 1, 2015
www.heartlandbees.org

Local News

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S.I. All-A-Buzz will host a **Field Day** on **Saturday, April 25th** at the **University of Illinois Extension, 402 Ava Road, Murphysboro, IL**. Registration opens at 8am, and the event begins at 9am. Presentations and workshops will cover these topics:

Basic Hive Construction
Beekeeping on the Cheap
Bee Pest Management
Swarm Catching & Installing
Expanding Your Bee Operation
Re-Queening
Making Flavored & Creamed Honey
Lip Balm
Lotion Bars
Extracting and Processing Honey
Smokers & Basic Hive Inspections
Bee Rescue
Wall & Log Removals (Cut Outs).

There will also be a Vendor and Bee Swap Meet Tent. Pre-registration is required. Registration Ends April 18th, 2015.
Cost: S.I. All-A-Buzz Members: $20.
Non-Members - $35
For more info, contact JCWill@midwest.net (618)-571-2716

Are you, your club, or someone you know working hard to educate the public about honey bees and beekeeping? Is this club or individual striving to create awareness about the need for forage for bees, or helping new beekeepers understand the challenges they face? The **Bayer Bee Care Community Leadership Award** seeks to celebrate your efforts!

The Bayer Bee Care Community Leadership Award recognizes a beekeeper who uses his/her interest in and commitment to honey bees to benefit the community in which he/she lives. Entrants are judged on their ability to improve a community through beekeeping.

The recipient is awarded $5,000 to aid in the advancement of the winning initiative and an all-expense paid trip to a reception during National Pollinator Week, June 15-21. (Location to be announced.)

The deadline for applications is Friday, April 3, 2015. Please see www.pollinatorweek.bayer.com for more information, or contact Sarah Myers, Event Manager and Apiarist at the Bayer Bee Care Center, North Carolina (919) 549-5303, sarah.myers@bayer.com.

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WILL COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION
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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**.

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)

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
American Bee Journal	21.00	39.75	56.25