July/August 2019 Volume 102 Number 4

# Illinois State Beekeepers Association

# BULLETIN

1891-2019

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Corky Schnadt

This year's ISBA Summer Meeting was a big success. Saturday's meeting had 140 in attendance. This year we also debuted a Friday workshop day open only to ISBA members. The day was limited to 20 members per workshop and quickly sold out. There were also two Friday evening workshops that drew 60 participants. We had 10 vendors on Friday and Saturday. The speakers ranged from internationally known researchers and authors discussing new ways to look at the health of a beehive to Illinois-based speakers talking about the specifics of beekeeping here. University of Illinois has been a great resource to Illinois beekeepers and at this meeting we had a presentation by entomology PhD student Jacob Torres, who discussed how local beekeepers can become an Illinois Citizen Scientist by helping to gather data that is needed for the University of Illinois in the fight against varroa. He has also coauthored, along with Dr. Adam Dolezal, an article for the Bulletin on bee genetics and its role in bee conservation and successful management. Eleanor Schumacher, representing the Illinois Department of Agriculture, gave us an update on apiary inspections in the State and her Friday workshop--on how to evaluate a colony and develop a management plan for it—was the first to sell out.

It's interesting to note that when ISBA had its first meeting 128 years ago, there were **15** charter members. Now we have nearly **1,500** members – a hundred-fold increase. Also, it was fun to realize that the first meeting was attended by Charles Dadant, founder of Dadant and Sons, and at this year's meeting we had Charles Dadant III, Gabe Dadant's son present. It's nice to look back on how we've changed and grown over the years and to also see the continuum with the past.

Recently, I talked with Brian Rennecker, Acting Bureau Chief of Land and Water Resources. A new Apiary Inspector position has been posted, and they will be conducting interviews in the near future. This inspector will cover the counties of Piatt, Macon, Moultrie, Shelby, Fayette, Effingham, Marion, Clay, Jefferson, and Wayne. This will bring the total to 9 Regional Apiary Inspectors throughout the state.

Even with the very wet spring, the inspectors have still been busy with inspections and moving permits. From April 1 through June 14, inspectors have completed 160 inspections and inspected 2,885 hives. Brian also told me there has been a 61% increase in registered Illinois beekeepers in the last 5 years.

At the end of the month I was invited to Springfield for a special presentation by the Department of Agriculture of the newly renamed Carl and Eugene Killion award. It will continue to be given as the highest honey show honor at the Illinois State Fair. At this ceremony, Gene Killian was given the award which now includes his name. It was great to get a chance to see Gene again and hear some of his stories going back over 100 years to when his father Carl started beekeeping. Both Carl and Gene served for decades as the Chief Apiary Inspectors in Illinois.

Corky

# MEET YOUR 2018 BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR: **TOM SIMPSON**

Charity Davis-Woodard

Ray Chapman first met Tom Simpson in the summer of 2011. Tom had recently decided he wanted to start keeping bees and, with a friend's help, built three top bar hives out of white pine. For the V-shaped top bars he used mixed hardwoods including cherry and black locust and routered the corners. Now he needed some bees.

Tom found Ray's honey business listed on the internet and contacted him about purchasing a nuc. Though not enthused about the style of hive Tom had chosen to use, Ray said he had a swarm he hadn't hived yet and agreed to try and install them in Tom's TB hive. Once Tom arrived at Ray's with the hive they spread a tarp on the ground behind the bee yard, and Ray shook the bees in front of the hive. So began Tom's education in bee behavior as he watched the bees walk into his hive. No queen was spotted among the crowd of bees. Unfortunately, they absconded the following day, and Ray asked him to collect the empty hive.

Tom hadn't given up. Searching online he found a video showing a group of college students cutting Langstroth frames to fit a TB hive. He convinced Ray to watch the video, and they decided it might just work. Tom made a cardboard template to fit the TB hive, which he used to very carefully cut down the five frames of the nuc he bought from Ray. He had attached half-inch pine strips with drywall screws to the top of the altered five frames so they were now ready to hang from the frame rests in the TB hive. They shook the bees back onto the comb, and Tom took the hive home. The following week he bought a second hive from Ray, this time a Langstroth. Ray thought he was a little crazy for wanting two different types of hives, but Tom wanted to see what he could learn from each.

He kept both hives well-fed and despite the late start (July), both colonies survived the winter and went on to be productive members of Tom's growing apiary for 3 or 4 years.

Throughout his early years he admits to bugging Ray to death, eager for any information and help he could get from such an experienced beekeeper with whom he was developing a warm friendship. "What I admire about Ray is he never criticizes others and is still trying and willing to learn. Always willing to share." Tom still remembers the first time he watched Ray open a hive to make up the top bar hive. "How gently he handled the bees. Him catching a swarm in shorts and a t-shirt while standing underneath the tree. He got a few stings but didn't say anything. I still say 'ouch'."

As time went by Ray's wife, Cookie, also became a close friend to Tom and his wife Gay. Now in his 8th year of beekeeping, and with total support from Gay, Tom runs a very successful sideliner business, selling several thousand pounds of honey a year as well as dozens of nucleus colonies and hives. He loves producing nucs for new beekeepers and then introducing them to their bees one frame at a time while installing them directly into their equipment. He calls them his girls. Sharing with new beekeepers is important to Tom. "What I enjoy is passing it on. I talk to some that are on the fence. I say let's get in a hive before you invest a bunch of money. It's almost like watching a kid catch their first fish."

Tom learned some tough lessons early on, suffering the pain of European Foulbrood in his 3rd year and dangerous levels of aggressive ant invasions soon after. Now he considers Small Hive Beetles and the assorted problems related to Varroa Destructor to be the greatest challenges. After growing to nearly 100 hives in 9 yards (2017), his current goal is around 40 hives in fewer locations. He works hard to find the very best locations he can, with abundant and varied forage away from cultivated farmland. Attributing much of his success to the encouragement and frequent cooperation of his wife Gay and the great patience of his mentor Ray, Tom readily admits he wouldn't be where he is today without their support.

Continued…

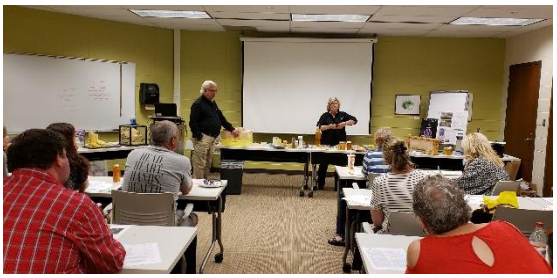
Tom grew up in East St. Louis, IL, and worked as a gardener and farm hand during his growing up years. Following boot camp, Tom completed the Navy Welding School in San Diego, CA and spent 3½ years working on nuclear submarines in the U. S. Navy. Once back in Illinois, Tom worked as a tube welder and mechanic for 30 years with Boilermakers Local #363 in Belleville.

It's easy to see why Ray Chapman felt Tom was worthy of recognition by ISBA for his accomplishments and his desire to give back by mentoring many beginning beekeepers and serving on the board of his local organization, the St. Clair Beekeepers Association in southwestern Illinois. With the knowledge gained through years of hard, persistent work, his incessant curiosity about and passion for honey bees, and his friendly, engaging manner and desire to "spread the word" about beekeeping, Tom is a successful ambassador for ISBA in Illinois and beyond.

## HONEY SHOW: COMPETITION OR COLLABORATION??

Corky Schnadt

We are coming into the time of year for State and county fairs. I know some folks are reluctant to show honey and related products at the fairs because they don't like to "compete." Watching Jim and Karen Belli at the summer meeting share their expertise and experiences of showing honey and wax products makes me realize it's not a honey competition at all, but really a ***collaboration*** among beekeepers.



As you can tell by the picture, the group was all ears as Jim and Karen went into great detail on all facets of showing honey and wax.

As the Honey Superintendent for the McHenry County Fair, I have often noticed, along with the Judge of the event, how much cleaner and clearer someone's honey and wax products are the second year that they enter. You can learn a lot by entering a show, and you do improve your products with time. Check to see if you can get the results of your entry or even discuss them with the judge. That is something I added to our show several years ago, and it has become quite popular. Several people pull up a chair and watch the judging and then have conversations with the judge that continue for hours after the event. And getting to know people like Jim and Karen, who have shown honey and wax before and are willing to share their 'secrets' will quicken the process and make it more enjoyable along the way.

Another added benefit to showing honey is it gets our honey and wax products out in the public eye to remind people that we are a part of agriculture and our bees can produce some beautiful and tasty treats while helping to pollinate everything from potted flowers to gardens to trees and crops.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Fair.

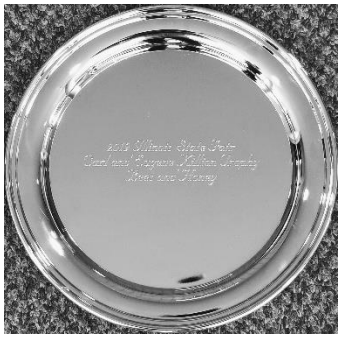
# CARL AND EUGENE KILLION TROPHY – A FATHER AND SON STORY

Eleanor Schumacher, Karen Lorence, and Jim and Karen Belli

llinois beekeepers celebrate our state beekeeping heritage with the renaming of a supreme trophy. The Killion Trophy, awarded annually at the Illinois State Fair Honey Show since 1980, now becomes the "Carl and Eugene Killion Trophy".

"While ribbons recognize honey quality, this trophy is a recognition of quantity," says ISBA President Corky Schnadt. "It's awarded to the beekeeper who achieves the most points, counted from the number of blue and red ribbons their honey entries win at the Honey Show."


There are several reasons why the Killion Trophy has remained a high honor over time. This engraved silver-plate trophy is a true reflection of its founders, father and son beekeepers Carl and Eugene Killion.



"It took TWO men to break the record in comb honey production – a father and son team. It's something very special," says Jim Belli, a previous winner of the Killion Trophy. "Their comb honey production record can't be broken! I once asked Gene Killion, 'How did you do it?'"

"Farming was a lot different in the 40s and 50s than what it is today," said Gene Killion. "Farms had hedgerows full of clover and other wildflowers. Also, alfalfa was allowed to bloom. But alfalfa is grown for livestock, and knowing today how much nutrition is lost when alfalfa goes to bloom, farmers make sure to take their cuttings when it will make the best hay for their animals."

Carl and Eugene Killion are legends and patriarchs of American beekeeping. Looking back a century, the Killion family story tells a rich history that shaped Illinois beekeeping. Carl Killion was born in 1899. He started beekeeping in 1916 as boy when he cut down a bee tree in Indiana, and kept what was called a log hive. As a man, Carl pursued commercial beekeeping to supplement his coal miner's salary. Carl's son Gene had his first beehive when he was five.

The family moved to Paris, Illinois in the 1920s. When Gene graduated high school in 1941, the Killions increased their apiary to 1,000 hives, all of which were dedicated to comb honey production. By that time, Carl had been appointed to the position of Chief Apiary Inspector for the Illinois Department of Agriculture. He served as Illinois' 4th Chief Apiary Inspector, appointed in 1938 and served for 32 years. When Carl retired in 1970, Gene was offered the position, which he held for 18½ years. Gene started the Illinois Registration of Beehives Program in 1970, making registration mandatory for all Illinois apiaries, and ensuring that registration and apiary inspection remain a free service. Gene also wrote the honey house sanitation guidelines for the State of Illinois Health Department in the 1970s. The American Honey Producers and Packers copied it for their national guidelines for honey house sanitation.

The Killion family always worked hard to promote the importance of beekeeping to agriculture. One very important project for Gene and his father was their success in getting the United States Post Office to issue a commemorative embossed envelope featuring the honey bee. Carl had worked for 25 years to get USPS to issue a honey bee stamp. The postmaster notified them of approval of the envelope two days before Carl passed away, and it was issued on October 10, 1980 at the Paris Illinois Post Office. This inspired the First Honey Bee Fest, which has been held every year since then in Paris.

The Killions were innovators of beekeeping equipment. Gene served in the military for 4 years and was a WWII veteran. He was a staff sergeant in the Army-Air Corps and served as a control tower

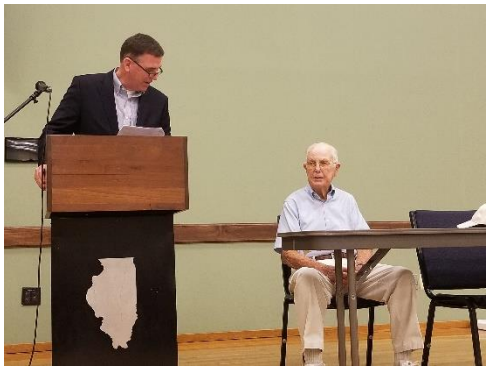
Continued… 

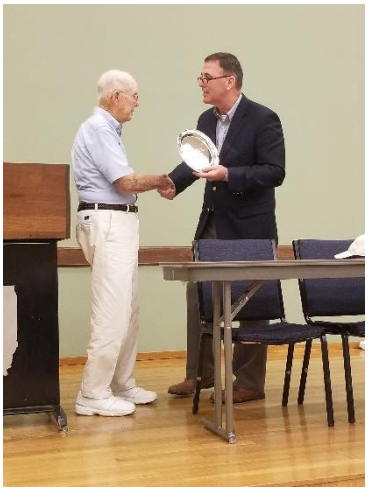
operator in the China-Burma-India theater. While Gene was away in the early 1940s, serving in the United States Air Force in Calcutta, India, Carl created the first pollen trap. It was made of metal and fit onto a slatted-rack bottom board, one element that Gene attributes to their success in phenomenal honey harvests. Carl and Gene's system of comb honey production is documented in Gene's book "Honey in the Comb", of which he also produced a DVD. Who better to write the book on comb honey than the man who, with his father, set the world's record for comb honey production, established in 1951 and never broken. Gene's son Mark tells about this achievement. "In 1951, one of their apiaries contained 100 hives of bees. During that season they averaged 14 supers per each of those 100 hives. Each super contained 24 box sections. There is a well-known photo taken prior to reaching the world record. It shows a total of 11 supers on the one hive. Shortly after that photo was taken the average went up to 14 supers per hive. People who saw the photo thought my Dad and Grandpa used a step ladder to work the colony. In fact, one nationally known expert wrote an article stating that they were insane for doing that. On the contrary, in chapter VII of Dad's book, he goes into great detail on how the supers were rotated and the diagrams clearly show that at most there were only 4 supers on a hive at any one time."

The Killion honey production legacy is not only recognized for quantity of honey produced, but for honey quality and craftsmanship – a highest priority to the Killions. During Carl Killion's time as Chief Apiary Inspector, he teamed up with Minnesota Chief Apiary Inspector Clare Floyd, and the two started the American Honey Show, first held at the Minnesota State Fair, and held at the Illinois State Fair the following year. Over the years, the Killions won 39 blue ribbons at the American Honey Fair, with the most recent being a blue ribbon for comb honey at the ABF American Honey Show in 2016.

In 1980, shortly after Carl Killion passed away, Dwight Dunbar, Chief of the Bureau of Plant and Apiary Protection worked with Ron Fischer, then president of the ISBA to create the first Killion Trophy. This award would annually commemorate a great beekeeper for achieving the highest number of prize-winning honey entries in the Illinois State Fair Honey Show. This year the ISBA recognizes the legendary father and son team that have had such an historic impact on Illinois beekeeping by renaming the award "The Carl and Eugene Killion Trophy", recognizing how much a family can accomplish when working together.

Mark Killion gives thanks for the renaming. "My father and I wish to thank the Illinois Beekeepers Association for this recent honor in renaming the trophy. My father was humbled and honored that his colleagues wanted to recognize our family in this way. It meant a great deal to him, and both of us will always be so grateful for this wonderful tribute."





# SPRING WITH THE DADANT BOYS
## Gabe Dadant

All winter long I waited for spring to come. With spring comes black locust honey. Well, not this season. The rains also came and didn't want to stop. The wind/rain combination wiped out our locust bloom here in the west central part of the state, and when my son and I made the trip to McHenry County College, we were a bit envious of the beekeepers up in the northern part as the locust was just starting to bloom. That's how it goes some seasons. You win some, you lose some.


With the locust flow behind us, we are concentrating our efforts on the main flow here in our area. The Dutch clover has been blooming for well over a month now, and yellow and white sweet are starting to fill the roadside ditches and pastures across the state. Cool weather pushed this flow off a bit, but it is in full swing now, and one box of honey sits on all producing colonies awaiting extraction, with hopes of more supers being filled and a decent crop not too far off in the near future. Silent prayers for a dry 4 weeks.

So as I wait for the bees to pack more honey into the supers I think of the good things that have come from this season. The first thing that comes to mind are my two boys. Both boys enjoy packing and selling honey, but in years past didn't care much for work in the bee yard. This season my oldest son Charles has taken charge in the bee yard. This shows me his maturity and how he is becoming a young man instead of the little boy I once knew. His old bee suits and rubber boots of years past have been traded in for just a jacket and no gloves. At 13 there was no way I would have braved the bee yard without a suit of armor less take a sting to the hand like a man would. He also attended his first state show this past weekend, and I must say, did one heck of a job. He showed his old man that one day he too will be a leader, if not in the bee business, in whatever profession he chooses. My youngest son C.P. Dadant is now ten years old and has come a long way this season as well. He has been instrumental in our success, catching swarms and increasing the number of hives the two boys run together. He is witty and sharp as a tack. He will attend his first bee convention later this summer, and I will be a proud father standing in the booth with both boys tending to customers as I have in years past.

While at the state show at McHenry County College, I let my son take some of last season's crop to sell. The boys don't sell much plain honey as they try and differentiate themselves from the many customers that also try to sell their honey crop locally. They came up with a product they like to call Sweet Heat Honey. It is a honey infused with the essence of fresh, locally grown peppers. The varieties sold depend upon what the garden produces, from Jalapeño, Habanero, or Ghost Peppers; they infuse each batch with precision, giving each the right amount of sweet and heat.


This season they are branching out even further with our infused products and will try to win a spot on many of the local grocery store shelves. A mint honey is in the works with thanks to Rose Leedle. While standing around between breakout sessions, many stories and successes are shared. She was kind enough to tell us about her mint honey which sparked even more ideas for our infused products. We hope to add at least three new types of infused honey to our line and hope to give other beekeepers ideas on ways to market and sell their crop.

As I finish this today I look outside. The river water that was inside our shipping department has receded. The dried mud from the old Mississippi sits in our parking lot, and the bee yard behind the plant is a muddy mess. The little outbuilding that once housed my father's honey extraction room and my equipment is also a muddy mess in need of cleaning and paint, which will become the boys' next task.

Continued… 

Cleaning that building out is not much fun from what I recall after a good flood. It's been 26 years since I cleaned that building out. I was 13 years old in 1993 when one of the last three 100-year floods came through.

The three of us want to wish you all the best of luck beekeeping this summer, and have hopes we all will make a bumper crop.

Till next time,
Gabe, C.C., and C.P. Dadant

---

# THE HISTORY OF DADANT & SONS
## Part 2

*We currently have the seventh generation involved in the business. From humble beginnings, our company has expanded to 10 branch locations nationwide and 4 manufacturing facilities that are located near Hamilton, IL. We are happy to serve the United States beekeepers, as well as many overseas customers. Since 1863, the Dadant family has made quality products from beeswax, a natural and renewable resource.*

### The Third Generation


Maurice Dadant

Three out of seven children born to C.P. were sons. They each graduated from the University of Illinois. Louis in mechanical engineering, Henry in civil engineering and Maurice in business administration. They all returned after college to help their father with the business. The business had been named Charles Dadant and Son. They were in the process of changing the name to Charles Dadant and Son and Grandson when Charles died in 1902. They eventually altered it to Dadant and Sons as each son began to return to join the business. In 1924, they moved the business off of the original family farm into a tire factory in town where the company continues to house its corporate office today.


Louis Dadant

They incorporated in 1948. Louis spent a number of years managing the bees and plant production. He later turned his attention more to sales of beekeeper's supplies and the purchase of crude beeswax for comb foundation. Henry devoted his attention to plant problems and development. In 1921, he invented crimp-wired foundation. This foundation was received enthusiastically and the business grew to new levels. Maurice devoted his time to The American Bee Journal and the business in general. All three worked closely with bees.


Henry Dadant

Under this generation came the introduction of the Dadant hive, and many advances in the business of selling and providing beekeeping supplies. In following with the custom in France and with their father and grandfather, each of the three agreed they would bring a son or son-in-law into the business. It was during this transition that the business added the line of candles for the Catholic church. The introduction of gilt-edge foundation and the necessity of manufacturing woodenware also became apparent in this era.

### The Fourth Generation


Chuck Dadant

The first of the fourth generation to appear was Henry's son-in-law, Roy Grout. The second was the son of Louis, James, and later the oldest son of Maurice, Robert Dadant. After World War II, James found other interests and the second son of Maurice, Charles, joined in 1946. This era saw the firm emerge as a modern and complex industry with a wide variety of interests. In 1963, as part of their Centennial celebration, a plastic-base foundation, Duragilt, was introduced along with a new revision of "The Hive and the Honey Bee". In 1966, Charles Dadant assumed his position as president of the company. "Chuck" was a visionary and loved to try new products and methods of marketing. Under his tenure as president, the company grew with the addition of 10 branch locations, a metalware plant in Dallas City, IL., a woodenware plant in Polson, MT and a new candle factory in Kahoka, MO. In the early 1950's,

Continued…

he encouraged his good friend and co-worker Dr. G.H. (Bud) Cale to develop a hybrid bee breeding program which successfully developed the first commercially available hybrid queen bees known as the Starline and Midnite Hybrids.

In 1990, Charles turned the leadership over to his nephew Tom Ross and his two sons Tim and Nick Dadant. A good friend and beekeeping associate once described Chuck as someone who spoke softly but was listened to carefully. He was known to not take big jumps, but wisely a step at a time.

## The Fifth Generation

Tom Ross
Tim Dadant
Nick Dadant

This generation consisting of Tom Ross, Tim Dadant and Nick Dadant continues to succeed in meeting the challenges of growing the company in the beekeeping industry. Tom Ross oversees the religious line of candles, Tim Dadant guides the decorative candles and Nick Dadant monitors the beekeeping supplies. All three actively participate in the general running of the business. They have overseen another revision of "The Hive and Honey Bee" in 1992 and continue to publish the monthly magazine The American Bee Journal. Dadant & Sons houses one of the largest private libraries of beekeeping literature.

Marta Menn

## The Sixth and Seventh Generations

Gabe Dadant
Matt Ross

With the recent addition of Gabe Dadant (6th generation) and Matt Ross (7th generation) to the company, the family tradition will continue well into the future. Both of these young men are learning the different aspects of running the business. The company continues to remain the largest manufacturer of beekeeping supplies and is still a believer that "it pays to furnish good goods."

## THE ISBA SUMMER MEETING 2019
Larry Krengel

For the first time ISBA made their summer meeting into a two-day event. As with all changes, it was an attempt to test the waters. The response from the membership was pleasing. There was a good turnout for the Friday short courses. Both of the discussions groups on Friday evening were well attended. And Saturday packed in a lot while still finishing respectable early. We drew a larger number of vendors and ate subs for lunch. The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive.

Thanks to all who attended and made the meeting a success.

# BEE CONSERVATION GENETICS

Jacob Torres and Adam Dolezal, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bees are some of the most important components of Earth's terrestrial ecosystems, pollinating 30% of crop plant species and 90% of native plant species around the globe. In addition to honey bees, Illinois has over 100 documented native bee species, and there are over 4,000 bee species across the United States!

While most beekeepers are focused on high losses to honey bee colonies, there is mounting evidence that other bee populations have been experiencing rapid declines throughout the globe. However, at the same time, many species continue to thrive in their native ranges. Why are some species susceptible to stress while other persist? In honey bees, why do some breeds/varieties do better than others in different environments?

These questions lead researchers to ask how genetic and life history traits influence bees' susceptibility and resistance to factors that impact bee health. One approach to this is called 'conservation genetics'. Genetic and molecular tools have allowed for the study of key issues in conservation that are normally very difficult or impossible to estimate, like species identity (many bees are very hard to identify), genetic diversity within and between populations, inbreeding rates, and relatedness. Molecular and population genetics have enhanced our understanding of pollinator conservation biology by exposing general patterns of population structure, the exchange of genetic material, mating systems, and population sizes in both common and declining bee species.

One of the major challenges in understanding the factors contributing to population declines is the lack of tools for assessing the health of bees. The study of genomics, however, is very promising for transforming the field of bee conservation by providing a suite of new tools for diagnosing pollinator health. Organisms encounter and respond to problems in their environment through behavioral, physiological, and metabolic changes that are initiated by "switches" associated with the DNA of their cells. If these changes, where certain genes are more or less "turned on," are closely tied to changes in the environment, then we can use our knowledge of these changes to identify the presence of specific stressors in the environment. For example, in honey bees, almost all behavioral states investigated so far have been associated with differences in how genes are turned on/off in the brain in response to a certain stimulus (Further reading: Hamilton et al. 2019).

There are significant differences in the behaviors and tolerances to environmental stressors between honey bee species that impact their health, strength, and survival. For example, there are certain honey bee breeds that express an increased level of hygienic behavior, while other honey bee breeds may

tend to bite parasites on their bodies at a higher rate, and others still might exhibit higher levels of aggressive behavior. By learning more about these subtle yet significant differences between honey bee species, subspecies, and breeds in natural feral colonies we can begin to understand how these differences benefit honey bees in their native ranges. We can then adapt our beekeeping practices to closely match the conditions under which feral populations succeed and encourage our managed bees to thrive. Feral colonies are essential in understanding the optimal conditions under which honey bees thrive, considering that their genetics are likely responsible, to an extent, for their ability to survive in the wild without supplemental feed, miticides, and antibiotics. Studying the differences between honey bee types and their genomes may one day lead to a honey bee breed that is better suited to succeed in an increasingly urban or agricultural landscape.

Continued…

Overall, the field of genomics is an extremely promising one for transforming the field of bee conservation by providing bee biologists with better tools to estimate relevant parameters to species conservation and providing novel ways to assess and improve pollinator health. Bees are very well suited to highlight the power of genomics in conservation biology because they are crucial pollinators, they face serious threats, they capture public attention, they tend to have small genomes that are easier to sequence and work with, and many networks already exist for translating research results into application outside of the scientific community.

References:
Chakrabarti, P., Sarkar, S., Basu, P., 2018. Field Populations of Wild Apis cerana Honey Bees Exhibit Increased Genetic Diversity Under Pesticide Stress Along an Agricultural Intensification Gradient in Eastern India. J Insect Sci 18. https://doi.org/10.1093/jisesa/iey042
Geroff, R.K., J. Gibbs and K.W. McCravy. 2014. Assessing bee (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) diversity of an Illinois restored tallgrass prairie: methodology and conservation considerations. Journal of Insect Conservation 18:951-964.
Hamilton, A.R., Traniello, I.M., Ray, A.M., Caldwell, A.S., Wickline, S.A. and Robinson, G.E., 2019. Division of labor in honey bees is associated with transcriptional regulatory plasticity in the brain. Journal of Experimental Biology, pp.jeb-200196.
Liu, H., Zhang, X., Huang, J., Chen, J.-Q., Tian, D., Hurst, L.D., Yang, S., 2015. Causes and consequences of crossing-over evidenced via a high-resolution recombinational landscape of the honey bee. Genome Biology 16, 15. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-014-0566-0
López-Uribe, M.M., Soro, A., Jha, S., 2017. Conservation genetics of bees: advances in the application of molecular tools to guide bee pollinator conservation. Conserv Genet 18, 501–506. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10592-017-0975-1
Lozier, J.D., Zayed, A., 2017. Bee conservation in the age of genomics. Conserv Genet 18, 713–729. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10592-016-0893-7
Suni, S.S., Scott, Z., Averill, A., Whiteley, A., 2017. Population genetics of wild and managed pollinators: implications for crop pollination and the genetic integrity of wild bees. Conserv Genet 18, 667–677. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10592-017-0955-5

## ISBA ACKNOWLEDGES OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS WITH TWO AWARDS

Each year since 2003 ISBA has recognized a member of exceptional merit as **Beekeeper of the Year**. The award was established to acknowledge the significant contributions of an individual who best exemplifies the key objectives of the association: To promote interest in honey bees and beekeeping by encouraging good beekeeping practices in Illinois; to support the utilization of honey bees for pollination of agricultural crops; and to disseminate information about honey bees and beekeeping.

Nominations are currently open for the award and will be accepted through **August 15, 2019**. Names and contact information for the nominated member may be submitted to any Officer or Director of the Association (available on the website) and should include a brief description of the candidate's qualifications. The following requirements must be met:

1. Candidate must be a member in good standing of the ISBA and must be a resident of Illinois
2. Candidate must first be nominated by an ISBA member, approved by the program Chairperson and the ISBA Secretary, and finally approved by the ISBA Board of Directors
3. Candidate must by willing to receive the ISBA Beekeeper of the Year designation

A second award, the **Pioneer Award**, is given to honor an individual who, through his or her actions, has made significant contributions to and supported the health and well-being of honey bees through research, advancement of methods or technology, and the sharing of knowledge. The recipient does not need to be a practicing beekeeper and the award is not given on an annual basis, but rather when the Board of Directors deems it appropriate.

More information and a list of recipients of both awards is available on the website at www.ilsba.com. Search the menu options for Beekeeper of the Year and Pioneer Award Recipients.

# ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT
## Central Eastern Illinois Beekeepers Association


CEIBA-Central Eastern Illinois Beekeepers Association came into being in the mid 1960s as closely as we can approximate. A few seasoned beekeepers in the larger area along with a few beginners came together at this time to share and pursue their love of honey bees and bee culture, production of honey, prevention of disease, and to educate the general public.

Ray King, Virgil and Lilli Johnson, Robert and Audrey Chapman, Lawrence and Dorothy Tatman, Harry and Ruth Wagler, Ralph Simms, Ben Newcomb, Jake Funk, Cecil Daniels and August Blobaum were among the first and earliest members of this fairly recently formed club. Many of these names and this history have been lost to time.

The early meetings took place in the basement of the Gifford Lutheran church. When the weather was more amenable, monthly meetings were held at a member's apiary site. Ranging from Virgil Johnson's bee yard in Philo, Dick Ehmen's farm near Hoopeston, Bob and Audrey's Bee Shoppe in Gifford, Ralph Simm's apiary in Rankin, and Harry and Ruth Wagler's bee yard in Clarence, members would travel to the meeting on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. How did they do it, we ask? With no GPS and cell phones, getting there was half the fun!

Ray King of Champaign worked annually to set up displays at the Champaign County Fair, and Robert Chapman worked tirelessly at the booth in Floral Hall, selling honey & honey ice cream and displaying the observation hive. He encouraged members to submit entries to the honey show in all the categories. Robert encouraged Harm Aden of rural Gifford to enter his sweet clover honey from his single colony in the National Honey Show in the early 70's. Harm won the blue ribbon!

Shortly after the Champaign County Fair came the IL State Fair. CEIBA set up a commercial exhibit where members could sell honey. Following the state fair, CEIBA would set up a booth at the Labor Day Sweet Corn Festival in Hoopeston. Perhaps it was easier to do back in the day when pastures, hayfields, and fence rows provided a bounty of bloom (compared to now). 250 lb. of surplus honey from a colony were reasonably common then. Carl and Gene Killion's record setting 400 pounds of comb honey from one colony was the amazing number back then.

The CEIBA annual meeting was an all day meeting in January for election of officers, dues, monthly schedule, planning beginning beekeeper class, hosting interesting speakers,and many many interesting discussions. Beekeepers came from all over the state to talk bees, and our people went to their meetings. Beekeeping fellowship was the order of the day!

CEIBA had a historian back in the day. Sadly it is no longer the case, and the records that were kept are gone. I have had several great phone conversations with some folks that I haven't spoken to in years while researching our CEIBA history. It has been my pleasure! I hope that hearing these old names rekindles some memories for a few people out there. Feel free to email me if you have past history to add.

Karen Pruiett
kspruiet@gmail.com

Illinois State Beekeepers Association
PO Box 21094
Springfield, IL 62708

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 – December 31 only. Dues include a subscription to this newsletter, the ISBA Bulletin.

Make checks for membership payable to: ISBA and mail to: Illinois State Beekeepers Association – Membership, PO 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 email the change to the ISBA Membership Director at spetrilli45@gmail.com

## American Bee Journal

**$23.80** – 1 year

**$45.05** – 2 years

**$63.75** – 3 years

http://www.ilsba.com/links.html
(888) 922-1293

## Bee Culture

**$25** – 1 year Print Edition

**$15** – 1 year, Digital Edition

**$48** – 2 years, Print Edition

**$69** – 3 years, Print Edition

**$20** – 1 year, BEEKeeping Your First 3 Years

www.beeculture.com