

Illinois State Beekeepers Association

BULLETIN

1891-2019



HIGHLIGHTS FROM ABF CONVENTION, JAN 8-12, 2019, MYRTLE BEACH, SC



Tim May gives welcome and Presidential address. Tim and past President Gene Brandi also played the national anthem on trumpet. Unfortunately, we don't have a photo.



Sand Sculpture in exhibit area



Honey Queen and Princess



(left) Honey Show
(below) Illinois Represented!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - Corky Schnadt

I am greatly looking forward to the year ahead and my new role on the ISBA Board as President. It'll allow me to continue to work with some very talented folks I have come to know and appreciate who make up the ISBA Board. There are also some new Board members who are clearly going to be instrumental in helping us accomplish many things for 2019.

The annual ISBA election was held at our Fall Meeting on November 10. Along with my election as President, Rose Leedle was elected as Vice-President. Steve Petrilli was re-elected as Membership Director. New to the Board are David Nellis as Treasurer, Charity Davis-Woodard as Secretary, and Doug Leedle as Southern Region Director. Remaining in their previously-elected positions are Larry Kregel, Northern Region Director and Bryan Miller, Central Region Director. Rich Ramsey, Legislative Liaison is also remaining in his position.

I would also like to acknowledge the debt of gratitude to two members of the 2018 ISBA Board who stepped down after many years of service, Ray Chapman, Southern Region Director and Dale Hill, President.

The new Board met a few weeks ago and identified many objectives for 2019, including improvements to our Bulletin and looking at new ways of communicating with our members.

I would also like to thank the many past Presidents and former Board members who have reached out to me to offer help and their perspective on where ISBA has come from and where it can go in the future. We are starting this new year on a very firm foundation created by them, and I appreciate their efforts and continued support. I know it's always perilous to list people because you are bound to forget someone, but I want to acknowledge the help I have received from past Presidents Jim Belli, Rich Ramsey, Mike Mason, Ron Fischer, Chuck Lorence, and Dale Hill. I look forward to talking to others in the near future as well.

There have been some big changes in the Illinois Beekeeping community. On the first of January, Steve Chard retired from the Dept of Agriculture. He has been a real friend to this organization longer than many of us have been a part of it. He will be missed for his guidance and help in so many ways. He was a real advocate for beekeeping, a help in legislative matters, and a guiding light throughout Illinois with the Apiary inspection program.

Also, the Apiary Inspection program is going through a reorganization. Currently we have two permanent part-

time inspectors, Mike Gerard and Danny Wright. There will be six different county postings which will be posted at the State of Illinois eRecruiting website <http://work.illinois.gov>.

to fill the other positions. It is too early to tell what shape the new program will take. We'll have to wait until the new administration in Springfield gets settled in to find out. As we get more information, we'll share it with you. I want to thank Brian Rennecker, Acting Chief Bureau of Land and Water Resources, who is temporarily posted to Steve's position, for this latest information.

We continue to miss our former Bulletin Editor, Angie Nelson, who stepped down last year after the loss of her husband. We are very grateful that Marianne Hill, who filled in on very short notice last year has agreed to stay on as our new Bulletin editor. She did a great job under much less than desirable circumstances with our last issue of 2018, and we know she'll be a big help in getting out informative and creative bulletins this year. She is currently newsletter editor of the Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association and has done exemplary work there for several years. She attended the Board meeting and had many suggestions for how to go forward with the bulletin.

So we ended last year with some big changes in our beekeeping community and start the New Year with some new folks involved.

Our Summer meeting this year will be held in the Northern Region and will be a two-day event (June 7-8). Larry Kregel, our Northern Illinois Director, has been working on this for over a year. There will be more information on this later in the Bulletin.

We are looking forward to a great Fall meeting as well. It will be held in Springfield on November 9th at the Department of Agriculture Building on the State Fairgrounds. Steve Chard made sure to lock in that date for us before he retired.

Another upcoming event is the American Beekeeping Federation conference to be held in Schaumburg, Illinois next January. This conference is held in a different part of the country each year and next year will be the first time in recent memory for Illinois Beekeepers to attend this national conference in our home state. Having attended this year's conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, I can tell you it's a great way to hear about the latest research and new technologies within the beekeeping community.



Illinois State Beekeepers Association Bulletin

And with it being in Schaumburg, you'll be saving quite a commute compared to other years.

will renew the landscape and with it our hopes for a happy and successful bee season.

The very best to you all in the New Year. As we look out through frosty windows, we know spring is not far off and

Corky Schnadt
President, ISBA



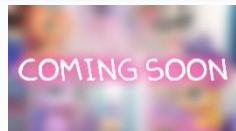
Hello Everyone,

I have made a very tough decision to retire from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, effective COB December 31, 2018. This is more than difficult for me given my overall enjoyment of working with beekeepers and ISBA, plus being part of a cause that is so critical to humankind, the protection and proliferation of honey bees.

Thank you for your tremendous support over the years. It truly has been an honor and privilege working with everyone. I've enjoyed the experience more than you know.

I wish you and yours the very best now and in the future.

Best Regards, Steve Chard



Something new coming for the ISBA Bulletin

We are planning on not only mailing this Bulletin, but also offering it digitally to everyone who has a viable email address. If you opt for the digital version, you should receive an email with a link allowing you to open the Bulletin on your computer.

Advantages to getting the Bulletin digitally: it would be in color, instead of black and white. Any links in the articles would be live, so you can immediately click through to additional content. Also, the print version is limited to a certain number of pages due to processing costs. The digital version would not have this limitation. The cost savings to ISBA can be utilized in other areas.

An email will be issued in the near future to explain how a member can subscribe to the digital version of the Bulletin. If you are not interested in receiving the digital copy, we will still offer the print version.

GETTING A BEE'S EYE VIEW OF YOUR LANDSCAPE

Adam Dolezal and Jake Torres, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

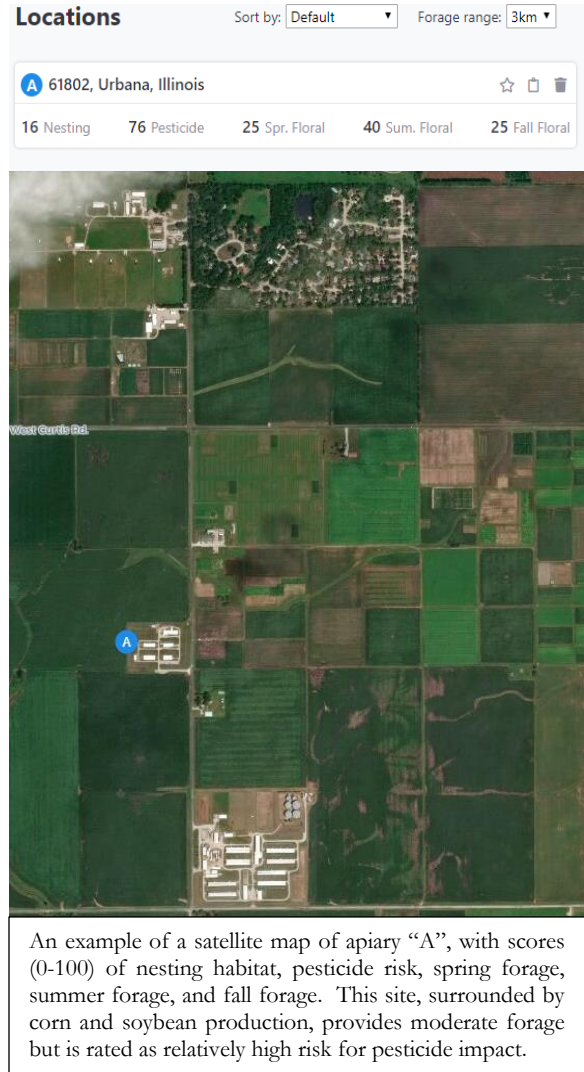
We know that honey bees travel far from their nests to find food. What are they experiencing during this journey through their landscape? How does this contribute to their health and your honey production and pollination?

The honey bee research laboratory of Prof. Adam Dolezal at the University of Illinois is partnering with bee biologists at Penn State, Purdue, and other universities to roll out a new tool to help beekeepers, gardeners, and growers get detailed information about the quality of their landscapes for bees. Data produced by the program will also help develop site- and region-specific recommendations for land and bee management practices. But, to do this, we need your help, so we can have data from many diverse landscapes!

Starting in March 2019, www.BeeScape.org will become open to beekeepers in Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania free of charge, with other states added in the future. Beescape provides a tool for beekeepers, gardeners, growers, and land managers to assess the quality of their landscapes for supporting managed honey bees and wild bees. Researchers also use the tool to allow beekeepers to provide valuable data on their hives to anonymously contribute to a large-scale study to better understand and predict what makes honey bees successful.

The tool uses the USDA-NASS Cropland Data Layer (CDL) for its base map of what crops are in your landscape. We use the resulting information and input it into predictive models that translate the land cover into bee Forage and Nesting habitat (for other bees, like bumble bees). This and other data are used to rank landscapes into predicted quality scores and give a predicted pesticide exposure ranking.

In addition to providing this information to beekeepers, the app asks some survey questions that will help us find out what is really happening – generating real data from real landscapes – to understand how the world surrounding apiaries affects their success. It will also help us track overwintering



losses and allow beekeepers to anonymously compare their own apiaries to others across the state and region.

This is a very powerful tool for gathering information about how honey bees thrive and survive – or fail – in different landscapes. But it can only be successful through the participation of beekeepers throughout our diverse state. We are encouraging any beekeepers interested in this tool, and better tracking and understanding of what makes bee colonies successful, to check this website out when it comes online and consider using it and participating.

www.BeeScape.org will go live sometime in March.

If you are interested in using it, you can email DolezalBeeLab@gmail.com to be added to a reminder list that will alert you when it comes online.

For more information about the research lab, you can visit <https://publish.illinois.edu/DolezalBeeLab>

For more information about the Illinois section of this effort, and related research, visit <https://publish.illinois.edu/IllinoisBees>

Contact Adam Dolezal (adolezal@illinois.edu) or Jake Torres (jacobdt3@illinois.edu) with any questions.



ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT Northern Illinois Beekeepers Association



The approximately 190+ members that make up NIBA are mostly from McHenry and Lake counties, with additional beekeepers from Boone, Carroll, Cook, Dekalb, Dupage, Kane, and Winnebago counties in Illinois, and Walworth, WI. They meet every 2nd Friday evening in Woodstock.



NIBA participates in many community events, including Gardenfest, A Day At Peterson Farm, and the Green Expo. We also provide speakers at the bi-annual Ag Days, which teaches over 500 3rd and 4th graders about bees and beekeeping. The annual highlight of the club is the McHenry County Fair. This is a 6-day vendor event where we distribute educational information and sell honey.

Socially, NIBA sponsors an annual picnic/open hive event in the summer. We also meet monthly at the local McDonalds just to chat about bees. This is a less formal setting where new-bees and veterans alike can get together.



One service to members only is our group sale of 350 packages and nucs.

New this year is a 4H Club for McHenry County 4H, at the encouragement of Jerry Gudauskas who is very passionate about bringing the joy of beekeeping to our younger generations. The club will be a pollinator club, and the 2 components of the club will be learning about and managing 2 bee colonies along with helping start a butterfly house, both of which will be at the fairgrounds. The club will also be adding pollinator-friendly gardens and trees to the fairgrounds. NIBA is committed to helping this new 4H Club in setting up and learning to maintain the colonies.



[Scrub Hill Farm](#)
February 3 at 7:37 PM

Hello, I am Doug Leedle, the new Southern District Director. I currently manage 80 hives and own Leedle Houme Bee Supply Store. In the next several months I will be trying to attend as many club meeting in Southern Illinois as possible to introduce myself. If I can be of help to any Southern Illinois members, please let me know.

Our Thanks to ISBA Southern Director for his Load-out assistance during 2019 almond pollination.

BEE INNOVATIVE - Karen Lorence

Twenty-one beekeepers from the state of Illinois attended the recent American Beekeeping Federation convention held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from January 8 - 12. There were 830 people registered from throughout the United States and Canada.

Each day had a renowned researcher open the meeting with their latest research. Wednesday's meeting opened with a presentation by Dr. Marla Spivak, Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota. Her keynote presentation was "Restoring Bee Health; Molecules to Landscapes". Dr. Spivak is always a thought-provoking speaker! Other inspiring talks included a report from the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees and the introduction of foundation scholars. Also the 2018 American Honey Queen and Princess and the new 2019 honey queen contestants were introduced.

The highlight of Wednesday's meeting was the report by Dr. Samuel Ramsey from the Bee Research Lab USDA at Beltsville, Maryland. His topic was "Tropilaelaps Mites: A Fate Worse Than Varroa". This was a spectacular report saying that we have not seen the worst yet...that *Tropilaelaps* will eventually come, and it will be larger and more devastating than *Varroa*. Interestingly enough, Dr. Ramsey ultimately won the Roger Hoopingarner award for most outstanding presentation as voted by the members of the conference.

Wednesday also saw the opening of the trade show where 87 exhibitors answered questions and showed off their latest equipment and technical items for sale.

Thursday's keynote speaker was Dr. Reed Johnson, Department of Entomology at The Ohio State University. His presentation was "Interaction Between Insecticides and Fungicides Applied to Almonds During Bloom". Other topics on Thursday included "Toward a Fungal Pharmacy: Using *Metarhizium* and Mushroom Extracts to Honey Bee Health" by Dr. Walter Sheppard of Washington State University.

"Bee-Friendly Microbial Control of Arachnid and Arthropod Pests" was presented by Vera Strogolov. Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda spoke on the use of photography for recordkeeping. Special interest groups met in the afternoon and these addressed the small scale/sidelined group, of the new 2019 Honey Queen was held on Saturday night at the conclusion of the convention.

package bee and queen breeders, honey producers and packers, and commercial beekeepers. Each lane had several programs presented by professionals.

The speaker that was highlighted on Friday was Dr. Dennis VanEngelsdorp who spoke on the topic of "Mites Matter". Dr. VanEngelsdorp is also president of the Bee Informed Partnership. One of the speakers who always meets with great accolades is Peter Berthelsen. He is in charge of the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund and his talk was "The Art and Science of Getting Great Honey Bee Forage on the Landscape".

Another great topic covered was by Bob Danke and Frank Rinkevich of the USDA Bee Lab in Baton Rouge. Their topic was "An Integrated Approach to Breeding Better Bees". The Foundation For the Preservation of Honey Bees is always well attended, and this year gave four scholarships to students studying apiculture at four different universities in the United States.

The Kids and Bees program took place Friday morning and was attended by over 300 kids and their parents. Hands-on participation included "The Art of Beekeeping, The Science of Beekeeping, The World of Beekeeping, and The Future of Bees: It's Up to You!" This program is always a huge success.

Friday afternoon, the honey show was concluded with the auction of the prize-winning honey and beeswax competition. Illinois was extremely well represented with Jim and Karen Belli taking three blue ribbons and best of show, and a number of 2nd and 3rd place ribbons. Tom Montavon took a first place ribbon with water white honey. Charles Lorence and Jeremy Margaron also received 2nd place ribbons.

"Medical Issues in the Apiary" was presented by Dr. Michael Misco on Saturday morning. "Bees as Seeds" discussed the connection between habitat, nutrition, health and longevity of bees and their relationship to breeding. Especially interesting to the small beekeeper were topics on skin care products, candle making, how to make creamed honey, encaustic painting, and how to get young people involved in beekeeping.

The annual reception and banquet, live auction, and crowning The New Jersey Honey Queen, Nicole Medina, was named American Honey Princess. She is

from Green Township, New Jersey, is 19 years old, and is a business administration major. Hannah Sjostrom was the queen candidate from Wisconsin and was crowned the 2019 American Honey Queen. She is from Maiden Rock, WI, is a

nursing major at University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, and is a 3rd generation beekeeper.

Watch for upcoming news on the 2020 ABF Convention which will be held in Schaumburg, Illinois, next January.

Upcoming Beekeeping Event at Garfield Park Conservatory



10th Annual Bee Forum: *Reading the Combs—Experiencing the World Through the Perspective of the Bees*

Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance hosts an annual Bee Forum to join local beekeepers and beekeeping experts to discuss relevant topics in the world of beekeeping, in addition to building community with Chicagoland beekeepers. GPCA is excited to have Randy Oliver present on the topic of hive inspections. Randy's presentation "*Reading the Combs—Experiencing the World Through the Perspective of the Bees*" will focus on interpreting what bees are telling us as we inspect the hives and help us determine how to transition from having bees to keeping bees to managing bees.

To help build community and keep the conversation going, we have a shared potluck lunch.

Presenter Bio:

Randy Oliver owns and operates a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Grass Valley in Northern California. He and his two sons manage about 1,500 colonies for migratory pollination and produce queens, nucs, and honey. He has over 50 years of practical beekeeping experience, plus holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biological Sciences. Randy researches, analyzes, and digests beekeeping information from all over the world in order to not only broaden his own depth of understanding and knowledge, but to develop practical solutions to many of today's beekeeping problems, which he then shares with other beekeepers through his various articles in bee magazines, his speaking engagements worldwide, and on his website:

www.ScientificBeekeeping.com

Sunday, March 31, 2019 from 10am-4pm

Fee: \$45

Garfield Park Conservatory
300 North Central Park Avenue
Chicago, IL 60624
Phone: 312-746-5100

For more information and to register, visit <https://garfieldconservatory.org/event/10th-annual-bee-forum/>

TELL ME MY BEES ARE ALIVE – Gabe Dadant

With each winter comes the want of spring, and this year has been no different. My wife and I have two boys. She is an elementary school teacher, and they are of the Xbox generation, ages 10 and 13. We have kept bees on and off at the house since the boys could walk, and they manage a few hives of their own. They sell what honey they produce and have hopes of saving for that beat-up flatbed bee truck when they turn 16. This winter they have watched one of their two 8-frame hives at our home succumb to the harshness of winter—feed just out of their reach, starvation the culprit; heads buried inside the cells; the cluster inches away from capped honey, but not close enough to get those reserves they needed so dearly. Like past winters, we're hearing stories of 50% loss across much of the state and I hate to say it, spring is a long way off.



Every February the phones start ringing at the plant with calls from concerned beekeepers. The first thing they say is, "Tell me my bees are alive." I ask all the normal questions. Did you treat for varroa, did you feed in the fall? Then it gets silent. The replies vary. "I did treat with powdered sugar." "I treated with Apivar in the spring and didn't check my mite counts in the fall." "I didn't see a single mite all season and have no mites." "The bees kept all the honey for themselves, and I didn't have a need to feed." You get the picture. Can I say for sure your bees are dead or alive without looking? Of course not. I can, however, judge what the outcome may be for you by your answer to my question. If you didn't treat for varroa or fed in the fall, the chances of survival are slim, but if you take charge now and stay on top of the hive by babying it through until the dandelions shoot up, you have a good chance at keeping that hive alive.

My boys did what I would do when the temperatures finally hit 50 degrees this past

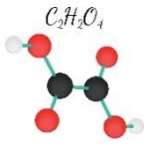
Saturday – they put on their bee suits. Those winter patties I'd brought home the day before had been warming up to room temperature and were now ready to be put on the hive. With smoker lit, into the hive they went. I told them only 10-15 seconds inside, and so the top cover came off and so did the inner cover. Two stacks of Dadant winter patties were placed on the top bars of the hive. The hive was then closed back up, and we waited. The following day the temps had shot back down to the mid-20's in the morning; by afternoon it was in the upper 40's, so I took a quick look through the Plexiglas inner cover. Underneath I found our bees readily eating the patties, possibly saving the colony from starvation. Will this be enough feed for the rest of the winter? Probably not. But we'll add additional patties on each nice day we have until the temps are steadily in the 50's.

The hives at our house are much easier to access this time of year compared to the 60 hives I run. My bees are kept in 3 yards. The main yard is behind the factory at Dadant & Sons corporate office, another is up north of town on the river road, and the third is about 15 miles south of town at the family farm. This past fall high river water made it necessary to move the yard behind the plant to the family farm. It's a ½-mile walk back to the bees from the main road this time of year. The ground's soggy, and dad doesn't like the old dirt road rutted up by my truck. So to work we go. A deer sled and 120 lbs of patties later, we made the rounds. The bees look good so far. Only 10% losses to date but as I said earlier, spring is a long way off. We will continue to make the rounds until spring comes. The next round of feed will be a mixture of AP23 protein and winter patties. The winter patties will provide the needed carbohydrates to make it through until the dandelions bloom and the high protein patties will kick the queen into gear, rearing brood that will cover my losses this coming spring.



OXALIC ACID, TIMING – Eleanor Schumacher

Forgot to give your bees a mite treatment for Christmas? Don't make it up to them on Valentine's Day.



Winter is progressing, and you're itching to get into your beehives. You read somewhere that the oxalic acid dribble method was best used in winter, and the idea of getting ahead of Varroa mites is appealing. You are also tempted because mixing oxalic acid in sugar water sounds easier and safer than vaporizing with oxalic acid. So, should you bust into your hives to give them a mite treatment now?

If you answered "No" for reasons other than "I'm not a beekeeper unless it's at least 50 degrees", "I'm in Florida", or "I'm treatment free", then pat yourself on the back. This is not the best time for an oxalic acid dribble. Even though it's winter, a winter oxalic acid application is a very specific management technique, done in a very specific time frame, long since passed. The OA dribble done now can potentially harm your bees and brood during these vulnerable late-winter weeks.

Winter dribble success depends on how much brood is present in the hive. The difference of broodnest size from the first day of winter to the later days is great. On the first day of winter, you likely won't find any brood at all. Without brood, all the mites in the hive are roaming free throughout the cluster - they are phoretic. OA will only kill phoretic mites. Neither oxalic acid dribble or vaporization will kill mites inside brood cells. This fact is what makes the difference between your high success rates around Christmas time vs. low success rates and potential damage around Valentine's Day.

It's only natural to want to give your bees flowers between Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. We ALL want to see flowers! We ALL wish it was spring! But you should have thought of your bees at Christmastime, when they were probably just as cold, but also broodless. That was when Santa (you) really should have paid your friendly visit, coming in through the chimney with a 60 ml syringe. They would have welcomed your sweet winter dribble recipe. The recipe is as follows: 35 grams of Oxalic Acid are mixed into one liter of 1:1 sugar syrup. This is drizzled directly onto the bees in their cluster. Use the 60 ml syringe to measure 5 ml (1 teaspoon) of the OA syrup mixture over each and every seam of bees (bees between frames). This great late-fall/first-days-of-winter treatment is 97% to 99% effective and results in a massive mite drop.



Shortly after Christmas, as the sun sets later and later, the queen is already triggered to begin laying. By mid-January, you may have your first brood cappings sealing off the first pupae of the year. This first brood is the first opportunity for mites to dodge into the bottoms of cells. A mid-January application of OA will hit your bees and early brood during this vulnerable start-up stage, while the winter mites are freshly tucked away warm in that first brood patch.

If you procrastinated on your winter dribble treatment between Thanksgiving and Christmas, keep procrastinating through February. Hold off and schedule a series of OA vaporization treatments for March. Vaporization is easier on bees and brood than the dribble technique. It is less disruptive to the cluster, and lets you keep your hive wrapped. Time your spring treatment series three to four weeks before you plan to add supers, and pick days with temperatures between 35 and 60 degrees. You'll apply this pre-season treatment once a week. With four consecutive weekly treatments, you'll knock back mites as they emerge, week after week. Correct timing of the vaporization technique is to let the vapors run through the front entrance for 3 minutes per hive, but keep all hive ventilation sealed up for 10 to 15 minutes.

MARCH 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

There's another advantage to OA vaporization during the cool weeks of early spring. In cooler temperatures, you won't feel hot and sweaty, wearing your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Per OA label instructions, you need to wear a long sleeved shirt and long pants, protective gloves, goggles, and most importantly a half-face respirator with a particulate filter cartridge. It's critical to follow all safety guidelines when working with a strong acid like OA.

With all this said, perhaps OA vaporization isn't for you? If you want to try the OA dribble in springtime, there is an exception to the "No-OA-Dribble-In-Spring" rule. OA dribble can be a great treatment for a spring brood break. If you plan to split your hives this spring, your queenless nuc will present a broodless treatment opportunity. A good article about this can be found on Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping website. Look for "Simple Early Treatment of Nucs Against Varroa". With his method, he gives his queenless split a head start by immediately placing in it a 10-day-old queen cell. By Randy's estimation, the new queen hatches, completes mating flights, and is back at her nuc, laying about 10-12

days after making the split. During this time, most bee pupae have emerged from their capped cells, releasing mites into an environment with few opportunities to hide, since the new queen is only just getting started laying. This creates a window of opportunity, when the nuc reaches 19-21 days after the split was made. This moment, just before bees begin sealing up new pupae, you have the highest number of mites in the phoretic stage, running around at large throughout the hive, with nowhere to hide and breed - the perfect timing for an OA dribble. Of course, this is not exactly a "broodless" period, but the

timing of this method is a tried, tested, and practiced technique of Randy Oliver's, used and promoted by many other beekeepers for years.

So, if you find yourself feeling sorry for your bees out in the cold over Valentine's Day and the weeks that follow, save your holiday cheer for a few more weeks - or a year! For the OA Dribble Method, it's best to drop in on them around Christmastime, when the Varroa mites least expect it.

ISBA Summer Meeting

June 7 and 8, 2019

Come one, come all. June 7 and 8, 2019 will be the first two-day ISBA summer meeting. You are promised a worthwhile two days with experts in different aspects of the challenge of beekeeping.

The Friday meeting will begin at noon with groups led by craftsman beekeepers, Dr. Keith Delaplane, Jerry Hayes, Jim and Karen Belli, and limited in size and meet for three members only and will be filled on a run simultaneously. Sign up early to registration information on ILSBA.com. Registration will begin in early April.

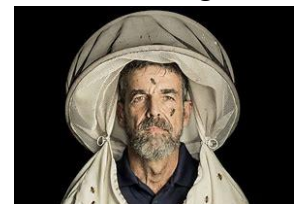


Eleanor Schumacher. Each gathering will be hours. These short courses are for ISBA first come, first serve basis. These courses will get the course of your choice. Watch for and in upcoming issues of the Bulletin.



Dr. Delaplane will spend the afternoon exploring the concept of Darwinian Beekeeping, a concept that is both old and new. In this era of environmental and pest challenges to our honeybees, Darwinian thinking has surfaced. Explore this approach with an outstanding academic and passionate beekeeper. Darwinian thinking can change the way you think of your beekeeping.

Jerry Hayes will run an in-person "Classroom" session. Jerry is an internationally respected beekeeping personality who writes a long-standing column in the American Bee Journal where he offers great, expert advice on everything honey and beekeeping. Participants will be encouraged to send in and bring along questions in need of his expert answers. If you are a regular reader of Jerry's column, you will want to make his class. This will be a marathon afternoon of Q and A with a man who knows the answers.





Jim and Karen Belli have won almost any honey show award one can name. Their expertise has taken them from local county fairs to the most competitive international honey shows. In this afternoon gathering, they will share their ribbon-winning techniques. Bring your jars of honey along and have them critiqued by the best. Honey shows are coming soon!

Eleanor Schumacher is an experienced bee inspector. In her years of experience she has opened many hives. In this afternoon gathering, learn how she goes about a professional inspection and then accompany her as she opens hives. Join Eleanor as she evaluates each colony and develops a management plan. Bring your veil and watch a pro do it.



On Friday, after a break for dinner, there will be an evening meeting of mead makers. Experienced vintners and aspiring winemakers are all welcome to an evening of camaraderie and discussion of this ancient brewing talent. Fellowship will be on tap, but in keeping with the College's policy, no mead will be served at this meeting.

The Saturday meeting, that is open to members and nonmembers, will begin with an 8:00 registration followed by a day of presentations as has been the tradition at ISBA meetings. The day focuses on keeping healthy, successful honeybee colonies and include Dr. Keith Delaplane, Jerry Hayes and others. The first 100 ISBA members to register for Saturday will receive a complimentary (and collectable) ISBA cap. A catered lunch will be available for preorder.

Registration fees

Friday Short Courses	\$10.00
Mead meeting	no charge – come join the talk
Saturday	members - \$25.00 (\$30.00 at the door) Nonmembers - \$35.00 (\$40.00 at the door)
Preordered Saturday lunch	\$10.00

The meeting will be held in the beautiful conference center of McHenry County College, Crystal Lake, Illinois. Directions, information on lodging discounts, and local restaurants will be available.

The June meeting is presented by your ISBA and underwritten by the dues you pay to ISBA. Come take advantage of this great benefit of being a member of ISBA.



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

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