

Heart of Illinois Beekeeper

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NEWS FROM THE HIVE

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April Presidents Message

SPRING IS HERE

Hope everyone is starting to get spring fever, and that you are peaking into your hives and possibly feeding them to get a head start on having some strong hives for the first pollen season. (Do you have your equipment ready?) Oh how we procrastinate!

So far the reports for lost hives this winter have been- minimal losses, thanks to a mild winter.

The Classes at the Nature Center were a great success in March. We had past, present and future beekeepers present with plenty of questions which we all tried to answer.

There was also interest in HIBA memberships, so we hope to see a lot of new faces at the April meeting at the Tazewell Farm Bureau Building. If you need directions, call someone.

Don't miss out on a good time of getting to know your fellow beekeepers and possibly learning something that you hadn't known before.

Bring a dish for the Cook-off Contest and an appetite to try all of them.

We will also have the Kelly's Catalogs with us that just came in.

David Stiles, Pres.

Fear defeats more people than any other one thing in the world.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Where fear is present, wisdom cannot be.

-- Lucius C. Lactantius

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.

--Edmund Burke

Spring HIBA Meeting

Our next HIBA Meeting will be on **April 8th at 7:30 PM** at the Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building, 1505 Valle Vista Dr., Pekin, IL. The main topics for the evening will cover installing packaged bees into your hives and requeening your colonies. We will also be having the Honey Cook-off Contest. Last year was the first time we had the contest and was well received by all. Look through your cookbooks for your favorite recipes and cook up your best eats so we can all get a little fatter and enjoy doing it.

"Just for Grins"

"If you're playing a poker game and you look around the table and can't tell who the sucker is, it's you."

Paul Newman.

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MARCH MEETING MINUTES

President Dave Stiles called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on March 11th, 2005 at Peoria County Farm Bureau Bldg. in Peoria. Thirty members and guests were present. An introduction was made around the room with reports of their hives over-wintering. Overall, everyone seemed to have come through the winter with minor losses. Treasurer Mike Moens gave the Treasurer's Report. (He reported a balance of \$1,366.08 in the general account and \$596.33 in the princess account). There were no additions or corrections to the Treasurer's Report or the Minutes of the last meeting as printed in the January newsletter. Steve Mayes motioned to approve the treasurer's report and minutes, seconded by Jean Nyman and motion passed.

Old Business:

Bob Coppernoll has arranged for the Beekeepers Class at Forest Park Nature Center on March 12th from 1 to 4. Several members have volunteered to present portions that include an overview of beekeeping, information about equipment and package bees. All members were encouraged to pass the word and come to help answer questions that day. President Stiles stated that BetterBee would provide \$5 gift certificates to the class attendees and instructors.

Nathan Sasse announced a tentative date of April 10th to pick up the package bees. He is charging \$45 for 3# package and \$12.50/queen.

New Business: President Stiles reported on the request from the American Bee Federation to renew our membership. After some discussion, Steve Mayes motioned to send ABF \$25 as we have other years. Bob Coppernoll seconded the motion and it passed.

Heart of Illinois Fair asked us to sponsor the "Bee my honey bee contest" in foods again this year. Steve Mays motioned to send them \$50, seconded by Janet Hart and motion passed.

Janet Hart reported that she had received a letter from National Honey Board saying they will no longer be using the honey bear as a logo. Their new logo is "a characteristic hexagon comb and a glistening drop of honey... that displays honey's natural qualities and speaks to contemporary consumers."

It was brought up that HIBA's web page has not been updated since August. Nathan Sasse volunteered to follow up on the status of the site.

Jill Mayes reported on the Illinois State Beekeepers Association's coordination with the Heartland Apicultural Society to hold its convention at SIU on July 7, 8 & 9. It was approved at HIBA's Board Meeting in January that we will sponsor a portion of the convention in lieu of hosting a state summer meeting. Jill will keep our membership informed as plans develop.

Speaker: President Stiles introduced Steve Chard, State Apiary Inspector. Steve brought copies of the Bee and Apiary Act and Registration Forms for members that needed them. He also introduced Ron Abernathy as the new apiary inspector to fill the opening in west central Illinois. There are currently 1141 beekeepers registered in the state of Illinois, 70 of them being new. Steve reported hearing of moderate winter kill throughout the state.

Sodium Cyanide has been used in South Dakota to depopulate and kill wax moths in hives. There are articles posted on the Internet with directions for using Formic Acid in hives for varroa mite control. Steve stated that both of these chemicals have NOT been approved for use in these instances and is ILLEGAL to use in this manner.

Steve touched on several more topics that was of interest to our members and answered questions.

The next meeting will be April 8 at Tazewell County Farm Bureau. Tickets were drawn and several door prizes were awarded. Being no further business, President Stiles declared the meeting adjourned. Treats and conversation were enjoyed after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Hart

The 2005 HIBA Agenda

April 8, 7:30 p.m. – Tazewell County Farm Bureau, Pekin, IL
Installing Package Bees & Requeening
Honey Cook-Off

May 13, 7:30 p.m. – McLean County Farm Bureau, Bloomington, IL
Harvesting and Extracting Honey

June 18 – Field Day at Tom Elston's
Speaker TBA, Hive opening, beekeeping contests
HIBA will provide meat and drinks, members to bring side dish or dessert.

July 7,8,9 – Heartland Apicultural Society,
Location in southern Illinois to be announced.

July 8-16 – Heart of Illinois Fair – HIBA booth
See Bob Coppernoll to sign up

August 16 (?) – HIBA Day at the Illinois State Fair
Volunteer to sell honey ice cream and represent HIBA and ISBA.

September 16, 7:30 p.m. – Tazewell County Farm Bureau. Variety of hive products explained including creamed honey, propolis, mead, beeswax and dipped candles. Also, honey tasting.

October 14, 6:00 p.m. – Location to be announced
Banquet, Honey Judging, Election of 2006
HIBA Officers

Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company. – George Washington

I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views. – Abraham Lincoln

No matter how qualified or deserving we are, we will never reach a better life until we can imagine it for ourselves and allow ourselves to have it. --Richard Bach

New Beekeepers Class

The New Beekeepers Class was held at Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria on March 12 from 1 to 4. Dave and Susie Stiles, Nathan Sasse, Bob Coppernoll, Danny and Janet Hart gave informative presentations on honeybees and equipment. Thirteen prospective beekeepers asked many questions. Bob Coppernoll also talked about Mason Bees. Information and door prizes were given out as the successful afternoon came to a close.

Honey History

LITERATURE: 21ST CENTURY B.C.

Honey is alluded to in the Sumerian and Babylonian cuneiform writings, the Hittite code, the sacred writings of India, the Vedas and in the ancient writings of Egypt.

BIBLICAL

The area now comprising Israel and the Palestine autonomous region is often referred to as "the land of milk and honey." (Exodus 3:8)

ANCIENT EGYPT: 40TH CENTURY B.C.

Honey was used in most households as a sweetening agent. The people of this time valued honey highly, thus, it was commonly used as a tribute or payment. Honey was also used to feed sacred animals.

SUMERIA, ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA: 21ST CENTURY B.C.

Honey was poured over thresholds and stones bearing commemorative offerings. Honey and wine were also poured over bolts that were to be used in sacred buildings.

GREECE

An ancient custom was the offering of honey to the gods and to spirits of the dead. Mead, an alcohol drink made with honey, was considered the drink of the gods.

HIBA Membership and Magazine Subscription Form

	1 yr.	2 yr.	
2005 HIBA Dues	\$14.00 __		NAME: _____
AM. BEE JOURNAL	\$17.30 __	\$31.30 __	ADDRESS: _____
BEE CULTURE	\$17.00 __	\$32.00 __	CITY/ZIP: _____
SPEEDY BEE	\$13.25 __	\$25.25 __	COUNTY: _____
Total enclosed	_____		PHONE: _____
			EMAIL: _____

Would you like the newsletter e-mailed to you Yes ___ No ___

No. of Colonies: ____, LB. Of Honey Produced in 2004 ____, Year Started Beekeeping: _____

Make checks to: **Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association**

Mail to: **11720 W Rte 150, Brimfield, IL 61517**

++++++ DETACH ABOVE FORM AT DOTTED LINE ++++++

**** FOR YOUR INFORMATION ****

AMOUNT PAID: _____ CHECK # _____

2005 HIBA Officers

President:

David Stiles
10701 W. Wheeler Rd.
Mapleton, IL 61547
PH: 309-389-5657
E-mail: lowbassman@winco.net

Vice-President:

Thomas Elston
3006 Harvest Hill Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61704-5696
PH: 309-829-3006
Email: telston440@aol.com

Secretary:

Janet Hart
11720 W Rte. 150
Brimfield, IL 61517
PH: 309-446-3004
E-mail: harthoney@msn.com

Treasurer:

Mike Moens
1622 County Rd.700N
Eureka, IL 61530
Ph:390-467-4489

Directors:

Bob Coppernoll, Chillicothe, 309-274-2797
Mark Nance, Morton 309-263-2161
Jerry Gunn, Metamora 309-367-4070
Nathan Sasse 217-796-3597

HEART OF ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
Thomas L. Elston, Vice-President, Newsletter Editor
3006 Harvest Hill Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61704-5696