

Heart of Illinois Beekeeper

A publication of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association

NEWS FROM THE HIVE

You can find us on the web at <http://www.hoibeekeepers.org/>

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President's Message

Greetings Beekeepers.

The Holidays are now officially over so now we can all get back to the work of planning for spring and looking forward to warm weather. Now will be the time to start doing all of the little jobs that we let go in the fall, because we thought we would have more time in the winter. We know from experience how easy it is to get busy and put things off until you have a mountain of work. Now's the time get our equipment all in prime working order so that when those warm days of spring start the bees to flying, we will all be ready. (note I used we as , David and I are included.)

If you find that you have beekeeper items that you now longer need, let Tom Elston know so that they can be listed in the HIBA Newsletter. You could also bring them with you to the coming meetings. Remember, "One man's trash is often another man's treasure". Just set a price and let the other member's know.

The Board met earlier this month and we feel that we have planned an exciting agenda for the coming year. The meetings can only be successful, though, if all of you will put the dates on your calendars and plan on attending.

One of the things that we are putting into place this year is to use Keith Delaplane's Beekeeping tapes at our meetings. They are very exciting to watch and great to learn from.

We will also still have our question and answer time, and show and tell, plus what is a meeting without snacks, soda and coffee.

Hope you see you at our next meeting.
David and Susie Stiles

Beginning Beekeeping Seminar

Peoria: The Heart of Illinois Beekeepers Association will provide information on beginning beekeeping on February 10 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Forest Park Nature Center (5809 Forest Park Drive, Peoria Heights). Topics include beekeeping equipment, how to get bees and start a hive, collecting and processing honey, bee products and problems bees are facing. Admission is free.

If you know of anyone interested in beekeeping, please tell them about this seminar. HIBA Members are welcome to attend and/or help out. It's a fun opportunity to share our love of beekeeping.

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The best index to a person's character is (a) how he treats people who can't do him any good, and (b) how he treats people who can't fight back. -- ABIGAIL VAN BUREN (Dear Abby)

Take care of your body. It's the only place you have to live. --Jim Rohn

Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wing, and only character endures. --HORACE GREELEY

OCTOBER 20, 2006 MEETING MINUTES

President Dave Stiles called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm at the Q's Smokehouse in Peoria, Illinois following a delicious meal. Twenty members and guests were present. Introductions and honey crop reports were made around the room. Treasurer Mike Moen reported a balance of \$1,392.62 in the treasury. Jill Mayes motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by John Hill and the motion passed. The minutes of the September 2006 meeting were posted in the last newsletter. Mike Moens motioned to approve the minutes as read, seconded by John Hill and the motion passed.

Jill Mayes announced the fall meeting of ISBA would be held in Springfield on November 18. There was no old business.

New Business: Officer elections were held. The following slate of officers was presented to the association:

Treasurer: Mike Moens
Secretary: Janet Hart
Vice-Pres.: Tom Elston
President: Dave Stiles

President Stiles called for nominations from the floor for each of the offices and none were made. Charlie Ott motioned to accept the slate of officers as nominated; Mike Moens seconded the motion and the motion passed. The officers were thanked for all their hard work and continuing dedication.

Tom Elston and Steve Mayes judged the club's honey show entries. Even though only two families participated in the contest (Hill and Gold), the entries were of great quality.

Susie Stiles reminded everyone to request donations for door prizes when ordering equipment. It was announced that Lloyd Lindenfelser is now living at the Apostolic Christian Restmore Home in Morton.

Door prizes were awarded. Jean Nyman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Susie Stiles seconded the motion. President Stiles adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

2007 Calendar of Events

February 10, 1:00-4:00 PM
Forest Park Nature Center, Peoria.
Beekeeping for All, Introduction to beekeeping, open to the public.

March 2, 7:30 PM – Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building, Pekin. Illinois State Apiary Report by State Inspector Steve Mayes. Delaplane Beekeeping Video. Package bees.

April 13, 7:30 PM - Peoria County Farm Bureau Building, Delaplane Beekeeping Video, Queen Marking, Capturing and preventing swarming. Honey Cook-off contest.

May 18, 7:30 PM - McLean County Farm Bureau Building, Bloomington. Delaplane Beekeeping Video. Moving hives and pollination.

June 23, 9:00 AM – Field Day at Elston Ranch. Speaker TBA. Beekeeping games. Pot luck lunch. Hive opening.

July 6 – 14, Heart of Illinois Fair, Peoria. Beekeeping Booth.

July 12-14, HAS Beekeeping Seminar, KY State University, Frankfort, KY

August 10-18, Illinois State Fair, HIBA day Aug. 14.

September 21, Pekin, Propolis by Jill Mayes. Marketing Honey.

October 19, HIBA Banquet, location to be announced. Honey Contest results. Election of 2008 officers.

Never say there is nothing beautiful in the world any more. There is always something to make you wonder, in the shape of a leaf, the trembling of a tree. --Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)

HIBA Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board Meeting was held January 9, 2007 at the Mackinaw Valley Apiaries honey house in Mackinaw. In attendance were Dave and Susie Stiles, Tom Elston, Janet and Danny Hart, Chuck Gold, Mike Moens, Steve and Jill Mayes. The 2007 agenda (see below) was set for the year.

A motion was made by Steve Mayes to raise annual association dues to \$15. Motion was seconded by Chuck Gold and motion passed.

A motion was made by Janet Hart to pay \$25 to American Beekeeping Federation. Motion was seconded by Steve Mayes and passed.

2007 Agenda

February 10, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Forest Park Nature Center, Peoria; “Beekeeping for All”, beginning beekeeping seminar, open to the public.

March 10, 7:30 p.m. – Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building, Pekin; Speaker: Inspector Steve Mayes – Illinois State Apiary Report; Video: Package bees; Round table topic: Package Bees and Spring Management

April 13, 7:30 p.m. – Peoria County Farm Bureau Building, Peoria; Demonstration: Marking Queens
Round table topic: Swarms – Preventing/Hiving; Honey Recipe Contest

May 18, 7:30 p.m. – McLean County Farm Bureau Building, Bloomington
Video: Summer Management; Speaker: Pollinator Nathan Sasse
Round table topic: Moving Hives and Pollinating

June 23 – 9:00 a.m. - Field Day at Tom Elston’s, Bloomington
Hive opening, beekeeping contests; Speaker: Dadant representative on Beekeeping Equipment
Discussion: Preparing Honey for Judging
Club will provide meat and drinks, members to bring side dish or dessert

July 6 to 14 – Heart of Illinois Fair, Peoria; Volunteers needed to man HIBA booth with observation hive

August 14 – HIBA Day at the Illinois State Fair, Springfield
Volunteers needed to help sell honey ice cream and represent HIBA

September 21, 7:30 p.m. – Tazewell County Farm Bureau Building, Pekin
Speaker: Jill Mayes on preparing Propolis for Sale; Round table topic: Marketing Honey; Honey Tasting

October 19, 6:00 p.m. –Banquet at location to be announced
Honey Contest; Election of Officers

New this Year!

Attend a meeting and receive a chance to win your own copy of the beekeeping classic “The Hive and the Honey Bee”. The drawing will be held at the October meeting. Be sure to attend all the meetings to increase your chances of winning this \$36 value!

For Sale

Beekeeping equipment: extractors, pump, tanks, woodenware, foundation, 18 colonies and pollen traps.

Contact: Donnie or Sharon Darnell,
Box 116, Kirkwood, IL
Ph: 309-768-2595

I am only one, but still I am one; I cannot do everything; but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. --Edward Everett Hale

Youth is a gift of nature, Age is a work of art.--Helen M. Carrall

For Sale

8 Ross Round supers with frames. Clean and bee tight. Ready for rings and foundation. Call: Bob Frey @ 309-221-1311

Bee fossil, DNA generate a buzz

Scientists have identified the oldest known bee, a 100 million-year-old specimen preserved in amber.

The discovery coincides with the publication of the genetic blueprint of the honeybee, which reveals surprising links with mammals, including humans.

The ancient insect, trapped in tree sap, is at least 35-45 million years older than any other known bee fossil. It appears to share features with both bees and wasps, and supports theories of bee evolution.

Experts believe pollen-dependent bees arose from carnivorous wasp ancestors. With the arrival of pollinating bees, flowering plants blossomed on Earth. Prior to 100 million years ago, the plant world was dominated by conifers which spread their seeds on the wind.

George Poinar, professor of zoology at Oregon State University, US, whose team reported the discovery in the journal *Science*, said: "This is the oldest known bee we've ever been able to identify, and it shares some of the features of wasps. "But overall it's more bee than wasp, and gives us a pretty good idea of when these two types of insects were separating on their evolutionary paths."

Remarkable preservation

The amber specimen, from a mine in the Hukawng Valley of northern Burma, has been named *Melittosphex burmensis*. It has waspish features, such as narrow hind legs, but also branched body hair and other characteristics of bees.

The fossil bee is in remarkable condition, with individual hairs preserved on undamaged portions of thorax, legs, abdomen and head. Legs and wings are also clearly visible. The bee's biological clock shares similarities with that of mammals

In terms of size it is tiny, measuring barely 3mm across. This is consistent with evidence that some of the earliest flowers were also small.

Professor Poinar added: "This fossil may help us understand when wasps, which were mostly just meat-eating carnivores, turned into bees that could pollinate plants and serve a completely different biological function." There are now around 20,000 species of bees, which use pollen to feed their young.

Biological clock

Scientists have also published the genetic blueprint of the western honeybee *Apis mellifera*. The honeybee is the fourth insect to have its genome sequenced, after the fruit fly, mosquito and silk moth. Locked within bee DNA there are striking links with mammals and humans, scientists discovered.

Like humans, honeybees spread into Europe from Africa, making at least two ancient migrations. They split into two genetically different European populations which, according to DNA evidence, are more closely related to African honeybees than to each other.

Honey bees have an internal "biological clock" which is more like those of mammals than of flies, the research has revealed. The clock governs many activities, including time sensing, navigation, labour division, and the famous bee "dance language" which the insects use to communicate information about food sources.

Another group of scientists from the University of Illinois found 36 genes in the honey bee brain, 33 of which were previously unreported. They coded for 100 neuropeptides - organic molecules that control brain activity in both bees and humans, the researchers report in *Science*. In the bee brain, which is not much larger than a full stop, they help to regulate around one million neurons. The honey bee was estimated to have around 10,000 genes in total, less than the fruit fly and mosquito. Honey bees have many more genes relating to smell than fruit flies or mosquitoes, but far fewer involved with taste.

Cooking with Honey

For best results, use recipes developed for using honey. When substituting honey for granulated sugar in recipes, begin by substituting honey for up to half of the sugar called for in the recipe. With a little experimentation, honey can replace all the sugar in some recipes.

When baking with honey, remember the following:

- Reduce any liquid called for by 1/4 cup for each cup of honey used.
- Add 1/2 teaspoon baking soda for each cup of honey used.
- Reduce oven temperature by 25°F to prevent over-browning.

Because of its high fructose content, honey has a higher sweetening power than sugar. This means you can use less honey than sugar to achieve the desired sweetness.

When measuring honey, coat the measuring cup with non-stick cooking spray or vegetable oil before adding the honey. The honey will slide right out.

A 12-ounce jar of honey equals a standard measuring cup.

Storing Honey

Store honey at room temperature – your kitchen counter or pantry shelf is ideal.

Storing honey in the refrigerator accelerates the honey's crystallization. Crystallization is the natural process in which the liquid sugars in honey become solid.

Honey stored in sealed containers can remain stable for decades and even centuries! However, it tends to darken and lose its aroma and flavor over time. This is a temperature-dependent process, making the shelf life of honey difficult to define. For practical purposes, a shelf life of two years is often stated.

If your honey crystallizes, simply place the honey jar in warm water and stir until the crystals dissolve. Or, place the honey in a microwave-safe container with the lid off and microwave it, stirring every 30 seconds, until the crystals dissolve. Be careful not to boil or scorch the honey.

Note: Honey should not be fed to infants under one year of age. Honey is a safe and wholesome food for children and adults.

Color and Flavor

Honeys differ in color and flavor depending on what blossoms the honey bees visit in search of nectar. Honey color ranges from almost colorless to dark amber brown and its flavor varies from delectably mild to richly bold. As a general rule, light-colored honey is milder in taste and dark-colored honey is stronger

Blast from the Past

Minutes of the Tazewell Beekeepers' Association

The meeting was held on April 11, 1956 at the Farm Bureau Bldg. in Pekin. The meeting was opened by the president. The roll call showed 10 members present, four of which paid up for 1956.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as read. Then followed a tryout of the new rubber stamp. It was found to be very satisfactory.

The following motions were made and properly carried:

That \$10.00 be contributed to each, The Am. Honey Institute and the Am. Beekeeping Federation.

That the next meeting be on May 20th at the Farm Bureau Bldg.

That pie be served at the next meeting.

That election of officers be held at the next meeting.

Then followed a discussion of several topics related to beekeeping. Mr. Hoyt Taylor invited all to attend the State meeting on July 22.

Everyone present was in an optimistic spirit and the meeting was adjourned. A fine pot luck meal was served by the ladies before the meeting.

A Spoonful of Honey Helps!

When it comes to soothing throats, singers have known for generations that a spoonful of honey would sweeten their performance. You don't have to sing an aria to appreciate the soothing benefits of honey—yelling at a football game can strain your voice and lead to a sore throat.

According to the American Association of Family Physicians, many things can cause a sore throat. These include infections with viruses, such as colds and flu; sinus drainage; allergies; or cigarette smoking, among others. Sore throats caused by bacteria such as streptococci, are usually treated with antibiotics. Always check with your doctor if you have a fever, or if symptoms continue for more than a few days.

Time is the most important healer of sore throats caused by viruses, but for relief of the irritating symptoms, try a spoonful of honey to soothe and coat your throat. Take a spoonful straight, as often as you need, to relieve the irritation. In between, keep up your liquids with a steaming cup of tea sweetened with honey. For added vitamin C, try mixing in orange, grapefruit or lemon juice. (Try a Honey-Citrus Soother.)

Honey, nature's soother, is more than just sweet. A recent review of scientific literature revealed that honey contains antioxidants and, although in trace amounts, a wide array of vitamins, minerals and amino acids. Honey contributes to a person's overall intake of recommended nutrients. Sweeteners, such as refined sugar, offer no additional nutrients. Be aware, of course, that honey should not be fed to infants under one year of age. Honey is a safe and wholesome food for older children and adults.

Eating honey regularly, not just when colds and flu strike, makes good nutritional sense. There are approximately 300 varieties of honey in the United States. In general, lighter-colored honeys are milder tasting, while darker-colored honeys are bolder in flavor. Darker honeys also tend to have a higher mineral content and antioxidant potential.

2007 HIBA Membership and Magazine Subscription Form

	1 yr.	2 yr.	
2007 HIBA Dues	\$15.00 ___		NAME: _____
AM. BEE JOURNAL	\$17.30 ___	\$31.30 ___	ADDRESS: _____
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SPEEDY BEE	\$13.25 ___	\$25.25 ___	COUNTY: _____
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Would you like the newsletter e-mailed to you Yes ___ No ___

No. of Colonies: ____, LB. Of Honey Produced in 2006 ____, Year Started Beekeeping: _____

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2007 HIBA Officers

<http://www.hoibeekeepers.org/>

President:

David Stiles

10701 W. Wheeler Rd.

Mapleton, IL 61547

PH: 309-389-5657

E-mail: lowbassman@glastel.com

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:

Steve Mayes, Mackinaw 309-359-8600

Chuck Gold, Bartonville 309-697-6095

Danny Hart, Brimfield 309-446-3004

Nathan Sasse, Chestnut 217-796-3597

HEART OF ILLINOIS BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

Thomas L. Elston, Vice-President, Newsletter Editor

3006 Harvest Hill Ave.

Bloomington, IL 61704-5696