

Heart of Illinois Beekeeper

A publication of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association

NEWS FROM THE HIVE

Volume 100

December 2000

Number 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we start a new year in beekeeping, I would like to thank Tom Elston for the excellent job he has done as President for the last two years. I am hoping that our association will continue to grow and be as strong as it has been during the last two years. I also would like to thank Carl Wenning who has done such a wonderful job as editor of our HIBA newsletter and also the state newsletter. I thank all of the many club members who volunteered at many of our activities and provided the necessary support for the success of our organization.

Because knowledge is the key to success in beekeeping, I would like to encourage everyone to attend our meetings. We have an exciting year planned for our meetings. In February, we hope to have a visit by Steve Chard, our Chief Apiary Inspector. In April, Carl Wenning will talk about "Profitable Beekeeping". In May, someone from the Illinois Department of Public Health will tell us about honey house sanitation (no more guessing). In June we will have our annual field day. In September we will have honey tasting where everyone brings in his or her favorite honey which you may have been found on a trip somewhere. In October we will have our honey show, banquet, and the election of the 2002 Honey Princess or Beekeeping Ambassador.

During July we will sell honey at the HOI Fair in Peoria, and during August we will need volunteers to sell honey ice cream at the State Fair in Springfield on Tuesday (HIBA Day).

You get all the broken cups of honey ice cream you can eat! Don't forget to enter the State Fair. If you need help, ask one of us. Also, don't forget to bring your show and tell items to our meetings. These can be beekeeping-related tools, books, advertisements, bottles or anything you found in a hive or have a question about. Don't forget to send in your membership dues. I hope to see all of you in February.

Steve Mayes
HIBA President

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13TH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Twenty-eight members and guests assembled at Woody's Restaurant in Groveland, IL, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of HIBA, crown the 2001 HIBA Honey Princess, and elect officers for the first year of the new millennium. Following the 6:00 p.m. evening meal, outgoing President Tom Elston introduced the Honey Princess candidates, Julie Stevig and Rebecca Wenning, reviewed their vitas



and contest guidelines, and asked for continuing financial support for the Honey Princess / Beekeeping Ambassador program. He noted that the successful candidate needs to assemble a brochure with honey recipes for distribution at public events.

President Elston then summarized the results of the annual honey show that both he and Steve Mayes judged. There were nine entries in six categories from three households. 1st place winners earned a \$3 premium, and 2nd place winners earned a \$2 premium. The winners of the various categories will be found in a separate article.

A vote was then taken to determine who would represent HIBA as the very first Honey Princess from HIBA. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted by Steve Mayes with the following results. Rebecca Wenning received 12 votes and Julie Stevig 11 votes. Following this announcement, Rebecca was crowned with a tiara and presented with a banner on which were inscribed the words HIBA 2001 Honey Princess.

Elections were then held for 2001 HIBA officers. The following slate was presented to the electorate:

Steve Mayes - President
Tom Elston - Vice President
Don Waldman - Secretary
Jean Nyman - Treasurer

It was motioned, seconded and carried that the slate be elected as a group. It should be noted that Carl Wenning (who was not present at the meeting) had agreed to continue serving as newsletter editor in light of the fact that no one had volunteered to take on this duty. Danny Hart and Brian Davies continue to serve as members of the Board of Directors. Two additional directors will have to be named by the new president — one to replace outgoing member Emil Boucek, and another to replace Steve Mayes as he was serving as one of the non-office-holding directors at the time of his election.

Tom then reminded the membership about the fall meeting of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association in Springfield on Saturday, November 11th. Details will appear in the ISBA newsletter that should be arriving in the mail shortly after November 1st. He remarked how good it is that a quality version of the *ISBA Bulletin* newsletter was coming out on time now that Carl Wenning is serving as its editor.

Tom took the time to provide several notes. He stated that Robert Dirks is getting out of beekeeping and has items for sale. His apiary, consisting of two active colonies, is just north of Normal, IL, in a grove of fruit trees. Tom then asked if anyone has any problems to report with regard to their beekeeping this year, and also asked if anyone had used CheckMite+ thus far. He said that demand for this product was so great that it was available only through backorder at the place from which he had attempted to purchase it. Tom also noted that Ross Round production was poor this year. He noted that he obtained just slightly above his average annual production given his number of hives. Curtis Hochstetler noted that he had questions about the use of division board feeders versus top feeders.

Tom asked for program suggestions for next year as the Board will soon be meeting to make plans for 2001. Steve Mayes suggested a "show and tell". The meeting adjourned just after 8:30 p.m.

HUGHES & WENNING NAMED BOARD MEMBERS

Don Hughes of Hanna City and Carl Wenning of Normal have been appointed to the HIBA Board of Directors by President Steve Mayes. Don begins a four-year term that will expire in 2004. Carl will fill the position vacated by Steve when he was elected president. Carl's term expires in 2002. The HIBA Board of Directors now consists of the elected officers, Don Hughes, Carl Wenning, Danny Hart, and Brian Davies.

are warranted for 2001. It was motioned, seconded, and carried that Steve be reimbursed \$18 for a calling card that he will be using to conduct HIBA business affairs. Carl Wenning provided the Secretary's report in which he noted a total 2000 membership of 78 individuals in 66 households. He noted that 29 households took advantage of reduced association rate subscriptions for *American Bee Journal*, 21 for *Bee Culture*, and 5 for *The Speedy Bee*. Carl also noted that nearly half of all HIBA members did not take advantage of this benefit of membership. He noted that during the

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND APPOINTEES

President — Steve Mayes, Mackinaw, (309) 359-8600
Vice-President — Tom Elston, Bloomington, (309) 378-2871
Past-President — Earl Lutz, Bloomington, (309) 963-5526
Secretary — Donald Waldman, Brimfield, (309) 446-9728
Treasurer — Jean Nyman, Galesburg, (309) 342-5059
Board Member (2001) — Danny Hart, Brimfield, (309) 446-3004
Board Member (2002) — Carl J. Wenning, Normal, (309) 454-4164
Board Member (2003) — Brian Davies, Maquon, (309) 875-3208
Board Member (2004) — Don Hughes, Hanna City, (309) 565-4928
Newsletter Editor — Carl Wenning, Normal, (309) 454-4164
Princess / Ambassador Manager — Jill Mayes, (309) 359-8600

BOARD SETS AGENDA FOR 2001

The HIBA Board of Directors met on Tuesday, November 28th, at Peoria County Farm Bureau. In attendance were Steve Mayes, Tom Elston, Don Waldman, Jean Nyman, Brian Davies, Don Hughes, Jill Mayes, and Carl Wenning. Steve called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He started by giving a brief vision statement for 2001 that included a call for more involvement by HIBA members, and for increased education of the general public. This was followed by the Treasurer's report that was delivered by Jean Nyman. Accounting showed a balance of \$1,203.83. Given the state of the Association's ledger, it was decided that no dues increase

past year some 80 issues of the *Heart of Illinois Beekeeper* newsletter were printed with each issue. He also noted that on the average only about one-third of all HIBA members attend a meeting at any one time. Both reports were accepted without amendment.

Discussion then turned to meeting agendas for 2001. Carl will obtain supplier catalogs and Steve will see to door prizes. Steve indicated a desire that HIBA members would bring unneeded items to be given away, and encouraged a regular "show and tell" as part of each meeting. Carl suggested small group discussions (by county) in order to arrange for mentoring of novice beekeepers.



Chief Apiary Inspector Steve Chard speaking at ISBA meeting.

The meeting dates, locations, and tentative speakers and topics were set for 2001 and may be found in the accompanying table. Carl will be inviting Steve Chard, and Steve will be contacting Bob Cox and Bob Durham.

Two additional activities were suggested, but not acted upon. Depending upon interest, the Association will ar-

range a field trip this summer to Honey Acres in Ashippun, Wisconsin. We might also be able to visit Lapp's Bee Supply at the same time. This would be an informal trip only. It was also suggested that HIBA have its own day to work the ISBA honey show and ice cream sale at the Illinois State Fair. Tuesday was suggested. More details will be provided as the date draws near.

Miscellaneous items were discussed including having Steve ask Bill Miller to once again coordinate the honey sales at the Heart of Illinois Fair. Approval was given for the Treasurer to provide \$50 in prize money to the Heart of Illinois Fair for the cooking with honey competition. The Association will pursue participation in an ISBA-sponsored Illinois Products Expo in Springfield during March. The Princess/Ambassador Oversight Committee will remain the same for the coming year. The two-thirds of the membership that have not yet been canvassed for financial support of the Princess/Ambassador program will be contacted in the not too distant future. The newsletter editor was directed to place a blank on the member-

**HIBA HONEY SHOW
RESULTS FOR 2000**

The following categories were won by those individuals named

Light Honey
1st - Danny & Janet Hart
2nd - Don Waldman

Light Amber
1st - Don Waldman
2nd - Danny & Janet Hart

Beeswax
1st - Bill & Cheri Miller

Creamed Honey
1st - Bill & Cheri Miller

Chunk Honey
1st - Bill & Cheri Miller
2nd - Danny & Janet Hart

ship application in which financial support for this program could be indicated. Steve will contact the ISBA for continuing financial support. An honorary one-year membership was also conferred, and will be announced at some future date. Carl will prepare the certificate, and Steve will approve a letter. Don Hughes volunteered to communicate with members who have become sick or have lost a loved one. Renewing the Association's \$25 membership in the American Beekeeping Federation was approved. Jean Nyman will forward the check. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

HIBA WEB PAGE REVISED

Over the past few weeks there have been a number of changes and updates made to the HIBA web page. New information includes contact information for all officers and appointees, back issues of the *Heart of Illinois Beekeeper* newsletter, information about HIBA's

HIBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2001

February 9, Peoria, Steve Chard, Chief Apiary Inspector, Illinois Department of Agriculture (tentative)

February 10, Bloomington, 4th Annual HIBA Beekeeping Course

April 13, Pekin, Carl Wenning, "Profitable Beekeeping"

June 23, Mackinaw, Steve & Jill Mayes, Annual Field Day, Speakers: Bob Cox (tentative), Princess/Ambassador presentations

June 29-30, West Lafayette, Indiana, Joint Illinois/Indiana State Beekeepers' Associations Meeting

July 6-15 (?), Peoria, HIBA Display and Honey Sales, Heart of Illinois Fair

August 10-19, Springfield, Illinois State Fair (HIBA Day tentatively set for Tuesday, August 14)

September 7, Pekin, Honey Tasting, Bob Durham, Illinois Department of Public Health (tentative), Princess/Ambassador Candidate presentations

October 12, Annual Banquet, Princess/Ambassador Election & Installation

Honey Princess / Beekeeping Ambassador program, and additional offsite hyperlinks. Check out the HIBA web page at the following URL:
<http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/HIBA/HIBA.html>.

2001 HIBA DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS

It's often said that people have 1001 things to do. Well, make that 2001. Dues for calendar year 2001 may now be paid, along with renewals for journal subscriptions. HIBA dues and journal rates for *Bee Culture* remain the same as last year, and details may be found on the last page of this newsletter. It should be noted that *American Bee Journal* recently increased their subscription rates very slightly. Association rates (representing a 25% savings off regular subscription rates) are \$15.00 for one year, \$28.50 for two years, and \$40.25 for three years.

Payments for dues and subscriptions, as well as questions about both, should be directed to HIBA Secretary Don Waldman at 14409 Schlink Road, Brimfield, IL 61517. He may be reached by phone at (309) 446-9728. In accordance with standard operating procedures, Don will be receiving all payments for dues and subscription renewals. Please do not send payments to the newsletter editor or the treasurer.

NOTES FROM ISBA AUTUMN MEETING

On Saturday, November 11th, nine HIBA members attended the autumn meeting of the ISBA in Springfield, IL. In attendance were Steve and Jill Mayes, Danny and Janet Hart, Carl and Rebecca Wenning, Earl Lutz, Lloyd Lindenfesler, and Don Hughes. Approximately 60 ISBA members attended statewide, with HIBA members representing about 15% of that total. A summary of the keynote address by Dr. Tom Webster will appear

in the January/February issue of the *ISBA Bulletin*.

Mr. Steve Chard, new Chief Apiary Inspector, gave his annual apiary inspection report that showed a continuing decline in the number of beekeepers. Fortunately, he reported that there were 57 new beekeepers in Illinois in 2000. In addition, he reported a rise in American Foulbrood in hives inspected. Complete details and charts may be found on the ISBA web site at the following URL: <http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/ISBA/ISBA.html>.

During the business portion of the autumn meeting, it was noted that expenses were outstripping income, and that the best way to manage the difference was to increase ISBA dues from the current \$2 to \$5 per year. There was strong support for this measure. In addition, there were at least three strong calls by individual members for the ISBA board to create and fund a standing committee that would deal with promotion activities for bees, honey, and beekeeping. Complete details will be presented as part of the January/February *ISBA Bulletin* newsletter slated for release shortly after the beginning of the new year.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sorrow that we note the passing of two persons related to HIBA members. In late October a son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ott died as the result of a traffic accident in Kentucky. In early November Tom Elston's mother passed away after a two-month bout with lung cancer. The editor expresses condolences on behalf of the HIBA membership to all those touched by these tragic events.



2001 HIBA Honey Princess Rebecca Wenning at ISBA Autumn Meeting.

HONEY PRINCESS FUND RAISING CONTINUES

Association members are encouraged to support the HIBA Honey Princess and Beekeeping Ambassador Program by promoting the program throughout the region, providing opportunities for appearance of our program winners, and supporting efforts to promote honey, bees, and beekeeping financially. On the renewal form found on the back page of this issue, members will find a line where they may designate an additional contribution to this program. Please be generous.

BEEKEEPERS FEATURED IN THE ILLINOIS STEWARD MAGAZINE

Four prominent Illinois beekeepers will be spotlighted in a quarterly magazine published by the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) at the University of Illinois and distributed to thousands of readers around the state. Dr. Gene Robinson, Scott Frank, and Rebecca and Carl Wenning were interviewed by CES's Tina Prow. The article, "Finding



Kentucky Researcher Tom Webster

Nature's Gold," will appear in the Winter 2001 issue of *The Illinois Steward* magazine. A brief preview follows...

Dr. Robinson leads a research team at the University of Illinois that examines behavioral changes resulting from the maturation of honey bee brains. "We're gaining valuable insights on what honey bees are capable of doing. The molecular connection between the biological clock and division of labor is especially amazing. [Research] shows the potential of molecular genetics to uncover previously undiscovered mechanisms." Robinson's research takes

advantage of techniques designed for and unitized in the Human Genome Project.

Mr. Frank, former Chief Apiary Inspector for Illinois and now Chief of the Bureau of Environmental Programs, explained how beekeeping is changing in Illinois, citing statistics for December 1999 that showed 17,800 Illinois colonies kept by 1,200 beekeepers. Similar data for December 1988 showed 37,000 colonies and 3,000 beekeepers. According to Mr. Frank, the honey bee decline in Illinois has bottomed out and is on the rebound. The number of registered colonies has climbed in recent years lending support to the claim. The average number of colonies per apiary has increased from 6.6 in 1995 to 24 in 1999. The average number of colonies per beekeeper has also increased from 10.7 in 1995 to 14 in 1999.

The Wennings, Rebecca and Carl, are well-known hobbyist beekeepers who in 1998 began a bees and beekeeping course now sponsored annually by the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association. Rebecca was only 12 years old at the first class, but still presented to an all-adult audience for fully half the day. Rebecca is best known in central Illinois as a promoter of honey, honey bees, and beekeeping, and has given 33 presentations to schools and social groups since 1998. She explains, "I love sharing bee-

keeping with other people. It's something that people don't seem to know about. Kids have fun dressing up, and the observation hive is a real attraction."

Carl, a beekeeper of only four years experience, is a well-known writer of beekeeping articles. Since July 1999 he has had 18 feature articles published in

American Bee Journal, with more to follow. Carl also has been published in *Apitec*, a Spanish language journal published in Mexico City. Carl is quoted in the CES article as saying, "It's hard work sometimes, no question, but we feel like we're doing something important for the environment and for the food system. Also, for us, it provides a common interest that contributes to family integrity and unity. That's a great dividend."

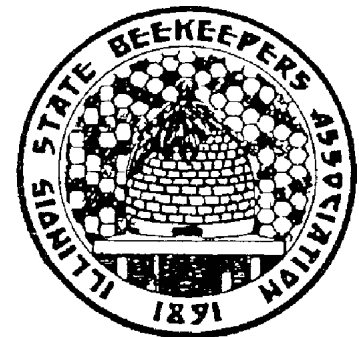
The Illinois Steward is an international award-winning magazine about Illinois' precious natural resources and heritage, and efforts currently underway to protect and steward these resources by organizations, agencies, private industry, and individuals. The purpose of the magazine is to educate about and foster stewardship of Illinois' natural resources. Informative articles and stories will help to develop and further sharpen personal stewardship philosophies. If you would like to obtain a copy of *The Illinois Steward* magazine, visit their web site at the following URL: <http://ilsteward.nres.uiuc.edu/>

APITHERAPY CD-ROM

During October, Apimondia's Commission on Apitherapy will release the first ever CD-ROM dedicated solely to apitherapy. The CD's comprehensive content list can be seen on the website: www.beekeeping.com. The diskette will be available for a price of approximately 75 Euros. It will have English, French, and Spanish versions for both Mac and PC operating platforms. Additional details about this CD can be obtained by writing Roch Domerego, Vice President of the Commission of Apitherapy, at roch.domerego@euronet.be.



Newly elected ISBA Executive Board members. From left to right we have Rich Ramsey, President; Udell Meyer, Treasurer; Rita Taylor, Secretary; Ray Chapman, Southern Region Director; and John Hansen, Vice President.



2001 HIBA Membership Application/Renewal Form

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____

LBS. 2000 PRODUCTION _____ NO. OF PRODUCING COLONIES _____ YEAR STARTED BEEKEEPING _____

2001 Association Rate Journal Subscriptions

Orders for journals are accepted December through May only.

| | Renewal | New | 1 Year | 2 Years | 3 Years | Amount |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| <i>American Bee Journal</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$15.00 | \$28.50 | \$40.25 | \$ _____ |
| <i>Bee Culture</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$13.00 | \$25.00 | N/A | \$ _____ |
| <i>The Speedy Bee</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$13.50 | \$25.50 | \$34.25 | \$ _____ |

Please be certain to indicate "renewal" or "new."

2001 Dues Check membership application type: Renewal New \$ 10.00

Amount submitted for journals, dues, & Princess/Ambassador donation (_____): \$ _____ total

Remit this application/renewal form along with membership dues and payment for desired journals to: Don Waldman, HIBA Secretary, 14409 Schlink Rd., Brimfield, IL 61517. Make checks or money orders payable to "HIBA." For answers to questions about membership, contact the HIBA Secretary by phone: (309) 446-9728 or e-mail: wenning@phy.ilstu.edu www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/HIBA/HIBA.html

Heart of Illinois Beekeeper
Carl J. Wenning, Editor
21 Grandview Drive
Normal, IL 61761-4071