

Heart of Illinois Beekeeper

A publication of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association

NEWS FROM THE HIVE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our condolences to Dr. Earl Lutz and his family on the passing of his wife Nola. I know I will miss her smiling face and cheery smile. I always looked forward to seeing and talking to her. She will be missed.

With spring finally underway it is a busy time for the beekeepers. I hope everyone got at least a few packages to replace the colonies that died last winter. Packages were in short supply and many were delayed because of poor weather conditions in other states. It looks like we are off to a good start. The weather is beautiful, we've had just about the right amount of rain and everything is blossoming right on time. This may be the big year - but beekeepers say that every year! That's part of being a beekeeper, being forever optimistic!

Our next meeting will feature Bob Durham from the Illinois Department of Public Health. He will be speaking on honey house sanitation. So for anyone who might be extracting honey he should have some good pointers as well as any legal aspects that might pertain to what you would be doing. Bob has inspected a couple of our members honey houses and he is a very nice person to deal with. I'm sure this will be a meeting with lots of lively discussion.

Start putting those supers together. Check for wax moth damage. Moths came back with a vengeance last year. I have been in contact with Sandoz about using BT for wax moth control. They have this particular type of bacteria that is specific to wax moth larva. It paralyzes the gut and the larva starve. Beekeepers use this product in Europe and we had it in the United States about ten years ago. It is marketed as B401, but Sandoz says they think there is no market for the product in the United States. I called Dadants and told them I would buy it as would other beekeepers, so they are looking into it.

We need something more effective than PDB to use on our stored wax. I hope to see you all at the next meeting. I still have some good door prizes left and don't forget those secret Show and Tell items. Items can include anything bee and honey related. Good luck to all of you this coming year and if you have any problems or questions don't hesitate to call other club members. We may not have the answer, but we will direct you to someone that does.

Steve Mayes

NOLA LUTZ 1916 - 2001

It is with profound sorrow that we note the passing of Mrs. Nola Lutz, faithful wife of HIBA beekeeper Earl Lutz. Nola and Earl were married for 63 years. Nola passed away suddenly on April 23 from complications due to kidney failure. Because of her unexpected passing, there wasn't sufficient time to get the word out to the membership. Nonetheless, several HIBA beekeepers were able to attend the visitation to express condolences on behalf of the membership. A beautiful arrangement of nectar plants (azaleas) were sent on behalf of the Association. We extend our profound sympathy to Earl for his great and deeply-felt loss.



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NEXT HIBA MEETING MAY 18

The May meeting of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association will be held on Friday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m., in Peoria. The location for the meeting will be the Peoria Farm Bureau building at the intersection of I-55 and North University Avenue. Bob Durham, Illinois Department of Public Health, will be speaking about honey house sanitation. He will be primed to explain Illinois laws relating to the public health concerns of honey production including extraction, packaging, and distribution.

You'll not want to miss this meeting as this is a critical matter for anyone who sells honey to the general public. In recent years several HIBA members have had run-ins with their local departments of health. It now appears that laws on the book are being more strictly interpreted and enforced. If you want to be certain that you'll be able to sell your honey, this is one meeting you won't want to miss. As always, there will be a short business meeting, a number of door prizes, and the usual after-meeting camaraderie. Be certain to bring along a honey recipe dessert to share.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13 GENERAL MEETING

Tom Elston, standing in for President Steve Mayes, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Steve was away and unable to attend. Treasurer Jean Nyman reported that our February bank balance was \$1,019. Don Hughes reported that the honey princess program fund balance was \$777. Honey Princess Rebecca Wenning summarized her recent activities and near-term plans for presentations.

Old business items included an announcement by Tom Elston that bee packages ordered through him would be delivered for pickup at his home on April 14. Also, Carl Wenning summarized his recent newsletter report covering the very successful beekeeping course held in Bloomington on February 10. Tom then reported on the Illinois Food Expo held recently in Springfield. The ISBA sponsored a honey products booth at the event. Several HIBA members helped with the booth.

New business items began with a survey of those present regarding winter losses. Responses ranged from about 50% to 100%. Several beekeepers lost all their colonies.

Tom Elston lost 70 of about 100 colonies, confirming this as one of the worst winters yet for HIBA members.

Carl Wenning announced the calendar of future events that HIBA members could attend. The list included several significant events in addition to the general membership meetings. The line up included: the joint summer meeting for Illinois and Indiana beekeepers to be held in Lafayette, IN, June 28-29, the Heart of Illinois Fair in Peoria July 13-21, the ISBA winter meeting in Springfield on November 10, and a tri-state (Illinois, Iowa and Missouri) meeting to be sponsored by Dadant & Sons, Inc., in Keokuk, IA, March 8-9, 2002.

Another event scheduled for April 25 by the McLean Co. Soil and Water district will host about 1,000 3rd graders. Organizers want to include a booth/presentations on beekeeping. Bill Miller will be coordinating HIBA honey sales at the Heart of Illinois fair. Those wanting to sell honey at the HIBA booth should contact Bill by mid June.

Several members were aware and took advantage of a USDA Loan Appreciation Program through which they were able to collect a \$0.14/lb subsidy on last year's honey crop. The deadline for taking advantage of the program was April 12. Most of those present were unaware of the program and no one knew if a similar program will be in place next year.

The main event of the evening was a presentation by Jim Ackerman, district field supervisor associated with the Nestlé pumpkin cannery in Morton. The cannery contracts with numerous growers in a 30-mile radius who harvest some 4,000 acres of pumpkins. A typical good crop yield is about 40,000 lbs/acre or 2,000-2,500 pumpkins/acre. Another cannery operated in Princeville by Chiquita contracts for some 3,000 acres. These two canneries supply 90% of the U.S. market for pumpkin pie mix. The market for ornamental pumpkins is substantially larger, amounting to 13,000 acres in Illinois alone.

Because pumpkins have both male and female flowers, cross-pollination is necessary for a good crop. To this end, most growers contract with beekeepers for pollination service amounting to anywhere from two to ten acres/hive. Beekeepers typically charge \$40 to \$45/hive and leave them on site for three to six weeks beginning in early July. Jim stated that the demand for pollination hives is generally being met in this area. Bill Miller is one of the service providers and he

also harvests some light honey in the process. (*Editor's note: If HIBA members would like to be put on a list of pollination providers given to pumpkin growers, they should contact Jim Ackerman at (309) 263-1647 immediately.*)

Once again, those attending the meeting enjoyed honey-based treats afterward and more than half of the 20 plus crowd also left with a door prize.

BEEKEEPERS PROVIDE OUTREACH

On Tuesday, April 24, Rebecca Wenning gave a presentation to a 4-H club in Tremont. About 40 children and adults were in attendance. On the following day, Wednesday, April 25, she presented six 15-minute talks about honey, honey bees, and beekeeping at the Interstate Center in Bloomington to approximately 150-175 enthusiastic school children from different schools within McLean County.

On Monday, April 30, Carl Wenning helped Chief Naturalist Carol Thompson set up a two-frame observation hive at Weldon Springs Interpretive Center just south of Clinton, IL. Carol Thompson, along with her friend Debra Shaw, attended the HIBA beekeeping course this past February, and both have been instrumental in getting the observation hive approved and prepared.

On Wednesday, May 2, Rebecca Wenning was interviewed by the Bloomington *Pantagraph* in her capacity as 2001 HIBA Honey Princess. Rebecca has had her Honey Princess brochure printed, and they will be available in quantity at the next HIBA meeting – just in time for summer honey sales.

On Thursday, May 10, Earl Lutz represented the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association at Environmental Education Day in Pekin's Memorial Arena. This program was sponsored by the Tazewell County Health Department, and the display ran from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Earl set out an observation hive, beekeeping equipment, and Dadant study prints for use in making presentations. The focus of the presentation was on the importance of honey bees for pollination and food production.

In a telephone conversation with Harvey Seering of Mascoutah, IL, your editor was informed that the St. Clair Beekeepers' Association voted in mid April to hold its first introductory beekeeping course in Belleville, IL, near St. Louis. The course will

be patterned after the HIBA program that has run very successfully over the past four years. They will also use our short course materials. The tentative date for the SCBA short course has been set as the second week-end of February in 2002. Harvey attended the HIBA beekeeping course during 2001 along with Tony Irvin. Tony will serve as project director.

If you have any outreach activities that you'd like announced, please send a brief note to the editor of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2001

On April 26 your newsletter editor sent notifications to 23 year 2000 HIBA members who had not yet renewed memberships for 2001. Subsequent to that mailing 12 of these members renewed their memberships for 2001. The official membership renewal deadline falls on April 30 each year. At this point in time membership dues for the affiliate memberships are forwarded by our Treasurer to the ISBA.

The following individuals, some of whom have been long-time members, have not yet renewed for 2001: Bob Bayless, Emil Boucek, Mary Jo Drews, Bob Dubois, Deb Eatmon, Dave Erke, Krista Groff, Todd Joos, Steven Klassen, Rachel Price, Lyle Read, and Lorine Williams. Should you happen to know and see these individuals, you might want to speak with them about renewing their HIBA membership for 2001.

As this newsletter goes to press, the HIBA membership 2001 stands at 74, representing 61 households in Central Illinois. A complete membership listing for 2001, including contact information, will be published in the June 2001 issue of the *Heart of Illinois Beekeeper*.

INTENSIVE BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE AT PURDUE

The joint Illinois/Indiana summer meeting at Purdue University will be preceded by a 3-day short course for beekeepers. The short course will be held June 27-29 (Wednesday through Friday). Instructors will be Sue Cobey of the New World Carniolan Queen Program, Greg Hunt who is an entomologist at Purdue University, Kathleen Prough who is Indiana State Bee Inspector, and John Skinner of the University of Tennessee.

Program topics include: bee biology, mite biology, bee genetics, hive populations and productivity, year-around hive management activities, queen rearing, disease/pest diagnosis and treatment, hands-on hive activities, and trouble shooting. The short course will be held at the Purdue Bee Biology Facility that is located approximately 1 mile west of the West Lafayette campus in State Route 26.

This workshop will be limited to 50 participants. Preregistration for this workshop is required and must be completed by June 20. The cost is \$50 per person, with accompanying individuals 18 and younger admitted free of charge.

To register, prepare a check made payable to Purdue University, and mail it to: Beekeeping Short Course, Dept. of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1158. A map and agenda will be sent by return mail, along with information about lodging. Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Greg Hunt by phone at (765) 494-4605 or by e-mail at ghunt@purdue.edu.

WINTERKILL IN THE HEART OF ILLINOIS

Data continues to roll in that the winterkill of 2001 was of historic proportions. It most certainly will long be remembered as a year when many a beekeeper (1) either gave up beekeeping or (2) decided to practice autumn hive depopulation. A survey of 22 HIBA beekeepers who had a total of 364 colonies entering winter showed that 281 of those colonies died. This is a winterkill rate of 77.2%. Reports are coming in from across the state and around the Midwest that show what the HIBA membership has experienced to be typical.

CHANGES IN DISPLAY TIMES AT HEART OF ILLINOIS FAIR

For the past several years Heart of Illinois beekeepers' have been keeping watch over a honey, honey bees, and beekeeping display at the Heart of Illinois fair from noon to 8:00 p.m. daily. Now, that is about to change. No, we are not pulling out of the fair display business; it turns out that display times are changing. Starting in 2001 the Agricultural Pavilion will be open from

4:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and from noon to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

These changes are designed to take advantage of those times when fair attendees are present in the greatest number, thus eliminating the noon to 4:00 p.m. weekday slot that has seen at best very low attendance. This will also reduce daily work shifts from eight hours per day to six hours on weekdays, but increasing them to 10 hours on weekends. In addition, our members will be able to work during the cooler hours of the day.

During the May and June HIBA membership meetings an attempt probably will be made to start gathering the names of volunteers who will offer to staff our usual HIBA display in Peoria. Come prepared to indicate dates and times when you can volunteer your time and efforts.

HONEY PRINCESS/BEEKEEPING AMBASSADOR PROGRAM SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR 2002

The HIBA Honey Princess/Beekeeping Ambassador Program is currently seeking candidates for the 2002 competition. According to approved guidelines, candidates should make application for this process immediately. Applications are due to Oversight Committee chairperson and program manager Jill Mayes during the month of May. The application consists of a brief statement of interest, with contact information. Once received, complete details about the program will be sent. (Guidelines are also available online at <http://www.hiba.ws>)

In addition to the application, candidates must send biographical sketches and photographs to Heart of Illinois Beekeeper newsletter editor for publication in the June issue. Contact information for both program manager and newsletter editor may be found on the front page of this newsletter.

INTERESTING "BEE" STORE IN DOWNTOWN NORMAL

Chasin' Rainbows Country Store in Normal, IL, has a large variety of gift items that employ the honey bee motif. One of our HIBA members happened across this store during a recent visit to Normal. The store is located at the intersection of Linden St. and Beaufort Ave. in downtown Normal.

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"/>	\$16.00	\$31.00	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

Donation for Princess / Ambassador Program \$ _____

Total Submitted for Journals, Dues & Princess/Ambassador Program \$

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: donwald@npoint.net.

Check out the HIBA web site today at www.hiba.ws

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