

Heart of Illinois Beekeeper

A publication of the Heart of Illinois Beekeepers' Association

NEWS FROM THE HIVE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The long hot summer is finally ending and we can start the fall harvest. It looks like the bees recovered from their winter losses and put up a fair honey crop. Some of the early honey was very good tasting. I am not going to leave supers on and try to collect fall honey like I usually do, instead, I am going to start treating for mites. September is the peak month for mite populations. I have ordered Checkmite+ (coumaphos) for my bees this year. I believe there is some resistance to Apistan and Tom Elston has a confirmed Small Hive Beetle in his hives.

This month we will be having a honey tasting. I have some samples of different honeys from around the country that I keep in my freezer. None taste quite as good as our good old Central Illinois Honey! (No bias here!) If you have any really good honey to share with our membership, bring it in. We all like to be educated. I still have trouble identifying different varieties.

I'm sure we will all be ready for Carl's presentation which I term "Turning Out Your Bees". Carl has researched this subject thoroughly, but I love my bees and have some strong feelings about doing this. I guess we can all come and let Carl know what our feelings are! (Hey Carl! Can I have your bees?) See you all Friday!

Steve

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next-to-last HIBA meeting for the year will held on Friday, September 7, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Tazewell Farm Bureau building, 1505 Valle Vista Dr. in Pekin. Following a short business meeting, Carl Wenning, HIBA member and feature writer for *American Bee Journal*, will present a 30-minute talk entitled "Autumn Hive Depopulation." The talk should prove to be enlightening. In recent letters to the editor of *American Bee Journal*, Carl has been compared to everything from a murder (September issue) to a modern-day Langstroth, Galileo, and Copernicus (October issue). You'll not want to miss this presentation.

Carl has written more than two dozen feature articles for *ABJ* since July 1999. His writings have also appeared in such diverse publications as Mexico's *Apitec* magazine and Australia's *Australasian Beekeeper* journal. In this talk, Carl will weave together a number of different threads from his voluminous writing. If you've never heard Carl give a formal presentation before, this will be your chance. This event will also



Officers —

Steve Mayes, President
P. O. Box 274
Mackinaw, IL 61755
Phone: (309) 359-8600
E-mail: keeper_bees@hotmail.com

Tom Elston, Vice President
RR 1, Box 346-D
Bloomington, IL 61704-9752
Phone: (309) 378-2871
E-mail: TEIston440@aol.com

Don Waldman, Secretary
14409 Schlink Road
Brimfield, IL 61517
Phone: (309) 446-9728
E-mail: donwald@npoint.net

Jean Nyman, Treasurer
837 Brown Avenue
Galesburg, IL 61401
Phone: (309) 342-5059
E-mail: cnyman4@home.com

Directors —

Danny Hart, Brimfield, (309) 446-3004
Carl Wenning, Normal, (309) 454-4164
Brian Davies, Maquon, (309) 875-3208
Don Hughes, Hanna City, (309) 565-4928

Appointees —

Carl J. Wenning, Newsletter Editor
21 Grandview Drive
Normal, IL 61761-4071
Phone: (309) 454-4164
E-mail: wenning@phy.ilstu.edu

Jill Mayes, Princess/Ambassador Manager
P. O. Box 274
Mackinaw, IL 61755
Phone: (309) 359-8600
E-mail: jmayes@gridley.org

allow you to question Carl about his many writings over the past two years. Following Carl's presentation, beekeepers will have an opportunity to both share and taste various honeys provided by you, the Heart of Illinois Beekeeper. Please bring samples of honey your bees have produced, or examples of honeys you have collected from different spots around the country or the world. Tooth picks will be provided for sharing. Following these activities, there will be the usual time for informal events. If you have anything to share by way of demonstration such as unique equipment or collections, bring it along. As always, don't forget to bring a honey recipe treat to share.

GOVERNOR RYAN DECLARES SEPTEMBER HONEY MONTH

2001 HIBA Honey Princess Rebecca Wenning has scored a coup with the Governor of Illinois. At her request, George Ryan, declared September Honey Month in Illinois. He signed the official state proclamation on

August 23rd. The proclamation reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the [Heart of] Illinois Beekeepers Association is an exemplary organization providing hands-on opportunities to the citizens of Illinois to promote an awareness of beekeeping; and

WHEREAS, the Beekeepers Association sponsors the Heart of Illinois Honey Princess and Beekeeping Ambassador program for the development of leadership skills and the promotion of bees and honey; and

WHEREAS, the Beekeepers Association has many devoted members who travel to various organizations and agencies across the State of Illinois to discuss the importance of beekeeping; and

WHEREAS, the Beekeepers Association has made significant contributions to increasing the awareness of beekeeping and the advancement of the Illinois honey industry;

THEREFORE, I, George H. Ryan, Governor of the State of Illinois, proclaim September 2001 as HONEY MONTH in Illinois.

The document was signed by the Governor as well as Secretary of State Jesse White. The document will be available for review at the September 7 meeting of the membership.

SMALL HIVE BEETLE FOUND IN MCLEAN COUNTY

By Tom Elston

"I've got some bad news for the HIBA membership. I've got some pollen traps on four of my hives at one of my apiaries in Bloomington. While I was collecting pollen last month, I noticed a small bug crawling in the pollen. At first I thought it was one of those picnic beetles. After closer examination, it looked like the small hive beetle. I haven't dismantled all my hives down to the bottom boards yet to inspect every hive, but I have found a total of three beetles in the pollen. I captured one of the beetles and gave it to Charlie Ott. He took it to Springfield and the Department of Agriculture sent it to the Beltsville lab. Last week I received the official proclamation that it is in fact the small hive beetle. I suspect that they were introduced from the package bees that Bill Fleming brought back from York bees. I am totally aghast that I have them, but most of all, that I was responsible for bringing them into the area and possibly infecting your colonies. Please forgive me!"

Editor's Note: We all knew that the small hive beetle was on its way here. No one can blame Tom for introducing them to this area, nor should Tom feel guilty for the possibility of having done so. Of that we can be certain. Tom was merely the first to find the beetle and that's all. If you'd like to learn more about this new pest, see Carl Wenning's article, "Spread and Threat of the Small Hive Beetle," in the September issue of *American Bee Journal*.

Additionally, HIBA President Steve Mayes wants to remind the membership, and rightfully so, that if anyone does use Checkmite+ to battle



HIBA Honey Princess Rebecca Wenning explaining observation hive at the State Fair.

either Varroa mites or the small hive beetle, they should follow label instructions carefully. Coumaphos, the active ingredient of Checkmite+, is a strong organophosphate that can profoundly affect one's nervous system upon exposure. Be absolutely certain to wear impermeable gloves when placing this pesticide in the hive.

HIBA MEMBERS ASSIST AT ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

On Tuesday, August 14, several HIBA members worked the honey display booth at the State Fair in Springfield. Earl Lutz, Steve Mayes, and Carl and Rebecca Wenning took turns selling honey ice cream and explaining the observation hive. As his been is tradition for many years, Earl spent day after day explaining the observation hive during the whole of the fair. Thanks to our members for turning out on HIBA's scheduled "work day," and a special note of thanks to Earl for his untiring efforts on behalf of Illinois beekeeping.

MAKE PLANS NOW FOR OCTOBER HIBA HONEY SHOW

Due to the distance and difficulty of entering honey products in the Illinois State Fair's Honey Show, no HIBA member entered the open class division of this year's Illinois State Fair. This should deter no one, however, from entering this year's HIBA Honey Show. As has been traditional for many years, October will be the month for the annual Heart of Illinois Honey Show. Beekeepers are encouraged to begin preparing samples of honey. Entries in extracted honey, comb honey, and wax have been common during the past few years, with from six to ten participants. Make plans now to participate this year. Complete details will be available in the October issue of the *Heart of Illinois Beekeeper*.

LIQUIDATION SALE FOR BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

Due to the death of Jacksonville beekeeper Nelson Spaenower this past January, his wife Louella Spaenower is selling his beekeeping equipment. Everything must go. The list of sale items is substantial and includes the following: hives, supers, Tri-Clover pump, extractor, clarifier, 1000# catch tank, pressure honey filter, wax melter, feeders, smokers, wax foundation, nails, screws, 55-gal. drums, 2# and 5# glass jars with lids, plastic jugs, bee suits, hive tools, knife, and many other items too numerous to mention.

Beekeepers are invited to buy by the piece or by the lot. Make an offer. Everything must be sold soon; the building housing the equipment is being sold. If interested, contact Louella Spaenower, 15 Greenbriar Dr., Jacksonville, IL 62650. Phone 217/243-2298 (home) or 217/479-0269 ext. 231, leave message (day), or e-mail gazebols@hotmail.com. (NOTE: This information is current. Notification of this sale was received by your editor on August 29th.)

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE

Carl Wenning, who has served as newsletter editor and organizer of the annual beekeeping short course for the past four years, announced earlier this year that he will be stepping down from both of these positions. Carl normally limits his service of this type to a three-year term, but acquiesced late last year in order to give the membership an additional year to find someone willing take over these two important duties. Time is now running out to find a replacement.

One or two others will need to step forward to lead these efforts or they will simply disappear as components of the HIBA outreach program. If you are interested in either or both of these duties, please contact an Association officer and make known your willingness to serve. Providing leadership through service is commendable, and now Carl is willing to let someone else take the lead. He is also willing to provide any and all needed assistance. Think about it!



HIBA President Steve Mayes selling ice cream honey and chatting with his father-in-law.

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	\$ <u>XXX</u>
<i>Bee Culture</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$16.00	\$31.00	N/A	\$ <u>XXX</u>
<i>The Speedy Bee</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$13.50	\$25.50	\$34.25	\$ <u>XXX</u>

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 and Dues \$

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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 Don Waldman, Secretary
 14409 Schlink Road
 Brimfield, IL 61517

