

Plan to Attend the ISBA Summer Meeting

This June the Illinois State Beekeepers Association summer meeting will convene in the Northern region. This is the first time ISBA has marshaled a two-day meeting. Not only will it offer the Saturday menu of speakers, but also activities starting Friday at noon. This is an event intended to feed the beekeeper's soul. Here is what you need to know.

The events occurs on Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8 in the Luecht Conference Center at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois. Friday afternoon will be invested in four short courses offered by experts in different aspects of beekeeping. These three-hour courses run simultaneously, are limited to ISBA members and will be limited in size. Early registration would be wise.

Friday Short Courses

Open to Members Only

Darwinian Beekeeping



Dr. Keith Delaplane, Director of the Honeybee Program at the University of Georgia, will spend the afternoon exploring the concept of Darwinian Beekeeping, a concept that is both old and new. In this era of environmental and pest challenges to our honeybees, Darwinian thinking has surfaced. Explore this approach with an outstanding academic and passionate beekeeper. Darwinian thinking can change the way you think of your beekeeping.

A Conversation with an Expert

Jerry Hayes will run an in-person "Classroom" session. Jerry is an internationally respected beekeeping personality who writes a long-standing column in the American Bee Journal where he offers great, expert advice on everything honey and beekeeping. Participants will be encouraged to send in and bring along questions in need of his expert answers. If you are a regular reader of Jerry's column you will want to join his class. This will be a marathon afternoon of Q and A with the man who knows the answers.



Winning at the Honey Show



Jim and Karen Belli have won almost any honey show award one can name. Their expertise has taken them from local county fairs to the most competitive international honey shows. In this afternoon gathering they will share their ribbon-winning techniques. Bring your jars of honey along and have them critiqued by the best. Honey shows are coming soon!

Join the Inspector in the Beeyard

Eleanor Schumacher is an experienced bee inspector. In her years of experience, she has opened many hives. In this afternoon gathering learn how she goes about a professional inspection and then accompany her as she opens hives. Join Eleanor as she evaluates each colony and develops a management plan. Bring your veil and watch a pro do it.



Friday Evening

Open to members and nonmembers

Following the short courses and dinner on your own, Friday evening will offer a choice of two panel discussion groups beginning at 7:00pm.

1. A Gathering of Mead Makers

Are you an experienced vintner or do you just have the urge to change your honey into the drink of the gods – mead? You will enjoy the camaraderie of these beekeeping mead makers. Methods will be discussed. Equipment will be on display. The Viking kings made mead, maybe you should, too.

2. Are Local Queens the Solution?

A panel of local, small-scale honeybee queen breeders will discuss the advantages and challenges of raising northern queens. Recently, locally acclimatized queens have become popular. Hear the whole story from the beekeepers who raise the queens in your neighborhood. (Local queens will be available for sale in the vendors' area on Saturday.)

Saturday

Open to members and nonmembers

- 0800 Registration begins (eat a donut!)
- 0900 Welcome
- 0915 Comments by Brian Rennecker, IDOA
- 0945 Confirmation Bias and the Beekeeper –
Why beekeepers believe what is not true
Jerry Hayes
- 1045 Break / visit vendors
- 1100 The Honey Bee Superorganism and What It Means for Beekeepers
Dr. Keith Delaplane
- 1145 Today in the American Beekeeping Federation
Tim May, President ABF
- 1200 Lunch / visit vendors
- 1300 Comments, awards, door prizes, etc.
- 1315 Today at the American Bee Journal
Eugene Makovec, Editor of ABF
- 1330 Breeding Bees Superorganismically
Dr. Keith Delaplane
- 1415 Break / visit vendors
- 1430 Illinois Citizen Scientists and the Varroa Battle
Jacob Torres, University of Illinois
- 1530 Farewell speeches

Throughout the day vendors will be available including queen breeders with locally raised queens for sale.

What does it cost?

We have kept the prices down! This is the best value in beekeeping education and a great investment in fellowship. Join your fellow beekeepers for two great days.

Registration fees

Friday Short Courses	\$10.00 (limited to one course of choice)
Mead meeting	No charge – come join the talk
Saturday	Members - \$25.00 (\$30.00 at the door) Nonmembers - \$35.00 (\$40.00 at the door)
Preordered Saturday lunch	\$10.00

How to register

Online registration will begin on Thursday, April 11. The link to the registration site will be posted on the ISBA website - www.ILSBA.com. Knowing that some might not have access to internet registration, special arrangements can be made by calling Wendy Yemm at McHenry County College (815) 455-8764.

Directions to the College, to the Luecht Conference Center, and to local restaurants and accommodation with special ISBA pricing will be posted on the ISBA website.

Can you be encouraged to register early? The first 100 to register for our meeting will receive a complimentary (and collectable) ISBA hat. We all need one of them!

A special note to our “down south” members – This meeting has been arranged to make your trip to the northland appealing. The events will not begin until noon on Friday. We have activities scheduled on Friday and Friday evening making that a day well invested. Saturday includes a great list of presentation that will end early enough to allow an opportunity to travel home. We are thinking of you.

This two-day meeting is worth the trip. Please consider carpooling with your local association beekeepers and join your fellow Illinois beekeepers at this exceptional meeting.