



SEMBA NEWS

Vol. 13 No. 1

Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

January 2003

Upcoming Events

February 9

SEMBA meeting Lower Waterman Center, Schoolcraft College



SEMBA Meeting

The SEMBA meeting on Sunday, February 9, 2003, will be held in the Lower Waterman Center at Schoolcraft College. The meeting will start at 1:30 PM. There will be a pot-luck luncheon. Everyone should bring their own tableware (plates and silverware). The program is yet to be determined. Bill SIRR has been invited to talk about the joint Ontario-New York-Michigan Beekeepers Convention that was held in December.



SEMBA President Jim Goodrich

Most of the information that beekeepers acquire about honey bees comes from bee club meetings, seminars, bee journals, the EAS, and the ABF. Little of this information reaches the general public. The National Honey Board does a fine job of sending information to the public about honey, but not enough about the importance of bees for pollination. Newspapers occasionally have articles about the need for honey bees for pollination and The Learning Channel and The Discovery Channel have both had a few (not enough) good documentaries about honey bees. So, how do we get the word out to the general public about the importance of honey bees?

Personally, I like to talk to second, third and fourth grade students for two

reasons. Number one, they are "knowledge sponges" and want to learn. Number two, they have considerable power over their parents when it comes to talking about what they "just learned". I have talked to groups of these young people at elementary schools and at agricultural day outings for elementary students. Though they don't appear to be listening, near the end, when I ask if they have any questions many hands pop up. They want to know.

Our granddaughter, Jessica, who is in the fourth grade, occasionally goes with us to the bee yards; she has her own bee suit. She also likes to help build bee equipment and clean supers along with helping bottle honey. Several weeks ago Jessica's teacher asked the class to write about something that they were interested in. The following is her paper:

Bees by Jessica, 4th grade

Can you imagine a pet that is so easy to take care of, you wouldn't have to pay attention to it if you didn't want to? Of course I'm talking about bees. Bees are one of the greatest animals you can have for pets.

Have you ever noticed how fun it is to learn about bees? Especially the queen. Most people won't agree that just the regular bees are the most interesting because the queen is the only bee in the bee hive that can have babies.

It is almost unbelievable how great it is to raise bees. I like to clean their hives. I like to make (cont'd. p. 2)

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Building the bee hives is the most exciting part. their food because if they don't eat they can't make honey. I also like to watch their behavior. First you line up the wood. Next you pound the nails in. Then you move the bees into their new home.

Bees are one of the greatest animals you can have for pets because their fun to learn about, fun to raise, and fun to build hives for. 🐝

So, when you're talking to non-beekeepers about honey bees, don't forget the kids.
Jim Goodrich, SEMBA President



Dyanne Tracy New Life Member

SEMBA welcomes Professor Dyanne Tracy of Auburn Hills as a new Life Member. Dyanne started beekeeping to overcome her fear of stinging insects and to learn a new hobby after she had been promoted to Full Professor at Oakland University. "Two friends encouraged me to try beekeeping and I finally decided to take them up on their offers to teach me," she said. "Nancy Schliebe has taught me in the field and Roy Slaymaker gives me advice. Roy sold me his 30 year-old equipment, at a low price, and I have read over 3000 pages and viewed a dozen videos on the topic of beekeeping."

In the year 2000, Dyanne started one colony and now keeps four hives in Oakland County. She markets her honey products to colleagues at work and bowling, at craft shows, and by putting a sign in her front yard. "I sell more skin care products made with beeswax than honey! Preparing the honey (liquid, creamed and chunk) as well as developing new skin care products is very soothing as compared with my full-time job," she says.

Dr. Tracy's full-time job is Professor and Chair of the Department of Teacher Development and Educational Studies in the School of Education and Human Services at Oakland University where she has developed a very interesting web page. It covers everything from bees and bats to math projects. Pictures on the site show her making beekeeping presentations in the public school. To visit her site on the computer, type in Oakland University on a search engine, click on Academics, then go to School of Education and Human Services. Select faculty and staff and find her name listed.

Dyanne looks forward to the SEMBA Bee School each year and we look forward to working with her on SEMBA beekeeping activities. *Roger Sutherland*



SEMBA Buddy System Update

In the December SEMBA Newsletter, we announced the formation of a "buddy system" in which a novice beekeeper would be paired with an experienced beekeeper living relatively close by. The experienced beekeeper (tutor) would be able to answer questions by phone or e-mail or might make an on-site visit to help with some problem. Each pair would develop their own plan of cooperation.

Since the announcement, one buddy team has been arranged in the Plymouth area. Also, one individual has volunteered to be a tutor in the Waterford area, and there is a request for a tutor from a beginning beekeeper in Howell.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the "buddy system" or need more information, please e-mail Roger Sutherland, rsuther@hotmail.com or call him at 734-668-8568. A contact would be made with you before assigning a buddy.



Membership Information

Beginning in January 2003, SEMBA membership costs are \$10.00 for an individual, \$15.00 for a family; \$100.00 for an individual life membership, and \$150.00 for a family membership. If your label has an **N**, your membership is due in November. Please send the enclosed membership application to Roger Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105. SEMBA membership provides a 25% discount to subscriptions to *Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal* or the *Speedy Bee*. When you pay your SEMBA membership dues the treasurer will send you a subscription form, with the next SEMBA Newsletter, to complete and send it to the journal of your choice. for a family membership. If your label has an **N**, your membership is due in November. Please send the enclosed membership application to Roger Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105. SEMBA membership provides a 25% discount to subscriptions to *Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal* or

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Submissions to SEMBA News

Send your submissions electronically to smrutter@umich.edu, by mail to Rutter/Bowman 1314 Olivia Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or phone 734-741-0482 (feel free to leave message). The newsletter is only as good as its contributors; please share your knowledge, observations, and discoveries with other SEMBA members.



<http://www.sembabees.org>

The new SEMBA website at <http://www.sembabees.org> is growing. Alan Pagliere, SEMBA's web coordinator is adding links as he receives suggestions from you. E-mail Alan at pagliere@umich.edu to add your links to the SEMBA pages.

The SEMBA newsletter is being put up on the website as a PDF and we hope to add back issues of the newsletter as a SEMBA archive.



SEMBA Member Question

Does anyone have any information about how to lighten the color of bee's wax? I have several pounds of wax taken from my hives that are too dark to be attractive for any hobby use. Contact me either by E-mail freaume@msn.com or by mail Florence Reaume, 22556 Simcheck, Northville, MI. 48167 or by phone 248-344-4504 I would appreciate any suggestions.



Bee Crafts: Fun Bee Socks

LynnH, an artist and knitwear designer from Lansing, has designed socks with a bee and hive motif. SEMBA members who knit or know someone willing to knit for them can see a picture

and download the free pattern (with easy directions for customizing the size) at: <http://LynnH.com/patterns/bee.htm> Think of all the members who do fair exhibits wearing a pair of these socks! Lynn's designs look complex, but an intermediate knitter can easily do them. *Thanks to Lili Krezel for this submission*



Mite Research Project: Assistance

Cornell University and Washington State University are conducting a research project on *Varroa* mite resistance which continues to be a serious threat to beekeeping. Dr. Steve Sheppard and Dr. Nicholas Calderone are requesting assistance from beekeepers throughout the U.S. A recent communication from Dr. Calderone outlines their research project:

"Recently, several USDA research projects have shown that breeding a bee with resistance to mites is possible. Encouraged by those efforts, Dr. Steve Sheppard and I are establishing a new breeding project to develop two populations of honey bees that are resistant to both tracheal mites and *Varroa* mites. We will be using methods similar to those that have proven successful in other breeding programs. The major difference is that our project will be conducted on a much larger scale. This will allow us to maintain good brood viability (sex-allele diversity) and to select for other traits such as hygienic behavior, good honey production and overall vigor.

We need your help on this project. To be successful, we believe it is necessary that our initial breeding populations be as genetically diverse as possible. We feel that the best way to do this is to limit stock from major commercial queen producers to about 20% of the initial population. The remainder will be drawn from reputable, small to mid-sized queen producers in your state. I will contact them and arrange to purchase a few queens from each. Please forward names and contact information to be at the address or e-mail below. Your assistance is vital to the success of our project, and your cooperation is deeply appreciated".

Nicholas W. Calderone, Associate Professor of Apiculture, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Comstock Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607) 254-7417, nwc4@cornell.edu.

Current Research on *Apis Mellifera*

A selection of recent papers published by Michigan State University Honey Bee Biologist Professor Zachary Huang.

Pearce, A.N., Z.Y. Huang & M.D. Breed. 2001. Juvenile hormone and aggression in honey bees. Journal of Insect Physiology 47: 1243-1247

Beshers, S.N., Z.Y. Huang, Y. Oono & G.E. Robinson. 2001. Social inhibition and the regulation of temporal polyethism in honey bees. Journal of Theoretical Biology 213: 461-479

David, J.S., M.J. Vermiglio, Z.Y. Huang & G.E. Robinson. 2002. Effects of colony food shortage on social interactions in honey bee colonies. Insectes Sociaux 49: 50-55

Wang, R., Z. Liu, K. Dong, P.J. Elzen, J. Pettis, Z.Y. Huang. 2002. Association of novel mutations in a sodium channel gene with fluvalinate resistance in the varroa mite, *Varroa destructor*. Journal of Apicultural Research 40: 17-25



Honey Bee Genome

Texas A&M and Baylor entomologists are working together on sequencing the honey bee genome, one of five species recently selected by the National Institutes of Health for sequencing. Texas

A&M and the state's beekeeping industry put up the money to buy the large bacterial artificial chromosomal libraries needed for the project and Baylor has begun data collection. Texas A&M's

Spencer Johnston said: "We have a tremendous bank of all the chunks of DNA of the honey bee. Twenty-five times over we have the honey bee genome, and all of these assembled chunks are

called libraries." Baylor will do all the sequencing seven to eight times over -- about 270 million bases done at least seven times. The team will generate an assembly of the sequence using

sophisticated software to put the billions of pieces of information back together again. Researchers likened it to taking seven catalogs, tearing them into tiny pieces, scattering them all over the floor and telling someone else to piece them back together again. The next step is to make sense of the assembly, identifying all the major parts and the control

elements for them. *Ellen Beck United Press International Jan.6,2003I, Lexis-Nexis Environmental Universe [1/14/03]*



EAS Annual Conference

EAS 2003 will be held on the campus of Bowdoin College, in the downtown area of Brunswick, Maine the week of August 4-8, 2003. Brunswick is a popular tourist destination, and this conference is being held during the busy time of the year. If you are planning on staying off-campus, you are encouraged to make your reservations very early (now would not be too soon) to make it easier to find accommodations to your liking.

The Eastern Apicultural Society of North America was established in 1955 with the purpose of promoting honey bee culture, the education of beekeepers, and excellence in bee research. Every summer, EAS conducts its annual conference in one of its 22 member States/Provinces. About 500 people, from around the world, attend this conference every year.

Bowdoin College was established in 1794 and hosts an outstanding art museum, the Perry /MacMillan Arctic Museum, the Brunswick Music Theater, and plenty of physical activity sites like an Olympic size swimming pool and an indoor track.

A trip to the Maine Maritime Museum and its rich history of wooden shipbuilding is one of the planned spouse's tours.

The conference consists of two parts: a 2 1/2 day beekeeping course (the "Short Course"), and a 2 1/2 day Conference and Workshops. The Short Course runs from Monday morning through Noon, Wednesday. The main conference starts after lunch on Wednesday, and runs through Friday evening, and consists of main presentations as well as smaller workshops. There are also a number of social events planned, as well as local sight seeing tours.

Interested? Come join us in Maine as we continue the tradition of great EAS Conferences. Go to <http://www.easternapiculture.org/programs/2003> for additional information and to register online.

EAS 2004 will be held at the Seven Springs Resort in Pennsylvania, August 9-13, 2004.

Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association
2003 Hands-on, introduction to beekeeping
E. L. Johnson Nature Center
Course Syllabus / 03-15-03

Instructors: Earl Hoffman **Hours: Saturdays 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM**
& S.E.M.B.A. associate beekeeping instructors

Phone: (Home) **734.427.7649** **E-mail: honeyfarm@peoplepc.com**
(Work) **734.458.0088**

TEXTS:

Honey Bee Diseases & Pests. 2nd Edition, Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists.
Starting Right With Bees. 21st Edition, A. I. Root

DESCRIPTION:

These texts describe the art of beekeeping in layman terms, which permits the reader to comprehend the basic fundamentals that will influence and guide future bee management skills. These texts will reinforce confidence, satisfaction, and bee management skills acquired in the "hands on mode" instruction.

GOALS:

1. Understand the essentials of beekeeping basics.
2. Obtain the ability to identify hive problems, evaluate and apply corrective actions.
3. Maintain a management philosophy that aids the bees to combat parasites, diseases and incorporate skills to produce a successful honey crop.

REQUIREMENTS:

All students will participate in the hands on training dressed in protective clothing (i.e. bee suit with attaching veil and helmet, hive tool, smoker, bee gloves, work boots or protective ankle wraps). Reading of the study material (texts) is required. Attendance at the scheduled class dates is essential, since it is nearly imposable to duplicate hive conditions for non-attendees at future sessions.

EVALUATION:

The instructor's will critique students during each session, for skills in hive manipulation, problem identification and methods of corrective action. Peer review will be encouraged. Written examination is voluntary, and supported with question and answer review.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

March 29th, April 12th, April 26th, May 3rd, May 17th, June 7th, July 19th, August 16th, September 13th, October 11th. There are TEN (10) scheduled meetings, with additional optional meetings for queen rearing. In the event of bad weather, class meetings may be rescheduled at the discretion of the instructor's. Please contact the instructor's, if you are unable to attend on a given date. Makeup sessions may be arranged by appointment, if instructors are obtainable.

TUITION FEES:

Cost for the entire course, including textbooks, is \$150.00 dollars per student, payable in advance. Make checks payable to: "S.E.M.B.A." Registration and payment can be made during the SEMBA BEESCHOOL SEMINAR, March 15th (Saturday), 2003 to be held at Schoolcraft Community College, Waterman Center. Non-seasonal students who would like to attend a scheduled class date or dates can do so, but will be charged \$20.00 dollars per session, payable by check for the session requested. The course fee includes a discounted SEMBA membership for the year 2003. "Beekeeper Certificates" will be awarded to all students who successfully complete the "hands on" introduction to beekeeping course.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

Michigan Beekeeping calendars, \$5.00 plus shipping cost of \$1.50. Contact Mary Sutherland, 734-668-8568, e-mail rsuther@hotmail.com

New wooden ware, assortment of honey bottles, 4-frame stainless steel motorized extractor, 25 frame galvanized motorized extractor, observation hive, and much more. Desire to sell as package. **Call Charles Bode at 586-725-8163.**

Package Bees from Georgia arriving in Roseville, MI in April 2003. **Call Gerald Dunbar** and leave message at **586-770-9953.**

12 frame motorized extractor with stand, 60 5 gallon honey buckets. **Michael Kielbasa 810-329-3754.**

Please book your **Package Bees.** Order early. Bees should arrive around April 10th or 11th, from Wilbank Apiaries in Georgia. **Call Dave Barber** to arrange for packages, **248-634-7017.**

NEW 1 & 5 Gal. buckets w/ lids, New medium and deep supers and frames available. **Keith Lazar, (248) 815-5522 or Home (248) 626-2483**

Note: ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad contact Sara Rutter smrutter@umich.edu or Roger Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com.



Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934



Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership
5548 Warren Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425