



SEMBA NEWS

Vol. 13 No. 3

Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

March 2003

Upcoming Events

April 1

Oakland Bee Club, E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 7:30 p.m.



Oakland Bee Club

The Oakland Bee Club will be meeting on April 1st, 7:30 p.m. at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills. Larry Yates, asks that everyone bring a special item that they use in beekeeping, for a show-and-tell on beekeeping. *Larry Yates*



SEMBA Bee School

Approximately 130 attended the 65th Annual SEMBA Bee School at Schoolcraft College on March 15th. Major talks by Dr. Keith Delaplane of the University of Georgia and Dr. Zachary Huang of Michigan State University were well received. The hive raffle generated \$273 for SEMBA and the potluck was judged to be the best ever. SEMBA also gained eight new members. *Roger Sutherland*



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 address label indicates **A03**, your membership is now due. Enclosed is a renewal slip for your convenience. Please make check payable and mail to the address shown on

the form. 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.



SEMBA Newsletter Editorship: A New Beginning?

Sara Rutter, our SEMBA newsletter editor, has announced that she will be moving with her family to Hawai'i in May to take a position at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in Honolulu. Many thanks are due Sara and David for producing a quality newsletter for our organization during the past year. They along with Alan Pagliere and Tom Lisk were instrumental in making our new website sembabees.com a reality and each month Sara saw to it that the newsletter was ready for inclusion on the web site.

As former editors of the newsletter, we (the Sutherlands) worked closely with Sara to ensure that the mailing deadlines were met. We certainly will miss them, but we wish them well and continued success in their new venture.

A newsletter, we feel, is a vital part of any organization. It serves as a catalyst to promote club activity and is a most valuable educational tool; it is the glue that



Inside SEMBA News

SEMBA buddy system	2
Township bee regulations	2
Memorial to Jack Howard	2
Over-wintering calculations	3
Current Bee Research	3
Bargain Corner	4

holds an organization together. Surely someone, among our 180 plus members, has the talent and ability to edit such a communication. SEMBA will provide assistance to get that person started. Mailing details are not involved in the editorship, because a separate group of SEMBA members provides for that function. Please consider this challenge, and respond positively to any one of our SEMBA officers. We need your assistance to keep a good thing going.

We know that someone of our 180+ SEMBA membership has the capacity to edit a newsletter. SEMBA can provide assistance to get you started. We have a group to handle all of the mailing details.

Consider it a challenge and give one of the SEMBA officers a call to get more detail. We need your help to keep a good thing going. *Roger and Mary Sutherland*

Editors' note: please consider becoming the SEMBA News editor. The time commitment is not great but the rewards are. Contact Roger Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.



A Memorial to Jack Howard

Long-time beekeeper Jack Howard of Bloomfield Hills died on February 7, 2003. He was 81 years old. At the age of eight, Jack began keeping bees and in 1978 he joined the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association. Beekeeping was a Howard family tradition. Jack's uncle, Joe Howard, was a bee inspector in southeastern Michigan for many years, and it was he who helped many of us get started in beekeeping. Jack Howard maintained up to 50 colonies in Northern Wayne County and Oakland County. His honey products could be found on the shelves of Hiller's Markets. His colonies will continue to be maintained by his daughter Donna.

Jack is survived by his wife Freda, four daughters and nine grandchildren. Our sincerest sympathy is extended to all the Howard family.



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).



SEMBA Buddy System Update

Life member Paul Mazur has agreed to be a mentor (tutor) for beginning beekeepers in the Clio-Montrose MI area or in the Isabella Co. MI region. We are still adding names to the buddy system so if you wish to be a mentor or, as a beginner, need someone to help you locally, contact Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568 rsuther@hotmail.com.



Township Regulations and Bees

A resident of Independence Township who wants to begin keeping bees recently asked the township building department if there were any ordinances restricting beekeeping in the township. She was told that "there are no ordinances allowing or restricting [beekeeping], so since it had not been addressed, it is not allowed." Michael Hansen, our State Apiarist wrote in response to this conundrum that property is zoned for "permitted uses" and that zoning can limit agricultural uses of land. Mike suggested that she contact the local township official and request an application to apply for a non-conforming use permit for her property. He also noted that in years past, Independence Township was the home of several beeyards.

Ann Arbor has written into the city code a limited agricultural use of property located in the city, in which no more than two beehives are allowed in each yard (Ch. 9:39). Roger Sutherland noted that Ann Arbor is one of the few cities that have permission to keep bees written in the land use code. This must have been the result of a beekeeper in the city government! Municipal codes for many cities and townships in Michigan are available online at <http://livepublish.municode.com/LivePublish/statelist2.asp?state=22>.



Over-Wintering Calculations

It takes about 90 lbs. of honey to over winter a hive of bees in Michigan. At Today's honey prices that is around \$110.00 per hive. If, always an "IF", you've combined the hives, allowed the bees to rob/dry the wet supers so that they can be stored, made any necessary for the winter, checked the remaining hives, sold the honey off, you are now ready to take off to parts unknown. Come spring you check your bees. If alive, good. If not, you have only lost one or two, then order packages to come up to the number you want. How much did you sell your honey for, what did the packages cost, you do the math; are you ahead of the game? *Bill Sirr*



Brood Boxes Wanted

Jason Newkirk would like to buy 1000 brood boxes. Contact Mr. Newkirk at newk78@hotmail.com.



EAS Conference

The Eastern Apicultural Society conference will be held August 4-8 2003 at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. See <http://www.easternapiculture.org/programs/2003> for more information. A link is also on the SEMBA webpage, <http://www.sembabees.org> under *other links*.



Current Research on *Apis Mellifera*

1. Gregorc Ales [a]; Poklukar Janez. Rotenone and oxalic acid as alternative acaricidal treatments for *Varroa destructor* in honeybee colonies. [Article] *Veterinary Parasitology*. [print] 111(4). 27 February 2003 2003. 351-360.
2. Mahaman B D [a]; Harizanis P; Filis I; Antonopoulou E; Yialouris C P; Sideridis A B. A diagnostic expert system for honeybee pests. [Article] *Computers & Electronics in Agriculture*. [print] 36(1). October 2002 2002. 17-31.
3. Robinson G E [a]; Ben-Shahar Y. Social behavior and comparative genomics: New genes or new gene regulation? [Article]

- Genes, Brain, & Behavior*. [print] 1(4). November 2002 2002. 197-203.
4. Stabentheiner Anton [a]; Pressl Helga; Papst Thomas; Hrassnigg Norbert; Crailsheim Karl. Endothermic heat production in honeybee winter clusters. [Article] *Journal of Experimental Biology*. [print] 206(2). January 2003 2003. 353-358.
 5. Eguaras Martin [a]; Palacio Maria Alejandra; Faverin Claudia; Basualdo Marina; Del Hoyo Marcelo Luis; Velis Gustavo; Bedascarrasbure Enrique. Efficacy of formic acid in gel for *Varroa* control in *Apis mellifera* L.: Importance of the dispenser position inside the hive. [Article] *Veterinary Parasitology*. [print] 111(2-3). 13 February 2003 2003. 241-245.
 6. Srinivasan Mandyam V [a]; Zhang Shaowu [a]. Small brains, smart minds: Honeybee vision, navigation and 'cognition'. [Meeting] *Comparative Biochemistry & Physiology. Part A, Molecular & Integrative Physiology*. [print] 134A(1). January 2003 2003. 215.
 7. Giurfa Martin [a]. Cognitive architecture of a mini brain: The honeybee. [Meeting] *Comparative Biochemistry & Physiology. Part A, Molecular & Integrative Physiology*. [print] 134A(1). January 2003 2003. 215.



Pablo Picasso; 1941 - 1942; Bequest of Bruno Adriani; L'abeille (The bee), pl. 22, from the book Picasso/Eaux-fortes originales pour des textes de Buffon (Picasso/Original Etchings for the Texts by Buffon) (Paris: Martin Fabiani, 1942)

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. **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**

Five to seven hives for sale this spring. Contact **John Mio at 248-542-7740.**

Moving to Hawaii sale. Seven hives (each 2 deep + 1 med super, w/3 honey med. supers, no bees) and Dadant radial hand-turn 2 frame extractor, uncapping tub. **E-mail Sara Rutter at smrutter@umich.edu**

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