



SEMBA NEWS

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Upcoming Events

June 20

SEMBA picnic, details will be included in our next newsletter.

August 24-29

APIMONDIA 2003, the biennial international meeting of beekeeping organizations will meet in Ljubljana, Slovenia this year from August 24-29. Information on registration and attending is available at:
Apimondia 2003
c/o Cankarjev Dom
Cultural and Congress Centre
Presernova 10
SI - 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Phone 386 1 24 17 141; Fax 386v1 24 17 296
E-mail apiregistration@cd-cc.si

AgriTours Canada Inc. is organizing a tour to Apimondia and Solvenia for the conference. See page 2-3 for more information.

TOM LISK NAMED NEW SEMBA WEB MASTER

After very successfully creating and maintaining the new SEMBA Website (sembabees.org), Alan Pagliere has turned over his duties as Web Master to Tom Lisk. Tom, a long-time SEMBA member, served on the SEMBA website committee which met in December to establish this new method of communication with beekeepers in Michigan.

Since assuming the position of Web Master, Tom has made some minor changes such as underlining in color those topics where further information can be found. For example, if you want information about entering honey and wax in the Michigan State Fair, just click on the underlined [Michigan State Fair](#).

As Web Master, Tom receives periodic statistics from our server. The first numbers listed below represent the number of requests made during the first 20 days of April. The figures in parentheses refer to the seven-day period ending April 21, 2003:

Successful requests: 876 (285)
Average successful requests per day: 42 (40)
Distinct files requested: 25 (24)
Data transferred: 28.191 megabytes (7.926 megabytes)

Tom welcomes your questions and comments. Contact him by e-mail tosk@comcast.net or by phone 810-229-6365.

SEMBA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that SEMBA welcomes its newest members:
Eric Fisher from: Dryden, MI
Scot Martin Redford, MI
Keith Molmar Sterling Heights, MI
Sara Moorhead Willis, MI
Susanne Sadik Livonia, MI
Henry Semczak Bloomfield Hills, MI
Paul Stradtner Howell, MI
Tom Suszek Livonia, MI
Christopher, Vink Ypsilanti, MI

SUBMISSIONS TO SEMBA NEWS

Send your submissions electronically to sousxsieq2@msn.com, by mail to Susanne Sadik, 18854 Gill Road, Livonia, MI 48152, or phone 248-476-4991 (please leave a message if no one is available).

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SEMBA BUDDY SYSTEM MAY UPDATE

The buddy system is designed to pair a novice beekeeper with an experienced beekeeper (or mentor) living relatively close by. The experienced beekeeper would be able to answer questions by phone or e-mail or might make an on-site visit to help with some problem.

Ron Forfinski, SEMBA member from the Brighton area, has been added to the mentor list. We continue to welcome new mentors. Send your name to Roger Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105, 734-668-8568 or e-mail rsuther@hotmail.com.

The SEMBA web site sembabees.org has the updated list of mentor names.

QUEEN BEES AIDED BY CHEMICAL COCKTAIL

For honeybee queens, a chemical cocktail of sorts produced by glands near the insect's mouth helps the queen attract a retinue of worker bees who feed and groom her.

But the queen mandibular pheromone, or QMP, does not do it alone, according to research by scientists at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia that is reported in the current issue of The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The scientists found four chemicals acted as attractants. One, like QMP, was found to come from the mandibular glands. But the others came from the abdomen, thorax and other glands in the head.

Among insects, it is rare that a pheromone responsible for one distinct behavior comes from more than one glandular source. And it is rare to have a pheromone with so many distinct components. In fact, the researchers say, this particular pheromone is the most complex found for a single behavior in any organism.

- From: *News wire reports, Ann Arbor News, April 2, 2003*

CLEANING WAX

The question often asked is, "How do you clean wax and make it lighter in color?" The following was obtained from a workshop conducted at the Heartland Apiculture Society meeting in 2003, held at Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana:

One of the most effective ways to clean wax is by using hydrogen peroxide. We use a 3% solution that you can buy at the store. If you use a higher percentage of peroxide be very careful. Melt 2 pounds of wax in a double boiler at 180 degrees Fahrenheit (an electric heat source is safer than gas or open flame). Add 2 ounces of 3% hydrogen peroxide for each pound of wax. Once the peroxide has been added the wax will begin to fizz. This is the result of the chemical H2O2 hydrogen peroxide breaking down into H2O and free oxygen. Continuous stirring is the secret to cleaning wax. The agitation causes the oxygen to react with the contaminants in the wax and settle to the bottom. Stir continuously for fifteen or twenty minutes. If you stop you will see the separation of H2O and the wax. Now bring the temperature of the wax to 180-200 Fahrenheit and pour it through your filter into a mold.

Other ways to clean wax:

1. Sun Bleached
For sun bleached wax pour wax in a stainless steel pan 1/4 inch thick. Three weeks in the summer sun should do it. Cover the pan with glass to speed up the process.
2. Clorox Bleach
The use of Clorox bleach is not recommended. The wax absorbs the bleach to produce a white, porous product. If you use this wax to make a candle it will emit chlorine gas when burnt. Not good!

REMEMBER CERTAIN GUIDELINES WHEN WORKING WITH HIGHLY REACTIVE CHEMICALS!

1. Never breathe the vapors.
2. Keep container lid on tightly when not in use.
3. Avoid splashing

- Roger Sutherland

MORE INFORMATION ON APIMONDIA 2003 TRIPS

In conjunction with the Canadian Honey Council and Apimondia 2003, AgriTours Canada Inc has planned an exciting and educational 'honey' of an escorted 14-day trip, August 16 to 31, 2003 to Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia. While on the tour, they will be visiting beekeeping operations as well as cultural sites along the route. They have several days scheduled at Apimondia and have included a one-day registration cost in the package.

AgriTours Canada Inc, US departure locations include New York and Chicago however they can make arrangements from other major US cities.

If you would like more information, AgriTours Canada Inc. can be reached at their toll free number: 1-877-683-5742, or through a direct link to the Apimondia tour: <http://www.agritourscanada.com/apimondia.htm>.

SEMBA HOSTESS NEEDED

SEMBA is looking for someone honest and committed to the organization to take over the position of hostess. The job of hostess requires a volunteer to store coffee pots, tablecloths, etc.; set up coffee and other items for the events (bee school & pot

lucks); and afterwards restock any dwindling supplies. The responsibilities of hostess are usually shared with other members that are willing to pitch in and lend a helping hand. It isn't a time consuming job and there isn't much to store: 2 boxes of plates, 2 coffee pots, a roll of paper table covering. If a member feels they have the room to store the items and a willingness to bring them to the events, please contact Carol Hoffman at honeyfarm@peoplepc.com, in order for arrangements to be made.

WANTED, SEMBA VOLUNTEERS

Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association (SEMBA) founded on April 1, 1934, has served Michigan beekeepers effectively by presenting an annual bee school, conducting beekeeping classes, workshops and educational meetings, and providing a monthly newsletter. In addition, SEMBA members have maintained an educational beekeeping booth at the Michigan State Fair and have served as mentors to new beekeepers. More recently, a website has been established to assist beekeepers.

All of these accomplishments are because members have volunteered to serve as officers, head committees, present programs and assist in many other ways. Some of our members have served for many years, and like a honeybee colony, need to be assisted or replaced by new members. Please take a minute to complete the survey below and become an active contributing member.

Reply forms should be returned to: Ann Kerwin,
17516 Birchcrest
Detroit, MI 48221-2735

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ e-mail _____

Check all that apply:

I would be willing to run for an office in SEMBA _____
I would agree to chair a SEMBA committee _____
I would serve on one of the following committees:
Nominating _____ Program _____
State Fair _____ Hospitality _____
Bee School _____ Auditing _____

I would be willing to present a program for a meeting _____
The program topic would be _____
I would write an article for the SEMBA Newsletter _____

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SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ New 1 & 5 Gal. Buckets with lids, new medium and deep supers and frames available. Keith Lazar, (248) 815-5522 or home (248) 626-2483.

Wanted:

- ❖ Used 2 or 4 frame, motorized extractor. Call Jim Armstrong, (734) 994-6696.
- ❖ 12 frame stainless steel extractor (motorized). Call Otis White, (734) 595-4281 (in Westland)
- ❖ Beekeeper wanted to keep bees in apple orchards in Oakland Township (Adams and Buhl Road) and in Marion (property near Cadillac). Please contact Mr. or Mrs. LaFountain at (800) 851-3947.
- ❖ Jason Newkirk would like to buy 1000 brood boxes. Contact Mr. Newkirk at newk78@hotmail.com.

Note: ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. In order to place an ad contact Susanne at sousxsieq2@msn.com, or Roger Sutherland at rsutherland@hotmail.com.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeeper's Association
Organized April 1, 1934



Oakland Beekeeper's Club



Schoolcraft Beekeeper's Club

SEMBA Membership
5488 Warren Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425