



SEMBA NEWS

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Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

October 2003

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Ontario, Canada. Topics they will discuss are the pros and cons of formic acid use, pollination

contracts and retail wholesale honey sales. Also, John will describe some of his experiences in working with Africanized honeybees, last February, in Costa Rica.

The major focus of this program is the use of formic acid, a much needed tool in controlling mites. We have samples of Mitegone and hope to have Mite-away samples as well for the meeting. With the development of these products (some now being tested in the US), perhaps our club can spearhead a drive to have Michigan apply for a section 18 approval of formic acid.

SEMBA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SEMBA membership fees are \$10.00 for an individual, \$15.00 for a family, \$100.00 for an individual life membership, and \$150.00 for a family life membership.

If your newsletter label denotes **N03**, your membership is due in November. Enclosed is a membership application for your convenience. Please note, that the enclosed form may be used by SEMBA Life Members who wish to join or renew MBA membership.

FRANCES ALLOWAY NAMED SEMBA LIFE MEMBER

Frances Alloway of Canton, MI has become the 38TH Life Member of SEMBA. Frances, a native of Southeastern Ohio, came to Michigan in 1939 with her husband Ralph. In 1960, their first bees were from a swarm captured near Plymouth, MI. By collecting more swarms (which they either kept or sold), they increased their colony numbers. ("Beekeepingitis" had now set in and they were hooked on beekeeping.) As more hives were established, out-yards were secured and a honey house for extraction soon became a part of their operation.

Both Ralph and Frances became involved in SEMBA activities by attending many bee

SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Saturday, November 8, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Schoolcraft College Lower Waterman Center

Programs:

"Formic Acid Treatment for Mite Control"
"Beekeeping in Canada"
John Van Alten
Dutchman's Gold, Inc.
Carlisle, Ontario
(See program note)

Notes: Refreshments are welcome.

SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB PROGRAM NOTE

Speakers for the Saturday, November 8th evening meeting of the Schoolcraft Bee Club are John and Annie Van Alten who operate a commercial beekeeping operation in Carlisle,

meetings at the fairgrounds in Belleville. For several years they participated in the beekeeping booth at Greenfield Village, a program sponsored by the 4-H group in Wayne County. In the 1960s, SEMBA members not only maintained an educational booth at the Michigan State Fair but also bottled and sold honey at the fair. The Alloways were a large part of this effort and have many ribbons for their prize-winning entries in the honey contests.

Frances says, "By 1976 we had lots of hives on two or three farms in the area; most of our honey was sold in stores in the Plymouth and Livonia."

In addition to keeping bees, the Alloways removed a large number of colonies from houses and garages and presented beekeeping programs in area schools. Ralph served as SEMBA president in 1978/79 and again in 1986; both were very active in all aspects of SEMBA activities during that period. In the late 80s, they sold their hives and equipment due to Ralph's health problems; Ralph died in 1996.

Frances continues to be active in SEMBA affairs by attending club meetings and bee schools. She works at the registration desk during the SEMBA Annual Bee School and helps with the monthly mailing of the newsletter. In 1996 when SEMBA members constructed the "World's Largest Straw Skep", Frances was there each week to help until the Skep was completed.

In September 2003, the SEMBA Executive Board unanimously voted to approve a Life Membership for Frances Alloway.

THANK YOU SEMBA MEMBERS

Forty-one SEMBA members volunteered their time to answer the many beekeeping questions asked by Michigan State Fair guests during the 14-day event. Ann Kerwin and Bill Sirr again contacted members and coordinated the schedule of workers. The list of volunteers include:

Chuck Bartus	Mike Kerwin
Roger Reuter	Jeff Brown
Mike Kolodziej	Fritz Sanders
Dick Conlin	Ken Krawczyk
Clayton Scholz	Mark Crawford
Terry Lee Lansing	Hank Semczak
Matt Hackett	Keith Lazar
Bill Sirr	Karen Hardy
Cindy Lisk	Rick Sirr
Larry Heidrich	Tom Lisk
Achilles Souvatzidis	Carol Hoffman
Senad Livadic	Andrea Hoffman

Marlese Souvatzidis	Dick Miller
Mary Sutherland	Earl Hoffman
Jilinda Molnar	Roger Sutherland
Ted Hysen	Keith Molnar
Diane Tracey	Tom Jenkins
Ray Nemeckay	John Wrosch
Mike Kay	Ed Nowak
Larry Yates	Ann Kerwin
Florence Reaume	

HONEY-WAX STATE FAIR COMPETITION WINNERS WERE:

<u>Class</u> <u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>
Display of bees and queens 2 nd .	Tom Jenkins
Section comb honey 1 st .	Dan Guthrie
Round-section comb 2 nd	Judy Schmaltz
Unfiltered white honey 3 rd .	Mike Siarkowski
Unfiltered amber honey 2 nd	Dan Guthrie
Bees wax 1 st	Judy Schmaltz
Creamed honey 2 nd	Judy Schmaltz
Extracted Langstroth combs 2 nd	Dave Barber
Extracted medium combs 2 nd	Jeff Brown
Cut-comb honey 2 nd	Dan Guthrie
Chunk honey 2 nd	Dan Guthrie
Best Display at large 2 nd	Sue Yates

SEMBA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that SEMBA welcomes the following new members, several of which joined after learning about our organization from the SEMBA web page.

Evan Butts.....	Birmingham, MI
James Casey.....	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Jeffrey Davis.....	Plymouth, MI
Gregory Evans.....	Gregory, MI
Jakob Heckert.....	Ann Arbor, MI
John Hernandez.....	Romeo, MI
Gerald Johnson.....	Willis, MI
James Johnston.....	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Steven Kinzer.....	Yale, MI
Howard/Donna Laws.....	Waterford, MI

John Piette.....Ann Arbor, MI

VITA-AFB TEST KIT

Earl Hoffman, Master Beekeeper and instructor for the SEMBA bee class, reports that the class has tested colonies for American foulbrood using the Vita-AFB test kit. Earl and the class members were pleased with the test kit. If you are interested in more information, contact Earl at (734) 427-7649 or e-mail him at honeyfarm@peoplepc.com

SEMBA TO CELEBRATE ITS 70th ANNIVERSARY (Part 2 of 2)

The 1935 WCBA minutes written by the secretary-treasurer, Walter Becker, reveal that the organization petitioned the State of Michigan to begin inspections of colonies to control American Foul Brood disease. The first Michigan State Apiary law was enacted at that time; SEMBA and other Michigan Beekeepers were prime movers in promoting that law. Walter Becker who served as secretary-treasurer of WCBC from 1935 until 1968 wrote as follows: "The Wayne County Beekeepers' Association appropriated money for years to help pay for 100% inspection. One year \$1,000 was expended. In 1935 there were 382 beekeepers in Wayne County and over 2000 hives in the city of Detroit."

On another WCBA beekeeping project, Walter Becker recalled: "On August 11, our 8th meeting was held in Cecil Blakley's hot basement. A hat was passed to help pay the expenses of our first Michigan State Fair beekeeping booth. \$13.65 was collected."

The state inspection and registration program is now history but the annual bee school and the Michigan State Fair beekeeping booth are still highly successful endeavors.

The January 19th, 1936 WCBA minutes reveal that Russ Kelty, of the Michigan Ag College (now MSU), announced that hundreds of colonies were being brought into the state and many more would follow because of the good honey locations here and freedom from American Foul Brood. Members were buying packages from the Association and buying

packages in large lots was making a few dollars for the treasury.

Since 1934 beekeepers in Southeastern Michigan have maintained a fine mutual relationship with MSU Extension Service and the Entomology Department. Russell Kelty who headed-up the MSU agriculture program from 1929 until 1949, provided a great deal of assistance to the newly formed WCBA. Dr. E.C. (Bert) Martin who began his tenure as apicultural specialist at MSU in 1950, continued to assist beekeepers in all aspects of beekeeping through 1975. Dr. Roger Hoopingarner, whose introduction to beekeeping began as a youth in Detroit, became the apicultural specialist in 1976. He retired in 1997 but continues to give valuable advice through his lectures and journal articles. Dr. Zachary Huang who became the agricultural specialist in November 1998, continues the fine tradition of apicultural research and teaching at MSU.

Helping fellow beekeepers in time of need has been an important objective of the organization. Over the years SEMBA has successfully aided several beekeepers with legal disputes. Perhaps the most publicized trial was McGregor versus Redford Township. The case began in 1971 when Hector McGregor was convicted of creating a nuisance by keeping bees in his back yard in violation of the Township Ordinance. Five years later, the Michigan Court of Appeals overturned the conviction and ruled that the keeping of bees does not constitute a nuisance. This landmark ruling set a legal precedence for the State of Michigan with respect to beekeeping.

In 1990, the SEMBA constitution was revised to include the Cranbrook Bee Club and Schoolcraft Bee Club as affiliate chapters of SEMBA. Cranbrook Bee Club was founded by Robert Byberg with assistance from Norton Williams in 1975/76. Cranbrook Bee Club members voted in 2001 to change their name to Oakland Bee Club. Schoolcraft Bee Club was started in about 1977 by Schoolcraft College faculty member Roger Sutherland.

-- Roger Sutherland September, 2003

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- **New woodenware**, assortment of honey bottles, 4-frame stainless steel motorized extractor, 25 frames 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.**
- Now taking orders for **package bees** for 2004. Bees are from Wilbank Apiaries in Georgia. They will arrive in Michigan around April 2, 2004. Book early as many people are ordering now because of the shortage of bees in 2003. **Call Dave Barber, 248-634-7017** for prices and details.
- **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**
- **Beekeeping Equipment** for Sale! For sale: Star thistle honey in 5-gallon pails. Call **Mike Siarkowski (517)-545-0824.**
- **Beekeeping equipment** for sale: Three (3) live bee hives - honey still on the hives - \$25 each, Approximately - 400 deep supers - Aluminum paint - \$3 each, Hundreds of deep frames - no wax foundation - make offer, Approximately - 80 hives - No bees - make offer. **Call Richard Blum - 734 - 587- 3868.** Farm location: 10503 Hoffman Rd. Maybee, MI 48159, House location: 7729 High Street Maybee, MI 48159.
- If you are interested in lightening your workload, Pete Raciti has **farm related hive loaders**, which he is willing to demonstrate. Please contact him at www.varsitor.com.

Wanted:

- **Beekeeping locations** for the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area wanted. **Contact Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568 or e-mail rsutherland@hotmail.com**
- Ron Rittner, 150 Elizabeth Lane, Rochester, MI wishes to have **bees placed on his land**. For details **call Ron at 248-651-1333 or 248-840-3790 (cell phone).**
- Ann Kerwin would like to **purchase a stainless steel extractor**. **Call Ann at 313-861-5760.**
- James Armstrong is looking for a **4-frame stainless steel motorized extractor**. **Call Mr. Armstrong at 734-994-6696.**
- **Honeybee location wanted:** Ann Arbor area beekeeper looking for a location to keep 1-2 hives next spring. **Please call Jon Piette at 734-332-0737 or e-mail jpiette@umich.edu.**

Note: ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad contact Susanne Sadik souxsieq2@msn.com or Roger Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934



Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



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