



SEMBA NEWS

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Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

January 2004

Upcoming Events

February 8

Schoolcraft Bee Club meeting, Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center, 2:00 P.M. (See below for details)

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SEMBA WINTER MEETING

When: Sunday, February 8, 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center

Times: Potluck dinner begins at 1:00 p.m. The business meeting begins at 2:00 p.m.

Notes: Please bring a dish to pass for the **potluck** (preferably one which includes honey as an ingredient) and your own table service.

Beverages will be provided by SEMBA. The **business meeting** at 2:00 p.m. will be held to form a State Fair Committee and adopt a budget for advertising. A **swap meet** will be held, so bring your beekeeping items for sale, silent auction, or trade. Also, a **panel** of experts (Dick Miller, Ed Nowak, Bill SIRR, and Roger Sutherland) will answer beekeeping questions. Please note, also: We hope to have a report from recent ABF meetings on the new Bioterrorism regulations that may require you to register your honey extraction operation. (See article on page 2 regarding the new regulations.)

-- Roger Sutherland

2004 MBA CALENDARS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Each year the Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) provides all MBA members a yearly calendar, which contains beekeeping information as well as the dates for upcoming meetings. These calendars are also available for purchase for \$5.00 by anyone who is interested.

Requests for calendars should be made to Mary Sutherland, rsuther@hotmail.com or 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425. Checks should be made payable to SEMBA.

SEMBA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

It is with great pleasure that SEMBA welcomes the following new members to our organization:

Clifton Evans – Gregory, MI
Bonnie Hensley – LaSalle, MI
Cindy Reinhart – Plymouth, MI
Fred Reinhart – Plymouth, MI
Deborah Taylor – Jackson, MI
Neil Taylor – Jackson, MI
David Ufford – Redford, MI
Clay Ottoni – Waterford, MI

SEMBA MOURNS DEATH OF MERRITT MARSHALL

Long-time SEMBA Life Member, Merritt Marshall of Holly, MI died on December 24, 2003 at the age of 82. He was born in Brush, Colorado and came to Michigan at an early age to live with relatives in Wixom, MI. In 1938, as a young man, Merritt obtained his first bees but sold them when he entered the service in World War II. Merritt served as a military policeman and was involved in the war-crime trials in Europe and the Philippines. After leaving the service, he and his new bride Gerry built their own home in Wixom and raised three daughters. Until his retirement, he was always employed by General Motors.

In 1971, Merritt began keeping bees again. His son-in-law, Kelly Dunlap, worked bees for Al Tennenhouse and Merritt would find out what beekeeping management they were doing and he would do the same with his bees. Over the

years, the Marshalls built up to managing 420 colonies, raising “nucs”, maintaining a Queen Yard for the Michigan Beekeepers’ Association, and experimenting with queen rearing.

In 1990, after retiring, the Marshalls moved from Wixom to Holly, MI where they constructed a new, well designed honey house and continued with the bee business.

Merritt and Gerry have been contributing members of both SEMBA and MBA for many years. Merritt served as SEMBA vice president and conducted workshops at the SEMBA Annual Bee School. In 1998 Merritt and Gerry were recipients of the MBA Beekeeper-of-the Year Award.

Merritt is survived by his wife Gerry, three daughters and several grandchildren.

-- *Roger Sutherland*

HOW WILL THE NEW BIOTERRORISM REGULATIONS IMPACT YOUR HONEY BUSINESS?

At this time there is a great deal of uncertainty regarding the new Public Health, Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Bioterrorism Act). However, we will try to summarize what we have been able to learn so far. The act was enacted to protect the public from threatened or actual terrorist attack on the U.S. food supply. The new regulations apply to all facilities that manufacture/process, pack or hold food for consumption in the United States.

The Bioterrorism Act will require many honey operations to:

- ~Register their facility with the FDA
- ~Establish and maintain records on honey, additives, and flavorings
- ~Make a record available to the FDA on short notice
- ~Understand detention rules
- ~Give prior notice of imported shipments

The following article from the November/December 2003 American Beekeeping Federation Newsletter (written by Troy Fore) includes his opinion as well as details to consider when making your decision about registering.

-- *Roger Sutherland*

MOST IN HONEY INDUSTRY MUST REGISTER UNDER FDA BIOTERRORISM RULES

Compliance with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Rules on the new Food Bioterrorism Act may require virtually all honey industry facilities to be registered. The deadline for registration was Dec. 12, 2003, but FDA is not yet enforcing the registration deadline, opting for a period of education.

Registration information will help FDA to determine the location and source of associated facilities in the event of a potential or actual bioterrorism incident of an outbreak of food-borne illness.

When determining who must register, keep in mind that the key word is “facility,” which is defined as an establishment or structure that manufactures/ processes, packs, or holds food for human or animal consumption in the United States. The owner or operator of a covered facility must register that facility.

Here are some important points for the honey industry:

~ Exemptions include farms, private residences, and retailers.

~Honey producers are exempt as farmers, but it appears that the activity of extracting honey is encompassed by manufacturing or processing and beekeepers who extract honey must register. A honey producer who pulls off supers of honey delivers them to another person to extract probably is not required to register.

~Processing encompasses packaging, which includes placing food into a container that the consumer receives; so, clearly, producer-packers who pack honey into consumer-sized containers must register.

~A private residence is not a facility; so, a small beekeeper who packs honey in his kitchen or attached garage is not required to register. However, a detached building would not qualify under the residence exemption.

~A retailer is an establishment that sells to consumers as its primary function. A beekeeper operating a roadside stand could come under this exemption, if his primary food function is to sell at retail.

~Businesses are not considered consumers for this purpose.

~A facility is exempt from registering only if all of its activities are included in one or more

exemptions. Any non-exempt use of the facility means that the facility must be registered.

-- Roger Sutherland

The information needed to register is fairly straightforward: name, address, owner's name, etc. The one bit of information which may be unknown to beekeepers is the General Product Category for honey to be listed Section 11a on the form. Honey does not appear to be included in any of the 36 numbered categories; so Item No. 37 "None of the Above" seems to be the correct response.

FDA strongly encourages registration via internet at www.fda.gov/furls. The process is expected to take about 15 minutes. There is a tutorial on the website and an online help desk. There are also links to Frequently Asked Questions, a Fact Sheet, and the actual rule. There is no charge for registration.

A paper registration form may be obtained from FDA by calling 800-216-7331 or 301-575-0156 or by mail from U.S. Food and Drug Administration, HFS-681, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857.

-- Troy Fore

Editor's Note: Paper registration forms and a booklet on the regulations published by the National Honey Board will be available at the February 8, 2004 SEMBA meeting.

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR 66TH ANNUAL SEMBA BEESCHOOL AT SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Mark your calendar now for the 66th Annual SEMBA Bee School to be held on Saturday, March 20, 2004. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Schoolcraft College Waterman Center. The cost of registration is \$10.00 per individual and \$15.00 per family. (No preregistration is required.)

Major speakers include Dr. Gard Otis, University of Guelph and Dr. Zachary Huang, Michigan State University. Sessions during the daylong program are designed for all beekeepers or anyone interested in honeybees.

We welcome SEMBA members to help with this event, so contact Keith Lazar at 248-815-5522 or keithmlazar@hotmail.com if you wish to volunteer.

The March 2004 SEMBA Newsletter will include the complete program plus other bee school details. Also, the program will be posted on the SEMBA web page-<http://www.sembabees.org>

SEMBA MEMBER NAMED TO NATIONAL HONEY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

On December 15, 2003 Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the appointments of 14 members to the National Honey Nominations Committee. Terms start immediately and end on June 30, 2006. This committee nominates individuals for appointments to the National Honey Board.

One of the 14 appointed members is SEMBA member Mary E. Klein of St. Charles, MI. The Klein family operates a beekeeping business supplying glassware to beekeepers and bottled honey to Meijer's stores throughout Michigan and the adjacent states.

The Honey Board administers the industry-funded national research, promotion, and consumer information program designed to increase demand for honey and honey products in the United States and abroad.

-- Roger Sutherland

WHY ARE HONEY PRODUCERS NOT EXEMPT AS FARMERS?

Honey producers would likely meet the farm exception if it were not for the activity of extracting honey. We believe honey extraction will be considered processing. Thus beekeepers that extract must register and comply with these regulations. So have you registered? If not call 1-800-216-7331 for a copy of the registration form. Dial "O" for yes. It was due December 12, 2003. You may now be in violation of the law. This is something else to think about in 2004, happy beekeeping.

-- Bill Sirr

NEW SEMBA NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

The SEMBA Executive Board has approved a revised newsletter schedule for 2004.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Events covered</u>
Jan. Feb.	January 15 February 15	Feb. SEMBA Meeting SEMBA Bee School MSU/ANR Week
Mar.- Apr.	March 15	Oakland and Schoolcraft Bee Club Meetings

May-June	May 30	June queen-rearing workshop and July
<u>Issue</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Events covered</u>
July-Aug.	August 15	State Fair and SEMBA picnic, planning meeting, Schoolcraft planning meeting
Sept.-Oct.	September 15	Oakland and Schoolcraft Bee Club Meetings
Nov.-Dec.	Nov. 15	Oakland, December and January meetings

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- For Sale: New deep and medium **supers, frames, bottom boards**, inner and outer **covers** and NEW 1 and 5 **gallon buckets with lids**. Please call **Keith Lazar (H) 248-626- 2483 (P) 248-815-5522**
- **Package Bees** from Georgia arriving in Roseville, MI in April 2004. **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 Aril 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.
- **Dark brood combs** containing 5 pounds of capped honey. Ready for feeding packages. **Call Alex Bzenko at 248-651-0928.**
- **Beeswax** for sale, **call Nancy Bohlen, 734-459-2195.**

Wanted:

- George Melcher, 4527 7 Mile Rd., South Lyon, MI would like **bees placed on his property**. **Call George at 248-437-8291.**
- Tom Ellis, 17511 Pleasant Lake Road (@M52) is looking for someone to **place bees on his land**. For more information please call **Tom at 517-536-5184.**
- Deb Lentz is located near the Ann Arbor area and wishes to have **bees placed on her property**, please contact **Deb at: tantrefarm@hotmail.com.**
- Lamb Farms is very interested in having **bees placed on their land**, please call **Lamb Farms at 734-428-8634.**

Note: ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Susanne at souxsieq2@msn.com, or phone 248-476-4991 or Roger Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934



Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership
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