



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 15 Number 1 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
January/February 2005

## Upcoming Events

### Oakland Bee Club Meeting:

Tues., January 11, 2005. (See below for details.)

### Seven Ponds Bee Club Meeting:

Tues., January 27, 2005. (See below for details.)

### SEMBA Winter Meeting:

Sun., February 13, 2005 (See below for details.)

### Seven Ponds Bee Club Meeting:

Tues., February 22, 2005. (See below for details.)

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## OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

**When:** Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Township, MI.

### Refreshments are welcome

**Program:** "Use of Michigan Native Plants to Enhance Biological Control and to Increase Pollination and Plant Nectar" Anna Fieder, MA Graduate Student MSU Entomology Department.

## SEMBA WINTER MEETING

**When:** Sunday, February 13, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI, between 6 Mile Road and 7 Mile Road.

**Potluck:** 1:30 p.m. bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Beverages will be provided by SEMBA.

**Program:** 3:00 p.m. New Michigan State Fair honey competition rules reviewed.

\* Preview of 67<sup>th</sup> Annual SEMBA Beekeepers' Conference.

\* SEMBA past Presidents honored. (February is President's month, so we think it is appropriate to recognize and honor those individuals who formerly served as SEMBA presidents.)

## SEVEN PONDS BEE CLUB MEETING

Seven Ponds Bee Club, now officially an affiliate chapter of SEMBA, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each

month at the Seven Ponds Nature Center located on 3854 Crawford Road near Dryden, MI. The club maintains two colonies at the Nature Center and uses hive manipulation as a part of their monthly program during the warmer months.

Call Nancy Schliebe, 810-395-7379, for additional information.

## MBA CALENDARS FOR SALE

The 2005 MBA calendars that are distributed free to all MBA members are available for sale for \$5.00 each plus postage of \$1.00 if they are mailed. These calendars contain meeting dates for the various beekeeping organizations as well as information about beekeeping. Requests for calendars should be made to: Mary Sutherland, 5488 Warren Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425, phone 734-668-8568 or e-mail [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com).

## SEMBA DUES REMINDER

If the mailing label on this newsletter denotes an N04, this will be the last issue you will receive unless a dues payment is made. Enclosed is a membership form for your convenience. Checks should be made payable to: SEMBA and sent to the SEMBA treasurer at 5488 Warren Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425.

## POTLUCK LEFTOVERS

At the SEMBA potluck held on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004 a decorative stainless steel fork and a white Corning dinner plate were not taken home by their owners. If either of these items is missing from your collection, please call 734-668-8568 or e-mail [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com)

## BLANCHE BARBER'S LETTER TO BEEKEEPERS

"I just wanted to take a moment and say Thank You to everyone who helped us this summer with the bees and for all of the cards and prayers. I really appreciate it.

"I also wanted to let everyone know that my family and I are taking over the bees. We will continue to produce and supply honey.

"I am taking orders for honey bees and queens. My pick-up date at Wilbank's Apiaries in Georgia is April 12, 2005. Please get your orders in. If you have any questions, call 218-634-7017."

~ Blanche Barber

## STATE FAIR HONEY COMPETITION CHANGES FOR 2005

At the October 17<sup>th</sup> SEMBA Annual Meeting, there was considerable discussion about the honey-beeswax competition at the 2004 State Fair.

Increasing the number of people who enter and a fairer allocation of prize money were a few of the issues debated.

Bill SIRR volunteered to contact the State Fair officials to see if we can change the system for competing with honey products to allow for multiple entries in the same categories. On November 8, 2004 Dan and Joyce Guthrie, Dick Miller and Roger Sutherland met with Rod Jordan, head of the Michigan State Fair Agriculture Section and Marian Thuma, secretary. (Bill SIRR was unable to attend because of an unexpected commitment.)

At the onset of the meeting, we were informed that SEMBA would not be able to enter honey products as a group as we have done in the past. Auditors for MDA say that entries can only be by individuals and not by a group. Each individual must complete an entry form and pay a \$10 entry fee. With this registration, the individual can enter any number of honey-beeswax categories as well as other items listed in the Agriculture Section of the fair book.

SEMBA will still be able to have a booth for beekeeping education maintained by members as in the past. SEMBA will buy the parking pass for our members to use.

One of the concerns expressed by SEMBA was the need for additional display space. Mr. Jordan assured us that additional space would be provided.

Mr. Jordan asked us to review the twelve categories listed in the honey-beeswax competition and to suggest changes in prize money, number of items or poundage required for each category, new categories to include such as educational displays by individuals, and a producer display for best-of-show.

The SEMBA committee will be meeting soon to discuss these possible changes, so if you have any suggestions please notify, Dan/Joyce Guthrie, Ann Kerwin, Dick Miller, Bill SIRR, Roger Sutherland or Dyanne Tracy.

February 1, 2005 is the deadline for submission of changes to the Michigan Department of Agriculture State Fair people for inclusion in the 2005 Fair Book.

Please send us your comments.

~ Roger Sutherland

### CLEANING BEESWAX CAPPINGS

By Bill SIRR (Source: a 1975 SEMBA Newsletter)

First quality always brings the high dollar, and so it should. The extra effort is worth a little extra. So it is with beeswax. For the small operator, the solar

furnace is a must, even if only one hive is involved. A solar furnace is inexpensive and simple to make. I have found it to be an easy and inexpensive way to get that clean wax by melting the cappings in a nylon stocking or panty hose.

After the cappings have drained on their own, I put them into a nylon hose, place it in a tub of water for a quick rinse, and hang it up to dry. The dried cappings-filled stocking is placed in the solar furnace. The wash water is then fed back to the bees. Wax left to be robbed out sometimes isn't, and the bees get trapped inside the ball or mound of wax. I usually find them when I take the wax apart.

To fill the nylon stocking, I use a paper tube 3 inches in diameter. These tubes come inside some paper rolls and are about 3 feet long. I cut off six to nine inches of the paper tube and pull the hose up over it until the toe is reached. Then I fill the tube with wax giving it a little shake from time to time. This will cause the hose to pull free of the tube now full of beeswax. This process is repeated until I run out of beeswax or nylon hose. This leg of wax is placed (after rinsing and drying) into the solar furnace. On a good sunny day, the leg will be emptied of wax and will hold the debris. A short piece of plastic drainpipe is even better than the paper tube for filling the stocking.

If your wax is placed in the solar furnace full of honey, the honey will run out first and fill the bottom of your mold. It can be poured off and the wax washed and allowed to dry.

Beeswax has many uses other than foundation and candles. It is a fine lubricant for wood and will help loosen rusted bolts. Put a little on your iron for easier ironing.

### SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2004

President Ron Forfinski called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m. after the potluck meal. All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A total of 34 members signed in.

Ann Kerwin read the minutes of the February 8, 2004 winter meeting. It was Moved & Seconded to approve. Approved as read. Mary Sutherland read the treasurer's report. Moved & seconded to approve. Approved.

Keith Lazar read the list of State Fair winners: Display of bees & queens (Observation hive) – Tom Jenkins; Dick Miller – back-up hive; Amber extracted honey – Dan Guthrie; Round section comb honey – Dan Guthrie; White extracted honey – Kynis Maynor; Beeswax – Dyanne Tracy; Chunk honey – Judy Schmaltz; Cut comb honey – Dan Guthrie; Comb honey – Dan Guthrie; Overall exhibit (backboard) – Andrea Hoffman; Creamed honey – Dyanne Tracy; Deep Langstroth extracted comb – Earl Hoffman; Shallow Langstroth extracted comb – Ed Nowak.

The SEMBA Treasurer reports that as of December 1, 2004 the money for premiums has not been received from the State.

Bill SIRR said the State Fair is scheduled for the same time frame next year and that this early date is a problem for beekeepers as well as farmers. Bill will meet with MDA folks in Lansing to see if we can change the system for competing with honey products to allow for multiple entries in the same categories.

Nancy Schliebe spoke about the request of her organization, Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club, to affiliate with SEMBA. The group meets at the Seven Ponds Nature Center in Dryden, Michigan, north of Oxford. It was Moved and Seconded to approve Chapter status for Seven Ponds. There was further discussion, then unanimous approval. It was Moved and Seconded that we change our constitution as follows: Article 3; Membership, section 2, will read: Oakland Beekeepers' Club, Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club and Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club shall be known as Chapters of SEMBA with all rights and privileges. Article 3. Section 3 will read: Oakland Beekeepers' Club, Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club and Seven Ponds Beekeeper's Club retain their autonomous status for election of officers, scheduling meetings, programs and other activities. The changes were approved unanimously.

Ron Forfinski conducted election of officers. Ann Kerwin read the report of the Nominating Committee. The committee recommended for the post of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – Keith Lazar; for Treasurer – Mary Sutherland; for Representative to the MBA – John Hernandez; and for Historian – Dick Miller. There were no further nominations and the entire recommended slate was elected.

Under unfinished business, Jerry Dunbar had some comments on the honey rules. It was pointed out that SEMBA is trying to get exemptions for beekeepers that harvest less than 700 lbs., and the guidelines for Michigan honey processors are evolving.

The November newsletter had an article about the Fremont Area Community Foundation which matches individual memorial gift donations \$1 for \$1 up to \$500 per donor household per year. It was Moved and Seconded that SEMBA would contribute \$500.00 in memory of David Barber to the Foundation earmarked for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association endowment fund. Approved. Individuals may also contribute.

Roger Sutherland thanked our Webmaster, Tom Lisk, for his work in putting 144 names on a list for e-mail notices. It means that the entire list will receive the notice, but each person receives one with only his or her name as addressee, not the whole list of members. Thank you, Tom.

There was a discussion of the need for a teacher for the beekeeping class because Earl Hoffman may not take it on next year. Keith Lazar will contact Earl and see where we stand. The question of spring bee

shipments is not clear at this time. Shaun Shubel of Sweet Nectar Apiaries may be making a trip to Georgia to transport bees. Shaun gave us an informative half hour summary of his operation in Howell. He also spoke of beekeepers working together, cooperatively. There have been suggestions that beekeepers create an alliance.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

~ Submitted by Ann Kerwin, secretary

## THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF BEEKEEPING

1. Thou shall not work the bees without proper protection or equipment lest thou suffer unduly for thy carelessness.
2. Thou shall not feed thy supers to the wax moth while storing thy equipment in thy garage, shed or elsewhere.
3. Thou shall not buy thy wife (or non beekeeping spouse) an extractor for Christmas or anniversary lest thou incur the wrath of thy helpmate and have to extract thy crop without help.
4. Thou shall not steal the honey that rightfully belongs to the bees.
5. Thou shall not lie about thy crop, thy bees nor anything else about thy beekeeping for all reports are taken with considerable grains of salt anyway.
6. Thou shall control bee disease lest thy days in beekeeping be numbered and of much anguish.
7. Thou shall provide adequate top entrance for good moisture control lest the bees be overcome of the flood.
8. Thou shall check and feed thy bees in the severe winter that they may have the joy of working the first crocuses of the spring.
9. Thou shall register thy bees lest thou be cast in the inner darkness of the dungeon.
10. Thou shall prepare and be ready for any bee sting emergency lest the joy of beekeeping be marred with sadness.

~ Robert Byberg M.D. 1/84 (submitted by Bill SIRR)

### SEMBA Bargain Corner

#### For Sale:

- Package bees from Georgia scheduled to arrive in Roseville, MI, April 2005. If interested **call Jerry Dunbar, 586-770-9953 or e-mail [geraldldunbar@hotmail.com](mailto:geraldldunbar@hotmail.com).**
- For sale: Dadant plastic uncapping tub comp. pd \$85.95 plus shipping. Selling for \$70.00. **Contact Bill Jaddatz, 734-753-4353.**
- For sale: manual, four-frame stainless steel extractor for sale or trade for honey. **Contact Mary Bacz, 248-685-9015.**
- For sale: Honey in 60 lb. Containers, \$1.60 per lb. Please **call Donna Laws, 248-698-6908.**
- For sale: Light amber honey in 60 lb. Containers. Please call **Mike Siarkowski, 517-545-0824.**
- For sale: 6 5/8 medium supers with drawn comb, good condition. **Call Dick Gerathy, 313-533-2617 or e-mail [djbeekeeper@msn.com](mailto:djbeekeeper@msn.com).**
- Shallow supers with frames. New frames not assembled. **Call Remus Pascu, 734-665-4049.**

#### Services:

- Honey bee removal service. **Call Jeff Brown, 734-422-0296.**

#### Wanted:

- Wanted: Power extractor and de-capper. **Contact Bill Andre, by phone 248-651-0522 or by e-mail, [Wandre225836@comcast.net](mailto:Wandre225836@comcast.net).**
- Wanted: small used motorized extractor. **Call James Armstrong, 734-473-4187.**
- Wanted: used extractor. **Call Ted Hysen, 734-878-6792.**

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

Southeastern Michigan  
Beekeepers' Association  
*Organized April 1, 1934*



Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership  
5488 Warren Road  
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