



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 16 Number 7 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
October 2006

Upcoming Events:

Oakland Bee Club:

Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

SEMBA Annual Meeting:

Sunday, October 15, 2006, 1:30 p.m.

Seven Ponds Bee Club:

Tuesday, October 24, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Michigan Beekeepers' Association Annual Meeting at Midland Michigan

October 27-28

Schoolcraft Bee Club,

November 14, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Seven Ponds Bee Club

November 28, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Oakland Bee Club

Tuesday, December 5, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Program: "Pollination and a Review of Some of the Honey Plants" by Sue Yates

A refractometer will be available to check the moisture content of your newly extracted honey. A color grader will also be available.

Refreshments are welcome

SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, October 15, 2006

Where: Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI

Please note!! Park in the north parking lot. If the entrance to the VisTaTech Center is locked, use the lower entrance to the Lower Waterman Center. (Directions to the Lower Waterman will be posted on the door of the VisTaTech Center.)

Potluck: 1:30 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee and tea will be provided by SEMBA.

Business Meeting: 2:30 p.m. Election of officers for nominees as listed: 1st vice president, Winn Harless; Treasurer, Mary Sutherland; Historian, Ron Forfinski. Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Program: 3:00 p.m. "Women in Beekeeping" by Ann Harman, a well known Master Beekeeper from Virginia who is a regular contributor to *Bee Culture* magazine. Ann is an officer in the Eastern Apiculture Society and has been an active member in EAS for more than 25 years.

MBA ANNUAL MEETING

October 27 & 28, 2006 – Valley Plaza, Midland, MI. Guest Speakers will be Kirk Webster, of Middlebury, VT, author of the article "Commercial Beekeeping Without Treatments of Any Kind" published in ABJ, March and April 2006, and Rob Green, Indiana Beekeeping School, Inc ... For additional information access:

<http://michiganbees.org/beekeepersconf.htm>

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OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

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

SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Schoolcraft College, Lower
Waterman Center, 18600 Haggerty
Road, Livonia, MI

Program: "A Review and Critique of the
Honey House Regulations" by Susan
Trombley, Michigan Department of
Agriculture, Food and Dairy Division.

"New State Fair Honey-Beeswax
Competition Changes" by the SEMBA
state fair committee.

Refreshments are welcome

Program Note:

It has been over a year since the honey house guidelines and requirements for beekeepers were published. This has given the MDA Food and Dairy Division and beekeepers time to test the new guidelines and assess their effectiveness.

At this meeting, the MDA, Food and Dairy Division representative will share with the beekeepers any problems or concerns they have about the new regulations. Also, beekeepers will be able to add their concerns and ask questions regarding the requirements. This meeting may lead to needed changes if warranted.

SEVEN PONDS BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, October 24, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 28, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Seven Ponds Nature Center, 3854
Crawford Road near Dryden, MI.

MICHIGAN STATE FAIR – 2006

During the Michigan State Fair, held August 21 to September 4, more than fifty volunteers helped maintain SEMBA's educational booth. A partial list of helpers was published in the September newsletter. Additional volunteers added during the fair were: the Barber family, Robert Handley, Larry Yates, Marcy Palmer, Alfred and Barbara Lupercio, Ed and Ada Nowak, Achille and Marlese Souvatzidis, Jim Tittsworth, and Cindy and Tom Lisk.

Bill Sirr and Ann Kerwin, the principal coordinators of the state fair booth say, "We would like to thank all who helped at the fair this year. A special thanks to those who helped on a moment's notice, helped several times or just

stopped by to lend a helping hand. The fairgoers seemed to enjoy learning about the bees and honey as much as SEMBA members enjoyed telling about them. Again, thank you one and all".

HOW I GOT STARTED IN BEEKEEPING

For the past year, SEMBA has video taped over 20 members telling their stories of how they got started in beekeeping. Some were taped in their home setting while others were taped at bee club meetings. Each person had an interesting story to tell.

We invite you to send us a short (3-5 minute) video tape telling us how you got started in beekeeping and something about your beekeeping operation. If you could use your hives or honey house as a video background that would make it more interesting.

The Schoolcraft College audio visual department has agreed to provide captions and will produce a finished video or DVD that will be available at a low cost. If interested, send your video to Roger Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

WINTERING HONEY BEE COLONIES

Now is the time to begin preparations for success in over-wintering your colonies. Below are a few tips by Roger Hoopgarner, modified by SEMBA editors.

- 1) A large population is most important for wintering success. Fall re-queening helps produce more "winter" bees. Combine two weak colonies into one and then split in the spring.
- 2) Have 60-90 pounds of honey stores or about one full-depth super full of honey. Larger amounts will give more heat buffer.
- 3) Control nosema disease with Fumidil B in syrup feed.
- 4) Tracheal and Varroa mite control is necessary for good survival. Get a varroa count before treating.
- 5) Wrapping colonies will aid in survival. Two and four colony wraps are more economical of material and heat.
- 6) Upper entrance is important for winter flights and moisture/CO2 escape.
- 7) Late winter feeding may be necessary. Examine colonies in mid to late January. Cluster at inner cover may be a sign of trouble (see candy board recipe below).

SEMBA OFFICERS AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

President---Keith Lazar ----- 248-626-2483
Past President---Ron Forfinski --- 810-220-1084
1st Vice Presiden Judy Schmaltz - 248-627-4556
2nd Vice President---Ted Hysen --- 734-878-6792
Secretary---Susanne Sadik ----- 248-476-4991
Treasurer---Mary Sutherland ----- 734-668-8568
Historian ---
Representative to MBA—John Hernandez
586-336-9706

(Chapter Presidents)

Oakland - Larry Yates -----248-649-5078
Seven Ponds-Terry Toland----- 248-421- 6601
Schoolcraft - Roger Sutherland--- 734-668-8568

SEMBA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The many SEMBA activities including monthly meetings, Michigan State Fair beekeeping booth, annual beekeeping conference, SEMBA newsletters and web site require volunteers to help share the work load.

Many of our current leaders have held positions for many years and need to have replacements or assistance.

Please consider volunteering for one of the following:

Running for a SEMBA office_____

Working on a SEMBA committee

- Program_____
- Michigan State Fair _____
- Auditing_____
- Beekeeping conference_____
- Nominating_____

Being a representative to the MBA_____

Other_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

Phone_____

E-mail_____

Send to Keith Lazar, 30900 Clubhouse Lane,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-1125 or e-mail to:
Keithlmlazar@hotmail.com

NOVEMBER 06 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE

If your mailing label denotes N06, your membership will soon expire. Please complete the enclosed membership renewal form and send with your check to the address listed on the form.

SEMBA NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL?

If you would prefer to receive your SEMBA Newsletters by electronic mail, please contact Mary Sutherland, SEMBA membership chair at: rsuther@hotmail.com or call 734-668-8568.

If you have moved, please send your change of address to Mary Sutherland at 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425.

EQUIPMENT MAKING CLASS BEING CONSIDERED

SEMBA member Winn Harless, a master at constructing beekeeping equipment, has offered to conduct a winter class for new beekeepers who wish to learn more about constructing their own telescoping and inner covers, bottom boards, etc.

Any interest should be directed to Winn Harless, 9859 Lilley Rd., Plymouth, MI, 48170 or by telephone, 734-453-2914

CANDY BOARD RECIPE

The formula for making candy boards for winter feeding is as follows:

15 lbs. sugar
3 lbs. white corn syrup
4 cups water
½ tsp. cream of tartar

Dissolve the sugar in water and stir while heating the mixture to 240 degrees F. Let the syrup cool to about 180 degrees F., then beat until thickened and pour into the board to harden. Once the candy is hardened, the boards can be put onto the colony candy side down over the top frames. Some beekeepers pour the candy into waxpaper-lined molds and then put these blocks of candy on the frames while the inner cover is placed with the deep side down over them. These blocks, therefore, should be no thicker than the depth of the inner cover rim.

~ Roger Hoopingarner

MORE ON "BEES IN AMERICA"

Part three

In the last newsletter we included segments from "*Bees In America*" by Tammy Horn, featuring Charles Dadant and Walter Kelley. In this issue, the author, describes how the Katrina-like disaster in 1927 affected the area from Illinois to the Gulf of Mexico.

(Paraphrasing from "*Bees in America*")

Floods on the Mississippi

The 1927 flood wasn't just any flood. From Cairo, Illinois, to the Gulf of Mexico and from New Orleans to Washington D.C., all across the area the 1927 flood left a watermark. When the waters receded the remaining vestiges of King Cotton had washed down the river taking most of the beehives with it.

The magazine entitled *The Beekeepers Item* reported that the loss of beehives was devastating but the loss of marketing package bees, may have been of more importance. "Many northern buyers sent their money south and if the apiarist has his holdings swept away, or bees cannot be shipped, with rail service destroyed, it is a problem for the buyer and the seller".

Nine-tenths of the commercial beekeeping in Louisiana was wiped out. Beekeepers in other states responded to the Louisiana state entomologist appeal to send money, materials and bees. The beekeepers responded in many ways: some commandeered boats to rescue hives and equipment before it was washed out to sea; the American Railway Express donated free transport of materials: hives, log gums, bees in every type of package and container came in huge numbers. A Great Camp was established near New Orleans where bees, queens and all those things needed to rebuild beekeeping was gathered together. In six months time most of the beekeepers had their apiaries ready for spring.

Unlike today, the beekeepers themselves took the initiative to restore their industry rather than depend upon the U.S. Government for federal assistance.

BARGAIN CORNER

Dancing Crane Honey Farm is a not-for profit business in Ann Arbor. If you give us your beeswax, we will turn it into candles for sale and give all of the profits to charity . Even small amounts of wax will be appreciated . Contact Joanne Kimata or John Piette at 734-332-0737 or jakimata@earthlink.net

If you have bulk honey (example 5 gallon pails) to sell or purchase from other SEMBA members, contact Roger Sutherland, rsuther@hotmail.com or call 734-668-8568.

Purchasing light colored beeswax –large or small amounts, call Bill Schnute at 810-796-2344 or e-mail (preferred) mail@honeyflowfarm.com

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

Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
5488 Warren Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Organized April 1, 1934 48105-9425
Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club



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