



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 16 Number 8 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
November - December 2006

OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: E. L. Johnson Nature Center,
3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Township, MI.

Program: "The Hive and the Honey Bee"
and
"Wintering Your Bees"

Speaker: Roger Hoopingarner, Ph.D.

Dr. Hoopingarner will speak about his book entitled *The Hive and the Honey Bee Revisited* which is an annotated update of L.L. Langstroth's beekeeping classic. Autographed copies of this book will be available at the meeting. The cost is \$13.75.

Refreshments are welcome

A THANK YOU FROM THE E.L. JOHNSON NATURE CENTER

E.L. Johnson Nature Center is operated by the Bloomfield Hills Schools. The SEMBA treasurer recently received the following letter:

October 13, 2006

I want to thank you and the SEMBA organization for the generous \$100.00 donation that you made to the E.L. Johnson Nature Center. We are planning to operate a new observation beehive in our Visitor Center in the Spring and can use your donation to help get that ready.

On behalf of the staff and school district, we thank you again for your kindness.

Bloomfield Hills Schools
Daniel Badgley
Manager, E.L. Johnson Nature Center

COOPERATIVE HONEY HOUSE BEING CONSIDERED

SEMBA member Charlie Hartwig of Clinton Township, Macomb County, is developing plans to build a Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) approved cooperative honey house.

He is inviting SEMBA members in his area to participate in the planning, construction and use of the extraction facility.

He would like to begin construction in Spring 2007 and is seeking input regarding size, type of construction, pole vs other designs, security features and other building considerations.

The MDA Food and Dairy Division is encouraging cooperative honey houses (Central Kitchens). A special section was included for Central Kitchens when the Michigan beekeepers worked out the Honey House Guidelines and Requirements with MDA in 2004-05, and it reads as follows:

"Cooperative Honey Houses (Central Kitchens)" As a cooperative honey house, multiple processors can use the licensed facility. The processors that use the facility are not required to obtain a license. Accurate records of members using the facility will be kept. From time to time, MDA will examine the production records to verify that honey found in commerce was actually produced at the cooperative.

If you are interested call Charlie at 586-783-3216 or E-mail: charlie_hartwig@yahoo.com

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK DESIGNATED BY U.S. SENATE

109th CONGRESS
2d Session

S. RES. 580 Recognizing the importance of pollinators to ecosystem health and agriculture in the United States and the value of partnership efforts to increase awareness about pollinators and support for protecting and sustaining pollinators by designating June 24 through June 30, 2007, as 'National Pollinator Week'.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
September 21, 2006 Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of pollinators to ecosystem health and agriculture in the United States and the value of partnership efforts to increase awareness about pollinators and support for protecting and sustaining pollinators by designating June 24 through June 30, 2007, as 'National Pollinator Week'.

Whereas bees, butterflies, and other pollinator species have a critically important role in agriculture in the United States and help to produce a healthy and affordable food supply and sustain ecosystem health;

Whereas pollinators help to produce an estimated 1 out of every 3 bites of food consumed in the United States and to reproduce at least 80 percent of flowering plants;

Whereas commodities produced in partnership with animal pollinators generate significant income for agricultural producers, with domestic honeybees alone pollinating an estimated \$14,600,000,000 worth of crops in the United States each year produced on more than 2,000,000 acres;

Whereas it is in the strong economic interest of agricultural producers and consumers in the United States to help ensure a healthy, sustainable pollinator population;

Whereas possible declines in the health and population of pollinators pose what could be a significant threat to global food webs, the integrity of biodiversity, and human health;

Whereas the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, managed by the Co-evolution Institute, is a tri-national, cooperative conservation, public-private collaboration of individuals from nearly 140 diverse stakeholder groups, including concerned landowners and managers, conservation and environmental groups, scientists, private businesses, and government agencies; and

Whereas the Pollinator Partnership™ web site (<http://www.pollinator.org>) has been created as the source for pollinator information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NORTH AMERICAN POLLINATOR APPRECIATION WEEK.

The Senate--

- (1) recognizes the partnership role that pollinators play in agriculture and healthy ecosystems;
- (2) applauds the cooperative conservation collaborative efforts of participants in the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign to increase awareness about the important role of pollinators and to build support for protecting and sustaining pollinators;
- (3) designates June 24 through 30, 2007, as 'National Pollinator Week'; and
- (4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

104 YEAR-OLD NAMED AMERICA'S OLDEST WORKER

Washington....

Thinking about retiring?

Waldo McBurney of Quinter, Kan., isn't. In fact, the 104-year-old has just been honored as America's oldest worker by [Experience Works](#), a

group that provides training and employment services for seniors.

A 1927 graduate of Kansas State Agricultural College, which is now Kansas State University, McBurney had a nearly 25-year career in agriculture. He now works as a beekeeper. In the last few years he's maintained as many as 100 colonies.

But that's just part of his story. McBurney began long-distance running at 65, and running competitively at 75. At age 80, he set a Kansas state record for the 10-mile run for runners his age and went on to set records in running, long jump, discus and shot-put into his 90s and 100s at the Senior Olympics.

Retirement? McBurney said, "I can't find it in my Bible."

INFANT BOTULISM AND HONEY

Medical research has led doctors to conclude that one cause of so-called "crib death" or "sudden infant death syndrome" may in fact be due to infant botulism (food poisoning). A number of public health officials now believe there may be many unrecognized cases of this disease each year, and honey has been implicated as a cause in a few. Symptoms vary from mild to severe, but there have been now cases found in children over 26 weeks old.

Botulism spores are found everywhere in nature. They are not harmful themselves, but in the absence of oxygen the spores germinated and a powerful poison is produced. Any raw agricultural product might cause botulism poisoning.

Although honey has been blamed as a source of spores in a few infant botulism cases, some medical officials are not totally convinced about its role in the disease. Center for Disease Control (CDC) has stated that the data are not yet strong enough for the CDC to issue a warning about honey,

The individual beekeeper can do little except be prepared to responsibly answer questions about infant botulism and honey. In all conscience he/she probably should refrain from advocating the use of honey in the feeding of infants less than one year old.

A white paper entitled "Honey in Relation to Infant Botulism," by E. M. Foster is available from the National Honey Board, 421 21st Ave., No. 203, Longmont, CO 80501-1421.

~Malcolm T. Sanford, Professor, Univ. of Fla.

SEMBABEES.ORG WEB SITE UPDATE

The SEMBA Web site, with Tom Lisk as webmaster, continues to be an import aspect of the organization's activities providing beekeeping information and service to beekeepers. Here are a few facts:

- ❑ 39 new members have joined SEMBA using the on-line membership application.
- ❑ More "Bargain Corner" items are now listed.
- ❑ The new Photo Gallery shows SEMBA

members engaged in a variety of beekeeping activities.

- ❑ The number of swarm-removal calls (May 1- June 30) to the SEMBA contacts showed a sharp increase. We still need more contact references for swarm removal.
- ❑ Requests for the booklet, "Starting and Keeping Bees in Michigan, Information and Suggestions for the Beginning Beekeeper", continue to come in. Most of the original copies printed have been sold and SEMBA is now making a profit on sales.
- ❑ The three pages visited most often during September 2006 were:
 - Bees in a wall ---- 384 hits
 - Bargain Corner -- 134 hits
 - Honey Bee Biology – 112 hits

MINUTES OF THE SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING AT SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE – OCTOBER 15, 2006

President Keith Lazar opened the meeting at 2:30pm.

Mary Sutherland read the treasurer's report for the period from October 1, 2005 to Sept.30, 2006. The balance on Sept.30 was \$6051.08. The records were audited by Fritz Sanders.

Bill Sirr and Fritz Sanders reported on the State Fair. Eleven people submitted entries. There was discussion of criteria for submitting and judging entries. Ann Harman offered to send score sheet materials to SEMBA to help in our talks with the Fair officials.

Keith Lazar reported that Susanne Sadik has resigned as secretary. He asked for nominees to fill the vacancy and Mary Hobart was suggested. She accepted the nomination.

Roger Sutherland said we need to order more books on "Starting & Keeping Bees in Michigan". It was MOVED & SECONDED to order 200 books.

At the State Fair we had copies of a tabloid called "The Mini Page" published by the Saginaw News. It is four pages entitled "To Be a Honeybee". They cost 3 cents each. It was MOVED & SECONDED to order 2000 copies.

Keith conducted the Election of Officers. In even numbered years SEMBA elects 1st Vice-President, Treasurer, and Historian to two-year terms. In odd numbered years, we elect President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Representative to the MBA to two-year terms. Keith read the names of the nominees: 1st Vice-President - Winn Harless, Treasurer - Mary Sutherland, Secretary - Mary Hobart (for a one-year term) and Historian -Ron Forfinski. He asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. It was MOVED & SECONDED to vote for the 4 officers together. A unanimous voice vote was cast.

Bee School Instructor Ed Nowak and Ann Harman presented certificates to Bee School Graduates. Two graduates were not present. Certificates were given to Lisa Bashert, Misty Funk, J.T.Garfield, Mary Hobart,

Brian Neumeyer, Joe Pastorek, Steve Weber and Mack Clausel.

Our guest speaker, Ann Harman, spoke about "Women in Beekeeping".

~Submitted by Ann Kerwin

THANKS JOANN

SEMBA member Joann Holden has sent the editors two interesting articles shown below. We will include a short summary of each and if you wish the entire article, e-mail Roger Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com

EX-CONS GET SWEET CHOICE – AS BEEKEEPERS

The Illinois Department of Corrections has initiated a new program entitled "Sweet Beginnings". The program provides ex-convicts with work experience and the start of an employment history. The location for the beekeeping work experience is in the urban area of Chicago, a spot devastated by the riots of 1968 following the death of Martin Luther King.

While there were initial concerns about the presence of honey bees, their fears were eased by the handing out of free honey.

Seventeen ex-convicts have completed the program since 2004 and none have returned to prison.

SCIENTIST FINDS 100 MILLION-YEAR-OLD BEE

A scientist has found a 100 million-year-old bee trapped in amber making it possibly the oldest bee ever found. The bee is about 49 million years older than previously found bees. This discovery may help to explain the rapid expansion and diversity of flowering plants during that time. The amber found in a mine in Burma also contained four kinds of flowers.

An article on the discovery by George Poinar of Oregon State University, co-authored by bee researcher Bryan Danforth of Cornell University, has been published in the journal *Science*.

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.

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

INSIGHTS INTO HONEY BEE SEX GENE COULD BRING SWEET SUCCESS IN BREEDING

What makes a bee a he or a she? Three years ago, scientists pinpointed a gene called *csd* that determines gender in honey bees, and now a research team led by U-M evolutionary biologist George Zhang has unraveled details of how the gene evolved. The new insights could prove useful in designing strategies for breeding honey bees. This information was published on October 26, 2006 coinciding with the publication of the honey bee genome sequence in the journal *Nature*. Scientists long have known that in bees, wasps, etc. and some 20% of all animals unfertilized eggs develop into males. Male bees that inherit two copies of the *csd* gene develop into sterile males and the larvae are quickly eaten by workers.

The system works fine in nature but in bees raised for honey or for pollination, the sex determination system can cause problems because if too many sterile males result, the colony may die out, Zhang says. "Our work aids in this effort by providing a direct tool to examine alleles from different populations. If we know more details about how many alleles there are and what their frequencies are, bee breeders can design better strategies to avoid producing sterile males." The U-M group worked with researchers from MSU and University of Kansas to sequence *csd* genes from three species of honey bees.

~Source: Nancy Ross-Flanigan, UM, *The University Record*, Vol. 62, No. 9 October 30, 2006

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- SEMBA caps available at meetings or **Call 734-668-8568 to order.**
- One large multi-frame observation beehive at a very reasonable price. A picture and complete description is available on the SEMBA Web site sembabees.org. Call Bill Loyd at 734-260-9176.
- "Home-made" Honey bee DVD show footage of honey bee activity. \$5 which includes shipping and handling. Contact: Jerry Dunbar, 586-770-9953.
- Bulk honey in 5 gallon pails (warmed at 101 degrees, filtered, but not heated) and in 55 gallon drums. Contact: Don Ragan – Home 810-378-5972, Cell 313-610-5500.

Wanted:

- Beeswax, light colored preferred. Contact: Ray Kussmal, 517-902-3270, bzbz@provide.net
- Beekeepers to help with the planning, construction and use of a cooperative honey house in Clinton Township, Macomb County, Contact : Charlie Hartwig, 586-783-3216, Charlie_hartwig@yahoo.com

Notice:

- Bulk Honey for sale or honey wanted: **Send your name to the Sutherlands, 5488 Warren, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, or rsuther@hotmail.com** Names will be printed in the next newsletter and posted on the sembabees.org Web pages.

Note: Ads in Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Roger Sutherland at 734-668-8568 or E-mail at rsuther@hotmail.com

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



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club



Editors: Roger & Mary Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com <http://www.sembabees.org>