



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 17 Number 4 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
May- June 2007

APRIL DUES REMINDER: If your address label denotes an A07 your dues are now payable. Enclosed is a remittance form for your convenience.

SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Program: "Making a Complete Hive on a Table Saw" ~ Winn Harless

"Show and Tell of Home-Made Beekeeping Equipment"

(See program note)

Refreshments are welcome

PROGRAM NOTE

Winn Harless, master carpenter and do-it-yourself, jack-of-all-trades, will demonstrate how to make the components of a basic hive and show other beekeeping items that you can make. Also, club members are encouraged to bring items they have made to "show and tell" how the item is used and how to construct.

69TH

SEMBA BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE

More than 180 individuals attended the 69th Annual SEMBA Beekeeping Conference on February 17, 2007. Many attendees were there to learn how to get started in beekeeping while others were relatively new beekeepers with one or two years of experience.

A great deal of preparation is necessary to conduct such a conference and SEMBA would like to thank the following people for their contributions as speakers, organizers and helpers:

Frances Alloway	Ron/Judy Forfinski
Jim Goodrich	Winn Harless
Freda Howard	Ann Kerwin
Donna/Howard Laws	Keith Lazar

Teresa/Walter Mc Curdy	Ada/EdNowak
Fritz Sanders	Mike Siarkowski
Bill Sirr	Mary/Roger Sutherland
Terry Toland	Sue/Larry Yates

Plans are already underway for the 70th SEMBA Beekeeping Conference to be held on Saturday, March 15th 2008 at Schoolcraft College.

We need your ideas on new topics for workshops, speakers or activities that would improve the conference. In the past few years some of our new beekeepers have presented programs that have been well received.

Present your ideas and suggestions to any of the following officers:

Keith Lazar (president)	-----248-626-2483
Ron Forfinski (historian)	-----810-220-1084
Winn Harless (vice president)	-----734-453-2914
Ted Hysen (vice president)	-----734-878-6792
Mary Hobart (secretary)	-----248-545-6563
Mary Sutherland (treasurer)	-----734-668-8568
Terry Toland (president) Seven Ponds Bee Club	248-421-6601
Larry Yates (president) Oakland Bee Club	248-649-5078
Roger Sutherland (president) Schoolcraft Bee Club	-----734-668-8568
Tom Lisk (Web Master)	-----810-229-6365
Ed Nowak (SEMBA Bee Class leader)	734-422-0508

THEFT OF BEE HIVES

SEMBA members need to be aware that colonies of bees have been stolen recently in Southeastern Michigan. Therefore, precautionary measures may be needed to make it more difficult for thieves to take colonies.

It may be wise to adequately mark or brand hives so that if stolen they can be more easily identified. Perhaps SEMBA could maintain a list of brands (like cattlemen do) so that beekeepers could be on the look-out for the brand on hives reported as stolen.

NATIONAL HONEY BOARD HAS MOVED

The National Honey Board has moved its headquarters. The new address is:

National Honey Board
11409 Business Park Circle
Suite 210
Firestone, CO 80504
Phone: 303-776-2337 or 800-553-7162

COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER (CCD)

Recently, much has been written about CCD in journals and the mainstream press. Theories abound about the problem. Suggested causative agents include: stress; depressed immunosuppression (like human HIV); diseases carried by Varroa; feeding high fructose corn syrup (HFCS); insecticide, miticide and antibiotic build-up in beeswax; and pollen from genetically modified (GM) plants.

A team of scientists from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania State University, Florida Department of Agriculture, Bee Alert Inc., and the USDA/ARS, are at work evaluating the problem. To access information on the Internet about their work, type in "Colony Collapse Disorder" and choose from a number of articles which are listed on that Web site.

Symptoms of CCD in Collapsed Colonies:

- a) The complete absence of adult bees in colonies, with no or little build-up of dead bees in or in front of the colonies.
- b) The presence of capped brood in colonies.
- c) The presence of food stores, both honey and bee bread which is not immediately robbed by other bees.

Symptoms of CCD in cases where the colony appears to be actively collapsing:

- a) An insufficient workforce to maintain the brood that is present
- b) The workforce seems to be made up of young adult bees
- c) The queen is present
- d) The cluster is reluctant to consume provided feed, such as sugar syrup and protein supplement.

If you think your colonies died showing any of the above symptoms, we recommend completing the survey available at www.beesurvey.com

The Latest Buzz on Russian Bees

By [Erin Peabody](#) --- ARS REPORT
August 9, 2006

The busy bee that tireless purveyor of plant pollen has had a rough time of it lately. Parasitic mites are beating down this industrious insect that's crucial for producing more than \$15 billion worth of U.S. crops each year.

But according to scientists with the Agricultural Research Service ([ARS](#)), there is hope for weary American bees. It comes from the hills of southeast Russia.

According to recent studies done at the ARS [Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Research Unit](#) in Baton Rouge, La., Russian bees are capable of deflecting three of the honey bees worst assailants: varroa mites, tracheal mites and cold temperatures.

Ten years ago, Baton Rouge bee researchers led by [Thomas Rinderer](#) trekked through Russia Primorsky Territory in search of bees that could naturally hold their own against varroa mites. There, bees have become battle-hardened against the blood-sucking mite, which has been harassing Russian bees for more than 150 years.

Since Russian bees were first imported by Rinderer, they have continued to impress researchers. In fact, ARS entomologist [Jose Villa](#) recently discovered just how the bees fend off tracheal mites, which kill honey bees by invading and clogging their airways.

Villa discovered that, much like other bees resistant to tracheal mites, Russian bees are fastidious and agile groomers, capable of using their middle pair of legs to brush mites away.

Villa and fellow ARS entomologist [Lilia De Guzman](#) have also confirmed that Russian bees are excellent cold-weather survivors. After studying Russian bee colonies for five winters in northeast Iowa, Villa and De Guzman found that the bees are less likely than other bees to lose hive members during harsh, cold weather. Russian bees appear more frugal with their winter food stores.

Thanks to the ARS Russian bee breeding program, promising Russian bee stock will continue to reach U.S. honey bee queen breeders. Kicking off an intensive selective breeding effort this year, Baton Rouge researchers are still striving for the ultimate Russian bee one that embodies the important economic qualities, like mite resistance and good honey production, which beekeepers look for.

ARS is the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)'s chief scientific research agency.

DOING THE "WAGGLE"

In a recent article in the *American Scientist* "Group Decision Making in Honey bee Swarms" by Thomas Seeley of Cornell University and others, they explored how honey bees make decisions.

When the hives get too big they split with the old queen flying off with a retinue of bees called a swarm. As they cluster on a branch or other object scout bees search for a new home and promote there find with a waggle dance. Some scouts can be recruited from one site to a better one and then dance for the new location.

Eventually an agreement is reached but how do they decide? By consensus? Voting? The researchers concluded that the swarm does not wait for consensus. It senses that when there are enough scouts concentrating on one site—a "quorum" of 15-20 they are ready to move. As they press their vibrating thoraxes against the waiting bees they warm up the cluster for flight and fly to their new home. The study notes that because each scout judges a site independently, only good sites attract more waggle dancers chosen by the group.

Dr. Seeley writes that a study of how bees decide things could "help human groups achieve collective intelligence and avoid collective folly." He suggests further that in congress the waggle dance could replace the roll call. Imagine Senator Kennedy and Senator Trent Lott doing the waggle dance in the aisles of the Senate chambers? From the *New York Times*, May 2006.

~ Courtesy of Barbara Miller

KEN KRAWCZYK—IN MEMORIAM

In the afternoon of March 9, 2007 after returning from the beekeeping meetings held at the

Kellogg Center in East Lansing, Ken Krawczyk died suddenly at the home of Ed and Ada Nowak.

Ken, who lived in Troy, was retired from General Motors in January 2007. He was 63 years old. He joined SEMBA in 1982 and became a Life Member in 1992.

Ken is survived by his wife Pamela, three children and two grandchildren.

MEMBERSHIP DUES THROUGH SEMBA FOR THE MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION (MBA) CLARIFIED

The Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) and the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association (SEMBA) have separate dues for each organization. MBA yearly dues when paid directly to the MBA treasurer, Roger Hoopingarner, are \$30.00 for an individual, \$35.00 family.

SEMBA dues are \$10.00 for an individual and \$15.00 family payable to the SEMBA treasurer, Mary Sutherland – and because of a special arrangement between MBA (the state organization) and SEMBA (the local organization), SEMBA members may join MBA at a reduced rate of \$25.00 individual or \$30.00 family through the SEMBA treasurer providing that SEMBA membership is currently paid.

109TH CONGRESS US SENATE RESOLUTION 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'

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.

FREMONT AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Several years ago, a beekeeping Endowment Fund was established within the Fremont Area Community Foundation to provide funds for beekeeping research in Michigan.

Currently, the Fremont Area Community Foundation matches memorial gifts made to the Endowment Fund within one year of a decedent's death \$1 for \$1 up to \$500 per household per year.

Memorial contribution checks to the Foundation should be made payable to the Fremont Area Community Foundation, 4424 W. 48th Street, P.O. Box B, Fremont, MI 49412, with a note specifying the decedent's name, date of death and that the gift is to be earmarked for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association Fund. Also, include the name and address of the person to be notified of the contribution.

Memorial gifts to the Foundation can be deducted as charitable gifts on the Federal Income Tax Form and up to \$200 can be taken on State Tax liability.

BARGAIN CORNER

For sale: 6 5/8 " supers without frames, good condition. **Call Roger Sutherland**, 734-668-8568 or E-mail rsuther@hotmail.com

5-Frame nucs available in May. **Contact Winn Harless**, 734-453-2914.

900 shallow supers; 500 covers; 400 inner covers; 300 bottom boards; 200 double hive stands. **Contact Ruth Dunlap**, 3663 Skinner Hwy., Manitou Beach, Michigan. Phone: 517-547-3487 or e-mail at rlm_dunlap@yahoo.com

Fritz stainless steel extractor, 4 or 8 frames, on legs, hand crank, like new, including 2 knives; 15 boxes (approx.), 10 w/frames, \$675.00. E-mail: mystars90@yahoo.com or cell phone: 989-975-2900.

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

Southeastern Michigan SEMBA Membership
Beekeepers' Association 5488 Warren Road
Organized April 1, 1934 Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club

