



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 17, Number 8  
Association

Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers'  
-December 2007, January 2008

## OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.  
Where: E. L. Johnson Nature Center,  
3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Township, MI.

Program: "Flowers and Insects Know  
How to Get Things Done"

Speaker: Roger Sutherland

A slide program will illustrate how flowers attract bees and other pollinators, and feature how insects are adapted to pollinating specific flowers.

Refreshments are welcome

## OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Program: An update on the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)

Refreshments are welcome

## DUES REMINDER

If your address label denotes NO7, you dues are now due. Enclosed is a renewal form for your convenience. Please note that dues for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) can also be paid when paying SEMBA dues.

## EVA CRANE, ENGLISH EXPERT ON WORLD BEES, DIES AT AGE 95

~ By Douglas Martin  
The New York Times  
Published: September 16, 2007

Eva Crane, who earned a doctorate in nuclear physics and then abandoned the field to devote herself to expanding and spreading knowledge about bees as a researcher, historian, archivist, editor and author, died on Sept. 6 in Slough, England.

In 1942 she married James Crane, a stockbroker serving in the Royal Navy. One of their wedding presents was a box containing a swarm of bees, which the giver thought might be useful in supplementing their meager wartime sugar ration. Dr. Crane soon became fascinated with the hive, subscribed to a bee magazine and joined a local bee club.

The meticulousness of Dr. Crane's research showed in her examination of ancient rock images involving bees and honey. She studied 152 sites in 17 countries and established a register of rock art for her book "The Rock Art of Honey Hunters" (2001).

## LOST HONEY BEES AND RAILROAD VIBRATION—ITEMS FROM SEMBA WEB SITE INQUIRIES

In late summer and early fall, the "bee" questions directed to the contact persons for SEMBA's Web site are usually about Yellow Jackets, Bald-Faced Hornets, and Cicada Killer Wasps. But sometimes the questions border on the unusual.

In early September, there was an interesting call about 'missing bees' from a lady in Belleville who was very concerned about the loss of honey bees and she wanted to help. She reported that honey bees were all over her Golden Rod flowers and was certain that the bees were lost and would not find their way back home. She wanted the names of beekeepers in Southwestern Wayne County so that she could

contact them. I assured her that the bees would find their way back to the hive, but she didn't seem convinced, so I suggested that she go out after dark to see if the bees were still on the Golden Rod and to call back if they were.

No call was received.

Another question was from a lady in Northwest Arkansas. She said, "After reading *Beekeeping for Dummies*, I am eager to try beekeeping as a hobby. Well eager is putting it mildly! There is one question that I have that has not been covered in anything I have read about beekeeping and I am afraid to ask because I am pretty sure my dreams will be dashed when I get an answer but here goes...I have a train track running behind my house only about 6 ft. from my backyard. It is not a main railroad track but a spur so trains are not running all day, not even every day. I know I have read bees don't like vibration and loud noise, so is this going to put the kibosh on my beekeeping plans? I think I already know what you will say but I am ready to hear it from an expert. Holding my breath..."

Thank you for your time,  
Briana Enderland

Your editors directed Briana's question to Roger Hoopingarner, Professor Emeritus, MSU, for his opinion and below is his response:

Dear Briana:

Roger Sutherland forwarded your message to me since I have been keeping bees for 60 years, and also taught beekeeping at Michigan State University for many, many years.

First, breathe easy. Next, when bees get vibrations from such things as trains or planes they feel the vibrations through any substrate via sensors on their feet. Bees do not have ears like mammals and do not respond to sounds in the air very well. When they get these vibrations from such as trains and planes they tend to hang onto the combs until it is over. Then the guard bees may come to the hive entrance to see if there is an intruder. But in this case the train is now gone and no problem. If it were a neighbor mowing his lawn with a vibration that comes and goes as they circle the yard, then the bees might attack the person on the mower. A lot would depend on the strain of bees and the noise itself. Many years ago when I was a student at the University of Wisconsin we were testing a tilting device that we had made to handle large two-queen colonies. The device was power driven and had a steady vibration to it. Much to our surprise the bees just hung onto the combs and manipulations were made very easy.

## HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Over the years, SEMBA members Joanne Kimata and John Piette have made a number of donations throughout the world.

Recently they made a gift of two bee hives to families in need. Their donation was made to Heifer International, an organization that works to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth. Heifer provides food and income-producing animals and training to help impoverished families become more self-reliant. Since 1944, Heifer has helped 7 million people in more than 125 countries.

To learn more about Heifer, visit <http://heifer.org>

## MICHIGAN STATE APIARIST REPORT

Mike Hansen, Michigan State Apiarist receives many inquiries from beekeepers. Below is a recent letter exchange he received from the Ontario Provincial Apiarist that you may find informative.

Dear Sir,

I have some pails of syrup with Fumagilin-B that have been around for awhile. The syrup is still okay. Could a new Fumagilin mixture be made up and added to the syrup and be effective?

Keith B. Forsyth

Hi Keith,

To a large extent it depends how long ago you made up the medicated syrup and how it has been stored since.

If it is just about 4 weeks ago, it may have lost about 20 -30% of its potency. If it is much longer than that it may have lost 50% or more and this is just a guess. You would have to make up for the loss in potency and we are sure your bees will still get some benefit from the Fumagilin-B in the old syrup. We are sorry that we cannot be more precise.

Ursula Da Rugna  
Medivet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

## NEW SEMBA LIFE MEMBER

We welcome Mack Clausel of Ypsilanti as the forty-fourth SEMBA Life Member. We asked Mack how he got started in beekeeping and this is his response:

"I've always had a desire to keep bees. On my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, my daughter and her friend bought me a "Master Pollinator" kit from Dadant and Sons. That was just over two years ago. I then attended Ed Nowak's bee school that next spring."

At the present time Mack has 5 hives. He started with 3 colonies and caught 2 swarms. He plans on

keeping just a few hives as a hobby. His sales of honey are limited and most of his harvest is given to his friends. He works the hives without any family assistance because they are afraid to get too close to the honey bees.

Mack retired from General Motors after being employed by GM for 34 years. He now works full time for Washtenaw County working with the Developmentally Disabled and Mentally Ill Adults. In addition to beekeeping Mack enjoys gardening and reading, mostly about nutrition.

In conclusion, Mack says, "I am honored to be a small part of this fine organization."

### **SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

On Sunday, October 21, 2007, more than 50 SEMBA members and guests attended the SEMBA Annual meeting at Schoolcraft College. After enjoying a pot-luck dinner, members participated in the annual business meeting followed by a presentation by Dr. Larry Connor entitled "Important Honey Plants in Michigan".

The following motions were approved by the membership:

#### Motion by Ann Kerwin:

That the wording for Apiary – Section 3 of the Michigan State Fair Agriculture Premium Book be changed from Maximum of 2 entries per class per exhibitor to Maximum of 2 entries per class per exhibitor except for entries in Apiary – Section 3. Entries in Apiary – Section 3 will be limited to 1 entry per class per exhibitor and 2 entries per class per household.

#### Motions by Winn Harless:

That a contribution of \$250 be made to the Bloomfield Hills School District for use of the E.L. Johnson Nature Center.

That a contribution of \$500 be made to the Fremont Area Foundation in memory of Kenneth Krawczyk.

That a contribution of \$1000 be made to the Schoolcraft College Foundation.

#### Election results:

President – Roger Sutherland  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Dennis Holly  
Secretary – Mary Hobart

A motion was approved to thank Keith Lazar (president) and Ted Hysen (vice president) for serving as SEMBA officers.

Keith has volunteered to serve as the head of the Michigan State Fair SEMBA educational booth committee.

### **QUEEN REARING COURSE PROPOSED**

Ed Nowak, SEMBA Bee Class leader, asked Dr. Larry Connor to submit a proposal to SEMBA for a Queen Rearing Course to be offered to SEMBA members in 2008.

The proposed course is designed to provide hands-on, intensive training in queen rearing with the clear objective of each student becoming competent in the basics of raising queens and mating them in mating nucs. The course follows the seasonal buildup and starts in late May and runs into late June. The course runs 24 hours in six sessions. A certificate of completion will be given to those students who successfully produce, in the opinion of the instructor, well-reared queens that lay a normal worker brood pattern. Twenty (20) students must participate in all sessions. (More details in the next newsletter.)

### **HONEY BEE RIDDLE**

Question: If you have a bee in your hand what do you have in your eye?

Answer: Beauty, because beauty is in the eye of the bee holder.

### **MURPHY'S LAW IN ACTION AGAIN**

~By Bill Sirr

I had finished cleaning up the honey house once and put the wet supers back on the bees for them to clean up before putting them away dry. I knew the honey harvest was finished for the year... Wrong, as usual... The girls found more honey; where I don't know as it had been so dry for so long that every thing had dried up, I thought. So, I cranked up the honey house again.

Now the fun begins. I am tired and just want to finish up. I strain the honey through a double nylon hose in a Kelly strainer then pour it into the settling tank before processing. Now using new Plasticans (4&1/2 gallon pails), after straining the honey, I lifted up a pail 3/4 full of honey to pour it into the settling tank. --I just don't like having Mr. Murphy helping me. When the pail was almost to the top of the tank, Mr. Murphy removed one of the plastic clips holding the handle. Three and 1/2 gallons of honey hit the floor in less than the blink of an eye. You have no idea how far 24# of honey will go in so short a time. I will use as much as I can, of the salvaged honey, to feed back to the girls. I know that a little dirt, water and King's English won't bother them at all. I am finished for the year except for the clean up.

**Honey Bee Chemoreceptors Found For Smell And Taste**  
**Science Daily** ,October 26, 2006.

Honey bees have a much better sense of smell than fruit flies or mosquitoes, but a much worse sense of taste, according to researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana- "The recently completed honey bee genome reveals a remarkable expansion of the insect odorant receptor family compared with those found in fruit flies or mosquitoes," said Hugh M. Robertson, a professor of entomology and an affiliate of the university's Institute for Genomic Biology. "The bee genome also reveals far fewer gustatory receptors -- those used for the sense of taste - - than we had anticipated.

In work funded by the National Institutes of Health and reported in the Oct. 26 issue of the journal Genome Research, Robertson and postdoctoral research associate Kevin W. Wanner identified the family of honey bee chemoreceptors that deals with smell and taste.

Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) have 170 odorant receptors, the researchers found, compared with 62 in fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) and 79 in mosquitoes (*Anopheles gambiae*).

The enhanced number of odorant receptors underlies the honey bee's remarkable olfactory abilities, including perception of pheromones, kin recognition signals, and social communication within the hive.

Honey bees also use odor recognition for finding food. "Foraging worker bees might encounter a bewildering number of flowers to choose from, but they can discriminate between them using subtle olfactory cues," Robertson said. "A large number of odorant receptors allows the bees to find food and communicate its location to other bees."

In striking contrast, the researchers found only 10 gustatory receptors in *A. mellifera*, compared with 68 in *D. melanogaster* and 76 in *A. gambiae*.

Source:University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Date: October 27, 2006

**SEMBA Bargain Corner**

**Wanted:**

- Beekeeper to place colonies on my 20 acres near Manitou Beach, MI. Call 517-547-5206 or e-mail [brianhome@pc3net.com](mailto:brianhome@pc3net.com)
- 5 gallons of honey. Call J.T. Garfield, 734-482-3706.
- 2-3 gallons of honey. Call Joann Holden 248-626-4758, e-mail [jjholden@att.net](mailto:jjholden@att.net)

**For Sale :**

- California Bees are scheduled to arrive in Roseville, Michigan, April 2008. To place your order contact Jerry Dunbar, **586-770-9953**.

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership  
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