



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 18, Number 2 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
March 2008

OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: E. L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325
Franklin Road, Bloomfield Township, MI.

Program: "Building Bee Hive Equipment"
Keith Lazar

Refreshments are welcome

70TH SEMBA BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, March 15, 2008
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
VisTaTech CENTER

18600 Haggerty Road
(between 6 & 7 Mile Roads)

LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

Please enter through the VisTaTech Center entrance. (Parking is available in the North Campus Parking Lot.)

You are invited to attend the 70th Annual SEMBA Beekeepers' Conference. This one-day event is designed for all beekeepers as well as those who are considering keeping honey bees for the first time. There is no registration fee for SEMBA members. Registration fee at the door for non-members is \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. No pre-registration is necessary.

Major speakers are Roy Hendrickson, writer for *Bee Culture*, and Zachary Huang, Ph.D. Workshop sessions, featuring a variety of beekeeping topics, will be conducted by Master Beekeepers and others who have kept bees for many years.

Specially featured again this year is a series of beginning workshops, each dealing with a different aspect of beekeeping, to help the new beekeeper get started.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:00-9:00 a.m. VisTaTech Center
Registration

8:45 a.m. Video "Silence of the Bees"

9:20 a.m. Welcome by Roger Sutherland

9:30 a.m. "Spring Management of Overwintered Colonies" --Roy Hendrickson

10:25 a.m. Introduction to Concurrent Sessions
--Dennis Holly

10:30 a.m. First Concurrent Session

1. Follow-up with keynote speaker
--Roy Hendrickson
"Integrated Pest Management" (IPM)
--Mike Siarkowski
2. Beginner's Seminar I
--Seven Ponds Bee Club
3. "Cell-Punch Queen Rearing with Cloake Board"
--Winn Harless

11:25 a.m. "SEMBA Visions" --Ed Nowak
--Keith Lazar

Noon: SEMBA Potluck or lunch on your own at local restaurants

1:10 p.m.
"Genetically Modified Plants and Toxicity to Bees: Are they Causing CCD?"
--Zachary Huang, Ph.D.

2:00 p.m. ABF Conference Report --Bill Sirr

2:15 p.m. Introduction to Concurrent Sessions
--Winn Harless

2:20 p.m. Second Concurrent Session

1. Follow-up with keynote speaker
--Zachary Huang
"Honey and Health" --Joyce Huang
2. Beginner's Seminar Session II
--Keith Lazar
3. "Mead Making" --Ken Schram
4. "Small Scale Queen Rearing"
--Roy Hendrickson

3:15 p.m. Third Concurrent Session

1. Beginner's Seminar Session III
--Ed Nowak
2. "Wax, From Frame to Candle"
--Larry Yates
3. "Splits and Divides"
--Winn Harless and Mary Hobart
4. "Making Your Own Equipment"
--Fritz Sanders

4:10 p.m. Concluding Session

Questions and Answers and Hive-
Raffle Award

SPECIAL FEATURES OF CONFERENCE

DOOR PRIZES

All bee-conference attendees will receive a door-prize ticket when they register.

BEE HIVE & PACKAGE BEE RAFFLE

A complete hive, donated by Dadant & Sons of Albion, Michigan will be raffled. Tickets for the raffle at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 may be purchased at the beekeeping conference.

POTLUCK-LUNCH INFORMATION

A potluck lunch will be held at noon. If you wish to participate, bring a food item (with serving utensils), which will serve six to eight persons. Also, bring your own table service including plates, silverware, and cups. SEMBA will provide tea and coffee. Please label any utensils that you bring with your name so that they can be easily identified.

BEEKEEPING SALES, DISPLAYS AND CRAFTS

If you have displays or crafts that you wish to display or sell, we encourage you to bring them. Please call Dennis Holly at 248-542-1316 to reserve table space (no charge). Dadant & Sons will have a beekeeping-supply sales table.

SILENT AUCTION

Any beekeeping-related item may be placed in the Silent Auction. Bidding takes place throughout the day during the beekeeping conference. You may keep the profits or you may consider sharing the proceeds with SEMBA to benefit the association.

SEMBA's 2008 BEEKEEPING CLASS

SEMBA's hands-on beekeeping class, initiated in 1997 by Ed Nowak, will be offered again. The instructor will be Master Beekeeper Ed Nowak assisted by other experienced beekeepers. Information will be available at the Beekeeping

Conference on March 15th and on the Web site <http://sembabees.org>. You may also contact Mr. Nowak at 734-422-0508 or by e-mail at epnowak@earthlink.net

MBA's BEEKEEPING SYMPOSIUM MARCH 7-8, 2008—KELLOGG CENTER MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) invites beginner or experienced beekeepers to attend their Beekeeping Symposium and Spring Meeting to be held in the Kellogg Center, MSU, on March 7-8. Visit <http://michiganbees.org> for more information.

THE BUZZ ON OHIO'S NEAR-BARREN BEEHIVES

In the last 25 years, nearly half of North America's honeybee colonies have vanished, leaving many in the industry looking for answers. In the absence of an obvious cause, Jim Tew, an Ohio State University apiculture specialist, points to three hypotheses:

- A "strong supposition" is that something is stressing the hives, particularly in the case of migratory beekeepers who transport their hives great distances to aid in pollination. These situations open the door for a number of traditional pathogens to infiltrate the hives and keep adults from returning to the colonies after foraging flights.
- The second possible perpetrator could be good old-fashioned inbreeding. "We raise significant numbers of queens (in the thousands) that populate our hives every year. There's a question of maybe these queens are too closely related and our genetic pool is not what it should be," Tew said.
- Third is the presence of external parasites, such as Varroa mites, which keep deformed or weakened bees from emerging from their developmental stage. "None of the three possibilities is fully understood," Tew said. "It's just about as muddy as it can be," he said. There's just so much that could possibly be hampering the bees. To point our finger straight to it is difficult. But the issues facing bees in the state are a little more direct than the phenomenon once known vaguely as "disappearing disease." While humans may be slightly irritated by unpredictable weather, bees can be devastated by the erratic temperatures experienced over the last three years. Not only are colonies forced to accommodate the cold snap by dipping into their honey stores, but once the temperatures rise and bees commit to raising offspring, they die off as soon as temperatures plummet.

"We hoped for a mild spring, and it simply wasn't," Tew said. "A significant number of bees died, and it was nothing mysterious — nothing controversial. They just died of starvation due to poor spring honey-producing seasons."

"As far back as 1969, Ohio State examined nutrition, mites and pathogens and their potential roles in Colony Collapse Disorder, but before most of the studies could materialize, outbreaks would spontaneously resolve themselves," Tew said. Now, erratic instances of the syndrome have turned into a full-blown crisis, which has turned the microscope back to basic research. "I'm really hard-pressed to point the finger in any direction," he said. "But now it's reached a high enough level of concern that at least someone will be trying to review something here."

Tew believes concern should be shared outside of the bee community. The honey bees' most important function is in the pollination for Ohio crops. Meanwhile, Tew says he has practical hopes for Ohio's bees moving forward. "I hope spring turns out nice and good. A strong productive nectar and pollen season in the fall can let my bees heal — let bees across the state heal," he said. "They can recover their strength and regain their stamina before we have to go through another winter." "That's not asking a lot," he added. "That used to be pretty typical."

Country Living Magazine, Buckeye Power,
Ohio Rural Electric Cooperatives
--Submitted by Frances Alloway

ENTOMOLOGY AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU)

Entomology was first taught at MSU in 1858 by Henry Goadby, a physician from Detroit. In a course called *Animal and Vegetable Physiology and Entomology*. He also wrote an entomology textbook that was one of the first in the nation. Albert John Cook, professor of zoology and entomology from 1869 to 1893, pioneered insecticides to protect crops from pests like the codling moth. The first U. S. professor to teach beekeeping, he persuaded the Postal Service to reverse its ban against shipping queen bees after discussing the matter with U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes. The MSU Department of Entomology was established in 1906.

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BANDAGES WITH HONEY FOR WOUND HEALING

More than 4,000 years after the ancient Egyptians applied honey to the wounds, Derma Sciences, Inc., a pharmaceutical company that manufactures products for the healing of wounds, began to sell the first dressing with honey after its approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Medihoney is a highly absorbent material made from seaweed and saturated with manuka honey, a powerful type of honey that, according to specialists, kills germs and accelerates healing. Also called Leptospermum honey, manuka is produced by bees that gather nectar from the manuka bush and other plants of Australia and New Zealand.

--Milenio.com (December 28, 2007)

Brauè's Old Fashioned Jewish Honey Cake.

½ cup salad oil
2 eggs beaten
¾ cup honey
1 cup very strong black coffee
1 cup sugar
¼ tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. allspice
3 cups all purpose flour, sifted
½ cup nuts, chopped not too fine
½ cup raisins

In a large mixing bowl, add oil to eggs, stirring. Add honey and coffee; then add sugar gradually, plus all dry ingredients (sifted together), mixing thoroughly until a colorful smoothness. Pour into a greased loaf pan (9 1/4 x 5 1/4 in.) and bake in a 325 °F oven for an hour.

~Submitted by Fritz Sanders and enjoyed by all at the December 4, 2007 Oakland Bee Club meeting.

Dues Reminder

If your address label denotes A08, your dues are becoming due. Enclosed is a renewal form for your convenience. Please note that dues for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) also can be paid or renewed when paying SEMBA dues.



UM Dearborn Environmental Interpretative Center naturalist Rick Simek (left) and SEMBA member John Kates took advantage of the mild weather in early January to look over the bee hives in the campus Natural Areas. Kates, who received his bachelor's degree from UM Dearborn in 1981, has volunteered to lead the bee-keeping program on campus this summer.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- SEMBA caps. Available at meetings. **Call 734-668-8568 to order.**
- Package bees from Georgia will arrive April 26, 2008. 2# \$58, 3# \$66. SEMBA members will receive a \$5 discount per package. There is 10 package limit. Call Mike Siarkowski, 517-545-0824 to place orders. Bees can be picked up at Shaun Shubel's home, 345 Chilson Rd., Howell, MI, 517-548-5176.
- Package bees (Italian) from Wilbanks Apiary, Georgia. Pick-up dates April 19 and May 3. 3# package - \$67. Call Blanche Barber, 248-634-7017 for more details.

Notice:

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

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club

