



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 19 Number 3 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
April-May- 2009

SEMBA SPRING MEETING

When: Sunday, April 26, 2009
(note change of date)

Where: Lower Waterman Center, Schoolcraft College
(Enter through 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.

Program: 2:30 p.m.

"Apitherapy RX for Healing"
by Kristine Jacobson,
Apitherapist/ Bee Venom Therapy

"Skep Making" - Plan for a
Summer workshop
by Roger Sutherland

NATIONAL ORGANIC PROGRAM FOR MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be providing funds to the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to be distributed to operations that have been certified organic by a USDA accredited certifier.

Eligible entities will be reimbursed up to 75 percent of their organic certification costs, not to exceed \$750 per year. Any operation in Michigan that has received organic certification on or between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008 may apply for reimbursement. This program should begin in late winter or early spring. The applicant must submit the application form(s) along with a copy(s) of certification and copy(s) of the associated expenses required to obtain and/or maintain certification.

Cost Share applications will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Any incomplete applications will be returned for corrections. Therefore, it is very important that all information is included, and that the applications are filled out accurately and signed.

For more information contact:

Colleen M. Bess, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, Michigan 48909, 517-373-0280.

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 Hoopin-garner, are \$30.00 per individual and \$35.00 per family.

SEMBA yearly dues are \$10.00 per individual and \$15.00 per family payable to the SEMBA treasurer, Mary Sutherland. Because of a special arrangement between MBA (the state organization) and SEMBA (the local organiza-

SEMBA's MAY MEETING RESCHEDULED

The new date for the previously scheduled May SEMBA bee club meeting is Sunday, August 2, 2009. This event will be held at David Kriesch's apiary in Capac, Michigan. (David felt that beekeepers would benefit more from an August meeting than one held so early in the year.) Attendees will have an opportunity to visit Dave's apiary, see his approved honey house, and observe a demonstration given by Winn Harless on queen rearing using the Cloake Board method. Details regarding time and travel directions will be published in a future SEMBA newsletter.

SEMBA PLANNING MEETING TO BE HELD IN JUNE

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Agenda:

- 1) Michigan State Fair planning (the 2009 State Fair will be held, but a fair in 2010 is doubtful).
- 2) SEMBA bee class 2010
- 3) Summer picnic planning

tion), SEMBA members may join or renew MBA at the reduced rates of \$25.00 per individual or \$30.00 per family when paying their SEMBA dues through the SEMBA treasurer.

SEMBA BEEKEEPING CLASS CHANGES

When SEMBA's 2009 beekeeping class convened in March, it marked the 13th year of providing valuable education and training for new beekeepers. The class was inaugurated in 1997 by Master Beekeeper Ed Nowak and since then has enrolled a total of 148 full-time students and many others who attended individual sessions.

The first location of the teaching apiary was on property owned by Schoolcraft College in Livonia. For a short period, it was moved to the E.L. Johnson Nature Center in Bloomfield Township. Classes there were led by Earl Hoffman, assisted by other SEMBA members. In 2005, the class again was taught by Ed Nowak assisted by Winn Harless, Gilbert Terry and Mike Siarkowski. The location of the class was Ed and Ada Nowak's apiary at their home in Livonia. A great debt of gratitude is due the Nowaks for use of their apiary, honey house and home. In 2007, the Nowaks were awarded a Life membership in SEMBA for their years of devoted service.

After conclusion of the 2009 class, Ed will be retiring from leadership of the beekeeping class. If SEMBA is to continue this very successful project, a new leader plus an apiary location with teaching (and toilet) facilities will be required. Suggestions, offers or questions regarding leadership and apiary locations can be directed to Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568, E-mail rsuther@hotmail.com.

AG PESTICIDES NOT UNCOMMON IN TRAPPED POLLEN

Researchers in Connecticut, during the 2007 growing season monitored pesticides found in pollen collected in pollen traps. Colonies studied were under normal conditions and were not collapsing or in any other way ill. No colonies died during the experiment.

The researchers collected the pollen twice a week from four locations in Connecticut during the season. Samples were analyzed using HPLC/MS. Results: 102 samples were collected and analyzed. 37 pesticides were detected. 15 insecticide/acaracides, 11 fungicides, 10 herbicides and 1 plant growth regulator. All samples had at least one pesticide detected. The most commonly detected pesticide was

coumaphos. Carbaryl and phosmet, both highly toxic to bees were the most commonly detected field pesticides. Imidacloprid was detected 30 times, mostly at low levels. The pesticides found at the highest levels were both fungicides: myclobutanil and boscalid.

Source: Catch the Buzz, 02/04/09

FINDING LOCATIONS FOR PLACING COLONIES OF HONEYBEES

In February, I received the following E-mail from one of our SEMBA members:

Roger,

Keith and I are interested in soliciting farmers in the area to place our hives this year. Do you have any suggestions on how to meet, approach and form a contract for this? Any help you can offer would be appreciated. Thanks.

Below is my response, but comments and ideas from our readers that would benefit not only Kathy and Keith but also other members as well are welcome:

Kathleen,

I am not aware of a written contract for placing bees on someone's property. Perhaps one of our club members could compose one. There are many variables in any agreement, i.e., Is the land owner benefiting by having the bees pollinate flowers on his or her property? How much honey the hive will yield? How good is the quality and quantity of nectar producing flowers in the forage area? Is there a potential problem with pesticides, vandalism, etc.? In one unusual case I placed a hive on an individual's property and their payment was using bees to sting themselves for arthritis treatment. Another form of payment would be acting as a mentor if they wish to start a colony of bees.

There are other considerations. If the land owner is not benefiting, then the beekeeper would share a portion of honey with the land owner. There is no set amount that I am aware of, but if I were investing money I would like to make at least 5-6% on my investment. Applying this to honey yields for each colony, 5-6% of the honey would go to the land owner.

Finding new locations for colonies is often by word-of-mouth. As the contact person for our Web site, I sometimes get calls from people who wish to have colonies placed on their land. These locations are then listed in our newsletter. Some other ideas:

1) On our [sembabees.org](http://www.sembabees.org) Web site, we could

place an ad in our Bargain Corner (no cost to SEMBA members) stating that you are looking for locations. We often have non-beekeepers visiting our site. It is worth a try.

2) Contact your County Cooperative Extension Office (Washtenaw, Livingston) and inform them that you are looking for locations.

3) See if you have a Master Gardener program in your area and contact them for locations. Because they are benefiting from the honey bee pollination, you probably would not have to make a honey payment.

4) Some areas have community gardens-- the non-payment would also apply to this situation.

5) The Michigan Farm Bureau has local groups that may have a newsletter. Perhaps they could advertise your request.

6) Visit the local farmer's market and pass the word that you are looking for locations.

~Roger Sutherland

BEE KEEPING AND THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT

The Michigan Right to Farm Act (RTFA) provides producers (bee keepers in this case) who conform to GAAMPs an affirmative defense against a nuisance lawsuit brought by another citizen. A GAAMP is a Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practice. It is essentially a best practices guide for a farmer (or bee keeper in this case) and is entirely voluntary; but, if you want Right to Farm Act protection you must conform to the GAAMP. GAAMPs are drafted by a GAAMP committee and then approved by the Agriculture Commission. In January 2009, the Agriculture Commission approved a set of GAAMPs that included for the first time a chapter that discusses bee keeping, called "Beekeeping and Apiary Management". The GAAMP that covers bee keeping is called the Care of Animals GAAMP and can be accessed through the Michigan Department of Agriculture's website http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1567_1599_1605---,00.html (the final GAAMP is not yet on the website – go to Draft Animal Care GAAMP and Overview; then Draft GAAMP; then scroll to the "Beekeeping and Apiary Management" chapter which starts on page 75).

The "Beekeeping and Apiary Management" chapter provides a bit of information that reads like an introductory chapter to a beginners bee keeping text book. It then goes on to

recommend hive densities for fractions of acres of various crops; distances apiaries should be set from property lines; hive placement within the apiary; ensuring a fresh water source to keep your bees out of your neighbor's pool; controlling diseases in your colonies; transporting bees; etc. Nothing in this chapter should be a surprise for the conscientious bee keeper.

All Michigan bee keepers should make themselves familiar with this new chapter of the Care of Animals GAAMP. For most of us it will be a refresher and will not require altering our management techniques much, if at all. Also, do not hesitate to contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Right to Farm Program at (517) 373-9797 if you have any questions. They are friendly and very informative.

~by Tim Fischer, Deputy Policy Director
Michigan Environmental Council

NEW QUEEN MENTORING PROGRAM

SEMBA member Winn Harless plans to start a new queen-rearing program for SEMBA. As many of you already know, Winn has bred for Michigan survivor queens. He needs others to join his group so that queens can be traded to enhance the gene pool, thus leading to a better survival rate of honey bees.

In this mentoring program, he could tell you over the phone how to raise queens or travel to your apiary to help you. He plans to charge fifty cents per mile for travel and that would be the only cost.

Winn does cell-punch Cloake Board queen rearing because that is the easiest way he has found to raise queens. Anyone who has done queen rearing and would like to help him train people, call Winn at his home 1-734-453-2914.

"HOW I GOT STARTED IN BEEKEEPING" NOW AVAILABLE IN DVD

During the past two years, SEMBA video taped over 40 members telling stories about how they got started in beekeeping. These tapes were professionally edited with captions provided by the Schoolcraft College Media Center. Copies of the video are now available in DVD format for \$4 at club meetings or \$5 if mailed. Call 734-668-8568 to order or E-mail: rsuther@hotmail.com

SEMBA'S 71st BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE ATTRACTS RECORD NUMBER OF BEEKEEPERS

Attendance at SEMBA's 71st Beekeeping Conference on March 21, 2009 at Schoolcraft College was approximately 240 and many of the attendees were new beekeepers. Forty new members were added to our membership. Winner of hive-package bee raffle was Michele Kuhar from Saline, MI. Thanks are due to the many dedicated members who made this a very special event.

Dues Reminder

If your address label denotes A09, your dues are due. Enclosed is a renewal form for your convenience. Please note that dues for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) can be paid or renewed when paying SEMBA dues.

SOURCES OF NECTAR PRODUCING PLANTS

Link to the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association <http://www.mnppa.org/>
Enhancing Beneficial Insects with Native Plants <http://www.nativeplants.msu.edu/>

OTHER NEARBY BEEKEEPING CLUB MEETING LOCATIONS

Beekeepers of South Central Michigan meet in Manchester, MI. Contact Bob Jastrzebski, 734-748-2185 bob@cimsurf.com

Center of Michigan Beekeepers meet in E. Lansing. Contact Roger Hoopingarner, 517-699-2428 rahoopie@msu.edu

Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club meets in Dryden, MI. Contact Terry Toland, 248-421-6601 akatoe@aol.com

Mid Michigan Beekeepers' Club meets in Davison, MI. Contact Jim Dodder, 810-653-8547 gemini7737@chartermi.net

BARGAIN CORNER

~Package bees from Georgia will arrive April 26, 2009. SEMBA members will receive a \$5 discount per package. There is a 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 Wilbank's Apiary, Georgia. Pick-up dates April 19 and May 3rd. Three-pound package - \$67. Call Blanche Barber, 248-634-7017 for more details.

~Nucs for Spring 2009. Call Bob Jastrzebski, 734-748-2185.

~Nucs for Spring 2009. Call Winn Harless, 734-453-2914.

~Nucs for mid April & May. 5 frames with laying queen for \$70.00. Call Rich Kussmaul, 734-330-0554.

~Wanted: kid's bee suit for 7-10 year-old. Call Winn Harless, 734-453-2914.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

SEMBA Membership
5488 Warren Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club

