



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 20 Number 2 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
March 2010

OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Program:

Spring: My Bees are Alive! So Now What?
Dennis Holly

72nd SEMBA BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, March 20, 2010
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 72nd 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 Dewey Caron, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor, University of Delaware and Zachary Huang, Ph.D., Beekeeping Specialist, Michigan State University.

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. Registration, VisTaTech Center

8:45 a.m. Video, "Honey bee Swarms"

9:20 a.m. Welcome by Roger Sutherland

9:30 a.m. "Bee Natural History" -- Dewey Caron, Ph.D.

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

10:30 a.m. First Concurrent Session

- 1) Follow-up with keynote speaker
- 2) "Pollinator Pyramid" -- Barbara Lucas - Washtenaw Co. Environmental Health Div.
- 3) Beginner's Seminar I -- Dennis Holly, Roger Sutherland
- 4) "In the Bee Yard With Winn" -- Winn Harless
- 5) "Creating a Honey House" -- Bob Jastrzebski

11:25 a.m. DVD "Saving and Removing Honey Bees from Trees and Buildings" -- Richard Mendel

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

1:10 p.m. "Effect of Transportation on Honey Bee Physiology" -- Zachary Huang, Ph.D.

2:15 p.m. Introduction to Concurrent Sessions
Roger Sutherland

2:20 p.m. Second Concurrent Session

- 1) Follow-up with keynote speaker
- 2) "Urban Beekeeping" -- Rich Wieske
- 3) Beginner's Seminar II -- Winn Harless
- 4) "Soap Making with Bees Wax" -- Judy Schmaltz
- 5) "Reading the Frame" -- Dewey Caron, Ph.D.

3:15 p.m. Third Concurrent Session

- 1) Organic Beekeeping" -- Barbara Pepp, Rich Wieske
- 2) Beginner's Seminar III -- Mike Siarkowski
- 3) Making Your Own Equipment" -- Fritz Sanders

- 4) "Setting up a Varroa-resistant Colony Management Area in SE Michigan" -- Larry Connor, Ph.D.
- 5) "Honey & Health and Apitherapy – Joyce Wang and Jerry Catana

4:10 p.m. Concluding Session

Questions and Answers, Hive Raffle Award, Best Invention Award, and Conclusion of Silent Auction.

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 for SEMBA members). 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 BEEKEEPERS TO BE AWARDED PRIZES FOR INNOVATIONS AND INVENTIONS

A contest of new beekeeping ideas and inventions will be held at the 72nd Annual Beekeeping Conference held at Schoolcraft College on March 20, 2010. SEMBA members are encouraged to submit new beekeeping ideas or innovations that would benefit other

beekeepers. Two entries per member will be accepted. Prizes of \$75 for 1st, \$50 for 2nd, and \$25 for 3rd place winners will be awarded.

The contest criteria:

- ~Is it practical for the small-scale beekeeper to construct or innovate?
- ~Is it a new idea?
- ~How much impact will it have on beekeeping?
- ~How much does it cost?.

An entry form must be completed. To obtain an entry form, please call Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568 or E-mail rsuther@hotmail.com On the day of the conference, bring your invention along with the completed entry form to the SEMBA table in the vendor area.

MBA's BEEKEEPING SYMPOSIUM MARCH 12-13 2010—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 12-13, 2010.

The featured speaker for the two-day meeting will be Dewey Caron who will speak on "Bee Pests from A to Z" on Friday and "Colony Natural History" on Saturday. A special feature this year will be a one-man play entitled "Bee Man", the story of L.L. Langstroth celebrating his 200th birthday. Each day there will be breakout sessions on a wide variety of subjects to include: Reading the Bee Frame; Beekeeping Equipment; Starting Bees with a Package; First-year Management; Insect and Flower Relationships; Honey Bee and Colony Biology; Making Splits; Control of Diseases and Pests; Comb Honey Production; Extracting Honey; Honey and Health; How to Catch a Swarm; Making Beeswax Candles; Re-queening a Colony; Wintering Bees; Two-Queen Colonies; Small-Scale Honey Processing; Marketing Your Honey; Apitherapy; Winter Splits; Honey bee Biology and more.

For more information contact Roger Hoopingarner, (517) 699-2428, rahoope@msu.edu

SEMBA LEADERS

President.....Roger Sutherland
 1st Vice President.....Winn Harless
 2nd Vice President.....Dennis Holly
 Secretary.....Mary Hobart
 TreasurerMary Sutherland
 Past President.....Keith Lazar
 Web Master.....Tom Lisk
 Bee Class Leader.....Mike Siarkowski

**SEMBA HostessDonna & Howard Laws
and Teresa and Walter McCurdy
Oakland Chapter.....Dennis and Donna Holly
Historian.....Ron Forfinski
Presentation Committee Chm.....John Kates
SEMBA Director.....Fritz Sanders
SEMBA Director.....Don Schram
Tollgate RepresentativeClay Ottoni**

Phone number and e-mail addresses available by request.

MICHIGAN HOUSE BILL 5280

House Bill 5280, labeled "Cottage Food Operation", was introduced in the Michigan House of Representative on 8/26/09 by John Proos with 33 co-sponsors. The bill would amend the Food Law of 2000. A Cottage Food Operation means a person who produces or packages non-potentially hazardous food in a kitchen of that person's primary domestic residence.

Non-potentially hazardous food includes, but not limited to, baked goods, jams, jellies, snack food, cereal, granola, candy, dried herbs and vinegar. Honey and maple syrup should be considered non-potentially hazardous foods. A cottage food operation is exempt from the licensing and inspection provisions of this act. It does not include an exemption from the labeling, adulteration and other standards imposed in this section or under this act.

Other provisions include: Honey labels must state "Made in a home kitchen that has not been inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture". The gross sales of non-hazardous food shall not exceed \$15,000 annually. You can read the entire bill and track it through the legislative process on the Internet. Using a search engine like Google, type in Michigan House Bill 5280. SEMBA encourages you to contact your Michigan House Representative and encourage the representative to support the bill.

ANCIENT COURTSHIP

This story may seem hard to believe, but when there weren't many women around in a particular ancient village, men would raid other villages to find some. A warrior who stole a bride away would have to hide with her to avoid being found by her home tribe. According to an old French tradition, the couple would, during this time, drink metheglin (a drink made from honey) through each phase of the moon. Boy needs girl. Boy takes girl. Boy and girl go into hiding. Girl prepares obscure honey-based

beverage to be consumed by boy and girl from one waning gibbous phase to another. It's the classic love story and where we get the term, "honeymoon."

~Submitted by Roxane Hook.

GET WELL WISHES TO ROXANE HOOK AND GILBERT TERRY

SEMBA members Roxane Hook and Gilbert Terry are undergoing treatment for leukemia. Gilbert has had a bone marrow transplant and Roxane is awaiting final results from a likely donor. Both Roxane and Gilbert would appreciate hearing from other SEMBA members. Their email addresses are:

Roxane ----- mrhook@provide.net

Gilbert -----gillyt@aol.com

IF YOU SWAT, WATCH OUT: BEES REMEMBER FACES

A honey bee brain has a million neurons, compared with the 100 billion in a human brain. But, researchers report, bees can recognize faces, and they even do it the same way we do. Bees and humans both use a technique called configural processing, piecing together the components of a face — eyes, ears, nose and mouth — to form a recognizable pattern, a team of researchers report in the February 15 issue of *The Journal of Experimental Biology*. "It's a kind of gluing," said Martin Giurfa, a professor of neural biology at the University de Toulouse, France, and one of the study's authors. The faces had bowls of sugar water in front of them, while the nonfaces were placed behind bowls containing plain water. After a few failed trips to the bowls without sugar water, the bees kept returning to the sugar-filled bowls in front of the faces, the scientists found.

The entire article can be viewed on the Internet by accessing the *New York Times*, February 2, 2010.

~Source: *New York Times* by Sindya N. Bhanoo

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY L.L. LANGSTOTH the Father of Modern Beekeeping



KILLER BEES AREN'T SO SMART

When it comes to learning and remembering, these invaders don't do as well as the bees they displace.
~By Susan Milius, *Science News*, December 19th, 2009; Vol.176 #13 (pg. 8).

Note to plotters of world domination: Don't get discouraged about your weaker brains. So-called killer bees have readily displaced the long-established European honey bees throughout Central America and the southern United States. Yet the invaders don't perform as well as invadees in lab tests of learning and memory, says behavioral ecologist Margaret Couvillon of the University of Sussex in Brighton, England. In lab tests, fewer of the invasive bees learned to associate a puff of jasmine odor with an upcoming reward of sugar water, Couvillon and her colleagues found. Also, fewer of the invaders that did learn remembered their lesson the next day. Only about half as many killer bees picked up the association after a single trial, the researchers found. Even after three trials, about three quarters of the European honeybees were drooling at the odor but only half of the killer bees were. The researchers report their findings online November 11 in *Naturwissenschaften*.

2010 SEMBA BEEKEEPING CLASS

The syllabus and schedule for the 2010 beekeeping class to be held at the Tollgate Educational Center in Novi can be viewed on line by clicking on Education at sembabees.org

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale

- ~ Honey in 5 gallon buckets. Call Dave Kriesch 810-395-2037.
- ~ Beekeeping Equipment, Garden Hives available. Keith Lazar 248-361-1710 .
- ~ Honey pails, 5 & 6 gallons with lids. Call Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8658.
- ~ Nucs for Spring 2010. Contact Bob Jastrzebski, 734-748-2185, bob@cimsurf.com or www.bobilinhoney.com
- ~ Package bees from Wilbanks Apiary. Delivery April 24. Call Blanche Barber, 248-634-7017 for details.
- ~ Nucs for Spring 2010. Contact Don Schram, 248-310-8205.
- ~ Package bees from Spell Bees. Delivery April 20. 2 lb.\$63, 3 lb.\$72,Queens \$16.Call Mike Siarkowski 517-545-0824 to order.

Services:

- ~ Honey bee removal service. Call Don Schram, 248-310-8205.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO ASSIST AT THE MARCH 20TH SEMBA BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE. TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT rsuther@hotmail.com

Dues Reminder

If your address label denotes A10, 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 when paying SEMBA dues.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934
Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



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