



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 22 Number 7 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

November 2012

SEMBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your address label denotes N12, your dues become due in November 2012. Enclosed is a renewal application for your convenience. Email subscribers can use the Email renewal form when renewing their dues.

SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, November 25, 2012

Where: MSU Tollgate Education Center;
8115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48377,
southwest corner of 12 Mile and Meadowbrook.
See: <http://tollgate.msu.edu/>

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.

Winter Beekeeping Projects and
Making Your Own Equipment by
Fritz Sanders and Winn Harless

Notes: If you have made an item of beekeeping equipment, please bring it to share with other beekeepers. You do not have to attend the potluck in order to participate in the program. Also, you are welcome to bring beekeeping items for donation, sales, or trade. Door prizes will be awarded. **SEE LIST ON PAGE 4**

Annual Meeting Agenda:

- ~Committee reports
- ~Recognition of SEMBA Beekeeping Course Participants
- ~Election of officers
 - Slate of nominees:
 - 1st Vice President – Winn Harless
 - Treasurer – Mary Sutherland
 - Directors -- Fritz Sanders
 - Don Schram
 - Representative to MBA – Rich Wieske
(Nominations will be accepted from the floor.)

A refractometer will be available to check the moisture content of your honey.

CINDY LISK RECOVERING AT HOME

In September Cindy Lisk, wife of our webmaster Tom Lisk, underwent extensive surgery for cancer of the tongue. Presently, she is undergoing a series chemo and radiation treatments which began on October 22nd. Tom says that she is doing well so far without any problems at all. Also, "Thank you SEMBA so very much for the beautiful planter! We appreciate your thoughtfulness and concern."

Thank you again!
Tom & Cindy Lisk

Is Pollen Part of Honey?

The European Commission is moving to overturn a court ruling that pollen is an ingredient in honey. The Commission said that in line with World Trade Organization standards, the proposal defines pollen as a natural constituent of honey and not as an ingredient.

The change in EU rules, if accepted by all EU member states, would clarify the position for beekeepers left in limbo by the European Court of Justice ruling. The court said it considered pollen to be an ingredient in honey, rather than brought there naturally by the bees, and if it came from GM (genetically modified) plants, the honey would have to carry a warning that it contained GM products.

The warning would be needed if GM pollen accounted for 0.9% of all the pollen in the honey. However, the Commission proposal recognizes that pollen is a natural constituent and not an ingredient of honey; it enters into the hive as a result of the activity of the bees and is found in honey regardless of whether the beekeeper intervenes. "Consequently, since pollen is considered as a natural constituent of honey, EU labeling rules requiring a list of ingredients would not apply," the commission says.

~Source: Catch The Buzz, September 2012
by Alan Harman

IN MEMORIAM

Former SEMBA member Michael P. Kolodziej died at the age of 92 on August 10, 2012 in Livonia, Michigan. Michael, born in Poland, was 15 years old when the Soviet Union moved his family to Siberia. After spending some time in an internment camp, the family could not return to Poland, which was then under Soviet rule, so Mike went to England. From 1942 through the end of the war he served in the Royal Air Force. He married in England and the Kolodziej family, under sponsorship of an aunt, moved to Connecticut and later to Detroit where he was encouraged by his family doctor to start keeping bees. Mike enjoyed working his six colonies and making his own wood ware and other equipment.

He is survived by his wife Pamela and four daughters.

TOP BAR HIVE REPORT

In the August-September SEMBA NEWS we reported that sometime between June 15th and June 25th the new supercedure queen hatched and was successfully mated. Inspection on June 25th revealed new eggs and larvae. New comb development had slowed considerably and the bees were working on the eighth comb.

A one to one sugar syrup was fed throughout July. The colony consumed approximately one quart of syrup each week; drought conditions in our area had severely reduced the availability of nectar. An inspection on August 13th revealed no queen, eggs nor larvae. On August 17th a late swarm was captured, installed in a Langstroth hive and placed on top of the top bar hive. The bees now had equal opportunity to move down into the top bar hive or stay in the Langstroth. Inspection a few days later revealed that all the bees had moved into the Langstroth.

We will be wintering the hive in the Langstroth with the hope that the bees can be reinstalled in the top bar hive next spring.

~Roger and Mary Sutherland

SEMBA'S BEGINNING BEEKEEPING COURSE TO BE OFFERED AGAIN AT MSU'S TOLLGATE FARM IN NOVI

In September 2012, forty students in the 2012 SEMBA sponsored beekeeping course received their certificates of completion and moved their hives from Tollgate to their home location.

SEMBA extends congratulations to the students. SEMBA also wishes to thank the beekeeping course instructors: Mike Siarkowski, Clay and Julie Ottoni, Winn Harless, Richard Mendel and Gilbert Terry for their efforts and dedication. Megan Milbrath, Ph.D., will be added to the 2013 beekeeping course instructional staff.

The 2013 Beginning Beekeeping course will begin registering students in January 2013. SEMBA members will be given priority for enrollment acceptance. As of the first week in November, twenty-two SEMBA members have been placed on the priority list.

Cost for the thirteen session 2013 beekeeping course is \$140 if the student supplies a hive and bees for class instruction at Tollgate. If the student does not supply a hive and bees, the cost is \$190.

SEMBA'S ADVANCED BEEKEEPING COURSE TO BE OFFERED IN 2013 AT MSU'S TOLLGATE FARM IN NOVI

Anyone who has four years of beekeeping experience or has completed the SEMBA Beginning Beekeeping Course, is eligible to take the Advanced Course. Details regarding cost, schedule, and syllabus will be included in a future newsletter and on the sembabees.org website. A priority list has been established for the Advanced Course.

2012 SWARM REPORT

SEMBA recently conducted the annual swarm survey. Twenty-two SEMBA members reported a total of 123 swarms for the period March 2012 through September 2012.

In the 2011 annual swarm survey, twenty-five beekeepers reported a total of 37 swarms retrieved from April 23 to September 18, 2011. In 2010, the total number of swarms was 153, and 155 in 2009.

MSU HOPES TO CREATE A BUZZ FROM FEDERAL GRANT

EAST LANSING, MICH. (AP) -- Michigan State University researchers say they hope to generate some buzz with a \$1.6 million federal grant. The East Lansing school announced in October that the [U.S. Agriculture Department grant](http://www.usda.gov) will focus on supporting specialty crop yields and profit by supporting wild and managed bees. A team will lead a national crop pollination research and extension project. Researchers also will examine adding habitat for

bees to provide them with food when crops aren't in bloom. They hope the findings will increase growers' ability to better manage the bees for improved crop yield. The team's crop research comprises farms across the United States: almonds in California, cherries in Michigan, pumpkins in Pennsylvania and blueberries in Florida.

FIRST ANNUAL CARIBBEAN BEE COLLEGE JANUARY 3, 4, 5, 2013

The Honey Bee Research and Extension Laboratory at the University of Florida is pleased to announce the 1st Annual 'Caribbean Bee College'. More information is available at:

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/honeybee/extension/Caribbean%20Bee%20College/caribbean_bee_college.html

You can find our registration here:
<http://caribbeanbeecollege.eventbrite.com>

FRENCH BEEKEEPERS ABUZZ OVER BLUE HONEY BBC NEWS EUROPE, October 2012

Beekeepers in northeastern France have been alarmed to find their bees producing honey in unnatural shades of green and blue.

The beekeepers believe the source of the problem is a biogas plant close to Ribeauville in Alsace. It is thought the bees have been eating the sugary waste from M&Ms, small chocolates in brightly-colored shells. The plant operator said he regretted the situation and had put in place a procedure to stop it from happening again.

"We discovered the problem at the same time [the beekeepers] did. We quickly put in place a procedure to stop it," Philippe Meinrad, a spokesman from Agrivalor, the company operating the biogas plant, was quoted by Reuters as saying.

The company, which deals with waste from a Mars chocolate factory, said it would clean out the containers, store all incoming waste in airtight containers and process it promptly, according to a company statement published in Le Monde newspaper.

A spokeswoman for the British Beekeepers'

PROCEDURE FOR HONEY BEE MAGAZINE ORDERS

To order beekeeping magazines at bee club discount prices, call the publishers directly and indicate to them the name of your local club. For *Bee Culture* call: 1-800-289-7668.

For
American Bee Journal call: 1-888-922-1293
or 1-217-847-3324.

Association, Gill Maclean, said it was possible that the colored sugar could have contaminated the honey.

"Bees are clever enough to know where the best sources of sugar are, if there are no others available," she said. "As for the blue honey, the beekeepers say it is unsellable".

~Contributed by both Jim Wagner and
Judy Durfy

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AREA BEEKEEPING MEETINGS

OAKLAND BEE CLUB

When: Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 7:30 pm.
Where: E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Rd., Bloomfield Township, MI.
Program: Products of the Hive
For information contact Dennis Holly at
Hollysapiaries@yahoo.com

MONROE BEE CLUB

Meetings in Monroe are held the 3rd Monday of (most) months, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, at the MSU Extension Building, 963 South Raisinville Road, Monroe, MI. For information contact Bill Bray at
braybill@hotmail.com

ANN ARBOR BACKYARD BEEKEEPERS

The Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers usually meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. To be notified by email for the date and agenda, contact Richard Mendel, brescue@att.net

DETROIT HIVES PRODUCE HONEY

SEMBA member Bernard VanAntwerp who maintains hives in Harbor Springs, MI (Emmet County) and Detroit, MI, reports that this season there was no honey to harvest from his ten hives in Harbor Springs but the three hives in Detroit produced five gallons.

We would like to hear from other beekeepers about honey production in various locations.

BEESWAX AND OIL

(From *Honey, Nature's Golden Healer* by Gloria Havenhand)

From polishes to waterproofing, inks to paints, moulding to lubricants, the uses of beeswax are legion. But none perhaps is more important environmentally than its use in cleaning up marine oil spillage from massive globe-trotting tankers. Tiny balls of beeswax are released into the spillage; beeswax is waterproof so only the oil penetrates the skin of the beeswax balls. As oil seeps inside the balls, the oil-eating bacteria lying in wait within start the bio-digestion process. Having digested the oil, the harmless bacteria explode into the ocean where they become food for passing fish or other marine life. It is almost unbelievable that beeswax, this irreplaceable natural substance from honeybees on land, can come to the rescue of marine life, coral reefs and mangroves, which otherwise can take up to fifty years to recover from oil pollution. ~Submitted by Bill Sirr

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Beekeepers know that if a colony of bees has many workers performing a variety of tasks the hive will prosper. Like the beehive SEMBA will thrive if we have many new workers. Please consider volunteering to assist with one of the following committees:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

COMMITTEES

Nominating _____	Audit _____
Beekeeping conference _____	Electronic (web page, etc) _____
Newsletter _____	Beginning/Advanced Beekeeping _____
SEMBA meeting host _____	Programs _____

I would be willing to help in the following way _____

Please return to Clay Ottoni by email ceottoni@gmail.com, mail to Clay Ottoni, P.O. Box 300611, Waterford, MI 48330-0611, or bring to the November 25, 2012 SEMBA meeting at Tollgate Farm, 28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48377.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

~NAME TAGS, BADGES, SIGNS, LABELS & KEY FOBS

Complete engraving/printing system. Includes everything you need: engraver, full- color printer, computer with software, materials and findings. Perfect for schools, clubs and businesses. For more information call Carol B at [734-730-5501](tel:734-730-5501).

~Comb honey. Call Winn Harless, 734-453-2914.

~2012 raw, unheated, unfiltered honey for sale. \$120.00 per 5 gallon bucket, or less if you buy a larger quantity. Call Paul Marks 734-269-2794

~BeeMax styrofoam top bar feeder \$20. Brand new, never used and can double as hive insulation. Contact Todd Justman, 248-922-7156, todd@thejustmans.com

Wanted:

Names of beekeepers who have beeswax for sale - any quantities. Contact: Roger Sutherland, rsuther@sembabees.org

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

DOOR PRIZES FOR THE NOVEMBER 25 SEMBA MEETING

1. SS Frame grip w/ hive tool
2. Mini smoker
3. 1 pair of gloves (winner needs to see me for size).
4. capping scratcher tool
5. plastic queen excluder, 10 frame
6. metal queen excluder, 10 frame
7. five gallon bucket w/ gate
8. deep super w/ frames assembled
9. medium super w/ frames assembled
10. shallow super w/ frames assembled set up for cut comb w/ 9 space stollers