



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 24 Number 4 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
June/July 2014

SEMBA SUMMER PICNIC

When: Sunday, July 20, 2014
Potluck at 1:30 p.m.

Where: MSU Tollgate Education Center
28115 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48377
(Northwest corner of 12 Mile and
Meadowbrook)

Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service and beverage. Cups and napkins will be provided.

Program: Weather permitting, there will be a tour of Tollgate Farm and SEMBA's Beginning Beekeepers' Class apiary.

Also, a slide-lecture presentation entitled "Plants Important to Honey Bees" will be presented by several SEMBA members.

Note:

Sale and/or exchange: Members are invited to bring items to sell or exchange such as queens, queen cells and beekeeping equipment. However, to safeguard the apiaries (e.g., SEMBA's Beginning Beekeepers' Class apiary), please do not bring any pests, diseased items or anything else that could be harmful.

WATCH FOR TICKS IN YOUR BEE YARD

**MICHIGAN HONEY FESTIVAL
FRANKENMUTH, MICHIGAN
SATURDAY JULY 12, 2014, 10 AM – 5PM**

Adults \$5.00, Children under 12 free

Featured activities include demonstrations of mead making and honey extraction by Clay Ottoni, Bill Surr and Gilbert Terry, and candle making, cooking with honey, use of bee plants and mead tasting.

For information about vendors, sponsors and volunteer opportunities visit:
<http://www.michiganhoneyfestival.com/>

MICHIGAN RIGHT TO FARM AND HONEY BEES

An article published in a magazine incorrectly stated that recent changes to Michigan's Right to Farm Site Selection GAAMPS for Livestock would negatively affect beekeeping. Unfortunately, the article was incorrect, and some of the comments following the article were inaccurate and misleading. Michael Hansen, State Apiarist says, "In Michigan "Bees are not livestock, and the RTF Site Selection GAAMPS do not apply to the placement, keeping and management of bee colonies."

At the April Michigan Beekeepers' Association board meeting, Michael Hansen reported that the department was looking at concerns in the growing urban agriculture movement involving livestock. He explained that the department regards honey bees as farm animals, but not livestock. Bees were not affected by these changes as were erroneously reported. The GAAMPS for Beekeeping can be found at: www.Michigan.gov/RighttoFarm. Look for the Care of Farm Animal's GAAMPS. The honey bee section is located near the end of that document.

Thanks to many leaders in Michigan's beekeeping community who first asked if the information in the article was correct and have since taken steps to discuss these facts with concerned beekeepers.

~Mike Hansen, State Apiarist.

A NOTE FROM JUDY SCHMALTZ

I just took action because the EPA is about to approve even more chemicals to be used on our food that will kill bees. Can you take action too? Bees make more than just honey, and they are dying off in mass numbers because of chemicals being sprayed on crops. Without bees, we will lose many of the foods we love like fruits, vegetables, nuts, and all sorts of other things that require pollination from bees. Join me in taking action by going to:

https://secure3.convio.net/fww/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1343&s_src=taf_sp&sp_ref=42227253.63.7705.e.0.2

IN MEMORY OF JOYCE GUTHRIE



Joyce M. Guthrie, age 88, died on May 8, 2014. Joyce lived most of her life in Utica and Rochester. She was the wife of the late Dan Guthrie and mother of their two daughters, Pamela Hyland and Janet Guthrie Dodge.

As Life Members of the Michigan Beekeepers' Association and the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association, she and Dan were actively involved in beekeeping association activities. For many years, Joyce served as chair person of the Michigan Honey Queen Program.

The family has suggested that any memorial contributions should be made the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association.

USDA SPENDING \$3M TO FEED HONEY BEES

MILWAUKEE, WI. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it will spend millions of dollars to help farmers and ranchers improve pastures in five Midwestern states to provide food for the nation's struggling honey bees. Commercial honey bees pollinate an estimated \$15 billion worth of produce each year. Many beekeepers bring hives to the Upper Midwest in the summer for bees to gather nectar and pollen for food, then truck them in the spring to California and other states to pollinate everything from almonds to apples to avocados. You may view the complete article by going to: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/usda-spending-3m-feed-honeybees-midwest>

FDA's NEW GUIDANCE FOR LABELING HONEY

FDA is issuing draft guidance to help members of the food industry ensure they are properly labeling honey and honey products, and to remind them that honey and honey products must not be misbranded or adulterated under the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The proper labeling of these products helps to ensure that consumers

understand the contents of honey and honey products available for purchase and can differentiate between them. The draft guidance summarizes FDA's legal authority over honey and honey products; provides a commonly used definition of honey; and offers advice on labeling issues such as the floral source of honey, blends of honey and other sweeteners, and blends of honey and other ingredients, such as flavors. It also describes some of the measures FDA takes to guard against honey adulterated with cane sugar, corn syrup, or residues of chloramphenicol or fluoroquinolones. All interested parties are invited to comment on the draft guidance document.

Bee Culture believes the comment period is closed, but that is not crystal clear on the Federal Register page.

~Source: *Catch the Buzz*, April 8, 2014

MSU ENTOMOLOGY NEWS

Zachary Huang and a team of scientists from MSU and Wayne State University have identified how a single gene in honey bees separates the queen from the workers. "This gene is critical in making the hind legs of workers distinct so they have the physical features necessary to carry pollen," said Huang. "Other studies have shed some light on this gene's role in this realm but our team examined in great detail how the modifications take place."

Walter Pett has a new appointment as apiculture and pollination Extension Specialist for MSU. This strengthens the Department's current focus on honey bee health and physiology led by Zachary Huang and native pollinators led by Rufus Isaacs. Since 2008, Pett has taught undergraduate courses, including the popular course in apiculture and pollination, and he will continue to combine undergraduate teaching with his apiculture Extension program.

~Source: *Bugged*, a publication of the MSU Department of Entomology, Spring 2014

TICK ALERT

Deer ticks and dog ticks are prevalent this summer. Check for them after working in your bee yards.

~Submitted by Mike Siarkowski

THE BUSY HONEY BEE

Bees collect 66 pounds of pollen per year, per hive. Pollen is the male germ cells produced by flowering plants for fertilization and embryo formation and is one of the richest and purest

natural foods, consisting of up to 35 percent protein, 10 percent sugars, carbohydrates, enzymes, minerals and vitamins.

Did you know that an average bee typically visits between 50 and 1,000 flowers a day, but a busy bee can visit up to several thousand? Bees from a single hive visit more than 200,000 flowers per day! www.backyardbeekeepers.com

~Submitted by Bill Sirr.

YEARLY SURVEY SHOWS BETTER RESULTS BUT LOSSES REMAIN SIGNIFICANT

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2014 - A yearly survey of beekeepers, released today, shows fewer colony losses occurred in the United States over the winter of 2013-2014 than in recent years, but beekeepers say losses remain higher than the level that they consider to be sustainable.

According to survey results, total losses of managed honey bee colonies from all causes were 23.2 percent nationwide. That number is above the 18.9 percent level of loss that beekeepers say is acceptable for their economic sustainability, but is a marked improvement over the 30.5 percent loss reported for the winter of 2012-2013, and over the eight-year average loss of 29.6 percent.

The winter losses survey covers the period from October 2013 through April 2014. About 7,200 beekeepers responded to the voluntary survey.

A complete analysis of the bee survey data will be published later this year. The summary of the analysis is at <http://beeinformed.org/results-categories/winter-loss-2013-2014/>.

~Source: *ABJ Extra*, May 14, 2014

BEEKEEPING MEETINGS IN SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Oakland Bee Club

For information contact Dennis Holly, 248-542-1316 or Hollysapiaries@yahoo.com

Monroe Bee Club

For information contact Bill Bray at braybill@hotmail.com

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

For information contact Megan Milbrath, 651-428-0543, a2b2club@gmail.com

Biodynamic Beekeeping, Ann Arbor

Contact Eileen Dickinson at 734-717-4145.

Pine River Bee Club, Goodells, MI

For information, contact 810-364-5477.

AFRICIANIZED BEES REACH COLORADO

Colorado's first confirmed Africanized honey

bees have turned up in a Palisade orchard, stunning entomologists who didn't believe the bees could survive cold Colorado winters. The bees, which are much more aggressive than common honey bees, were discovered by an orchard owner who recently was attacked and stung while working on his hives wearing his normal protective gear. A single bee from the aggressive hive was confirmed to be an Africanized honey bee through genetic testing at Colorado State University. The hive has been destroyed.

"I was stunned by the results of the test. They survived what we considered to be a pretty brutal winter," said Bob Hammon, a CSU extension agent and entomologist in Grand Junction. "We don't understand the significance of that yet."

Africanized honey bees first turned up in the United States (in Texas) in 1990 after they were introduced into Brazil from Africa.

~Source: *Denver Post*, May 13, 2014

YOUR EDITORS WERE BUSY IN MAY



Edible black and white morels

2014 SWARM REPORT

Send your 2014 swarm capture number to rsuther30@gmail.com

HOPGARD II APPROVED FOR USE

Michigan has received approval from the US Environmental Protection Agency to add HopGuard II to the list of products available to Michigan beekeepers for the control of Varroa mite in honey bee colonies in Michigan. HopGuard II is manufactured by BetaTec Hop Products, a subsidiary of John I. Haas, Inc. and is an updated formulation of HopGuard that the company developed to address concerns of beekeepers who used the HopGuard product in previous years.

This label will soon be available on the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development web site. www.michigan.gov/mdard. Open the *Plant, Pest and Pesticide Info* tab on the left side of the page, then open the *Section 18 and 24C* tab.

The current Section 18 Labels for Hopguard and Hopguard II expire December 31, 2014. Later this summer inspectors will contact beekeepers who used both Hopguard and Hopguard II to learn more about their experience using these products. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development uses feedback from beekeepers to support future Section 18 requests for these products.

~Source: Michael G. Hansen, Regional Supervisor/State Apiarist Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (269) 429-0669.

MSU PESTICIDE MONITORING PROJECT

MSU is looking for beekeepers located near urban/suburban areas to help with a MSU pesticide monitoring project. Here are the following criteria: 1) Colonies located near urban/suburban areas to help with a pesticide monitoring project. They must be located at least 3 miles away from another selected site in this study. 2) At least 2 hives must be in the same location so there is backup in case the one used dies. What we will do: A pollen trap will be provided. Foundation to get newly built comb (can provide) each month (possibly). We come monthly to take a small honey sample and pollen trapped in the trap. We might ask you to assist in placing the pollen trap 1-2 days ahead. \$75 will be provided to you compensating the use of your bees and your efforts involved. No special management/treatment will be provided by us. Manage your colonies normally. Record mite treatment (product name, dosage, and date in and out). Contact Zachary Huang, (517) 353-8136, or bees@msu.edu

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

Complete beehive set up including: hive stand, two different kinds of bottom boards (one with a beetle trap and one without). One deep box with frames, 5 medium boxes with frames, queen excluder, inner cover, aluminum-wrapped telescoping cover and hive top feeder. Also, one wood nuc box. Asking \$175. Contact for Karen & Bryan: (517) 518-1272 or kashcah@gmail.com

5 frame medium nuc hives available. Michigan bees. \$160, no equipment deposit, no frame exchange. Tim McGee [\(248\) 722-9833](tel:2487229833)

Honey bee colonies. These colonies started from swarms from my bee yard. They are at different stages of growth. Some are in a nuc box and others in a deep box. (It depends on the size of the swarm.) The price Start at \$110.00 . I would sell these colonies with the price plus equal equipment exchange. If you have any questions please call Mazin at [313-999-3180](tel:3139993180).

Hive Locations Offered:

Twenty acres including 2 hay fields, with clover and alfalfa, ready to host bee hives. Property is located in Highland, MI. Contact Mona Prime at douprime@yahoo.com or (248) 330-8131.

Two hundred acres near Lapeer, MI south of I69. Contact, Email pkbjm@comcast.com

2014 MICHIGAN STATE FAIR AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 1

Michigan's #1 Family Event!

Suburban Collection Showplace | For more information

<http://michiganstatefairllc.com/>

Clay has received this information from the State Fair.

“We are currently designing a collage of Michigan commodities to display at the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair. We are looking for donations of 20-50 pounds of product from the many different agricultural commodities groups in Michigan. If you have a display you are interested in adding, we are open to discussing your ideas. Our final collage depends on the responses from the many groups we have contacted”.

Contact Clay Ottoni if you are interested in participating,

cottoni@gmail.com

New project looking for bee keepers and growers with cover crops in Michigan

This project will document benefits of cover crops as habitat and nutritional sources for pollinators. Respond to the project manager if interested.

Posted on **June 9, 2014** by [Rufus Isaacs](#), Michigan State University Extension, Department of Entomology Bees are one focus of a new project from the [Conservation Technology Information Center](#) (CTIC) based in Indiana, and they are looking for cooperators in Michigan. This project will document the benefits of cover crops as habitat and nutritional sources for pollinators.

The “[Economic, Agronomic and Environmental Benefits of Cover Crops](#)” project will examine Midwestern farm’s ability to support bee colonies and help producers to understand their farm’s role in pollinator health.

CTIC is looking for beekeepers in Minnesota, South Dakota, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Ohio who are willing to contribute their expertise to the project. These beekeepers will be paired with farmers who produce bee-nourishing plants, particularly cover crops. Apiaries will then be established on the farm proportionate to its estimated carrying capacity. Hive health and productivity will be monitored and used to shape the producer’s management plan.

This three-year project is part of a [Conservation Innovation Grant](#) (CIG) and is funded by the [U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) and members of CTIC. The project also will examine nutrient cycling, improvements in soil health and other benefits of cover crops.

To become involved in or learn more about the “Economic, Agronomic and Environmental Benefits of Cover Crops” project, visit www.ctic.org/CoverCropMath, or contact Sara Hagmann at 765-494-9555 or hagmann@ctic.org.

CTIC is a national not-for-profit organization that champions, promotes and provides information on technologies and sustainable agricultural systems that conserve and enhance soil, water, air and wildlife resources that are productive and profitable. For more information about CTIC, visit www.ctic.org.

Dr. Isaacs' work is funded in part by [MSU's AgBioResearch](#)

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

Where to get Northern Queens

Buckfast and Beyond!

Right now, your bees should be happy in this honey flow! We don't want to be too disruptive so they can keep bringing in nectar and making honey. Once the honey flow slows, it is a great time to requeen package hives and to make summer increases. Making a summer increase from a local overwintered hive, or using a northern queen is one way to help your bees get through the winter.

Where to get northern queens?

1. From your (or your neighbor's) overwintered hive. Start thinking of using your good overwintered colonies. Use queens from these colonies to expand your apiary, and to share with your neighbors - keeping those genetics strong in your region.
2. Check out the [Northern Bee Network](#) for a listing of queen rearers near you.
3. Get involved with a bulk purchase of northern queens. Right now we have an order of Buckfast queens in the works (see below), but are looking to import Russians and a few others.

Buckfast queen order

There are two ways to order Buckfast queens:

Group purchase.

- If you would like to participate in the group purchase, please fill out the following [FORM](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1F2TVpCt2HV640pBRoSf386u0lCmemWqDKrrqCYQkvCY/viewform)
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1F2TVpCt2HV640pBRoSf386u0lCmemWqDKrrqCYQkvCY/viewform>
- Pay \$45 for the queens using either cash in person or check mailed to the address below, or pay \$48 using paypal (covers merchant fees)- <http://northernbeetwork.com/donate/>

You can order directly from the apiary in Canada. The Buckfast bees come from Ferguson Apiaries in Hensall, Ontario. Their web site is www.fergusonapiaries.on.ca . Their phone number is [519-236-4979](tel:519-236-4979) .

UPDATE ON BUCKFAST QUEENS

I spoke with Ferguson Apiaries this morning, and they have been having trouble with low grafting rates - they believe it is related to pesticides used in their area. They are getting new queens from Denmark in a few weeks, and are also moving part of their operation to a remote region in Northern Ontario to see if that helps. They anticipate that the queens will be a ways off still.

I will continue to follow up regularly with them, and let you know as soon as I hear anything. If you do not hear from me, that means that I don't have new information. Please do not continue to follow up with me directly to see if this is really true. If you would like to follow up directly with the apiary, you are more than welcome to do so.

Please keep in mind that my role is volunteering to coordinate a purchase of queens. I am not raising them, I am not advocating for or against them, and I do not have an opinion on them (yet). I also do not have inside information on when they will arrive.

I will keep taking orders until I hear from them that they need a shipment number from us. I will let everyone know when that happens, so feel free to change your order at that time. If you decide you don't want a queen that you ordered, we can work out a plan for donation/refund, and until we finalize the order there is flexibility.

From: **Meghan Milbrath** <northernbeetwork@gmail.com>

8133 Plum Orchard Road

Munith, MI 49259-9810

BEE AWARE GROUP ORGANIZES IN ANN ARBOR

Our facebook page address is www.facebook.com/beeawares

My name is Melissa Sklar and I am the main organizer.

We have a booth at the Cobblestone Farmers Market every Tuesday from 4pm to 7pm and we intend to be a resource center and awareness group regarding the plight of the bees and other pollinators that are being affected

by the overuse and misuse of toxic pesticides, herbicides. loss of habitat and GMO's.
Semba members who would like to sit with us at our table for an hour or so and disseminate information regarding bees and or beekeeping, they would be most welcome to do so.
I am the main contact and they can email me here at silverair@sbcglobal.net or phone me at [734 355 3997](tel:7343553997). We do not have a website or newsletter as of yet but probably will have one in the future.
This is a rough draft of my flyer but I will send you the final version in a few days.
We are still working on it before it gets published but this one will give you a good idea.
Thanks so much.



Ticks that spent a day or more sucking the blood of a dog before being removed



(L) Adult female deer tick; (Center- top to bottom) Adult male and nymph deer ticks; (R) Adult female American dog tick. (Photo: James Occi, MA, MS)

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

SEMBA Membership
5488 Warren Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105 9425