



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 25 Number 5 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

October/November/December 2015

SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, December 6, 2015

Where: Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road Rd., Livonia, MI.

Potluck: 1:00 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee and tea will be provided by SEMBA.

Annual Meeting: 2:30 p.m.

- ~Committee reports
- ~New business
- ~Election of officers

Slate of nominees:

President – Clay Ottoni

Vice President - Theresa Morin

Secretary – Sandy/ Randy Graichen,

MBA Representative – Rich Wieske

Treasurer – Wayne Titus

(Term: April, 2016 – November, 2018)

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Program:

"Are There Really No Honey Bees Left In China for Pollination? Five weeks in China and the Answers to That Question"

~Peter Sutherland, D.V.M.

"Candle Making for Fun and Profit"

~Wendy Harless

Vendors will be attending to sell beekeeping supplies. (Get an early start on Christmas gifts.)

Door prizes

NESTS FOR NATIVE BEES

At the September 27th SEMBA meeting at Schoolcraft College, Julia Brokaw, from MSU, was asked about instructions for building nests for native bees. She suggested doing an Internet search for the following:

- 1) Nests for Native Bees - The Xerces Society
- 2) Fact sheet - tunnel nests for native bees

~~~~~IN MEMORIAM~~~~~

**PAUL ANTONELLI
(1958 – 2015)**



Paul Antonelli, age 57, of Manchester passed away October 8, 2015, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. He was born in Detroit on March 4, 1958. Paul married the former Gayle Lindquist and she survives. Paul's unique enthusiasm was exhibited in all aspects of his life including beekeeping, gardening, cooking, projects, family and friends. His visionary insight touched everyone and everything he encountered. A memorial fund has been established. You may send donations to:

**Paul Antonelli Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 511
Manchester, MI 48158**

MORE FLOWERS, MORE FOOD, MORE BEES, FEWER PESTS. CAN IT GET ANY BETTER?

Wildflowers help control crop pests. Could cornflowers and poppies take the place of pesticides? That's what researchers are proposing in a new study on wheat fields. By planting strips of wildflowers alongside the crops, the scientists found that they could encourage the presence of helpful bugs that eat pests.

The study addresses what the authors call one of the "biggest challenges to mankind" - how to grow enough food for the world's population without decimating the environment. Chemical

pesticides are common tools for boosting a farm's output, but they often harm biodiversity.

The authors investigated an alternative strategy for controlling the cereal leaf beetle which can severely damage wheat crops. Along 15 winter wheat fields in Switzerland, the team planted rows of flowers that included dill, corn chamomile, garden chervil, cornflowers, cilantro, and red poppies. These plants provide food and shelter for insects that eat cereal leaf beetles, such as ladybirds and lacewings. The researchers counted cereal leaf beetles in the fields, surveyed the wheat for beetle damage, and searched for the beetle's enemies. The team also studied 15 other winter wheat fields where no flowers had been planted.

The fields with flower strips had 40 percent fewer cereal leaf beetle larvae and 53 percent fewer adult beetles, the team reports in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. The amount of leaf damage was 61 percent lower in the flower-fringed fields. The number of adult predators of cereal leaf beetles in the flower strips was higher as well.

The key to the experiment's success was choosing the mix of flowers carefully to help the pest's enemies, the authors say. They estimate that wheat yield could rise by 2.5 to 10 percent as a result. If the farm's output increases or insecticides can be avoided, the team writes, "flower strips can become economically self sustaining or even profitable." By Roberta Kwok
~Source: Tschumi, M. et al., 2015. High effectiveness of tailored flower strips in reducing pests and crop plant damage. *Proceedings of the Royal Society*

MICHIGAN BEE REGISTRY **(Their mission)**

We strive to gather data that is crucial to the health and well being of our bee populations throughout the State of Michigan. Reporting and recording is our primary drive, helping us get a clear and accurate picture of beekeeping activity from hobby beekeepers to commercial operations, while helping beekeepers manage healthy hives, protecting those hives and sharing of the data collected. This information is vital in order to maintain and improve the health of our bees here in Michigan as well as having data to provide to other agencies, educational institutions and even to others states and federal organizations.

By registering your apiary, you help give us the big picture of where hives and beekeepers are located throughout the State of Michigan. It has

been over 20 years since there has been any kind of apiary registry in Michigan, so we have no idea how many apiaries and beekeepers we have in the state, nor their current or past health. Registering is vital to helping our bees.

Visit their web site at:
<http://www.michiganapiaryregistry.org/>

HIVE THEFTS MAY BE ON THE RISE AS THE BEE POPULATION DECLINES

The California State Beekeepers Association is now offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for each tip that leads to the arrest of bee thieves. That's because the theft of bees and hives is becoming an increasingly costly problem—and the crimes aren't limited to California.

Bee populations have been in a state of decline for over a decade, which make the remaining healthy colonies even more precious. Bees are important members of our food system, and they're responsible for pollinating all kinds of crops, from almonds to eggplants. Beekeepers often rent out their hives to farms, and now less ethical beekeepers are preying on other apiaries.

According to the California State Beekeepers Association, it's likely the thieves are professional beekeepers themselves. "It's pretty easy to steal [bee] hives, if you know anything about commercial beekeeping, and the payoff is pretty good," Carlen Juppe, a spokesperson for the organization, told the local ABC 10 station. The thefts can cost beekeepers thousands of dollars. In one incident in San Joaquin County, 144 hives were stolen in March. Another beekeeper from Stanislaus County said that he's suffered from three bee heists in three years, and recently interrupted a fourth.

But the problem isn't only in the U.S. NPR recently interviewed Katie Hayward, a beekeeper in North Wales, who estimates 45,000 bees were stolen from her historical farm and education center. "We use these bees to teach children with special needs, and we use these bees to teach people not to be frightened of bees," Hayward said. "So for someone to come to our home and willingly take them, you feel violated, and I feel hugely disappointed that one beekeeper is tarnishing what we hold dear."

~Source: *Catch the Buzz*,

October 9, 2015



**NATIONAL MANAGEMENT
SURVEY**

2014 – 2015

Results for the 2014 – 2015 Bee

Informed Partnership (BIP) National Management Survey are posted. This survey was done in conjunction with the National Colony Loss Survey and represents the management practices of over 6,000 Beekeepers from across the country. Together, the beekeepers who took part in the survey collectively managed nearly 400,000 colonies representing about 14.5% of the 2.74 million colonies in the United States. We would like to give a big thanks to all of the beekeepers who participated in the survey – your participation is highly valued by the Bee Informed Partnership and other beekeepers who are able to review which management strategies work and those that do not. As part of our analysis for the National Management Survey, we compared the losses of beekeepers who employed specific management practices against other practices that are available for beekeepers. By conducting this analysis, we are able to obtain the proportion of colonies lost relative to other practices, highlighting which practices are most effective.

Please note, in explaining the results, we always caveat it with the caution that “Correlation does not equal causation.” What this means, is that just because one management practice is resulting (correlating) in lower colony losses, it does not mean that using this management practice is the cause for lower losses. One of the great examples of this idea would be the statement that “As ice cream consumption increases, shark attacks also increase.” In this example, the explanation seems obvious. Ice cream consumption is not causing shark attacks, it just happens that both of these statistics peak during summer months. There are various confounding variables that are effecting changes in ice cream consumption and shark attacks. As the weather gets warmer ice cream becomes more appealing and more people are likely to go swimming in the ocean. Ice cream consumption is not causing shark attacks and vice versa. When reading through the results for the National Management Survey it is important to keep in mind that there are many correlative relationships but not all are causative; however, in viewing the results, it allows us to make more data and hypothesis driven research.

~Source: *ABJ Extra-News*, September 25, 2015

COURT SIDES WITH THE BEES, OVERTURNS EPA APPROVAL OF A PESTICIDE

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated EPA's unconditional registration of sulfoxaflo, a neonicotinoid pesticide linked to bee deaths. "Given the precariousness of bee populations, leaving the EPA's registration of sulfoxaflo in place risked more potential environmental harm than vacating it," Judge Mary Schroeder wrote.

EPA granted "unconditional" registration even though sulfoxaflo's manufacturer, Dow

AgroSciences LLC, provided limited data and studies that didn't conform to international guidelines, according to the opinion. Moreover, the judge wrote, the studies didn't account for brood development within the hive and long-term colony health. "Because the honey bee colony is an interdependent 'super organism,' the effect of an insecticide on one type of bee can ripple through the hive," wrote Schroeder.

EPA is set to review the registration of five other neonicotinoid insecticides by 2019.

Dow Agrosciences was an intervenor in the case and the company is considering available options for challenging the court's decisions.

~Contributed by Judy Durfy

~Source: Margaret Badore

Science / Sustainable Agriculture, Sept. 9, 2015

SILENT BEEKEEPING MOVIE AVAILABLE FROM THE 1800s

The films of the 1890s were under a minute long and until 1927, motion pictures were produced without sound. John Kustra discovered this early beekeeping movie and is pleased to share it with SEMBA members. Email rsuther@sembabees.org for the link to view the movie.

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 Meghan Milbrath, (651)-428-0543, or a2b2club@gmail.com

Biodynamic Beekeeping, Ann Arbor

For information contact Eileen Dickinson at (734)-717-4145.

Pine River Bee Club, Goodells, MI

For information contact (810)-364-5477.

SEMBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If your address label denotes N15 your dues become due in November 2015. Enclosed is a renewal application for postal subscribers. Email subscribers may use the email renewal form when renewing their dues.

IT'S BEEKEEPERS THAT ARE IN TROUBLE, NOT SO MUCH THE BEES...

Scientists are now in agreement that we are not facing a beepocalypse as many in the media environmental activists and journalists have been predicting. Bee populations aren't declining; they're rising. According to statistics kept by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, honey bee populations in the United States, Canada and Europe have been stable or growing for two decades.

But the latest statistics have not stemmed the tide of dire warnings. The focus has shifted from the pollinators themselves to beekeepers. Tim Tucker, president of the American Beekeeping Federation, recently said: "It's not the bees that are in jeopardy... I believe we'll always have bees... [But] unless things change, what's in jeopardy is the commercial beekeeping industry."

University of Maryland bee researcher Dennis van Engelsdorp echoed the sentiment: "We're not worried about the bees going extinct... We're worried about the beekeepers going extinct. Beekeepers are indeed working nearly twice as hard as ever as Tucker has said." Beekeepers report having to split their hives more often to make up for losses, entailing more work than in previous decades. And for commercial beekeepers maintaining thousands of bee hives, all of this additional work means more employees, more salaries, and more expenses.

The major driver of these challenges is the near-global spread of parasites ... Read the rest of this article at <http://www.geneticliteracyproject.org/2015/09/24/crisis-shift-bees-may-not-facing-apocalypse>

~*Catch the Buzz*, September 25, 2015

BEE PLANT WEB SITE

In an email from Jeremy Hughes, he says, "My web page encourages people to plant specific native flowers highly beneficial to bees. On this page, I also list additional ways to help bees."

Visit my web site at <http://www.beeseech.org/>

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

~Experienced beekeeper bringing a few Florida five-frame nucs back to Michigan (Richmond/Algonac area) mid April, 2016. Made with care, \$130 each, 586-242-0033.

Wanted:

~Bee hives on my 15 acre farm in Carleton, Michigan, with a wide variety of blooming plants and open areas of wild fields. Contact Karen at triplets35@att.net

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

Oakland Beekeepers' Club

Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



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