

SEMBA NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT – DECEMBER 2015

SEMBA BEEKEEPING MEETING AND CONFERENCE PREVIEWS

In February, 2016 SEMBA will be meeting at the Wayne County Community College, Western Campus. 9555 Haggerty Rd., Belleville, MI.

The program will feature building basic beekeeping equipment. Attend this meeting and become familiar with the location for the 78th Annual SEMBA Beekeepers' Conference.

The SEMBA Newsletter in mid January will provide more details.

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The 78th Annual SEMBA Beekeepers' Conference is a one-day event designed for beekeepers as well as those who are considering keeping honey bees for the first time. The Saturday, March 19, 2016 event will be held at Wayne County Community College, Western Campus. 9555 Haggerty Rd., Belleville, MI. **Admission is free.**

Kent Williams and Roger Hoopingarner Ph.D will be the keynote speakers. Kent Williams is a Kentucky beekeepers raising queens and making Nuc's. Kent has been a presenter at the Heartland Apicultural Society Conference. Dr. Hoopingarner Professor Emeritus, Entomology Department, Michigan State University is still active presenting programs and writing.

A number of workshop sessions will be held throughout the day for the beginner and advanced beekeeper. This year the potluck will be resumed and you will also be able to purchase food at the college. Many beekeeping supply vendors will be present.

SEMBA members **will** be able to renew their memberships at the conference.

The SEMBA Newsletter in mid January will provide more details.

## **VOLUNTEERS TO WORK AT CONFERENCE ARE NEEDED**

In order to conduct the Saturday, March 19, 2016 all-day conference, the assistance of many volunteers is required. Therefore, please consider giving your assistance in areas such as registration, pre-registration, vendor set-up, selling raffle tickets, assisting with door prize distribution, or assisting conference chair persons. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the areas listed above, please contact any of the following:

- Clay Ottoni .....ceottoni@gmail.com
- Winn Harless ..... [.winnsbees@gmail.com](mailto:winnsbees@gmail.com)
- Sandy&Randy [Graichen...kyger7@hotmail.com](mailto:Graichen...kyger7@hotmail.com)

Mary [Sutherland.....rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:rsuther30@gmail.com)  
Keith [Lazar.....keithmlazar@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmlazar@hotmail.com)

## **PAUL ANTONELLI MEMORIAL FUND**

In the fall of 2015, a memorial fund was established to honor the memory of Paul Antonelli who died October 8, 2015. Paul's unique enthusiasm was exhibited in all aspects of his life including many years of beekeeping in the Manchester, MI area. He was especially helpful to new beekeepers; therefore, to continue the work he started, the Paul Antonelli Memorial Committee is pleased to announce the availability of a monetary award designed to provide new beekeepers in Southeastern Michigan with some funding to enroll in a beekeeping course for beginners or to help defray some of the expense of beekeeping equipment. Scholarships or awards range between \$150.00 to \$400.00 each.

If you are interested, you may obtain the Paul Antonelli Memorial Fund Application by emailing [rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:rsuther30@gmail.com) Deadline for applications is January 31, 2016. In early February 2016, the Paul Antonelli Memorial Fund Committee will meet to evaluate the applications and determine the award recipients. Award winners will be announced by February 29, 2016.

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## **THERE WILL BE A 2016 SEMBA BEGINNING BEEKEEPING COURSE.**

The class usually starts with the SEMBA Beekeeping Conference to be held on Saturday March 19, 2016. The first class of the thirteen session course usually starts the week before or after the conference. The conference is free to SEMBA members this year

Because we generally have more applicants than the class can accommodate we give preference to SEMBA members. SEMBA members wishing to join the class are placed on a priority list which **guarantees** their enrollment if they wish to join. Contact Roger Sutherland, [rsuther@sembabees.org](mailto:rsuther@sembabees.org)

As soon as all the 2106 course details are completed, and if you are on the priority list, you will be sent the syllabus/schedule and application. The 2015 information posted on [sembabees.org](http://sembabees.org) (cost, class topics, number of sessions, etc) is the roughly the same for 2016.. Dates for the 13 sessions have not been determined.

## **THERE WILL NOT BE A 2016 SEMBA ADVANCED BEEKEEPING COURSE.**

## BEE KEEPING ESSAY CONTEST

Below is information regarding the 2016 Bee Keeping Essay Contest sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. Michigan entries should be submitted to me at [baumga75@anr.msu.edu](mailto:baumga75@anr.msu.edu) by **February 19, 2016**. One Michigan entry will be selected as a state winner and then submitted to the National contest.

Contact me with any questions.  
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### **2016 Essay Topic: “*Bees and Pollination. How Important is it?*”**

Beekeeping has had its five minutes of fame for the past five years. Now more than ever, people are asking “What will happen if the bees are gone?” Your paper should research and help answer this question.

Survey your community to see what is being done. Include your state in your survey to see if there are any programs they are using for pollination or any other program that could aid the honey bee.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

**Rules Overview:** (failure to meet any one of the requirements will result in a disqualification)

- Students interested in writing an essay, should contact their local 4-H offices for contest details. The state selection must be done through the 4-H system.
- Preparation for National Judging: Typewritten or computer-generated double-spaced, 12pt. Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper following standard manuscript format.
- Must submit an essay, 750 to 1000 words, on the essay topic
- Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research- 40%; (b) accuracy- 30%; (c) creativity- 10%; (d) conciseness- 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic- 10%
- All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
- A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including birthdate, gender, complete mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.

- Each state may submit ONE entry only.
- Deadline for National submission is: **March 4, 2016**.  
Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation's Essay Committee, whose decision is final.
- National winners will be announced by the **week of May 2nd, 2016**.
- All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essays will be returned.
- Send the winning state entries with the subject title: "4-H State Winning Entry from XXX State" to : reginarobuck@abfnet.org.

***Eligibility:***

Contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. 4-H'ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the National level are NOT eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter. Students must write on the designated subject only. There will be NO exceptions.

***Awards:***

First Prize: \$750.00

Second Prize: \$500.00

Third Prize: \$250.00

The National winners' essays will appear in an issue of the American Beekeeping Federation's Newsletter.

\*Each State Winner, including the National winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

If you have any questions, please contact Regina K. Robuck, Executive Director, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees at 404.760.2887 or reginarobuck@abfnet.org.