



# SEMBA NEWS

Vol. 12 No. 9

Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

December 2002

## Upcoming Events

### January 7, 2003

Oakland Bee Club Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

### January 7-11

American Honey Producers Association  
Baton Rouge, LA

### January 12-17

American Beekeeping Federation  
Kansas City, KS

- the newsletter; the issues for October through December are up, and we plan to put more back issues up.
- contact information for people wishing to know more about SEMBA
- educational information about beekeeping will be added to the site.
- links to SEMBA members' websites

Alan Pagliere will maintain the site, acting as the SEMBA webmaster. If you have suggestions for adding content to the site or wish to link your website to the SEMBA site Alan at [pagliere@umich.edu](mailto:pagliere@umich.edu). *Sara Rutter*



## Oakland Bee Club Meeting

The Oakland Bee Club meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., January 7th at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills. The invited speaker is Dr. Jeff Andresen of the Department of Geography and the Michigan State Climatologists Office at Michigan State University. Professor Andresen will talk about Global warming. *Submitted by Larry Yates, VP SEMBA*



## SEMBA Launches Website

The SEMBA website is up! The url is <http://www.sembabees.org>. Roger Sutherland, Mary Sutherland, Tom Lisk, Alan Pagliere, David Bowman, and Sara Rutter met recently to plan the SEMBA website. Following that meeting, SEMBA member Alan Pagliere, a computer programmer at the University of Michigan library, created a prototype of the SEMBA website. The prototype was approved by the web group and SEMBA President, Jim Goodrich gave the go-ahead to launch the site.

Currently the website includes:



## Fritz Sanders Becomes New Life Member

Our newest SEMBA Life Member is Fritz Sanders of Livonia. In 1976, Fritz heard a radio program featuring an interview with the late Dr. Byberg (founder and leader of the Cranbrook Bee Club) who described a beekeeping course to be held at Cranbrook. Fritz and a friend enrolled and completed the program. Prior to taking the beekeeping course, Fritz had been offered a wild swarm of bees located in a barrel. The friend offering the bees thought that because Fritz grew up in Germany, he would know all about beekeeping; however, "He was wrong," Fritz says. "We enjoyed the class so much, we bought hives from Bill Stack that fall, and when Dr. Byberg offered the Cranbrook Master Beekeeper

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course, I took that class along with Ed. Nowak."

"For me," Fritz says, "beekeeping was always a hobby to enjoy, paying for itself. I never had the ambition to have more than a few hives thus leaving enough time to engage in other hobbies in addition to my job as an engineer in the auto industry. I found another advantage was the fact that with this hobby I was able to utilize my wood working, photography and engineering skills." Fritz's other hobbies include motorcycle touring, computerized investing, and German Club activities.

Fritz began beekeeping with two hives in his backyard and then added other locations in Westland and Plymouth Township. His highest number of colonies was seven and his honey is marketed to friends, relatives, and a food co-op. His contributions to beekeeping organizations include heading up the Cranbrook Bee Club, presenting workshops at the SEMBA Bee School and SEMBA meetings, publishing detailed plans for making beekeeping equipment, and assisting with the SEMBA Newsletter mailings. We welcome Fritz. *Submitted by Roger Sutherland*



### **Forfinskis Become SEMBA Life Members**

Ronald and Judy Forfinski, who joined SEMBA just two years ago, are now added to the list of SEMBA Life Members. Judy says, "In 1979, Ron was enrolled in a biology class taught by Roger Sutherland at Schoolcraft College. Ron remembers him (Roger) talking about bees and thought maybe he would like to try beekeeping, but it took twenty years. In 2001, Ron took the SEMBA bee class and we have been learning ever since."

The Forfinskis have a small organic farm in Brighton where they began with two hives in 1999 to have honey bees for pollination. By adding colonies each year, they now have increased their apiary to eleven colonies. "We sell our honey by word-of-mouth at work and at church. We make wildberry mead which we give as presents." Ron is employed as a technical writer and Judy is manager of a dental service company.

In addition to SEMBA membership, the Forfinskis are members of the Michigan Beekeepers' Association. Ron and Judy are regular attendees at SEMBA meetings and the SEMBA Annual Bee School; both have contributed programs and workshops demonstrating the various beekeeping products that they produce. SEMBA is indeed fortunate to have this energetic couple as contributing Life Members. *Submitted by Roger Sutherland*



### **Membership Information**

As of January 1, 2003 SEMBA membership costs are \$10.00 for an individual, \$15.00 for a family, \$100.00 for an individual life membership and \$150.00 for a family life membership. Benefits include discounts on subscriptions to *Bee Culture* and the *American Bee Journal*. If you pay SEMBA dues, you may join or renew the Michigan Beekeepers' Association for an additional \$25.00.

When you pay your SEMBA membership dues the treasurer will send you a subscription form, with the next SEMBA Newsletter, to complete and send it to the journal of your choice. *Roger Sutherland*



### **Submissions to SEMBA News**

Send your submissions electronically to [smrutter@umich.edu](mailto:smrutter@umich.edu), by mail to Rutter/Bowman 1314 Olivia Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, or phone 734-741-0482 (feel free to leave message). The newsletter is only as good as its contributors; please share your knowledge, observations, and discoveries with other SEMBA members.



### **SEMBA Buddy System**

Over the past several years SEMBA has sponsored a very successful beekeeping class, helping many new beekeepers start beekeeping operations. This hands-on course, led by master beekeepers, plus the SEMBA Annual Bee School and monthly meetings, together provide important educational opportunities, one of the goals of SEMBA.

It has been suggested that one additional assistance to offer new beekeepers would

be a "Beekeeping Buddy System". Novice beekeepers would be paired with an experienced beekeeper, hopefully living relatively close by. The experienced beekeeper would be able to answer questions by phone or e-mail or might make an on-site visit to help with some problem. Each pair would develop their own plan of cooperation.

Now that we have a new SEMBA web site [www.sembabees.org](http://www.sembabees.org) we would like to offer the buddy system as another resource available to members. You do not have to be a master beekeeper to act as a buddy. One usually finds that when you teach someone the teacher usually learns more than the student.

If you are interested in helping a new beekeeper as a buddy or if you need more information please e-mail Roger Sutherland, [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com) or call 734-668-8568 to put your name on the list. A contact would be made with you before assigning you a buddy. *Roger Sutherland*



### **Brief: Tribe Meliponini Stingless Honey Bees**

Michener includes the *Meliponini* in the Apinae subfamily which includes our *Apis mellifera* and bumblebees. The *Meliponini* are stingless honey bees, native to tropical and subtropical areas. Shared characteristics between the stingless tropical honey bee and the European honey bee include a complex caste system, long-term survival of colonies, and the storing of honey.

Instead of swarming, hives divide over a long period of time, as workers build another hive, like a second house, while continuing to live in the original hive. A new queen leaves the original hive to inhabit the newly built hive. The new hive takes several weeks or months to become a separate colony from the original colony.

Stingless honey bees are believed to have been cultivated by the Maya from 300 B.C.E. and are still kept by Mayans today in Central America, in hives made of hollow logs.

Classification work by Michener indicates that the stingless honey bees originated in the Western Hemisphere and extended

from South America and into North America in the late Cretaceous period.

**Sources:** Crane, E. *The World's Beekeeping—Past and Present*, in *The Hive and the Honey Bee*, pp. 1-22. 2000. Michener, C.D. *The Bees of the World*, pp. 779-805. 2000.



### **Current Research on *Apis Mellifera***

Beekman, M. et al. A non-policing honey bee colony (*Apis mellifera capensis*)  
NATURWISSENSCHAFTEN 89 (10)479-482

Beye, M. et al. Specific developmental gene silencing in the honey bee using a homeobox motif  
INSECT MOLECULAR BIOLOGY 11 (6)527- 532

Mahaman, BD et al. A diagnostic expert system for honeybee pests  
COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS IN AGRICULTURE 36 (1) 17- 31

Neumann, P et al. Parasitic Cape bees in the northern regions of South Africa:source of the founder population  
SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE 98 7-8)404-406

Stabentheiner A et al. Endothermic heat production in honeybee winter clusters.  
Journal of Experimental Biology. 2003 Jan;206(Pt 2):353-8.

Pankiw, T et al. Genotype and rearing environment affect honeybee perception and foraging behaviour  
ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR 64 663- 672

Robinson, GE and Ben-Shahar, Y. Social behavior and comparative genomics: new genes or new gene regulation?  
GENES BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR 1 (4) 197-203

Schubert, M et al. Nonelemental visual learning in honeybees  
ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR 64 175-184

Williams, IH Cultivation of GM crops in the EU, farmland biodiversity and bees  
BEE WORLD 83 (3)119-133

peace on Earth



## Bargain Corner

**New wooden ware**, assortment of honey bottles, 4-frame stainless steel motorized extractor, 25 frame galvanized motorized extractor, observation hive, and much more. Desire to sell as package. **Call Charles Bode at 586-725-8163.**

**Package Bees** from Georgia arriving in Roseville, MI in April 2003. **Call Gerald Dunbar** and leave message at **586-770-9953.**

12 frame motorized extractor with stand, 60 5 gallon honey buckets. **Michael Kielbasa 810-329-3754.**

Please book your **Package Bees.** Order early. Bees should arrive around April 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>, from Wilbank Apiaries in Georgia. **Call Dave Barber** to arrange for packages, **248-634-7017.**

NEW 1 & 5 Gal. buckets w/ lids, New medium and deep supers and frames available. **Keith Lazar, (248) 815-5522 or Home (248) 626-2483**

Note: ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad contact Sara Rutter [smrutter@umich.edu](mailto:smrutter@umich.edu) or Roaer Sutherland [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com).



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Southeastern Michigan  
Beekeepers' Association  
**Organized April 1, 1934**



Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership  
5548 Warren Road  
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