



# SEMBA NEWS

Vol. 13 No. 8      Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association      September 2003  
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**Upcoming Events:**  
**October 7**  
 Oakland Bee Club Meeting – The Oakland Bee club will meet at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center at 7:30 p.m.  
**October 19**  
 SEMBA Annual Business Meeting – SEMBA will be holding its annual business meeting on October 19, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. with a potluck preceding the meeting. The potluck will take place at 1:30 p.m.  
**October 24-25**  
 MBA Annual Meeting  
**November 11**  
 Schoolcraft Bee Club Meeting

What's Inside SEMBA News
Upcoming Events
Oakland Bee Club Meeting
SEMBA Annual Meeting Details
SEMBA Planning Meeting 9/3/03
Program Suggestions Needed
SEMBA Planning Meeting
Treasurer's Report
SEMBA to Celebrate 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Part 1 of 2)
Bargain Corner

## OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, October 7, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: E.L. Johnson Nature Center  
3325 Franklin Road  
Bloomfield Township

### Programs:

"Wintering Your Bees" by Ed Nowak- Master beekeeper, founder, and former leader of the SEMBA beekeeping class.

Notes: Refreshments are welcome

-- *Larry Yates*

## SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING DETAILS

The Annual SEMBA Business meeting will be held on October 19, 2003, 2:30 p.m. A potluck will begin at 1:30 p.m. preceding the meeting. Please bring a

dish to pass and table service. SEMBA will provide the beverages.

The meeting will be held at Schoolcraft College in the Waterman Center lower level. All SEMBA members are urged to attend. In addition to reports from SEMBA officers the meeting will offer members an opportunity to introduce new business. The annual election of officers will be conducted. The slate includes:

President -Ronald Forfinski, Dyanne Tracy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Earl Hoffman  
Secretary -Judy Forfinski, Ann Kerwin  
Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

The program will include:

- Business meeting
- Michigan State Fair award presentation
- SEMBA bee class update by class leader Earl Hoffman
- Special presentation of a SEMBA Life Membership
- "State and Local Honey House Regulations" a presentation by a representative from the Michigan Agriculture Department.

-- *Roger Sutherland*

## PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS NEEDED

One of the goals of SEMBA and the affiliated clubs - Oakland and Schoolcraft - is to provide beekeepers with monthly educational meetings. In the fall of each year we plan the dates for a variety of meetings. (See SEMBA Planning Meeting Minutes).

Those of us who must come up with ideas for speakers and activities for these meetings need your input to

better serve beekeepers of Southeast Michigan, especially new beekeepers. Some of us have been at this task for more than 25 years and we run out of ideas.

This is your organization so please make your suggestions known to Larry Yates for Oakland Bee Club, Roger Sutherland for Schoolcraft Bee Club and any SEMBA Officer for SEMBA meetings. Contact persons include:

Pres. Jim Goodrich - 248-628-0321

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. Keith Lazar

-248-626-2483

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. Larry Yates

-248-649-5078

Sec. Ann Kerwin -313-861-5760

Treas. Mary Sutherland

-734-668-8568

Oakland Bee Club Larry Yates

(see above)

Schoolcraft Bee Club, Roger

Sutherland -734-668-8568

Bee Class Leader Earl Hoffman

-734-427-7649

### **SEMBA PLANNING MEETING MINUTES -9/3/03:**

Pres. Jim Goodrich opened the meeting around 7:15 p.m. Present were Mary and Roger Sutherland, Bill SIRR, Ed Nowak, Ann Kerwin, Senad Livadic, Earl Hoffman, Mike Kolodziej, Dick Miller, Larry Yates, Mike Siarkowski and Bill Jaddatz.

The calendar for 2004 was discussed and agreed upon:

Jan. 6 - Oakland Bee Club

Feb.8 - SEMBA Spring Meeting

Mar.20 - Bee School at Schoolcraft

Apr. 6 - Oakland Bee Club

May 4 - Schoolcraft Bee Club

June 12 - Special Queen-rearing Class

at E.L. Johnson Nature Center

July 18 - SEMBA Picnic

Sept. 9 - SEMBA Planning Meeting

Sept. 14 - Schoolcraft Bee Club

Oct. 5 - Oakland Bee Club

Oct. 17 - 2004 SEMBA Annual Meeting

Nov. 9 - Schoolcraft Bee Club

Dec. 7 - Oakland Bee Club

Moved and seconded (M & S) to approve 2004 schedule - Unanimous vote in favor

Note- June 12 class ---Earl will contact J. Holden regarding use of Nature Center. There will be a fee and grafting tools will be needed.

There was discussion regarding the need for a coordinator for the State Fair. Bill SIRR will call Dan & Joyce Guthrie and Dick Miller. They will draft a list of responsibilities for a coordinator.

The 2003 SEMBA Annual Meeting is scheduled for 1:30 on October 19, 2003. M&S approved unanimously to hold the SEMBA Annual Meeting at Schoolcraft College in the newly remodeled Waterman Center.

The agenda will include the election of officers—President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. and Secretary. Earl Hoffman agreed to serve as the nominating committee. He will have a report for the September Newsletter.

Several people said they would like to hear a speaker about honey house and Agriculture Dept. regulations. Mike Siarkowski will try to get Mike Hansen or some other knowledgeable person to come at 2:30 pm.

The agenda will also include a discussion of the bee classes and the need for more people to help.

M&S to award Frances Alloway a SEMBA Life Membership. Approved unanimously.

Roger has Questions about what to do with a SEMBA owned public address system that he has in storage. He will bring it to the October meeting so we can evaluate it and decide.

There was a question of a contribution to ANR Week to keep it going. A \$1000 contribution, for 2004 only, was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

M&S to donate \$100 to E.L. Johnson Nature Center as thanks for use of the facility.

-- Ann Kerwin

**Treasurer's Report:**

Balance 10/1/02.....4085.82  
Income:  
10/1/02-9/2/03.....6767.82  
  
Total ..... 10,853.64  
  
Expenses ..... 4730.49  
  
Ck book balance..... 6123.15

Income: 10/1/02-9/2/03  
Expenses: 10/1/02-9/2/03

MBA Membership.....815.00  
MBA Membership.....815.00  
MBA Calendar.....749.46  
MBA Calendar.....749.46  
SEMBA Membership....2078.50  
SEMBA Bee Class.....1350.00  
SEMBA Bee Class.....500.00  
SEMBA Bee School.....1314.37  
SEMBA Bee School.....657.56  
Registration.....970.00  
Raffle.....273.00  
Potluck.....45.00  
Coffee.....26.37  
State Fair.....455.00  
Fair Entry Fee.....338.00  
Fair Premiums.....330.00  
Newsletter printing.....561.54  
Newsletter postage.....690.04  
Donation.....5.00  
Program.....15.00  
Bank refund.....0.49  
Miscellaneous.....73.89  
Total:.....6767.82  
Total:.....4730.49

CD 10,000 (2 year rising rate)  
Matures 1/23/04

-- Mary Sutherland

**SEMBA TO CELEBRATE ITS 70<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY (Part 1 of 2)**

April 1, 2004 will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association (SEMBA). However, the organization did not adopt the name SEMBA until 1965 when the Wayne County Beekeeping Association (WCBA), Oakland County Beekeeping Club and the Macomb County Beekeeping Club merged to become one association. We recognize the beginning of SEMBA as April 1, 1934 because on that date a small

group of Wayne County beekeepers held their first meeting in Henry Reinhold's honey house in Flatrock, MI. Dues for this new club were set at 25 cents. Emerick Kocsis was elected president and he was also the first life member.

Sometime between 1934 and 1965 several other beekeeping clubs were beginning in Southeastern Michigan. According to research done by two former presidents of SEMBA, Richard Miller and the late Homer Pugh, the Oakland County Beekeepers' Club started in 1946 with Henry Saeger as the president. Later presidents of the Oakland County Beekeepers' Club include Alex Brown, Alex Bzenko and David Barber. No information was found regarding the Macomb County Beekeepers' Club other than statements by Alex Bzenko and David Barber, current SEMBA Life Members, who say that Macomb was a very small club. Another Southeastern Michigan bee club serving Washtenaw County was the Ann Arbor Bee Club begun in 1965 by Diana Sammataro, a University of Michigan graduate student. When that club disbanded, many of those members joined SEMBA.

All of these early bee clubs were organized to promote beekeeping education to the general public at the state and local level, to share beekeeping ideas and to provide help to fellow beekeepers with a variety of beekeeping problems. Toward that end, the first annual bee school was presented by WCBA in 1938. It is unclear where the first bee school took place, but over the years it has been held in many different locations: vacant stores, Detroit Mackinzie High School, Dearborn Fordson High School, Dearborn City Hall Council Chambers, 4-H Fair Grounds in Belleville, and Cranbrook Institute. In 1977, Schoolcraft College became the site for bee school and in 2004 Schoolcraft will host this event for the 28<sup>th</sup> time. (To be continued in next month's newsletter....)

-- Roger Sutherland (September, 2003)

## SEMBA Bargain Corner

### For Sale:

- **New woodenware**, 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.**
- 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.**
- Now taking orders for package bees for 2004. Bees are from Wilbank Apiaries in Georgia. They will arrive in Michigan around April 2, 2004. Book early as many people are ordering now because of the shortage of bees in 2003. **Call Dave Barber, 248-634-7017** for prices and details.

### Wanted:

- Beekeeping locations for the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area wanted. **Contact Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568 or e-mail [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com).**
- Ron Rittner, 150 Elizabeth Lane, Rochester, MI wishes to have bees placed on his land. For details **call Ron at 248-651-1333 or 248-840-3790 (cell phone).**
- Ann Kerwin would like to purchase a stainless steel extractor. **Call Ann at 313-861-5760.**
- James Armstrong is looking for a 4-frame stainless steel motorized extractor. Call **Mr. Armstrong at (734) 994-6696.**
- Honey bee location wanted: Ann Arbor area beekeeper looking for a location to keep 1-2 hives next spring. **Please call John Piette at 734-332-0737 or e-mail [jpiette@umich.edu](mailto:jpiette@umich.edu).**

### General Information:

- A refractometer to measure the moisture content of honey will be available at club meetings October 7 (Oakland) October 19 (SEMBA) and the November Schoolcraft meeting. Bring a sample for testing.

### Question and Answer:

Q.) Last newsletter John Piette asked our members what they thought of polystyrene hive bodies.

A.) John D. has written with the following information: "I find that it is not going to stand up to the force needed to separate them. They do not recommend an inner cover, which I think is wrong also. The screen in the bottom fills with debris. I think it needs a 3/4 in. entrance also, for the summer air. I have been playing with bees since 1932, and find a wooden hive made from Michigan white pine to be very durable. Hope this will be of interest to you. I live in Auburn, MI. and keep bees in 3 counties John."

Note: ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad contact: Susanne Sadik at [souxsieg2@msn.com](mailto:souxsieg2@msn.com) or Roger Sutherland [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com).

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



Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



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