



# SEMBA NEWS

Vol. 14 No. 2      Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association      February 2004

## Upcoming Events

### March 12-13

ANR Week Beekeeping Program, Michigan State University, Kellogg Center (see page 3 for details).

### March 20

66<sup>th</sup> Annual Bee School Conference, Schoolcraft College, Waterman Center, 8:00 A.M (see below for details).

Master Beekeepers and others who have kept bees for many years will conduct workshop sessions, featuring a variety of beekeeping topics.

Specially featured again is a series of beginning workshops, each dealing with a different aspect of beekeeping, to help the new beekeeper get started.

## PROGRAM

**8-9:00 a.m.** -----Registration

**9:00 a.m.**-----Video: "The Buzz About Pollination"

**9:20 a.m.** --- Welcome by Roger Sutherland, Ron Forfinski

**9:30 a.m.**----- "Pollen and your Bees: New Insights from Research", presented by Dr. Gard Otis

**10:25 a.m.**----- Introduction to concurrent sessions

### 10:30 a.m. FIRST CONCURRENT SESSION

1. Follow-up discussion with keynote speaker Dr. Gard Otis
2. Beginner's Seminar----Session I, Keith Lazar
3. Bee Management and The Honey House, Edward Nowak (Master Beekeeper)
4. Beekeeping Book Club, Dr. Dyanne Tracy

**11:30 a.m.** Michigan Beekeepers' Association information, MBA Vice President, Eric Goodrich

**Noon** SEMBA Potluck or lunch on your own

**1:10 p.m.** "Honeybees Photographed Around the World," by Dr. Zachary Huang

### 2:20 p.m. SECOND CONCURRENT SESSION

1. Follow-up discussion with keynote speaker Dr. Zachary Huang

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## 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BEE SCHOOL (CONFERENCE)

**When:** Saturday, March 20, 2004 from 8:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M.

**Where:** Schoolcraft College, Waterman Center, located at 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan

**Important Notice!** To enter the Waterman Center please park in the north parking lot near Haggerty Rd. and use the VisTaTech entrance.

You are invited to attend the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual SEMBA Bee School. This one-day conference is designed for all beekeepers as well as those who are considering keeping honeybees for the first time. Registration fee at the door is \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. No pre-registration is necessary.

Major speakers include: Dr. Gard Otis, University of Guelph, Ontario Canada, and Dr. Zachary Huang, Michigan State University.

2. Beginner's Seminar---Session II, Winn Harless and Ron Forfinski
- 3."Honeybee Sperm: Cause for Alarm," Dr. Gard Otis
4. Michigan Honey Plants, Earl Hoffman (Master Beekeeper)

**3:15 p.m. THIRD CONCURRENT SESSION**

1. Candle making and Mold making, Judy Schmaltz
2. Beginner's Seminar----Session III, Earl Hoffman and Keith Lazar
- 3.Bee Diseases, Sue Yates
- 4.Make your own equipment, Fritz Sanders (Master Beekeeper)

**4:10 p.m. CONCLUDING SESSION**

Questions and Answers and Hive Raffle Award

**BEE SCHOOL – SPECIAL FEATURES**

BEEKEEPING BOOK CLUB

If you have a fabulous book related to beekeeping whether it is fiction or non-fiction and you would like to let others know about it, please bring it to Bee School. Join other beekeeper bookworms as we give a three-minute description and recommendation about our favorite beekeeping book. Limit of two books, please.

Dr. Dyanne Tracy, SEMBA member, and Professor at Oakland University, will lead this workshop.

DOOR PRIZES

All bee-school attendees will receive a door-prize ticket when they register. Last year more than 50 door prizes were awarded.

BEE HIVE-PACKAGE BEE RAFFLE

A complete hive, donated by Dadant & Sons of Potterville, Michigan, and a three-pound package of bees supplied by SEMBA will be raffled. Tickets for the raffle, at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, may be purchased at the bee school.

POTLUCK LUNCH INFORMATION

A potluck lunch will be held at noon. If you wish to participate, bring a food item (with serving utensils), which will serve six to eight persons. Also bring your own table service including plates, silverware, and cups. SEMBA will provide beverages. Please label any utensils that you

bring with your name so that they can be easily identified.

BEEKEEPING SALES, DISPLAYS AND CRAFTS

If you have displays or crafts that you wish to display or sell, we encourage you to bring them. Please call Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568, to reserve table space (no charge). Dadant & Sons will have a beekeeping supply sales table.

SILENT AUCTION

Any beekeeping related item might be placed in the Silent Auction. Bidding takes place throughout the day during the bee school. You may keep the profits or you may consider sharing the proceeds with SEMBA to benefit the association.

BEEKEEPING T-SHIRTS

Attendees at the Annual Bee School are encouraged to wear their favorite beekeeping theme t-shirt or sweatshirt.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

An application renewal form is enclosed in this newsletter for those whose address labels denote **A04**. Membership costs are the same as last year-- \$10.00 for an individual, \$15.00 for a family. Anyone who pays SEMBA membership may join MBA (the State organization) for a reduced fee of \$25.00 for an individual, \$30.00 for a family, (a family includes individuals under 18 years of age living in the same household).

SEMBA membership provides a 25% discount for subscriptions to *Bee Culture*, *American Bee Journal* or the *Speedy Bee*. When you pay your SEMBA membership dues, the treasurer will send you a subscription form and a membership card with the next SEMBA Newsletter.

**SEMBA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

William/Susan Andre--- Rochester Hills, MI  
 Chuck Cline ----- Mussey, MI

**ANR WEEK BEEKEEPING PROGRAM  
 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
 KELLOGG CENTER – MARCH 12-13, 2004**

Michigan State University and the Michigan Beekeepers' Association invite you to attend a "Beekeeping Symposium and Spring Meeting". Whether you are a beginner or a commercial

beekeeper, there will be something of interest and value to you.

The program will have a new format this year. The Lincoln Room will be set up with many special interest booths including:

- Hive equipment and assembly
- Package bees and installation
- Spring/fall management
- Honey marketing
- Pest and disease control
- License and regulations
- Queen rearing
- Colony splitting
- Pollination
- Honey House set-up

Shop for supplies and meet local suppliers at the trade show. Vendors include:

- Groeb Farms Inc. – Onsted, MI
- T.M.Klein and Sons – St. Charles, MI
- Dadant & Sons - Pottsville, MI
- Betterbee Inc. –Greenwich, NY

Beginner beekeeping workshops covering different topics will be offered four times on both Friday and Saturday.

Major presentations will be made by professional apicultural specialists: Tom Webster, Ph.D. Kentucky State University; Roger Hoopingartner, Prof. Emeritus Michigan State University; Larry Connor, Ph.D., Michael Hansen and Zachary Huang, Ph.D., Michigan State University. A complete program will be printed in the MBA Newsletter and can be viewed at:

<http://cyberbee.msu.edu/anr/anr2004.htm>

#### Symposium costs

Non member registration: \$25.00 (spouse \$10.00)  
MBA member registration: \$20.00 (spouse \$10.00)  
Children: Free (18 years and under with parent)  
Student: \$5.00 (18 years or under w/o parent)

#### **HONEY HOUSE REGULATION UP-DATE**

Over the past months much has been written regarding Michigan Department of Agriculture license requirements for Honey Houses. Who is required to have licenses? Are some beekeeping operations exempt? What are the standards for honey house approval? These are some of the questions we have been asking.

In addition, we now have Federal regulations indicating that all beekeepers must register their honey houses under the Bioterrorism Act. Most

beekeepers want to abide by the laws but there is a great deal of confusion.

SEMBA invited representatives from the Michigan Department of Agriculture to a meeting in October to clarify these regulations. Most of the attendees left the meeting even more confused. At the MBA annual meeting in October 2003, a committee was formed to come up with proposals on honey house regulations to present to the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

In November in preparation for that MBA committee, I (Roger Sutherland) wrote a letter to Dr. John Tilden, head of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Food and Dairy Division. In that letter I requested that he supply the committee with all regulations regarding honey house regulations.

In January I received a phone call from Dr. Tilden indicating that he had turned over my request to Susan Trombley, Food & Dairy Division, Michigan Department of Agriculture. On February 1<sup>st</sup>. I received a voluminous envelope of material, much of which had nothing to do with honey house regulations, such as judging honey in the London England Honey Show.

Perhaps the most pertinent information was the cover letter from Susan Trombley. The following is a portion of her rather lengthy letter for your information and reaction:

January 28, 2004  
Mr. Roger Sutherland  
Michigan Beekeepers' Association

"The Michigan Department of Agriculture looks forward to working with your committee. Our mission is to assure the residents of our state a safe food supply.

"Prior to the enactment of the Michigan Food Law of 2000, growers or producers selling 'unprocessed' food primarily of their own production were exempt from the requirement to obtain a food establishment license under the Food Processing Act of 1977, Act No. 328 P.A. of 1978, as amended. This exemption is no longer valid since the Michigan Food Law of 2000 repealed Act No. 328.

"Currently, all persons, establishments, or organizations, that process, manufacture, package, label, store or offer foods for sale such as honey (whether 'processed' or 'unprocessed' are required to obtain a food establishment

license. Honey producers who wholesale their honey to food stores, grocery stores or other food operations are required to obtain either a 'limited wholesale food processor' or a 'wholesale food processor' license for their honey house/processing facility depending on gross sales volume. Retail honey producers (honey sold on the premises where produced with no wholesaling) are required to obtain a 'retail food establishment' license for their retail processing facility.

"The Michigan Food Law of 2000 does exempt licensed honey processors from the requirement to obtain a separate license for each of their retail outlets. This exemption is allowed if the producer operates the retail outlet, and the honey house is licensed. An example would be a stand at a farmer's market or a craft show setting – if the honey house is licensed, the honey can be sold by the owner at as many retail locations as desired without additional licenses.

"All honey houses are subject to inspection." Sincerely, Susan Trombley  
 Michigan Department of Agriculture  
 and Dairy Division  
 Lasher Suite 415  
 Southfield, MI 48034  
 248.356.1700  
[trombleys@michigan.gov](mailto:trombleys@michigan.gov)

The remainder of the letter lists the documents included in the mailing.

**SEMBA Bargain Corner**

**For Sale:**

- For Sale: New deep and medium supers, frames, bottom boards, inner and outer covers and New 1 and 5 gallon buckets with lids. Please call Keith Lazar (H) 248-626-2483 (P) 248-815-5522
- Package Bees from Georgia arriving in Roseville, MI in April 2004. Call Gerald Dunbar and leave a message at 586-770-9953.
- 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

**Wanted:**

- George Melcher, 4527 7 Mile Rd., South Lyon, MI would like bees placed on his property. Call George at 248-437-6291.
- Bees wax needed, please contact Winn Harless.

**Wanted Continued:**

**ZACHARY'S BEEKEEPING CORNER**

- Dr. Zachary Huang, Apicultural Specialist at Michigan State University needs 3-5 beekeepers to participate in a field test for the Mitezapppers. This involves installing 3-5 Mitezapppers (one per colony) in 3-5 of your colonies; another 3-5 colonies will receive a drone frame as control. Zachary will monitor the mite levels periodically in your yard. Ideally, the colonies are within 1-1 1/2 hours drive from E. Lansing, and have some mites (the more the better). Survival colonies from 2003, without fall treatment, are best. If you are interested in being a "beta tester" please let Zachary know. His E-mail address is: [bees@msu.edu](mailto:bees@msu.edu) - telephone—517-353-8136.
- Dr. Huang announced at the MBA Board meeting that Dr. Tom Webster, Kentucky State University and speaker for the March 12-23 ANR Program, is seeking samples of single floral source honeys for a research project. Check with Dr. Huang for more information.

Note: Ads in Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Susanne at [souxiseq2@msn.com](mailto:souxiseq2@msn.com) or phone 248-476-4991 or Roger Sutherland at [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com). \* Ads will be run for two consecutive newsletters.

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club

Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership  
 5488 Warren Road  
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