

SEMBA NEWS

Vol. 14 No.7 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

November/December 2004

Upcoming Events

October 17

SEMBA Annual Meeting
(See below for details)

October 28-30

MBA Annual Meeting
(See page 2 for details)

November 10

Schoolcraft Bee Club
(See page 2 for details)

December 7

Oakland Bee Club
(See page 2 for details)

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SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Sunday, October 17, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center
Park in the north parking lot and enter through the
VisTaTec Center.

POTLUCK: 1:30 p.m.

Bring a dish to pass and table service.
Beverages will be provided by SEMBA.

PROGRAM: 3:00 p.m.

Annual business meeting and election of officers.

Proposed slate:

2nd Vice President - Keith Lazar

Treasurer - Mary Sutherland

Historian -

Representative to MBA Board - John Hernandez
(Nominations will be accepted from the floor)

A NOVA video "Tales from the Hive" will be shown.

Representatives from the Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club
will be present to request approval to become an affiliate
chapter of SEMBA. If approval is granted, the Executive
Board voted to have the membership vote on the following
proposed SEMBA constitution changes:

Article 3, Section 2: Now reads: Cranbrook Beekeepers'
Club and Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club shall be known as
Chapters of SEMBA with all rights and privileges.

The proposed change would change Cranbrook
Beekeepers' Club to Oakland Beekeepers' Club and add
Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club.

Article 3, Section 3: Now reads: Cranbrook and
Schoolcraft retain their separate autonomous status for
election of officers, scheduling meetings, programs and
other activities.

The proposed change would read: Oakland Beekeepers'
Club, Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club and Seven Ponds
Beekeepers' Club retain their autonomous status for
election of officers, scheduling meetings, programs and
other activities.

Copies of the proposed Honey House Regulations will be
distributed.

A refractometer will be available to check the moisture
content of your newly-extracted honey.

SEMBA TREASURER'S REPORT

10/1/03 to 9/30/04

Balance on 10/1/03.....	\$5,016.31
Income	\$7,309.64
Total.....	\$12,325.95

Expenses.....\$3,136.96
Check book Balance 9/30/04.....\$9,188.99

CD, \$10,328.88 (2 year rising rate)....\$10,328.88
Matures 1/23/06

A refractometer will be available to check the moisture content of your honey.

Refreshments are welcome

MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING

OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING
(All SEMBA members are welcome)

WHEN: October 28, 29, and 30, 2004

WHEN: Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: DNR Conference Center, Higgins Lake, Roscommon, Michigan.

WHERE: E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Rd. Bloomfield Township, MI

PROGRAM:

Thursday, October 28, 2004

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Registration

8:00 p.m. Fireside Discussion led by Roger Hoopingarner on beekeeping.

PROGRAM: "Holliday Gifts Using Honey-Bee Products"

Judy Schmaltz

Refreshments are welcome

Friday, October 29, 2004

9:00 a.m. "The Black Box: Wintering Honey Bee Colonies"- Roger Hoopingarner, Professor Emeritus MSU.

10:30 a.m. "The Honey Bee's Exocrine Glands and their Pheromones"- Dr. Zachary Huang, Associate Professor of Entomology, MSU.

1:30 MBA Business Meeting- Richard Leonard, President.

3:00 p.m. "Artificial Diets for Honey Bees: Increasing the Survival Level"- Dr. Gordon Wardell, U.S.D.A. Carl Hayden Bee Lab, Tucson, Arizona.

8:00 p.m. Fireside Discussion on Honey Marketing led by Ed Wracan.

FALL HONEY-SURVEY RESULTS

At the September 14, 2004 Schoolcraft Bee Club meeting a survey was conducted to determine average honey yields per colony. About 50% of the attendees had extracted. The total number of colonies, from which honey was extracted, was 105. The average yield per colony was 81.8 pounds. The survey revealed a high of 110 pounds and a low of 40 pounds.

At the meeting samples were tested for moisture percentages with a refractometer. The range for moisture was 14.3% to 18.1% for an average of 16.5%. We did not color grade the samples but most were white to light amber.

If you wish to send your results to add to this survey, e-mail Roger Sutherland at rsuther@hotmail.com

Saturday, October 29, 2004

9:00 a.m. Mead Making -Ken Schramm.

10:30 a.m. "Essential Oils for Varroa Control"- Dr. Gordon Wardell.

For information on registration, room and meal reservations contact Ed Wracan
810-621-3829

NOVEMBER DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE

If your mailing label denotes a N04, your membership will expire soon. Please complete the enclosed membership renewal form and send with your check to the address on the form.

SEMBA MICHIGAN STATE FAIR BEEKEEPING BOOTH

As in past years, SEMBA maintained an educational beekeeping booth to inform the public about the importance of honey bees. Because of the recent death of David Barber, the Barber family was unable to have a booth at the fair this year for the sale of honey and did not compete in the honey-beeswax competition.

SEMBA would like to thank the following for volunteering to work at the booth and answer the many questions from the public: Chuck Bartkus, Jeff Brown, Dick Conlin, Judy and Ron Forfinski, Dan and Joyce Githrie, Larry Heidrich, John Hernandez, Andrea Hoffman, Ted Hysen, Tom Jenkins, Mike Kay, Ann and Mike Kerwin, Mike Kolodziej,

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SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB MEETING
(All SEMBA members are welcome)

WHEN: Wednesday, November 10, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.
(Note the change of date)

WHERE: Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center

PROGRAM

"Wintering your Colonies"

Roger Hoopingarner, Ph.D.

Professor Emeritus, Michigan State Univ.

Ken Krawczyk, Terry Lee Lansing, Keith Lazar, Cindy and Tom Lisk, Senad Livadic, Alfred Luperico, Kynis Maynor, Dick Miller, Jilinda and Keith Molnar, Ray Nemeckay, Ada and Ed Nowak, John Piette, Florence Reaume, Mark Roberts, Fritz Sanders, Henry Semczak, Rick SIRR, Bill SIRR, Achille and Marlese Souvatzidis, Mary and Roger Sutherland, Dyanne Tracy, Ted Wacizak, John Wrosch, and Larry Yates.

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Special thanks to the Honey-Show winners

Display of bees and Queens – Tom Jenkins, Dick Miller
White extracted honey – Kynis Maynor
Amber extracted honey – Dan Guthrie
Comb honey – Dan Guthrie
Chunk honey – Judy Schmaltz
Round section comb honey – Dan Guthrie
Cremed honey – Dyanne Tracy
Cut comb honey – Dan Guthrie
Deep Langstroth extracted comb – Earl Hoffman
Shallow Langstroth extracted comb – Ed Nowak
Beeswax – Dyanne Tracy
Display backboard – Andrea Hoffman

SEMBA LIBRARY RECEIVES RARE BOOK AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS

George Tobias, retired attorney and long-time SEMBA member, has donated a book to the SEMBA library entitled “Quimby’s New Beekeeping” published in 1879. Moses Quimby was an early pioneer in promoting sound beekeeping practices in the U.S. and is credited as the inventor of the smoker.

Mr. Tobias has also donated the court documents from his legal partner who represented a beekeeper who charged that his hives were destroyed by a construction company.

Mr. Tobias, who holds the record for the longest SEMBA membership, has also defended beekeepers in legal proceedings.

AFRICANIZED HONEY BEES INVADE OKLAHOMA

The USDA is in the process of confirming the presence of Africanized, or “killer bees”, in Oklahoma after a work crew was attacked in Tipton, a town in the southwest part of the state.

Oklahoma State University says DNA tests show the bees do have Africanized traits. The Africanized bees are similar to the typical honeybee, but are aggressive, easily irritated by sounds or disturbance and excrete a pheromone to attract large groups of bees when attacking. Not native to the United States, they were first found in Texas in 1990.

(Source: Michigan Farm News, September 15, 2004, Vol. 81, No. 14, page 2)

ALWAYS QUESTION

By Bill SIRR

After extraction, I put the wet supers back on the hives to let the bees clean them up. After all, it was late August and the little honey left in the fields will help the winter stores. Then again, there may just be a fall flow. I did have some drawn drone comb, so I put this on the top super. After all, the queen will not cross over capped honey. Right?

Two weeks later, I checked to see how the girls were doing. There was some uncapped honey in a few of the supers that I had put on to dry/clean up. So I left them alone for another week.

I went out to remove the supers and close the girls up for the winter. I now see that I will need to extract again. I also found some drone brood in the top super, so I checked for mites; the brood was in the purple eye stage. The bees are also starting to uncap this brood. Why? I am now looking for the queen. There are two full-capped supers below this one. Dave Barber always looked for the queen on the inner cover before he set it down. When I checked the hive, I did not follow his rule; I gave the inner cover a shake to get the bees off. Then I looked. There she was still hanging on for dear life. I put her back in the hive at the bottom. At least I think she went in and not under the hive.

Always check, always question. Some of the drone brood I checked were clean—no mites. Too late to medicate? I don’t know for sure, but after I remove the honey I will give it a try. After all, hope springs eternal.

See you at the next meeting.

FREMONT AREA FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorial contributions to the Fremont Area Community Foundation provide funds to aid in beekeeping research in Michigan.

Recently, SEMBA member Terry Lee Lansing received a letter from the Fremont Foundation confirming that the memorial gift that she made will be matched by the Foundation and has been earmarked for the Michigan Beekeepers’ Association. The following are quotes from that letter of August 16, 2004:

“We are pleased to acknowledge your charitable contribution to the Fremont Area Foundation in memory of Mr. David Barber. Your gift is a wonderful tribute to Mr. David Barber. The David Barber family will be notified of your gift.”

The Fremont Area Community Foundation currently matches memorial gifts made to endowment funds at the Foundation within one year of a decedent’s death \$1 for \$1 up to \$500 per donor household per year. We are pleased to match your gift.”

The procedure for making memorial donations to the Fremont Area Community Foundation are as follows:

(1) Make checks payable to the Fremont Area Community Foundation.

(2) Include a note with your donation specifying that it has been donated in memory of _____ (decedent's name) and that the money should be earmarked for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association Fund.

(3) Send check and note to The Fremont Foundation, 4424 W. 48th Street, P.O. Box B, Fremont, MI 49412.

***Ads will be run for two consecutive newsletters.**

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SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

. For sale: Honey in 60 lb. containers, \$1.60 per lb. Please **call Donna Laws, 248-698-6908.**

. For sale: Light amber honey in 60 lb. Containers. Please **call Mike Siarkowski, 517-545-0824.**

. For sale: Honey, please **call Richard Enter, 734-769-9725.**

. For sale: New deep and medium supers, frames, bottom boards, inner and outer covers and

new 1 and 5 gallon buckets with lids. **Call Keith Lazar, (H) 248-626-2483 (P) 248-815-5522.**

. For sale: 6-5/8 medium supers with drawn comb, good condition. **Call Dick Gerathy, 313-533-**

2617 or e-mail: djbeekeeper@msn.com

. For sale: Four new 5-frame nuc boxes. **Call Dave Kriesch, at 810-395-2037** for details.

. For sale: Stainless steel sinks: one corner model, one single basin, one two-basin unit. **Call**

Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568 or e-mail: rsuther@hotmail.com

. Bottom boards, inner covers, hive entrance screens for transport, also new design bottom

boards with screens for Varroa mite separation and inspection. Varroa mite assembly for

converting your present boards. 1/8 " grid hardware cloth, 36" wide by the foot or 18" x 16 1/4"

pieces also for sale. **Call Michael Kolodziej, at 734-425-1396 or e-mail Mziejwood@aol.com**

. Shallow supers with frames. New frames not assembled. **Call Remus Pascu, 734-665-4049**

Services:

. New! Your very special honey can be put into straws in Roseville, MI. As little as 1/2 pound can

be converted into about 40 straws. **Contact Jerry Dunbar 586-770-9953.**

Wanted:

. Wanted: Beekeeper in Palmyra, MI, Lenawee County starting bees next spring would like a

mentor. **Contact Debbie Wines, 517-266-9502 or e-mail debbiesuew@earthlink.net**

. Wanted: Small used motorized extractor. **Call James Armstrong, 734-473-4187.**

. Wanted: Used extractor. **Call Ted Hysen, 734-878-6792.**

Note: Ads in Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members.

To place an ad, contact Susanne at souxiseq2@msn.com or phone 248-476-4991 or Roger Sutherland at rsuther@hotmail.com.