



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 16 Number 4 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
May-June 2006

## Upcoming Events

### Seven Ponds Bee Club Meeting:

Tuesday, April 25, 2006 (See pg 2 for details)

### Schoolcraft Bee Club Meeting:

Saturday, May 6, 2006 (See below for details)

### MSU Bee School:

Monday, May 22, 2006 - Friday, May 26, 2006 (See pg 2 for details)

### Twilight Queen Rearing Workshop:

Wednesday, July 12, 2006 (See pg 2 for details)

## SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB MEETING

**When:** SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2006

**Location:** MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY APIARY  
EAST LANSING, MI  
(See directions to apiary below)

**Notes:** 11 a.m. - BBQ and Beer in the MSU Apiary  
(By advance reservation only)\*

**\*To make reservations for the BBQ,** call Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568, e-mail [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com), or write 5488 Warren Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425. Deadline for reservations is **April 30, 2006. \$5.00 per person to be paid at the apiary**

## Table of Contents:

SEMBA Mourns the Loss of Two Members
Schoolcraft Bee Club Meeting
From Mike Hansen – Michigan State Apiarist
Seven Ponds Bee Club Meeting – Pg 2
MSU Summer Bee School – Pg 2
Twilight Queen Rearing Workshop – Pg 2
68 <sup>th</sup> Beekeeping Conference Report – Pg 2
Honey Beeswax Gift Idea – Pg 3
We Receive Letters – Pg 3
2006 SEMBA Planning Meeting Summarized – Pg 3
Dues Reminder – Pg 3
More on Bee Sayings – Pg 4
Bargain Corner – Pg 4

**Program:** 1 to 3 p.m. - "Beekeeping Research at MSU"  
Zachary Huang, Ph.D. and staff.  
Bring veils for a tour of the apiary and lawn chairs. Zachary Huang can be contacted by phone at 517-353-8136, e-mail: [bees@msu.edu](mailto:bees@msu.edu)

## SEMBA MOURNS THE LOSS OF TWO MEMBERS

Bill Jaddatz, 60, SEMBA member and a long-time resident of Sumpter Township died December 3, 2005. Bill who served with the Marines during the Vietnam era, was owner of Bill's Farm on Judd Road where you could obtain fresh vegetables and comb honey. He is survived by his brother, sister and several nieces and nephews.

(Our thanks to SEMBA member Jim Wagner for providing this information.)

John Mio, 84 of Berkley, died March 6, 2006. John was born in California but at the age of 3 he moved with his family to their hometown in Italy where he was raised on the family farm. At 18 he returned alone to the U.S., learned English, and worked in restaurants in New York and Connecticut. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII. While on leave he met his future wife.

John worked in the construction business and was a partner in Mio & Caponi for 30 years. He excelled at flower and vegetable growing, raising cactus and orchids, beekeeping, pottery making and Italian cooking. He became a SEMBA member in 1997. John is survived by two children, four grandchildren and one great grand child.

## Directions to the MSU Apiary:

- 1) Exit #110 west bound on I 96
- 2) Right turn at stop sign, go north on Okemos Road.
- 3) Left turn on Jolly Road (first light), go west for 3.2 miles.
- 4) Left turn on College Ave.
- 5) In about 200 yards, turn left to the first fenced gate, there is a sign saying "Inland Lakes Water Research, Michigan State University.
- 6) Reach the end of the dirt road and you will see the MSU Bee Biology building.

**Note! There will be no Schoolcraft Bee Club meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2006 as shown in the MBA calendar.**

## FROM MIKE HANSEN - MICHIGAN STATE APIARIST

Wayne Esaias, a Maryland beekeeper and climatologist who works for NASA, is interested in obtaining past records of weight loss/gain data for a hive(s) kept on a scale and monitored over a period of time (preferably over a period of years). If you know of someone who has been recording such data in the past, please contact Dr. Esaias at [wayne.esaias@qsfc.nasa.gov](mailto:wayne.esaias@qsfc.nasa.gov)

## APRIL DUES REMINDER

If your address label denotes an A06 your dues are now payable. Enclosed is a remittance form for your convenience.

## SEVEN PONDS BEE CLUB MEETINGS

Seven Ponds Bee Club, an affiliate chapter of SEMBA meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. Dates for the next three meetings are February 28 and March 28, and April 25. Meetings are held at the Seven Ponds Nature Center, 3854 Crawford Road near Dryden, MI. For more information, call Nancy Schliebe, 810-395-7379.

### MSU SUMMER BEE SCHOOL May 22 - 26, 2006

A five-day program that covers from the basics to the advanced, of both honey bee biology and the practical beekeeping. Topics include: honey bee morphology, division of labor, mating biology, queen rearing, nestmate recognition, dance language, honey bee photography (bring your digital camera!) and much much more! You will be able to interact on a daily basis with Dr. Zachary Huang (Associate Professor of Apiculture, Michigan State University), who has over 23 years experience in studying and keeping bees (he will be staying in the same dorm!). Enrollment is limited to 20 people.

**When:** May 22 to 26, 9-5 each day (Bring your favorite bee-movies to share at night!)

**Checking in time:** 5-8 pm, May 21st.

**Location:** Carriage House classroom  
W. K. Kellogg Biological Station  
3700 East Gull Lake Drive  
Hickory Corners, MI 49060  
(269) 671-5117

**Cost:** Registration: \$150. Please send your registration by May 1st, 2006 to:  
2006 Summer Bee School  
Department of Entomology  
243 Natural Science  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
Ph: (517) 355-4663

#### Meals and housing:

The cost of housing and 17-meal/week for students is:  
\$235/week for single occupancy  
\$200/week/person for double occupancy  
\$170/week/person for triple occupancy  
\$150/week/person for quad. occupancy

### TWILIGHT QUEEN REARING WORKSHOP JULY 12, 2006, 4-9 PM.

\*Are you frustrated with the quality of queens you have purchased?

\*Are you interested in producing queens from acclimatized Michigan stock?

\*Dr. Larry Connor will show you how queen rearing can be done simply and successfully.

Larry Connor is a Michigan native, a former queen producer and bee breeder. He is the owner of Wicwas Press and a frequent contributor to Bee Culture (see his recent series on queen rearing). Larry was a guest speaker at SEMBA's Conference, Feb. 2006.

#### July 12 Workshop Schedule:

4-6 pm. - Set up cell starter and finisher colony, discuss biology

6-7 pm. - Break for light supper (provided)

7-9 pm. - Demonstrate grafting. All participants will graft/put into colonies.

Discuss grafting mother selection. Q and A.

**Location:** Detroit: Green Toe Gardens, Wayne State University area.

**Registration Fee: \$40** includes textbook and supper. Make check payable to Larry Connor and send it along with your name, address, phone and e-mail contacts to: Rich Wieske, 131 East Lawrence Ave., Royal Oak, MI 48073. For more info, contact: Rich at 248 585 5558 or [rich@greentogardens.com](mailto:rich@greentogardens.com).

**(Workshop is limited to 12 participants).** Registration entered in order payments received. A waiting list will be maintained in case of cancellations. )

### 68<sup>th</sup> BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE REPORT

An attendance of 200 SEMBA members and guests enjoyed another successful beekeeping conference held Saturday, February 18, 2006 in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College.

Income from the event was \$648.65 including: registration, \$105.00; hive raffle, \$397.00; potluck, \$85.00; coffee and donuts, \$34.65; and silent auction, \$27.00.

Expenses for the event were \$1,391.85 including: speaker fees \$1,179.14; potluck, \$97.20; donuts, 53.01; and bees, \$62.50.

Ideas and suggestions for next year's conference are always welcome, so while the event is still fresh in your mind, send your comments to any SEMBA officer:

**President – Keith Lazar**

248-626-2483, [keithmlazar@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmlazar@hotmail.com)

**Past President – Ronald Forfini**

810-220-1084, [forfinri@nibusa.com](mailto:forfinri@nibusa.com)

**Vice President – Judy Schmaltz**

248-627-4556, [judy@modularaluminum.com](mailto:judy@modularaluminum.com)

**Vice President – Ted Hysen**

734-878-6792, [thysen@provide.net](mailto:thysen@provide.net)

**Secretary – Susanne Sadik**

248-476-4991, [souxsieq@yahoo.com](mailto:souxsieq@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer – Mary Sutherland**

734-668-8568, [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com)

## HONEY- BEESWAX GIFT IDEA

Several years ago, the Sutherlands and their daughter Marie developed a honeymoon wedding-gift package to be sold in Marie's gift shop on Beaver Island. The package consisted of beeswax candles, mead, honey, honey candy and a card printed with the following honeymoon story that you are free to use if you wish. It was an inexpensive package that could be included with a check or some other gift.

Honeymoon, honey, honey bees and marriage have long enjoyed an intimate relationship. Honey wine or "mead" was the ancient wedding wine. The bride and groom were given enough mead to last until the next full moon which led to the expression "Honeymoon".

Beeswax is considered to be a symbol of purity because it was produced by virgin honey bees. Beeswax candles were used in most early marriage ceremonies. (Today the Catholic Church is still required to use candles that contain some beeswax.) Honey is used as a term of endearment between loving couples. May your marriage retain all of the sweetness found in this gift.

~ Roger Sutherland

## WE RECEIVE LETTERS

In the July-August 2005 SEMBA Newsletter SEMBA member Bill Sirr wrote an article entitled *Mistakes I Make or Why I Keep Bees*. In the article he described the problems of using a Better Way Wax Melter. Apparently the SEMBA Newsletter is read in Iowa because we received the following letter dated 3/01/06 from the manufacturer of the Better Way Wax Melter:

"This is a friendly rebuttal to SEMBA News, July-August 2005. *Mistakes I Make or Why I Keep Bees*.

"Every Better Way Wax Melter that is sold has a complete set of instructions. These instructions are in depth. I will cover the infractions that come up in the article. Instructions call for a 30 amp circuit in the room where the wax melter is plugged in. All 120 volt Better Way Wax Melters draw 16 amps. If there any other loads on the circuit in the room, then that is why the instructions call for 30 amps. This compensates for the load on the circuit breaker.

"Instructions call for the operator to wear gloves and eye protection when handling hot frames. Instructions call for 250 degree setting on the thermostat for two and one half hours when melting off frames. Instructions call for 320 degree temperature setting for sterilizing frames, boxes, inner covers and queen excluders, and all are told to stay around the machine when sterilizing equipment.

"The largest machine we manufacture is the 50 frame unit. All machines have holders in the tank to hold frames up and away from the tank floor. This allows for honey or wax to move away and out of the wax melter.

Frames can be warmed in the Better Way Wax Melter because the temperature setting can range from 100-320 degrees.

"If you have any further questions , contact me at 515-967-4952.

Sincerely yours,  
Maury Arndt

## 2006 SEMBA PLANNING MEETING SUMMARIZED

On January 10, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. SEMBA members, and officers alike met at the Waterman Center for the planning meeting. In attendance were members of the Seven Ponds Bee Club. A request was made by the Seven Ponds Bee Club for \$1217.00 from SEMBA to cover the costs for the 2006 educational outreach "Road Show" program they present to various communities. Seven Ponds stated that since they would store and utilize the materials 1-10 times a year for local programs that they host, they wished to have ownership of the materials. Roger Sutherland proposed that if SEMBA made this donation to the club, that it should be available for all four clubs. It seems to be the SEMBA group consensus that if we agree to the idea to purchase materials for outreach programs the materials should become available to all four clubs. It should then be entered onto one calendar. Each group will have one representative responsible for scheduling and housing materials. If there is a conflict between clubs as to which club should take the materials to a particular event a committee will prioritize which event is more beneficial to SEMBA and beekeepers and that club will be granted access to the materials.

A motion was set forth by Ron Forfinski and seconded that in March when Seven Ponds becomes a part of SEMBA, one representative from each entity will be chosen to represent each group. We will decide what to do with Seven Ponds honey sales, and define use of promotional/informational items at that time.

A motion was set forth by Keith Lazar and seconded that a committee is to be formed to address Seven Ponds SEMBA donation for the 2006 out reach "Road Show" request. Two representatives rather than just one, will be chosen from each of the three existing clubs within SEMBA and for fairness four representatives will be chosen from Seven Ponds.

Members and officers also came together to discuss and organize the 2006 68<sup>th</sup> SEMBA Bee Conference. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

~ Susanne Sadik

## DUES REMINDER

If your mailing label denotes A06, your dues are due. Enclosed is a renewal form for your convenience. Membership in SEMBA is open to anyone interested in beekeeping. Paid-up SEMBA members are automatically members of the Schoolcraft, Oakland and Seven Ponds bee clubs. Individuals who only pay separate club dues are not members of SEMBA.

## MORE ON BEE SAYINGS

In past newsletters we have reported on the derivations of bee-related sayings such as "It's none of your beeswax". One explanation of this expression is that before letters were sent, the paper was folded and sealed with beeswax with the writer's seal embedded in the wax thus indicating that no one had any business knowing what was in the letter.

Other expressions that were used in early times were often related to personal hygiene or appearance. By adulthood, many men and women had developed scars from acne. To cover these blemishes, women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. If when speaking to each other, one would begin to stare at another woman's face she was told, "Mind your own bee's wax." If the woman would smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile". In addition, if one would sit too close to the fire, the wax would melt...therefore, the expression "losing face."

~ Roger Sutherland

### SEMBA Bargain Corner

#### For Sale:

- **Shawn Shubel** will be delivering package bees from Georgia. Tentative arrival April 24. SEMBA members will receive a \$5 discount. Call Mike Siarkowski 517-545-0824 for details.
- **Keith Lazar** has a complete line of new hive construction items. Call C 248-361-1710, H 248-815-5522
- "Welcome to Our Honey Farm" coloring book. Ten for \$4.00. Contact **Dyanne Tracy** at: [dtracy@beaverislandapiaries.com](mailto:dtracy@beaverislandapiaries.com) or 248-370-0929 for delivery or pick-up.
- Shallow 6 5/8 supers, Epson Expression 636 scanner, free copy machine with the purchase of the scanner. Call **Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568, [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com)**
- Honey for sale - **Mark Megel 586-216-2056**
- New Woodware: Great Prices Inner & Outer covers, deep, medium, shallow supers, bottom boards, top feeders, frames, Complete Hives available, **Call Bob 810-338-1523**

#### Wanted:

- A beekeeping mentor in the Milan, MI area. **Contact Lisa Moncrieff – 734-528-2111 [lisamary@friendly.com](mailto:lisamary@friendly.com)**
- Someone to maintain bees on 300 acres (some in alfalfa) near the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. **Contact William Budd 734-697-8239.**
- Veneer separators for beeway comb honey production. Also, split boxes and fold-up boxes to store honey in and sell. Hoping to find someone who no longer needs these items or has extra to sell. **Contact Tom Jenkins 248-770-7351.**

Note: ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Susanne at [souxsieq@yahoo.com](mailto:souxsieq@yahoo.com), or phone 248-476-4991 or Roger Sutherland [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com).

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

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club

