



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 16 Number 5 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
July-August 2006

## Upcoming Events

### The Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS):

July 6- July 8, 2006 (See pg 2 for details)

### Twilight Queen Rearing Workshop:

Wednesday, July 12, 2006 (See May/June newsletter for details)

### Summer Potluck Picnic:

Sunday, July 16, 2006 (See below for details)

### The Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS):

July 31 - August 4, 2006 (See pg 2 for details)

### Michigan State Fair:

August 23 Through September 4, 2006 (see pg 1 for details)

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## SUMMER POTLUCK PICNIC

**When:** Sunday afternoon, July 16, 2006

**Where:** Ed and Ada Nowak's home and apiary, 16260 Hubbard Road, Livonia, MI. (Hubbard Rd. is between Farmington Rd. and Merriman Rd. and half way between 5 Mile Rd. and 6 Mile Rd.) Phone: 734-422-0508.

1:30 p.m. - Potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service, chairs, and a card table. Coffee and lemonade will be provided.

3:00 p.m. - Tour of the Nowak's new honey house and apiary.

**Note:** Fritz Sanders and Roger Sutherland, who are calibrating an instrument to color-grade honey for SEMBA members, need small samples of honey to complete their project. Please bring honey samples of all colors to the picnic.

## MICHIGAN STATE FAIR AUGUST 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4, 2006

Now is the time to get your honey, beeswax and observation hive ready for the Michigan State Fair. Exhibit classes and premiums include:

Display of Bees and Queen—(observation hive)

Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> \$45, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25, 4<sup>th</sup> \$20

Display of wood or round section comb honey

Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> \$60, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$40, 4<sup>th</sup> \$30

Display of unfiltered white extracted honey

Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$40, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> \$20

Display of unfiltered amber extracted honey

Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$40, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> \$20

Display of beeswax

Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> \$60, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$40, 4<sup>th</sup> \$30

Display of four jars of creamed granulated honey

Premiums: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$40, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> \$20

Two Langstroth deep-sized frames filled with white honey.

1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20, 4<sup>th</sup> \$15

Two medium or shallow sized frames filled with white honey

1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20, 4<sup>th</sup> \$15

Display of cut-comb honey

1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$40, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> \$20

Display of chunk honey

1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$40, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> \$20

Educational poster: Trophy 1<sup>st</sup> place; Rosettes 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>

**Note!** The Agriculture Livestock Premium Book for the Michigan State Fair will not be printed this year. Instead, all premium book information and entry forms can be found on line at: [www.michiganstatefair.com](http://www.michiganstatefair.com). If you do not have access to a computer, please call the State Fair office (313-369-8290) for the section(s) which you require and they will be mailed to you. Entry forms must be postmarked by July 15, 2006 (except where noted) or faxed to 313-369-8293 with credit card.

If you have never entered items in the Michigan State Fair Apiary Division, you may wish to e-mail Dyanne Tracey, [dtracy@beaverislandapiaries](mailto:dtracy@beaverislandapiaries) who can give you advice on the many details of entry.

During the State Fair, SEMBA maintains an educational booth to inform the public about the importance of honey bees. Each year about 35 SEMBA members volunteer several hours of their time to answer questions. If you wish to help maintain the SEMBA educational booth contact Bill Sirr at 248-544-8619 or Keith Lazar at 248-626-2483, e-mail [keithmlazar@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmlazar@hotmail.com)

## SEMBA DUES REMINDER

Members whose mailing labels denote A06 shall be removed from the membership after this issue.

## MAJOR BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE REMINDERS

The Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS) will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference at Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana, July 6 – 8, 2006. (Please note the date listed in the MBA Calendar is incorrect.) Speakers include Eric Mussen, Richard Adee, Zachary Huang, Greg Hunt, Phil Craft, Kathleen Prough, Gordon Vernon, Rob Green, Duane Rekeweg and many more. Beginner and advanced topics will be presented both indoors and at the apiary. For more information visit [www.heartlandbees.com](http://www.heartlandbees.com) or contact Tom Webster, 502-597-6351.

The Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) will hold its annual short course and conference at Young Harris College in Young Harris, Georgia July 31 - August 4, 2006. (Please note that the date listed in the MBA Calendar is incorrect.) The town of Young Harris is located in northern Georgia, just south of the North Carolina border in between Blairsville and Hiwassee off of Highway 76. For further information visit [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org)

### SEMBA WELCOMES NEW LIFE MEMBER

SEMBA is pleased to announce that Regina (Gina) Cappelletti of Canton, MI is the 35<sup>th</sup> SEMBA Life Member. Gina joined SEMBA in August 1998 and says that becoming a Life Member makes one more thing in her life simpler.

We recently interviewed Gina to find out more about her and her beekeeping activities.

**Question:** When, how and why did you start in beekeeping?

**Answer:** Started in 1994. I always admired bees and noticed their loss, but was afraid to try 'bee-keeping' as in keeping REAL bees. We had a little bunch of bees living in the ground around our house. One day we noticed they had been dug-up and destroyed. Raccoons? Opossums? Anyway, that spurred me to look into having our own hive.

**Question:** How many hives do you maintain and what are your future plans for beekeeping?

**Answer:** Right now, 2 hives. Our first hive swarmed, and with the help of a fellow SEMBA member, hived the second colony. All depends upon the bees.....

**Question:** Do you sell your honey (assuming you have a surplus)?

**Answer:** No.... in fact we let the bees keep most of the honey. Of course we harvest honey and honey comb for ourselves.

**Question:** Is your family involved in your beekeeping activities?

**Answer:** While hubby doesn't exactly volunteer, he is of great help in the hive work, and takes excellent pictures.

**Question:** Are you employed? If so what kind of work are you engaged in?

**Answer:** I am an old letter carrier retired out of Southfield.

**Question:** Hobbies?

**Answer:** Tending to the house and garden and chores involved with a horse, pony and a few chickens.

Gina concludes by giving new beekeepers this advice: "A word to anyone thinking of trying bees. If I can do it, YOU can do it! Making \$ off of them, I do not know...but keeping a hive for your garden and some honey for yourself, can be done.

~ Roger Sutherland

### MICHIGAN HONEY PRODUCTION UP

Michigan honey production for 2005 totaled 4.4 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. This estimate included honey from producers with 5 or more colonies. Michigan ranked ninth in honey production in 2005, up from eleventh in 2004. There were 65,000 colonies producing honey, with an average yield per colony of 68 pounds, up 1 percent from 2004.

Michigan honey price averaged \$0.99 per pound, down 13 percent from 2004. Honey stocks were 2.52 million pounds, up 3 percent from 2004.

Nationally, honey production in 2005 from producers with 5 or more colonies totaled 175 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2004. Yield per colony averaged 72.5 pounds, up 1 percent from the 71.8 pounds in 2004. Nationally honey prices decreased during 2005 to \$0.90.

Source:

*NASS, United States Department of Agriculture  
Volume 27, Number 3*

More information available at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

### HOW HONEYBEES SHAPED A NATION

Currently, I am reading *Bees in America* by Tammy Horn, a beekeeper and educator from Berea College, Kentucky. The book covers the history of beekeeping from the colonial period to the present time. From time to time, we will include interesting items from the book in the SEMBA newsletter.

Horn says, "After the Civil War, in the after Bee Space, 1860 – 1890 period, there were many major changes in beekeeping. The widespread introduction of the Italian honey bees replacing the dark German bees and the expansion of people and railroads to the west all had a great impact on beekeeping. Several journals were started, and beekeeping as an industry was becoming the norm.

"In the 1860s, A.I. Root transformed the image of the beekeepers in America. He was not the bee hunter living on the frontier but was a jeweler living on Main Street in Medina, Ohio. One day, while looking down on the public square he spied a swarm fly into a tree. He made an offer to an employee that he would give him a dollar if he could woo them down. The man did and convinced Root that bees were a fascinating wonder. In short order, Root read Langstroth's book and struck up a friendship with the pastor. He went on to standardize the Langstroth Hive, publish the book *ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture* and formed one of the major bee supply companies."

There is much more about the Root history in the book. In a future newsletter we will tell about Charles Dadant who after arriving in Hamilton, IL from France, in 1863, penniless and speaking only French, began a major beekeeping enterprise that is still thriving today.

~ Roger Sutherland

### A MESSAGE FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE APIARIST – MIKE HANSEN

At ANR week the topic of beekeeping urban situations was discussed. I shared that there is a case study in Vancouver, BC where the City was looking at authorizing hobby beekeeping within the city limits after a 30+ year ban. Following are a few lines of information that I sent to a SE

Michigan Beekeeper regarding the Vancouver situation, and a link to the document. That SE Michigan Beekeeper was able to share the document with his local government officials at a time when they were discussing a honey bee ban in their community. In his case, the beekeeper reported that sharing such a case study won the day, and through it he was able to better explain the benefits of having beekeepers manage the honey bees that will be present in the urban environment.

A good document to review would be the following from Vancouver, British Columbia regarding hobby beekeeping in that city. A 1970's rule prohibiting hobby beekeeping in City Limits is looked at in a July 2005 report.  
<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/ccclerk/20050721/documents/pe3.pdf>

Beekeepers should also consider the concepts in the model urban beekeeping language that the State of Florida has on their website. The State of Florida does not enforce urban rules, but they did develop a guideline that communities could use as a model to allow peaceful coexistence between beekeepers and the community. This specific model may not work for Michigan, but it's important to know such a model exists, and that many or most of the concepts can be adapted to our situation.  
[http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/apiary/beekeep\\_ord.pdf](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/plantinsp/apiary/beekeep_ord.pdf)

Beekeepers will have to be part diplomat, part politician and in all cases very savvy when they deal with local government on honey bee issues. It will never help to be angry. It will always help to be well prepared. Beekeepers in urban locations, or even in transitional areas, (those that were once rural but are now being developed) will need to understand more than simply their ability to enjoy bees, or that bees offer pollination to gardens.

Beekeepers need to recognize and promote the fact that properly managed honey bee colonies, managed by beekeepers that practice good-neighbor policies, will benefit a community - not detract from it. If a community has managed bees, then the community has a first line of defense (trained beekeepers) when honey bee issues come up.

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## SCIENTISTS FINALLY FIGURE OUT HOW BEES FLY

Proponents of intelligent design, which holds that a supreme being rather than evolution is responsible for life's complexities, have long criticized science for not being able to explain some natural phenomena, such as how bees fly. Now scientists have put this perplexing mystery to rest.

Using a combination of high-speed digital photography and a robotic model of a bee wing, the researchers figured out the flight mechanisms of honey bees.

"For many years, people tried to understand animal flight using the aerodynamics of airplanes and helicopters," said Douglas Altshuler, a researcher at California Institute of Technology. "In the last 10 years, flight biologists have gained a remarkable amount of understanding by shifting to experiments with robots

that are capable of flapping wings with the same freedom as the animals."

The scientists analyzed pictures from hours of filming bees and mimicked the movements using robots with sensors for measuring forces. Turns out bee flight mechanisms are more exotic than thought.

"The honey bees have a rapid wing beat," Altshuler told *LiveScience*. "In contrast to the fruit fly that has one eightieth the body size and flaps its wings 200 times each second, the much larger honeybee flaps its wings 230 times every second."

This was a surprise because as insects get smaller, their aerodynamic performance decreases and to compensate, they tend to flap their wings faster. "And this was just for hovering," Altshuler said of the bees. "They also have to transfer pollen and nectar and carry large loads, sometimes as much as their body mass, for the rest of the colony."

In order to understand how bees carry such heavy cargo, the researchers forced the bees to fly in a small chamber filled with a mixture of oxygen and helium that is less dense than regular air. This required the bees to work harder to stay aloft and gave the scientists a chance to observe their compensation mechanisms for the additional toil. The bees made up for the extra work by stretching out their wing stroke amplitude but did not adjust wing beat frequency.

"They work like racing cars," Altshuler said. "Racing cars can reach higher revolutions per minute but enable the driver to go faster in higher gear. But like honey bees, they are inefficient." The work, supervised by Caltech's Michael Dickinson, was reported last month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The scientists said the findings could lead to a model for designing aircraft that could hover in place and carry loads for many purposes such as disaster surveillance after earthquakes and tsunamis. They are also pleased that a simple thing like bee flight can no longer be used as an example of science failing to explain a common phenomenon.

Proponents of intelligent design, or ID, have tried in recent years to promote the idea of a supreme being by discounting science because it can't explain everything in nature. "People in the ID community have said that we don't even know how bees fly," Altshuler said. "We were finally able to put this one to rest. We do have the tools to understand bee flight and we can use science to understand the world around us."

Sara Goudarzi, Special to *Live Science*, [LiveScience.com](http://LiveScience.com)  
January, 2006

## SEMBA WEB SITE NEWS

Digital beekeeping photos are welcome for display on our newly created Photo Gallery. Please send your digital photos to Sembabees.org webmaster Tom Lisk [tosk@sembabees.org](mailto:tosk@sembabees.org)

Beekeeping items (wanted or for sale) can be listed free on SEMBA's web site Bargain Corner. These items will also be published in the SEMBA Newsletter. Send requests to Roger Sutherland [rsuther@sembabees.org](mailto:rsuther@sembabees.org)

## KEEPING YOUR BEES OUT OF YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SWIMMING POOL

In the October '05 issue of the *American Bee Journal*, Jerry Hayes was questioned by Hugh Taylor about bees drinking from swimming pools asking what could be done to stop them. Fred Fulton of Montgomery, Alabama, said he solved the problem in his residential area by placing a 2 quart jug of water (with a pinch of salt) in a Boardman feeder in the hive entrance.

### SEMBA Bargain Corner

**For Sale:**

- **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)
- New Wood ware: Great Prices Inner & Outer covers, deep, medium, shallow supers, bottom boards , top feeders , frames, Complete Hives available, **Call Bob 810-338-1523**
- Dadant mini-melter catalog #: M005491. **Call Tom Rohde at 989-799-1662 or contact him at [tcr62m04@charter.net](mailto:tcr62m04@charter.net)**
- Nucs. **Contact Bob Jastrzebski, 734-748-2185, e-mail [bob@cimsurf.com](mailto:bob@cimsurf.com)**
- 2-frame SS extractor. **Contact Roger Sutherland 734-668-8568, [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com)**

**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.**
- Looking for: Honey pump, used rubber candle molds (dipping, pouring, or figure molds are fine), steam generator for a Silver Queen Uncapper, heated sump tank. **Please contact Tom Rohde at 989-799-1662 or e-mail him at: [tcr62m04@charter.net](mailto:tcr62m04@charter.net).**
- Bee removal at a property in Ann Arbor near the UM business school . Memorial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a hive in the buildings structure at the SE corner. We are located at the corner of Tappan and Hill. **Please contact Jeff Zimmerman, Property Chair at [iz89@comcast.net](mailto:iz89@comcast.net).**

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

