



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 16 Number 6 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
September 2006

## Upcoming Events

### SEMBA Planning meeting:

Thursday, September 7, 2006

### Schoolcraft Bee Club Meeting:

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

### Seven Ponds Bee Club Meeting:

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

### Oakland Bee Club Meeting:

Tuesday, October 3, 2006

### SEMBA Annual Meeting:

Sunday, October 15, 2006

## Table of Contents

Bee Club Meeting Announcements – pg 1

Color of Honey – pg 1-2

The Hive and Honey Bee Revisited – pg.. 2

SEMBA.org Update – pg 2

How Honey Bees Shaped a Nation – pg 2-

Nowaks Host SEMBA Picnic – pg 2

SEMBA Volunteers at the State Fair – pg 2-3

Honey – Beeswax Competition Winners – pg 3

Urban Beekeeping Project in Detroit – pg 3

Royal Pain – pg 3

Twilight Queen Rearing Class – pg 4

Bargain Corner – pg 4

## SEMBA PLANNING MEETING

When: Thursday, September 7, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI.

Agenda: Planning for October 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Setting meeting dates for 2007 events Planning for 2007 Michigan State Fair

Note: All members of SEMBA are invited. to attend.

## SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI

Program: "Beekeeping in Bosnia" William Lockwood and Senad Livadic

"How I Got Started in Beekeeping"

(See program note)

A refractometer will be available to check the moisture content of your newly extracted honey. Also, your honey can be color graded using the Spectronic 20. See article entitled "The Color of Honey" in this newsletter.

*Refreshments are welcome*

## Program Note

SEMBA members William Lockwood and Senad Livadic are both highly qualified to tell us about beekeeping in Bosnia. William Lockwood, U-M Professor Emeritus, conducted anthropology research in Bosnia for many years and Senad Livadic kept bees in Bosnia before emigrating to the United States.

During the past year, videos have been made of several SEMBA members telling us about how they got started in beekeeping. These videos will be included in SEMBA's historical archives. At the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, there will be an opportunity for others who wish to have their experiences videotaped.

## SEVEN PONDS BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Seven Ponds Nature Center, 3854 Crawford Road near Dryden, MI. Seven Ponds Bee Club meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. Call Terry Toland 248-421-6601 for more information.

## OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Program: "Pollination and a Review of Some of the Honey Plants" by Sue Yates

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

*Refreshments are welcome*

## SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, October 15, 2006

Ann Harman of Flint Hill, Virginia will be our special speaker. Ann writes a monthly column on a variety of beekeeping topics for *Bee Culture*.

(Other details in the October newsletter)

## THE COLOR OF HONEY

Honey color varies naturally in a wide range of tonalities ranging from light yellow to amber, dark amber and black in extreme cases; sometimes green or red hues may also occur. Color of untreated honey depends on botanical origin; for this reason color is very important for definition and commercial classification of monofloral honeys. Honey

darkens with ageing and other changes in color may result from beekeeper's interventions and from the different ways of conservation (e.g.: use of old honey combs, contact with metals, high temperatures, exposition to light, etc. A color grader compares the classes of honey to Glycerol as a standard reference.

#### USDA Color Standards Designations:

<u>Color Designation</u>	<u>Floral example</u>
Water white-----	Acacia tree
Extra white -----	Rhododendron
White-----	Locust
Extra light amber -----	Basswood
Light amber-----	Sunflower
Amber -----	Goldenrod
Dark amber -----	Buckwheat

### **THE HIVE AND HONEY BEE REVISITED**

Roger Hoopingarner, Ph.D., Michigan State University Professor Emeritus, has recently written and published a book, *The Hive and Honey Bee Revisited*. It is an excellent annotated update of L.L. Langstroth's beekeeping classic written 150 years ago.

Many of the passages of Langstroth's 1859 book are clarified and expanded upon using information now available in 2006. A brief description taken from the book's cover reads as follows:

"The original book, preserved in its original text and illustration, is updated and annotated by one of the foremost researchers in apiculture, Dr. Roger Hoopingarner. This book keeps alive, for future generations, beekeeping techniques from the past and offers many lessons for modern beekeepers".

Copies of the book can be purchased from Bee+ Books, or on-line at [beepusbooks.com](http://beepusbooks.com). The price is \$12.97 plus \$0.78 tax (Michigan only) and \$3.00 Shipping/Handling.

### **SEMBABEES.ORG UPDATE**

SEMBA Web Master Tom Lisk continues to make improvements to our web-site making it one of the better sources of beekeeping information. The web-site contact person, Roger Sutherland, reports that the number of swarm reports gained through the web-site was greatly increased this spring. Inquiries about starting a beekeeping hobby, how to deal with bees in trees and walls, and where to purchase local honey have greatly increased.

Because beekeepers are called upon to offer advice on removing bees from walls and trees, [SEMBAbees.org](http://SEMBAbees.org) has added a new page entitled "Bees in a Wall--What can be done?" authored by Roger and Mary Sutherland and Michigan State Apiarist Michael Hansen. We hope that anyone who has a bee problem will read the information before contacting a pest control company or a beekeeper. Your input on this article would be appreciated.

### **HOW HONEYBEES SHAPED A NATION Part Two**

*Bees in America* by Tammy Horn 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.

### **Charles Dadant**

Fortunately the Civil War did not discourage Charles Dadant from immigrating to Hamilton, Illinois, in 1863 with dreams of starting a vineyard. At age forty-six, Dadant arrived penniless after paying for his family to come to America from France and buying a farm in Hamilton. He did not know a word of English, but he was determined to succeed in this country. Dadant learned English by subscribing to the *New York Tribune*.

He turned to beekeeping, a hobby he learned in France, when his dreams of being a vintner were not fulfilled. Dadant had educated himself while working as a traveling salesman in France. As the horse would plod along Dadant would read the works of the French biologist Lamarck and the theories of the socialist Charles Fourier. He renounced the Catholic Church and became a socialist.

When he came to America he modeled his beekeeping business on socialist principles by working alongside his employees. In addition to producing and selling beekeeping equipment, Dadant took over the printing and publication of the *American Bee Journal* and Langstroth's *The Hive and the Honey Bee*.

### **Walter Kelley**

After serving in World War I, a young man from Michigan named Walter Kelley, who would commercialize the bee supply industry in the South, followed the steps of his predecessors A.I. Root and Charles Dadant.

Walter moved to Louisiana and opened up a bee package and bee supply company. He then opened a factory producing hives using cypress lumber. He used his own image by having his head superimposed on a bee. His advertising theory was "Make a fool of yourself and people will remember you". Kelley also published *The Beekeepers Item* and a number of beekeeping books.

Kelley later moved his operation to Puducah, Kentucky to be more centrally located and then to Clarkson, Kentucky where it is now located. Walter Kelley died in 1986 and willed his company to the Grayson County Kentucky Hospital Foundation that became the owners in 2006. At the present time, the hospital foundation is looking for someone to keep the company operating in Clarkston, Kentucky.

### **NOWAKS HOST GREAT SEMBA PICNIC**

More than 50 SEMBA members and families attended the SEMBA Annual Picnic hosted by Ed and Ada Nowak at their home in Livonia. Thanks Ed and Ada.

### **SEMBA VOLUNTEERS AT MICHIGAN STATE FAIR**

Many thanks are due to those individuals who volunteered to work in the SEMBA educational booth at the Michigan State Fair. Special thanks are extended to Bill Sirr, Ann Kerwin, Fritz Sanders, Keith Lazar, Mark Crawford, Dennis and Donna Holly and Mary and Roger Sutherland for assistance in organizing the SEMBA booth and providing educational materials.

Volunteers who worked in the booth are: Dick Conlin\*, Chuck Bartkus, Ted Hysen, Keith and Jay Molnar\*, Ron and Judy Forfinski, Senad Livadic, Bill Lockwood, Florence Reaume, Mike Kolodziej, Tom Jenkins, Paul Lukaszewicz, Brian Frol, Ann and Mike Kerwin, Ric SIRR, Karen Hardy, Ric Bohy, Dyanne Tracy, Mark Crawford, Brian Neumeyer, Dennis and Donna Holly, Carol and Earl Hoffman, Jeff and Kathy Brown, Jim Goodrich, Misty Funk, Steve Burt, Mary Hobart, John Piette, Joanne Kimata, and Roger and Mary Sutherland.

\*Individuals who volunteered for more than one session.

## **RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES IN THE STATE FAIR HONEY- BEESWAX COMPETITION**

Observation Hive: 1<sup>st</sup> Tom Jenkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Senad Livadic, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bill SIRR

Comb Honey: 1<sup>st</sup> Keith Molnar, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Jenkins

White Extracted Honey: 1<sup>st</sup> Rich Wieske, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dyanne Tracy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Senad Livadic, 4<sup>th</sup> Bill SIRR,

Amber Extracted Honey: 1<sup>st</sup> Dyanne Tracy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill SIRR. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dennis Holly, 4<sup>th</sup> Tom Jenkins

Beeswax: 1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Holly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dyanne Tracy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Jenkins, 4<sup>th</sup> Dyanne Tracy

Cremed Honey: 1<sup>st</sup> Dyanne Tracy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Holly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dyanne Tracy, 4<sup>th</sup> Tom Jenkins

Langstroth Deep Frame: 1<sup>st</sup> Dyanne Tracy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dyanne Tracy.

Medium or Shallow Frame: 1<sup>st</sup> Jeff Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Keith Lazar, 3<sup>rd</sup> Senad Livadic, 4<sup>th</sup> Bill SIRR

Cut-Comb Honey: 1<sup>st</sup> Rich Wieske

Chunk Honey: 1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Holly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Kerwin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dyanne Tracy, 4<sup>th</sup> Tom Jenkins .

## **URBAN BEEKEEPING PROJECT IN DETROIT**

"We (Stephane Orsolini and Erika Mayr) have wanted to write to you for some time to let you know of our project for an urban beekeeping industry located within the City of Detroit, Michigan.

On October 5, 1999, the people of the State of Michigan (an important fruit and vegetable producing state ) designated the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, as their official agricultural insect. The paradox is that from this particular year onward the number of bee colonies has been in constant decline. In all places, the changes in agricultural land use policies, the extensive use of pesticides and herbicides severely fragmented their habitat and caused the death of millions of the greatest pollinators. As a result, the endangered bees had to find new territories of refuge and started developing a clear preference for cities, which ironically, now offer a greater biodiversity than its rural counterpart. Detroit is one of these cities.

In a recent article of the Detroit News, one could read that "rather than a strong urban core with rural outskirts, Metro Detroit may evolve into a suburban ring around a re-ruralized core." We believe Detroit is unique, so we went there to investigate its large pockets of so-called "rural environment." Detroit is not exactly what most people would consider a part of rural America, however on our last visit, September to November 2004, we verified that the city actually comprise more than 40,000 empty lots ( compared with 9,800 in New York for example ), that urban farming is a practice in force since the beginning of the 1980's and that more than a dozen farms have already been set up within the city limits. We met

"The Big Three," John Gruchala ( Detroit Agriculture Network ), Brother Rick Samyn ( Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Earth Works Gardens ) and Paul Weertz ( Catherine Ferguson Academy ). John, Rick and Paul with the help of many gardeners, activists, schools, churches, community organizations and food banks initiated more than forty community gardens and micro-farms and started not only to grow food, but also process it and distribute it to finally support entire neighbourhoods.

So, in an attempt to foster the multiplication of such initiatives, we propose to "pollinate" the city of Detroit. The pollination of Detroit will encompass the supply of, first 30, then 300, to perhaps culminate at about 3000 oversized beehives well positioned ( close to existing community gardens and micro-farms, on vacant lots or on very desolate, underused and often-empty parking lots in the city. This will amount to a very sophisticated beekeeping industry dedicated to not only produce honey or other hive products ( customary beekeeping ) but also and for the most part, queen bees and package bees for providing pollination services ( commercial beekeeping ) to fruit and vegetable growers in Metro Detroit, in Southwest Michigan and elsewhere as it is the degree and extent of pollination that will ensure a higher crop yield and a better produce quality. In addition, it goes without saying that managing bees is the best thing one could do to reduce the proliferation of the Varroa mites, the ectoparasites of the honey bees.

The great diversity of vegetables and berries found in Detroit's community gardens, the alfalfa and clover fields of the urban farms, the wildflower meadows on a good number of vacant lots, and the sunflowers on Ford Motor's property already add up to a very valuable source of nectar and pollen. In the future, this could be enhanced further if beekeepers and organizations such as the Detroit Agriculture Network, Earthworks Garden and The Greening of Detroit were to encourage more people to plant. Here and there, but within close proximity to the hives, vacant lots could turn into temporary bee pastures: fields of poppies and cornflowers, and soon after, fields of phacelias, lupines and sunflowers. Further than turning wasteland into appealing urban scenery, the flower patches will decontaminate the soil, improve its fertility and finally, contribute to a better environment. We are currently preparing an outline proposal for our feasibility study and we would like to know whether you may be able to put us in touch with some companies or institutions or individuals that could be interested in supporting and sponsoring such a project.

Thank you, with kind regards from Berlin, Erika.

--- Please respond to: [stephane.orsolini@web.de](mailto:stephane.orsolini@web.de), [erikamayr@yahoo.com](mailto:erikamayr@yahoo.com)

## **ROYAL PAIN**

Consider if you will, the bee;

His ruler is a she.

And I suppose, in that society,

The Queen would call it impropriety,

If some poor worker raised her wing

And asked, "What happened to the King?"

~Contributed by Bill SIRR

## TWILIGHT QUEEN REARING CLASS

~ Rich Wieske – [rich@greentogardens.com](mailto:rich@greentogardens.com)

On a warm summer evening, (July 12, 2006), in a lush green Detroit apiary (what did he say?) over a dozen beekeepers \* gathered for what would be an enlightening workshop on bee biology, more specifically Queen Rearing 101. Guiding this event was Larry Connor\*\* who adeptly answered every question no matter how far a field from the subject. The workshop was hosted by Green Toe Gardens\*\*\* and ½ a dozen colonies. Rap and hip hop blaring from the occasional car radio and community folks stopping in to see what was going on, it was not your typical beekeeping setting.

In a warm knowledgeable way Larry led the evenings discussion and with hands on demonstration. Opened hives, looking for the queen, also found live varroa on emerging workers and identified Deformed Wing Virus. He pulled out larva frames for grafting and shook brood frames of nurse bees into a specially built starter box. And finally what everyone was waiting for, transferring larva from frames to queen cups. All left with a heightened understanding of what it takes to raise your own queens and more confident in their ability to do so.

Evan of Birmingham said “ I learned how wonderfully important it is to understand the life cycle of bee’s. A wake up call, you have to plan. It takes 6 or 7 weeks to get a laying queen. Very impressed when Larry said, “Oh here’s the queen” and then picked her up. Marcia of Detroit, 1<sup>st</sup> year working with Brother Rick and the Capuchin Kitchen, Loved that she “knew some of the answers to folks questions, also liked the learning environment and the hands on ness of it all”. She took lots of notes to take back and help with their 30 or more hives. And Jon of Saginaw

described the workshop as “perfect timing for him and exactly what he wanted. No matter how much you read, seeing something demonstrated really drove it home, took the guess work out of it.” He’s adapted his own technique, punching out the larva, heating the wax and sticking it on a frame, using an old golf club. Jon hopes to have four or five hundred colonies next year, raising he’s own queens. \*Visit; [http://www.sembabees.org/gallery/Connor06\\_0712.html](http://www.sembabees.org/gallery/Connor06_0712.html) for photos

\*\* [www.wiewas.com](http://www.wiewas.com) and check out Larry’s new book “Increase Essentials”

\*\*\* [www.Greentogardens.com](http://www.Greentogardens.com) our new web site

### SEMBA Bargain Corner

Purchasing light colored beeswax - large or small amounts, call Bill Schnute at 810-796-2344 or email (preferred) [mail@honeyflowfarm.com](mailto:mail@honeyflowfarm.com)

For sale: Bee suit (Jacket protector style), full bee suits, bee gloves, smoker, frame grip, bee brush, hive tools, uncapping knives, 2-frame SS extractor. Call Barbara Miller, 248-356-7850

For sale: Hive with lots of bees and honey. Call Nicky Borcea, 734-323-7163 , [nicky@borcea.com](mailto:nicky@borcea.com)

Use your beeswax to help people in poor communities around the world! Dancing Crane Honey Farm is a not-for-profit business in Ann Arbor. If you give us your beeswax, we will turn it into candles for sale and give all of the profits to charity. Even small amounts of wax will be appreciated. Contact Joanne Kimata or John Piette at: 734-332-0737 or [jakimata@earthlink.net](mailto:jakimata@earthlink.net)

Note: ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Susanne at [souxsieq2@msn.com](mailto:souxsieq2@msn.com), or phone 248-476-4991 or Roger Sutherland [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com).

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership  
5488 Warren Road  
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