



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 17 Number 2, Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
February, 2007

69TH SEMBA BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, February 17, 2007
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
VisTaTech CENTER
18600 HAGGERTY ROAD (between 6 & 7 Mile Rd.)
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

Please enter through the VisTaTech Center entrance
(Parking is available in the North Campus Parking Lot)

You are invited to attend the 69th Annual SEMBA Beekeepers' Conference. This one-day event is designed for all beekeepers as well as those who are considering keeping honey bees for the first time. There is no registration fee for SEMBA members. Registration fee at the door for non-members is \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. No pre-registration is necessary.

Major speakers are Kim Flottum, editor of *Bee Culture* and Zachary Huang, PhD., MSU. Workshop sessions, featuring a variety of beekeeping topics, will be conducted by Master Beekeepers and others who have kept bees for many years.

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

BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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

9:00 a.m.-----Beekeeping Video
The Monk and his Bees—Brother Adam

9:20 a.m. Welcome by Keith Lazar, Roger Sutherland

9:30 a.m. "Managing Pheromones" - Kim Flottum
Editor of *Bee Culture*

10:25 a.m. Introduction to sessions – Roger Sutherland

10:30 a.m. **First Concurrent Session**

1. Follow-up with keynote speaker – Kim Flottum
2. "Fundamentals of Marketing" – Kathy Summers
3. Beginner's Seminar I -- Seven Ponds Bee Club
4. "Cell-Punch Queen Rearing with Cloake Board" -- Winn Harless

11:25 a.m. "Honey, From Frame to Package"
– Mike Siarkowski

Noon: **SEMBA Potluck or lunch on your own at local restaurants**

1:10 p.m. "Field Testing the Mite Zapper"
-- Zachary Huang

2:15 p.m. Introduction to concurrent sessions -

2:20 p.m. **Second Concurrent Session**

1. Follow-up discussion with keynote speaker
2. Beginner's Seminar Session II -- Winn Harless
3. "Beekeeping Mathematics" -- Kim Flottum
4. "Skeps: Their History, Making and Use" -- Roger Sutherland

3:15 p.m. **Third Concurrent Session**

1. Beginner's Seminar Session III – Ed Nowak
2. "Wax, From Frame to Candle" – Larry Yates
3. "Disease Control" – Sue Yates
4. "Making Your Own Equipment" – Fritz Sanders

4:10 p.m. **Concluding Session**

Questions and Answers and Hive-Raffle Award

SPECIAL FEATURES OF CONFERENCE

DOOR PRIZES

All bee-conference attendees will receive a door-prize ticket when they register.

BEE HIVE & PACKAGE BEE RAFFLE

A complete hive, donated by Dadant & Sons of Albion, Michigan will be raffled. Tickets for the raffle, at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00, may be purchased at the beekeeping conference.

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 tea and coffee. 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 may be placed in the Silent Auction. Bidding takes place throughout the day during the beekeeping conference. You may keep the profits or you may consider sharing the proceeds with SEMBA to benefit the association.

SEMBA's 2007 BEEKEEPING CLASS

SEMBA's hands-on beekeeping class, initiated in 1997 by Ed Nowak, will be offered again. The instructor will be Master Beekeeper Ed Nowak assisted by other experienced beekeepers. Information will be available at the February 17th conference and on the Web site sembabees.org. You may also contact Mr. Nowak at 734-422-0508 or by e-mail at

epnowak@earthlink.net

MBA's BEEKEEPING SYMPOSIUM MARCH 9-10, 2007—KELLOGG CENTER MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) invites beginner or experienced beekeepers to attend their Beekeeping Symposium and Spring Meeting to be held in the Kellogg Center, MSU, on March 9 –10. James Tew and Ann Harman will be feature speakers. Contact <http://michiganbees.org> for information.

OCTOBER 2006 NATIONAL HONEY REPORT

The Agricultural Marketing Service has issued the October National Honey Market Report. <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/mncs/honey.pdf>.

STEALTHY INSECT SENSOR PROJECT

PHOENIX (Reuters) - Scientists at a U.S. weapons laboratory say they have trained bees to sniff out explosives in a project they say could have far-reaching applications for U.S. homeland security and the Iraq war.

Researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico said they trained honeybees to stick out their proboscis -- the tube they use to feed on nectar -- when they smell explosives in anything from cars and roadside bombs to belts similar to those used by suicide bombers.

By exposing the insects to the odor of explosives followed by a sugar water reward, researchers said they trained bees to recognize substances ranging from dynamite and C-4 plastic explosives to the Howitzer propellant grains used in improvised explosive devices in Iraq.

When bees detect the presence of explosives, they simply stick their proboscis out," research scientist Tim Haarmann told Reuters in a telephone interview. "You don't have to be an expert in animal behavior to understand it as there is no ambiguity."

The findings followed 18 months of research at the U.S. Energy Department's Los Alamos facility, the nation's leading nuclear weapons laboratory.

"We are very excited at the success of our research as it could have far-reaching implications for both defense and homeland security," Haarmann said.

While scientists have trained wasps to respond to the trace of explosives, Haarmann said research with bees appeared to show more promise.

Haarmann said the bees could be carried in hand-held detectors the size of a shoe box, and could be used to sniff out explosives in airports, roadside security checks, or even placed in robot bomb disposal equipment.

He said the next step would be to manufacture the bee boxes and train security guards in their use. "It would be great to start saving some lives with this," he said.

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TIPS FROM BILL

Old smokers never die. My old smoker is all but turned into junk. I have tried to repair the top several times; alas, the metal is just too far gone

to hold any repairs I have made. I can't complain too much as it has been a faithful friend for over 25 years that I know of. So what did I do to it to keep it from burning out? After reading an idea in one of the bee journals, I retrieved a can that had held tomatoes that just fit into the smoker, cut a few holes in the bottom of the can, and placed it into the smoker. The can was now the fire pot. (I never burned the smoker out no matter how hard it was used.) Then I added a 2 inch long 3/4 inch copper water pipe to the snout of the smoker. A copper end cap is connected to a short length of light chain with pop rivets also connected to the smoker. I use the pipe as a wedge to hold the supers up while I finish breaking them loose. When finished using the smoker, I cover the pipe with the cap. This will cause the smoker to go out. Because the cap is connected to the smoker with the chain, it is not lost and therefore no need for a cork or grass.

~Yours for better beekeeping, Bill.Sirr

SIX-LEGGED WORKERS CONTRIBUTION? \$57 BILLION IN SERVICES

New research is trying to put a dollar amount on economic contributions made by insects. Insects are obviously an important part of the U. S. ecology, but new research suggests they're also a vital part of the U.S. economy ---to the tune of \$57 billion a year.

"We're trying to turn these creatures into something people can relate to and understand how they contribute to our lives," said Mace Vaughan, an entomologist who co-wrote a new study on the economic impact of insects. The research was completed for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation --a nonprofit environmental group where Vaughan works as a conservation director.

Vaughan and co-author John Losey, an entomologist and associate professor at Cornell University, discovered that native insects are intertwined in many areas of our economy, and their contributions total about \$57 billion annually. "Because of all the things insects do that we could not account for, our value is almost certainly an underestimate," said Vaughan. The researchers studied four "services" native insects provide: pest control, pollination, wildlife nutrition and dung burial---for their article in the April issue of *Bioscience*. They concluded that these insects annually provide more than \$4.5 billion in pest control, pollination \$3 billion in crops, and save ranchers more than \$380 million by cleaning up grazing lands.

MASTER BEEKEEPER PROGRAM CERTIFICATION

Vaughan emphasizes that our meals would be less exciting and a lot more expensive if we didn't have insects to cross pollinate our crops.

While Vaughan says pollination is the best known, the biggest dollar amounts come from recreation, a whopping \$50 billion. Insects represent a critical source of food for many birds, fish and small mammals so important in the small game, bird hunting as well as sport and commercial fishing, and bird watching.

One of the study's main goals was to show people how important and valuable insects are to Americans and explain their contributions in terms everyone can understand. The authors admit there hasn't been enough work done on the economic to thoroughly and accurately explain them, and some data used is dated.

"We do not include services from domesticated species or pest control from mass-reared insect biological-control agents," their report says. "We also exclude the value of commercially produced insect-derived products, such as honey, wax, silk, shellac and any value derived from the capture and consumption of insects themselves."

"I think that it's helpful to measure the enormous impact insects have on our lives," said Lee Townsend, entomologist with the University of Kentucky. "We try to give people both sides of what the impact of insects are in our lives." We often think of insects as harmful ---bringers of disease or destruction. But there are a lot of positive things that they do too, and this is an interesting way to look at that."

~Submitted by Joann Holden

TEACHERS SEEKING SPEAKERS

SEMBA has received several requests for beekeepers to present programs to school groups. If you are interested, contact any of the following:

Jeff Calkins, 1423 Buhl Rd., Newport, MI
734-915-5547

Terri Kuzilla, 324 Kenilworth, Oak Park, MI
248-545-4387

Rochel Kranczer, 24510 Harding, Oak Park, MI
248-967-9980

Mrs. Sheruzyn, 25520 Gardner, Oak Park, MI
doaryus@juno.com

At the January 4, 2007 planning meeting of the SEMBA Board, the establishment of a Master Beekeeper program in Michigan was introduced. After considerable discussion, the board suggested this item be placed on the agenda of the MBA Executive Board meeting held at Michigan State University in January, 2007.

Before any program can be established, a feasibility study must be undertaken to determine whether or not there is sufficient interest. Items to be considered are: costs, instructional personnel, use of on-line instruction, location for on-site field testing, etc.

Beekeepers who are interested and have had at least five years experience might want to consider completing the following questionnaire and sending to:

Roger Sutherland
5488 Warren Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425
rsuther@hotmail.com

- 1) Are you interested in completing the certification for becoming a Master Beekeeper? Yes _____ No _____
- 2) How much would you be willing to pay for such a program? \$50-\$100 _____; \$100 - \$200 _____, \$200 - \$300 _____.
- 3) Would you participate if it were an on-line program for all non-field experiences? Yes _____ No _____
- 4) For field experiences, what distance are you willing to travel? _____ miles.
- 5) Is it important to have the program offered through a university? Yes _____ No _____.
- 6) Do you have any recommendations for course instructors? _____.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- SEMBA caps. **Call 734-668-8568 to order.**
- Light amber honey, 60 pound pails. **Call Mike Siarkowski, 517-545-0824.**
- Package bees available mid April from Wilbanks Apiaries. **Call Blanche Barber, 248-634-7017.**
- Woodware available; limited number of Nuc's for 2007. **Contact Keith Lazar, (C) 248-361-1710 (P) 248-815-5522.**
- Package Bees from California. Place your order for April 2007 pick-Up. **Contact Jerry Dunbar 586-770-9953.**
- Bottle capper. **Call Winn Harless, 734-453-2914.**
- Package bees. Shawn Shubel will be delivering bees from Georgia during the third week of April. SEMBA members will receive a \$5.00 discount. Your cost is \$53.00 per 3 pound package. Pick up will be at Shawn's house in Howell. **Contact Mike Siarkowski, at 517-545-0824** to place orders. Limit is 10 packages.
- Hive bodies wanted. 400 medium supers needed; will consider deeps or combinations; partial quantities considered. Must be clean and in good condition. Contact **Don Ragan (810) 610-5500** or email don@windmillhillfarm.com.

Wanted:

- Location for colonies in the Ann Arbor-Saline area. **Contact Kevin Walker, 734-429-8559.**

Notice:

- Honey for sale or honey wanted: **Send your name to the Sutherlands, 5488 Warren, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, or rsuther@hotmail.com** Names will be printed in the next newsletter and posted on the sembabees.org Web pages.

Southeastern Michigan 5488 Warren
Beekeepers' Association Ann Arbor, MI
Organized April 1, 1934 48105-9425

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club

