



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 17 Number 3 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
March – April 2007

APRIL DUES REMINDER

If your address label denotes an A07 your dues are now payable. Enclosed is a remittance form for your convenience.

OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Program: "Cell-Punch Queen Rearing with
Cloake Board"-----Winn Harless

Refreshments are welcome

ANR WEEK BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE

March 9-10, 2007 Michigan State University
For information visit <http://michiganbees.org>

SEVEN PONDS BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Where: Seven Ponds Nature Center, Dryden, MI

SEMBA'S WINTER-SPRING MEETING

When: Sunday, April 15, 2007, 1:30 p.m.

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

Potluck dinner: 1:30 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and
your own table service. Coffee and tea will be
provided by SEMBA.

Program: 3:00 p.m.

"Beekeeping Around the World"

"Sampling the World's Honey"

by

SEMBA member Rich Wieske who recently
returned from a trip around the world.

SEMBA WELCOMES NEW LIFE MEMBER

SEMBA is pleased to announce that Wendy Harless has become the 30th Life Member of SEMBA. Wendy, daughter of SEMBA member Winn Harless, grew up in Plymouth. In her early years, she enjoyed visiting her grandfather's Kentucky home with beehives in the backyard.

Upon graduation from high school, she enrolled in the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston. After earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in 1992, she was employed as a graphic design artist for the *Plymouth Crier*, a newspaper that is no longer published. She then pursued a career in graphic design with the *Ann Arbor Observer*. Recognizing her talents, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in Dearborn, MI hired her to be their Forming and Fabricating Art Director.

In 1999, she became the art director for the South Eastern Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) based in Taylor, MI where her talents are employed as Multi-Media Administrator.

Wendy has expanded her creative endeavors into the area of beeswax crafts and other products. She has founded *Queen Bee Enterprises* where decorative beeswax candles, soaps, lip balms and lotions are produced. She enjoys gardening, especially raising herbs that are incorporated into some of her creations. These products can be viewed on Wendy's Web site entitled: queenbeecandles.com. Wendy recently displayed her beeswax-based products at the 69th Annual SEMBA Beekeeping Conference. Welcome Wendy.

TIPS FROM BILL

Water! How many times have you been working with the girls (bees) only to find out that you need to wash your hands and/or tools? You have no water except in your coffee or your drinking water. I may have found the solution to that problem. I picked up a 2 3/4th gallon laundry-detergent container. It has a convenient valve for letting out just the right amount of water that I need to do the job at hand. By adding a little bleach to the soap and water, I find that cleanup is so much easier now in the field than at home.

SCHMALTZ TEAM: WINNERS AGAIN

Judy Schmaltz, with help from her husband Lloyd Schmaltz, received several first place ribbons in the honey-beeswax competition at the American Beekeeping Federation meeting. The ABF meeting was held in January, 2007 in Austin, Texas.

Judy won 1st place in creamed honey and "Best of Show" in that category. 1st place ribbons were also awarded to Judy in round-section comb honey and creative candle beeswax design.

Lloyd will have pictures of their "Northern Michigan" inspired candle design to show at some future meeting.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT FOR 1925-1926

Editor's Note: The 1925-26 MDA report was sent to the SEMBA Newsletter editors by the MDA State Aparist, Michael Hansen. We think you will find it interesting to learn about the beekeeping industry in Michigan just prior to the Great Depression. Of special interest is the importance of queen rearing and the extent of American Foul Brood. Keep in mind the use of antibiotics was not available until much later. Hay growing practices were much different in 1925. Most hay fields at that time were cut well after clover bloom so the nectar yields were greater. We are including a portion of the report below:

APIARY DIVISION

Beekeeping in Michigan is on the increase as well as honey production. The methods of beekeeping are improving so that the honey production from the same number of colonies is greater than any time in the past.

Bees are not often seen from the highway so that the importance of the industry is not generally realized. There are now between twelve and fifteen thousand beekeepers in the state with an annual production of approximately 10,000,000 pounds. There are over 500 beekeepers in the state who have fifty colonies or more of bees, while another 500 beekeepers own about 55,000 colonies. There are approximately 150,000 colonies of bees in the state at present time.

The average of the honey crop each year will exceed \$1,00,000.00. When it is taken into

consideration that this is all new wealth, it will be seen that the bee industry really means considerable to our state.

There is one branch of beekeeping which, however, is minor to honey production, but from which the few engaged in the business in the state receive a good income. This refers to queen rearing and breeding and it is a fact that Michigan produces some of the best and most prolific queens that can be obtained from any source.

The indirect income from bees is much greater than that from the direct or honey crop. This income increase is because of the better crops harvested by fruit growers and farmers who raise such crops as pickles, melons and seeds of different kinds such as radish and all kinds of clover. It is an accepted conclusion that the yield of clover seed is much higher in the areas where there are a considerable number of bees than in those areas where bees are relatively scarce.

Bees winter in colonies when other insects winter as individuals. In a cold late spring, bees are ready to work the blossoms as soon as they appear while other insects would be slow to propagate because of the inclement weather. For this reason the best interest of agriculture in the state would be served if there were more bees. It is impractical to increase the bees to any large extent at the time, however, until the serious bee diseases are more completely eradicated.

Michigan is blessed more than any other state by its variety and number of honey plants. The quality of Michigan honey is better than any other section. Beekeepers are coming to Michigan from other states and many inquires are received as to suitable locations in this state. There are many areas that can accommodate more bees because at the present time there are millions of pounds of nectar going to waste. Disease eradication is the key to increasing bees. The Department of Agriculture is working on the eradication of diseases especially American foul brood. During the biennial period 4,069 apiaries were visited inspecting 38,803 colonies. 1,106 apiaries and 6,061 colonies were affected with American foul brood. 15.6% of colonies inspected were diseased. 27.2% of apiaries were infected with American foul brood.

In 1925-26 European foul brood was no longer considered to be serious. Only Black German and hybrid bees are infected. The recently introduced Italian queens and bees are showing increased resistance to European foul brood.

**Comments about the 1925-26 report
by Roger Hoopingarner, Ph.D.,
Professor Emeritus, MSU:**

"It is interesting to see the large number of beekeepers, though we have not lost that many colonies over the years, which would indicate to me that the commercial beekeepers have gotten that much larger. I had a student do some computer plotting of the change of bees by county and also the incidence of AFB. The colonies left the fruit belt and moved inland. The disease incidence bounced around between 5 and 10 percent until 1947 when it went to about 2 percent--the advent of sulfa drug. Then dropped another 1 percent in 1955 with the advent of terramycin. The Inspection people always said what a good job they did, but it took the development of sulfa and terramycin to really bring disease under control."

NEWS FROM THE STATE APIARIST

Section 18 for use of Coumophos in Michigan has been approved for 2007. Dr. Hughes has notified Bayer Corporation who will produce the Michigan Label for distribution with the product. Once we receive the Michigan label, the product can be registered and then made available to Michigan customers. These steps should progress very quickly.

~ Mike Hansen.

**COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER
(An E-mail from Kim Flottum)**

Perhaps you have been listening in on any of the available chat lines, or reading about it in your newsletter, or even in local newspapers. There has been, and continues to be, substantial honey bee losses across the U.S. They have been documented in more than 16 states, and have been ongoing for several months.

Just recently, Scientists, Inspectors and others from several states have begun an intense and careful study of what is going on. Dennis VanEnglesdorp from the PA Dept. of Ag; Maryanne Frazier, Nancy Ostiguy and Diana Cox-Foster from Penn State; Jerry Bromenshenk and his team of six from Bee Alert Technology in Missoula Montana; Jerry Hayes from the Florida Dept. of Ag; and the crew from the Beltsville Bee Lab are all involved. They have traveled to several states, taken hundreds of samples, and are working in real time in California right now examining colonies as they collapse, and sampling those that are collapsing

and those that haven't collapsed. The syndrome has a name..."Colony Collapse Disorder" (CCD) and has gained national attention from the American Honey Producers, the National Honey Board, the American Beekeeping Federation, and several scientists from several universities. Moreover, there is a nationwide survey available for anyone to complete who has experienced this. It is on the Web at www.beesurvey.com and I encourage anyone who has experienced severe losses recently to fill out and return the survey, and, even more importantly, to spread the word that this survey exists and have others complete and return it also.

These activities by these groups are not funded by any existing grant or budget, and these folks are temporarily pulling funds from other sources and accounts. The National Honey Board has contributed \$13,000 to the Penn State Group to cover the costs of the many, many analysis tests they are doing, or have done. In short, the CCD group can use more money so they can continue to examine this problem.

The American Beekeeping Federation is sponsoring a meeting in February, only a couple of days before our regular EAS board meeting, bringing together many of those involved, beekeepers, national and regional beekeeping associations and others to further gather information and assist and guide this group on this situation. Moreover, there will be a large contingent of USDA Bee Lab scientists and Research Leaders, University Scientists and others on site at the same time, for a 5-Year USDA Honey Bee Research Planning meeting.

A NEW NOSEMA?

Could the Colony Collapse Disease (CCD) described in the E-mail from Kim Flottum be caused by a new Nosema?

In the February 2007 issue of *Bee Culture*, Malcolm Sanford details some of the possible causes of a bee problem called by many names: Disappearing Disease, Autumn Collapse, Spring Dwindling, and Disappearing Trick. *Nosema mellifera* is being looked at as one cause. There may be others. *Nosema mellifera* matches closely with the disease found in *Apis cerna* (*Nosema cernae*). Just as the *Varroa destructor* was transferred from *Apis cerna* to *Apis mellifera*, *Nosema cernae* may now be parasitizing *Apis mellifera*. It is now more prevalent in Europe but has been reported in many other parts of the world. Sanford, in his article, also explains more about the disease and some treatment options.

FROM THE SEMBA MAILBOX

I am vice-president of the Buncombe County Beekeepers Chapter of the North Carolina Beekeepers' Association in Asheville, NC. I must say I am very IMPRESSED with your association's Web site! I was looking for logos for a hat or shirt product for our club and found your web site on a Google search. I like the clean simple design and logical easy use of the site, not to mention the GREAT products and services. Well done!

As I alluded to above, I am looking for embroidered logos for our club. I like the bee your club uses for your hat and wonder if it is available for use by other clubs? I also would be interested in where you got your hats made. We have not decided on anything yet but are sort of looking for a quality product. We do not want one of those cartoonish looking bees on our product and that is one of the things I like about your hats.

I would like to keep in touch, if possible, because I am always looking to exchange ideas with people who are moving forward with our hobby and industry. Your Web site alone tells me your organization is worlds ahead of the average association I have seen.
~ Calvin Robinson

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- SEMBA caps. **Call 734-668-8568 to order.**
- 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.

Wanted:

- 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) 378-5972** or email don@windmillhillfarm.com.
- Plymouth, Canton or Ann Arbor location for 4 hives. Contact **M. Cyganowski**, 734-536-1083 cygamatt@yahoo.com
- Location for hives between Redford and Ann Arbor. Contact **David Ufford**, 313-475-6154 dufford55@aol.com

Note: Ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568 or rsuther@hotmail.com

69TH ANNUAL SEMBA BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE REPORT

Attendance at the conference was approximately 180; 27 new members were enrolled. Income from registration, hive raffle, potluck, coffee/donuts, and silent auction totaled \$604.85.

Expenses for speaker's lodging, mileage, ham, donuts, potluck provisions and photo copies totaled \$472.70.

Winner of the hive/package bee raffle was new SEMBA member Richard McFarland of Marine City, MI.

A 9x12 baking dish was left at the Beekeeping Conference, Schoolcraft College, Saturday, February 17, 2007- Contact the Sutherland's at 734-668-8568.

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



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club



Editors: Roger & Mary Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com <http://www.sembabees.org>