



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 17, Number 6, Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
September – 2007

SEMBA YEARLY PLANNING MEETING

When: Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Agenda: Planning for October 21st Annual Meeting; setting meeting dates for 2008 events; review of 2007 Michigan State Fair; and budget decisions.

Note: All members of SEMBA are invited to attend.

SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Program

“Early Fall Management”

(Bring your questions)

“Beekeeping For The Classroom Teacher”

(Report by Peter Sutherland and other participants from the Beaver Island class)

(See article on the Beaver Island course)

A refractometer and a Spectronic 20 will be available to check the moisture content and color of your newly-extracted honey.

Refreshments are welcome

OAKLAND BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Program: “Tips on Extracting Your Honey”

A refractometer and a Spectronic 20 will be available to check the moisture content and color of your newly-extracted honey.

Refreshments are welcome

NOWAKS HOST A GREAT SEMBA PICNIC

More than 40 SEMBA members and their families attended the SEMBA Annual Picnic held

at the home of Ed and Ada Nowak on Sunday, July 15, 2007. Many thanks are due Ed and Ada for all of their hard work and volunteer efforts in our organization.

BEEKEEPING FOR THE CLASSROOM

An intensive two-week beekeeping course for teachers and other educators was conducted July 15 to 27, 2007 at the Central Michigan University Biological Station on Beaver Island, 35 miles northwest of Charlevoix, Michigan. Funding for this class was obtained from the EPA through a grant secured by SEMBA member, Dyanne Tracy, a math professor at Oakland University. This grant gave the students an opportunity to participate in a graduate level course and research study entitled “Beekeeping for the Classroom Teacher”. Zachary Huang, Roger Sutherland and others assisted with the program. Of the eighteen educators selected for the program, the following eight are SEMBA members: Jane Levy, Mary Kay Marks, Tom Jenkins, Lisa Wild, Eileen Byrnes, Wendy Wiegand, Stephen Philipp and Kristin Rohrbeck. SEMBA has helped several members of the class to obtain mentors to assist when they establish hives and incorporate the biology of honey bees into their curriculums. More information about the course will be reported during the Schoolcraft Bee Club meeting on September 11th.

A NOTE FROM KATHLEEN CARTER

We had a very exciting night last night. We caught our first swarm. Winn Harless was kind enough to call us about a swarm in Brighton. What an adventure it was! Despite 95 degree temps, we were able to capture the swarm without incident and added about 8 pounds of bees to our little farm. We would never have had the courage to attempt this had it not been for SEMBA's classes and all the hands-on experience Ed put us through. Thanks to SEMBA for its support and educational programs.

A LETTER TO MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBER TERRY BROWN (D – PIGEON) REGARDING MICHIGAN HOUSE BILL 4568 “COTTAGE FOOD OPERATIONS” by

Roger

Sutherland

One of the major goals of the MBA and SEMBA is to promote beekeeping by encouraging more individuals to take up beekeeping as a hobby or as a source of income, and to provide pollination vital to Michigan's agriculture. Prior to the 1980s, Michigan had a large number of feral (wild honey bee hives) that provided more than 50% of the pollination needs of the state for blueberries, apples, cucumbers and many other crops. This feral population has been almost totally eliminated by parasitic mites and other diseases. Michigan agriculture has become increasingly dependent on honey bees maintained by beekeepers for pollination. We do not know how many beekeepers we have in Michigan since the Michigan Department of Agriculture no longer registers beekeepers; the present estimate is approximately 2,000 to 3,000. MBA and SEMBA would like to double that number to help Michigan maintain its agricultural excellence. The low number of Michigan beekeepers producing less honey is causing honey packers to rely more on foreign honey. Consumption of honey from Argentina, China and other countries does not provide any of the pollination benefits for Michigan crops.

Because of the costs and disease problems many individuals are reluctant to start a colony of honey bees. One additional major obstacle to starting is the unrealistic Michigan Food Law of 2000 regarding the licensing and regulation of honey houses used in the extraction of honey. The Food Law mandates that all beekeepers must have a honey house approved and licensed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Food and Dairy Division. The cost to construct a honey house is several thousand dollars and the typical beekeeper will use the facility only two or three weeks each year. MDA-FDA does allow beekeepers to sell honey processed in a non-licensed honey house if they sell honey from their homes. Any sales at markets, craft shows, county fairs, roadside stands, festivals, and events require beekeepers to process that honey in an approved honey house.

We have studied the provisions included in House Bill 4568 and support the concept of providing exemptions for non-hazardous food preparation. Honey processing produces a product of great purity and there have been no health related problems associated with honey processing. We believe beekeepers producing small quantities of honey should be included under the provisions of this bill.

We would like an opportunity to meet with your staff to discuss further details of our request to be included in House Bill 4568.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

House Bill 4568I will not have much chance of passage unless we make our voices heard. We are asking you to contact your Michigan State legislator by 1) visiting the legislator 2) writing to your legislator 3) signing and circulating a petition. You may wish to do all of the above. If you do not know your Michigan Representative go on the Internet, select a search engine like Google and type in Michigan House of Representatives.

Also, you may obtain petitions by postal mail from Roger Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105, or by e-mail rsuther@hotmail.com Petitions will be available at bee club meetings, too.

Please note that any Michigan resident is eligible to sign the petition.

The following are some suggestions that should be stressed when writing or visiting your legislator:

1) Michigan and the nation have had great losses of honey bee colonies. 2) Michigan agriculture relies on honey bees to pollinate many crops (apples, blue berries, cherries, cucumbers etc.) 3) The number of problems facing beekeepers has dramatically increased during the past 20 years forcing hundreds of beekeepers to give up beekeeping. 4) Wild (feral) bees have been almost totally eliminated. 5) Increasing amount of honey is being imported thus we are not getting the pollination from these bees in China, Argentina, and many other countries. 6) We need to increase the number of beekeepers and the present honey house regulations discourage beekeepers from starting. It requires thousands of dollars to construct a honey house that will meet the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Food and Dairy Division requirements. 7) Honey is one of the most safe and non-hazardous foods produced.

RECIPE FOR NOBBY APPLE CAKE

2 or 3 Tbsp. butter
1/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup honey
1 egg
1 cup flour

- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 3 cups diced or coarsely shredded apples
- ¼ cups chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Cream butter and sugar; add eggs; mix well. Combine dry ingredients and add to the creamed mixture. Stir in shredded apples, nuts and vanilla. Pour into 8x8x2 pan. Bake in moderate oven (350°) for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve hot or cold, with or without whipped cream or ice cream.

REMOVAL OF EXOTIC PLANTS

Recently SEMBA member Kathleen Carter wrote to Zachary Huang, PhD, MSU, about a report that a number of Michigan honey plants were targeted for removal. The following is Zachary's response:

1. I have heard that one Michigan organization (most likely Dept of Natural Resources, or an agency under that) is trying to "remove" exotic plants which includes white and yellow sweet clovers, black locusts, etc. It is possible that the two types of clovers are considered invasive since they can take over other plants making it a mono-culture. Other than this I do not know the specific reasons for their removal. I have no clue either why black locusts are in the list. These plants are legumes, which fix nitrogen, and produce good honey. I did not have time to go to the meeting to defend for beekeepers but if we want to remove all exotic species, honey bees are also an introduced (exotic) species!
2. Dave Anthony (MBA president) and Terry Klein both went to the meeting and can be contacted about the specifics. Individual beekeepers can send in protests (or associations can pass a resolution to send an official letter).
3. There are only a few genetically modified plants that pose risks to honey bees, notably plants with genes encoding for Soybean Tripsin Inhibitor and other protease inhibitors. When presented to bees at artificially high concentrations (unlikely in the field), these chemicals can affect their learning and survival. The majority of GM plants (Bt) do NOT affect honey bees because the genes inserted were specifically targeting moths or beetles. I have heard only one study in the Internet saying that colonies left at Bt corn fields for 4-5 years had a higher incidence of Nosema (a protozoan parasite in the midgut of bees) infection but have not seen the publication for this yet.

SEMBA VOLUNTEERS AT THE 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, Keith Molnar, Ann Kerwin, Mary Hobart, Keith Lazar, Dennis and Donna Holly and Mary and Roger Sutherland for assistance in organizing the SEMBA exhibit. Thanks also to Tom Lisk for his web site expertise.

Forty-nine volunteers who worked in the booth are: Dick Conlin, Ted Hysen, Keith and Jay Molnar, Ron and Judy Forfinski, Senad Livadic, Florence Reaume, Mike Kolodziej, Fritz Sanders, Paul Lukasiewicz, Brian Frol, Ann and Mike Kerwin, Rick SIRR, Dyanne Tracy, Karen Hardy, Brian Neumeyer, Dennis and Donna Holly, Mary Hobart, Emily Thompson, Donna and Howard Laws, Clayton Scholz, Rich Wieske, Rebecca Young, John Piette, Joanne Kimata, Roger and Mary Sutherland, Winn Harless, Archie and Marlese Souvatzidis, Misty Funk, Jim Woonton, Ed and Ada Nowak, Alfred and Barbara Lupercio, Bill SIRR, Larry and Sue Yates, Jeff Brown, Kathy Krajcirovic, Tom Jenkins, Jim Goodrich, Chuck Bartkus, and Steve Burt.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR BEEKEEPERS

OCTOBER 2 – OAKLAND BEE CLUB (SEMBA)

OCTOBER 21 – SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
DR. LARRY CONNOR

"IMPORTANT HONEY PLANTS IN MICHIGAN"

OCTOBER 26-27 MBA ANNUAL MEETING
Midland, MI

SEVEN PONDS BEE CLUB MEETS THE
FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT
THE SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER .
CALL TERRY TOLAND – 248-421-6601 FOR
DETAILS.

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

Observation Hive: 1st Tom Jenkins, 2nd Senad Lavadic, 3rd William Sirr
Wood Comb Honey: 1st Tom Jenkins, 2nd Tom Jenkins, 3rd Joe Jenkins, 4th Dennis Holly
White Extracted Honey: 1st Robert Jastrzebski, 2nd Dennis Holly, 3rd Tom Jenkins, 4th Dyanne Tracy
Amber Extracted Honey: 1st Robert Jastrzebski, 2nd Dyanne Tracy, 3rd Dyanne Tracy, 4th William Sirr
Beeswax: 1st Robert Jastrzebski, 2nd Dyanne Tracy, 3rd Dennis Holly, 4th Tom Jenkins
Cremed Honey: 1st Dyanne Tracy, 2nd Dyanne Tracy, 3rd Tom Jenkins, 4th Joe Jenkins
Langstroth Deep Frame: 1st Dyanne Tracy, 2nd Dennis Holly, 3rd Keith Molnar, 4th William Sirr
Medium or Shallow Frame: 1st Robert Jastrzebski, 2nd Tom Jenkins, 3rd Joe Jenkins, 4th Tom Jenkins
Cut-Comb Honey: 1st Tom Jenkins, 2nd Dyanne Tracy
Chunk Honey: 1st Jeff Brown, 2nd Tom Jenkins, 3rd Dyanne Tracy, 4th Dyanne Tracy
Educational Display: 1st Senad Livadic, 2nd Tom Jenkins, 3rd Brian Neumeyer

BRIAN NEUMEYER'S HONEY TO THE RESCUE

On August 21st as SEMBA'S honey entries were being judged, Tom Hershberger of Warren, MI, working as a Master Gardner at the state fair, stopped by to purchase honey. (Of course SEMBA could not sell any.) When Mr. Hershberger approached SEMBA'S booth, he was perspiring profusely and his hands were shaking uncontrollably. He explained that he was diabetic and needed a source of sugar as quickly as possible. Mary Sutherland realized that he was having a low blood sugar reaction (hypoglycemia) so she retrieved a spoon from her supplies and helped him ingest honey from the closest jar available—one from Brian Neumeyer's exhibit. Mr. Hershberger recovered quickly and headed home greatly relieved.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- SEMBA caps. Available at meetings. **Call 734-668-8568 to order.**
- 6 5/8 " supers, without frames, Call Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568, rsuther@hotmail.com
- Bulk raw natural unheated clean wildflower honey available in pails or drums; \$1.15/pound. Don Ragan, Windmill Hill Farm, 810-378-5972."

Wanted

- Approximate size 8-10 Kid size bee suit. Call Roxane Hook, 734-461-6136, mrhook@provide.net

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.

Note: Ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. Contact Roger Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com 734-668-8568

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club

