



SEMBA NEWS

Volume Number Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
October-November 2007

COMING EVENTS

- Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.....Oakland Bee Club
"Removing Bees and Extraction Tips"
Oct. 21, 1:30 p.m.....SEMBA Annual Meeting
Guest Speaker: Dr. Larry Connor
Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.....Seven Ponds Bee Club
Oct. 26/27.....MBA Annual Meeting
Nov.13, 7:30 p.m.....Schoolcraft Bee Club
Nov. 27, 7:30 p.m.....Seven Ponds Bee Club
Dec.4, 7:30 p.m.....Oakland Bee Club

SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, October 21, 2007

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

Please note!! Park in the north parking lot. If the entrance to the VisTaTech Center is locked, use the lower entrance to the Lower Waterman Center located on the east side of the building.

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

"Swap and Sell" Bring beekeeping items to sell, barter or place in the silent auction.

Business Meeting: 2:30 p.m.

Election of officers

Nominees are:

President - Keith Lazar, Roger Sutherland
2nd vice president - Dennis Holly, Ted Hysen
Secretary - Mary Hobart
Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Program: 3:00 p.m.

"Important Honey Plants in Michigan" -- guest speaker, Dr. Larry Connor.

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

CORRECTION

Senad Livadic was the 2nd place winner in the Observation Hive category at the Michigan State Fair.

SCHOOLCRAFT BEE CLUB MEETING

When: Tuesday, Nov.13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Program:

"Candle Making for Everyone"

A candle-making video will be shown followed by demonstrations by experienced candle and beeswax artisans.

Refreshments are welcome

MBA ANNUAL MEETING

October 26 & 27, 2007 – Valley Plaza, Midland, MI. Guest Speakers will be:

Tony Jadczyk - Maine State Apiarist
David Vanderdussen - Ontario beekeeper
Rich Wieske - SEMBA/MBA member
Zachary Huang, PhD - Mich.State Univ.
Dyanne Tracy, PhD - Oakland Univ.
Peter Sutherland, DVM – Eastern Mich. Univ.

"Panel on CCD"

David Anthony, Terry Klein, Dr. Huang,
Scott Barnes and Mike Hansen

Honey and Cookie contest

For additional information access:

<http://michiganbees.org/beekeepersconf.htm>

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. We now have 15 individuals on our "Swarm Removal List".

Web Master Tom Lisk says:

"I think the most interesting stat is the overall growth the Web site has experienced. When I took over in May 2003, we were seeing approximately 24 visitors/day. As recently as

last year, it was 42 visitors/day. With the addition of pages such as the Bees-in-a-Wall, the swarm page, honeybee biology, and the bargain corner, we are now seeing 84 unique visitors per day.”

The most recent addition in the Photo Gallery is a photo essay on the “The World’s Largest Skep” made by SEMBA members in 1996-97.

A PROPOSED PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF NECTAR PRODUCING PLANTS

~ Greg Strand, USDA-NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has a new program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement, or SAFE, which is funded by a 1 billion dollar fund from congress. It will operate through the framework of the Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP. The new funding is dependent upon state sponsored applications for the allocated acres. The bee/pollinator practice that we are proposing would not be found anywhere, as it is unique to the application. But, CRP is a longstanding program that cost shares the implementation of many different practices, planting grasses and wildflowers being one of them. The program also pays an annual rent on the land that is set aside for the practice. The SAFE program would cost share 90% of the practice installation. The rules are that the land has to have been in a cash crop (corn, wheat, soy) for at least 4 out of 6 years between 1996 and 2001, the land has to have been owned for 12 months, and a minimum ten-year commitment is required. This particular SAFE program is really a back door into CRP. The Farm Service Agency oversees the administrative end, while NRCS oversees the technical side. Welcome to the world of federal acronyms! Just remember, farm land is only eligible, 90% of the planting cost is paid, and annual rent is given for each acre enrolled. We just want to develop a new practice that targets pollinators, but one that is cheap and effective.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HONEY BEES IN ONTARIO DURING THE WINTER OF 2006-2007? ~Doug McRory, Ontario Provincial Apiarist

Let us consider a short biology lesson on honeybees on how the population of a colony develops during the season. In spring, a colony normally comes out of winter with about 15,000 honeybees. These bees need to be quickly replaced with young workers and that occurs if there is a good influx of pollen and nectar into the colony in early spring. If this does not

happen, we have what is termed "spring dwindling". The colony population normally builds up to about 60,000 bees in the summer. The last week of August through to the third week of September, if the colony has access to adequate pollen and honey resources, it will develop a flush of brood that will give it about 15,000 - 20,000 physiologically young bees to form the winter cluster. This is the most critical segment of the yearly population for the survival of the colony through the winter. Honeybees naturally die off at 2% of the population per day during the active season. In about 50 days, all of the old bees will die out of the fall population leaving a cluster of young bees that have neither raised brood nor burned themselves out collecting pollen or honey. This cluster does not normally raise much brood during October, November and December when they let the temperature of the cluster drop down to 70 degrees F. These bees are much longer lived than the bees of summer. About January 15, the bees respond to the lengthening day, and if they have pollen and honey available from that stored in the brood chambers, the bees raise the temperature to raise brood and they normally replace the bees that were produced in the fall by the end of March. Thus the cycle of the colony can carry on into the next season. It was warm enough that old adult bees could fly out and die away from the colonies, as it stayed warm right across Ontario until mid January. Bees normally leave the colony to die if it is at all possible. Normally in October and December the bees die in the colonies as the temperatures do not allow them to leave, thus “fall dwindling” as the old bees die off. Beekeepers in the area south of a line from St. Thomas to Hamilton lost on average 70% of their colonies. Three beekeepers lost close to 100% of their colonies.

There were beekeepers with bees inside the area and also outside that area and their losses were significantly less outside the affected area. Everyone lost their bees in that area and they all had different mite management regimes, genetics and management. There were many colonies with no adult bees left in them with lots of feed in the combs. There were no significant amounts of brood as the combs were dry. Beekeepers with all of the publicity about Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in United States jumped to the conclusion that they had CCD. After much discussion with many of them, they do not feel that their colonies were alright one week and then two weeks later all of the adult bees had disappeared leaving three to four frames of brood with a queen such as is described with CCD in the United States. CCD hits when bees are in their active brood rearing

stage. Beekeepers in Ontario are reusing the dead equipment and they are not seeing reoccurring losses like beekeepers in United States where it is recommended to not reuse the equipment. Ontario beekeepers are convinced that the two winter loss scenarios explained in this article represent what has happened in Ontario this past winter. The average loss for the province is about 37%. Losses last year averaged 11% and for several years before that were 18%. The mites are having a pronounced effect. Before mites, if the average was over 10% it was a bad season.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN BEEKEEPING

For the past two years, SEMBA has video taped over 40 members telling stories about how they got started in beekeeping. Some were taped in home settings while others were taped at bee-club meetings. Each person had an interesting story to tell.

The Schoolcraft College Media Center has professionally edited the tapes and provided captions. Copies of the video in DVD format will be available for \$4 at club meetings or \$5 if mailed. See Bargain Corner for details.

DID YOUR NEW 2007 QUEENS SUPERCEDE?

There have been many reports of failing queens in package bees purchased this spring. Four of the six queens in packages purchased by Roger Sutherland superceded within 3 weeks after installation.

If you purchased packages this spring, we would like to know how many of your queens were superceded. Also, please indicate where you obtained your packages.

Send this information to Roger Sutherland: rsuther@hotmail.com or call 734-668-8568.

SMALL HIVE BEETLE FOUND IN MICHIGAN HIVES

A SEMBA beekeeper in the Brighton area has reported Small Hive Beetles in his hives. All beekeepers should be on the lookout for this ¼ inch beetle. If you find a suspect, bring it to the next meeting for identification.

DEALING WITH A LAYING WORKER

~ Winn Harless

I use a method that has been around for a long time, but not too many people seem to know about it.

I take a nuc or a weak hive with a good queen and switch their location with the laying worker hive. Make sure to give the good hive plenty of room inside for the extra bees.

If after a week, the laying-worker hive still has a lot of bees, pull another switch with a different weak hive and wait about two days, then shake the laying workers out of the equipment. Give it to some other hive.

NATIONAL HONEY BOARD REPORT

In the Summer 2007 issue of the *Nucleus*, a publication of the National Honey Board, it was reported that: "Assessments received from imported honey in 2006 represented 69% of the total, an increase from 62% in 2005. Domestic assessments represented 31% of the total, down from 38% in 2005.

(Note: Unfortunately, no agricultural crops in the United States are being pollinated by the bees which produced that imported honey!

To date, \$200,000 of Assessment money has been contributed by the National Honey Board to researchers, composed of university faculty and other scientists, to study the Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

HONEY OATMEAL COOKIES

½ cup butter	½ tsp. salt
1 cup honey	1 2/3 cups oatmeal
1 egg	¼ cup sour milk
1 ½ cups flour	1 cup raisins
½ tsp. soda	½ cups chopped nuts

Cream butter. Add honey and blend. Stir in egg. Sift together dry ingredients and add the oatmeal to this. Add dry ingredients alternately with milk to the butter and honey mixture. Stir in nuts and raisins. Drop by spoonfuls on a greased baking sheet. Bake in a moderate oven (350) for 15 minutes. Yield: 3 dozen cookies.

NOVEMBER DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE

The SEMBA treasurer is now accepting membership renewals from November-paying members. If your address label denotes N07, your dues are now payable. Enclosed is a renewal form for your convenience. Please note that dues for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) can also be paid when paying SEMBA dues.

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.
- Honey in 60# pails. Call Winn Harless in Plymouth, 734-453-9824.
- DVD "How I Got Started in Beekeeping" \$4 at meetings, \$5 mailed copies. Contact Roger Sutherland 734-668-8568, 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

Wanted

- Approximate size 8-10 Kid-size bee suit. Call Roxane Hook, 734-461-6136, mrhook@provide.net
- Deep supers w/o frames, 6-5/8 supers w/ frames, 12-20 frame ss motorized extractor—Sam Parise 248-399-1130.
- Wanted Cowen miniuncapper or Kelley vibrating knife. Contact Tom Jenkins 248-770-7351, tjenkins@tm.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 page.

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

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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