



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 18 Number 1 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
February -2008

## SEMBA WINTER MEETING

Sunday, February 3, 2008 1:30- 4:00 p.m.,  
Schoolcraft College, Lower Waterman Center,  
18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI. Park in the  
north parking lot and enter through the  
VisTaTech entrance.

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

Program: 3:00 p.m.

Topic: "Plant Protection, Quarantine & Invasive  
Pests on the Horizon", James.E.Zablotny, Ph.D.

The talk will focus on the role that the USDA,  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
(APHIS) PPQ plays in keeping exotic agricultural  
pests from entering the United States.

Dr. Zablotny, who received his training in  
entomology at MSU, maintains two hives of  
honey bees in the Fenton, MI area.

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SEMBA BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 15, 2008, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.,  
Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road,  
Livonia, MI.

Featured Speakers: Diana Sammataro, Ph.D.  
and Zachary Huang, Ph.D.

Program: Concurrent workshops,  
demonstrations, bee-supply vendors and much  
more.

Registration Fee: \$10:00 per individual for  
non-members. ( No registration fee for SEMBA  
members.)

**Complete program details for the  
Beekeeping Conference will be printed in the  
March issue of the SEMBA Newsletter.**

## MICHIGAN STATE FAIR APIARY-SECTION 3 RULE CHANGES

Rod Jordan, Agriculture Division Director, has  
announced two changes in the rules and  
regulations for the Apiary Division. These  
changes were approved by the SEMBA  
membership at the October 21, 2007 annual  
meeting. The changes are as follows:

- (1) Apiary – Section 3 will be limited to 1  
entry per class, per individual and 2  
entries per class per household.
- (2) Containers for class 8665 (Display of  
four 1 pound jars of creamed granulated  
honey) must be in G.C.I. style standard  
honey, glass jars. (These containers are  
manufactured by the Gamber Glass  
Container Company.)

## QUEEN REARING COURSE TO BE OFFERED—SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Larry Connor, Ph.D., has proposed a Queen  
Rearing Course to be offered in 6 sessions in  
May and June, 2008. The SEMBA Executive  
Board has approved the course and authorized  
an expenditure of \$600 for twenty \$30  
scholarships for SEMBA members enrolled in  
the course and who pay a \$150 tuition fee.  
The course will be held at the Nowak Apiary in  
Livonia. It will provide an intensive hands-on  
training in queen rearing with the clear objective  
of each student becoming competent in the  
basics of raising queens and mating them in  
mating nucs. Students must participate in all  
sessions or provide a substitute if necessary.  
Suggested dates and times for the course:  
Friday, May 30..... 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Saturday, May 31..... 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday, June 1..... 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 10.... 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Saturday, June 28.....9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Saturday, June 28..... 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The total registration fee is **\$180**. SEMBA  
members who qualify for the scholarship, pay  
**\$150**. A registration form is included on page 4.  
To obtain the complete course syllabus or  
information about registration, call Roger  
Sutherland 734-668-8568 or e-mail  
[rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com)

## LARRY CONNOR'S COMMENT ON THE QUEEN REARING COURSE

So, why should you take the time to participate in the queen rearing and bee breeding course being offered this spring? As the instructor, I'll share my reasons for teaching such a class. First, it is rare to have an intensive course that is bee-cycle linked. We will spend 24 hrs together fit to the bees as their calendar dictates. We will follow the queen and drone cycles and (hopefully) see how they work while all the rest of the bee activities are underway. Second, when I learned queen rearing, I felt like I was working on an advanced degree in beekeeping. This is NOT an academic degree, but a field, lab-based experience that will expand your beekeeping skills more than you can possibly understand until you have been through the process. Third, this program is designed for you to succeed. Don't sign up if you plan to lean against the tree at Ed's apiary and just watch. You will be asked to do the actual work, lifting supers, finding queens, locating right aged brood, judging colony strength, evaluating colonies for their traits and lots more. Finally, I want every participant to produce quality queens by the end of the course. It is time to do it, and stop talking about doing it! If we are going to have better queens available in the Great Lakes area, we must all work to develop the skills needed to do this. Maybe this course will generate a half-dozen new queen producers in Michigan. That would be fantastic. Even if each participant became a much more qualified beekeeper I will be delighted. There are few times when you get to pick my brain as much as this class offers. I hope that is a good thing -- I admit it scares me a little!

~ Larry Connor, Ph.D., Wicwas Press,  
Kalamazoo, MI. ljconnor@aol.com

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

At one time, Michigan led the nation in queen production, but in recent years, we have become increasingly dependent upon queens raised in the southeastern states. (Beekeepers using these bees are reporting poor queens and supercedure.) Presently, there are only 5 major queen breeders, and with the loss of feral hives, the lack of genetic diversity has become a major biological concern.

With increased spring re-queening, beekeepers are forced to depend upon southern states for queens. By raising our own queens and re-queening in summer and fall, we can reduce this dependency.

Please consider taking the Queen Rearing Course and start raising your own queens. It could be an additional source of income and you

would be providing a great service to Michigan beekeepers.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As the new SEMBA president, one of my goals is to re-energize the committee structure of the organization and to involve more of the members. SEMBA has a number of great programs and activities in which we take pride, but we need the help of additional individuals.

Our SEMBA Constitution calls for the following standing committees: Nominating, Program, State Fair, Auditing, and Beekeeping Conference.

Volunteers John Piette and Joann Kimata have audited SEMBA's treasurer's records for 2007.

Volunteer Keith Lazar (past president of SEMBA) has agreed to chair the State Fair Committee but we need others to assist him.

The constitution also allows for special committees to be named by the president. I am calling for the creation of a Presentation Committee. SEMBA member John Kates, who proposed the idea, has agreed to chair this committee. This committee will investigate how SEMBA can be of assistance to beekeepers who wish to make presentations to schools and other groups. This may involve the purchase of charts, observation hives and other visual aids by the association. Subject Guides for presentations to various age groups may be prepared. Members of this committee may plan and carry out workshops to give beekeepers experience in making presentations.

Other work areas in SEMBA that presently do not need volunteers but still welcome your ideas include: The SEMBA Web Site, maintained by Web Master Tom Lisk.

The SEMBA Bee Class, with leader Ed Nowak, assisted by Mike Siarkowski, Winn Harless and Gilbert Terry.

The Newsletter Mailing accomplished by Frances Alloway, Fritz Sanders, Bill Sirr, Mary and Roger Sutherland and Larry Yates.

Please consider volunteering for a committee by completing the volunteer form on page 4 or contacting Roger Sutherland at 734-668-8568, or rsuther@hotmail.com

## CONTACT NUMBERS FOR SEMBA OFFICERS AND LEADERS

President: Roger Sutherland 734-668-8568  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Winn Harless 734-453-2914  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Dennis Holly 248-542-1316  
 Secretary: Mary Hobart 248-545-6563  
 Treasurer: Mary Sutherland 734-668-8568  
 Past President: Keith Lazar 248-626-2483  
 Historian: Ron Forfinski 810-220-1084  
 Oakland Bee Club: Larry Yates 248-649-5078  
 7 Ponds Bee Club: Terry Toland 248-421-6601  
 Bee Class leader: Ed Nowak 734-422-0508  
 SEMBA Web Master: Tom Lisk 810-229-6365

## GREAT RECIPE FOR BARBECUED SANDWICHES

SEMBA member, Donna Holly, well known for her ribbon-winning pickle and canning entries in the Michigan State Fair, provided us with her recipe for barbecued sandwiches which took first place in the 2007 Michigan State Fair:

½ cup ketchup  
 ½ cup water  
 1 clove of garlic  
 1 teaspoon of chili powder  
 ½ teaspoon of Worcestershire sauce  
 ¼ cup honey  
 1 teaspoon mustard  
 Slices of cooked meat of your choice: beef, chicken, or pork.

Mix first 7 ingredients together and cook slowly for 10 minutes. Add the meat slices and heat thoroughly. Place meat and barbecue sauce on slices of bread or buns.

This recipe is good for BBQ Chicken or Pork. Also, good as a marinate or dipping sauce. Spice this recipe up. Changes are good. Add chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, or dried or powdered. Excellent.

## BEE VIRUS NOT FROM AUSTRALIA

US scientists have just found that a bee virus, which they had thought was recently arrived from Australia, has actually been in the country for about five years.

The Agricultural Research Service scientists have found that the Israeli acute paralysis virus (IAPV), a virus recently shown to be associated with Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) of honey bees, has been in the United States since at least 2002.

Research entomologists Yanping (Judy) Chen and Jay D. Evans, both with the ARS Bee Research Laboratory here, conducted a detailed

genetic screening of several hundred honey bees that had been collected between 2002 and 2007 from colonies in Maryland, Pennsylvania, California and Israel. "Our study shows that, without question, IAPV has been in this country since at least 2002," said Chen. "This work challenges the idea that IAPV is a recent introduction from Australia."

Evans added, "Our study in no way rules IAPV out as a factor in CCD. We have always believed that CCD is a complex issue likely involving multiple elements. Research by several groups will now focus on understanding differences in virulence across strains of IAPV and on interactions with other stress factors."

~ Source: *Farmnews for NZ Farmers*, 20 November 2007, by Bernie Mitchell

## FEBRUARY BEEKEEPING TIPS

Check your bees when the temperature is above 46 degrees. If the bees are at the top, feed a 2 sugar/1 water syrup or fondant candy. The recipe for fondant is on the [sembabees.org](http://sembabees.org) Web site. Go to: [Other SEMBA Resources](#), click on [Recipes and Formulations for Feeding Honeybees](#).

### DATES TO REMEMBER

February 3, SEMBA Winter Meeting  
 February 26, Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club Meeting  
 March 4, Oakland Bee Club Meeting  
 March 7-8, MSU ANR Week Beekeepers Conference  
 March 15, SEMBA's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Beekeeping Conference  
 April 20, SEMBA Spring Meeting  
 April 22, Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club Meeting  
 May 6, Schoolcraft Bee Club Meeting  
 May 27, Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club Meeting  
 July 13, SEMBA Picnic

**SEMBA Bargain Corner**

**FOR SALE:**

**NUCS** available for Spring of 2008, 5 Medium frames and 2008 queen, \$70 plus a \$15 equipment deposit. Return the box and 5 new frames w/wax and deposit will be returned. Call Bob Jastrzebski, 734-748-2185 or e-mail [bob@cimsurf.com](mailto:bob@cimsurf.com)

**SEMBA caps:** Available at meetings or call 734-668-8568 to order.

**SEMBA DVD:** "How I Got Started in Beekeeping", \$4 at meetings, \$5 mailed copies. Contact Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568.

**FOR SALE:** Woodenware for Bee Keeping, Keith Lazar 248 361 1710, [keithmlazar@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmlazar@hotmail.com)

**WANTED:** Bee hive with active bees. Call Timothy Maloney, 734-856-7345, e-mail [t.maloney@bex.net](mailto:t.maloney@bex.net)

**APPLICATION FOR SEMBA SPONSORED QUEEN REARING COURSE**

I would like to apply for the SEMBA scholarship of \$30 for the 6 session Queen Rearing Course. I am enclosing a check for \$150 which will be returned in the event the class is canceled. I understand the class is limited to 20 participants and that scholarships are awarded to SEMBA members on a first-come first-served basis.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to SEMBA and send to Mary Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.  
**Checks will not be cashed until the class is a certainty.**

**SEMBA COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER FORM**

I would like to volunteer for the following committees:

Nominating..... \_\_\_\_\_ Presentation..... \_\_\_\_\_  
Program..... \_\_\_\_\_ State Fair..... \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditing..... \_\_\_\_\_  
Beekeeping Conference... \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Send form to Roger Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105, or e-mail [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com)

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

SEMBA Membership  
5488 Warren Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



Seven Ponds Beekeepers' Club

