



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume Number Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
January-February, 2010

## SEMBA FEBRUARY MEETING

**When:** Sunday, February 21, at **1:30 p.m.**

**Where:** 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 and your own table service. Coffee and tea will be provided by SEMBA.

**Note!** If you are unable to attend the potluck, please plan to attend the program.

**Program: 3:00 p.m.**

“Working your Bees in February”  
(A panel of beekeeping experts)

“Limited Liability Companies for Beekeepers”  
Suzanne Vivian, CPA

See program note below:

### Program Note

Has your beekeeping hobby grown to include sales of honey, selling supplies and equipment or providing pollination services? If you were sued could you lose all of your assets? Forming a Michigan Limited Liability Company (LLC) may prevent this from happening. A limited liability company is a business formed by an organizer who may, but need not be a member. It is a business entity separate from its members and liability is limited to the financial contribution. People are forming many more LLCs as opposed to corporations in Michigan because the LLC is cheaper to form, cheaper to operate, has four choices of federal income taxation, and has fewer formalities than corporations.

### SEMBA TREASURER'S REPORT

10/01/08 ---- 9/30/09

Balance brought forward.....	\$8396.69
Income.....	\$6351.45
Total.....	\$14,748.14
Expenses.....	\$4118.01
Check book balance 9/30/09	\$10,630.13

## SEMBA BEEKEEPERS TO BE AWARDED PRIZES FOR INNOVATIONS AND INVENTIONS

A contest of new beekeeping ideas and inventions will be held at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beekeeping Conference held at Schoolcraft College on March 20, 2010. SEMBA members are encouraged to submit new beekeeping ideas or innovations that would benefit other beekeepers. Two entries per member will be accepted. Prizes of \$75 for 1<sup>st</sup>, \$50 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, and \$25 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will be awarded.

The contest criteria:

- ~Is it practical for the small scale beekeeper to construct or innovate?
- ~Is it a new idea?
- ~How much impact will it have on beekeeping?
- ~How much does it cost?.

An entry form must be completed. To obtain an entry form, please call Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8568 or E-mail [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com)  
On the day of the conference, bring your invention along with the completed entry form to the SEMBA table in the vendor area.

## APITHERAPY DAY IN OHIO

**When:** Saturday, February 20, 2010 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Ohio's Pittsfield Township Hall, State Road 303 at Ohio Route 58 (5 miles north of Wellington, Ohio)

**Speakers will be:**

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Donald Downs      | Jim Higgins  |
| Kristine Jacobson | Jerry Catana |

**Program** is free and there will be a potluck lunch.

Come and learn more about the benefits of apitherapy.

For more information, call SEMBA member Jerry Catana @ 586-463-2325.

## SEMBA's 2010 BEEKEEPING CLASS WILL BE HELD AT TOLLGATE EDUCATION CTR.

The March SEMBA Newsletter will include dates, costs and other details for the 2010 class. Class information can be viewed on the Web site [sembabees.org](http://sembabees.org)

## **YPSILANTI PASSES NEW BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE**

After weeks of effort, led by SEMBA member Lisa Bashert of Ypsilanti, the Ypsilanti City Council has passed an ordinance allowing beekeepers to keep up to two hives on their city property. Lisa was supported by SEMBA and a large number of beekeepers. Following passage of the ordinance, many beekeepers have contacted her about keeping bees in the city. A gathering was held on Saturday, January 23 to talk about mutual support. Winn Harless and Roger Sutherland gave presentations at the meeting. Lisa encouraged all participants to join SEMBA and to consider the 2010 SEMBA beekeeping class to be held at Tollgate Education Center in Novi.

## **CITY BEES DETROIT - URBAN BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN DETROIT**

"City Bees Detroit" will be hosting an all day conference on March 6, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Detroit Waldorf School, 2555 Burns, Detroit, Michigan, with speakers from Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Toronto and Detroit. There will be workshops, vendors and panel discussion on how and why to keep bees in your city and activities for children. Cost is \$20/person. For further information visit Web site: [citybeesdetroit.com](http://citybeesdetroit.com) or contact Rich Wieske at 248-585-5558 or [citybeesdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:citybeesdetroit@gmail.com)

## **ANN ARBOR BACKYARD BEEKEEPERS**

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers, led by Richard Mendel, have been meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, the second Tuesday of each month since the Fall of 2009. Starting with a small nucleus group, the January 12, 2010 meeting attracted 36 beekeepers and prospective beekeepers. At each meeting Mendel presents, for discussion, different aspects of beekeeping relative to the beekeepers calendar. The February meeting topic is titled "Purchasing and making equipment needed for keeping bees". The group has selected the name Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers (A2B2) and is considering applying to SEMBA to become an affiliate chapter. The exact role and relationship of A2B2 with the "Education Mission" of the Botanical Gardens is also being explored by Mendel. Anyone interested in beekeeping that would like to attend these meetings may contact Richard at 734-660-8621, E-mail [brescue@att.net](mailto:brescue@att.net)

## **JUDGE BANS PESTICIDES THAT MAY BE HARMING HONEY BEES.**

Citing procedural missteps by U.S. EPA, a federal judge has banned the sale of spirotetramat, a pesticide that has been suggested as a possible contributor to recent die-offs in honeybee colonies. EPA and Bayer CropScience, a Bayer AG subsidiary that makes spirotetramat under the names Movento and Ultor, have 60 days to appeal the decision, which makes the sale of the chemical illegal after Jan. 15.

U.S. District Judge Denise Cote based her decision on EPA's failure to submit the pesticide for public comment, release Bayer's application or publish the approval of the pesticide in the Federal Register. Cote did not address the potential impact of spirotetramat on honeybee populations since the approval of the pesticide in 2008.

"The ruling has nothing to do with the characteristics of spirotetramat itself, and raises no substantive concerns regarding the product," said Jack Boyne, a Bayer spokesman. "Spirotetramat has been extensively tested in laboratory and field studies and has shown excellent performance, with regard to bee safety."

Pittsburgh Tribune Review  
~Submitted by Judy Durfy

## **BROOD SMELL LIMITS WORKER BEES' LIFE EXPECTANCY**

For a few crucial weeks each spring, bees are the most essential labourers on earth, pollinating many of the world's major fruit crops: their survival through winter is fundamental for agriculture. Realising that the survival of the individual was key to a colony's success, Gro Amdam became intrigued by bee longevity. Worker bees' lifespans tend to be only a few weeks; however, Amdam explains that a new type of bee develops towards the end of the summer, known as *diutinus* bees. These bees have an amazing lifespan of 6 months or more and ensure the colony's survival through winter. Curious to find out what limits worker bees' lifespans and allows the development of *diutinus* bees, Amdam began investigating bee longevity. Reading the literature, she realised that an egg protein, vitellogenin, could be essential for *diutinus* bee longevity: which is curious, because *diutinus* bees are mostly sterile, do not produce eggs and should not need an egg protein. Another thing that became clear was that the presence of brood (young) in a colony was sufficient to prevent worker bees developing into the long-lived veterans. 'Brood is to *diutinus* bees what kryptonite is to Superman,' laughs Amdam. At first Amdam thought that the hard labour of feeding larvae was preventing worker bees from building up their

vitellogenin levels and developing into *diutinus* bees. But then she read a report that the smell of yeast affects the lifespan of fruit flies. Could the smell of brood pheromone – affect the bees' longevity? Could the pheromone prevent workers from building up their vitellogenin levels and developing into long-lived *diutinus* bees? Providing the worker bees in each hive with a caged queen (that could not produce brood) so that Amdam could control each colony's brood and pheromone levels, she took control of the hive's brood supply, providing the bees with: brood; synthetic brood pheromone; both brood and the synthetic pheromone; or neither brood nor pheromone.

Monitoring the bees' vitellogenin levels 3–4, 7–8 and 23–24 days after establishing the hives, it was clear that being around brood lowered the worker bees' vitellogenin levels. But exposure to the brood pheromone alone also reduced the bees' vitellogenin levels by the same amount. When they looked at the vitellogenin levels in the 23–24 day old bees, the bees that had been deprived of both the brood and its pheromone had the highest levels of vitellogenin, just like autumn bees embarking on a winter in the colony. Hard labour caring for the brood did not explain the workers' low vitellogenin levels. And when they checked the hives 200 days later to find out which colonies had survived and which had died, colonies that had not experienced brood or pheromone had survived best, while the hives that had been provided with both brood and pheromone had the worst survival rates. It was the smell of brood pheromone that regulated the bees' vitellogenin levels and longevity.

~Smedal, B., Brynem, M., Kreibich, C. D. and Amdam, G. V. (2009), *J. Exp. Biol.* **212**, 3795-3801

#### **BERT MARTIN DEAD AT AGE 99**

Bert Martin, Ph.D., Apicultural Specialist at Michigan State University (MSU) from 1950 until 1975, passed away in early January at age 99 in Arizona. After leaving MSU, he was involved in honey bee research with the USDA in Arizona until his retirement.

Bert was born in England, raised and schooled in Canada, and held a position in the MSU Entomology Department for twenty-five years. Roger Hoopingartner, Ph.D. replaced him as Apicultural Specialist at MSU in 1976.

#### **TERRY KLEIN AND SONS WIN AWARD**

Terry Klein and Sons of St. Charles, MI recently received the Best Small Business – Main Street Award from the Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center. The award celebrates Small Business excellence and the importance of Small Business to Michigan's economy. They were nominated for the award by Delta College.

T.M. Klein & Sons is a honey producer and specialty-jar distributor. Established in 1976, T.M. Klein began when the family purchased its first hive to pollinate the family garden. The business has grown to approximately 900 colonies of honey bees.

#### **LANGSTROTH'S 200<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY, A SCIENCE CELEBRATION**

Two hundred years after his birth in 1810, Rev. Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth, known as the "Father of American Beekeeping," will be honored, thanks, in part to the growing buzz of the sustainability movement. Langstroth's discovery of "bee space" and his invention of the movable-frame honey bee hive will be celebrated with a national network of exhibits, workshops and seminars and, with your help, perhaps a commemorative U.S. postage stamp as well.

Langstroth was employed as a tutor, a minister and a schoolmaster in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania in the 1830s and 1840s. Fascinated by their honeycomb, he began his beekeeping hobby with "two stocks of bees in common box hives." Before long he was exploring the subject of beekeeping in depth. He observed his bees and sought to understand their ways in order to build better hive boxes which would allow him to combat the destructive wax moths, and collect surplus honey without harming the bees or damaging their wonderful honey comb.

~Apitrack News, Nbr 213, 12/29/09

#### **REMINDERS**

MBA's ANR Week Beekeeping Conference, March 12 & 13, 2010, Kellogg Center, E. Lansing, Michigan.

SEMBA's 72<sup>nd</sup> Beekeeping Conference, March 20, 2010, Schoolcraft College, Livonia, MI.

## SMALL CELL COMB FOUNDATION DOES NOT IMPEDE VARROA MITE POPULATION GROWTH IN HONEY BEE COLONIES

**Abstract** – In three independently replicated field studies, we compared biometrics of Varroa mite and honey bee populations in bee colonies housed on one of two brood cell types: small-cell (4.9mm) or conventional-cell (5.3mm) . In one of the studies, ending colony bee population was significantly higher in small-cell colonies than conventional-cell. However, small-cell colonies were significantly higher for mite population in brood vs. percentage of mite population in larger brood cells. With the three remaining ending Varroa population metrics, mean trends for small-cell were unfavorable. We conclude that small-cell comb technology does not impede Varroa population growth.

~Original article by Jennifer A. Berry, William B. Owens, Keith S. Delaplane  
is available online at [www.apidologie.org](http://www.apidologie.org)

## CONSERVATION GROUPS ASK USDA TO REGULATE THE SHIPPING OF BUMBLE BEES RAISED COMMERCIALY AS CROP POLLINATORS

The Xerces Society, the Defenders of Wildlife and the Natural Resources Defense Council have asked the Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to block the movement of commercially raised bumblebees outside their native ranges, and to require bee rearers, through permits, to show that their insects are disease-free. A spokesman said the agency is reviewing the request. Researchers believe the precipitous declines in the species are being caused by diseases linked to the cultivation of a species of native bumblebee sold to farmers. The bees are used to increase fruit yield in a number of crops, including hothouse tomatoes and field-grown raspberries and blueberries.

For the entire article go to: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/12/AR2010011203259.html> ~Submitted by Judy Durfy

### SEMBA Bargain Corner

#### For Sale:

- ~Beekeeping Equipment, Garden Hives available. Keith Lazar 248-361-1710 .
- ~Honey pails, 5 & 6 gallons with lids. Call Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8658.
- ~Nucs for Spring 2010. Contact Bob Jastrzebski, 734-748-2185, bob@cimsurf.com or [www.boblinhoney.com](http://www.boblinhoney.com)
- ~Package bees from Wilbanks Apiary. Delivery April 24. Call Blanche Barber, 248-634-7017 for details.
- ~Nucs for Spring 2010. Contact Winn Harless, 734-453-2914 or Rich Wieske, 248-705-5181.
- ~ Package bees from Spell Bees. Delivery April 20. 2 lb.\$63, 3 lb.\$72,Queens \$16.Call Mike Siarkowski 517-545-0824 to order.

#### Services:

Honey bee removal service. Don Schram, 248-310-8205.

#### Location for Hives:

20 acre area on 9 Mile Rd. in Northville. Call Doug Moore, 248-437-4081 or 313-737-6681.

**Note:** Ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Roger Sutherland, [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

