



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 20, Number 3 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
April, 2010

SEMBA SPRING MEETING

When: Sunday April 18, at **2:30 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.)

Program:

Getting ready for the swarming season
"The Biology of Swarming and
Prevention of Swarming in Your Hive"
Roger Hoopingarner, Ph.D.

"Swarm Traps and Catching Swarms"
Winn Harless

Refreshments are welcome. Coffee and tea
will be provided by SEMBA.

Goodrich (door prize coordinators); Freda Howard, Jessica and Kayla Curtis (hive raffle tickets); Stephen Hulbert (room set-up) and Tom Lisk (Web Master).

Special thanks go to: Richard Mendel for hosting our speakers in his home; Dennis Holly for coordinating the vendor tables; Keith Lazar, Roger Hoopingarner, Judy Schmaltz and Al Cascaddan for judging the "Inventions and Innovation" contest. Winners of the contest were Don Ragan (first place) who entered his "Honey Hefter" for weighing hive bodies; Bob Jastrzebski (second place) who entered his "Portable Hive Stand"; and Winn Harless (third place) who entered his "Smoker Holder".

Winner of the hive raffle was Maureen Adair, a second grade teacher from Pennsylvania, who hopes to start a colony and introduce her students to the wonders of honey bees.

THE HOLLYS ARE HONORED FOR VOLUNTEER WORK AT A NATURE CENTER.

Dennis and Donna Holly are the recipients of a 2009 Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) Community Service Award for their service at the Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center in Troy where they helped with an observation hive and bee-room design. Also, they run a mentor program for beekeepers keeping hives at the Center, conduct bee programs for school-age children and provide honey for fund raising. On March 10, 2010, the Hollys were recognized at a special banquet in East Lansing.

FLOWER PHENOLOGY

Phenology is the study of the periodic timing of recurring biological phases in such areas as flowering, breeding and climate. In 1975 (approximately), Roger Hoopingarner, Ph.D., (then the Michigan State University Apicultural Specialist), compiled the following list of plants denoting their approximate flowering dates for the mid-Michigan area. Since that list was published, many believe that the current blooming dates may now be earlier.

Your help in gathering new data is welcome. If you have any of the following trees or plants

72nd SEMBA BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE REPORT

Over 300 beekeepers attended the March 20th, 2010 Beekeeping Conference held at Schoolcraft College. The major presentations given by Dewey Caron, Ph.D. and Zachary Huang, Ph.D. were well received by both new and experienced beekeepers. Excellent workshops were presented by: Barbara Lucas, Dennis Holly, Winn Harless, Bob Jastrzebski, Richard Mendel, Rich Wieske, Judy Schmaltz, Barbara Pepp, Mike Siarkowski, Fritz Sanders, Larry Connor, Ph.D., Joyce Wang and Jerry Catana.

People assisting in other ways were: Alfred Lupercio, Senad Livadic, Mary Sutherland, Donna Holly, Marie Powers, Sandra and Randy Graichen (membership); Ann Kerwin, Ada Nowak, and Mary VandeWalker (registration); Judy Forfinski (potluck coordinator); Donna and Howard Laws and Walter and Teresa McCurdy (coffee preparation); Ron Forfinski and Jim

growing in your vicinity, record the dates of the first and last flowering. Send the results of your observations along with your location to rsuther@hotmail.com or by postal mail to Roger Sutherland, 5488 Warren Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

Plants or trees providing nectar or pollen

Soft maples 3/5 – 3/25
Willows 3/20 – 4/15
Dandelion 4/10 – 4/30
Hard maples 4/15 – 4/25
Sweet Cherry 4/15 – 5/5
Tart Cherry 4/18 – 5/10
Peach 4/18 – 5/5
Pear 4/19 – 5/4
Apple 4/23 – 5/25
Plum 4/23 – 5/7
Yellow Rocket 4/28 – 5/23
Blueberry 5/3 – 6-20
Bird's-foot Trefoil 5/23 – 6/25
Black Locust 5/23 – 6/5
Alfalfa 5/24 – 6/15
Alsike Clover 5/24 – 6/30
White Dutch Clover 5/24 – 6/20
Red Clover 5/24 – 6/20
Yellow Sweet Clover 5/26 – 6/20
Blackberry 6/2 – 6/18
Raspberry 6/3 – 6/20
White Sweet Clover 6/10 – 7/15
Milkweed 6/10 – 7/15
Basswood 6/20 – 7/5
Star Thistle 6/25 -7/31
Anise Hyssop 7/1 – 9/15
Catnip 7/1- 8/30
Buckwheat 7/5 – 8/10
Peppermint 7/15 – 8/30
Purple Loosestrife 7/15 – 8/31
Japanese Knotweed 7/25 – 8/29
Sunflower 8/1 – 8/30
Mountain Mint 8/1 – 9/30
Blue Globe Thistle 8/1 – 8/30
Alfalfa (2nd cut) 8/5 – 8/25
Goldenrods 8/25 – 9/30
Asters 9/10 – 10/30

In certain areas of Michigan, Tulip trees, Sumac, Borage, Rape (Canola), Fireweed, melons, Spanish Needle, and some soybean varieties may add some nectar and pollen yields.

SUPER GREEN HONEY BEE



It turns out an ordinary honeybee can convert fuel with an efficiency that should intrigue (and humble) the wizards at Volkswagen. So VW, take note: In 1957, Canadian scientist Brian Hocking wondered, how far could a bee travel on a gallon of honey? Bees are too small to carry a gallon of anything, but Hocking came up with a way to calculate *Bee Miles Per Gallon*. The Experiment: Experimenters take a bee, give it all the honey it can eat and then tether it to a pole. (This neither harms nor seems to disturb the bee.) It then flies round and round until, basically, it runs out of fuel. The pole measures the distance flown by the rotating bee. Because the experimenter now knows how far a bee can travel on a bee-belly of fuel, you scale up to imagine how far it would go if it had a gallon-sized belly. That's how you calculate *Bee Miles Per Gallon*.

Because Hocking is no longer alive, we took his data and invited Arizona bee scholar Stephen Buchmann to recreate the experiment. Buchmann calls bees "the ultimate hybrid mini-vehicles." He says millions of years of evolution have produced muscles across the animal kingdom that are consistently more energy efficient than even the best human-built machines. But until he came across Hocking's data, he had no idea *how much more efficient*. In the case of our bee, Buchmann used a tried-and-true formula, tested by Hocking, and his bee forefather, insect physiologist Karl Crailsheim: Buchmann concluded that on one sip of honey, our bee could fly continuously for approximately 8 kilometers; on a full stomach of honey, a bee could go 64 kilometers. And when he scaled up bee fuel intake to a gallon, he came up with an astonishing number. *Stand back*
...Flight Efficiency of a Bee = 0.5 mg Per 1 Kilometer 4,704,280 MILES PER GALLON!
~Source: Npr news, March 25, 2010

A HEADBUTT SPELLS DANGER IN BEE TALK

HONEY BEES headbutt their hive mates to warn them of danger at a food source. Bees perform this strange ritual when they encounter aggressive rival bees for example, or predatory spiders hanging out at favoured foraging spots. When they return to the hive, they headbutt hive mates performing the famous "waggle dance" that directs would-be foragers to rich sources of nectar. By halting their hive mates mid-dance, the scouting bees save them from perilous excursions.

[James Nieh](#) of the University of California at San Diego and colleagues interrupted honey bees at a feeding station for instance, by pinching their legs to simulate spider bites or smearing the feeding stations with bee alarm pheromones. When the bees returned to their hive, they disrupted waggle dancers that were directing others to the station (*Current Biology*, DOI: [10.1016/j.cub.2009.12.060](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2009.12.060)). Along with the headbutt, the signaller makes a brief "piping" sound, says Nieh. "This makes the waggle dancer freeze, which we think is a reflex action." This is first time the meaning of the headbutt has been clear. --"Now we know it conveys the message: 'Don't recruit for that spot, it's dangerous'," says Nieh.

From New Scientist, 20 February 2010

~Submitted by Tom Lisk

Häagen-Dazs SUPPORTS BEEKEEPING MERIT BADGE REINSTATEMENT

The brand announced today that it is joining forces with 13 year-old Boy Scout Christopher Stowell, Troop 250, Skiatook, OK. Christopher is also a beekeeper and is petitioning the Boy Scout Council for reinstatement of the Boy Scout Beekeeping merit badge that was discontinued in 1995. To sign the letter and petition, visit "The Buzz" page at <http://www.helpthehoneybees.com/#buzz>." 2010.

~Source: Apitrack News Nbr. 222

The "Who, What, Where, When, Why and How – of LLC's.

SEMBA member Suzanne Vivian, a Certified Public Accountant, gave a great presentation on the State of Michigan's Limited Liability Company regulations. Sixty-two SEMBA members attended the February 21st meeting and enjoyed not only a wonderful potluck but

also a panel discussion entitled "Working Your Bees in February" led by Ed Nowak, Dennis Holly and Winn Harless.

If you wish to have a complete summary of the Limited Liability Company regulations, application forms and other information, e-mail Roger Sutherland rsuther@sembabees.org.

SEMBA NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL?

If you wish to have your SEMBA Newsletter sent by e-mail. please contact: rsuther@sembabees.org

HONEY SALES EXEMPT FROM LICENSING?

HB 5843, introduced by Rep. Vicki Barnett (D-Farmington Hills), would amend the Food Law of 2000 to exempt the retail sale of honey by hobby beekeepers from license provisions of the state Food Code at farmer's markets, church bazaars, and school fairs. This bill has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee. You can track the progress on line.

~Source: Michigan Farm News, 3/15/10

Dennis Holly (SEMBA) and Terry Toland (Seven Ponds Bee Club) can be contacted if you would like to join their coalition group to promote the passage of this bill.

Terry Toland - 248-421-6601

Dennis Holly - 248-542-1316

COTTAGE FOOD TO BE EXEMPT FROM INSPECTION?

HB 5837, introduced by Rep. Pam Byrnes (D-Chelsea), would amend the Food Law to exempt cottage food operations from licensing and inspection provisions. A cottage food operation is considered a person who produces or packages non-potentially hazardous food in their residence's kitchen. Non-potentially hazardous foods as defined in the legislation include items such as baked goods, jams, jellies, candy, home-canned goods, etc. This bill has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee.

~Source: Michigan Farm News, 3/15/10

Editor's Note: SEMBA is trying to find out whether or not honey is included in HB 5837.

INTERNET ARTICLES FEATURING SEMBA MEMBERS:

<http://www.metrotimes.com/editorial/story.asp?id=11770> "Cells of Urban Sweetness" - by Cyan James
<http://metromode.com/features/metrodetroitbeekeeping0152.aspx> "Metro Detroit is Abuzz" - by Terry Parris.

SEMBA BEE CLASS NEWS

On Sunday, March 28th, thirty-seven students began an eleven-session beginning beekeeping class at MSU's Tollgate Education Center. Students began by assembling their own hives which will be placed in the apiary at Tollgate. Class leader Mike Siarkowski and instructors Winn Harless, Gilbert Terry, Richard Mendel, Kathleen Carter and Clay Ottoni will be teaching the students how to install their bees and maintain their own hives. At the conclusion of the class in September, each student will move his/her hive from Tollgate to a permanent location.

Dues Reminder !!

If your address label denotes A10, your dues are due. Enclosed is a renewal form for your convenience. Please note that dues for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association (MBA) also can be paid when paying SEMBA dues.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- ~20 deep 9 1/8" plastic frames (Dadant EZ frames), new, never used, \$30 call Kurt Sonen 734-222-9245.
- ~ Honey in 5 gallon buckets. Call Dave Kriesch 810-395-2037.
- ~ Beekeeping Equipment, Garden Hives available. Keith Lazar 248-361-1710 .
- ~ Nucs for Spring 2010. Contact Bob Jastrzebski, 734-748-2185, bob@cimsurf.com or www.bobilinhoney.com
- ~ Package bees from Wilbanks Apiary. Delivery April 24. Call Blanche Barber, 248-634-7017 for details.
- ~ Nucs for Spring 2010. Contact Don Schram, 248-310-8205.
- ~ Package bees from Spell Bees. Delivery April 20. 2 lb.\$63, 3 lb.\$72,Queens \$16.Call Mike Siarkowski 517-545-0824 to order.

Wanted

LOCAL HONEY -- Small cooperative grocery seeks local honey for sale in bulk. Please contact Corinne Sikorski, Ypsilanti Food Coop, 312 River Street, Ypsilanti. Call 734-483-1354 or email corinne@ypsifoodcoop.org

Services

- ~ Honey bee removal service. **Call Don Schram**, 248-310-8205.
- ~Licensed Honey House for rent, \$15 per hour. You can use a licensed honey house to bottle and sell your honey legally to stores and farmers' markets. Contact Bob Jastrzebski, 734-748-2185 or bob@cimsurf.com

Trade

~I have supers with drawn combs to trade for extracted honey. Call Al Bzenko, 248-651-0928.

Notice: The City of Wayne Farmers' Market is seeking vendors. Contact Sandy McClure, Market Manager, 734-516-0202.

Lost and Found: An Oneida stainless steel fork was left at the March 20th beekeeping conference potluck. Contact rsuther@hotmailcom

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

Affiliate chapters
Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership
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