



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 20 Number 6 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
September 2010

## SEMBA PLANNING MEETING

**When:** Wednesday, Sept. 8, at **7:00 p.m.**

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

**Agenda:**

Plan for the November 14, 2010 Annual Meeting; review the SEMBA constitution and by-law changes; set meeting dates and events for 2011; review of SEMBA 2010 beekeeping class.

**All SEMBA members are invited to attend.**

## SEMBA EARLY FALL MEETING

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 19, 2010, at **1:30 p.m.**

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

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

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

Small-Scale Honey Extraction—a video showing several methods for the beekeeper with one or two hives.

Removing bees from dwellings and trees by Don Schram and others.

Program note: Vacuum Swarm catching boxes are often used in bee removals. Several different designs will be displayed. If you have a swarm box, bring it for our "Show and Tell".

**Note:** A refractometer will be available to check honey moisture content. Bring a sample of your newly extracted honey.

## 2010 HOUSE BILL 5843 EXEMPTS HOBBYIST HONEY SALES FROM LICENSURE

Over two years ago Dennis Holly and Bill Sirr began working with Michigan House Representatives for an exemption on honey house regulations. Their efforts have finally paid off. On July 28, 2010 House Bill 5843 was passed by the Michigan Senate and has been signed into law by Governor Granholm. Below is a summary of legislative action on this bill"

House bill 5843 was introduced by Rep. Vicki Barnett (D) on February 18, 2010, to exempt from license provisions of the state Food Code, the retail sale of honey by hobby beekeepers at farmers markets, church bazaars, and school fairs. Referred to the House Agriculture Committee on February 18, 2010. Reported in the House on June 9, 2010, with the recommendation that the substitute (H-1) be adopted and that the bill then pass. Substitute offered in the House on June 15, 2010, to replace the previous version of the bill with one that revises various details, adds maple syrup producers, and subjects these products to the labeling mandate proposed by House Bill 5280. The substitute passed in the House by voice vote on June 15, 2010. Passed in the House (104 to 0) on June 15, 2010, to exempt from licensing provisions of the state Food Code the retail sale of honey by hobby beekeepers or maple syrup produced in Michigan if the amounts annual sales are less than \$15,000 per year. House Bill 5280 would impose detailed labeling mandates on the products and there are restrictions on where and how the products can be sold. Received in the Senate on June 16, 2010. Referred to the Senate Agriculture and Bioeconomy Committee on June 16, 2010. Reported in the Senate on July 21, 2010, with the recommendation that the bill pass. Passed in the Senate (31 to 0) on July 28, 2010. Michigan Governor Granholm signed the bill on August 3, 2010.

The labeling requirements in the Cottage Foods House Bill 5280 probably will be a guide for honey labeling under the House Bill 5843.

## HONEY LABELING PROVISIONS

- The name and address of the operation.
- The name of the product.

- The ingredients of the product, in descending order of predominance by weight.
- The net weight or volume of the product.
- Allergen labeling as specified by Federal labeling requirements. (Congress designated eight foods or food groups as major food allergens (milk, eggs, fish, Crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, wheat, peanuts, soybeans). These foods or food groups account for 90 percent of all food allergies. Although there are other foods to which sensitive individuals may react, the labels of packaged foods containing these other allergens are not required to be in compliance with FALCPA.
- If any nutritional claim is made, appropriate labeling as specified by Federal labeling requirements.

In addition, the label would have to include the following statement printed in at least the equivalent of 11-point font size in a color that provides a clear contrast to the background: "Made in a home kitchen that has not been inspected by the Michigan Department of Agriculture."

#### **HONEY BEE MAGAZINE ORDERS**

To order beekeeping magazines at bee club discounted prices, call the publishers directly and indicate to them the name of your local club. Current discounted prices for *Bee Culture* are: 1 Yr. - \$21.00 and 2 Yr. - \$38.00; for *American Bee Journal*, 1 Yr. - \$19.50, 2 Yr. - 37.00 and 3 Yr. - \$52.15. For *Bee Culture* call: 1-800-289-7668. For *American Bee Journal* call: 1-888-922-1293 or 1-217-847-3324.

#### **HONEY BEE RESEARCH AT MSU**

Professors Ke Dong and Zachary Huang are making ground-breaking discoveries that could help protect honeybees from devastation by Varroa mites. They have for the first time been able to produce, in the laboratory, proteins that help channel sodium ions through cell membranes of the parasitic mites. The research using cellular frog eggs, also found these proteins react to chemicals differently in honey bees, a finding that could be a key to controlling the mites.

~Source: "Bugged" M.S.U. Read more at [news.msu.edu](http://news.msu.edu).

#### **WILL THERE BE ENOUGH BEES TO POLLINATE THIS NEXT SPRING?**

Almond growers will need 1.3 million to 1.5 million bee colonies... out of about 2.5 million colonies in the whole of the U.S. That's between 52% and 60% of all the commercial honey bee colonies in the entire country. But – and you knew there was more here, didn't you? – if you figure another 30% loss next winter (that's been the average for the last four years with bad weather, nutrition and Colony Collapse Disorder wreaking havoc all over the map), then we don't really have 2.5 million hives. We'll have closer to 1.75 million colonies available next spring. That means California almond groves will need all but a half million of the colonies in the U.S., and more than 70% of the nation's bees will be in one area. That's not a lot of slack: A half million colonies can get stuck in the snow in Minnesota and New York any given February.

~ApiNews, Monday, July 5, 2010. Written by [Analia Manriquez](#)

#### **NEST-SITE DEFENSE BY COMPETING HONEY BEE SWARMS DURING HOUSE-HUNTING**

Juliana Rangel, Sean R. Griffin & Thomas D. Seeley

Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

##### **ABSTRACT**

Cavity-nesting animals must often defend their homes against intruders, especially when the availability of suitable cavities is limited. Competition for nest sites is particularly strong when multiple groups of the same species migrate synchronously to found a new home. This may be the case for honey bees during the reproductive season, because neighboring colonies often cast swarms simultaneously, leading to potential competition for high-quality nesting cavities. To test the idea that honey bee swarms may compete for and defend potential nest sites as they search for a new home, we observed pairs of artificial swarms that were house-hunting concurrently. Workers from one swarm in each pair carried a gene influencing body color, so that the bees from the two swarms were easily distinguished. We set up a high-quality nest box and waited for nest-site scouts from each swarm to explore and recruit swarm mates to it. We recorded all the interactions between competing scouts at the nest box and found that when scouts from both swarms explored the box simultaneously they behaved agonistically toward bees from the other swarm. The level of aggression depended on the number of scouts from each swarm

present at the nest box. When only one to three scouts from each swarm were at the box, they rarely fought. But when the scouts from one swarm outnumbered those from the other swarm (4–20 vs. one to three bees), those in the majority advertised their presence with a buzzing behavior at the entrance opening, and started mobbing and killing those in the minority. When one swarm gained clear control of the nest box (20+ vs. zero to one bees), some of its scouts guarded the box's entrance, preventing entry by foreign scouts. Our study exemplifies how cavity-nesting animals may compete for and defend suitable nesting sites.

~Source: Wiley Interscience, July 2010

### **HONEY BEE VENOM ALLIEVIATES DEPRESSION**

Scientists researching a toxin extracted from the venom of the honey bee have used this to inform the design of new treatments to alleviate the symptoms of conditions such as muscular dystrophy, depression and dementia.

Apamin, a natural peptide toxin found in bee venom, is known for its ability to block a type of ion channel that enables a high-speed and selective flow of potassium ions out of nerves. The blocking of these channels in the brain causes nerves to become hyperexcitable, producing improved learning, which could have implications for the treatment of dementia and depression. In addition, injection of apamin improves the symptoms experienced by sufferers of myotonic muscular dystrophy (MD). Until now, the exact mechanism by which apamin acts was poorly understood. In a study published in the [Journal of Biological Chemistry](#), two teams from the [Univ. of Bristol](#) and the [Univ. of Liege](#) in Belgium describe the results of their joint work on these KCa2 potassium ion channels, also called SK channels.

Using computer models and a genetic approach, the researchers were able to pinpoint exactly where apamin binds to block the channel. To block ion channels, most molecules act as a plug at their external mouth. The researchers have discovered that apamin binds away from the channel pore, and causes the shape of the channel to change through an '**allosteric**' mechanism, resulting in block.

This discovery could accelerate research into the design of new SK channel blockers which could imitate the action of apamin, to target SK channels in neural and muscular conditions such as dementia, depression or MD.

Professor Neil Marrion, from the Univ. of

Bristol's Physiology & Pharmacology department, says: "Drug design depends on knowing the target. Our findings have provided a new approach to designing a therapeutic agent that could help with the treatment of a number of conditions."

Professor Vincent Seutin, from the GIGA Neurosciences at the Univ. of Liège, added: "I am very enthusiastic about the results of our study and I believe that, with the help of this piece of information, the targeting of these channels for the development of future drugs has been made easier."

~Source: University of Bristol, UK, July 14, 2010

### **SEMBA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW CHANGES AND IRS COMPLIANCE**

On July 10, 2010 SEMBA received notice that it is in compliance with the "Annual IRS Information Return" requirement for non-profit organizations and Form 990N has been filed.

Now in order to meet the "Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services" requirements, we must complete the Certificate of Amendment to our Articles of Incorporation and this requires that the SEMBA Constitution and the By-laws be two separate entities.

Each SEMBA member will be receiving an electronic copy of the proposed SEMBA Constitution and the By-laws for review. If you do not have e-mail access and wish to receive a printed copy, please call Roger Sutherland 734-668-8568. Voting on the proposed changes will be held during SEMBA's Annual Meeting held at Schoolcraft College on November 14, 2010.

#### **COMING EVENTS**

**Sept. 8 -- SEMBA Planning Meeting**  
**Sept. 18 -- Tollgate Fall Fair**  
**Sept. 19 -- SEMBA Early Fall Meeting**  
**Oct. 5 -- Oakland Bee Club**  
**Oct. 22-23 -- MBA Annual Meeting**  
**Nov. 14 -- SEMBA Annual Meeting**

## Chinese Honey Laundered In US Finally Caught

By Ron Phipps, CPNA International, August 10, 2010

This past week there were a few significant developments regarding circumvention of honey. These developments lend support to the current legislative efforts in the U.S. Senate and Congress generally to stop the laundering of Chinese honey through third countries. This past week the confession of a Taiwanese man in Los Angeles was reported by the United States District Court-Northern District of Illinois. The Taiwan confessed to shipping Chinese honey (50 containers) to India and other containers to Thailand, South Korea and Taiwan for transshipment to the USA to avoid paying high anti-dumping duties. He also confessed to adulterating Chinese honey with sugars in a Taiwanese factory in order to "increase profit margins."

Secondly, a Chinese apiculture scientist openly claimed in an academic article that "A few Chinese honey exporters had to ship Chinese honey through India or Malaysia to avoid high U.S. duties." The problem of circumvention is gaining national and international attention.

~Source: Catch the Buzz, August 2010.

### A TIP FROM BILL SIRR

#### A Quick Way to Make Nucs.

Go through your hive and count the frames of brood. From the brood you want to take away, brush off all of the bees and put these frames over a queen excluder in the second hive body. (You must brush off all the bees from the frames that you have removed and put into the second hive body.) Make sure you mark the frames that you have removed with a marker. Young bees will move up into the brood within a few hours. You can then remove those marked frames to another box and you are ready to introduce the queen. That way you do not have to search for the queen in the original colony. This system will not work on a cold day because the bees won't move up very fast. We still have time to do this. Any questions, call Bill at 248-544-8619 or Email him at wsirr@aol.com.

### SEMBA LEADERS

President.....Roger Sutherland (734-668-8568)	SEMBA Hostesses .....Donna & Howard Laws (248-698-6908)
1st Vice President.....Winn Harless (734-453-2914)	Teresa and Walter McCurdy (248-360-1390)
2nd Vice President.....Dennis Holly (248-542-1316)	Oakland Bee Club Leaders Dennis /Donna Holly (248-542-1316)
Secretary.....Mary Hobart (248-545-6563)	Historian.....Ron Forfinski (810-220-1084)
Treasurer.....Mary Sutherland (734-668-8568)	Outreach Presentation Committee....John Kates (313-273-8214)
Past President.....Keith Lazar (248-361-1710)	SEMBA Representative to MBA.....Rich Wieske (248-705-5181)
Web Master.....Tom Lisk (810-229-6365)	SEMBA Director.....Fritz Sanders (734-425-0449)
Bee Class Leader Mike Siarkowski (517-545-0824)	SEMBA Director.....Don Schram (248-310-8205)

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

#### Affiliate Chapters

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership  
5488 Warren Road  
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