



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 20 Number 7 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
October 2010

SEMBA'S OAKLAND CHAPTER MEETING

When: Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:30 pm

Where: E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Rd., Bloomfield Township, MI.

Program:

"A Taste of Fall"

Bring a jar of honey to taste and check for moisture content. Also, the Oakland bee team will be reviewing the spring and summer honey flow and will give an update on the recently passed Michigan House Bill 5843.

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

SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, November 14, 2010 at 2:00 pm

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

Agenda:

Committee reports

Election of officers

SEMBA Tollgate beekeeping class graduation

MBA MEMBERSHIP THROUGH SEMBA

Membership in SEMBA qualifies you to join MBA at the discounted rate of \$25-single or \$30-family. Membership in MBA is now paid directly to the MBA treasurer. To join or renew MBA, make your check payable to MBA, indicate the name of your local club on the check, and send it to the MBA treasurer-
Judy Schmaltz
3119 Oakhill Place
Clarkston, MI 48348-1046

Other program details will be included in the next SEMBA Newsletter.

SEMBA SWARM REPORT FOR 2010

The sembabees.org website now lists 32 SEMBA members who do swarm removals in thirteen counties in S.E. Michigan. In a recent survey, 25 of those beekeepers reported a total of 153 swarms retrieved from April 23 to September 1, 2010. This compares to 155 in 2009. There were several reports of swarms

absconding after being hived.

USA - THOUSANDS ARE TAKING BEEKEEPING COURSES IN THE NATION

Looking to develop an unusual but environmentally-friendly hobby? Consider getting into beekeeping, the ancient art of tending bees and cultivating honey. Once largely viewed as a novelty of farms and granola ranch owners, interest in the practice has surged recently, particularly among young, urban women. "Beekeeping classes from Medina, Ohio, to the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and New York are seeing an unexpected shift in enrollment. Numbers are way up as thousands of novices take up the hobby," National Public Radio's Allison Aubrey confirms. "And who are these new beekeepers? Increasingly, they're women."

The rising enrollment in beekeeping classes aren't the only indication that there's a growing attraction to the beekeeping movement. Subscriptions to bee-oriented publications like *Bee Culture* have spiked, while organizations dedicated to the art of beekeeping are likewise seeing an explosion of member numbers. The San Francisco Beekeeper Association's numbers have swelled from 75 to over 200 in just the last few years, according to [NBC's Bay Area affiliate](#).

A NEW BUSINESS FOR YOU?

Nucs have always been in short supply partly due to distribution issues. We will have 3000 five-frame deep nucs for sale for the 2011 season. To make them available to folks in a broader area we desire to establish relations with key people around the country that would resell at whatever price they desire. That would allow us to transport them on our truck in a timely manner by making delivery of multiple nucs at one location versus door to door delivery. The benefits of this will be much reduced shipping costs per beekeeper, quality of bees, availability of more bees and additional income to the one distributing the nucs.

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HONEY AS AN ANTIBIOTIC

Scientists have identified a secret ingredient in honey that kills bacteria. A new research published in the July 2010 print edition of the *FASEB Journal* (<http://www.fasebj.org>) explains for the first time how honey kills bacteria. Specifically, the research shows that bees make a protein that they add to the honey, called defensin-1, which could one day be used to treat burns and skin infections and to develop new drugs that could combat antibiotic-resistant infections.

"We have completely elucidated the molecular basis of the antibacterial activity of a single medical-grade honey, which contributes to the applicability of honey in medicine," said Sebastian A.J. Zaat, Ph.D., a researcher involved in the work from the Department of Medical Microbiology at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam. "Honey or isolated honey-derived components might be of great value for prevention and treatment of infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria."

To make the discovery, Zaat and colleagues investigated the antibacterial activity of medical-grade honey in test tubes against a panel of antibiotic-resistant, disease-causing bacteria. They developed a method to selectively neutralize the known antibacterial factors in honey and determine their individual antibacterial contributions. Ultimately, researchers isolated the defensin-1 protein, which is part of the honey bee immune system and is added by bees to honey. After analysis, the scientists concluded that the vast majority of honey's antibacterial properties come from that protein. This information also sheds light on the inner workings of honey bee immune systems, which may one day help breeders create healthier and heartier honey bees.

"We've known for millennia that honey can be good for what ails us, but we haven't known how it works," said Gerald Weissmann, M.D., Editor-in-Chief of the *FASEB Journal*, "Now that we've extracted a potent antibacterial ingredient from honey, we can make it still more effective and take the sting out of bacterial infections."

~ Author, Cody Mooneyhan

[Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology](#)

BEES FARE BETTER IN TOWN THAN COUNTRY

Researchers at the University of Worcester analyzed the pollen collected by bees from 45 hives on National Trust property around the country. They found that bees in towns and cities have a much more "varied diet", taking pollen from different flowers. For example at Kensington Palace in London, where the Duke of Gloucester is keeping bee hives, the samples contained large amounts of pollen from rockrose, eucalyptus and elderberry.

In contrast bees in the countryside tended to rely on fields of crops. At Nostell Priory in Yorkshire and Barrington Court in Somerset, the samples were heavily dominated by oilseed rape with little other pollen types detectable. In the last 20 years there has been a dramatic 50 per cent decline in bee numbers in Britain.

Climate change, pesticides and even a mystery disease known as 'colony collapse disorder' have been blamed'. Experts also believe that intensive farming may have contributed to the decline of bees because it means there is less wild flowers in the countryside to provide the insects with a 'varied diet'.

Matthew Oates, Nature Conservation Adviser at the National Trust, said there are "precious few" pollen sources for bees in the countryside because farmland is either taken over for "monoculture" like wheat or barley or grazed for livestock. He urged farmers to allow more wild flowers on field margins and to plant seed mixes in unused areas.

Mr. Oates also said the study showed how important urban beekeepers are to boosting numbers and called on more people to install a bee hive in the town.

"These are interesting early findings, seemingly backing what we've suspected for awhile, namely that bees today often fare better in urban environments than in contemporary farmland," he said. Already the middle class fad for keeping bees has seen a doubling in hives over the past two years, according to the British Beekeepers Association, with many new beekeepers coming from towns and cities.

~By Louise Gray, Environment Correspondent
Newsletter ApiNews 37/2010

A VERY LARGE BEARD



This photo was taken by Tom Lisk early in the morning of September 3, 2010, two days after he had removed four supers for extraction.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR 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.

WHAT ARE THESE BEES DOING?



Above are pics of some unusual behavior we had in beehives I help manage at the Sibley Quarry Yard.

There was one hive that had these small, consistently sized sticks (we thought they were white pine needles at first) that the bees apparently carried up into the hive and stuck thru the frames. The sticks went all the way thru about two frames and were in every super at the same location (same corner of the super). It seemed to be some kind of "ladder" between the frames.

The sticks were all the same length and diameter, but we saw that there was some kind of rodent nest of the same material near the cement blocks under the hive, so the rodent must have determined the size of the sticks. It seems that the sticks were placed at the same time or after the foundation was drawn as there was no damage to the foundation or capped cells (the damage you see was from us pulling out the frame).

It does not seem that a rodent had been up in the supers as everything around the sticks was completely drawn, mostly capped and clean. The sticks were all placed on a slight angle to fit thru the center of a cell on both sides and into the center of the cell in the next frame.

Has anyone seen this behavior before - and does anyone have any idea what the bees are trying to accomplish?

~Judy Durfy, 734-302-5396

SEMBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If your address label denotes N10, your SEMBA dues are now payable. Enclosed is a renewal slip for your convenience.

MBA 2010 FALL MEETING ANNOUNCED

Roger Hoopingarner, MBA President, announced the speakers for the October 22-23, 2010 Michigan Beekeepers Association fall meeting to be held at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel. The main speakers will be Doug McRory, retired commercial beekeeper and retired Provincial Apiculturist of Ontario, and Dr. Malcom T. Sanford, retired Extension Apiculturist, University of Florida, Gainesville. In addition, there will be break-out sessions all day Friday and on Saturday morning.

On Friday evening, the MBA will host the annual "Beekeeper's Banquet". All attendees and their families are welcome to join us at the banquet, catch up with your friends and meet new ones.

A very important business meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon. At the business meeting, members will elect new MBA officers and vote on the new MBA constitution. Both of these agenda items are very important and all members are urged to attend.

New for this year, you can register on line (<http://www.michiganbees.org/>) for the Fall meeting. If registering for more than one person, you will need to complete the registration form for each attendee.

SEMBA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW CHANGES

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.

SEMBA BARGAIN CORNER

For Sale:

- Honey Sticks: 10 cents each. Contact the Sutherlands at 734-668-8568 or rsuther@hotmail.com

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 pages.

Location for colonies:

It's Clarkston, MI and I have three acres with apple trees. A community garden is located about 200' from my house. Ray Murdock, 832-693-2029. raymurdock@gmail.com

Wanted:

Used extraction equipment wanted. Call Roxane Hook@734-216-0418.

Note: Ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Roger Sutherland rsuther@hotmail.com.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

Oakland Beekeepers' Club

Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership
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