



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 21 Number 2 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
February, 2011

73rd SEMBA BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, March 19, 2011
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE
VisTaTech Center

18600 Haggerty Road
(between 6 & 7 Mile Roads)

LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

Please enter through the VisTaTech Center entrance. (Parking is available in the North Campus Parking Lot.)

You are invited to attend the 73rd Annual SEMBA Beekeepers' Conference. This one-day event is designed for all beekeepers as well as those who are considering keeping honey bees for the first time. There is no registration fee for SEMBA members. The non-member registration fee at the door is \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. No pre-registration is necessary.

Major speakers: Roy Hendrickson, an Ohio commercial beekeeper; Roger Hoopinger, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University; Zachary Huang, PhD, Beekeeping Specialist, Michigan State University.

Workshop sessions featuring a variety of beekeeping topics will be conducted by Master Beekeepers and others who have kept bees for many years.

Specially featured again this year is a series of beginning workshops, each dealing with a different aspect of beekeeping, to help the new beekeeper get started.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:00-9:00 a.m. Registration, VisTaTech Center

8:30 a.m. Video: The Science of Honey Bee Swarming by Tom Seely, Cornell University.

9:20 a.m. Welcome by Roger Sutherland

9:30 a.m. "The Beginning of Chemical Free Beekeeping" -- Roy Hendrickson

10:25 a.m. Introduction to Concurrent Sessions -- Dennis Holly

10:30-11:45 a.m. First Concurrent Session

1) Follow-up with keynote speaker -- Roy Hendrickson

2) Small Hive Beetle -- Winn Harless

3) Biology of Nosema Ceranae. Is it Replacing Nosema Apis? -- Zachary Huang, PhD

4) Small Scale Pollination in Florida and Michigan -- Don Schram

5) Getting Started in Beekeeping -- Richard Mendel

6) Flowers Important to Honey Bees -- Roger Sutherland

11:45 a.m – Noon - Vendor Time

Noon: SEMBA Potluck or lunch on your own at local restaurants.

1:10-2:15 p.m. "What Makes a Bee?" -- Roger Hoopinger, PhD

2:15 p.m. Introduction to Concurrent Sessions -- Roger Sutherland

2:20-3:15 p.m. Second Concurrent Session

1) Follow-up with keynote speaker -- Roger Hoopinger

2) Taking Bees from Trees and Buildings -- Don Schram

3) Honey Production and the Oakland Bee Club -- Dennis Holly

4) Two Reasons and Techniques for Making Nucs -- Roy Hendrickson

5) Basic Beekeeping Equipment Requirements -- Keith Lazar/Gilbert Terry

2:20-4:00 p.m. "Medicine from the Bees, Rx for Health & Healing"- Apitherapy Workshop -- Kristine Jacobson and Jerry Catana

3:15-4:10 p.m. Third Concurrent Session

1) Making Your Own Equipment -- Fritz Sanders

2) Taking Beekeeping to the Next Level -- Winn Harless

- 3) Varroa Mite Reproductive Biology
-- Zachary Huang, PhD
- 4) Mead Making -- Rick Hopman
- 5) What the SEMBA Bee Class is About
-- Mike Siarkowski

4:10 p.m. Concluding Session

Hive Raffle Award, Best Invention Award, and Conclusion of Silent Auction

SPECIAL FEATURES OF CONFERENCE

DOOR PRIZES

All bee-conference attendees will receive a door-prize ticket when they register.

BEE HIVE & PACKAGE BEE RAFFLE

A complete hive, donated by Dadant & Sons of Albion, Michigan and a 3 lb. package of bees donated by Shawn Shubel of Nectar Sweet Apiaries, will be raffled. Tickets for the raffle at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 may be purchased at the beekeeping conference.

POTLUCK-LUNCH INFORMATION

A potluck lunch will be held at noon. If you wish to participate, bring a food item (with serving utensils) which will serve six to eight persons. Also, bring your own table service including plates, silverware, and cups. SEMBA will provide tea and coffee. Please label any utensils that you bring with your name so that they can be easily identified.

BEEKEEPING SALES, DISPLAYS AND CRAFTS

If you have displays or crafts that you wish to display or sell, we encourage you to bring them. Please call Dennis Holly at 248-542-1316 to reserve table space (no charge for SEMBA members). Dadant & Sons will have a beekeeping-supply sales table.

SILENT AUCTION

Any beekeeping-related item may be placed in the Silent Auction. Bidding takes place throughout the day during the beekeeping conference. You may keep the profits or you may consider sharing the proceeds with SEMBA to benefit the Association.

APITHERAPY WORKSHOP

Conducted by two well-known Michigan apitherapists, this special two-hour seminar will feature bee venom therapy. The health benefits of other products produced by the honey bee will also be covered,

SEMBA BEEKEEPERS TO BE AWARDED PRIZES FOR INNOVATIONS AND INVENTIONS

A contest of new beekeeping ideas and inventions will be held at the 73rd Annual Beekeeping Conference held at Schoolcraft College on March 19, 2011. 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 1st place, \$50 for 2nd and \$25 for 3rd 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 On the day of the conference, bring your invention along with the completed entry form to the SEMBA table in the vendor area.

SEMBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The SEMBA treasurer is now accepting renewals from anyone whose address label denotes A11. Enclosed is a renewal application for your convenience.

TRUE SOURCE HONEY LAUNCHES CERTIFIED HONEY TRACEABILITY PROGRAM

The True Source Honey initiative enthusiastically announces the launch of a Certified Honey Traceability Program beginning in January 2001. The program officially known as True Source Certified was unveiled at the 2011 North American Beekeeping Conference this past week. Details were revealed regarding the program, which is designed to certify the origin of honey being distributed and consumed within North America, resulting in better food safety and product purity assurances for quality-minded customers and consumers. Further details of the program have been posted at www.TrueSourceHoney.com This new voluntary program is open to all interested honey companies (packers, beekeepers, importers and exporters) who desire True Source Certification. It was developed by a multi-disciplined group of industry participants who want to maximize industry participation in solving the problem of

illegally sourced honey. Intertek, an internationally recognized third party audit firm will begin conducting audits for any interested candidates starting this month. The program will help create transparency within the industry, going beyond current certification expectations and federal regulations while adding an certification expectations and federal regulations while adding an additional layer of traceability beginning at the hive. For those applying for certification, Intertek will conduct unannounced inspections, review documents and collect samples for country-of-origin verification.

~Source: *Catch the Buzz*

THE COLONY COLLAPSE DISORDER WILL BE WITH US FOR AWHILE

Colony collapse disorder, the mysterious phenomenon characterized by adult bees abandoning the hive, may be due in part to an undiscovered microbe, but the malady “is going to be with us for awhile,” UC Davis, Extension apiculturist Eric Mussen predicted at the recent ‘Bee Informed’ reception at the Citizen Hotel Historic Ballroom, Sacramento, CA. Mussen said that declining bee populations are not new. Beginning in the late 1800s, bee journals reported major colony losses every 10 to 15 years. “The worst years were 1963, 1964 and 1965, and we actually have had CCD since 2004.” (It was brought to the attention of the news media in the winter of 2006-2007.) “We’re going to have CCD for awhile, too,” he said. “CCD may be due to a multitude of factors that weaken the colony. These include diseases, parasites, pesticides, malnutrition and stress. There may be a new virus we haven’t found yet,” he said.

~ApiNews, No. 54, 2010

SOME BEEKEEPING TIPS FROM BILL SIRR

In the *Badger Bee*, Dr. Marla Spivak writes that propolis is a necessary component of the bee hive disease fighting system and normally the bees coat the inside of the hive cavity with propolis. Commercial hive bodies seem to be too smooth for that to happen, but when the inside is roughed up, the bees are able to coat it resulting in a healthier hive.

An article in *Bee Culture* gives us something else to think about. The author theorizes that perhaps beginner beekeeping classes should put more emphasis on the importance of **not** getting started in beekeeping unless the individual is willing to educate himself/herself on hive care and is able to devote adequate resources of both time and money for proper

bee husbandry. This may insure better beekeepers in the long run.

Before I took off for Texas, I checked the hive in my back yard and found a large number of dead bees being removed from the hive with their heads gone. I thought that there may have been a shrew in the hive, or can it be a small fly that lays its egg on or in the bee and when the fly larvae emerges, it exits by removing the bee’s head?

Here is something else to think about. When I cleaned the bottom board, the hive became alive with a lot of very angry and hostile girls. After a few stings, I left well enough alone and packed for Texas. I wanted to check the hive on my return, but there was just too much snow and cold in January.

The May 1978 *Gleanings in Bee Culture* detailed the following bait hive construction plans: Use either 5/8” or 3/4” exterior plywood (3/4” salvage works real well). Make the back board 15”x20” deep, the top and bottom 14”x15” and the two sides and front 14”x15” less the thickness of the wood. In the front, cut a 1 1/4” entrance hole with a nail across it two inches up from floor to keep birds from setting up housekeeping. You need to be able to remove the bottom. This bait hive needs to be in place 7 to 10 days before honey bees swarm. It is recommended that the hive be placed 5 yards above the ground. How you get them down is your problem. You may want to add a little starter comb as bait. For further information call Bill at 248-544-8619.

SEMBA LEADERS

- President.....Roger Sutherland
- 1st Vice President.....Winn Harless
- 2nd Vice President.....Dennis Holly
- Secretary.....Mary Hobart
- TreasurerMary Sutherland
- Past President.....Keith Lazar
- Web Master.....Tom Lisk
- Beginning Bee Class Leader.....Mike Siarkowski
- Advanced Bee Class Leader.....Winn Harless
- SEMBA HostessesDonna & Howard Laws
and Teresa & Walter McCurdy
- Oakland Chapter.....Dennis and Donna Holly
- Historian.....Ron Forfinski
- SEMBA Representative to MBA.....Rich Wieske
- SEMBA Director.....Fritz Sanders
- SEMBA Director.....Don Schram
- Tollgate RepresentativeClay Ottoni

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. For *Bee Culture* call: 1-800-289-7668. For *American Bee Journal* call: 1-888-922-1293 or 1-217-847-3324.

PROCEDURE FOR MBA MEMBERSHIPS

Local clubs are no longer accepting MBA memberships at the discounted rates. Membership applications are available on the MBA Website: <http://www.michiganbees.org/> For further information contact Steve Tilmann, MBA treasurer at 517-543-5525 or by e-mail: treasurer@mba-bees.org

ADVANCED BEEKEEPING CLASSES TO BE OFFERED

SEMBA is offering a series of advanced beekeeping classes (6-8 sessions) on Sundays mornings at Tollgate Educational Center in Novi. Topics will include: raising queens; two-queen systems; selecting for better breeding stock; making nucs (each student will receive a free queen cell for his/her nuc); introducing a queen to a laying worker hive; overwintering nucs; removing bees from walls and trees; catching swarms; rendering wax; and making more advanced equipment. Prerequisites for taking the advanced classes: must have at least four years of beekeeping experience or have completed the SEMBA beginning beekeeping course; have at least one active hive from which to make nucs; have two nuc boxes and your own queen-marking equipment. For applications e-mail Roger Sutherland at rsuther@hotmail.com. For further information call Winn Harless (734) 453-2914.

ASK A BEEKEEPER

Where are the sources of Michigan raised hygienic bees for sale in the state of Michigan? If you know, contact John and Kim Haynes, 248-615-1085 or e-mail: jkhaynes@sbcglobal.net

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- ~Package bees from Georgia arriving on April 26, 2011. 3 lb. \$76.00, 2 lb. \$67. To order call Mike Siarkowski, 517-545-0824. Location for pickup: Shawn Shubel, 345 Chilson Rd., Howell, MI 48843 517-548-5176.
- ~Glass jars that hold 2 lbs of honey. Each case has 12 jars. \$5 per case. Call Rich Marshall, 734-759-1030, or BettyBeeApiary@gmail.com
- ~Nuc boxes and custom-made beekeeping jackets. Call Don Schram, 248-310-8205.
- ~ Bee Keeping Equipment and Package Bees. keithmlazar@hotmail.com, Keith Lazar, C 248-361-1710.
- ~ Package bees from Wilbanks Apiary. Delivery April 23rd. 3 lb.pkg. \$77. Call Blanche Barber, 248-634-7017 for more details.
- ~ Location available for hive in Dearborn Heights. Call Kathryn Sampson, 313-565-9271.
- ~5 gallon buckets and 1 gallon jugs of honey for sale. Call Dave Kriesch, 810-395-2037.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club

