



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 21 Number 5 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

September 2011

## SEMBA PLANNING MEETING

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

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

**Agenda:**

Plan the November 13, 2011 Annual Meeting; set meeting dates and events for 2012; select nominees for offices.

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

## SEMBA EARLY FALL MEETING

**When:** Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011 at **2:30 p.m.**

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

**Program:**

**Early fall management** (feeding, taking honey, treatment for disease and other topics)  
- Winn Harless

**Maintaining a top bar hive and the 8 frame garden hive** – Eileen Dickinson

**Maintaining a Warre Hive**  
– Charles Durbin

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

**Refreshments are welcome**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN

The get-well cards, e-mails and phone calls are much appreciated by the editors of SEMBA NEWS following their recent medical issues.

Late in the evening of June 29<sup>th</sup>, after experiencing severe abdominal pains and profuse vomiting, Mary entered the emergency service at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (SJM) where she was diagnosed as having a bowel obstruction caused by an incarcerated hernia.

Within a few hours, she underwent abdominal surgery. (This was the first time in her life of 81 years to have had the need for any kind of major surgery.)

Then on July 17<sup>th</sup>, after SEMBA's Annual Summer Picnic in Novi, Roger tripped on the tongue of a wagon in the barn at Tollgate Farm and fell on the concrete floor fracturing the femur of his left leg near the prosthesis of his artificial hip. He was hospitalized for a day at SJMH for tests, x-rays and orthopedic expertise. His penalty for this unfortunate accident is six weeks of walking with crutches and canes.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER -- WE NEED YOUR HELP

Since 1934, the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association (SEMBA) has played a major role in helping many new beekeepers get started as well as providing continuing beekeeping education with meetings and workshops. (The 2011 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Beekeeping Conference, held in March, attracted over 350 beekeepers.)

A very successful SEMBA beekeeping course for beginners was led by Mike Siarkowski, Winn Harless, Clay Ottoni, Richard Mendel, and Gilbert Terry. Also, in 2011, an advanced beekeeper's course was offered to provide additional beekeeping skills. The [sembabees.org](http://sembabees.org) beekeeping web site (with Tom Lisk as webmaster) is providing valuable information to beekeepers as well as the general public. It is highly rated by hundreds of individuals who visit the site.

Many SEMBA members volunteer to present beekeeping programs for schools, nature centers and other groups. Dennis and Donna Holly have provided the leadership for the Oakland Bee Club, an affiliate chapter of SEMBA. Donna and Howard Laws and Teresa and Walter McCurdy have provided SEMBA with host services for our meetings. Don Schram and Rich Wieske work closely with the Michigan State Beekeepers' Association. Judy and Ron Forfinski, Ann Kerwin, Frances Alloway, Sandra and Randy Graichen, Mary Sutherland, Mary VandeWalker, Bernadette Ethridge, Mary Carole

Haering, Alex Luperico, Freda Howard and Kathryn Sampson provide much needed help at the SEMBA Beekeeping Conference. Fritz Sanders, Bill Sirr and Keith Lazar conduct SEMBA workshops. SEMBA's newsletter mailings have been handled for years by Frances Alloway, Fritz Sanders, Bill Sirr and Mary Sutherland. Serving as secretary is Mary Hobart.

SEMBA is a volunteer organization. The many activities listed above require a great number of dedicated individuals in order to keep the program going year after year. Unfortunately, it is the same volunteers who are providing the work and leadership year after year. Age and burn-out are beginning to take its toll. We **cannot** continue to maintain a quality program without new help.

Volunteers are needed to:

Be candidates for SEMBA offices;

Serve on club meeting program committees;

Help with planning and execution of the Annual Beekeeping Conference;

Act as host/hostess for club meetings, picnics and other events;

Present programs for club meetings.

**Please consider volunteering** to help in some way or suggest names of SEMBA members that you would recommend for offices.

Roger Sutherland  
5488 Warren Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
rsuther30@gmail.com  
734-668-8568  
734-646-8551 cell

### **KENYA- BEEHIVES TO PROTECT THE FARMS AGAINST ELEPHANTS**

African elephants are afraid of bees (they even have an alarm call for them), and scientists are now using that fear to help protect the crops of Kenyan farmers. In previous studies, a team of researchers showed that the behemoths rapidly leave areas where they hear the sound of buzzing bees.

Now these same scientists have designed and tested a fence that incorporates beehives spaced 10 meters apart. The team installed 1700 meters of the fences along the boundaries of 17 farms in Northern Kenya that are often

raided by wild elephants; another 1700 meters of the same farms were protected only by thorn tree fences. After two years, the beehive fences easily won the contest: only one bull elephant broke through this fence, while 31 elephants managed to crash the thorn fence, the scientists report in the current issue of *The African Journal of Ecology*. [Beehive fences can thus be used to help limit the number of human-elephant conflicts](#), a growing problem as the human population in Africa increases, and farmers and elephants compete for land and water resources, the researchers say.

~Source-[ScienceNOW](#) by Virginia Morell on 7 July 2011

### **UNITED KINGDOM - FLOWERS USE IRIDESCENCE TO ATTRACT INSECTS**

Scientists at the University of Cambridge are showing an unknown quality of some common garden flowers: The light shines on them as it does in soap bubbles or in the back of a CD. Investigators say the iridescence of tulips and other flowers whose function is to attract the attention of bees and other insects polinizadores. This was one of several findings showed that emanates in the summer science exhibition of the Royal Society in London..

~Source - ApiNews 53/July 2011

### **HOW TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF BEE STINGS**

Bee stings are the number 1 concern of new beekeepers - as well as their family and friends. Generally speaking, bee stings are a rare occurrence even with the presence on the property. unless you are dealing with Africanized honey bees, most varieties of honey bees are generally more concerned about their tasks than stinging. This is especially true when the bees are away from the hive gathering food.

Back at the hive, they may try to defend their honey stores. Unless you are extremely comfortable around bees, it is recommended that you wear long sleeves and pants, as well as a protective hat with veil and gloves when opening the hive.

Common sense would dictate locating the hive away from frequently traveled walkways, recreation areas of humans or animals.

You will also encounter fewer bees at the hive between 10 am and 5 pm on nice days since

they are out gathering nectar and pollen. Cold, rainy and extremely windy weather tends to keep bees at the hive, which means there are more to deal with when you open the hive.

Resist the urge to swat at the bees. They are curious by nature and will land and walk on your hands, clothing and equipment as you work the hive. If you must move a bee, gently brush it aside.

Keep the clothing you wear for beekeeping laundered. The venom from previous stings can be detected by the bees, setting off alarm throughout the colony. Do not wear heavy perfumes or strong smelling hair and body products. Bees also tend to react negatively to body odor.

Light colored clothing without a heavy texture are always good choices. There are some who believe bees may associate dark colors and heavily textured fabric with fur. Bears, skunks and other animals have been known to raid bee hives.

Work carefully so as to not squash any bees. Squashed bees can release a scent that alerts other bees to danger and the need for defense of the hive.

~Source - *GRIT*, March/April 2011, by Linda Rountree Grove

#### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO SEND BEES AND BROOD SAMPLES FOR DIAGNOSIS TO THE USDA BEE LAB**

Beekeepers, bee businesses, and regulatory officials may submit samples. Samples are accepted from U.S. states and territories, and from Canada; samples are NOT accepted from other countries. This service is free of charge.

Include a short description of the problem along with your name, address, phone number or e-mail address.

There is no charge for this service.

For additional information, contact Bart Smith by phone at (301) 504-8821

#### **How to Send Adult Honey Bees**

Send at least 100 bees and if possible, select bees that are dying or that died recently. Decayed bees are not satisfactory for examination.

Bees should be placed in and soaked with 70% ethyl, methyl, or isopropyl alcohol as soon as possible after collection and packed in leak-proof containers.

USPS, UPS, and FedEx do not accept shipments containing alcohol. Just prior to mailing samples, pour off all excess alcohol to meet shipping requirements.

#### **How to send brood samples:**

A comb sample should be at least 2 x 2 inches and contain as much of the dead or discolored brood as possible. **NO HONEY SHOULD BE PRESENT IN THE SAMPLE.** The comb can be sent in a paper bag or loosely wrapped in a paper towel, newspaper, etc. and sent in a heavy cardboard box. **AVOID** wrappings such as plastic, aluminum foil, waxed paper, tin, glass, etc. because they promote decomposition and the growth of mold.

If a comb cannot be sent, the probe used to examine a diseased larva in the cell may contain enough material for tests. The probe can be wrapped in paper and sent to the laboratory in an envelope.

Send samples to: **Bee Disease Diagnosis  
Bee Research Laboratory  
Bldg. 476 Room 204  
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center - East  
Beltsville, MD 20705** ~Source - [ApiNews](#)  
**Saturday, 06 August, 2011 12:48** Written by [Analia Manriquez](#)

#### **SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL HONEY MONTH**



Beekeeping class leader holding frame of capped honey.

## 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](mailto:treasurer@mba-bees.org)

### SEMBA Bargain Corner

#### **For Sale:**

Dadant Ranger Power Extractor, mdl M00401, 6 frame, SS, very good condition, \$450. Dadant 36" Cappings Tank, mdl M00370, with Cappings Basket, SS, wheeled, holds 23 frames, very good condition, \$350. Electric Capping Knife with Thermostat, \$50. Double Sieve SS Strainer, \$20. Wedge Top Bars, 200 pieces, \$25. Bottom Bars, 124 pieces, \$5. Deep End Bars, 240 pieces (120 pairs), \$10. Entrance feeders, \$1. Duragilt Medium Foundation, 46 sheets, \$10. Deep Supers, \$5. Medium Supers, \$4. Telescope Hive Covers, \$10. Inner covers, \$3. Bottom Boards, \$4. Screened Bottom Boards, \$5. Smoker, 4x7 SS, \$20. Frame Grip, \$5. Many other misc. items. Contact: John Hernandez, (586) 336-9706. (Romeo area).

Wide variety of glass and plastic containers for sale by SEMBA member Brad Perez. Free delivery to any SEMBA meeting. To order go to:

[www.sandbeehoneycontainers.com](http://www.sandbeehoneycontainers.com), or email [sandbeellc@gmail.com](mailto:sandbeellc@gmail.com), or call [989-996-5142](tel:989-996-5142)

Dadant Bee Blower, like new, \$100. Cost over \$500 new.

Kelley, 40 gal., cone bottom, double boiler bottling tank, with gate, galvanized, \$30.

Kelley cappings tank, with screens, galvanized, \$30.

5 lb glass jars, new in cases, \$5 a case.

Call Rich at [313-533-2617](tel:313-533-2617).

Forty gallon storage/bottling tank, with stand. 21 inch diameter, 30 inches high.

Contact: Roger Sutherland 734-668-8568 ([rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:rsuther30@gmail.com))

**Wanted:** This season's light honey in 5 gallon bucket. Have bucket(s) to exchange. Best to reach by email. [Lynhausen@aol.com](mailto:Lynhausen@aol.com)

Have your special prized honey made into "Honey Sticks" Limited time offer .10 each. Jerry Dunbar 586-770-9953.

**Free hornet removal.** Contact Travis Rockafellow, 517-703-6335, [www.mihornetremoval.com](http://www.mihornetremoval.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

