



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 21 Number 7 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
November 2011

SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

When: Sunday, November 13, 2011

Where: Sutherland Room, **Upper Waterman Wing** of the VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road Rd., Livonia, MI.

(See map on page 4 for building locations and parking directions.)

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

Program: 2:30 p.m. (You do not have to attend the potluck to participate in the program.)

Agenda:

- ~Committee reports
- ~Election of officers
 - Slate of nominees:
 - President – Clay Ottoni
 - 2nd Vice President – Richard Mendel
 - Secretary – Sanda and Randy Graichen
(Nominations will be accepted from the floor.)
- ~Recognition of SEMBA Beekeeping Course participants

PROGRAM

“National Honey Bee Survey and Regulatory Apiculture in Michigan” - Michael Hansen, State Apiarist, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

A refractometer will be available to check the moisture content of your newly extracted honey.

Bring beekeeping items to sell, swap or give away. New hive wood ware and other beekeeping items will be available for purchase.

SEMBA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED

Officers and SEMBA leaders will hold a board meeting immediately following the November 13th SEMBA meeting,

SEMBA'S OAKLAND CHAPTER MEETING

When: Tuesday December 6, 2011

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

Program: To be announced
(Call Dennis Holly, 248-542-1316 for information.)

USDA GRANT TO MONITOR HONEY BEE HEALTH

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has announced a grant to Pennsylvania State University and several collaborators to develop a nationwide network to monitor and maintain honey bee health.

“Pollinators are valued at more than \$18 billion annually in the United States, but in 2009 and 2010, 25 percent of commercial beekeepers lost more than 50 percent of their operations for unknown reasons,” said Roger Beachy, NIFA director. The overall goal of the \$5 million, five year project is to focus on Extension efforts while expanding upon previous USDA-funded research. The scientists will use an epidemiological approach to determine which management practices most successfully reduce honey bee mortality and increase profitability for beekeepers.

~ Source: *Michigan Farm News*, August 30, 2011

If your address label denotes N11, your SEMBA dues are now payable. Enclosed is a renewal slip for your convenience.

PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING BEEKEEPING MAGAZINES

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.

Send us digital pictures of your beekeeping operation for publication in a future SEMBA Newsletter. Please include names of individuals and other information about the photo.

.SEMBA VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

In November SEMBA will elect a new president, vice-president and secretary and hopefully will sign up a number of volunteers to replace those who are retiring from their duties - individuals who will help our organization continue in its vital role of educating and assisting the beekeepers in Southeastern Michigan. Volunteers are needed to:

- ~Serve on the SEMBA's program committee _____
- ~Serve on the Annual Beekeeping Conference committee _____
- ~Help coordinate the potluck lunch for the Annual Beekeeping Conference _____
- ~Present programs for schools and other groups _____
- ~Prepare beverage for one of SEMBA's meetings _____
- ~Sell hive raffle tickets at the Annual Beekeeping Conference _____
- ~Help secure door prizes for the Annual Beekeeping conference _____
- ~Become a candidate for an office in SEMBA _____
- ~Write and find articles for the SEMBA's newsletter _____

Respond to: Roger Sutherland
rsuther30@gmail.com

CHECKLIST FOR FALL MANAGEMENT

- 1) A large population is most important for wintering success. Combine two weak colonies into one and then split in the spring.
- 2) Have 60-90 pounds of honey stores or about one full-depth super full of honey. Larger amounts will give more heat buffer. Deep frames filled with honey weigh approximately 7 pounds. Medium depth frames filled with honey are approximately 3 pounds.

3) Control nosema disease with Fumidil B in syrup feed.

4) Tracheal and Varroa mite control is necessary for good survival. Get a varroa count before treating.

5) Wrapping colonies will aid in survival. Two and four colony wraps are more economical of material and heat.

6) Upper entrance is important for winter flights and moisture/CO2 escape.

7) Late winter feeding may be necessary. Examine colonies in mid to late January. Cluster at inner cover may be a sign of trouble.

For a good reference on wintering honey bees go to: <http://apiculture.ncf.ca/Wintering.htm>

The Bees Know....

Female promiscuity can rescue populations from harmful effects of inbreeding

Females in inbred populations become more promiscuous in order to screen out sperm from genetically incompatible males, according to new study by the University of East Anglia (UEA).

Published September 22, 2011 in the journal *Science*, the findings help answer the puzzling evolutionary question of why females in most species mate with multiple males – even though a single male can provide full fertility and promiscuity can carry fatal risks for the female. Using the red flour beetle as a model species, the researchers investigated the reproductive benefits of female promiscuity – or 'polyandry'. Polyandry, where a female's eggs are fertilized by multiple fathers, is the norm in most species, from chimpanzees to chickens, salmon to sea urchins. While biologists have recorded significant costs to females of this mating pattern, even death, these new findings show there can also be genetic benefits.

The UEA team found that the reproductive success of females in populations that were not inbred was identical, whether mating with one or five males. In inbred populations, females mating with just one male showed a 50 per cent reduction in the number of surviving offspring they could produce. However, inbred females who mated with five males managed to rescue their reproductive success back up to the levels of the non-inbred populations. The researchers checked to see if this could be explained by male infertility, but inbred males are just as fertile as non-inbred males. The effect was

therefore due to genetic incompatibility between males and females, which is prevalent when a population becomes inbred. Importantly, the results show that females possess mechanisms that allow them to filter in the genetically most compatible sperm to produce more viable offspring.

Having made this discovery, the researchers then went on to create deliberate genetic bottlenecks in populations of flour beetles and demonstrated for the first time that after as few as 15 generations, females began to change their mating patterns and behave far more promiscuously. Females from the previously bottlenecked populations mated with new males faster, more frequently, and for longer.

"By generating inbred populations, we were able to create real risks of high genetic incompatibility between reproducing males and females, and expose the mechanisms that females possess to promote fertilization by the most compatible males and their sperm," said lead author Prof Matthew Gage of UEA's School of Biological Sciences.

"These exciting results show how this common but paradoxical mating pattern can evolve if females use it to avoid reproducing with genetically incompatible males. Exactly how females filter the most compatible sperm is not yet understood. They might simply mate more frequently, and allow the 'best sperm to win', which would work if winning sperm are from males who have themselves avoided inbreeding depression. Or they might choose to mate most with the less related males, perhaps using olfactory cues, thereby concentrating their sperm stores from those males. We think that the process occurs most likely at the gamete level, because females mate with most of the males they are exposed to and only store for fertilization a tiny proportion of the sperm they are actually inseminated with. We know that sperm-egg recognition systems exist in other systems to avoid fertilization by unrelated species, and here it could run parallel where the system avoids fertilization by males that are too closely related."

The results could be of interest to those involved in breeding programs, where providing females or their eggs with a choice might allow more compatible genes to be inherited.

"There's a telling example here from salmon restocking programs: should you maintain genetic diversity in the population by forcing

each female to be fertilized by one different male, as is currently favoured, or should you let the natural mating pattern apply and give the eggs a choice of a mix of sperm? We're now testing this applied question directly with a project in Norway," added Prof Gage.

~Source: *Catch the Buzz* Kim Flottum

BEEKEEPING 101 VIDEOS ON THE BING WEB SITE

If you visit the address listed below you will be able to view thirty different videos covering many of the basic beekeeping maintenance practices.

Topics include:

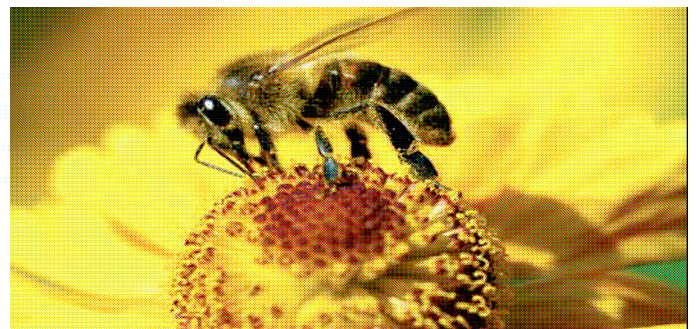
Wintering the Hive, comb honey production, organic beekeeping, swarm traps, upgrading the hive, nucs, catching a swarm plastic frames and many other topics.

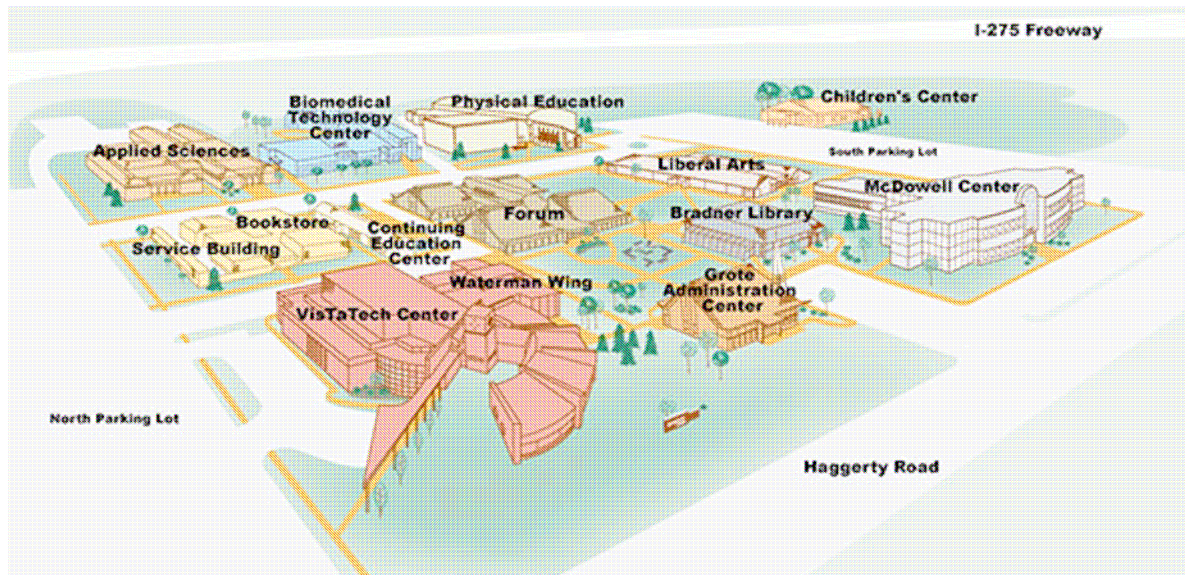
<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=beekeeping+101&qst=n&sk=&sc=8-12&form=hphot3>

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE FOR LOAN FROM THE SEMBA LIBRARY

Thanks to the gift of a book entitled *Honey Bee Democracy* by Thomas Seeley, Ph.D., the SEMBA Library now has 60 books available for SEMBA members to borrow at no charge.

SEMBA member Sherry Marcy generously donated the book for members to enjoy. Hopefully, Thomas Seeley will be our keynote speaker at SEMBA's Annual Beekeeping Conference in March 2013.





SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

For SEMBA meetings please park in the North Parking Lot and enter through the VisTaTech Center. The November 13, 2011 SEMBA meeting will be in the Sutherland Room in the upper level of the Waterman Wing.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

- Honey Straws: Have your special Honey transferred in straws. The Honey can be transferred Raw - unfiltered thereby preserving its nutritional value. **Contact: Jerry Dunbar for details 586-770-9953.**
- Two-frame motorized extractor for rent. The rent is \$25 a day, plus a deposit. The inside wall and floor have been freshly coated with food-grade epoxy. The baskets which hold the frames are ten inches wide. This extractor is mounted on a table with its motor and 110 volt outlet. If you have any questions please call Mazin at [\(313\) 999-3180](tel:3139993180), or e-mail m7mav@yahoo.com

Wanted:

Small two or four-frame extractor. Contact Richard Lefevre, 248-685-2025, dyaleleon@gmail.com

Notice:

- Requests are often received for local honey. If you have honey to sell, send your name to the Sutherlands, 5488 Warren, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, or rsuther@hotmail.com Names will be printed in the sembabees.org web pages.

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

Affiliated Chapters
Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership
5488 Warren Road
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