



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 22 Number 3 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
March/April/May 2012

SEMBA MAY MEETING FIELD TRIP

When: Sunday, May 20, 2012

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Where: The Detroit Urban Apiary and Beekeeping Museum at the Catherine Ferguson Academy, 2750 Selden, Detroit, MI (Enter museum/apiary from Lawton St.)

Program: A tour of the "Honey Bee Museum" featuring top-bar hives, skeps, bee trees, and a presentation on Warre hives by Rich Wieske. He will also explain the urban beekeeping program in Detroit. Beverages provided.

OTHER CLUB AND BEEKEEPING EVENTS

April 30, 2012, 5 to 9 pm.

"Queen of the Sun" Bee Symposium
Mott Community College
Regional Technology Center
1401 E. Court Street, Flint
5-5:30 pm - Registration - Light Refreshments!
5:30 pm - Welcome & Movie Viewing
7 pm - David Anthony, owner of Anthony Bee Farms, Bee Educator – discussion
7-9 pm - Booth Displays
Purchase native plants & bee supplies!

July 22, 2012

SEMBA-MBA PICNIC
Tollgate Education Center
Novi, MI

NEW CLUBS ORGANIZING

Beekeepers in Essex County, Ontario, Canada led by John Spellman and Penny Anger, are organizing a new beekeeping club located near Amherstburg, Ontario. Several in the group are SEMBA members. For information contact John at lotus587@yahoo.com or Penny at colchesterfarms@aol.com

Beekeepers in Monroe County, Michigan have met several times to organize a new club. For more information contact:
Bill Bray at braybill@hotmail.com

WITH THE BEES IN APRIL-MAY

The blooming of fruit trees, locust trees, clovers and many other nectar producing flowers will

increase hive activity dramatically. With the buildup, you should consider reversing supers to give the colony room for expansion. Look for swarm cells at the bottom of hive frames. If the hive is strong, consider making a split with 2 to 3 frames of brood and 1 to 2 frames of honey. If you want them to produce a new queen, make certain the brood frame contains eggs and very young larvae. You may also purchase queen cells locally or obtain mated queens locally or from the South. Open up drone cells to determine if Varroa mites are present.

If you installed a package, check to see if the queen is laying. Some new queens may have been poorly mated and their supply of sperm may be exhausted. Often the colony will make a new queen (supercedure) but that will set your new colony back about three weeks to a month before the new queen begins to lay eggs. Adding to this delay, remember that it takes 21 days for the worker eggs to develop into adult bees and these new bees will not become foragers for another 3 – 4 weeks.

74th SEMBA BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE

Approximately 345 people interested in honey bees attended the Bee Conference held at Schoolcraft College on March 17, 2012. SEMBA President Clay Ottoni thanks all the speakers, workshop leaders and other volunteers who made the conference a success.

Key note speaker: Dr. Dewey Caron

Workshop presenters: Dr. Larry Connor, Winn Harless, Kristine Jacobson, Keith Lazar, Richard Mendel, Fritz Sanders, Don Schram, Mike Siarkowski, Gilbert Terry, Rich Wieske, Bob Jastrzebski, Judy Schmaltz, Kinga Osz-Kemp, Keith Stellar, Clay Ottoni, Earl Hoffman.

Conference Coordinator: Richard Mendel
Committee Chairs: Bernadette Ethridge, Judy Forfinski, Winn Harless, Kim Haynes, Donna Laws, Keith Lazar, Mary Sutherland.

Conference staff: Frances Alloway, Sandy and Randy Graichen, Ann Kerwin, Kim and John Haynes, Marie Powers, Mike Nardelli, Carolyn Beeman, Steve Reed, Roger Sutherland,

Howard Laws. Ron Forfinski. Tom Lisk, Erica Antishin, Susan/ Mark Atkinson, Ken/Kathy Bibee, Oscar Estrada, Susan Garrett, Ann Grady, Mary Carole Haering, Wendy Harless, Art Lawrence, Megan Milbrath, Colette Szabo, Josh Steiniger, Mark Tchorzynski. Shawn Shubel.

THANK YOU SEMBA

Mary and Roger Sutherland were honored to receive recognition for their efforts in making the SEMBA Beekeeping Conference a success for the past 35 years. The gift of a top-bar hive and a beautiful wood carving are truly appreciated. In future newsletters, Mary and Roger will keep you posted on the progress of the top-bar hive.

A ROOKIE SUCCESS STORY 2/24/2012

My first season began with a failed attempt to start a colony from bees removed from a clients house in mid June. Unfortunately, the queen was apparently not captured and two attempts to re-queen went without success. At the point the bees died out, it was late August, so I requested two frames of brood and bees from Keith Lazar for one last ditch try at a nuc colony. He agreed and brought the goods here to my home in Farmington. We placed the frames in the bottom medium. Keith had earlier verified the presence of eggs. I later placed another medium above the brood with half a dozen or so frames with drawn wild comb (left over from the removal job) tied in, and began to feed daily with a Boardman feeder. It was only days before 4 queen cups had been drawn out. The first queen to emerge destroyed the other developing queens and left to mate. I do not know the exact number of days she was gone, maybe a week at most. The day I spotted her it was apparent she had been back several days already because I also found new eggs, and larvae. I had a laying queen, great!

But by now October was only days away. I continued to feed and most days the expanding colony took in about 1-1/2 to 2 cups of 1:1 syrup. I placed a feeder ring with fondant and also syrup (in the ziplock bag) when the weather turned too cold for the entrance feeder. By then there were a good 6 frames of bees and stores, with plenty of pollen, and as many frames of syrup above, now stored away nicely in comb, some even capped. My bees flew on various days through the winter as I'm sure everyone's did. At this point they are clustered directly under three cakes of fondant and feeding heavily on days anywhere near 40 degrees. It is also apparent they are increasing in numbers again. I'm not kidding myself, the mildest

Michigan winter I can ever remember may be the reason my long shot nuc has made it so far, but I'll take it and be happy! I have a good feeling about the survivability for the remainder of winter, all things considered, so for now I am reporting the success of the colony. I will let you know if things change. I am enthused to participate in your survey.

~By Tim McGee

MULTIPLE ROUTES of PESTICIDE EXPOSURE for HONEY BEES LIVING NEAR AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

Christian H. Krupke¹, Greg J. Hunt¹, Brian D. Eitzer², Gladys Andino¹, Krispn Given¹

Researchers at Purdue University have reported that the analyses of bees found dead in and around hives from several apiaries over two years in Indiana showed the presence of neonicotinoid insecticides. The research showed that the insecticides were present in high concentrations in dust that is expelled from farm machinery during planting corn and soybean seeds. The insecticides clothianidin and thiamethoxam were also consistently found at low levels in soil, on dandelion flowers and in corn pollen gathered by the bees.

~Published January 3, 2012 in PLoS ONE 7(1): e29268.doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0029268 68

MORE ON COLONY LOSS CAUSES

Many articles in the press continue to stress CCD as a cause of disappearing honey bees. Dr. Jerry Bromenshenk's comments on historic bee losses and CCD were posted on Bee-Line, Friday, December 30, 2011. He says, "Both the 1970s and 2006+ events were blamed on everything anyone could imagine, although due to the Cold War, in the 70s nuclear radiation was a suspect, while in the 2000s, cell phones were blamed. As occurs now, there were those researchers and beekeepers who were sure it was pesticides, and Bill Wilson's team was able to induce a winter decline with low level pesticides.

"I'm still convinced it's contagious. Other stress factors such as nutrition, cool wet weather, possibly even agri-chemicals may act as triggers. My guess is that Nosema ceranae, Kashmir virus, and the IIV all came to us as a group from Apis ceranae. Camazine found the first Kashmir in a sample of IIV from the Asian bee, and he found IIV in varroa in hives from a major collapse in the NE of the USA in the 90s. Latest I've heard, Nosema ceranae has now been shown to be in the NE states as far back

as the 80s, maybe even longer.

"The press is having a ball blaming losses on a new bizarre reason, [phorid flies](#) that turn honey bees into zombies. Sounds like the making of a new television horror series. And then there's dust from [corn seeding](#), a new wrinkle on the neonicotinoid pesticide angle.

"Maybe, but it's difficult to come up with a cure (patented or not) when the cause hasn't been nailed down."

~Source: Apis Newsletter Feb.16, 2012

SEMBA BEEKEEPING MENTORS NEEDED

The SEMBA Buddy System, inaugurated in the fall of 2002, is designed to pair a novice beekeeper (SEMBA members only) with an experienced beekeeper (or mentor) living relatively close by. The experienced beekeeper would be able to answer questions by phone or e-mail or might make an on-site visit to help with some problem. Each pair would develop their own plan of cooperation.

The mentor program is designed for a beekeeper who has learned about beekeeping on his own or has taken a beekeeping class, and has started a colony of bees. **The program is NOT intended as beginning beekeeping instruction.**

Please consider being a mentor. You do not have to be an expert to be a mentor. Helping someone else with their bees often makes you a better beekeeper.

Contact Roger Sutherland to volunteer or for questions. Phone: 734-668-8568, e-mail rsuther@sembabees.org.

MORE ON HONEY FILTRATION

According to the USDA grading standards for extracted honey, filtered honey is honey that has been filtered to the extent that all or most of the fine particles of pollen grains, air bubbles and other materials normally found in suspension have been removed.

Honey is filtered for various reasons. Consumers prefer honey that is liquid, stays liquid for a long time, is clear and brilliantly transparent and has all extraneous solids removed during raw processing by the beekeeper.

Ultra-filtration is a specific kind of filtration used in the food industry. When applied to

honey, ultra filtration involves adding water to the honey and filtering it under high pressure at the molecular level. Water is then removed. This produces a colorless sweetener and is NOT considered honey by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States of America.

~Source: "Hive Light", submitted by Bill Sirr

BEE INFORMED PARTNERSHIP

The Bee Informed Partnership is an extension project that endeavors to decrease the number of managed honey bee colonies that die over the winter. The partnership is a large collaboration between research institutions, universities and beekeepers from all over the country. They are funded for 5 years by USDA/NIFA (U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture). If you have taken the National Winter Loss survey anytime in the past 5 years, that survey represents a portion of the work that we hope to continue with your help. We are excited to bring you the 2nd Bee Informed National Management and Winter Loss survey beginning in April 2012 and hope that our newsletter will provide a bit of an introduction to who we are and what we are doing. Please visit our website at www.beeinformed.org for further information.

NEWS FROM THE MICHIGAN STATE APIARIST MIKE HANSEN

HopGuard has been granted a Section 18 label for use in Michigan. MDARD has requested that the manufacturer provide us with an official label for use of the product in Michigan, and we anticipate having that label available in the near future. You are required to have the Michigan label in your possession when you use HopGuard in Michigan. For additional information contact: Mike Hansen at hansenmg@michigan.gov

SEMBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your address label denotes A12, your dues are due. Enclosed is a renewal application for your convenience.

SEMBA MEMBER 2011-12 WINTER LOSS SURVEY

	Hives alive in September 2011	Hives alive in March 2012
89 beekeepers maintained 1 -- 4 hives	187	162
20 beekeepers maintained 5 – 9 hives	145	121
14 beekeepers maintained 10 – 19 hives	211	192
1 beekeeper maintained 20 – 29 hives	21	19
5 beekeepers maintained 30 – 39 hives	160	144
0 beekeepers maintained 40 – 49 hives		
1 beekeeper maintained 50 – 59 hives	52	50
0 beekeepers maintained 60 - -69 hives		
1 beekeeper maintained 100 199	110	60
1 beekeeper maintained 237	<u>237</u>	<u>201</u>
132 surveyed	Total hives...1163.....	949

2011 – 2012 Winter survival 82%, Winter loss 18%.
 2010 – 2011 Winter survival 40.6%, Winter loss 59.4%.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For sale

- ~Nucs - 5 Frame Nucs - Michigan Survivor Bees = \$110. Pick up locations in Ann Arbor. For details: Meghan Milbrath (651) 428-0543 meghanom@gmail.com.
- ~Honey, 1 lb.,2lb.,5lb.,jars, and 5 gal. buckets of excellent tasting honey from Livingston county. Call Mike Siarkowski at (517)-545-0824 or e-mail bcky286@yahoo.com
- ~Honey, 3 and 5 gallon buckets. 5's are \$120, 3's are \$72. Call Dave Kriesch at (810) 441-2012 or (810)-395-2037.
- ~ Honey, 100 five gallon buckets of Fall raw, unheated/unfiltered honey from the Kussmaul Honey Farm, \$125.00 each or less if you buy a large quantity. Kussmaul's colonies are located in Lenawee, Washtenaw and Jackson Counties. Please call Kussmaul Honey Farm, (517) 456-9966.
- ~Comb Honey, Call Winn Harless at (734) 453-2914.
- ~ Package Bees: Blanche Barber (248) 634-7017, Rich Kussmaul (517) 456-9966, Shawn Shubel (517)-548-5176

Wanted:

Two high school students looking for summer beekeeping jobs in the Chelsea, MI area. Contact: Joel, cell, 734-747-1363, home, 734-562-2542.

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

Southeastern Michigan
 Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

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

Affiliate chapters
 Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club

