



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 23 Number 1 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

January 2013

SEMBA WINTER MEETING

When: Sunday, January 27, 2013
Where: Lower Waterman Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road Rd., Livonia.

Program: 2:30 p.m.

"Products of the Hive"

Rich Wieske and Winn Harless

Note: If you have a hive product (pollen, propolis, wax products, mead, etc.) that you would like to showcase, we have a spot for you on the program. Also, following the program an important SEMBA Board meeting will be held to which all members are invited.

Refreshments are welcome.

UPCOMING BEEKEEPING EVENTS

Apitherapy Day In Ohio

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Pittsfield Township Hall, State Road 303 at Ohio Rt. 58, between Oberlin and Wellington, Ohio. For more information, contact Jerry Catana 586-463-2325.

75th Annual SEMBA Beekeeping Conference

Saturday, March 16, 2013, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Schoolcraft College, Livonia, MI
Details in the February SEMBA Newsletter.

Note!

For conference vending information, please contact Keith Lazar, C 248-361-1710 or keithmlazar@hotmail.com

Bee Symposium 2013

Monday, April 29, 2013, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Mott Community College Regional Technology Center, Flint MI

NO CHANGE IN CHINA IMPORT DUTIES

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) voted on November 19, 2012, to maintain the existing anti-dumping duties ranging from 25.88 percent to 183.80 percent on honey imported from China. ~Source: ApiNews 9/5/2012

SEMBA'S 2013 BEGINNING BEEKEEPING COURSE WILL BE HELD AT TOLLGATE FARM IN NOVI

Thirty-seven SEMBA members have been placed on the priority list for the 2013 Beginning Beekeeping Course. For course information, contact Roger Sutherland, rsuther@sembabees.org Details regarding schedule and syllabus will be posted on the sembabees.org website.

Cost for the thirteen session beginning course is \$140 if the student supplies a new hive and bees for class instruction at Tollgate. Cost for students choosing not to supply a hive and bees is \$190.

SEMBA'S ADVANCED BEEKEEPING COURSE WILL BE HELD AT TOLLGATE FARM IN NOVI

Anyone who has four years of beekeeping experience or has completed the SEMBA Beginning Beekeeping Course, is eligible to take the advanced course. Details regarding the schedule and syllabus will soon be available on the sembabees.org website. Cost for the nine-session course is \$100. Single sessions are available for \$20.00 each if prearranged with Winn Harless at 734-453-2914. Attendance of a single class without prior notification is \$30.00 each. For further information, contact Roger Sutherland, rsuther@sembabees.org

IN MEMORIAM DAN GUTHRIE

SEMBA Life-Member Dan Guthrie, age 91, passed away November 5, 2012. Dan was a commercial beekeeper in Utica, MI. He formerly held the presidency of both SEMBA and MBA. He is survived by his wife Joyce Guthrie and two daughters.

JUDY SCHMALTZ RECOVERING

On October 28th, Judy Schmaltz was involved in a severe automobile accident. She spent three weeks at Beaumont Hospital in treatment for fractures of the leg, arm and pelvis. She is now home receiving physical therapy. After being confined to a wheelchair, she is now allowed to bear some weight while standing.

TWO MEMBERS REPORT ON HONEY PRODUCTION

Judy Durfy says, "In the middle of June the hives were bursting and had plenty of honey, mostly Autumn Olive I believe, and the bees were filling up and drawing out more supers.

"I was not able to manage my hives this summer at the time of the drought because I had to go out-of-town from beginning of July until mid August.

"I figured my two established hives at Capellas Farm in Ann Arbor and my one established hive at St. Mary's CSA in Monroe would be dead or on their way out as they were not fed at all during the drought. However, I was pleasantly surprised to have a good harvest.

"In August, I pulled over 80 pounds of honey off the three hives; more than half was from one hive - the Monroe hive at St. Mary's. In October, I pulled again and pulled over 58 pounds of Goldenrod / Aster honey - again mostly from the Monroe hive. So, my total harvest was over 138 pounds of honey from three established hives."

Kevin Smyth says, "I only had one hive in Plymouth. They over-wintered well and produced 105 pounds of honey! Most came in April-June. My previous record was 65 pounds from one hive."

Editor's note: We would like to hear from other beekeepers about their honey production from various locations.

IS ORGANIC AGRICULTURE "AFFLUENT NARCISSISM"?

A research study, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, was a meta-analysis in which results from the scientific literature were combined but no new, original laboratory work was conducted. Data from 237 studies were aggregated and analyzed to determine whether organic foods are safer or healthier than non-organic foods. They concluded that fruits and

vegetables that met the criteria for "organic" were on average no more nutritious than their far cheaper conventional counterparts, nor were those foods less likely to be contaminated by pathogenic bacteria like *E. coli* or *Salmonella*.

For the complete article go to:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/henrymiller/2012/11/07/organic-agricultures-bitter-taste-or-is-organic-agriculture-affluent-narcissism/>

~Submitted by Tom Lisk

UNITED KINGDOM---SCIENTISTS HAVE NOW DISCOVERED THAT HONEY BEES ALSO CAN BITE

BBC NEWS

Bees resort to biting when faced with pests, such as parasitic mites, that are too small to sting. Close study of the biting behaviour has revealed that they secrete a chemical in their bite that stuns pests so they are easier to eject from a colony. Tests suggest the chemical could also have a role in human medicine, as a local anesthetic.

For more information go to:

[GREECE- THE BITE OF THE HONEYBEE: 2-HEPTANONE SECRETED FROM HONEYBEE MANDIBLES DURING A BITE ACTS AS A LOCAL ANAESTHETIC IN INSECTS AND MAMMALS](#)

USA--- HONEY BEES POLLINATION FEES ARE GROWING

Many crops rely on pollination by honey bees and, as a result, there's a market for the services of professional beekeepers and their bees. And the cost of those services has been on the rise. What's driven the increase in pollination fees over the past 20 years? A new study from North Carolina State University shows that honey prices, invasive mites and the cost of diesel fuel are key factors. "This is the first comprehensive analysis of North American pollination markets, and we wanted to better understand the economic forces that drive pollination fees," says Walter Thurman, an agricultural and resource economist at NC State and co-author of a paper describing the study. Pollination fees are the rates charged by a beekeeper for providing a single colony of around 30,000 bees while a given crop is blossoming.

In 1990, real pollination fees (in 2009 dollars) for honey crops were just under 20 dollars, while non-honey crop fees were 40 dollars. By 2009,

fees for honey crops had risen to approximately 35 dollars, while non-honey crops were about 70 dollars. The fees for almonds saw a significantly larger increase. While almond pollination fees were approximately 50 dollars in 1993, they had risen to around 150 dollars by 2009.

The paper, "The Economics of Honey Bee Pollination Markets," was published in the most recent issue of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics. It was co-authored by Randal Rucker of Montana State University and Michael Burgett of Oregon State University.

NEW CROP POLLINATION WEB SITE

NSERC-CANPOLIN is pleased to announce the launch of a new website dedicated to best management practices for crop pollination.

<http://www.pollinator.ca/canpolin/>

The site provides information on a range of topics including: Importance of pollination, managed pollinators, wild pollinators, using managed pollinators and encouraging wild pollinators, safety concerns and pollination requirements for many agricultural products.

Please see below for the full announcement. The website was created by CANPOLIN, with the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the University of Guelph through the Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) program. Seeds of Diversity is hosting the website.

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GROEB FARMS CHANGE HONEY PURCHASING POLICY

I have, for more than 40 years, sold honey at Groeb Farms near Onsted. I recently called to ask about bringing in my 4 five gallon pails of honey for sale and was informed that they no longer purchase quantities less than 1000 pounds.

~Paul Marks marksp@msu.edu

EXPOSED HIVE IN DEARBORN



SEMBA member David Wells was able to hive this exposed colony in November, 2012.

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AREA BEEKEEPING MEETINGS

Oakland Bee Club

Where: E.L. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Rd., Bloomfield Township, MI.
For information contact Dennis Holly at Hollysapiaries@yahoo.com

Monroe Bee Club

Meetings in Monroe are held the 3rd Monday of (most) months, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, at the MSU Extension Building, 963 South Raisinville Road, Monroe, MI. For information contact Bill Bray at braybill@hotmail.com

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

The Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers usually meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. To be notified by email for the date and agenda, contact Richard Mendel, brescue@att.net

SEMBA FACEBOOK PAGE

SEMBA member, Brian Neumeyer, has created a "South Eastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association" Facebook page under the category of farming/agriculture. Brian who became a beekeeper in his early teens is now a student at Oakland University.

He is seeking suggestions on items and information to place on the SEMBA Facebook. Contact him at brian_neumeyer@yahoo.com

NATURAL BEEKEEPING

SEMBA member Jerry Dunbar has produced a DVD video entitled "Natural Beekeeping". Visit his blog at <http://honeyfarm.blogspot.com>. Contact Jerry at 586-770-9953 or geraldunbar@hotmail.com

APIVAR APPROVED FOR ONE YEAR SECTION 18 LABEL

The EPA has approved a Section 18 Label for Apivar (Amitraz) in Michigan. Under Section 18, beekeepers in Michigan can now use Apivar (Amitraz) for the treatment of Varroa mites in their colonies.

Under Section 18, this label is good for one year. Next Summer and Fall, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) inspectors will be conducting interviews with beekeepers to gather information needed for subsequent years of Section 18 approval. The information is used to develop MDARD's report to EPA, as supplemental information to apply for a Section 18 label for the next year, and by the manufacturer as they seek to complete a full pesticide label under Section 3 of FIFRA.

Michael G. Hansen, Regional Supervisor/State Apiarist, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Phone and Fax, (269) 429-0669, hansenmg@michigan.gov

FROM MALCOM SANFORD'S APIS NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 16, 2012

Recently, Dr. Malcom Sanford visited Dr. Kirk Visscher at the University of California at Riverside and they agreed that the situation with reference to Africanized honey bees has diminished since their introduction into California in the 1990s. No longer are Africanized honey bees a "huge problem," although this doesn't mean they can be taken for granted. Care in manipulating them is still in order and the Africanized characteristics including defensive behavior, swarming and absconding continue to be problematic in some areas. One group, however, is apparently pushing the honey bee removal envelope to the consternation of a few other beekeepers in the area.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

~3# Packages, pickup April 11 and April 27, \$88 each. 5 frame medium Nucs, pickup Mid May, \$110. Italian & Carniolan Queens, pickup 3rd week of April, \$28. Bob Jastrzebski, [734-748-2185](tel:734-748-2185), bob@cimsurf.com, and www.bobilinhoney.com

~ Comb honey. Call Winn Harless, 734-453-2914.

~Beekeeping supplies and equipment, 3# Package Bees available April 14, April 21 and May 5, 2013 Contact Keith Lazar: keithmlazar@hotmail.com or phone 248-626-2483.

~Top-bar hive. Contact Eric Sink, sinkde@att.net, 734-421-2202

Wanted:

~2 wheel utility trailer in the 5 foot by 10 foot range and a double axle equipment trailer, 20 feet long.

Contact Richard Mendel, brescue@att.net or phone 734-761-7861.

~~ Stainless Steel Bottling equipment, storage tanks, Sump pump or other related honey processing equipment (No Extractors).TXT Call or E-mail Sam Parise – 734 890- 9252 or sam.p.parise@gmail.com

~A newly formed beekeeping club at the University of Michigan, UMBees welcomes the donation of hives, equipment or financial contributions. Contact Peter Widin, pbwidin@umich.edu

Opportunity:

~Location for keeping bees in Southfield, MI. Contact: Sean O'Tuahal, 248-752-4613, otuathal@gmail.com

~ I have -2-3 years of Bee Culture and American Bee Journal from 2007-2009 if anyone is interested in them. i.e.- students or instructors, art classes, schools. Kristin Frank 517-881-9187

SEMBA PRESIDENT'S HOLLIDAY GREETING AND FALL-WINTER FEEDING TIPS

Greets one and all,

I hope your holidays met all your expectations and that you and your family & friends are doing well. (Definitely better than many hive.)

2012 was a unique year, to say the least. We all recall the warm winter and spring of 2012, which helped our 2011 overwintering hives but which advanced "Mother Nature" perhaps too quickly and which was followed by an extra dry summer. Did you notice the corresponding change in the nectar flows, especially those of the fall (i.e., goldenrods and asters)? Did you notice the bees flying late in the fall when there was so little nectar? What did it add up to -- hives light on honey and with a big surprise.

The short version of this article -- regularly checking your hives (especially their stores/feed) and helping them this winter may be critical. Dennis Holly kindly shared that he was recently called by a Michigan beekeeper who has already lost over 200 of his 400+ hives due to lack of winter stores/feed. For a longer version --

Having excellent queens and numerous healthy winter bees that have been well feed are critical for successfully overwintering bees. Same necessitates properly monitoring and treating, when necessary, for pests and pathogens before they reach the appropriate economic threshold. Additional key concerns include proper ventilation, protection from the adverse elements [e.g., moisture (both from inside and outside the hive including snow, rain, melting snow, etc.), wind and temperature extremes], and adequate winter stores (whether gathered by the bees, provided by the beekeeper, or, more likely, a combination of both). Since the time has passed for some of these points, I'd like to consider the last point, adequate winter stores.

I, like many of you, feed hives, in late summer and into the fall, with heavy sugar syrup (i.e., 2 parts sugar to 1 part water, by weight). As usual, the bees, at first, utilized this heavy sugar syrup. In light of the year we had, this was especially true. Then, as it became too cold for the bees to evaporate the water from the sugar syrup, the bees stopped (or significantly reduced) their utilization of the syrup.

Accordingly, I faithfully replaced the syrup and inner cover with: (a) a one and a half inch spacer [with a top entrance for both additional ventilation (to help remove condensation) and use by the bees as an additional means of egress and ingress] on the top medium, (b) two sheets of black and white newspaper sheets (different colored ink is avoided when possible to reduce the possibility of any potential harmful substance) placed inside [about three quarters of an inch away from all four sides] of the spacer and, then, (c) a five pound bag of granular sugar sprinkled on the newspaper. Each of the many years I have done this, I have always observed that both the newspaper and the granular sugar absorb moisture that would otherwise be harmful to the overwintering bees. This is also one of the reasons I prefer granular sugar to fondants and candy boards (two other reasons include its ease of use and the fact that by staying out of the kitchen and not using kitchen supplies I do not upset my understanding spouse). I was feeling good with my "winter sugar insurance" since ...

I was also able this year to go into winter with most hives having a lot of healthy bees with at least four (4) full mediums and preferably five (5), or even six (6), full mediums. There are trade-offs here. For example, I give up honey for, hopefully, survivor bees that I will need to split in the spring. I also adjust, to the extent that I am able, the space I leave the bees with the number of bees in the hive. Many would correctly point out that the more space the bees have the more difficult it is for them to keep the hive warm. Although that is true, I would suggest that it also affords the bees options. For example, as we all know, cold settles down, not up; and my bees often avoid using the lowest medium, which is the coldest. I do this even though I place my hives on supports about sixteen (16") inches above the ground, where the ground is elevated for further air drainage. (Better safe than sorry or an "overkill", your call; for me, I enjoy making spring splits with overwintered hives.)

I also wrap the outside of my hives with black roofing paper (e.g., to reduce the adverse affects of wind, to provide some insulation, and, more importantly, to "collect" the sun's rays to help warm the hive).

To help keep some heat in (and cold out), I also placed on each hive two boxes (the lowest one filled with shredded leaves that are inside of a cotton/burlap bag and, then, the next one with rigid insulation, if not also filled with shredded leaves or straw) on top of a plastic (no metal is used to avoid conducting the cold outside temperature into the hive) queen excluder, which is over the spacer and sugar. This is the first year I have used the queen excluder over the spacer (with its entrance) in lieu of a notched inner cover on each of my hives. In prior years, when I have used a notched inner cover, I have observed that the bagged leaves did absorb moisture; however the

absorption was concentrated around each of the inner cover's middle opening. So far this year, I am seeing evidence of the absorption in a much larger area. So far, it seems to be working well. So I was really feeling good with my "winter sugar insurance" and improved ventilation, but then...

During the first week of December, when I went to my apiary in the Thumb of Michigan to check my hives (and to collect dead bees that dropped to the bottom board, which might interfere with proper ventilation and the bees access to the outdoors), I, to my surprise, observed that every hive had already consumed almost all of my "winter sugar insurance".

I quickly added another five (5) pound bag of granular sugar to restore my "winter sugar insurance". (Having granular sugar and old newspapers on hand is another example why we teach in SEMBA's Beekeeping Course for Beginners to always plan ahead.) I am sure that I could have lost my hives had I not been regularly checking them at least once every two (2) weeks.

May the year ahead bring peace, good health, and much happiness to you and yours,

Clay E. Ottoni,

SEMBA Pres.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club

