



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 23 Number 5 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

August/September 2013

SCHOOLCRAFT BEEKEEPERS' CLUB

(Chapter of SEMBA)

When: Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013 at 2:30 p.m.

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

Program:

"National Pollinator Defense Fund: pesticides, the EPA, and how we are working to save bees"

"Preparing your colonies for winter"- a panel discussion by Clay Ottoni, Don Schram and Rich Wieske

Refreshments are welcome.

The program on September 8, will feature a presentation by Michele Colopy, program director of the National Pollinator Defense Fund. Michele will talk about the adverse impact of pesticides on pollinators and work being done to protect bees and native pollinators vital to a sustainable and affordable food supply. The National Pollinator Defense Fund (NPDF) was developed by the American Honey Producers Association to take the lead in the national pesticide policy discussion. Their goals are to:

~Ensure that State Lead Agencies and U.S. EPA enforce regulations to protect pollinators from pesticides, as mandated by FIFRA.

~Use multiple strategies, including litigation and legal petitions, as well as legal support for managers of pollinators who have suffered damages to their beekeeping operation caused by pesticides.

~Provide advocacy, guidance, and tools for beekeepers to defend their bees from the detrimental effects of pesticides.

~Raise awareness about the potential adverse impacts of pesticides on pollinators important to the supply of food and the ecosystems that support them.

Ms. Colopy has more than seventeen years of experience in a variety of nonprofit organizations and holds a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from The University of Akron. Her nonprofit experience includes work in the performing arts, housing and homelessness, foreclosure prevention, community development, and health and wellness. Her father was a beekeeper in Ohio, and she helped him with harvesting honey.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SEMBA PREIDENT

I would like to thank Donna and Howard Laws who have served as hostess at SEMBA events for several years. To fill that vacancy, SEMBA now needs someone to make coffee or provide beverages at four SEMBA events each year. For information, please contact Clay Ottoni, 248-454-9800, or ceottoni@gmail.com

BIODYNAMIC BEEKEEPING

A new beekeeping related group has recently been organized in Ann Arbor. The Biodynamic Beekeeping Study Group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1923 Geddes Ave in Ann Arbor. Contact Eileen Dickinson at edickins@umich.edu or 734-717-4145.

NATIVE BEES

North America boasts more than 4,000 native bee species, some which are even more efficient than non-native honey bees. One Southeastern blueberry bee can pollinate over 50,000 flowers in a lifetime, resulting in 6,000 blueberries. Orchard mason bees are more efficient pollinators of crops such as cherries, almonds, pears, and apples; it is estimated that one mason bee is as effective as 100 honey bees. Native bees range in size from large carpenter and bumble bees to smaller mason and leaf cutter bees to the diminutive, less than 2 millimeters long, *Perdita minima* of the Southwest. Some are black and yellow like honey bees, but some are blue, green, black, red, or golden. Some have a metallic sheen.

~ Contributed by Bill Sirr

WHO KILLED THE HONEY BEE?

A BBC Documentary

Bees are dying in their millions. It is an ecological crisis that threatens to bring global agriculture to a standstill. Introduced by Martha Kearney, this documentary explores the reasons behind the losses.

<http://youtu.be/bjef4QiKWfg>

~Submitted by Marie Powers

SEMBA CONFERENCE RETURNS TO SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

The 76th SEMBA Beekeeping Conference will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014. . Keynote speaker will be Clarence Collison, Ph.D., Professor of Entomology and Head of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Mississippi State University.

SEMBA'S ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of SEMBA will be held on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at Schoolcraft College. Details in the next newsletter.

FREMONT AREA FOUNDATION

In 1994, SEMBA member Christopher Berg died at the age of thirty-four. His parents mentioned that because their son had been a beekeeper they wished to have a memorial fund established in memory of him. With the assistance of Roger Hoopingarner and Don Folkema, a memorial fund was set up within the Fremont Area Foundation. It now provides funding for beekeeping research that benefits all Michigan beekeepers. Memorial contributions continue to increase the value of the fund and currently the Foundation matches dollar for dollar gifts up to \$500 per donor household that are contributed within one year of the decedent's death.

Anyone can make memorial contributions to the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Memorial contribution checks to the Foundation should be made payable to the Fremont Area Community Foundation, 4428 W. 48th Street, P.O. Box B, Fremont, MI 49412, with a note specifying the decedent's name, date of death and that the gift be earmarked for the Michigan Beekeepers' Association Fund. Also, include the name and address of the person or family to be notified of the contribution.

WORD OF THE DAY-- MELLIFEROUS

\ muh-LIF-er-uhs \ , adjective;

Melliferous derives from the Latin word mellifer meaning "honey-bearing", yielding or producing honey.

Quote: "He writes of the melliferous odor of linden blossoms, of the fields."

~Submitted by SEMBA member David J. Larwa

SMART PHONE APP TO AID BEEKEEPERS

The first-ever smart phone app about keeping healthy honey bees has been launched by Vita (Europe) Ltd, the world's largest dedicated bee health company. The app is free and gives beekeepers easy mobile access to information

and photographs about honey bee disease identification and treatment. To access the free Vita web app from your smart phone, simply use your internet browser to go to www.healthybeeguide.com The app requires an Internet connection, is not available from app stores, and will not store information on your phone.

The app is suitable for nearly all smart phones and tablet devices: Android, iPhones, iPads, and Blackberrys and the full range of smart mobiles.

~Source: *Catch the Buzz*, May 2013

US GOVERNMENT IMPOSES HIGHER IMPORT DUTIES ON CHINESE HONEY

The United States has set \$2.63 per kilogram as its preliminary rate for renewed duties against Chinese-made honey, seven months after concluding that removal of decade-old anti-dumping tariffs would likely hurt American producers. In a notice late last week, the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration said the duty covers imports from China in four product categories: natural honey, flavored honey, artificial honey containing over 50 percent natural honey by weight, and preparations of natural honey containing over 50 percent natural honey by weight.

~Source: *Catch the Buzz*, May 2013

MICHIGAN DROPS FROM 7TH TO 9TH IN HONEY PRODUCTION

HOPKINS, Mich. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says Michigan has dropped from 7th to 9th in honey production. According to the agency, 2012 honey production in the state fell 8.5 percent from the year before. Yields from Michigan's 76,000 colonies producing honey averaged 57 pounds in 2012 compared with 64 pounds the previous year.

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State apiary inspector Mike Hansen says beekeepers participated in a survey in April, 2013 to get a clearer picture of what's going on with Michigan's bee population. The survey ran through April 15. In it, beekeepers were asked about the number of hives they maintain and

their management practices.

~ *The Associated Press*, April 6, 2013

STINK BUG INVASION SET TO STRIKE MICHIGAN

After a long winter, spring finally arrived. That was good news. Now here's the bad: Michigan is starting to see the beginning of a stink bug infestation, according to Michigan State University entomologist Matt Grieshop. Grieshop says the "Brown Marmorated" — or Asian stink bug is showing up all over the state. The bug is Asian in origin and was first reported in the United States when it was discovered in Pennsylvania in 1996.

~ Source: WWJ, Detroit



"Brown Marmorated" Asian stink bug

DOG TRAINED TO SNIFF FOULBROOD IN AUSTRALIA

Bazz, the Australian beekeeping dog, is specially trained to sniff out American foulbrood, a devastating bee disease. But beekeeper Josh Kennett needed a way to keep Bazz safe while he did his work, so he engineered this protective, space-age canine suit for the bee-saving black Labrador.



"Bazz" outfitted for work
FUNGICIDES AND BEE SICKNESS

WASHINGTON — Researchers have unearthed another reason that bees might be getting sick, and they suspect it's connected to common

fungicides used on crops, such as blueberries and almonds, for which commercial honey bees are brought in as pollinators. A study the University of Maryland found that bees are more susceptible to a lethal parasite when they're exposed to fungus-killing chemicals. The reasons remain unknown, "Bees are bringing a lot of agriculture products home with them in the colony," said Dennis vanEngelsdorp, the study's senior author, "which is not new. We knew there were a lot of different exposures."

For more information type in Researchers are abuzz about bee sicknesses

~Source: *Morning Ag Clips*, July 26, 2013

MICHIGAN HONEY FESTIVAL

Honey extraction was demonstrated at the July 27th Imlay City Honey Festival by Clay Ottoni, Bill SIRR and Winn Harless. In addition, Rich Wieske grew his bee beard.



Glass enclosure for honey extraction

~Courtesy, Marie Sutherland Powers

BEEKEEPING MEETINGS IN SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN

Oakland Bee Club

For information contact Dennis Holly 248-542-1316 or Hollysapiaries@yahoo.com

Monroe Bee Club

For information contact Bill Bray at braybill@hotmail.com

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers

For information contact Richard Mendel 734-761-7861, or brescue@att.net

FESTIVAL OF THE HONEY BEE will be held September 6 to 8, 2013 in Ypsilanti. This festival was developed to create an opportunity to celebrate honey bees and honor the role they play in our experience of creativity and abundance. For further information, contact Lisa Bashert, 734-483-6420, or wombbat@umich.edu

COMB HONEY PRODUCTION FROM SWARM BEES

An article by James Tew entitled "How I do it – Honey Bee Swarms", published in the June 2013 issue of *Bee Culture*, sparked the interest of SEMBA member Randy Graichen of Ypsilanti, MI. In that article, Tew described a method for producing comb honey using a large captured swarm and placing it in a deep super with mostly capped honey and two drawn comb frames for the queen to lay eggs. Above the deep super he suggested placing a super with comb honey boxes. Tew admitted that he had never tried this procedure but suggested that someone reading the article might try it if they caught a large swarm.

On June 23, Randy actually captured a swarm of nearly five pounds and hived it in two 6 5/8" medium supers. On that same afternoon, he read the article by Tew and decided to try Tew's suggestion with certain modifications. He filled the hived swarm with capped honey frames and six drawn comb frames for the queen to lay eggs. He then placed a queen excluder above the bottom two supers and a 5 5/8" super with comb foundation. This hive was then moved to an apiary location that was showing a strong honey flow.

On July 28, examination of the comb honey super revealed that it was approximately 95% filled, capped and ready for harvest. Thanks for the idea Dr.Tew. It does work.

MICHIGAN STATE FAIR RETURNS FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2013

Michigan State Fair will be held Labor Day weekend, August 30 through September 2 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

FOR SALE

~ Bee equipment for sale: boxes, frames, plastic honey bear bottles, a four-frame extractor, frame assembler.
Contact: Kathryn Sampson, 313-565-9271.

~100 - 60# honey pails with lids at \$2.00 each. Contact: Ed Kielbasa at 1-810-329-2655.

FOR RENT

~ Two-frame motorized extractor for rent at \$25 a day. Weather permitting, I will be extracting my honey on Labor Day weekend (8/30/13-9/2/13). Anyone wanting to extract honey at my place (Romulus, Michigan), can call me at 313-999-3180 or e-mail me on m7mav@yahoo.com

HIVE LOCATION OFFERED

~ Manage a hive on my property in Canton, MI. I am near Michigan Avenue and Sheldon. I have 3 acres with about 1/2 acre in wildflowers. Contact: Janel deVries, 734-397-8953 or janeldv@comcast.net

NOTICE

~ Beware of selling honey to a person named *Abdul Aljhain* aka Abraham Abdullah. If you do sell to him, accept full payment in cash only. Allegedly checks written by this individual to several SEMBA members did not clear the bank.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

Oakland Beekeepers' Club

Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



SEMBA Membership
5488 Warren Road
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