



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 24 Number 6 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
October/November 2014

## SEMBA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your address label denotes N14, your dues become due in November 2014. Enclosed is a renewal application for your convenience. Email subscribers may use the Email renewal form when renewing their dues.

## SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING

**When:** Sunday, November 9, 2014

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

**Potluck: 1:00 p.m.** Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Coffee and tea will be provided by SEMBA.

Treasurer/Membership – Mary Sutherland  
(Nominations **Annual Meeting: 2:30 p.m.**)

~Committee reports

~Election of officers

Slate of nominees:

Vice President -- Winn Harless

will be accepted from the floor.)

## Program:

“**Current Trends in Beekeeping**” by Cindy Dudock, the Vice President of Saginaw Valley Beekeepers' Association. Cindy has had experiences in many aspects of beekeeping and was a presenter at the Michigan Beekeepers' Association Fall Conference.

## Door Prizes:

Five \$20.00 door prizes will be awarded.

Bring your beekeeping items for sale, trade or barter. Vendors are encouraged to attend.

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

## FALL MEETING REPORT

A standing-room-only attendance of 119 SEMBA members were present at the Schoolcraft Bee Club meeting held on September 21, 2014 at Schoolcraft College. The program featured the

following five SEMBA members who presented their innovative beekeeping devices and ideas: Paul Antonelli, Juanito Co, Winn Harless, Don Schram and Earl Hoffman. SEMBA hopes to feature these presentations in workshop sessions during the Beekeeping Conference held at Schoolcraft College on March 21, 2015.

Following the annual meeting, the SEMBA Board of Directors voted to establish an Educational Fund in honor of the late Gilbert Terry, Ed Nowak (still living) and others involved in teaching SEMBA's Beekeeping Courses. As the fund grows, SEMBA hopes to be able to assist deserving individuals in furthering their beekeeping education.

Donations to the fund now total \$225.62. If you wish to donate, please send your contribution to the SEMBA Treasurer, 5488 Warren Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425. Make checks payable to SEMBA.

The SEMBA Board also approved a motion to make a memorial contribution in memory of Gilbert Terry to the Michigan Beekeeping Research Fund of the Fremont Area Community Foundation. Memorial contributions to the Foundation continue to increase the value of this 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.

## USA: US SENATE BILL 662 TO PREVENT AND COMBAT THE IMPORTED HONEY

Vaughn Bryant is a Texas A&M anthropology professor and "melissopalynologist" (someone who studies the pollen in honey). In testing samples from stores and farmers' markets around the country, Bryant found that more than 75 percent of honey for sale has all the pollen filtered out, according to an A&M news release. "Large importing companies take all the pollen out of honey because they claim it makes the honey clearer and prevents crystallization, therefore making it easier to sell," Bryant said in the release. "But taking out the pollen also removes clues that show where the honey was

produced and what nectar sources are dominant," he said. That means honey sellers can pass off cheap honey as premium quality. To help prevent that, Bryant is supporting U.S. Senate Bill 662, introduced in March by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. The 200-page bill, known as the "Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Reauthorization Act of 2013," would require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to "address concerns that honey as well as contraband archaeological or ethnological material is being imported into the United States in violation of U.S. customs laws," among other things, according to the bill.

~*Catch the Buzz*, August, 2014

## VENOM GETS GOOD BUZZ AS POTENTIAL CANCER FIGHTER

SAN FRANCISCO, August 11, 2014 — Bee, snake or scorpion venom could form the basis of a new generation of cancer-fighting drugs. Scientists have devised a method for targeting venom proteins specifically to malignant cells while sparing healthy ones, which reduces or eliminates side effects that the toxins would otherwise cause. This discovery was reported as part of the 248th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society. The meeting, attended by thousands of scientists, featured nearly 12,000 reports on new advances in science and other topics. A brand-new video on the research is available at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRsUi5UrH7k&feature=youtu.be>

~Source: *ABJ Extra*, August 11, 2014

## WHAT IS IT?

The image below of an insect was used to illustrate the European honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, in an article about the decline of honey bees featured in the August 30, 2014 issue of *Michigan Farm News*. But is it? The answer is on page four.



## BACTERIA FROM BEES POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO ANTIBIOTICS

Raw honey has been used against infections for millennia, before honey -- as we now know it -- was manufactured and sold in stores. So what is the key to its antimicrobial properties? Researchers at Lund University in Sweden have identified a unique group of 13 lactic acid

bacteria found in fresh honey from the honey stomachs of bees. The bacteria produce a myriad of active antimicrobial compounds. These lactic acid bacteria have now been tested on severe human wound pathogens such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE), among others. When the lactic acid bacteria were applied to the pathogens in the laboratory, it counteracted all of them.

While the effect on human bacteria has only been tested in a lab environment thus far, the lactic acid bacteria has been applied directly to horses with persistent wounds. The LAB was mixed with honey and applied to ten horses where the owners had tried several other methods to no avail. All of the horses' wounds were healed by the mixture.

The researchers believe the secret to the strong results lie in the broad spectrum of active substances involved. "Antibiotics are mostly one active substance, effective against only a narrow spectrum of bacteria. When used alive, these 13 lactic acid bacteria produce the right kind of antimicrobial compounds as needed, depending on the threat. It seems to have worked well for millions of years of protecting bees' health and honey against other harmful microorganisms. However, since store-bought honey doesn't contain the living lactic acid bacteria, many of its unique properties have been lost in recent times," explains Tobias Olofsson. The next step is further studies to investigate wider clinical use against topical human infections as well as on animals. The findings have implications for developing countries, where fresh honey is easily available, but also for Western countries where antibiotic resistance is seriously increasing.

~Source: *Science Daily*, 8 September 2014. <[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/09/140908093741.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/09/140908093741.htm)>.

Submitted by David Wells

## USING HONEY PLANT BLOOMING TIME TO HELP MANAGE YOUR BEES

The blooming of certain flowers is a guide to know what to do next in hive management.

**LATE SPRING** - (DURING DANDELION BLOOM - MID TO LATE APRIL)

Remove mouse guards (entrance reducers) about the time when dandelions blossom.

Take down windbreaks and unwrap hives about the same time. Move top brood box from hive and switch it with the bottom brood box on

a windless day when temperatures are 55°F or above (called reversing). Remove dead bees and trash from the bottom board. Place foundation in the center of the upper deep for brood-nest expansion. Check weather forecasts, because bringing brood down near the entrance may kill some brood if the weather turns cold.

#### **EARLY SUMMER - (ABOUT APPLE BLOSSOM TIME)**

Add a queen excluder and two to four shallows to the two deep brood boxes to allow plenty of room for honey and pollen storage. Some beekeepers add one empty shallow at a time making sure all the frames are 1/2 to 2/3 filled before adding an additional super. This is a matter of choice, but requires additional trips to the hive to check the bees' progress.

#### **LATE SUMMER, EARLY FALL - (EARLY GOLDENROD BLOSSOM)**

Remove surplus honey and queen excluders if you have not yet done so. Some beekeepers prefer to re-queen in late August or early September instead of the Spring. Add extender patties to the top bars of each hive. Treat all colonies to prevent disease.

#### **EARLY WINTER - ASTER BLOSSOM**

Check winter stores. Bees need about 60 lbs or more, 2 deep supers of honey for the winter.

Install windbreaks around hives if they are not naturally protected. Tip the hive forward slightly to prevent rain from running down the bottom board and accumulating in the hive. The rear of the colony can be raised slightly by shimming. Wrap or insulate colonies before severe weather arrives.

#### **BEEKEEPING MEETINGS IN SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN**

Oakland Bee Club  
For information contact Dennis Holly,  
248-542-1316 or [Hollysapiaries@yahoo.com](mailto:Hollysapiaries@yahoo.com)

Monroe Bee Club  
For information contact Bill Bray at  
[braybill@hotmail.com](mailto:braybill@hotmail.com)

Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers  
For information contact Meghan Milbrath,  
651-428-0543, [a2b2club@gmail.com](mailto:a2b2club@gmail.com)

Biodynamic Beekeeping, Ann Arbor  
Contact Eileen Dickinson at 734-717-4145.

Pine River Bee Club, Goodells, MI  
For information, contact 810-364-5477.

#### **IDEAS FOR CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS AND SEMBA MEETINGS NEEDED**

If you have any ideas for workshops held during the SEMBA Beekeeping Conference in March 2015, or ideas for SEMBA meetings or ideas for the [sembabees.org](http://sembabees.org) web site, please contact any of the following:

#### **SEMBA LEADERS**

President: Clay Ottoni .....[ceottoni@gmail.com](mailto:ceottoni@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Winn Harless  
[winnbees@gmail.com](mailto:winnbees@gmail.com)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: John Haynes.....  
[jkhaynes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkhaynes@sbcglobal.net)

Secretary: Sandy/Randy Graichen.....  
[kyger7@hotmail.com](mailto:kyger7@hotmail.com)

Treasurer: Mary Sutherland.....  
[rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:rsuther30@gmail.com)

Past President: Roger Sutherland.....  
[rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:rsuther30@gmail.com)

Web Master: Tom Lisk.....[tosk@comcast.net](mailto:tosk@comcast.net)

Beginning Beekeeping Course:  
Mike Siarkowski.....[misiark@gmail.com](mailto:misiark@gmail.com)

Advanced Bee Class Leader:  
Winn Harless..... [winnbees@gmail.com](mailto:winnbees@gmail.com)

SEMBA Host: Randy Graichen.....  
[kyger7@hotmail.com](mailto:kyger7@hotmail.com)

Historian: Ron Forfini.....[forfinr1@nlbusa.com](mailto:forfinr1@nlbusa.com)

SEMBA Representative to MBA:  
Rich Wieske...[rich@greentogardens.com](mailto:rich@greentogardens.com)

SEMBA Director:  
Fritz Sanders.....[fs0449@earthlink.net](mailto:fs0449@earthlink.net)

SEMBA Director:  
Don Schram.....[don.schram@gmail.com](mailto:don.schram@gmail.com)

#### **A BIT OF A MYSTERY**

At the SEMBA picnic I was a door prize winner of a queen which I used to start an observation hive for a demonstration. After the demonstration, I removed the frames and placed them into a five-frame nuc. Two weeks later, there was a need to reestablish the observation hive but when I opened the nuc the bees were gone and the cluster was nowhere to be found. Two days later, however, the bees had returned to the nuc. Did they realize that they had made a mistake? Any thoughts would be appreciated.

~Submitted by Roger Sutherland

## SEMBA's 2015 ADVANCED BEEKEEPING COURSE

Based upon interest shown, SEMBA may offer the Advanced Beekeeping Course in 2015. Because enrollment is limited, SEMBA members will be given preference; therefore, it is wise to place your name on the priority list now by contacting [rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:rsuther30@gmail.com). SEMBA members receive a discounted tuition rate.

The 2015 course syllabus is not posted yet on the [sembabees.org](http://sembabees.org) web site, but if you go to [sembabees.org](http://sembabees.org), click on Education and then on the 2014 Advanced Beekeeping Course syllabus to see what advanced topics are covered.

Requirements:

(1) Either satisfactory completion of SEMBA's Beekeeping Course for Beginners or at least four years of successful experience in beekeeping. (2) At least one strong hive (preferably 3 or more hives) at your location and the legal right to add at least one additional hive (2 preferred). (3) Equipment to make at least two nucs (more recommended), two nuc boxes and your own queen-marking equipment.

## SEMBA's 2015 BEGINNING BEEKEEPING COURSE

SEMBA would like to congratulate the 32 beekeepers who recently completed the 13 session Beginning Beekeeping Course. Plans are now underway for a 2015 Beginning Beekeeping Course. As in the past, SEMBA members will be given preference in enrolling. Interested members are encouraged to place their names on the priority list by contacting [rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:rsuther30@gmail.com).

## ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ON PAGE TWO

The image pictured is not the honey bee, *Apis mellifera*. It is some species of fly.

### SEMBA Bargain Corner

**For Sale:**

~ Raw, unfiltered honey in five gallon lots. Contact Paul at [734-269-2794](tel:734-269-2794).

**Wanted:**

~ Beeswax wanted. Contact Janice at [586-604-8012](tel:586-604-8012)

**Notice:**

~Honey/beeswax for sale or honey/beeswax wanted: Send your name to the Sutherlands, 5488 Warren, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, or [rsuther@hotmail.com](mailto:rsuther@hotmail.com). Names will be printed in the next newsletter and posted on the [sembabees.org](http://sembabees.org) web pages.

**Note:** Ads in Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact [rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:rsuther30@gmail.com).

## Hopguard Update for Michigan Beekeepers

The following link to the MSU ANR News article posted by Julianna Wilson provides information on how beekeepers can provide feedback regarding their use of Hopguard, or Hopguard 2 used as a Section 18 Pesticide for the control of Varroa Mite in 2014. This year MDARD will be collecting information on use based on a short survey (link is located near the end of the article). MDARD uses the information received in order to request subsequent Section 18 labels on these products. The survey can also be found on the MDARD web site at [http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-2390\\_45088-94580--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-2390_45088-94580--,00.html)

The survey asks several questions related to the use and value of the Hopguard products to the apiaary industry in Michigan. The survey can be printed and mailed back to MDARD, or it can be e-mailed to MDARD following instructions on the survey.

Southeastern Michigan  
Beekeepers' Association  
*Organized April 1, 1934*

SEMBA Membership  
5488 Warren Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105 9425