



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 24 Number 7 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association
December 2014/January 2015

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

On November 9, 2014, the annual meeting of SEMBA was held at Schoolcraft College. Following a potluck dinner, SEMBA President Clay Ottoni called the business meeting to order. Minutes of the 2013 annual meeting were read by secretary Sandy Graichen and approved by the membership. The treasurer's report for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014 was as follows:

Balance forward...	\$28,256.78
Income.....	\$707.00
Total.....	\$28,963.78
Expenses.....	\$288.32
Balance.....	\$28,675.46

John Haynes, 2nd vice president, reported that the treasurer's records for the past fiscal year were accurate and in good order.

Newly elected to the position of 1st vice president was Senad Livadic. Mary Sutherland was re-elected treasurer and membership person.

After the business meeting, Cindy Dudock, vice president of the Saginaw Valley Beekeepers' Association, spoke about current trends in beekeeping.

77th ANNUAL BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE

On Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association (SEMBA) will hold its annual conference in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft Community College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan.

Dr. Lawrence J. Connor will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Connor received his Ph.D. in entomology from Michigan State University and has authored and published over a dozen books on bees, beekeeping, queen rearing and pollination and is a regular contributor to *Bee Culture* and the *American Bee Journal*.

Dr. Connor will present three morning keynote sessions:

- (1) The Sustainable Apiary

- (2) Queen Bee Biology and Behavior
- (3) An Easy Way to Make a Nucleus Colony

The afternoon program will be filled with session tracks for the beginning and advanced beekeeper including presentations on hive hardware, bee products, queen rearing and other current topics in beekeeping. The day will conclude with a Q&A session for beginners as well as an advanced beekeeping session with Dr. Connor.

Suppliers of bees, beekeeping equipment, bee products and literature will be available throughout the day.

Lunch will be available at a number of convenient locations near the college or you may bring a sack lunch. Visit the Education link at sembabees.org for more conference information.

VOLUNTEERS TO WORK AT CONFERENCE ARE NEEDED

In order to conduct the March 21, 2015 all-day conference, the assistance of many volunteers is required. Therefore, please consider giving your assistance in areas such as registration, vendor set-up, selling raffle tickets, assisting with door prize distribution, or assisting conference chair persons. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the areas listed above, please contact any of the following:
John & Kim Haynes... jkhaynes@sbcglobal.net
Clay Ottoni ceottoni@gmail.com
Winn Harless winnbees@gmail.com
Sandy&Randy Graichen... kyger7@hotmail.com
Mary Sutherland..... rsuther30@gmail.com
Keith Lazar..... keithmlazar@hotmail.com
Volunteers receive free conference admission.

OTHER BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE DATES TO REMEMBER

March 13 -14, 2015, Michigan ANR Beekeeping Conference, Kellogg Center, East Lansing, MI.

July 9, 10 & 11, 2015, Heartland Apicultural Society (HAS), Albion College, Albion, MI.

TIPS FROM BILL

The next time you find a swarm in your apiary and would like to know from which hive it came, try this. Into an empty can with a lid, put a teaspoonful of flour and some bees from the swarm cluster. Shake the can until the bees are covered with flour, then turn them loose and watch to see which colony they choose to enter. This will work almost every time, telling you which colony swarmed.

~Submitted by Bill Sirr

BEE CULTURE WEBSITE REVISION

Bee Culture website has made a number of changes lately and will add a lot not there before. Jim Tew is putting together a Best Information page that will be the place to go for good, safe and accurate information. New individuals will be joining the list of vetters so you will get second and third opinions. The industry directory will be revised. The FIND A BEEKEEPER link for most of the state and county associations will be updated. Beekeeping historical information, beekeeping science contacts, a digital calendar and beekeeping archives will still be a feature.

~Source: November 2014 *Bee Culture*

CANDY BOARD USE

Winter feeding recipe:

15 lbs. sugar

3 lbs. white corn syrup

4 cups water

½ tsp. cream of tartar

Dissolve the sugar in water and stir while heating the mixture to 240 degrees F. Let the syrup cool to about 180 degrees F., then beat until thickened and pour into the board (like an inner cover with higher sides and no hole) to harden. Once the candy is hardened boards can be put onto the colonies candy side down over the top frames. Some beekeepers pour the candy into wax paper lined molds and then put these blocks on the frames while the inner cover is placed, with the deep side down, over them. Make the blocks no thicker than the depth of the inner cover rim.

~Source: Roger Hoopingarner

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 stomach 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 (LAB) 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.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/09/140908093741.htm>

Science Daily, September 8, 2014

~Submitted by David Wells

NEW BEE CLUB FORMING - PETOSKEY, MI

After months of conversation and an exciting season of northern beekeeping, a small group of local beekeepers has decided that the time is right for a gathering of interested folks to discuss what a local beekeeping group might look like, could do, and would want to see happen.

~Contact Brian Bates (231) 340-0104
<http://bearcreekorganicfarm.com>

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 Meghan Milbrath,
651-428-0543, 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.

USDA TO PROVIDE \$4 MILLION FOR HONEY BEE HABITAT

WASHINGTON, Oct.29, 2014 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that more than \$4 million in technical and financial assistance will be provided to help farmers and ranchers in the Midwest improve the health of honey bees, which play an important role in crop production.

“The future of America’s food supply depends on honey bees, and this effort is one way USDA is helping improve the health of honey bee populations,” Vilsack said. “Significant progress has been made in understanding the factors that are associated with Colony Collapse Disorder and the overall health of honey bees, and this funding will allow us to work with farmers and ranchers to apply that knowledge over a broader area.”

An estimated \$15 billion worth of crops is pollinated by honey bees, including more than 130 fruits and vegetables. USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is focusing the effort on five Midwestern states: Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. This announcement renews and expands a successful \$3 million pilot investment that was announced earlier this year and continues to have high levels of interest. This effort also contributes to the June 2014 Presidential Memorandum – Creating a Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, which directs USDA to expand the acreage and forage value in its conservation programs. Funding will be through the Environmental Quality Program.

~Source: ABJ Extra October 29, 2014.

SEMBA 2015 BEEKEEPING COURSE FOR BEGINNERS TO BE OFFERED

General Overview of Course:

This course is designed for beginners to learn about the biology of the honey bee, the honey bee hive, tools needed to work with honey bees, feeding honey bees, seasonal management, honey extraction, and honey bee disease identification. Students will attend thirteen sessions of basic beginning beekeeping instruction including lecture and hands-on field experience. Each student will maintain a hive at Tollgate Farm in Novi for the duration of the course and then move their hive to their permanent location at the end of the course.

For the past three years, SEMBA has had more applicants for the Beginning Beekeeping Course than could be accepted. Because of this overwhelming response, SEMBA has established a priority list giving preference to SEMBA members and an alternate list for non-members. To be placed on the priority list contact the course registrars Roger and Mary Sutherland by e-mail: rsuther@sembabees.org or call 734-668-8568.



CLAY OTTONI DEMONSTRATING AN OVER-WINTERED HIVE TO THE CLASS AT TOLLGATE.

EAGLE SCOUT REQUEST

My name is Elias Pagurko and I am a beekeeper and a member of the Pine River Bee Club. I am working on my Boy Scout Eagle Project and I am asking for your help.

My project is to make two complete bee hives and stock them with bees. Upon completion, I will be placing them at the Pine River Nature Center for educational purposes and to the Pine River Bee Club for maintenance. Would you be willing to consider a donation of material or money to help with this project?
Elias Pagurko, 4851 Lorwood Dr., Kimball, MI 48074

HONEY BEE HIVE SEALANT PROMOTES HAIR GROWTH IN MICE

Hair loss can be a devastating for millions of men and women who experience it. Now scientists are reporting that a substance from honey bee hives might contain clues for developing a potential new therapy for hair loss. They found that the material, called propolis, encouraged hair growth in mice. The study appears in ACS' *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.

Ken Kobayashi and colleagues note that propolis is a resin-like material that honey bees use to seal small gaps in their hives. Not only does it work as a physical barrier, but it also contains active compounds that fight fungal and bacterial invasions. People from ancient times had noticed propolis' special properties and used it to treat tumors, inflammation and wounds. More recently, research has shown that the substance promotes the growth of certain cells involved in hair growth though no one had yet tested whether that in turn would result in new locks. Kobayashi's team wanted to find out.

When the researchers tested propolis on mice that had been shaved or waxed, the mice that received the treatment regrew their fur faster than those that didn't. The scientists also noticed that after the topical application, the number of special cells involved in the process of growing hair increased. Although they tried the material on mice that could grow fur rather than balding mice, the researchers note that hair loss conditions often result from abnormal inflammation. Propolis contains anti-inflammatory compounds, so they expect it could help treat balding conditions. They add that further testing is needed to see if the beehive material affects human hair follicles.

Source: American Chemical Society, December 10, 2014

~Submitted by David Wells

SEMBA Bargain Corner

Hive location offered:

Hartland area, US 23 and Clyde Road. Contact Joe Keehi, 734-740-0599.

Notice:

If you have honey or beeswax for sale, your name can be listed in SEMBA's newsletter or on the SEMBA website. To have your name listed, please call Roger Sutherland at 734-668-8568 or email him at rsuther30@gmail.com

Free:

Panasonic printer, Model KX-P1124. Call Roger Sutherland at 734-668-8568 or by email, rsuther30@gmail.com

For Sale:

3 pound package w/queen, \$105. Deliveries April 5,19, 26, May 3,17. Five frame medium nucs, \$140.
Contact Robert Jastrzebski. 734-748-2185 or email Bob@cimsurf.com

Note: Ads in the Bargain Corner are free to SEMBA members. To place an ad, contact Roger Sutherland, rsuther30@gmail.com.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club