



# SEMBA NEWS

Volume 25 Number 1 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association  
Email edition February/March 2015

## 77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SEMBA BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 21, 2015  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE  
VisTaTech Center 18600 Haggerty Road  
(between 6 & 7 Mile Roads)  
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

Park in the North Campus parking lot  
that is close to the VisTaTech Center  
entrance

**Please enter through the VisTaTech Center  
entrance. All other doors will be locked.**

**VENDORS INTERESTED IN A TABLE AT  
THE 2015 SEMBA CONFERENCE,  
PLEASE CONTACT KEITH LAZAR, (248)  
361-1710, [keithmlazar@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmlazar@hotmail.com)**

The 77th Annual SEMBA Beekeepers' Conference is a one-day event designed for beekeepers as well as those who are considering keeping honey bees for the first time. **There is a \$15 per person registration fee at-the-door for each SEMBA member, and a \$25 per person registration fee at-the-door for each non-member.** No pre-registration is necessary. SEMBA members **will** be able to renew their memberships. **No new memberships will be taken at registration.** 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*.

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**7:30-9:20am** Registration, VisTaTech Center

**7:30-8:10am** Video:

**8:10-8:20am** Welcome by Clay Ottoni

### 8:20-11:30am Three Keynote Addresses by Dr. Connor

The Sustainable Apiary, 8:30-9:15

Break 9:15 to 9:45

Queen Bee Biology and Behavior, 9:45-10:30

Break 10:30 to 11:00

An Easy Way to Make a Nucleus Colony, 11:00  
to 11:45

11:45 Announcement by Rich Wieske regarding the 150th Anniversary celebration of MBA as well as SEMBA's involvement in the Heartland Midwest Beekeeping Conference (July 9-11, 2015) at Albion College in Albion, MI.

11:55 Review of Concurrent Sessions and Explanation of the silent auction and door-prizes – Clay Ottoni

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch  
Vendor Displays (DiPonio Room A & B)

There will be **no potluck**. You may bring a sack lunch or visit an area restaurant. Coffee available in the Lower Waterman area.

### 1:30-2:30pm First Concurrent Session

- 1) Getting Started in Beekeeping  
– Mike Siarkowski
- 2) Swarm Catching and Trapping  
– Winn Harless
- 3) Bee Nutrition – Earl Hoffman
- 4) Creamed Honey – Todd Justman
- 5) Building a Website for your Bee Business  
--Joan Mandell

### 2:40-3:40pm Second Concurrent Session

- 1) Equipment Essentials -- Clay Ottoni
- 2) Winterizing Honey Bees -- Paul Antonelli
- 3) Queen Rearing Dynamics and Grafting  
Techniques -- Paul Mazur
- 4) Beeswax From Start to Finish  
--Judy Schmaltz
- 5) Bee-ing a Good Mentor or Mentee  
-- Charlotte Hubbard

### 3:50-4:50pm Third Concurrent Session

- 1) Bee-ginner Panel Discussion --  
Chair: - Mike Siarkowski
- 2) Embracing the Swarm and Spring Clean-up  
- Rich Wieske

- 3) Advanced Panel Discussion  
Chair: - Winn Harless
- 4) Starting a Bee Product Business  
- Don & Donna Schram
- 5) Top Bar Hives -- -- Keith Steller

**4:50 Silent Auction results and Closing**  
- Clay Ottoni

**SPECIAL FEATURES OF CONFERENCE:**

**DOOR PRIZES**

All bee-conference attendees will receive a door-prize ticket when they register. Door prize winners will be listed on a flip chart.

**SILENT AUCTION**

You will have an opportunity to bid on package bees, a Langstroth hive and other beekeeping items. If you have items to place in the Silent Auction, please bring them to the conference. All proceeds benefit SEMBA.

**LIST OF VENDORS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE**

To save shipping charges and to be assured that a vendor has what you want, it is advisable to place your order with the vendor before attending the conference.

- Ypsi Melisa 207-381-6055  
Wicwas Press 269-364-3304  
Dadant's 877-932-3268  
Huron City Bees 248-310-8205  
Northern Bee 989-370-4841  
Steller Apiaries 517-304-8544  
Turtlebee & Honeytree Farm 810-266-4880  
Cutler Supply 810-633-9450  
Buggsnest LLC 248-361-1710  
Anthony Bee Farms 810-516-0779  
Golden Harvest Apiaries 810-338-1523  
Creations by Leslie  
Mite Zapper LLC 313-897-4370 x-230  
Napoleon Bee Supply 517-499-0439  
T.M. Klein & Son's 989-865-9377

**OTHER BEEKEEPING EVENT DATES TO REMEMBER**

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

March 29, 2015, 2:00pm (Sunday) SEMBA meets at Tollgate Educational Center, Meadowbrook at 12 Mile, Novi, MI. Attendees will have an opportunity to buy and assemble equipment or bring items to swap.

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

July 11, 2015, SEMBA summer picnic in conjunction with the HAS at Albion College in Albion, Michigan.

May 3, 2015, (Sunday) SEMBA meeting, Lower Waterman Center, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI

1:30 pm Potluck

2:30 pm Program:

“Spring Tune Up” -- Making nucs or splits and other spring-management activities  
“New FDA Regulations Affecting Beekeeping”  
Stephen Sutherland, DVM, Senior Director Regulatory Affairs, Zoetis Animal Health

**2014-2015 WINTER-LOSS SURVEY**

- 1)How many of your hives were alive in September 2014? \_\_\_\_\_  
2) How many hives are alive now? \_\_\_\_\_  
Send your results to **rsuther30@gmail.com**

**2013-2014 Winter Loss survey**

Total number of hives reported alive, September 2013.....581  
Total number of hives reported alive, March 15, 2014.....256  
**Survival 44%      Loss 56%**

**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 Megan Milbrath, (651)-428-0543, or [a2b2club@gmail.com](mailto:a2b2club@gmail.com)
- Biodynamic Beekeeping, Ann Arbor  
For information contact Eileen Dickinson at (734)-717-4145.
- Pine River Bee Club, Goodells, MI  
For information contact (810)-364-5477.

**NEW DIRECTOR NAMED**

MSU Entomology Department has hired Dr. Meghan Milbrath to serve as the Pollination Directive Director.

## JUDY SCHMALTZ DOES IT AGAIN



### **ABF HONEY COMPETITION, JANUARY, 2015**

Creamed honey – First place  
Comb honey -- First place  
Artistic beeswax – Special Award  
Best of Show award  
Several liquid honey and beeswax awards  
Honey, wax and other entries are auctioned.  
Judy's artistic beeswax flowers were sold for \$500.00. Her contributions generated about \$2,000.00 for the Honey Queen Program.

### **HONEY HARVEST EVENT**

After the fall honey harvest, we go to a local watering hole and have an interesting bee related event. I would like to tell you what a group of us hockey players, also bee keepers, did again recently. We each bring a sample of our recent season's honey and have a taste test contest. Unique fun! Winner gets his name on a legacy trophy and the responsibility to host the following season's contest. It's amazing how much the samples vary in color and flavor from yard to yard even though the bees all reside in a fairly tight radius. -----Ned Glysson,

### **CONTACTS NEEDED**

If you have bees, beeswax, nucs, and local honey for sale and wish to have your name listed send your name and items available to:  
[Rsuther30@gmail.com](mailto:Rsuther30@gmail.com)



Submitted by Wayne Titus

## **GAAMP FOR BEEKEEPING CLARIFIED**

On Wednesday, Jan. 21, the Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development voted on proposed changes to the 2015 Generally Accepted Agricultural management Practices.. Michigan State Apiarist Mike Hansen explained at the time of the proposed change that the intent was to elevate the high speed "beeline" flight honeybees make as they leave the hive to seek nectar. One clarification added the word "developed" to the description of neighboring property. That clarification helps in cases where a parcel that has a house or barn etc. near the front but the remaining acreage is vacant, or in crops or trees, so that barriers may not be necessary.

The second language change clarified that the barrier only needed to be placed on the side of the hive where the bees enter and exit -- not around an entire lot.

Suggested GAAMP Hive Placement recommendations in urban/suburban situations:

Hives must be located in a quiet area of the lot. Hives must be oriented so that a direct line of flight from the hive entrance does not impact living areas on neighboring properties.

When placing hives on small lots or at locations within 200 feet of any developed portion of property a solid fence, wall, or dense vegetative barrier capable of interrupting the direct flight of bees shall be used to redirect the bee's flight pattern and prevent a direct line of flight from the hives into neighboring properties. The barrier shall start at the ground, be a minimum of six feet in height and shall extend beyond the direct line of sight from the entrance to the hive to the neighboring or adjacent property. Hives must not be placed along property lines unless a solid fence, wall or dense vegetative barrier capable of interrupting the direct flight of bees forms the property boundary. Hives placed in elevated locations need to be placed so bees do not have a direct line of flight to neighboring properties with elevated living areas. Do not place hives next to roads, sidewalks, and public rights of way. Hive entrances should face so that bees fly across your property. If this is impossible, use barriers (hedges, shrubs, or fencing six to twelve feet high) to redirect the bees' flight pattern.

MSFC, the Ag Commission, MDARD, and the Michigan Beekeepers Association all agreed to this solution

### **VENDOR REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY!**

Vendor registration is underway for the **4th Annual Michigan Honey Festival!** in Frankenmuth MI August 1st 2015, 9am to 5pm.

- Vendor registration starts now through June 14th.
- Returning vendors wishing to keep their same spot as last year, but you need to get registered by April 31st to save that spot!
- Early Bird Special saves on booth space! Check out the insert for all the vendor info. Please note that you need to complete registration by March 31st for the discount, **no** exceptions!
- Tables & chairs are not included this year, sorry. We are however offering rental at a reasonable price, and will have them set up for you at your booth!
- Sponsors can get their booth(s) for free including table & chairs, along with several other "perks". Some worth (up to) and over \$700.00!
- As a vendor you will also have be one of the first to have an opportunity to purchase a very limited amount of tickets to a Friday evening "Mead Tasting Event"! This event will be by ticket only for a special event tasting several Michigan Made Meads and to vote for your favorite mead. This is a Commercial (Blind Tasting) Competition with you as the judge! More details to come.

Any questions on obtaining application forms or payments online, please email us: [Mihoneyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:Mihoneyfestival@gmail.com), [WWW.MICHIGANHONEYFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.MICHIGANHONEYFESTIVAL.COM)

---

### **SEMBA Bargain Corner**

#### **Wanted:**

- ~Local honey and beeswax in Macomb or East/Northeast Oakland counties. Call Christina 586-623-8151 (cell) or email her at [cschroth@gmail.com](mailto:cschroth@gmail.com)
- ~Apple orchard at 10685 Warren Rd., Plymouth MI. Looking for honey bees for pollination. 15 acres of no-spray apple trees and 80 acres of natural wildlife (3 ponds). Contact Marni Carnahan at 313-580-9580 or [marnicarnahan@gmail.com](mailto:marnicarnahan@gmail.com)

#### **For Sale:**

- ~Bees. 3# package w/queen, \$105. Deliveries April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 17. Five-frame medium nucs, \$140. Contact Robert Jastrzebski. 734-748-2185 or ([Bob@cimsurf.com](mailto:Bob@cimsurf.com))
- ~Bees. 2# package w/queen, \$92, 3# package, \$102 Deliveries April 19, 26, May 3 & 17. Contact Mike Siarkowski, 517-545-0824 or email ([misiark@gmail.com](mailto:misiark@gmail.com))
- ~Bees. 3# package from Wilbanks Apiaries, Georgia. Pick-up date April 22, 2015. Call Blanche Barber, 248-634-7017.
- ~Honey. 60 lb bucket of honey. \$160.00 w/bkt exchange. Call Dave: 810-441- 2012
- ~Beekeeping equipment and bees.. 3 # package with Italian unmarked queen \$105.00 prepaid. Tentative delivery dates: April 4, 19, May 2 Contact Keith Lazar, 248-361-1710, or email [keithmlazar@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmlazar@hotmail.com)
- ~Wax. 28 pounds of wax for sale. 11 pounds is super clean and ready for candlemaking \$10/lb.. 17 pounds is a little darker. \$6/lb. Please contact Roxane @ [mrhook@provide.net](mailto:mrhook@provide.net) or [734-216-0418](tel:734-216-0418).

---

Below is a link to an article about an Australian working on a hive with an alternate harvest method.  
Submitted by Rick Katterman

<http://www.iflscience.com/technology/better-beehive-looks-sweet-aspiring-apiarists>

---

### **IOTRON DAY**

We are Iotron Industries USA, an electron beam irradiation service provider. We host an annual Apiary Day each year, providing beekeepers in the region a hive sterilization service that promotes a clean environment to raise a healthy hive and increased brood.

Apiary Day this year is Friday, March 20. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Aaron Starkey  
Sales & Marketing Manager  
Iotron Industries USA Inc. | 4394 East Park 30 Drive | Columbia City, IN | 46725 USA  
Tel: (260) 212-1722 Ext 302 | Mobil: (260) 582-1008 | Fax: (260) 244-2762  
E-mail: [astarkey@iotron.com](mailto:astarkey@iotron.com) | Web: [www.iotron.com](http://www.iotron.com)

Submitted by Clay Ottoni

## **ARE NORTHERN QUEENS BETTER FOR NORTHERN BEEKEEPERS?**

**VinceAloyo**

Master beekeeper, Erin MacGregor-Forbes, performed an experiment to answer that question. Funded by a series of SARE grants, compared three groups of bees: northern raised nucs, southern packages with southern queens, and southern packages that were later requeened with northern raised queens. Erin evaluated the colonies on a variety of parameters (her inspection sheet is available on the SARE website: <http://www.nesare.org/Dig-Deeper/Pictures-Stories-and-Video/Video-vault/Winter-hardybees?ga=1.98520159.1928210793.1409229269>).

To determine the colonies' ability to survive the Maine winter, Erin evaluated all the colonies the following spring. Eighty three percent of the northern nucs were rated average to strong the following spring. Similarly, 90 percent of the packages that were requeened with northern queens were average to strong. In contrast, only forty two percent of the southern packages with southern queen were average to strong in the spring. Erin has repeated this experiment twice with similar outcomes. Erin's results suggest that requeening packages with northern queens will increase winter survival. This is especially valuable information for increasing the overwintering success of new beekeepers.

Submitted by Clay Ottoni

## **SEEK FORAGE**

Planting healthy forage with clean nectar and pollen is one important way to really help the bees. Each spring the County Soil Conservation Services have tree and shrub sales with great prices. Deadlines for ordering are approaching quickly. If you can plant, we urge you to place your order. Every county has its own offerings and more detailed information about how to plant and other services like rental of tree planting machines and other fun stuff!

### **Jackson County Tree Sale**

**Order deadline is March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

<http://www.jacksoncd.org/treeplant-sales/spring-tree-sale/>  
<http://www.jacksoncd.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/2015-catalog-draft-21.pdf>

### **Lapeer County Tree Sale**

**No current information for 2015.**

<http://lapeercd.org/>

### **Livingston County Tree Sale**

**Online ordering will begin Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.**

<http://www.livingstoncd.org/tree-sale-buy>

### **Macomb County Tree Sale**

**No current information for 2015.**

<http://www.macombconservationdistrict.org/>

**Oakland Country Tree Sale**

Order deadline is April 9<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.oaklandconservationdistrict.org/tree-sale.html>

**Sanilac and St. Clair County Tree Sale**

Order deadline is April 6th.

<http://www.sanilaccd.org/st.clair>

**Washtenaw County Tree Sale**

Order deadline is for:

Trees & Shrubs: March 25, 2015 and Native Plants: April 29, 20

<http://washtenawcd.org/ps/treeplantsale.php>

**Wayne County Tree Sale**

No current information for 2015. Last year order deadline were the first week in April

<http://www.waynecd.org/>

More counties in Michigan can be found at:

<http://greatlakespermacultureportal.com/2014/02/conservation-district-tree-sales/>

Residence of a county is generally NOT required to place an order.

Information about good plants for honeybees can be found at:

<http://greatlakespermacultureportal.com/2014/02/conservation-district-tree-sales/>

Information about good plants for honeybees can be found at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern\\_American\\_nectar\\_sources\\_for\\_honey\\_bees](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_American_nectar_sources_for_honey_bees)

Submitted by Clay Ottoni

~~~~~

**Bayer Bee Care Community Leadership Award**

Hello Fellow Beekeeper,

**I wanted to alert you that Bayer CropScience is sending you a package of applications and other information about our [2015 Bayer Bee Care Community Leadership Award](#).**

The Bayer Bee Care Community Leadership Award recognizes a beekeeper who uses his/her interest in and commitment to honey bees to benefit the community in which he/she lives. Entrants are judged on their ability to improve a community through beekeeping.

The recipient is awarded \$5,000 to aid in the advancement of the winning initiative and an all-expense paid trip to a reception during [National Pollinator Week](#), June 15-21. (Location to be announced.)

We hope you will distribute the materials we are sending (also attached to this email) to your members and in your newsletter to those who might be interested in applying for this year's award. Deadline for applications is Friday, April 3, 2015. The materials included are:

1. Award Overview Letter
2. Award Applications

3. Award Fliers
4. Bayer Bee Care Program Brochure

Please see [www.pollinatorweek.bayer.com](http://www.pollinatorweek.bayer.com) for more information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [sarah.myers@bayer.com](mailto:sarah.myers@bayer.com) or [919-549-5303](tel:919-549-5303).

Many thanks!

Sarah Myers

Event Manager / Apiarist

Bayer Bee Care Center - NA

Bayer CropScience LP

Research Triangle Park,

Tel: [+1 919 549 5303](tel:+19195495303)

E-mail: [sarah.myers@bayer.com](mailto:sarah.myers@bayer.com)

Web: [Commitment to Bee Health](#)

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

Oakland Beekeepers' Club



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



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