



SEMBA NEWS

Volume 26 Number 1 Newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association

January, 2016

SEMBA WINTER MEETING

When: Saturday, January 30, 2016

Where: Room A219

Wayne County Community College
9555 Haggerty Road
Belleville, MI

Directions: Take the Ecorse exit 20 off I 275.

Go west a short distance to Haggerty Rd.
Turn left and go south 1.07 miles on
Haggerty Road. Just beyond Tyler Road,
WCCC is on the left. Enter the main
entrance of the college.

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Program: What to look for and consider
before building beekeeping equipment. How
to build beekeeping equipment and how to
work with miss-matched equipment.

Keith Lazar and Winn Harless

Door prizes

2nd Vice President.....Theresa Morin
Secretary....Sandy/Randy Graichen
Treasurer.....Wayne Titus III
(Term: April 2016 – November 2018)
MBA Representative...Rich Wieske

Announcements at the Annual Meeting:

Tammy and Brad Bonifield will be the new
SEMBA News editors.

Postal mail delivery of the SEMBA News will be
phased out in one year.

SEMBA will offer a 2016 Beekeeping Course for
Beginners and an Advanced Course in 2017.

SEMBA LEADERS

President.....Clay Ottoni
1st Vice President.....Senad Livadic
2nd Vice President.....Theresa Morin
Secretary.....Randy/Sandy Graichen
Treasureruntil April 2016---Mary Sutherland
Treasurer.....April 2016-November 2018
Wayne Titus III
Past President.....Roger Sutherland
Web Master.....Tom Lisk
SEMBA Host.....Randy Graichen
Historian.....Ron Forfinski
SEMBA Representative to MBA.....Rich Wieske
SEMBA Director.....Fritz Sanders
SEMBA Director.....Don Schram
SEMBA Newsletter editors ,,.....Tammy Bonifield
Brad Bonifield

SEMBA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

On December 6, 2016, the annual meeting of SEMBA was held at Schoolcraft College. This year the potluck was especially enhanced by the chocolates and wonderful desserts supplied by SEMBA member Francois Faloppa, a chef at Macomb County Community College. Following the potluck, SEMBA President Clay Ottoni called the business meeting to order. Minutes of the 2015 annual meeting were read by secretary Sandy Graichen and approved by the membership. Mary Sutherland presented the treasurer's report for the fiscal year of October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.

Balance forward....\$28,256.78
Income.....\$22,234.34
Total.....\$50,491.12
Expenses.....\$16,824.38
Balance.....\$33,666.74

Wayne Titus III reported that the treasurer's records for the past fiscal year were accurate and in good order.

Election results:

President.....Clay Ottoni

CAMELINA COVER CROPS A BOON FOR BEES

By Jan Suszkiw

November 19, 2015

Camelina is an herbaceous, yellow-flowering member of the mustard family whose oil-rich seed and cold tolerance has piqued the interest of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientists for its potential as both a winter cover crop and biodiesel resource.

Now, in the process of studying this plant, scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have found that its flowering period can provide honey bees and other insects with a critical, early-spring source of nectar and pollen that's usually unavailable then. This is

especially true in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota, where about one-third of the nation's managed bee colonies are kept from May through October.

The researchers observed that fields of winter camelina and winter canola (another alternate oilseed crop) produced about 100 pounds per acre of nectar sugar over the course of a two- to three-week flowering season. That quantity, produced in such a short time, is enough to support the annual energy requirements of a typical bee hive, which is 100-200 pounds of sugar per year, according to Frank Forcella, an agronomist with ARS' Soil Management Research Unit in Morris, Minnesota. He participated on a team of ARS and university scientists which evaluated the attractiveness of camelina, canola and a third oilseed crop—pennycress—during two years of outdoor field trials.

Read more about this research in the November issue of *AgResearch*. ARS is USDA's chief intramural scientific research agency.

~Submitted by Clay Ottoni

HOW DNA AND A SUPERCOMPUTER CAN HELP SUSTAIN HONEY BEE POPULATIONS

To uncover what plants honey bees rely on, researchers from The Ohio State University are using the latest DNA sequencing technology and a supercomputer. They spent months collecting pollen from beehives and have developed a multi-locus metabarcoding approach to identify which plants, and what proportions of each, are present in pollen samples.

A single beehive can collect pollen from dozens of different plant species, and this pollen is useful evidence of the hive's foraging behavior and nutrition preferences.

"Knowing the degree to which certain plants are being foraged upon allows us to infer things like the potential for pesticide exposure in a given landscape, the preference of certain plant species over others, and the degree to which certain plant species contribute to the honey bee diet," says graduate student Rodney Richardson. "One of the major interests of our lab is researching honey bee foraging preferences so we can enhance landscapes to sustain robust honey bee populations."

~Source: *Catch the Buzz* November 20, 2105
To read the entire article, type *Catch the Buzz*, November 20, in a search engine.

A2B2 ESTABLISHES A MENTOR PROGRAM

If you are in the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti area you might want to join the A2B2 beekeeping club to participate in their mentor/mentee program. The following is from their latest news release:

"Our goal is to share beekeeping expertise in an efficient manner. We have devised the following program for members of the A2B2 Club. Sign up at one of the meetings".

The program is designed in a tiered system so everyone can both contribute and receive benefit. The Beginning Beekeepers will request help from a team of Mid-Level Beekeepers. In return, the Beginner Beekeeper will volunteer to coordinate and help at A2B2 events and activities. The Mid-Level Beekeepers will work in teams with partnered Beginning Beekeepers. The Expert beekeepers will give their time to advise Mid-Level Beekeepers.

A2B2 mentorship Program

It is very important that mentors and mentees have a clear agreement about how the relationship will work.

Step 1. Become a member of A2B2 and register to participate on-line or sign up in person at A2B2 monthly meetings.

Step 2. Beginners are asked to volunteer to help at any of the activities listed on the A2B2 website. Pass on your knowledge.

Questions? Contact Dan Barry or Key Wilson at wilsonbarry614@gmail.com

How it works –

Once you register, you will be partnered with a team of beekeepers, and will receive contact information for your team. Each team will be comprised of a few beginners and a few mid-level beekeepers. Beginners can ask the mid-level beekeepers questions and can talk to each other. Mid-level beekeepers can help beginners get started, and can confer and discuss and answer questions from beginning beekeepers and each other. Member of the team can call in an expert for difficult questions and confirmation of ideas.

LATEST HOOPINGARNER GIFT ENHANCES MSU DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY DAILY INTERACTIONS.

Thanks to a contribution from Roger Hoopingarner, retired Professor of Entomology and Apicultural Specialist at MSU, the MSU Entomology Department now has a first rate break room specifically designed for small, informal gatherings of the MSU Entomology

Department and Michigan Beekeepers' Association Board meetings.

~Source: *Bugged*, newsletter of the MSU Entomology Department

Dr. Hoopingarner will be one of the keynote speakers at SEMBA's 78th Beekeeping Conference to be held at Wayne County Community College (WCCC) in Belleville, Michigan on March 19, 2016.

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, or 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 or Nelson.sarah@sccresa.org

VOLUNTEERS TO WORK AT CONFERENCE ARE NEEDED

In order to conduct the Saturday, March 19, 2016 all-day beekeeping conference to be held at WCCC, the assistance of many volunteers is required. Therefore, please consider giving your assistance in areas such as registration, pre-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:

Clay Ottoniceottoni@gmail.com
Winn Harlesswinnbees@gmail.com
Sandy&Randy Graichen...kyger7@hotmail.com
Mary Sutherland.....rsuther30@gmail.com
Keith Lazar.....keithmlazar@hotmail.com

PAUL ANTONELLI MEMORIAL FUND

In the fall of 2015, a memorial fund was established to honor the memory of Paul Antonelli who died October 8, 2015. Paul's unique enthusiasm was exhibited in all aspects of his life including many years of beekeeping in the Manchester, MI area. He was especially helpful to new beekeepers; therefore, to

continue the work he started, the Paul Antonelli Memorial Committee is pleased to announce the availability of a monetary award designed to provide new beekeepers in Southeastern Michigan with some funding to enroll in a beekeeping course for beginners or to help defray some of the expense of beekeeping equipment. Scholarships or awards range between \$150.00 to \$400.00 each. If you are interested, you may obtain the Paul Antonelli Memorial Fund Application by emailing rsuther30@gmail.com Deadline for applications is January 31, 2016. In early February 2016, the Paul Antonelli Memorial Fund Committee will meet to evaluate the applications and determine the award recipients. Award winners will be announced by February 29, 2016.

APITHERAPY DAY IN OHIO

DATE: Saturday, February 13, 2016

TIME: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

PLACE: Pittsfield Township Hall, State Road 303 at Ohio Route 58 between Oberlin and Wellington Ohio.

The speakers will be Donald Downs, Jim Higgins, Floyd Alexander, Elle Lobel, Jerry Catana, Gary Standing, Trish Banus and many testimonies from people who use apitherapy. The program is free (donations are accepted). There will be a potluck lunch. Bring a dish to pass. This is the best one-day program about Apitherapy in the United States. There are over 150 years of experience between the speakers.

Come and learn about the health benefits of apitherapy. For more information contact:

Floyd Alexander 330 770 3713
Jerry Catana 586-463-2325
Donald Downs 440 647 2483

SEMBA EDUCATIONAL FUND

Thanks to the generous financial gifts given by Richard Mendel and Wayne Titus III, the SEMBA Education Fund is now \$521.07.

SEMBA Bargain Corner

For Sale:

~Package Bees and Nucs for sale. Packages \$112.00, Nucs \$160.00. Pickup in Canton, MI. Shipping for packages is available. Contact Bob Jastrzebski [734-748-2185](tel:734-748-2185) or bob@cimsurf.com, You can also purchase online www.boblinhoney.com

~Bees. 2# package w/queen, \$97, 3# package w/queen,\$109. Deliveries April 3, 17, May 1 & 8. Contact Shawn Shubel, 517-548-5176. \$5 off list price for SEMBA members.

~Bees by AWS BEES, LLC from California. For information see AWSBEESELLC.COM or call/email Dave Anthony at (810) 516-0779, Anthonybeefarms@aol.com or Leo at (810) 639-3640, honeyfarm130@yahoo.com.

~Hives and equipment.

Three complete cypress hives. All hive boxes and tops are assembled, made of cypress and were used for three seasons. The exterior is natural color, not painted. They were dismantled, cleaned and stored in my garage since spring 2015. Two hives consist of a cypress top, inner cover, two cypress deep boxes, two cypress medium supers and a solid bottom board, \$85 each. The third hive consists of a cypress top, inner cover, three cypress deeps, two cypress medium supers and a solid bottom board, \$100.

(Fifty+ used, assembled deep frames, Kelly D Style-wedge top bar and divided bottom bar. Free to whoever buys the complete hives.) All woodenware was originally purchased three years ago from Kelly Beekeeping.

Seventy brand new medium frames, Kelly D style-wedge top bar and divided bottom bar, 60 are unassembled and 10 are assembled with wax foundation. Sixty new medium wax foundation with wire and hooks for Kelly D-style frames, \$70.

Maxant nine-frame power_extractor, model 3100, Power 9-F, used twice. Nice and clean, stored in the original box, \$550.

Maxant electric uncapping plane, model UCP 110V, right handed, used twice, nice and clean, stored in original box, \$85.

All items are pick-up in Farmington Hills, MI. I will help with local delivery if needed. Contact Dan at (248) 471-7984 or ZOHSIX@ATT.NET

Wanted:

~Bower Farms, the Bloomfield Hills School's teaching farm, is looking for beekeepers who are interested in helping with their hives. Please contact Bernie Ethridge 248-549-6249 for more information.

~ Bee hives to be placed on Madonna University campus in Livonia. Contact Nancy Grandillo at Circular491@yahoo.com or (419)-934-1146.

Southeastern Michigan
Beekeepers' Association
Organized April 1, 1934
Oakland Beekeepers' Club

Membership
5488 Warren Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9425



Schoolcraft Beekeepers' Club



MICHIGAN

FREE, 78TH ANNUAL SEMBA BEEKEEPING CONFERENCE

Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers' Association (SEMBA) will hold its 78th Annual Beekeeping Conference on Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Wayne County Community College District's Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty Hwy, Belleville, MI 48111.

Planned keynote speakers are Roger Hoopingarner, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University and former Apicultural Specialist Michigan State University, and Kent Williams, a commercial beekeeper with apiaries in both Kentucky and Mississippi, who has been the past president of the Eastern Apiculture Society and President of the Lake Barkley Beekeepers in Kentucky.

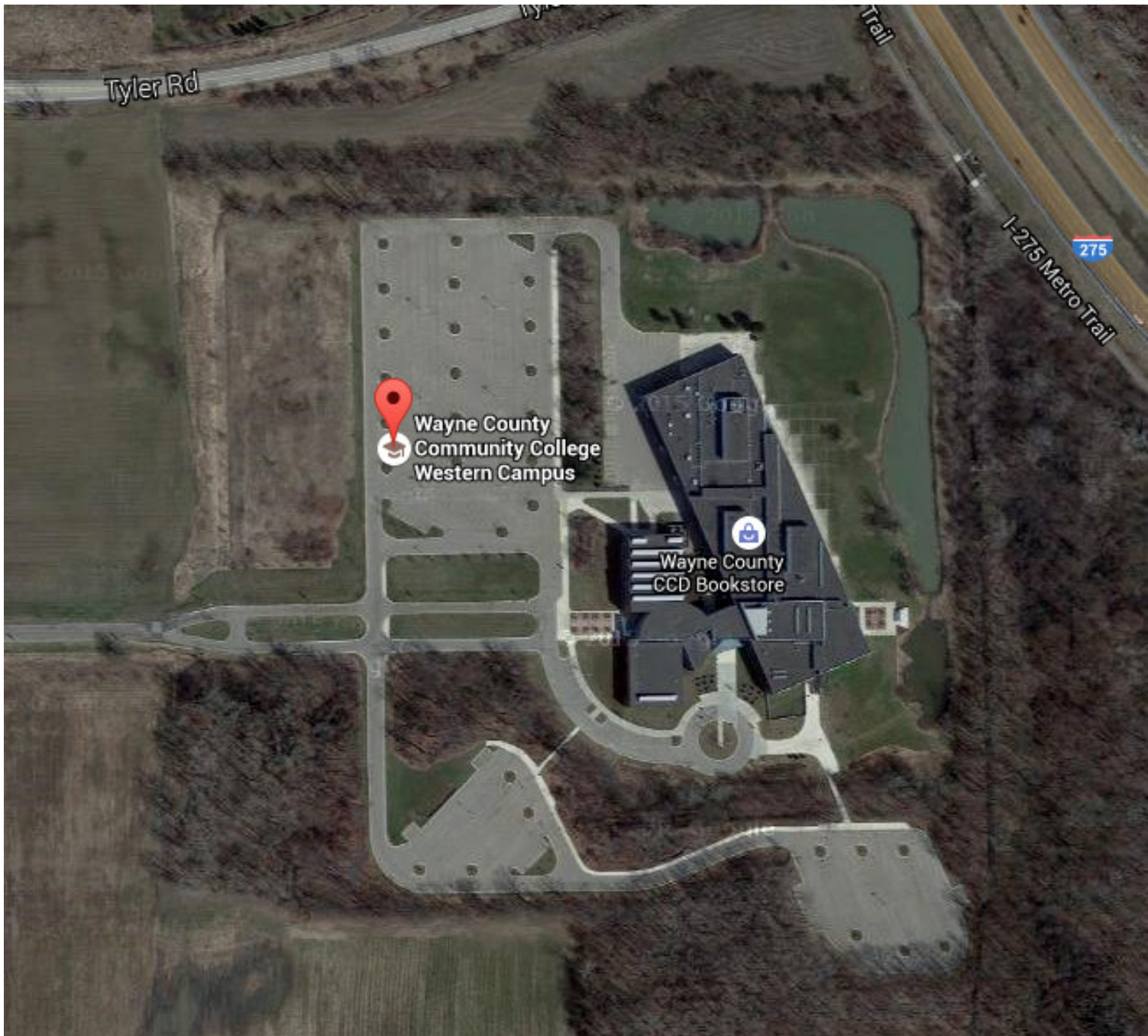
Concurrent sessions during the day-long program are designed for all beekeepers: novice, experienced and those seeking an understanding of the honeybee. Specially featured in this year's beekeeping conference is a series of beginner workshops dealing with different aspects of beekeeping to help the new beekeeper get started. Subject to availability, individuals will have an opportunity to enroll in a "year-long, hands-on" beekeeping course to be held in a demonstration apiary. See <http://www.sembabees.org/toplevelpages/education.html>.

Other workshop sessions include a variety of practical beekeeping management topics taught by experienced beekeepers. On display, will be the latest in beekeeping crafts and beekeeping equipment. A variety of new and used beekeeping supplies and equipment will be on sale by vendors.

Admission is free to all, and free entry into a door prize drawing, FOR ALL WHO PRE-REGISTER BY EMAIL TO SEMBAConfReg@gmail.com, BY NOON, SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016. A potluck lunch is held, with coffee, tea and fountain water provided. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

For further information, please contact Clay E. Ottoni, President of SEMBA, at SEMBAConfReg@gmail.com.

Clay E. Ottoni
P. O. Box 300611
Waterford, MI 48330-0611
(248) 454-9800



USDA SURVEYS BEE, HONEY OPERATIONS

PRINGFIELD, Ill. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service has begun measuring bee colony inventories, cost of pollination, honey production and colony loss data during a nationwide survey.

“Interest in honey production, along with concern about the health of the bee population, continues to grow all around the country,” said Illinois State Statistician Mark Schleusener. “The USDA’s Bee and Honey Surveys give producers the opportunity to report the latest information on conditions of their bees and the impact on honey production.”

“Typically, we focus our efforts on larger honey producers, but this year we are adding hundreds of smaller producers to our sample. It’s important to know about production from that group of producers, as well as from larger, commercial producers,” Schleusener said.

— *Agri-News December 2015*

BEE KEEPING ESSAY CONTEST

Below is information regarding the 2016 Bee Keeping Essay Contest sponsored by the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. Michigan entries should be submitted to me at baumga75@anr.msu.edu by February 19, 2016. One Michigan entry will be selected as a state winner and then submitted to the National contest.

Contact me with any questions.
Nick Baumgart Extension Educator
Environmental/Outdoor Education & Shooting Sports
Michigan State University Extension
527 Stephenson St.
Norway, MI 49870

906-774-0363 baumga75@anr.msu.edu

2016 Essay Topic: “Bees and Pollination. How Important is it?”

Beekeeping has had its five minutes of fame for the past five years. Now more than ever, people are asking “What will happen if the bees are gone?” Your paper should research and help answer this question.

Survey your community to see what is being done. Include your state in your survey to see if there are any programs they are using for pollination or any other program that could aid the honey bee.

The scope of the research is an essential judging criterion, accounting for 40% of your score. The number of sources consulted, the authority of the sources, and the variety of the sources are all evaluated.

Personal interviews with beekeepers and others familiar with the subject are valued sources of information and should be documented. Sources, which are not cited in the endnotes, should be listed in a “Resources” or “Bibliography” list.

Note that “honey bee” is properly spelled as two words, even though many otherwise authoritative references spell it as one word.

Rules Overview: (failure to meet any one of the requirements will result in a disqualification)

- Students interested in writing an essay, should contact their local 4-H offices for contest details. The state selection must be done through the 4-H system.
 - Preparation for National Judging: Typewritten or computer-generated double-spaced, 12pt. Times or similar type style, on one side of white paper following standard manuscript format.
 - Must submit an essay, 750 to 1000 words, on the essay topic
 - Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research- 40%; (b) accuracy- 30%; (c) creativity- 10%; (d) conciseness- 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic- 10%
 - All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
 - A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including birthdate, gender, complete mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
 - Each state may submit ONE entry only.
 - Deadline for National submission is: **March 4, 2016.**
- Final judging and selection of the National Winner will be made by the Foundation’s Essay Committee, whose decision is final.
- National winners will be announced by the **week of May 2nd, 2016.**
 - All National entries become the property of the Foundation and may be published or used as it sees fit. No essays will be returned.
 - Send the winning state entries with the subject title: “4-H State Winning Entry from XXX State” to : reginarobuck@abfnet.org.

Eligibility:

Contest is open to active 4-H Club members only. 4-H’ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the National level are NOT eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter. Students must write on the designated subject only. There will be NO exceptions.

Awards:

First Prize: \$750.00
Second Prize: \$500.00
Third Prize: \$250.00

The National winners’ essays will appear in an issue of the American Beekeeping Federation’s Newsletter.

*Each State Winner, including the National winners, receives an appropriate book about honey bees, beekeeping, or honey.

If you have any questions, please contact Regina K. Robuck, Executive Director, Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees at 404.760.2887 or reginarobuck@abfnet.org.

The Ten Commandments of Beekeeping

- 1 Thou shell not work the bees without proper protection or equipment lest thou suffer unduly for thy carelessness.
- 2 Thou shell not feed thy supers to the wax moth while storing thy equipment in thy garage, shed or elsewhere.
- 3 Thou shell not steal the honey that rightfully belongs to the bees.
- 4 Thou shell not buy thy wife (or non- beekeeping spouse) an extractor for Christmas or anniversary lest thou incur the wrath of thy help and have to extract thy crop without help.
- 5 Thou shell not lie about thy crop, thy bees nor anything else about thy beekeeping for all reports are taken with considerable grains of salt anyway.
- 6 Thou shell control bee disease lest thy days in beekeeping be numbered and of much anguish.
- 7 Thou shell provide adequate top entrances for good moisture control lest the bees be overcome of flood.
- 8 Thou shell check and feed thy bees in the severe winter that they may have the joy of working the crocuses of the spring.
- 9 Thou shell register thy bees lest thou be cast in the inner darkness of the dungeon.
- 10 Thou shell prepare and be ready for any bee sting emergency lest the joy of beekeeping be marred with sadness.

Author: Robert Byberg M.D. 1/84 (Founder of the Cranbrook Bee Club which later was renamed Oakland Bee Club)

Submitted by Bill Sirr