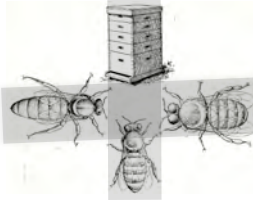


BEE



MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



MBA Fall Meeting

October 22-23, 2010 at the Grand Rapids Hilton Airport. See info on registration and program on page 9.

The End of Star Thistle Honey?

Roger Hoopingarner

Star thistle (spotted knapweed) is a non-native, somewhat invasive plant species that managers of natural areas would like to see eliminated, or reduced in number. To that end, several years ago two species of flies, that their larvae fed on the developing seeds, were introduced. It was thought that if there were fewer seeds natural attrition would reduce the stands of spotted knapweed. While the flies were successfully established their presence has not had much effect on reducing knapweed. Since then two additional species of insects that feed on knapweed have been found and tested for reducing the knapweed population. These insects have been introduced into Minnesota and Wisconsin to reduce stands of knapweed. The results appear to be successful in reducing stands of knapweed.

Let us take a quick look back into a fairly short history of spotted knapweed, or star thistle to beekeepers. When I started beekeeping more than 60 years ago spotted knapweed was almost unknown. The first time I remember hearing about it was that it was found in gravel pits in Oakland county. It has obviously spread throughout Michigan. It is found mostly in poor, sandy or gravelly soils that have been disturbed. In wet or heavy soils other plants crowd it out. In the poor soils that knapweed prefers it wins because it is alleopathic, that is it

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produces a chemical in its roots that prevents other plants from growing. (A trait that is not uncommon in various plant species.) As knapweed spread throughout Michigan beekeepers soon learned of its nectar producing potential and began to place apiaries nearby. Today this is one, if not the most important, single nectar producing species for Michigan beekeepers. I would guess that it produces about 40 million dollars of income from its honey. Thus, it makes it a very important species to beekeepers, and the thought of losing this nectar source makes many of them nervous, if not angry. However, if you think about beekeeping 60 years ago that existed without knapweed, then maybe there is another way to lessen the impact of losing this source of nectar. There is a plan in place, and only time will let us know if knapweed will disappear or if other species will take its place. The plan follows.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is in the process of implementing the introduction of the two new species via a grant to Dr. Doug Landis of the Department of Entomology at MSU. Dr. Landis is a landscape ecologist, which means that he is interested in the entire landscape and how to make it function better not just for agriculture but for all natural areas as well. Better in that they function more naturally (without chemicals) to control pests.

Dr. Landis has selected five test sites that form a transect from the Upper Peninsula to southern Michigan. However, the story does not end with the introduction of these two new biological control insects. Dr. Landis does recognize the importance of spotted knapweed to Michigan beekeepers and has selected several native plant species that will be over-planted on the sites where the knapweed biocontrol program will be tested. These native plant species are known to attract bees for either nectar or pollen or both. What is not known is how successful the over-planting will be, and what plant species will succeed in growing and producing nectar in these sites.

This project will take a fairly long time to evaluate since the establishment of the biocontrol insects may take a few years to show their

effect, and it will also take time to see which of the native flowering plants become established. Within the native plant species there will undoubtedly be some that will be better nectar plants and this could vary with the soil type that they are seeded into. The final outcome is a few years off. It also should be noted that spotted knapweed will not be eliminated, as no biocontrol works that well or that way. The goal is to greatly reduce the size of the knapweed stands and their spread.

If the introductions of the new biocontrol insects are successful, and they have been in Minnesota and Wisconsin, then it there will be a change in Michigan beekeeping. It seems to me, that honey crops will again change back to honey's without knapweed.. This is not the only time that there has been a major shift in nectar sources. From the late 1800's to about 1940 by far the major crop of honey came from sweet clover that was planted for dairy cow pastures. The sweet clovers were completely eliminated from pastures in the early 1940's and thus this crop was lost. It turned out that the sweet clovers caused bleeding in cattle because of their coumarin content.

I guess there is one sure thing in beekeeping, as well as life—change

Web Site

If you haven't looked at the MBA web site in a few months then you should by all means take a new look at michiganbees.org. Dr. Zachary Huang has provided a new software package that allows the site to be managed and new material added with relative ease. In addition the calendar, club and officer addresses can be edited with ease and thus will generally be always up-to-date. On the web-site you will find detail that is not available in the newsletter, or extra data, or photos. On the site we have the capability of paying your dues (new), or even becoming a member of MBA. The calendar will be more up-to-date than any printed version. Check it out.

Summer Views



Roy Hendrickson, commercial beekeeper from Ohio, demonstrating making splits at summer meeting



Observing a hive at Tollgate apiary during the S.E.M.B.A. summer picnic. These hives were part of a class under the direction of Winn Harless, and the hives will be moved to the student's apiary this fall. A new class will use the apiary next year.



Part of apiary at Tollgate Farms with SEMBA members visiting during the summer picnic.



C.O.M.B. members visiting tall-grass prairie near Eaton Rapids. This reconstructed prairie is five years old and now has 80 species of plants and grasses. Many of the plants attract honey bees.

Honey Containers Make the Sale!

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Size of Jar Honey Capacity	Number of Jars Per Carton	Lid* Style (see below)	Order Number	Ship Weight Per Carton lbs.	Price Per Carton 1-99 Cartons
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1 lb.
M01158

Closeup of Pattern



Inverted Plastic Jar With Hexagon Pattern

Inverted Plastic Honey Jar
With Hexagon Pattern
with 38mm Snap Caps

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2010 MBA Member Survey - Part 2: Membership Communication by Email

By Stephen E. Tilmann

Those of you who attended the March 2010 spring meeting of the Michigan Beekeepers Association (MBA) undoubtedly recall that MBA conducted a membership survey. In the last newsletter (and posted online on the MBA web site www.michiganbees.org/about/2010-membership-survey-results) we reported on the first of several installments discussing the results of the survey. That article discussed the profile of the MBA membership, including their beekeeping activities and age. This second article will discuss the membership attitudes toward communication; specifically the use of email.

The leadership of your MBA is acutely aware of the importance of membership communications. MBA is also aware that membership communication can be, should be and must be improved. After all, you have given the privilege of your membership to MBA for this very reason. Certainly, the spring and fall meetings of the MBA are two venues for fulfilling MBA's mission (and your local bee club is a full partner in this mission). But not all members can attend the state-wide meetings and – in this fast-paced beekeeping world – developments happen quickly.

Your MBA is embarking on a major overhaul of how it communicates with its membership. Our email capability is being completely retooled and you should soon begin to see the results of this major effort. The MBA web site has also been completely redone from scratch and this ongoing work is far from being done. Both of these efforts will certainly help MBA in becoming a more effective communicator to its membership and the public in general. The rest of this article discusses the survey results regarding the broad area of “member communication” with a specific emphasis on email. These results serve as the guiding principles as MBA moves forward .

Email – The Membership Asked For It—Email can truly be said to be the channel through which the modern world communicates; it is also the curse for any of us who opens their mailbox and sees tons of spam that always seems to get through the spam filters. Of all the impacts that the “computer age” has brought, email is undoubtedly one of the most profound. No one has escaped email and how it affects our day-to-day lives. Email can be a highly effective, quick and timely way to “get the word out”. The trick is to do it right.

When asked, 79% of the survey respondents said they would like to get email “on bee-related topics.” Another 8% were not so sure. Only 10% - one out of 10 – said “no”. One reason there was such a high positive response to this question was the phrase “on bee-related topics”. The take home message for MBA is to stay on topic – which is exactly what MBA intends to do. Did you know that only 41% of the MBA members sell hive products? So for what purpose are the other 59% into beekeeping? Did you know that urban beekeeping is one of the fastest growing segments of beekeeping? And 63% of MBA members have been beekeeping for less than 5 years? And 73% have five hives or less? Each of these groups probably have different ideas as to what is important and relevant to them. That is one reason why email can be effective; it allows us to be very targeted in the content and the message. If a particular email communication is not relevant to you, then you simply don't have to read it!

Promote MBA Activities—MBA – and the supporting local bee clubs – have something going on every month of the year and in virtually every corner of this state. Getting the word out about these activities and events is viewed as an important part of MBA's mission. Being a state-wide organization, MBA has resources and venues different than your local bee clubs. Taken together, these activities and events can be an important and useful resource for the individual beekeeper. But only if you know about them. For this reason, email will be used to let you know what is going on in the beekeeping world.

And don't forget that there are other facets of “beekeeping” that many of us would like to know about. This includes important legislative developments (such as the recently passed “Cot-

tage Foods Act” in Michigan), research (think CCD), the international honey scene (e.g., imported Chinese honey), emerging markets (medicinal and homeopathic uses of honey), and more. All of these topics are considered fair game for email content.

Bring Value to the MBA Web Site—As noted at the beginning of the article, MBA is currently involved in a major overhaul of the MBA web site. The web site is correctly viewed as another avenue for membership communication, though one that is uniquely suited for the mission of the MBA.

With the web site, we can provide more in depth coverage and discussion of relevant beekeeping topics. Content can be presented that may not be suitable for the email format. For example, the on-line version of this article contains statistical graphics (pie charts and bar charts) that would be too cumbersome to include in emails (or the newsletter).

But valuable information posted on the web site does you no good if you don't know about it... and that is where a short email notice can help. So expect to receive to-the-point emails alerting you of new content on the MBA web site. If you are interested in the subject, then you will be just a click away.

It's a win-win situation. By promoting the web site through email alerts, MBA can increase the site's value to the organization and to individual members.

Improve the Perceived Value of MBA Membership—Started in 1865, MBA is the oldest agricultural oriented organization in the state of Michigan. Nearly 145 years later, MBA finds itself in the classic position of continually trying to reinvent itself in order to bring value to its membership. To its credit, MBA has a long, long track record of succeeding. This, however, is a new century and a new breed of beekeeper. MBA has to adapt...and it will.

MBA's leadership is convince that one facet of the solution is to improve and expand on the notion of “membership communication.” In doing so, MBA should be able to position itself as a relevant source of information and separate itself from the overwhelming “noise” out there. That is one reason MBA is focusing resources on improving the organization's email capability.

MBA also recognizes that it needs to offer better member services; something that meets (and hopefully exceeds) the expectations of its members. Toward this goal, improving the distribution of “on topic” email communications is certainly a component. You can also expect to see better promotion of MBA and club-related beekeeping events, on-line membership renewal and on-line event registration. A portal to all of these will be through email (though others, such as

MBA also recognizes the need to partner with local bee clubs; each serves a distinct yet complimentary role. MBA needs to lead by example and support your local clubs whenever it can. Toward this end, MBA hopes to leverage these new initiatives to build all of the beekeeping community in Michigan.

Finally, there is the issue of member dues. As with all organizations like MBA, getting folks to renew their membership is a continuing struggle. With the new email tools, MBA will be able to remind supporters when their membership is expiring and provide convenient, one-click away payment options.

Conclusion—And this takes us back to the notion expressed at the beginning of this article: MBA has the privilege of your membership. We all are under what seems to be a constant barrage of interests competing for our attention. Yet MBA enjoys a special advantage because we as beekeepers have a special relationship with our bees. As in all relationships, it starts with communicating. And the efforts just described are just one step that your MBA has taken down this path.

Author's Statement

The complete survey results can be found on the current MBA web site www.michiganbees.org under the “About” menu option. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's and do not necessarily express those of MBA or the MBA Board.

Help Fund Beekeeping Research Through The

Fremont Area Community Foundation Beekeeping Fund

Approximately 20 years ago the MBA started an endowment fund within the Fremont Foundation (FACF) to accumulate funds to eventually be used for beekeeping research. The fund started very modestly with a bequest from the family of a deceased beekeeper. However over the years the fund has been able to grow through gifts and investment choices through the FACF, The Beekeeping Fund is now about \$75,000. The MBA's initial goal was to reach \$100,000 before we would start using some of the interest to fund beekeeping research. We did use a small amount (\$2,550) to fund a research project at the U. of Minnesota a couple of years ago. The MBA would like the fund to keep growing so we can begin to fund beekeeping research on an almost yearly basis. Though we suspect that many members do not even know of the fund's existence.

Beekeeping research does cost money: For graduate fellowships, equipment, supplies, bees, and travel. The larger we can grow this fund the more we can help in finding a cure for CCD or other research needs.

One of the good policies of the FACF is that if you send in money in memory of a deceased friend the Foundation will match your contribution. Thus, the Beekeeping Fund gets double the amount.

Of course, like all charitable foundations they will accept any gift, bequest or similar donation, just make sure you indicate that the money is for the Beekeeping Fund.

Send your gifts and memorials to:

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Fremont, MI 49412

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CALENDAR

September

- 2 - Mid Michigan Bee Club
- 7 - Saginaw Valley Beekeepers
- 8 - SEMBA Planning meeting
- 11 - MBA Governing Board
- 13 - Center Of Michigan Beekeepers
- 19 - SEM:BA Meeting
- 28 - Seven Ponds Beekeepers Club

October

- 5 - Oakland Bee Club; Saginaw Valley Beekeepers
- 7 - Mid Michigan Bee Club
- 11 - Center Of Michigan Beekeepers
- 22-23 MBA Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids Hilton Airport
- 26 - Seven Ponds Beekeepers Club

November

- 2 - Saginaw Valley Beekeepers
- 4 - Med Michigan Bee Club
- 7 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 8 - Center Of Michigan Beekeepers
- 11 - veterans Day
- 14 - SEMBA Annual Meeting
- 23 - Seven Ponds Beekeepers Club

December

- 2 - Mid Michigan Bee Club
- 7 - Oakland Bee Club; Saginaw Valley Beekeepers
- 13 - Center Of Michigan Beekeepers
- 25 - L. L. Langstroth's 200th Birthday Anniversary
- 28 - Seven Ponds Beekeepers Club

North American Beekeeping Conference & Trade Show

The American Beekeeping Federation and American Honey Producers Association and the Canadian Honey Council will have a joint meeting on January 4-8, 2011 at the San Luis Resort in Galveston, Texas.

This is always the meeting to visit as there will be a giant trade show as well as speakers from all over the country as well as from abroad. It is a great chance to meet beekeepers from other states and countries.

This is only the second time that all of the organizations have come together in one conference and if it is like the previous meeting it will be spectacular. This is your chance to leave the snow for a few days and enjoy a good beekeeping meeting.

More information at: www.nabeekeepingconference.com

Michigan Beekeeper Clubs

C.O.M.B. CENTER OF MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS

2nd Monday, MSU Campus -Pavilion
Mike Risk, President, 517-651-9842
mrisk75@gmail.com
www.comb-bees.org

KALAMAZOO BEE CLUB

Website: program, date, location:
www.michiganbeekeepers.com
Dave VanAntwerp, President
Dave@michiganbeekeepers.com

H.A.B.A. - HOLLAND AREA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Meeting/Workshop Twice a Year
Approx. May and Aug. Location TBA
Don Lam 616--335-2207
djl2003@juno.com

MID MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Richland Township Hall, 5381 North State Rd. Davison, MI 48423
Jim Withers, President 810-736-0128
munnytauchs@yahoo.com

SAGINAW VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

1st Tuesday, Old Country Buffet, 4695 Bay Rd., Saginaw, MI 48604
David Biver, Pres. 989-799-7656
dbiver@sbcglobal.net

RENEW your MBA membership
\$30 individual; \$35 Family
If you pay MBA Dues at your local bee club. \$5 of your MBA membership dues stays with your local club. Ask your Club Treasurer for details.

MBA Membership is on a calendar year basis.

Michigan Beekeeper Clubs

SEVEN PONDS BEE CLUB
Seven Ponds Nature Center
4th Tuesday of Month
Terry Toland, 248-421-6601
lazy.t.apiaries@gmail.com

BEEKEEPERS OF SOUTH
CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Bob Jastrzebski
8810 M-52
Manchester, MI 48158
734-748-2185
bob@simsurf.com

S.E.M.B.A. SOUTHEASTERN
MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS
ASSOCIATION
Roger Sutherland, 734-668-8567
rsuther@hotmail.com

OAKLAND BEE CLUB
(Chapter of S.E.M.B.A.)
Meets 1st Tues., every other month.
Dennis Holly 248-542-1316
hollybees@yahoo.com

ANN ARBOR BACKYARD
BEEKEEPERS
Richard Mendel
rimendel@sbcglobal.net

Fall Annual Meeting

The meeting will be held at the Hilton Grand Rapids Airport, 4747 28th Street, Grand Rapids, MI 4951 The dates are Friday and Saturday, October 22-23, 2010. The main speakers are Dr. Malcolm T. Sanford, retired from the University of Florida, Gainesville, and Doug McRory, retired as Provincial Apiarist of Ontario. There will be breakout sessions morning and afternoon on Friday, and again on Saturday Morning. There is a banquet on Friday evening. The annual business meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday where we will be voting on a new constitution for the MBA as well as a Vice President and Treasurer.

You can register for the meeting by going to the website www.michiganbees.org. You can pre-pay for the meeting via PayPal, or you can defer your payment for when you register at the door.

You can also reserve a room at the Hilton (Airport) on-line at www.grandrapids.hilton.com, or by phone at (616) 957-0100.

The tentative schedule is:

Friday
8-9:30 Registration
9:30 - 10:30 - Doug McRory
10:30-11:00 - Break
11:00-12:00 - Breakout Sessions
12:00-1:30 - Lunch
1:30-2:30 - Dr. M.T. Sanford
2:30-3:00 - Break
3:00 - Breakout Sessions

7:00 p.m. Banquet

Saturday
8-9:30 Registration
9:30 - 10:30 - Dr. M.T. Sanford
10:30-11:00 - Break
11:00-12:00 - Breakout Sessions
12:00-1:30 - Lunch
1:30-2:30 - Doug McRory
2:30-3:00 - Break
3:00 - Annual Business Meeting

Check the website for breakout session topics and titles of talks b;y the main speakers.

Candidates For Officers in MBA
(Submitted by the Candidates)

Vice President

Ann Leonard— Has helped her husband Richard with the bees for the past 10 years. Ann served the Association well as the Secretary and kept excellent notes on all the meetings. She currently serves the MBA on the Newsletter Committee and on the Constitution Committee. As Vice President I would like the Association to become a “member friendly” organization, helping not only hobbyist beekeepers but commercial beekeepers as well. I would stress and promote the importance of honey bees to the public.

Dennis Klein — (None Submitted)

Treasurer

Judy Schmaltz —I have a B.S, and M.A. in mathematics, and have served as the accountant for various organizations over the past thirty years. I was treasurer for our local food co-op, for 15 years.

My husband Lloyd and I have been raising bees since 1980. Lloyd works over 150 hives and I market the honey. We have developed a retail and wholesale market over the years that has developed into a nice small business. I do all the book work for our business. Lloyd has a retail sales business of 30 employees. I help with the bookkeeping. Currently I am the treasurer for the MBA,

Steve Tilmann— a beekeeper for the past 11 years, is running for the position of Treasurer of the Michigan Beekeepers Association (MBA). Steve thoroughly understands the principles of accounting and has particular experience in accounting for non-profit organizations. During his previous life as a software engineer and corporate president, he authored an accounting software package that was a pioneer on the then emerging PC platform. For the past ten years, Steve has been treasurer of the Great Lakes chapter of the American Basset Association, a non-profit organization. He is expert in the accounting software package currently used by MBA.

Steve has been active in the MBA for most of his beekeeping career. Many current members of MBA have met Steve through his teaching of beginner’s classes for the past 6 years at the MBA’s annual spring meeting. He also developed, conducted and analyzed the 2010 MBA membership survey held during the last MBA spring meeting. This membership survey, the only one in recent memory, has been instrumental in guiding MBA as the organization rededicates itself to the mission of supporting Michigan beekeepers.

Steve also has taken an active leadership role (along with Zachary Huang) in rebuilding the MBA web site (www.michiganbees.org). As most MBA members know, the previous web site was highly dysfunctional, not maintained and had virtually no traffic. The completely revised new web site is now experiencing over 8500 visits per month and in certain topics ranks number one in the organic search category of Google. For the MBA web site, Steve is currently working on implementing on-line event registration (requested by over 75% of members) and on-line membership payments. He is also reengineering the MBA membership email tools (requested by over 80% of the members).

Steve is a member of the Center Of Michigan Beekeepers Club (COMB) and authored the club’s web site (www.comb-bees.org).

His specific goals for the office are to continue to deploy appropriate technologies for the Treasurer’s duties, including the ability to accept on-line membership payments, on-line event registration, on-line publishing of Treasurer’s reports and, of course, keeping the books for MBA. He also looks for-

ward to working with other MBA Board members as the organization adapts to the changing face of Michigan beekeeping.

Steve asks for your vote and support in the role of MBA's Treasurer. See you at the Fall meeting in Grand Rapids.

E-mail and ConstantContact®

By the time that you are reading this you should have received at least one e-mail from the Association via ConstantContact (CC). CC is a company and software package that allows the Association to easily send e-mails, keep the mailing list up-to-date, register members for meetings and keep the member list. All of this is done at a very reasonable cost to the MBA. We will use e-mails to alert you to information that has been added to the website www.michiganbees.org.

If you did not receive an e-mail for any of the possible reasons, i.e., e-mail address changed, your spam filter, or the Association does not have an address for you, go to the website and use the link to go to ConstantContact where you can add your e-mail address to your profile. That is just one of the nice features of CC and that is that each person can update their profile at any time.

Biblical Bee-Traders

Archaeologists have unearthed the 3,000-year-old remains of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) inside clay hives in northern Israel. The ancient insects don't match the local subspecies, suggesting that beekeepers imported their stock from hundreds of miles away. Among the fragmented bee parts, one leg and a couple of wings were intact enough to identify the subspecies. Based on their physical proportions, the appendages probably came from *A. mellifera annatoliaca*, which lives in cool, moist climates of Turkey. Importing these hives was probably worth the trouble: The Anatolian subspecies is more docile and produces more honey than Israel's native honey bees.

[PNAS 107 June 22, 2010; Reported in *American Scientist* 98]

Honey Stix

The Michigan Beekeepers' Association has a supply of Honey Stix for sale. The current price for members is \$0.10 per stick. The MBA buys a large quantity to reduce the price and lower the cost of shipping. Unfortunately, the honey in the sticks is not Michigan honey as it increases the cost because of the increased cost of shipping the honey to Oregon where the sticks are filled. However, the sticks are a good entry for honey sales, educational programs in schools, or other such events. If you use the sticks for an educational program the MBA and Natures Kick (the supplier of the Honey Stix) will provide the sticks free to the presenter for distribution in the classroom.

To obtain any number of the Honey Six contact President Roger Hoopinger, or Roger Sutherland (SEMBA). You will pay \$0.10 per stick plus any shipping costs. If you plan on using the sticks for an educational program just indicate the location and nature of the program to get the sticks for free.

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Revising the MBA Constitution

Richard Mendel, Chairperson Constitution Committee

A committee was created at the 2009 Fall Conference general membership meeting to revise the current constitution. The reason for the need to do this surfaced when a tie vote was experienced for one of the area representative positions. During the business meeting it was suggested to refer to the constitution for resolution, other shortcomings became apparent and the need for a broader update was suggested. A committee was formed which consisted of 6 volunteers, one of which is an alternate. The team members are Ann Leonard; Cynthia Meade; Scott Austin; Sid Risk; Richard Mendel and alternate Shannon Bigham. The committee created a task list which spanned the level of difficulty from fixing simple typos to creating new articles. The committee met in person a number of times and on line through an internet business process called WEBEX. It became frustrating at times since the committee was in some cases in uncharted territory and had to defer to what worked in other organizations. It could only be defined as a labor of love and what helped keep a dedicated attitude was the fact we kept giving each other promised bonuses and special retirement packages. A first draft was delivered to the Board prior to the summer picnic and a 2nd level draft was delivered to the Board prior to the September business meeting. The drafts are a product of well over 100 man-hours of research into other nonprofit organization constitutions and the teamwork of six dedicated volunteers including myself. Please find listed below an overview of some of the many changes that have been refined and documented.

- Change Summary:
 - Many small changes were made to align the various articles to each other and to clarify confusing language.
 - In some cases, more comprehensive revisions were documented such as clarifying the confusing duality of an executive board and a governing board. The resulting revision is one body with decision-making powers called the “governing board”.
 - The fiscal year which was only 11 months is now corrected to 12.
 - The mission statement was clarified to reflect the current vision.
 - The Business Meeting voting process is executed by the Governing Board which consists of the elected officers, the district reps and a recognized vote to each beekeeping organization president or his designate that is present at that business meeting.
 - In order to conduct a meeting or process business, a quorum consisting at least seven members of the governing board must be present.
 - Defined processes and procedures were created to guide financial management.

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- Timing of the transfer of fiduciary responsibilities for newly elected officers was clarified.
- A Constitution Revision Committee was created for developing proper constitutional changes.
- The definition of what constitutes a local association or club was clarified.
- The election procedures were expanded and clarified defining an absentee ballot process.
- A suggestion to clarify the number of district reps and entertain how best to represent the different state regions is being discussed.
- These are but a few processes and changes that were amended and revised by this committee.

The Constitution Revision committee has prepared the foundation of what can be viewed as a workable Constitution. It has been created and submitted to the Board at the September 11th business meeting for an approval vote to have it presented to the general membership for acceptance at our 2010 Fall Conference.

The whole team wishes to thank the Board for the opportunity to work on revising the current MBA constitution. This has been a great undertaking and we want it to reflect the strength and vision of a great state organization that has been representing beekeepers and their labors for many years. Our hope is that the MBA will continue to be the beacon and “go to” organization for many years to come.

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From *Science's* Online Daily News Site

Arctic Bees Still Need Their Beauty Sleep

Even under the midnight sun, bees like their beauty sleep. Researchers have found that both native (*Bombus pascuorum*) and imported (*B. terrestris*) bumblebees in northern Finland, 270 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle, stuck to a regular workday, foraging local flowers from morning until evening and retiring to their nests at "night" despite the sun's 24-hour brightness. Working the graveyard shift would maximize their nests' food supply and boost their chances for survival. The results, published in the journal *BMC Biology*, suggest that, unlike reindeer and other Arctic creatures that lose their 24-hour biological rhythms in summer and winter, bees' internal clocks sync to cues other than light and darkness—perhaps variations in temperature or light quality—and that their nighttime rest confers an advantage even greater than extra food. <http://bit.ly/busy-bee>



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Beekeepers' Fall Color

MICHIGAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEWS BRIEF : DNRE and MDA will release two new insects to control spotted knapweed (star thistle). They also plan on over-planting the release sites with native flowering plants to provide nectar in place of the lost knapweed flowers. See story on page 1.