

C.O.M.B. Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2018

Meeting was held at the MSU Pavilion, Farm Lane, East Lansing.

Present: Mike Risk - president, Dale Woods- vice president, Jenifer Blackburn - treasurer, Dianne Karsten- secretary, Kay Barber-treasurer- retiring, Brian Jennings - web site coordinator present, Roger Hoopingarner -founding member - absent.

Robbyn Smith club librarian was present.

Jennifer Blackburn, newly elected treasurer was taking orders for club t-shirts. Club T-shirt order forms will be available on the web site.

Keith Lazar was there with woodenware from Buggs Nest LLC. Merchandise, catalogs and order forms were available.

Contact: keithmlazar@hotmail.com 248-361-1710 or 810-648-2337

Mike Risk and other experienced beekeepers were available to answer beekeeping questions prior to the meeting. We hope to have experienced beekeepers available before monthly meetings to answer questions from 6:00p.m. until 6:30p.m.

The meeting started at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium and was called to order by Mike Risk. Mike Risk welcomed new members. Kay Barber passed around the sign-up sheet. Mike announced that we would now take donations for refreshments. If you enjoy having coffee and treats please drop some change in the can to cover our expenses.

Chris Robbin announced that the officer slate was unopposed and called for a motion to elect the officer slate as presented, Robert Johnson made a motion to accept the slate as presented, seconded by Shawn Shubal. The vote to accept the slate was unopposed. Mike Risk wanted to thank Kay Barber for her years of service as treasurer and welcome Jennifer Blackburn as the new treasurer. Also Mike wanted to thank Christy Stefke for her time and efforts on our Facebook Page as she too was stepping down.

Dave Anthony and Leo Stevens were present with order forms from AWS Bees, LLC. They presented information about their package bee orders and queens for sale. The Saskatraz queen has had a lot of information and excitement that she is a superior queen with highly desirable traits. AWS offered to donate a queen to our club breeding program. Order forms can be found at www.awsbeesllc.com . AWS Bees hopes to be at our February meeting taking orders as well.

The COMB package bee coordinators this year are Robert Johnson and Mary Hobbs. Once again we will use Nectar Sweet Apiaries. Order forms for bee packages can be found on the web site and will be available at future meetings and the Bee School.

Nucs will be offered for sale by Dale Woods and Kay Barber. The price this year is \$165.00 and the bees will be from the same supplier as past years, the bees are out of Mississippi. Contact Dale Woods to order beeman53@wowway.com.

COMB Beekeeping Class –Saturday, February 24th, registration information on the COMB Web site. There will be both a beginners’ track and an intermediate track. If you do not want the book for each class the fee is discounted. There are a limited number of openings for the intermediate class. Lite refreshments provided, lunch is on your own. Vendors will be present.

First speaker: Adam Inagro, coordinator of Heroes to Hives. Adam gave a very informative presentation about new things going on in the Heroes to Hives program as well as opportunities for the general public to participate in learning programs about bees. More detailed information is available on the Heroes to Hives Facebook page as well as the Michigan Pollinator page. On the website there is a form of interest that can be filled out so you may receive notifications of upcoming events. Shawn Shubal offered Adam Inagro a donation of bees to help those in the program challenged financially getting started and will follow up with Adam. Questions were fielded.

About 7:45 p.m. there was a break to visit the vendors, refreshments provided by Myron and Dianne Karsten.

Second speaker: Clay Ottoni a lawyer and beekeeper from southeast Michigan. Clay did a brief slide presentation on moisture with the early thaw we just experienced and its potential impact on bee hive survival. His primary topic was how the Right to Farm act applies to beekeeping. Ignorance is not an excuse you must inform yourself about local laws, rules and restrictions about the properties you intend to have bees on. GAAMPS - generally accepted agricultural management practices and the Cottage Food Industry Act are regulations you should familiarize yourself with. Clay’s presentation covered a host of scenarios bee keepers have found themselves in and how they fared in legal conflicts based on how well they were prepared and their understanding of obligations in the communities where they operated.

Questions were fielded.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:50 p.m.

COMB meetings are held on the second Monday of the month.

Dues are \$10 per annum, payable ASAP by members, both old and new.

If you have ideas for presentations' that might be of general interest or want to recommend or know of speakers, please contact any member of the board. Please send additions and or corrections of the meeting notes to Dianne Karsten, karsten@msu.edu . I will try to get minutes updated as soon as possible.

**Respectfully yours,
Dianne Karsten**