

## **C.O.M.B. Minutes**

**Monday, May 13, 2018**

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

**Present: Brian Jennings - president and web site coordinator, Chris Robbins - vice president, Jenifer Blackburn - treasurer, Dianne Karsten- secretary, Roger Hoopingarner -founding member -present and brought t-shirts from Larry Connor. Robbyn Smith club librarian was present. Mike Risk -past president. The COMB package bee coordinators this year are Robert Johnson, Kay and Dale. Kay Barber and Dale Woods were present to talk about packages and nucs**

**Deb Foote had club t-shirts available. Club T-shirt order forms will be available on the web site.**

**Mite kits were also available for \$20.00**

**Keith Lazar was there with woodenware from Buggs Nest LLC. Merchandise, catalogs and order forms were available. Keith plans to be at the next meeting.**

**Contact: [keithmlazar@hotmail.com](mailto:keithmlazar@hotmail.com) 248-361-1710 or 810-648-2337**

**Chris Robbins 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 5:45p.m. until 6:30p.m.**

**The Sentinel Hive visits have started again at about 5pm at Entomology with Anna Heck. These visits are for beginners and you should watch the web site prior to each meeting for information in case we need to defer the hive visit experience due to weather or other circumstances. Questions were fielded. You will end in time to join the main meeting.**

**The Michigan Pollinator page has more information about the MSU programs including an on-line free class immersing you in diversified pollinator information.**

**The meeting started at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium and was called to order by Brian Jennings. Brian Jennings welcomed new members. Jenifer Blackburn passed around the sign-up sheet and collected dues. The door prize is a benefit of joining the club, the tickets are free for club members. Plants were donated by Wildtype Nursery and dish towels by Jennifer Blackburn, Mike Connor and Vince Ste. Marie donated plants as well.**

**June 23 is on a Sunday . You can find out more about the Bee Palooza at [www.beepalooza.org](http://www.beepalooza.org).. You do not need to work the whole time. Brian Jennings is looking for volunteers to assist. [President@COMBbees.com](mailto:President@COMBbees.com).**

**COMB Queen Rearing Class –Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, registration information on the COMB Web site.**

**<http://www.combbees.com>**

**There are a limited number of openings for the Queen Rearing class. For more information see the posting on the COMBbees.com website or click on this link [Queen Rearing Class](#).**

**We had a visit from the Webberville FFA. There are several youths from the Webberville FFA proposing a beekeeping project and looking for a grant to get them started. Dianne Karsten made a motion that if the group had everything in place, approval from the school and support of their FFA program leaders a \$500.00-dollar grant be given to start the program seconded by Chris Robbins. Chris Robbins and Gale Moore Pledged two complete Langstroth starter Hives as well as their time to mentor the youth. Also mentoring are Sarah Lackey and Brian Jennings.**

**Visiting; Dr. Deborah Ruth Amulen Executive Director /Founder of the CENTRE FOR INSECT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT Makerere University did a presentation on bee management in Uganda.**

**Main speaker: Mike Connor Trees for Bees This was such an interesting topic that our second speaker agreed to defer his presentation to another meeting. Vince Ste. Marie will defer and present his talk at another meeting - Identification and Management of Africanized Honeybee Genetics.**

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

**Mike Connor returned after the break to talk Trees for Bees and answer questions.**

**Dianne Karsten proposed that those individuals who may have extra suits and beekeeping equipment available consider bringing clean items to the next meeting, so we can start a beekeeper's closet. If you are downsizing these items may help a new group of beekeepers get started. At this time, we would ask you not to bring used bee hive boxes.**

**Meeting adjourned approximately 8:35 p.m. Vendor visits continued for some time after the meeting adjourned.**

**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**