

C.O.M.B. Minutes

Monday, April 8, 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 – absent. 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 –due to weather the bee arrival date is pushed back until at least May 5th. There is no order for bees unless they are paid for.

<http://www.combbees.com/bee-sales.html>

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 248-361-1710 or 810-648-2337

Chris Robbins other experienced beekeepers were available to answer beekeeping questions prior to the meeting. Chris had brought 2 dead outs to do a hive autopsy in the parking lot. Quite a few beekeepers took advantage OF THIS UNIQUE OPORTUNITY. 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.

Earth Day is April 8th on a Wednesday and please contact Mike Risk at mrisk75@gmail.com if you are able to assist.

May 11th is on a Saturday and in partnership with the Lansing Board of Water & Light Adopt A River event on Saturday 5/11 from 10:15-04:00. You do not need to work the whole time. Brian Jennings is looking for volunteers to assist.
President@COMBbees.com.

COMB Queen Rearing Class –Saturday, June 8th and 9th, registration information on the COMB Web site.

<http://www.combbees.com>

There are a limited number of openings for the Queen Rearing class.

Main speaker:

Gabriela Quinlan from the Issacs Lab did a presentation on alternative pollinators found in Michigan and answered questions about them. She also did an overview of her project on plantings for honey bees and the question did food plots make a marked difference for Michigan honey bees?

About 7:20 p.m. there was a break to visit the vendor, refreshments provided by Myron and Dianne Karsten.

After the break Brian Jennings went over package installation. Questions were fielded.

The May meeting, we will have Mike Connor and [Vince Ste. Marie - Identification and Management of Africanized Honeybee Genetics](#)

We hope to have a visit from the Webberville FFA. There are several youth proposing a beekeeping project and looking for a grant to get them started. 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 8:25 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