

C.O.M.B. Minutes

Monday, February 12, 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 – Robbyn Smith club librarian was present.

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

Glen Willoughby was also present with wooden ware from Northern Bee. 6626 Hartwick Pines Road, Grayling, Mi.49738 <tel:989-370-4841> gwilloughby.northernbee@hotmail.com

The MSU Bailey Bee Team brought teas and jam from their urban garden Marketed under Land Grant Goods. They were currently sold out of honey.

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. Jennifer Blackburn passed around the Sign-up sheet. Jenifer was busy collecting membership dues and beekeeping class registrations.

Dianne Karsten made a request for volunteers to help cover the club table at the March conference.

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.

Mike Risk gave a detailed description of the two separate beekeeping classes. 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.

The intermediate class may be full do not expect to be admitted as a walk in. Lite refreshments provided, lunch is on your own. Vendors will be present.

Dr. Roger Hoopingarner gave a presentation on Spring Preparation and late winter management. The slide presentation augmented the discussion on what to look for in February, March and April and what a beekeeper can do to help the bees.

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

Anna Julie, Oliver Autrey and Michael Babinski talked about the challenges of keeping bees on a grassy green campus and they are trying to find ways to talk the grounds planners into integrating plants for pollinators into more of the MSU landscape.

**They are also involved in RISE,
Residential Initiative on the Study of the Environment.**

The meeting adjourned about 8:45pm and there was lively discussion that continued amongst individuals, presenters and vendors.

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