

# COMB Courier

Mid-Michigan—Land of the bee

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Editor: mike ffrench

## Ready to go, are you

Yes, it's that time of year, springtime in Michigan and time to get to work on the bees. If you are like me, you have left it to the last minute to get things ready. I took the precaution of preparing my hive bodies in plenty of time, but all the supers are still on the sidelines awaiting my attentive hand. Not to worry, I work better under pressure. When I worked for a living I always used to arrive just-in-time, this practice assured that my adrenaline was running when I hit the floor.

As always, I start my bee year full of fresh hopes. Hopes that my bees will supply me with plenty of honey, and be strong enough to weather the winter. My intention is to dig deeper into bee lore and see if I can fathom out what they really want from me—a better, bigger hive—more supers—less attention—more attention, those little guys really have me on a string.

## Pugilistic apis

The guard bees on the outside of the hive look for all the world like a prizefighter with his fists balled looking for a nose to bleed.

## Recipe for Honey butter

1 stick unsalted butter, room temperature  
3 teaspoons honey  
Dash of cinnamon  
Blend together in food processor  
Submitted by Helen Durkee

## Color blind

There are reputed to be 300 unique types of honey produced in the United States. I know of only two, light and dark.

## It tolls for me . . .

If you see repeated items in this newsletter, it is not because I'm short of material, — because I'm not! Often I forget to erase said material from my slush pile. So there!

## . . . It tolls for thee

Once pollen is extracted from the honey, you can't trace the country of origin. 80% of honey sold in the U.S.A. doesn't have what's listed on the label. No pollen in national honey distributor Sue Bee honey products, they have been filtered out, therefore its origin can't be traced. Doesn't anyone give a waxed ear about all these deceptive practices?

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*Send not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.*

## **Yard or garden**

I live smack dab in the middle of a 2-acre plot. When I talk about my bees or vegetable garden, I am never sure whether to refer to it as *the yard* or *the garden*. I thought perhaps I could encompass them both, and call it a *yarden*. I hope this won't get me into trouble with the etymologists, I can feel the purists fashioning the noose already.

## **Holy cow! Batman**

Over 54% of common garden plants sold at the box stores contain neonicotinoids. Be careful where you buy, and what you plant.

## **Hold fast Robin, here they come**

The population forecasts for the future have reached estimates as high as 9 billion people worldwide. As beekeepers we will, in some form or fashion, be responsible for helping to feed these people. Since 33% of our food supply comes from pollinated plants and honey, and bees provide 80% of that pollination, we are sitting in the catbird seat. There will be immense pressures put on food suppliers to satisfy the demand. If we don't do our bit, we may end up at the mercy of the mob. I don't think we should wait until they show up at the gate with pitchforks and lighted torches, better we have our exit strategy in place before they do.

## **Looking for new equipment, read on**

**For Sale:** 6 5/8" new honey supers, painted, with frames and foundation ready to use, \$40.00 each. Please contact Loie at

517-851-8408 (leave a message if no answer) or [candyldyme@yahoo.com](mailto:candyldyme@yahoo.com)

C.O.M.B. Monthly meeting.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month 6:30pm.  
MSU Pavilion, Farm Lane, E. Lansing

## **Bee Read**

If you have a comment, query, problem, or an interesting story or anecdote concerning bees that you would like to share with your fellow beekeepers, here is your chance. Send it in to [mjbusybee@frontier.com](mailto:mjbusybee@frontier.com) or [debbie.foote1962@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.foote1962@gmail.com) or hand it in at the meeting. Jane Carhartt may be contacted at [janesbees@yahoo.com](mailto:janesbees@yahoo.com)  
This is your newsletter, make use of it!

## **Bee Classifieds**

If you have any bee-related items you would like to buy, sell, or trade, this section is for you. This service is free for members of C.O.M.B. You may submit ads to Mike French or Deb Foote. There will be a nominal fee for associate members.

Deadline for next issue is April 29th