

COMB Courier

Mid-Michigan—Land of the bee

Vol. 2 No. 7

July 2015

Editor: mike ffrench

July COMB Meeting

Our July meeting will not be held at the normal place and time. We will be having our meeting and annual picnic at 1p.m. at the HAS Conference in Albion on Saturday, July 11. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service for the picnic portion of the meeting. Our regularly scheduled meetings will return to MSU pavilion on August 10th.

Leave him alone

It appears certain members were not entirely pleased with last month's article about Steve Forbes, and made their displeasure known to COMB president. If you are not happy with the content of the newsletter, you are free to delete your name from the newsletter list. This journal is not an official newsletter of COMB. (it is not influenced directly, or indirectly, by the COMB committee). It is an independent effort to inform, create discussion, and provoke thought about our passion for bees. It does not represent the club or its officers. If you have a beef about any of its content, don't badger members of the COMB committee, please have the common courtesy to hector the editor and assistant editor with your harangue.

Do not belabor the committee with complaints about this newsletter, address them to me or my assistant editor.

Not wanted on voyage

You always hurt the one you love.

— Wesley Deranged

While we consider bees essential to our existence, they don't consider us at all. We are not part of their life cycle, in fact quite the opposite, and they would sever our connection if given the option. In our arrogance, we think we are doing our bees a favor by giving them pre-built, furnished homes, when in fact they are quite capable of making their own, as those beekeepers whose bees have recently swarmed, can attest to.

While I realize I am preaching to the choir, it behooves us to take a moment and appreciate what bees add to our life, and more especially, our table. The recent article in *Forbes* magazine on neonicotinoids and how beneficial (?) they are to our environment, should send a shiver down all our spines. I am not saying we should abolish pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides, but we need have to have a balance in nature between the good the bad and the ugly. As of now we don't have that balance, and may reach the tipping point sooner than we would like or want.

If I were to make a prediction, I would say that the future of beekeeping lies with the hobbyist, who keeps bees for their aesthetic value rather as just another way of making a buck.

Honey Spice Cookies

- ¾ Cup Unsalted Butter (Shortening)
- 1 Cup Brown Sugar
- ¼ Cup Honey
- 1 Egg
- 1 ½ tsp. Baking Soda
- ½ tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. Ginger
- ½ tsp. Cinnamon
- ¼ tsp. Ground Cloves

(Cream the above ingredients together with a mixer)

Add

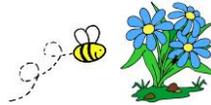
- 2 ¼ Cups Flour

Mix together. (Chill in refrigerator if desired). Either drop onto greased cookie sheet with spoon, or roll into ¾ inch round balls on cookie sheet. Then flatten with bottom of a small glass dipped into granulated sugar (to transfer a coating of sugar to the top of cookie). Bake at 350° 8-10 minutes.

Recipe contributed by Roger Hoopingarner.

C.O.M.B. officers
 President Mike Risk
 Vice-President Dale Woods
 Treasurer Kay Barber
 Secretary Mike French
 COMB Founder and ex officio
 Dr. Roger Hoopingarner

Communications:
 Editor Mike French
 Asst. Editor Debbie Foote



Garden Tour

If you're not doing anything on Sunday, July 19th from 11:00am to 5:00pm, make a bee-line for the garden of our very own Deb Foote. She has over 10,000 square feet of manicured gardens, and is in the process of making her entire front yard into a prairie for her bees. She would love for you to stop by for a peek. Her home is located at 3858 W. French Rd, St Johns. Take US-127 just 4 miles north of St. Johns; turn left (west) on French; 1 ½ miles; house is on north side of road. Give her a call if you get lost. 989-224-9212

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 or debbie.foote@hotmail.com or hand it in at the meeting. Jane Carhartt may be contacted at 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 July 31st