

# COMB Courier

Mid-Michigan—Land of the bee

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Editor: mike ffrench

## Looking For an Organic Farm to Place Your Bees

By Barb Barton

I am very excited to announce the Healthy Foods/Healthy Bees Connection! I am partnering with the Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance to create this exciting opportunity! Some beekeepers don't have the space to keep the number of hives they want to, and the majority of organic/sustainable farms in Michigan do not have bee colonies, so this is a win-win situation for all – healthy bees for healthy food!

We are now on the web! Folks can register for the Healthy Foods Healthy Bees Connection by going to [www.northernbeenetwork.org](http://www.northernbeenetwork.org). Simply fill out the form and once we have a farmer near you wanting bees we will make the match. We are already starting to receive registrations and are optimistic this will be a very successful project.

Barb Barton

Healthy Food Healthy Bees Connection

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## Fess up Mikey

Yes, dear reader, I know this issue is later than usual, but there is a good reason for that: read on.

This section was originally devoted to an article by Dick Baldwin, with accompanying photos of his unique NUC condo. Unfortunately, my feeble attempts to email said photos was a complete failure. I have an iMac with DLS pumping out 1Gig. In off-peak hours I can get up to 4Gigs. Alas, I am as inept at the techie business as I am at keeping bees, I don't know how to change photos from digital to analog so I can send them through the email at a reasonable speed, successfully. My Internet provider, Frontier, puts my emails in a holding tank, where they lay undelivered.

Don't tell me to Google it, because I have already done so, and the instructions are as vague as those from the Macintosh help file—some help!

What I need is someone with a bit of computer moxy to guide me through the process. I do understand computer programming, and know that instructions should be delineated step by step, and not given as if the pupil is already savvy with the system and can work with the bare essentials.

If there is anyone out there in the ether who can help me with this problem, I would gratefully appreciate it. Otherwise, in future, the COMB newsletter will be devoid of photos.

## Eat American

Eat American honey. Say No! to foreign muck. American bees have a right-to-work, too, governor. Political ad paid for by Humble Bumble Bee Products at [www.eatyourhoney.com](http://www.eatyourhoney.com)

## Reader's read

*The Bees*, a novel by Laline Paull, is an exercise in imagination. *The Bees* does for bees what *Watership Down* did for rabbits. Paull takes us into the hive and gives us a voice we will never hear. What is it like to be a bee? Paull puts an intelligent spin on this esoteric tale of bee-life.

As humans we have abrogated to ourselves the pompous title: head of the food chain. When we do something clever, we say it is our superior intelligence that enables us to *think it out*. Whereas, if someone from the animal world does the same thing, we label it instinct, as if the two were separate items. Bees have an orderly society that enables them to successfully proliferate in an orderly fashion; each bee has a responsibility, and is accountable to the hive. Are we humans actually jealous of their organized, well-ordered, obedient lifestyle? Maybe we could all use a little instinct at times, don't you think?

Paull lives in England where beekeeping has problems not common to us. The main one being the weather. England is notorious for its inclement weather; wet, damp, sodden, are just a few adjectives that describes the climate. Couple this with colony collapse disorder and neonicotinoids and you have a devil's stew.

Books and source material used by Paull in her research: *British Beekeeping Association* [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk) *The Biology of the Honeybee* by Mark L. Winston (highly recommended by author) [www.winstonhive.com](http://www.winstonhive.com) *Honeybee Democracy* by Thomas D. Seely; *Pollen: The Hidden Sexuality of Flowers* by Rob Kessler and Madeline Harley

[www.robkessler.co.uk](http://www.robkessler.co.uk)

Paull's website is [www.lalinepaull.com](http://www.lalinepaull.com)

C.O.M.B. Monthly meeting.

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month 6:30pm.

MSU Pavilion, Farm Lane, E. Lansing

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## 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.foote@hotmail.com](mailto:debbie.foote@hotmail.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 May 1st