

C.O.M.B. Minutes

Monday, May 14, 2018

Meeting was held at the MSU Pavilion, Farm Lane, East Lansing.

Our Annual Native Plant Sale went on throughout the evening. Thanks to Mike Connor, Deb Montgomery, Vern Stephens

Present: Mike Risk - president, Dale Woods- vice president, absent- Jenifer Blackburn – treasurer, Dianne Karsten- secretary, Brian Jennings - web site coordinator present, Roger Hoopingarner -founding member – Robbyn Smith club librarian was present and plant sale cashier.

Mike Risk welcomed new members to the club

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.

Chris Robbins is doing a small classroom session for new beekeepers in class room “C” he will be getting to the classroom about 5:45 pm and ending his session by 6:30pm so everyone can join in the small auditorium.

New this month from 5pm until approximately 6pm. was a trip to the Sentinal Hives behind entomology research on Collins Road. This is for new beekeepers to give them some hands on experience, looking at frames, mite counts, and hive recording are some of the skills we are trying to develop. This is a team effort with Megan Milbrath, Dale Wood, Wibur Sewell, Gale Moore, Marwam Hourani and Robert Johnson taking lead on hive recording and pictures. We hope to make this available prior to the monthly meeting as long as the weather is appropriate to open the hives. Remember to bring your veils and gloves no tools are needed. These sessions are geared to end by 6pm so members can join the main meeting. Follow up questions can continue in the auditorium.

The meeting started at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium and was called to order by Mike Risk. Mike Risk welcomed new members.

Dianne Karsten made a request for volunteers to help the club so we could handle all the activities currently available and those coming up in the future.

The COMB package bee coordinators this year are Robert Johnson and Mary Hobbs. Robert Johnson gave a brief report on the distribution of the packages and thanked all the volunteers who showed up to make the day flow. Rick Curtis, Gale Moore, Marwarm Hourani , Steve Tillman and Myron and Dianne Karsten and of course Robert Johnson.

Mike Risk started his talk on Spring and Summer Hive Health, Roger Hoopingarner and Dale Woods contributed to the program. There was some lively discussion about Supersedure cells and swarm cells and finding the queen.

Kay Barber and Amanda Karsten helped with mite kit sales and t-shirt sales.

About 7:30p.m. there was a break to visit the vendors, refreshments provided by Myron and Dianne Karsten

Steve Tillman did a brief demo on queen marking with drone bees during the break and there were a few drones left for individuals to practice on.

Reminder

The Center of Michigan Beekeepers (COMB) club is holding a queen rearing class on Saturday, June 23, and Sunday, June 24.

The class will be instructed by Dr. Roger Hoopingarner, Michigan State University Professor Emeritus of Entomology and Dr. Meghan Milbrath, Michigan State University, Department of Entomology and Michigan Pollinator Coordinator of the Michigan Pollinator Initiative. Contact Mike Risk or registration will be available on the website .The class size is limited ,if sufficient demand a second class might open.

The meeting adjourned about 8:45pm and there was lively discussion that continued amongst individuals, presenters and vendors as well as the conclusion of the plant sale.

Questions were fielded.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped pack up and clean tables, your help was greatly appreciated.

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