

COMB Courier

"I speak for those who cannot speak for themselves"

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Editor: mike ffrench

A PLEA FOR COMMON SENSE

E-mail to Mike Risk from COMB member, John Miller.

Previously I have asked the Lansing Zoning Dept. about raising bees on property zoned A-1 (residential) in Lansing. I was told that it was not allowed in Lansing because beehives are considered a "nuisance."

With the situation in Delta Township in the news, I sent an email to some Lansing City Council Members asking them "to investigate adding beekeeping as an acceptable use for A-1 residential in Lansing." Please consider sending out an email asking any member that lives in Lansing to consider sending a similar to the City Council Member for their Ward and to each of the At-large Council Members. So far Carol Wood is the only Council Member that has responded that she will look into it.

Perhaps if we can get enough activity we can get an ordinance written for beekeeping.

Thanks for all your hard work.

Wishing I lived somewhere I could have bees.

WHAT COMB MEMBERS CAN DO

Questions for Lansing City Council

Q: Would you like to hear your food supply has been reduced by one-third?

A: One-third of our food supply is pollinated by bees.

Q: Will Lansing be inundated with beekeepers?

A: No! Based on the ratio of Michigan beekeepers (1,000) to Lansing population (114,620), 1-5 beekeepers are all you have to contend with.

Q: Could someone keep bees to annoy his neighbor?

A: No! Bees are wild creatures and do not respond to human instructions of any kind. Bees do not sting except when trapped or their hive is threatened. They have a job to do and do not invest or waste any time in human affairs.

Q: Will Lansing be inundated with bees?

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A: No. The 2013 population of Lansing was 114,620. The 2014 population of Michigan was 10 million (rounded off). Therefore, Lansing is 1.1% of Michigan's population. If there are 1,000 beekeepers in Michigan, then 11 of them would be in Lansing.

If bees are considered a nuisance and therefore banned from the city, why not ban rats, mice, mosquitoes, stray dogs and cats — these creatures provide no benefit to humans. Right next door is East Lansing where the MSU program has hundreds of thousands of bees, do you honestly think these bees confine themselves to one geographic location: How many of their bees have been denied access to Lansing at the border crossing?

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

HON IN THE SUN

In a recent conversation with Jane Carhartt, she mentioned that she left her honey out in the Sun for a while, but accidentally left it out all day. Lo and behold, it liquefied naturally. I tried it. It works! It will work even better surrounded by aluminum foil to trap the heat. Thank you Jane, I won't have to boil it in the pan any more. Now when my customers ask if it has been treated in any way, i.e. pasteurized, I can tell them with a straight face, "It's been kissed by the Sun." Thank you Jane. I have now added two more appellations to my bee lexicon: Solarized and Sunny Honey.

CONFUSED INFORMATION

5,000 honeybee hives lost this winter. A parasite was the main culprit. That comes after Michigan lost 11,500 hives—19% of its honeybee population—from January to March 2015. From Jackson *Citizen Patriot* May 22, 2016

What was the parasite, varroa? Hives are not registered, so how do they know how many were lost? There seems to be a large disparity in numbers for the two winter years. No explanation is given for this. Cutesy news items like—referred to as filler in the newspaper business—this serves no purpose except to confuse the public at large. The rapid decline in bee populations coupled with climate change, is a warning of our changing planet. To disregard this warning is folly of the highest order.

QUEEN QUESTIONED

Does the queen make only one mating flight, or does she go out every day until she has her bell rung?

SPEED KING

How fast does a bee fly? If a bee is one inch long, and the average human footstep is 30 inches long, then a human would have to go 30 times further than the bee. If a bee travels up to 2 miles a day, then a human would have to walk or run an equivalent 60 miles (2x30) to keep up with the bee. It would not matter how fast the bee or human was traveling. Also, does the bee only make one trip per day? Or several? Imagine a human traveling 120 miles, both ways, several times a day. If a bee travels at 30 mph it could make an average of four trips per day. Is this calculation close? Step forward Math majors.

C.O.M.B. officers
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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 29th