

C.O.M.B. Minutes

**Monday, June 11, 2018**

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

**Present: Mike Risk - president, Dale Woods- vice president, Jenifer Blackburn - treasurer, Dianne Karsten- secretary, Brian Jennings - web site coordinator present, Robbyn Smith club librarian**

**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 while we are setting up for the meeting.**

**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 beekeepers this is for you, timely topics, your questions answered. Information on splits, and encouraging increase in the brood chamber as well as swarms were some of the topics covered.**

**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.**

**Announcements**

**MSU Department of Entomology at the [Science on Tap: Beezzz & Brewzzz](#) event. This is a fun evening of short presentations about the current status of bees in Michigan with a fermented beverage angle. This event will be June 21 at 7:30 p.m. at [The Beer Grotto, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912](#). A bee-themed beer will be on tap that night, along with three short talks by local experts about Michigan's wild bees, the state of honey bees and the links between bees and beverages. This is a free event (other than the purchase of drinks). For updates and more information, visit the [Beezzz & Brewzzz Facebook page](#).**

**Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> 1pm until 4pm Bee Palooza; Kay, Kaitlin and Brian Jennings.** A fun event for the entire family including exhibits on bees, plants and pollinators. The bumble bee exhibit will include a live observation colony. At the honey bee observation hive, Michigan bee keepers will be on hand to talk about what it takes to keep honey bees. Information will be available for planting gardens to support pollinators and how to build a native bee hotel. There will be even more exhibits and fun activities for kids and adults, including face painting.

**Michigan State University Horticulture Gardens 1066 Bogue St, East Lansing, Michigan 48823** Want to volunteer(?) Contact Brian Jennings [Brian@JenningsWeb.com](mailto:Brian@JenningsWeb.com)

**Mike Risk introduced our guest speaker Dr. Meghan Milbrath from the Michigan State University Department of Entomology and coordinator of the Michigan Pollinator Initiative. She will be speaking on things she uses with her hives for spring and summer hive maintenance and swarm control, report on MSU current research programs and the pollinator initiative.**

**About 7:30p.m. there was a break, refreshments provided by Myron and Dianne Karsten**

**Jennifer Densteadt donated a Jester Nuc box to raffle off and during the break and will do a demonstration of how to fold them together for anyone that wants to see it done.**

**Gale Moore donated 4 red marking pens to the raffle which was held right after break.**

**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.**

**The meeting adjourned about 8:40pm and there was lively discussion that continued amongst individuals and presenters. Questions were fielded.**

**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.**

**We are always looking for volunteers, there is a lot to do to set up the meeting. Sometimes vendors can use a hand and sometimes we can use some help to man T-shirt sales, raffles, outreach projects etc. We appreciate those who step up and offer to help. C.O.M.B. is a large club and we are trying to bring different programs to cover a wide range of topics and interests.**

**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**