

COMB Courier

“I speak for those who cannot speak for themselves”

Vol. 3 No. 8

August 2016

Editor: mike french

Them like us—us like them

Young, single men like to hang out at malls, sports events, dance halls, parks, and anywhere else they might find the opposite sex. I myself, coming from an older generation, was a frequenter of dance halls, even though I had trouble putting one foot in front of the other. Dance halls were where my best chance lay. So, to reiterate, single males congregate where they are most likely to meet the other half of nature.

Talk about drone saturation!

Trilobites

Sitting on my bookcase in the study, is an ugly, dirty, dull grey rock that looks like a disguised turtle shell. It is in fact, a trilobite, an extinct shellfish from the Jurassic period. I found it on the beach at Portland Bill, in the county of Dorset in England, on what is now termed the Jurassic coast, a world heritage site. Having a prehistoric fossil on my bookcase is cool. On further reading, my elation at my find turned to fear. A fear based on the reality that the trilobite is extinct, and why it is extinct.

The trilobite fossil is a permanent reminder of our impermanence. Shrinking bee populations are attributed to many causes, the one least discussed is extinction. If we can't reverse the situation, at least we can slow it down by treating bees as a valuable resource and not just another way to make money. After all, who needs fossilized bees?

Ed: The fossils are not protected since there are millions of them, plus a protection order would mean cutting off access to the sea, which is anathema to the English. My friend lives in an area where there are millions of fossils, and he showed me where to find them, otherwise I would have been none the wiser.

Michigan Farm Tax exemption—who qualifies?

I was at the feed store in Leslie getting feed and equipment for my soon-to-arrive chicks when she asked me if I had a tax exemption form. How many hives or land use (13 acres?) do we need to qualify for Michigan tax exemption? Can someone who has bees on their land buy equipment on their ticket and pass on the benefit to club members? If beekeepers don't qualify for an exemption—why not?

Global warming comes to Michigan

There is a weekly auction held at the Hillsdale fairgrounds, derisively re-named the *Landfill* by the locals, due to the dubious nature of some of the items offered for sale there. It is a good place to pick up items often not found elsewhere. On my way home just down the road from the Landfill is the Hillsdale Farmers Market, so I stopped to see what was on offer. I bought some

C.O.M.B. officers

President Mike Risk

Vice-President Dale Woods

Treasurer Kay Barber

Secretary Dianne Karsten

COMB Founder and ex officio

Dr. Roger Hoopingarner

Communications:

Editor Mike French

Asst. Editor Debbie Foote

local maple syrup because it was a good deal. The lady who sold the syrup also makes it, she said, “We used to collect the syrup in March, now I collect it in February.” This is a wake –up call for all those who listen to the naysayers on Fox news and conservative talk radio, and it should put a spike in ‘I-know-what’s-good-for-you’ blowhards like Rush Limbaugh, who persistently deny global warming even though all the evidence points the other way.

I also talked to a local beekeeper, who related his sad tales of bee winterkill—he lost all! I was impressed with his honesty, since many beekeepers tend to fudge the numbers when it comes to how well they are doing.

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

Don’t ask, don’t tell

In regard to last month ‘s article about urban bees, vis-a-vis city ordinances, it would seem the best policy is, ‘Don’t ask. Don’t tell’. Set up your hives and let them find you. As for curious, nosy neighbors, give them a jar of honey and explain the benefits of bees to mankind. City councils make their own “no fly zones” for bees, accompanied by a reluctance to educate themselves about their surrounds.

Honey for scrapes

It’s sticky, gooey and not at all what you think you ought to put on an open cut. But researchers at the University of Auckland in New Zealand have found that honey reduces healing time significantly when applied to wounds., because of its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. Honey also reduces scarring , another study showed. Simply spread it over the affected area, then carefully apply a bandage.

Reproduced from AARP magazine July 2016.

Ed: Many of you already know this little titbit, but it helps to know the rest of the world does too—now! Also, when expounding upon the benefits of buying honey to potential customers, you can now rope AARP into your corner

Where’d it go

I wish the government would say
To us who pay the taxes
“Please don’t send anymore money
That is, unless we askes.”

—Ed Vexed

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 August 29th