

COMB Courier

Mid-Michigan—Land of the bee

Vol. 3 No. 2

February 2016

Editor: mike ffrench

Yard sale

There will be a yard sale in the MSU pavilion at our next meeting, February 8, 2016.

- Bring bee related items only.
- All items must be clearly marked with your name and price (nearest dollar). Buyers can pay with cash or check.
- All items should be in good condition and as clean as possible—no goo!
- Some items may be auctioned.
- Table space must be reserved with Kay Barber barber@msu.edu by Thursday February 4, emails should be headed—Bee Sale.
- You can request half table or whole table.
- All items—sold or unsold—must be taken with you at end of the meeting.
- There will be a central cashier, a la auction. The club will make every effort to expedite the process before the end of the meeting. However if there is a logjam the club reserves the right to delay payment until the next meeting.

Honey launderers

“We wuz robbed out,” cried the exasperated beekeeper, glaring angrily at the emptied combs. Meanwhile, in the hive next door, the ‘robbers’ were busy laundering the honey.

Invest in reform

At the risk of appearing to advertise here is an item from an ad by Domini Social Equity Fund. You may or may not want to risk your money in this mutual fund, but at least they are doing something about the desecration of our planet. Read on . . .

This year our withdrawal agreements include the following:

- Lowes, the worlds second largest home improvement retailer, agreed to eliminate neonicotinoid pesticides—a leading contributor to global bee declines—from its stores by 2019.

From *New York Review of Books* December 3, 2015 Vol. LXII No. 19

What I want to know is, why they are foot-dragging until 2019. That’s four more years of neonicotinoids being poured into the environment. It is reminiscent of Tallyrand’s comment about the Bourbon kings of France after they were restored to the throne after Napoleon’s reluctant departure, “They have studied hard, and learned nothing!”

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

Pharaoh's sweet tooth

They put honey in the Egyptian pharaoh's tomb, knowing it wouldn't spoil in the afterlife. What they didn't tell him was how to get the bandages off.

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

Quix Oaty

Not to be outdone by Don Quixote, I shall continue to tilt at windmills. At the last meeting I launched an idea for more cooperation amongst the members. This cooperation is in the form of small groups of beekeepers who live and bee-keep in the same vicinity. A few years ago I printed a list of volunteer mentors and beekeepers who felt they would benefit from the advice and experience of the former. This idea disappeared down a dark hole, not because it didn't have merit, but because there was no follow-up.

As a writer of dubious merit, I always keep my ear to the ground. My ears tell me there are still plenty of new and old beekeepers that would like to be more proficient keeping bees but are hesitant to ask for help. As part of a small cadre of local beekeepers, each member of the group can voice their opinion or ask questions of fellow members. In cases of dispute as to the proper and scientific method of beekeeping, the consensus of the group will inevitably lead to a reasonable conclusion they can all live with.

My idea is to print a matrix of beekeepers who could form these small groups. What could be nicer than to meet at someone's apiary and discuss successes and failures plus ongoing problems, then repair to a nearby coffee house and rehash the day's experiences.

Just because your name is on a list, there is no requirement or obligation to join any group if you do not wish to. Or you may join and leave at your leisure. There is no money attached or required for this venture, only a desire to be a better beekeeper, and help and/or assist your fellow beekeepers.

Over the few short years I have kept bees, there has always been the temptation to 'Shove it.' Let go the reins and move on to something more manageable: I have enough honey stowed away to last me another five years without keeping another bee. The only thing that prevents me from throwing in the towel is stubbornness and a desire to make a success of keeping bees.

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 or debbie.foote1962@gmail.com or hand it in at the meeting. Jane Carhartt may be contacted at 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 February 26th