
KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

October 2012

Holiday Potluck RSVP!

Friday, November 9th, 6:00 p.m.

East Andover Grange

Turn right onto Chase Hill Road off Route 11
Top of the hill behind the Congregational Church

***Please RSVP to Cynthia Hayes at 763-5127 or
Peter Zak 735-5058***

BEFORE NOV. 1!

Peter Zak is cooking turkeys for the dinner and needs to know how many to cook so please be counted for dinner and RSVP before November 1st. Cynthia is looking for a few volunteers to help set up and clean up the Grange Hall for our potluck dinner. Set-up involves the tables, chairs and decorating at 5:00 p.m.. Clean-up around 8:30 involves putting everything away, taking out the trash, sweeping the floors, etc. Call Cynthia if you can help.

Of course, bring a dish to pass and item(s) for the raffle. Does the club want to participate in the Heifer International Project www.heifer.org this year as we've done in the past? A gift of \$30 can help provide a family in poor areas of the world with a package of bees, the box and hive plus training in beekeeping. Donations help families from Uganda to Haiti to earn income through the sale of honey, beeswax and pollen. Plus, when strategically placed, beehives can double fruit and vegetable yields. ♪

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Sept. 14th Meeting minutes

Held at the Pillsbury Library in Warner

President Troy Hall called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. 29 members were present. The agenda for the meeting included recaps from EAS (Eastern Apiculture Society), discussion of 2013 Bee School and honey production reports.

Mary Lloyd-Evans gave the treasurer's and membership report. There is \$3,000 in the account after paying \$100 to the East Andover Grange for the November potluck hall. The renewal cost of \$80 was paid to Dimentech of Warner for hosting the website which included a 20% discount for non-profits. The February speaker Peter de Bruyn Kops received \$100. To date, there are 53 paid members for 2012. Thirty-one attended the 2011 bee school and paid dues making a total of 77 paid members in 2011. There are currently 55 paid members. Dues are for a calendar year. Since newsletters are being emailed, postage and copying expenses are less. Raffles have previously covered these costs, so they need not take place every meeting. Mary is stepping down from her position at the end of the year. Robin Gray, co-treasurer has agreed to take the position. Martin Marklin asked if memberships can be paid for multiple years. The consensus was yes. Cynthia Hayes, club librarian, asked if there were funds to purchase new books for the collection. It was decided that new titles be brought to meetings for a vote.

2012 Northeast Treatment Free Beekeeping Conference

Bob Naylor attended the 2012 Northeast Treatment Free Beekeeping Conference in Leominster. Some 100 attended. Bob has been treatment free for 3 years. He makes splits and lets them raise their own queens. He avoids feeding sugar syrup and leaves most of the honey.

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Bob heard the following speakers at the Treatment Free Conference:

⇒ Dean and Laurie (Ramona) Herboldsheimer hosted the conference www.beeuntoothers.com Dean and Laurie are co-authors of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Beekeeping*. Ramona has studied beehive microorganisms. It is important to have a balance of organisms in the hive. The Stieglitz's supply 4 oz. jars of honey that is labeled "treatment free" to several stores in Boston that sell for \$20.

⇒ Sam Comfort of Anarchy Apiaries on Top bar hives and Warre hives. Sam maintains 150 top bar hives, 100 warre hives in the Hudson Valley and 150 Lanstroth hives in Florida with a 90% survival rate. He also keeps hundreds of swarm traps near his many outyards. Bob distributed a one page Anarchy Apiaries Almanac written by Sam.

⇒ Epigenetics with Erik Osterlund of Sweden. Epigenetics is a trait that is masked until it's needed due to environmental forces. Before mites had not reached Sweden, Erik worked to breed resistant bees.

⇒ Kirk Webster of Vermont on making NUCs. Kirk taught Mike Palmer how to overwinter NUCs. Kirk makes NUCs in June & July.

⇒ Michael Bush who maintains an online archive on his website of all his speaking presentations at www.bushfarms.com. Bob donated Michael Bush's book *The Practical Beekeeper: Beekeeping Naturally* to the KBA library

⇒ Dee Lusby of AZ with 600 hives. Dee and her late husband Ed started using small cell foundation many years ago. Dee Lusby started an organic beekeepers newsgroup in the early Internet. Days before the world wide web. A small cell is 4.9 mm as opposed to a 5.2 cell.

⇒ Les Crowder of New Mexico with 700 top bar hives.

Troy commented that treatment free beekeeping can result in losses. This practice may not be for new beekeepers as the jury is still out. Most treatment free beekeepers have over 100 hives and a greater genetic diversity to work with. Bob added the importance that bees are acclimated to where they live. Randy Fleury has gone treatment free with his colonies this year.

Bob knows a woman in Unity who keeps bees on small cell foundation. It was suggested she would be a good speaker in 2013. ☞

Eastern Apiculture Society Conference 2012

After the business meeting, Troy Hall, Randy Fleury, John Chadwick, Mike Bayko, Martin Marklin and Barbara Burns attended EAS reported on their EAS experience.

Martin Marklin and Mike Bayko judged beeswax competition. Martin learned that "Palmerized" is a new verb to describe what Mike Palmer does. Other contests included honey, baked goods and mead.

Randy and John attended five days. John recorded 20 hours of lectures and 30 hours of classes. Breeding local NUCs was a hot topic. Randy learned about honey judging. They both enjoyed the value added honey products session. They participated in the two man hive carrying obstacle course content and WON! John got some bee stings in the apitherapy session. Randy liked the honey swap where folks could swap 1# jars of honey from as far away as Alaska. The opening speaker feels we should be charging more for our honey and the worst enemy of honey is the mass produced "honey-bear" in supermarkets.

Barbara Burns attended three days of great classes with excellent instructors and speakers, including Master Beekeeper Erin Forbes of Maine. She visited the EAS beeyard 5 times. She enjoyed Tom Seeley's session on raising bee in urban Detroit. ☞

NH Beekeepers Association News

Mike Bayko announced that NHBA is in need of volunteers to keep it going. NHBA President, Wendy Booth, VP Mike Bayko, Secretary Ellie Palmer and Treasurer Moe L'Heureux are all stepping down at the end of this year, which means a whole new slate must come forward. The next NH Beekeepers meeting is October 27 from 9-3 at the Bow Community Center. For more information Dave Hartman moved. \$200 for. Cynthia seconded. All eyes. ☞

DID YOU KNOW?

**If you ask 5 beekeepers a question,
you'll get 7 answers!**

Musings from the Secretary

I'm sure you noticed the new newsletter template. I didn't really like the previous one--it had too much color and not enough room for articles. I'm experimenting with this one as I like it better.

There are so many newsletter templates. Who knows, maybe I'll find another one I like! It has been so easy for me and cost effective for the club to send the newsletter via email. It is no problem to send them through the post office either, if you prefer.

Thank you for your suggestions, encouragement and kind words on the newsletter. This is the 6th newsletter I've done since I became secretary in January. I try to send it out at least two weeks before the next meeting or sooner if possible. Sometimes there's lots of news to include and sometimes not. Don't think twice about sending me anything for newsletter that you come across. It's greatly appreciated. (email and mail both work for me)

I'm looking forward to writing about the KBA Bee School and adding new members to the club. Tom and I attended Bee School in 2009, then purchased our first packaged bees that spring.

We finished feeding and buttoned up our four hives the middle of October. We like to wrap ours. Now it's up to the bees and Mother Nature. Hope to see you on November 9th at the Potluck. Bring your appetites. It's good eating! *✍ Janet Eklund*

2012 KBA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Troy Hall
252-9564

VICE-PRESIDENT

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Robin Gray
927-4127

SECRETARY/ NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Janet Eklund
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WEBMASTER

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938-5129

BEEKEEPING FALLACIES

according to Michael Bush
www.bushfarms.com

- ✍ Drones are bad.
- ✍ Drone comb is bad.
- ✍ Queen cells are bad and the beekeeper should destroy them if they find them.
- ✍ Feeding can't hurt anything.
- ✍ Swarm cells are always on the bottom.
- ✍ Destroying queen cells will prevent swarming.
- ✍ Two queens cannot co-exist in the same hive.
- ✍ Adding supers will prevent swarming.
- ✍ Bees only like to work up.

HONEY PRODUCTION NEWS

TOM DICKSON

ANDOVER AND DANBURY

80 # from two hives. Some was "white" locust honey.

RICHARD SHORES

SPRINGFIELD

124 #. This is the first time in five years that Richard got any honey!

TROY HALL

PLAINFIELD AND ENVIRONS

A very decent honey crop with a good fall flow.

JOHN CHADWICK

SUTTON

75 # from two overwintered NUCs. John made 7 NUCs this summer.



Honey "TO DO" List

(not just for husbands)

1. Call Cynthia Hayes at 763-5127 to RSVP for Potluck dinner on Nov. 9th
2. Pay 2013 membership dues
3. Volunteer to help with Bee School
4. Bring raffle items to the Potluck
5. Step up to run for a NH Beekeepers Association officer

Next Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013

10:30 a.m.

Pillsbury Library, Warner
Agenda: Bee School

Many Suspects, But No Culprit

Included in this newsletter is a copy of an article on CCD from the August 29th Weekly Market Bulletin published by the NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food.