
KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

May 2013

Next Meeting: May 10, 2013

Friday, May 10, 2013
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Pillsbury Library - Warner

Meeting agenda

☞ **Presentation by Sam Comfort**

☞ **Raffle afterwards at 9:00 (please bring items)**

Notes from the March 9, 2013 meeting

Troy called the meeting to order at 10:15. 22 members present. There was a huge round of applause for the McDonald brothers for organizing the successful 2013 Bee School. All agreed that KBA had offered an excellent deal for the cost and the considerable amount of information provided. It is appreciated that we had a good classroom to teach in at the Kearsarge Middle School, which Rob O'Neil had arranged.

Robin Gray reported a total registration of 55 students with an average of 50 each week as some did not attend all classes. This was the largest attendance since the club began offering the Bee School. Total income from registration, hive raffle and class textbooks was \$1,881. Expenses for advertising, books, name

tags and certificates totaled \$882 making \$998.74 proceeds from the program. Still outstanding was \$191 for the hive and bee package for the raffle winner, Dave Griffen. Sixty textbooks were ordered and 25 were sold. Robin has a number of Certificates that students did not receive, which he will mail to them.

As of March 1st there are 63 paid members.

Gayle Bates announced that former club member Buzz Call of Sutton has been ill and is now homebound. She would like KBA to purchase an observation hive for him. The cost for the hive, four medium frames, shipping and installation is \$190. Gayle and Rob will purchase the feeder. She requested that members donate to purchase the observation hive with the club treasury making up any difference. The observation hive would be returned to the club. Bill McDonald moved that the club pay for the hive together with any contributions from members. Gayle Bates seconded. One nay. All others aye.

Troy is donating two queens to the NH Beekeepers Association for their Spring meeting raffle.

Troy buys pollen, glassware and frames in bulk. He purchases a pallet of frames at a time. If anyone would like to pool orders with him in the future, please contact him. He currently pays 67 cents per frame.

Dave Hartman of Warner is receiving his bee packages on May 2nd. He volunteered to have a hiving demonstration for interested members. The delivery date could be delayed due to weather. Janet Eklund will send an email notification to the members and Bee School participants to let them know the date and time. Mike Bellino will post the information on the KBA website.

Mike announced that there have been 1,700s hits on the KBA website since he created the new website last fall. The website has a blog where people can post questions and comments.

Troy offered to have a demonstration in his bee yards on how to make NUCs. He makes them during the summer. He will choose a date in mid-June. He will also demonstrate catching queens if there is an interest. Troy typically has 150 NUCs created each year for wintering over. ☞

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***Please pay your 2013 Membership Dues!
Membership is for the calendar year.***

\$15.00 to KBA mailed to Robin Gray, Treasurer
P.O. Box 275
Warner, NH 03278

Sam Comfort comes to KBA! *Speaker at the May meeting*



Sam Comfort of Anarchy Apiaries in New York has hundreds of Warre and horizontal top bar hives in the New York Hudson Valley and Florida. He raises queens and sells NUCs and queens of treatment-free survivor stock.

After college, Sam worked for a couple of Vermont beekeepers and stated raising queens and bees for them in North Carolina. After that, he worked for other beekeepers in Florida, and then Montana where he was involved in large scale migratory beekeeping and the commercial pollination of the California almonds.

While working for a large migratory operation he started keeping a few hives of his own (I think that he won these in a poker game) which he was allowed to bring along on the trucks to the almonds, and collect the pollination fees. He worked long hours, lived in the company trailers, and didn't spend much money, and increased his bees to 100 colonies. So his wages built up for quite a while.

When he left and his employers bought out his bees and paid his back wages, he had enough money to move back to the Hudson Valley and start beekeeping on his own, with his own ideas.

Sam works his bees while wearing tee shirt, shorts and sandals. He writes poetry and sings songs about bees and bugs. Sam is a hippy who lives close to the earth and the bees. Sam seems to have the ability to see the world from a honeybee's perspective. He is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker. He has recently released a CD of his songs, including songs about bees. His website is: <http://anarchyapiaries.org/> There are also a dozen or more video clips on YouTube of some of Sam's talks.

Sam will be staying at Bob and Martha Naylor's home. ♪

Musings from the Secretary....

We received two packages on Monday, March 25th. Randy Fleury picked them up in Massachusetts and delivered them to us. They were Italians from Georgia. The day was cool so they stayed in the basement until the next day, which was a bit warmer, in the 40 degrees and cloudy. When Tom installed one of the packages, the bees had already drawn out a large piece of comb and had begun filling it with syrup. He had a hard time pulling out the queen cage. Yeah! We received a package with young bees! The syrup cans in both packages were completely empty. The queens were inside the packages without attendants so the bees had had a chance to get used to her and take care of her for four days. The packages were big...close to four pounds, which was a good thing because it has stayed cold, but we knew there were enough bees to make a decent cluster. We prefer to get our packages as early as possible. Both our hives now have brood which that hatched the week of April 24th. I sat by one of the hives on April 16th to observe their behavior. About every 5th bee that entered the hive had pollen. Not bad for mid-April. Both packages are taking syrup heavily, but they're not really interested in the pollen patties. Our strong hive that made it through the winter is not taking syrup, but has devoured the pollen patty. This one still has adequate stores of honey from last year, and the queen is laying again. We lost three of four hives this winter and now have three hives. We turned on our electric fence April 1.

I started melting down cappings and old brood comb recently that a friend gave me. It's been an interesting learning experience to see the different colors of wax. The dark brood comb makes a bright yellow wax with a hint of red, because of the propolis resin. I made some hand cream from the cappings that turned out pretty good for a first timer. I do the melting in the garage with an old electric Dominion hotplate (and a fire extinguisher handy!) It's been a fun way to occupy some of my time this spring. I've also been making taper candles.

Hope to see you at the May meeting. We have a great speaker lined up! By then, more of us will have installed our bees. I saw dandelions in bloom in Concord this week. ♪ Janet Eklund

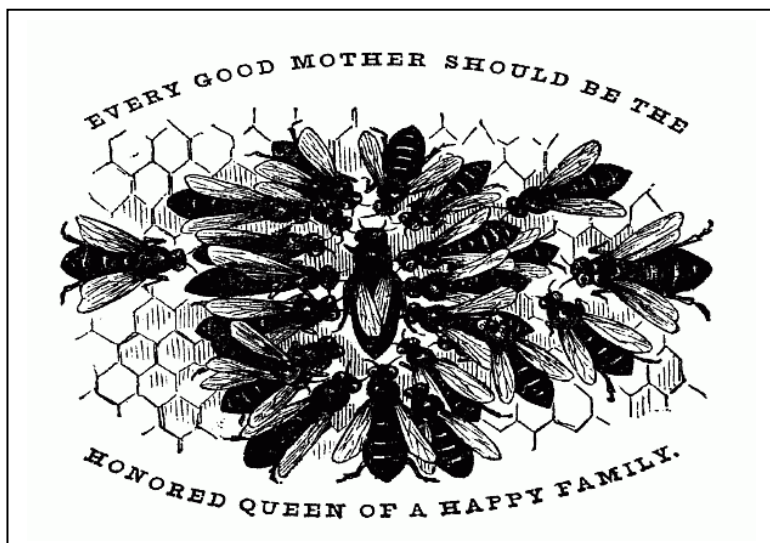
**When club members are learning about
beekeeping, they could have you to thank....**

The following club members have graciously volunteered to be mentors to our members who are new to beekeeping. They are also available to share their experience and knowledge with other members who have questions or need advice.

- ☞ Alan Carruth, Newport 863-7064
- ☞ Randy Fleury, South Sutton, 927-4144
- ☞ Tom Dickson, Andover, 340-3029
- ☞ Richard Brewster, Andover, 735-5457
- ☞ Dave Hartman, Warner, 456-3881
- ☞ Bill McDonald, Newport, 863-4012
- ☞ John Chadwick, Sutton Mills, 927-4327

Thank you.....

- ☞ McDonald brothers for organizing a successful Bee School
- ☞ Our volunteer beekeeping mentors
- ☞ Linda Hartman for setting up our meeting room and for her scrumptious cookies
- ☞ Barbara Burns for coordinating the club t-shirt order
- ☞ Bob Naylor for finding a speaker for the May meeting
- ☞ Dave Hartman for demonstrating a hiving in May
- ☞ Cynthia Hayes and Linda Hartman for putting together a beekeeping display at the Pillsbury Library
- ☞ Troy Hall for donating queens to NHBA raffle



Looking ahead...
2013 KBA Meeting Schedule

- ☞ **Friday, May 10th at 7:00 p.m.**
Pillsbury Public Library—Speaker Sam Comfort
- ☞ **Sunday, July 14th at 1:00 p.m.**
Club picnic--Home of Al & Sally Carruth, Newport
- ☞ **Friday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m.**
Pillsbury Public Library--Topic & Speaker TBD
- ☞ **Friday, November 8th at 6:00 p.m.**
Holiday potluck.--East Andover Grange

Local Queens for Sale

Troy Hall is taking orders for queens for the following dates: July 15, July 23, and July 31
He is getting virgin Russian's to mate with his colonies.
Price is 25 dollars + shipping.
252-9564

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