
KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

June 2013

Club Picnic: July 14, 2013

Sunday, July 14, 2013
1:00 p.m.

BBQ and Potluck (bring a dish)

Home of Alan & Sally Carruth
Camel Hump Road, Newport

RSVP please to:

Email: evernew@myfairpoint.net
Phone: (603) 863-7064.

Directions to the Carruth's house:

Signs will be posted on both ends of Camel Hump Road

From the Newport Traffic Circle

- North on Rte. 10. Pass the High School after 1 mile on right and the airport after another mile on left.
- 3/10 mile after airport make the sharp turn onto Camel Hump Road on the right.
- Be careful of fast moving vehicles behind you. Slow down & move into the breakdown lane.
- Carruth home is on the left. White house with blue roof & attached barn. Greenhouse in front.
- Park in front of barn or on the lawn.

From Route 89

- Exit 13, Route 10 South
- Continue through Grantham and Croydon
- Travel 8.5 miles passing over Sugar River
- Speed limit is 55 mph. Slow down at speed limit sign
- Immediately put on left turn signal. Be careful of fast moving vehicles behind you.
- Turn left on Camel Hump Road
- Carruth home is on the right. White house with blue roof & attached barn. Greenhouse in front.
- Park in front of barn or on the lawn.

There are two entrances to Camel Hump Road off Route 10. If you miss one, go a bit further & turn onto the next one.

*There will be a raffle at the picnic.
Bring items to raffle off*

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Sam Comfort talks about "Grassroots Beekeeping"

Twenty-seven members turned out to hear Sam Comfort of Anarchy Apiaries in New York talk about his natural methods in the Hudson Valley. Anarchy Apiaries raises queens from Varroa mite survivor stock that has received no medication treatment or artificial feed.

As a thank you gift for speaking, Bob Naylor gave Sam a handmade banjo ukulele. Sam began his presentation by playing a tune to lyrics written by Bob Naylor called "*The Varroa Mite Blues*." Sam sold his bee song CD at the end of the meeting. He donated a copy to the club library.

Sam's great sense of humor entertained us as he related how he got into beekeeping and migratory pollination traveling between Vermont, Montana, Florida and South Carolina. It was in 2005, at the age of 24, during the South Carolina Tupelo flow, that he taught himself how to graft queens with a paperclip and made discoveries about mite resistance.

Sam's contention is that monoculture farming, artificial feeding and medicating are contributing to poisoned and malnourished bees due to the lack of a diverse diet. He calls the problem it PCD "People Collapse Disorder," which is also the title of his music CD.

Now he maintains hundreds of top bar and Warre hives that he makes out of old Lanstroth frames (without foundation) and whatever materials he finds. He said, "I can build a hive out of a dumpster." He uses flower pots for NUCs. He simply lets the bees make their own comb, which results in a smaller cell and yields more bees per square inch. Sam had a 96% survival rate this past winter with his Warre hives. Kirk Webster and Mike Palmer have been his mentors. He sells packages now from overwintered hives with their queens.

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Sam feels his success comes from letting the bees guide him, ignoring modern day bee advice, letting nature take over and “treating them nice .” He drums bees into new hives instead of shaking them. He referred to the following websites that have more information on treatment free beekeeping:

The Barefoot Beekeeper <http://biobees.com/>

McFarland Apiaries www.mcfarlandapiaries.com

He ended his presentation by playing another song off his CD on his new banjo ukulele called: “Love Song of the Drone”.

New in the club library

(Submitted by Cynthia Hayes)

When Ben Chadwick spoke at the last session of Bee School, he donated the book, *The Hibernation Diet* by Mike and Stuart McInnes. A quote from the back cover says “Created by a pharmacist and a nutrition expert, *The Hibernation Diet* is the key not only to a healthy weight, but to unlocking energy resources you never knew you had. It will relieve stress and depression, and make your body work for you.” Read how a spoonful of honey every night can change your life. ☞

Richard Brewster featured in Valley News

There was a good article in the *Valley News* on Sunday, June 2nd about KBA Richard Brewster helping Hannah Falcone install a package of bees at her home. Hannah is the 12 year old from Plainfield who won the state 4-H essay contest. Richard and Hannah are shown in a full page article with color photographs, entitled “Building a Beehive.” The article tells how Richard has been helping Hannah start a new colony after her original bees mysteriously died off last year. In typical Richard fashion, the article quotes Richard as saying, “Some people say bee stings are good for muscular dystrophy and arthritis, but I find them energizing. When they sting me, I can run to beat hell.” ☞

***TROY HALL TAKING ORDERS NOW
FOR LOCALLY GROWN QUEENS ON THE
FOLLOWING CATCH DATES:***

July 22nd ~ July 31st ~ August 7th

Price is 25 dollars + shipping

USDA and EPA releases new report on honey bee health

(Excerpted from *NH Weekly Market Bulletin*, May 8, 2013)

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released a comprehensive scientific report on honey bee health. The report which represents the consensus of the scientific community states that there are multiple factors playing a role in honey bee colony declines, including parasites and disease, genetics, poor nutrition and pesticide exposure. (Editor's note: This is not news to us, but it's important that it will now be officially documented on the federal level) Key findings included:

- Varroa mite is recognized as the major factor underlying colony loss in the U.S. and other countries. There is widespread resistance to chemical treatment.
- Increased genetic diversity is needed. Breeding should emphasize traits such as hygienic behavior that confer improved resistance to mites and diseases.
- Poor nutrition impacts the individual bee and colony longevity. Bees need better forage and a variety of plants to support colony health
- Federal & state partners should consider actions to promote good bee health & protect them from pesticide-treated fields.
- There is a need for improved collaboration and information sharing between growers and beekeepers to protect bees from pesticides.
- The CCD Steering Committee led by the USDA will consider the report's recommendations and upgrade the 2007 CCD Action Plan that will outline the priorities in the next 5-10 years. The new 2013 plan will serve as a reference document for policy makers, legislators and the public and will help coordinate the federal strategy in response to honey bee losses.
- Read the 2007 CCD Action Plan at:
http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/br/ccd/ccd_actionplan.pdf

**The Waggle
Dance**



Secretary's musings....

I apologize for the problems that occurred with the May electronic newsletter. When folks started emailing me they couldn't open the newsletter attachment, I kept trying to solve the problem by reformatting and sending it again. It was so frustrating. I'm sure everyone got tired of seeing my name in their inbox over and over again. Afterwards, I attributed it to an incompatibility issue with Office 2010 and converting to PDF. Mike Bellino came to my rescue by reformatting the file and posting it to the KBA website at www.kbanh.org To avoid it happening again, Mike will just post the newsletter on the club website, and I will send an email notification to everyone. Paper newsletters will continue to be mailed to those wanting one.

Enough about last month's newsletter debacle..... I was thoroughly entertained and enlightened by Sam Comfort's presentation. He has a unique, mellow and carefree manner, but his opinions and concern are loud and clear over large scale bee management operations. He has the good fortune to be in a position to experiment and conduct longitudinal studies on small cell comb, foundation-less frames, queen genetics and top bar hives. He was generous with his knowledge and genuine in his philosophy. I'm sure that Sam will always remember Kearsarge Beekeepers when he plays the banjo Bob made for him.

On the hobbyist side of things....One of the packages we purchased in March has not taken off, as we hoped it would having been installed so early in the season. Obviously a poor laying queen as brood production has been sparse. We think it may also be due to drifting to a nearby hive further reducing the population. So, we have a new local queen on order. Our only hope for this hive is that it makes it through winter. The second package located in another bee yard is increasing nicely with two brood chambers and a honey super on top. Our overwintered hive is amazing! It's also somewhat ill-tempered! We have two honey supers on his one and by the time you read this, it will have another, maybe two. It is located next to several fields of buckwheat now in bloom along with tons of nectar from native plants.

The club summer picnic is three weeks away on July 14th. When Alan and Sally hosted the picnic in 2009, I remember looking on as their hives were examined after the BBQ. For whatever reason, lots of people standing outside the electric fence got stung all at once! Tom and I got a kick out of their tractor chicken coop. If you haven't joined us for our summer picnic, come and spend a few hours on a Sunday afternoon with your fellow beekeepers. There's good food, good company and good bee conservation. Make sure to RSVP to the Carruths.

☞Janet Eklund

BEE Prepared to Groan: BEE Puns

(from <http://princetonbees.webs.com/>)

Q: How do bees make money?

A: They cell their honey!

Q: When a bee is in your hand, what is in your eye?

A: Beauty--it's in the eye of the bee-holder!

Q: What kinds of bees drop things?

A: Fumble bees!

Upcoming Meetings

☞ **Sunday, July 14th at 1:00 p.m.**

Club picnic—Home of Alan & Sally Carruth, Newport

☞ **Friday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m.**

Pillsbury Public Library—Topic & Speaker TBD

Discussion on Officer Nominations for 2014

☞ **Friday, November 8th at 6:00 p.m.**

Holiday turkey dinner and potluck—East Andover Grange

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

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