

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

March/April 2014

CONGRATULATIONS!!



TROY HALL

2014 NH BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR

AWARD PRESENTED BY ALLEN LINDAHL, VP OF NHBA & BARBARA LAWLER, PRES.

Dear NHBA Beekeeper of the year nominating committee,

The Beekeeper that I am nominating is one who has dedicated themselves to Bees and the Beekeeping community.

They have participated in a wide variety of activities that span the gamut of all things bees.

They have spoken at clubs across the state, participated in EAS events and been an integral member of panel discussions regarding bees at public events.

They have been an officer with a local club and eagerly participated in Bee Schools, seminars and demonstrations.

They educate beekeepers publicly, privately and at their apiary – sharing their knowledge when ever asked.

They are humble in their knowledge, gracious and generous with their time and respected by all who have encountered them.

They consider themselves always a student eager to learn from others and seek out knowledge to grow their own skills.

Their contribution to Beekeeping in NH and the progress to raise Northern Bees is admirable, successful and supported by those who know them.

For this reason and many more, I nominate Troy Hall for Beekeeper of the year.

NEXT MEETING: SAT. APRIL 12, 2014, 9-11 A.M. AT THE WARNER LIBRARY

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**Message from President
Martin Marklin**

The Bees are Back

Although the signs of nature where we live display the contrary, we have officially entered that season of the year called Spring. Having passed the vernal equinox, the days will lengthen and—as the name of the season suggests—plants will “spring forth”.

As beekeepers in New England, this season marks the beginning of a relatively short window in which we can foster, observe, and harvest the fruits of this creature, who works tirelessly without sleeping.

For many, spring is also a time of growth, renewal, rejuvenation, and for many religions, rebirth.

And perhaps this is most evident in the Roman Catholic Church, who marks April 20, 2014 (the first Sunday, after the first full moon, after the vernal equinox) as its greatest liturgical celebration—Easter. As early as the fourth century, a special candle—made of beeswax—was used to mark the beginning of the Easter Vigil. And as early as the fifth century, a special prayer (the Exsultet) was sung after the lighting of this candle. In no other official prayer of the church is there a specific mention of the bee.

In 1970, the Roman missal for English speaking countries was edited and the reference to the bees in the Exsultet was removed.

Pope Benedict XVI ordered a new translation of the Roman Missal in 2012 that would be more faithful to the original Latin text. As such, the reference to the bee has returned to the Exsultet.

This Easter, many Catholics will hear (perhaps for the first time) these words:

. . . accept this candle, a solemn offering,

the work of bees, . . .

and

. . . for it (the candle) is fed by melting wax,

drawn out by mother bees,

to build a torch so precious.

While beekeepers and chandlers the world over welcome this reference, it is interesting to note the biological inaccuracy. The only bees that have wax glands and produce beeswax are the workers (virgins). The “mother bee” (queen) does not produce wax. Nonetheless, it is refreshing to see that even the Roman Catholic Church has joined the rising movement of giving attention to the bee.

Amen!



April 12, 2014 Meeting Agenda

- Minutes of March 8
- Reports from Officers
- Recap State meeting
- Let's Get Acquainted
- In the Hive w/Troy Hall
- Old & New Business
- Presentation: Making Cold Process Soap by Bam and John
- 2nd Presentation: Beekeeping on Vieques (if time allows)

HONEYED SESAME CANDY

Contributed by Linda Hartman and sampled at the March 8 meeting

Combine 2 cups of sesame seed and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped nuts (unsalted peanuts, walnuts, cashews, or almonds). Toast seeds and nuts by spreading in a thin layer on a rimmed baking sheet and roasting in a 350 oven for about 15 min or until light golden brown, shaking pan occasionally.

In a large frying pan, combine $\frac{1}{2}$ cup each honey and firmly packed brown sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt and $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. ground ginger, cardamom, or cinnamon. Bring mixture to a boil over med. heat, stirring constantly; cook for 2 minutes. Remove pan from heat and stir in seeds and nuts; mix thoroughly. Turn into a buttered 9 x 13 pan. With a large buttered spoon press candy firmly and evenly over pan. Cool at room temp. about 15 min., then lift out of pan with a wide spatula. Use a large knife to cut candy into 1"x2" pieces. When very firm (approx. 2 hrs.), wrap either individually or several together in a single layer in clear plastic film. Store at room temperature. Makes 48 bars.

Ticks! Ticks! Ticks!

Look here and protect yourselves!

<http://extension.unh.edu/Integrated-Pest-Management/Public-Health-IPM>

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000528_Rep1451.pdf

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000963_Rep1073.pdf

These are the links given out by Dr. Alan Eaton at the NH Beekeepers' March 15, 2014 meeting.

Excellent information via video and in print.

On the Newsstand NOW: *NHMAGAZINE/April issue*

Barbara Lawler, NHBA President a.k.a. "The Bee Lady" answers questions about beekeeping. Check it out!

TIPS: From Dan Conlon, speaker at the March 15 NH Beekeepers Meeting

What to look for when doing a quick hive inspection:

**ENTRANCE ACTIVITY
ARE CAPPINGS NORMAL
GOOD SMELL
FOOD RESERVES**

**BROOD PATTERN
OPEN BROOD COLOR
POPULATION LEVEL
MITES ON DRONES?**

REPORT ON NH BEEKEEPERS ASSN. MEETING, MARCH 15, 2014

Once again, our state organization put on a very interesting and totally enjoyable meeting. I will just touch on the high points for you.

There were three speakers:

*Alan Eaton from UNH who spoke on ticks and tick-borne diseases in NH.

*Steve Webber, an EMT who spoke on allergic reactions to stings and the use of the Epi-Pen.

*Dan Conlon of Warm Colors Apiaries in S. Deerfield Mass, the main speaker, who gave two talks on managing healthy hives and the challenges facing beekeepers.

Dr. Eaton's talk, though not directly related to bees, was extremely beneficial for beekeepers or anyone spending time outdoors. Our state now leads the nation in the incidence of Lyme disease (per capita, I believe) with Rockingham County having the most cases and Merrimack Country coming in 4th. For your own comfort and safety, please see the links on page 3. The most important point made was: You won't get any disease from ticks if you check your body every day in tick season (with the help of another person or mirrors) and remove all nymphs and ticks. Even if they have attached themselves to your skin, it takes 24 hours before the transmission of the infecting spirochetes to your bloodstream begins.

The presentation about epi-pens was very straight-forward and factual. Practice (not loaded) pens were available to examine and try. Though rare, a severe reaction to a sting where swallowing and breathing are affected is life-threatening. It is necessary to call 911 and go to the hospital immediately for follow-up after an epi-pen is used. Factors that increase the chance of a severe reaction are: the use of beta-blockers, age (young and old) and a previous history of severe reaction. Do not allow high risk visitors in your bee yard! Anyone with questions or concerns should talk to their physician. The epi-pens are only available by prescription.

Dan Conlon's talks were very informative. He stressed these points:

Have a management program with goals.

Do regular inspections and observe your bees.

Use IPM (integrated pest management) techniques.

Keep good records and evaluate your results

The first talk, "Healthy Hives through Proper Management" gave information on what tasks to perform in each month/season of the year. What to look for during inspections was also covered.

His second talk, "Honey Bee Health" covered the challenges to bee health: varroa mites, loss of genetic variation, nutrition, use of pesticides and neonicotinoids, and more. Hygienic behavior is an important trait in healthy bees.

Warm Colors Apiaries has a great website which you will want to visit. There educational opportunities for beekeepers there as well.

I have found the state meetings to be very interesting and beneficial. The huge spring raffle did not disappoint (though I didn't win anything) nor did the delicious lunch by C.C.Tomatoes. Of course, there are always friendly vendors there so you can pick up what your apiary needs and save some postage.

Next meeting will be in June at Muster Field Farm in Sutton. The fall meeting (Oct.) will have Dewey Caron as the featured speaker. Mike Palmer will speak in the spring of 2015.



Kearsarge Beekeepers' Association Meeting Minutes Saturday 3/8/14

President Martin Marklin brought the 10:00 o'clock meeting to order and handed out copies of a meeting agenda and the tentative calendar for all the NH beekeeping club meetings for 2014. The KBA meeting minutes from January were accepted. No treasurer's report this month as Robin Gray is on vacation. Vice-president John Chadwick gave an update from the February Farm & Forest Expo in Manchester and reported on the survival of his overwintered nukes.

Martin Marklin is also an elected NH representative to the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS) and brought in a copy of their newsletter 'The Propolizer' to look at. The next EAS conference and short course is slated for July 28 - August 1, 2014 at Eastern Kentucky University, in Richmond, Kentucky. From the EAS website: "Come to the lectures and hands on training from some of the foremost honey bee experts in the world, such as **Jennifer Berry, Dianna Sammataro, Micheal Palmer, Dewey Caron, Jeff Harris, Maryann Frazier, and Wyatt Mangum** and a whole host of other local and international experts."

The club received a thank-you note from Barbara Lawler, President of the NH Beekeepers Association, for our participation in the Farm & Forest Expo again this year.

We discussed our meeting schedule and voted to switch to monthly meetings beginning April, 2014 to meet at the Warner Library between 9-11 a.m. Saturday mornings, unless otherwise noticed. There will be no December meeting and the summer picnic in July will be held instead of the regular monthly meeting. Tentatively, the November holiday get together will also replace the regular monthly meeting. Martin volunteered to host the KBA July summer picnic at his place along the Contoocook River in the village of Contoocook. There is good kayaking and canoeing access from his place- don't forget to bring your life preservers and paddles!

We are looking to have 6 or 7 out of the 9 regular meetings to be speaker meetings. Raffles will now be held only at the summer picnic and Nov. holiday get-together to save on meeting time. Motion presented and passed for the KBA Board to budget up to 1200. dollars for speakers for the next 12 months.

'In the Hive' with Troy Hall: "The verdict is handed down in April for last year's experiments." Troy spoke about this being the most stressful time of year for the bees. Honey and pollen stores within the hive may be running low in combination with other stressors such as a high mite load if left untreated last fall. A basketball size cluster of bees now could soon turn into a softball size cluster in the next month or so as the rapid die-off known as 'spring dwindle' begins as last year's winter bees begin to succumb from old age. Check for capped honey on the edges of boxes, feed fondant or winter patties if needed. Bees will consume much more honey if you feed pollen patties (pollen substitute) which stimulates brood rearing. Do not break up the cluster to put in honey frames! Avoid feeding sugar syrup until bees are flying everyday (weather permitting) with daytime temps in the 50s. Okay to provide pollen patties 1 to 2 weeks before the natural pollen flow.

Next meeting is Sat. April 12 Warner Library 9:00 a.m. Submitted by Kim Tuttle, Secretary

