

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

July – August 2014

NEXT MEETING:

SAT., AUG. 9, 2014
9-11 A.M.
PILLSBURY LIBRARY
WARNER

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Accept last month's minutes
3. Officers' reports
4. News and Upcoming Events
5. Report from EAS meeting
6. Welcome new guests
7. Member spotlight
8. November gathering
9. New Business:
 - Bee School

Presentation: Mike Bayko: All you need to know about entering--and winning--in a honey show competition.

President's message:

As I write this message, I am currently in Kentucky at the annual conference of the Eastern Apicultural Society (EAS). As such, I will keep this message short.

The mission of EAS is honeybee education and research. There is a wealth of information being shared these few days by scientists and beekeepers from around the world. Next year's meeting will be at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada (only an hour from Toronto) on August 10-15, 2015. Since the location of the conference next year will be closer to us, I encourage anyone who might be interested to attend.

One of the highlights of the conference is the Honey Show. And since we are coming into extracting season, we have the privilege of listening to Mike Bayko speak

Martin Marklin (below) at EAS Conference



at our upcoming meeting about entering an exhibit at a honey show(s). Mike has been a honey show judge for years and has tremendous expertise--and tips--to share. You won't want to miss his presentation.

Other than that, bee well.

--Martin

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Kearsarge Beekeepers' Association Meeting Minutes Saturday 6/14/14 Warner Library

President Martin Marklin brought the 9 o'clock meeting to order. Robin Gray gave the Treasurer's report. As of 6/14/14, we have 41 paid up members and the checkbook balance remains around \$4500. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports from May were accepted. The club thanked Richard Brewster for making two trips to Beeline Apiaries in Hudson to pick up 23 packages and queens. Thanks also to Ben Chadwick and John Chadwick for setting up a top bar hive at Musterfield Farm for the Summer Picnic and Workshop which will be held Saturday June 28. Looks like Richard Brewster painted that too!

Martin is the NH State Beekeepers' representative to the EAS which will be having its annual meeting in Richmond, Kentucky from July 28 to August 1 this year. The Wednesday through Friday conference includes a Short Course at the beginning of the week and presentations from a line-up of nationally and internationally recognized bee and beekeeping experts. The University of New Hampshire has opened a bee lab run by Dr. Sandra Rehan and bee hotel for native bees. Dr. Rehan estimates there are 250 native bee species in N.H. Rehan and her team have launched a long-term monitoring of bee biodiversity in New Hampshire, with the first monitoring sites at the Woodman and Kingman farms, both NHAES facilities.

Read more:

<http://www.unh.edu/news/releases/2014/06/lw10bees.cfm#ixzz35C3pocSS>

In August, UNH Extension hosts an open house at Woodman Farm. It may be a good time to meet Dr. Rehan. Former KBA president Peter Zak talked about his beekeeping experiences and apple pollination in particular. Because of rain, there were effectively only 2 out of 7 pollination days this year in the apple orchards. Apple pollination in NH depended upon a lot of native bee pollination this year. Peter gave an update on fire blight in his orchard.

If beekeepers want swarms they may want to put their names in to their local fire departments as they often take calls for them. Some people have observed small hive beetles (SHB) in their packages this year. SHB larvae are attracted to pollen patties and can create a slimy mess. Freeze pollen patties for 3 days to kill SHB larvae.

New business: Robert O'Neill will look into renting our usual science lab space at the Kearsarge Middle School for our winter bee school in 2015. Bee school runs for 4 weeks every other Sat. from 1-4 p.m.

Discussion and vote on motion to give a half price membership to those new members joining after July 1. Motion was voted down although we will make sure to have membership forms available at meetings and put one in the newsletter each month.

Reminder: No July KBA meeting. Instead there will a picnic at Marklin Candle in Contoocook. 1:30p.m. lunch-bring pot luck items, meat on the grill will be provided by KBA. Raffle: 2:30p.m. bring raffle items. 3:00p.m. beeyard tour and possibly a factory tour following. There is canoe and kayak access from Marklin Candle upstream for 4.5 miles of the Contoocook River.

For the remainder of the meeting, Martin Marklin gave a presentation on bees wax. A typical hive yields about 2 lbs of wax per season- typically only cappings are used for the candle industry. Mary Ann Frazier's research looks at 50 pesticides in wax versus the 5 pesticides in wax tested for by the pharmaceutical industry.

Submitted by Kim Tuttle, Secretary.

KBA ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, July 20 got off to a cloudy start but cleared just in time for the Annual Picnic. Martin and Christine Marklin and their children hosted the well-attended event at the Marklin Candle complex in Contoocook. The food and drink was fabulous....hamburgers, hot dogs, and sausages from the grills; salads, sides, pickles, chips, dips and an amazing array of desserts completed the potluck feast. No one went home hungry.

As well as eating, discussing bees and gardens and the like, we all had fun participating in the *big* club raffle, complete with a couple of *big* prizes and a large number of smaller ones. Members also visited the beautiful Marklin Candle gift shop which includes an observation hive. Along toward 2:30 or so, most everyone joined the procession to Martin's very large and busy bee yard as well as to Christine's huge and immaculately kept gardens. We did not miss the farm animals either. Sheep, pigs, goats, chickens, and ducks are all part of the beautiful scene along the river.

The last thing on the agenda was a tour of the candle factory. That is an amazing place where beautiful candles of all sizes (many are incredibly large) are dipped and decorated for sale to churches and to the public. Martin explained all the special processes involved in crafting these beauties and told us how he got started with candle making as a teenager.

Many thanks to the Marklin family for the wonderful afternoon.



NH BEEKEEPERS SUMMER MEETING was held at Muster Field Farm in North Sutton on June 28. The schedule included speakers, hands-on activities, a pot-luck barbeque, smoker contest and a bee yard visit.

The first talk was given by Mike Bayko on Honey Contests and Judging. Since few KBA members were in attendance, we will be having Mike repeat that talk at our next meeting.

The second speaker was Richard Brewster, who covered many of the tips and tricks he has learned in his many years of beekeeping. He covered topics ranging from equipment modification to fencing to record keeping and everything in between.

For the next two workshops, the group split up and listened to first one speaker and then the other. Greg Sanderson covered the ins and outs of keeping bears out of your bees with electric fencing. Alden Marshall did a queen marking demonstration and showed how to uncap drone brood with a scratching tool to destroy varroa mites on the larvae.

After lunch, Jack Noon of Sutton gave the group a short history of Muster Field Farm from colonial times to the present.

NHBA President Barbara Lawler presented an overview of the many bee products that can enhance your health. She called her talk Apitherapy 101. Propolis, pollen, royal jelly, beeswax, and bee venom were all covered and their benefits explained. Barbara recommended these books: *The Bible of Bee Venom Therapy* by Dr. Bodog Beck and *How Well are You Willing to Be?* by Pat Wagner.

At the end of the day, many of us followed Ben Chadwick, NH Bee Inspector, to the beehives on the Muster Field property. He inspected one or two of the Langstroth hives (owned by John Chadwick) and his own top-bar hive which is on loan there.



NH 2014 FAIR SCHEDULE

- [Cornish Fair](#), Aug. 15-17
- [Lancaster Fair](#), Aug. 27-Sept. 1
- [Hopkinton State Fair](#), Contoocook, Aug. 29-Sept. 1
- [Hillsborough County Agricultural Fair](#), New Boston, Sept. 5-7
- [Rochester Fair](#), Sept. 12-21
- [Deerfield Fair](#), Sept. 25-28
- [Sandwich Fair](#), Oct. 11-13

Did you know that all the upcoming NH fairs have honey contests? If you were at the NHBA summer meeting or will be at the KBA August meeting you will get the lowdown on how and why you might want to enter some of these contests. *Hint: It isn't really the prize money you are after, it's the Blue Ribbon....and the FUN.*

It is very interesting to see the wide variation in the number of classes to enter as well as the premiums offered. Most fairs offer awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. Some fairs include classes for beeswax candles, comb honey, chunk honey, creamed honey, and "collections" of honey products packaged to sell. Some fairs want to have you send in an entry form ahead of time; at others, you just show up with your entries the day before the fair and do the paperwork on the spot.

The details are important in this, so do your homework, listen to Mike Bayko, and see how many ribbons you can bring home from the fairs for your great honey products.

MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE PESTICIDES THAT THREATEN OUR BEES.

<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/?p=13507>

[Scientists Call for Global Action with Release of "Worldwide Assessment" of Bee-Harming Pesticides](#)

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Jun

[Study Finds Majority of "Bee-Friendly" Plants Sold at Garden Stores Contaminated with Bee-Killing Pesticides](#)

Excerpt:

(*Beyond Pesticides*, June 26, 2014) Over half of the "bee-friendly" home garden plants sold at garden supply centers such as Home Depot, Lowe's, and Walmart have been pre-treated with pesticides shown to harm and kill bees, according to a study released yesterday by Friends of the Earth, Beyond Pesticides and allies.

The study, [Gardeners Beware 2014](#), shows that 36 out of 71 (51 percent) of garden plant samples purchased at top garden retailers in 18 cities in the United States and Canada contain [neonicotinoid](#) (neonic) pesticides — a key contributor to recent bee declines. Some of the flowers contained neonic levels high enough to kill bees outright and concentrations in the flowers' pollen and nectar are assumed to be comparable. Further, 40% of the positive samples contained two or more neonics.

Thanks to Kim Tuttle, KBA Secretary for the above information.

ALSO FROM "THE MAILBAG" from a non-beekeeper friend of mine who obtained this list of popular brand name pesticides containing neonics from the Friends of the Earth Bee Action.org:

Aloft ; Arena,, Allectus; Atera; Bithor; Caravan; Coretect; Derby; Dino; Dominion; Equiladonis; Flagship; Flower, Rose, & Shrub Care; Gaucho; Grub-No-More; Grubout; Hawk; Imaxxpro; Ima-Jet; Imi Insecticide; Imicide; Imid-Bifen; Imada-Teb Garden SC; Imadapro; Imigold; Lada; Malice; Mallet; Mantra; Marathon; Meridian; Merit; Nuprid; Optigard Flex; Pasada; Pointer Insecticide; Premise; Pronto; Prothor; Safari; Sagacity; Starkle: Bounty; Tandem; Temprid; Triple Crown Insecticide; Tristar; Turfthor; Xytect



BEE AWARE! Use alternative pest control methods, like landscaping to attract beneficial insects, and eco-friendly pest-control products.



BEE VIGILANT! Read labels and steer clear of products containing neonicotinoids.



BEE VOCAL! Tell your friends and family about the importance of bees and how they can help.

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Street or PO Box _____ Town _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Check: New or Renewal

May we share your contact information with other members? Yes or No

I would like to receive my newsletter by downloading it from the club website _____
(Saves \$ for the club) www.kbanh.org

OR

Please send a printed newsletter to my mailing address above _____

**2014 DUES ARE \$15.00 PER FAMILY
2015 DUES WILL INCREASE TO \$20.00**

Please make checks payable to: **KBA**
MAIL TO: Robin Gray
PO Box 275
Warner, NH 03278

