

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

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OCT/NOV 2014

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS POTLUCK TURKEY DINNER

Friday, November 7, 2014, 6:00 pm
East Andover Grange Hall, just off Rt. 11
(Heading east, turn rt at church and it is on the left)

PLEASE RSVP to David & Linda Hartman
Phone: 456-3881
Or email: davidehartman@hotmail.com

LET THEM KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN TO BRING: SIDE
DISH, DESSERT, BREAD, APPETIZER, ETC.

IF YOU CAN COME EARLY TO HELP SET UP (5-5:15),
PLEASE LET DAVE AND LINDA KNOW THAT.

PLEASE BRING ITEMS FOR RAFFLE. SEE YOU THERE!

College will not be available because of an admissions event). We simply need to secure a space and a caterer; the state will pay the costs.

Dewey Caron, author and lecturer, spoke at Saturday's meeting to a very attentive crowd. I took the opportunity to purchase on the club's behalf his book, Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping, which he graciously signed. This wonderful resource will be a new addition to our club's library.

Our next gathering is in East Andover at our annual Harvest Dinner on Friday, November 7, at 6 pm. Please mark your calendar and RSVP to Linda Hartman if you can attend and what you will bring. And don't forget your raffle items. This will be our final meeting until next year.

I hope you can enjoy the final days of autumn as we get our hives ready for winter.

--Martin

Our next regular meeting will be at 9 a.m. Sat.
Jan 11, 2015 at the Pillsbury Library in Warner

President's message

Dear Fellow KBA members,

*It was good to see many of our members at our recent New Hampshire State Beekeeper's annual Fall Meeting on Saturday in Dover. As you may know, the autumn meeting traditionally moves around the state, hosted by one of **the** local NH clubs. And next year is our turn. If anyone knows of a venue in which to host the meeting, please let us know. (It turns out that New England*

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Kearsarge Beekeepers' Association Meeting Minutes Saturday, September 12, 2014 Warner Library

We will not be having an October meeting as the weekend coincides with the Warner Fall Foliage Festival. Members are encouraged to sign up for the Oct. 25, 2014 Fall NH Beekeepers' Meeting at the Hellenic Center in Dover. Dewey Caron will speak on Treatment Free Beekeeping. Dr. Sandra Rehan from UNH will be the other featured speaker. John Chadwick will tentatively schedule Zak Lamas for the January meeting instead.

Business: It looks like the KBA will be hosting the 2015 Fall NH Beekeepers' Meeting. Deb Orlando will check with New England College in Henniker for a room that can sit 130 or more. The KBA will host its November holiday potluck at 6 p.m. either November 7th or the 14th. We will try to get the Grange in East Andover again. Marty Marklin will get in touch with Rob O'Neill who was going to contact Irene about the Grange availability. A backup location may be Camp Methodios in Contoocook. The McDonald brothers have volunteered to organize Bee School again this winter. The tentative dates are Feb.7, Feb.21, March 7, and March 21- all Saturday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Troy will let the new beekeeping club in Haverhill in the Ct. River valley know about the school.

David Hartman has once again volunteered to chair the nominating committee if anyone is interested in a KBA position for 2015. All officers have expressed an interest in serving again except for Kim Tuttle, Secretary. Barbara Burns thinks she will continue with the newsletter, so the new secretary only has to worry about meeting minutes.

Motion presented to reimburse Linda Hartman up to \$100 per year for coffee, desserts, etc. for our monthly meetings. Motion passed. Ideas for speakers for next year were discussed briefly. Erin Forbes of Overland Honey was suggested.

This month's speaker: Raising Queens in the North by Troy Hall-

Four years after starting beekeeping, Troy was motivated to start raising queens by the cost of buying them. He charged thirty dollars per queen this year. You must have a 100 colony minimum to select from to start a successful queen rearing operation which includes a production yard, mating nuc yards, and nucleus colonies. Breeder queens are found in

production colonies, production colonies are made from overwintered nucleus colonies. Nucleus colonies are made up on the summer flow from unproductive colonies. He specializes in Carniolan crosses at his apiary in Plainfield. He had a cold spring there with a normal summer besides a little drought in August. Unlike the rest of us, it seems, he experienced a spectacular fall honey flow! He doesn't do the Dolittle method of queen rearing but uses a system that Brother Adam in England developed.

Submitted by Kim Tuttle, Secretary.



Troy Hall speaking at our September 12, 2014 meeting. His mentors are Mike Palmer and Kirk Webster.



Queen rearing equipment used by Troy.

Troy considers the ability to survive winter is the most important trait that he emphasizes in his breeding program. Troy's bees are not treated with chemicals. Please see additional comments in the meeting minutes.

KBA BEE SCHOOL – COMING UP IN EARLY 2015

TENTATIVE DATES for our bi-annual BEESCHOOL are FEB. 7 & 21, MAR. 7 & 21 AT KRMS IN NORTH SUTTON.

We will confirm the dates, place and time at the Potluck Dinner Nov. 7 and in the next newsletter, which is scheduled to be published around Jan. 1.

In the meantime, tell all your would-be-beekeeper friends to watch for it.



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Dreamstime.com

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Honey Cooking Tips

From the National Honey Board

When substituting honey for sugar in baked goods:

- ❖ Reduce the liquid in the recipe by $\frac{1}{4}$ cup for each cup of honey used
- ❖ Add about $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda for each cup of honey used
- ❖ Reduce oven temperature by 25 degrees to prevent over browning

HONEY RECIPES FOR THE HOLIDAYS FROM THE NATIONAL HONEY BOARD

www.honey.com

HOT SPICED TEA

4 cups freshly brewed tea

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey

4 cinnamon sticks

4 whole cloves

4 slices citrus fruit

Combine tea, honey, cinnamon sticks and cloves in medium saucepan. Simmer for 5 minutes. Strain into mugs. Garnish with citrus slices and serve hot. Makes 4 servings

HONEY CINNAMON SPREAD

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup peanut butter

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Combine ingredients; mix thoroughly. Spread on English muffins, biscuits or sandwiches. Makes 4 servings.

HOT 'N' HONEY DIP

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup Dijon mustard

1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Black pepper and cayenne pepper, to taste

Combine ingredients; mix thoroughly. Use as a dip for pretzels and bread sticks, fresh vegetables, or chicken wings. Makes 4 servings

HEAVENLY NONFAT CHOCOLATE HONEY DIP

1 cup nonfat sour cream

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup honey

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsweetened cocoa powder

1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine ingredients in medium bowl and blend thoroughly. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve with assorted fruits or chunks of angel food cake. Makes 6 servings.

Report on NHBA meeting October 25, 2014 by

Barbara Burns

Our state beekeeper's association once again held a great fall meeting with two excellent speakers, a honey tasting event, vendors, and a wonderful lunch. This year the meeting was held in Dover and hosted by the Seacoast Beekeepers Association. Next fall's meeting will be hosted by our club!



Dr. Dewey Caron presented two talks:

“Treatment Free Beekeeping” (in the a.m.) and “This and That” (after lunch). I will briefly try to summarize some of the points made in each talk.

- Stressors on bees include: Moving colonies, poor nutrition, insecticides, diseases and mites.
- Varroa mites enhance viruses in colonies
- Varroa treatment options are:
 - Hard chemicals, to which the mites become resistant over time
 - Soft or organic chemicals, which are still killers
 - Cultural or mechanical options
 - Screened bottom boards
 - Sanitation, such as washing hands and tools, replacing comb

- Ventilation
 - Drone trapping
 - Brood interruption techniques (See book “Increase Essentials”)
 - Small cell size
 - Apiary location and set-up
- IPM (Integrated Pest Management) is a “toolbox” of many things
 - The management styles of beekeepers are:
 - Those who “host” a beehive or two to “save the bees “ and barely look at them
 - Those who do look inside the hive
 - Those who inspect their frames and manage their bees
 - Treatment free doesn't mean: No chemicals, letting alone, failure to manage, developing survivor stock (though this is a component), giving up.
 - Treatment free is serious work (to be successful) and hard to achieve
 - Treatment free is:
 - Less expensive
 - Ecologically sound
 - Includes less chance of non-target harm
 - Reduces beeswax contamination
 - Stewardship friendly
 - Kinder and gentler
 - More “natural”...(which means what?)
 - We don't have to accept continued heavy losses.
 - Peak of mite population is Aug/Sept; lowest is in spring (if bees survive winter). When there is no brood (winter), the mites are on the adults
 - Use sticky board, powdered sugar or alcohol roll to count varroa mites.
 - In working toward treatment-free, you need to consider hive type and apiary set-up. In the wild, bees utilize smaller spaces and are further apart. Remember, bees pass “things” between hives; so do beekeepers. Colonies need to look different from each other to reduce drifting

- Treatment free starts with a better queen.
Think: survivor bees, Russian bees, hygienic bees.
- Hygienic bees have shorter brood cycles (Africanized=19 days), groom each other, and pull out larvae that have varroa
- Breaking the brood cycle before the peak of the summer mite load is effective
- HopGuard (an acid extracted from hops) is a product to knock mites off bees; so is powdered sugar, but it is less effective.

Though he gave many specific suggestions, Dr. Caron's theme for the first talk seemed to me to be that beekeepers need to be very serious about their goals for their bees. Being treatment free is a good goal, but it won't happen without hard work and paying attention to what is going on in the hive(s.) We need to take action to reduce mites and disease as well as provide our bees with good nutrition and care.

"This and That": In his second talk, Dr. Caron presented a potpourri of bee-raising facts and went into detail about some of the management practices he had mentioned in the morning.

- In the fall the bee population should be strong with a vigorous queen; there should be good stores in the hive
- To achieve this, you probably need to feed heavy syrup. If brood is too high up, you can use a queen excluder; but don't forget to take it away before winter.
- Reorganize hive if you feel you must, but remember that nature knows best
- Why colonies die:
 - Lack of food = starvation
 - Too few bees = freezing
 - Can't void waste = poison (upper entrance will help)
 - Queen problems
 - Mites and diseases
 - Bad luck!
- Sampling for varroa mites:
 - The best test method is powdered sugar. Shake 3 frames into a bucket

and scoop out one cup (approx.300 bees) to do the shake. In Aug/Sept, the maximum # of mites you should find is 15 (5%).

- Sticky board method: Rate of fall of mites should be less than 1 per hour. Leave the board in 24 hours and see if there are 24 mites.
- After testing for mites, decide if treatment is necessary & take action. Monitor numbers again after treating.
- Feeding:
 - Is good stewardship
 - Never feed honey unless you know the source
 - Winter: No moist feeding; use dry sugar or candy board (usually Feb)
 - Do not discontinue a winter feeding program once started
- Winter ventilation: Do have an upper entrance. Use something in the top of hive to absorb moisture.
- To clean hive tools, use rubbing alcohol or a bleach solution
- Remember how much of the bees' sources of nectar and honey depends on common weeds, some of which are rather invasive. Are you and your neighbors working to save them or destroy them?
- WINTER LOSS SURVEY: Read last year's results and sign up to participate in this year's survey at: Beeinformed.org
Contact information for Dr. Caron is: dmcaron@udel.edu



Native pollinators on thistle blossom



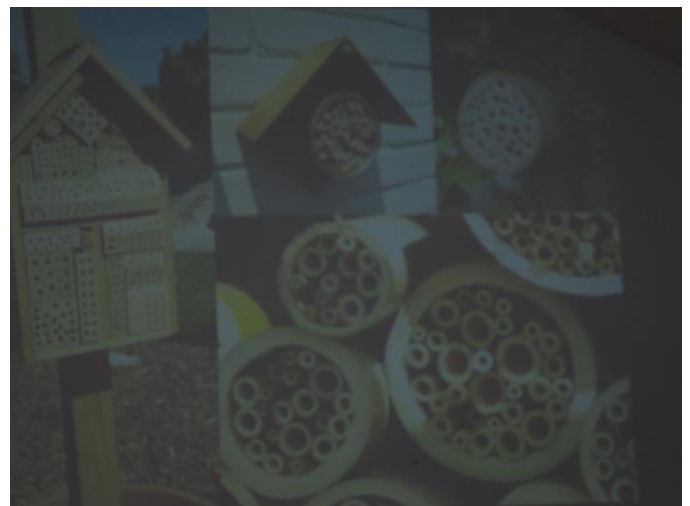
Dr. Sandra Rehan of the UNH Dept. of Biological Sciences presented the talk: “Diversity, Decline and Sustainability of Native Bees.

Decline and Sustainability of Native Bees.

- There are about 200 species of native bees in NH
- They are not honey-producing bees; young are fed raw pollen and nectar
- They are good pollinators
- Good diversity helps sustainability
- The three types of native bees are:
 - Sweat bees – live in the ground or in wood, are solitary with very small colonies, are metallic green or blue
 - Cuckoo bees – red in color, don’t make their own nests, are indicator species for the health of their hosts
 - Bumblebees – closest relative to the honeybee, have hundreds in a colony, are important to cranberry, blueberry and tomato crops
- Decline of native bees
 - There were 220 species in NH; now there are probably around 180.

- Only exotic bees are on the increase
- Problems: Pesticides, habitat loss, fragmentation, urbanization, climate change, parasites, pathogens, interaction with honeybees and alien species
- At UNH, they are capturing and studying native bee species, not studying honeybees. Nests are studied for food content as well as bacteria, pesticides and other things that may harm them.
- Diversity of plants is essential for all bees
- Sustainable solutions:
 - Bee Friendly Farming Initiative
 - Partners for Sustainable Pollination
 - SHARE = Simply Have Areas Reserved for the Environment
 - Have pesticide-free zones
- Check out websites listed above plus:
 - The White House: Presidential Memo Regarding Preservation of Pollinators in America and Council of Environmental Quality Supporting Pollinators at Federal Facilities
 - www.unhbeelab.com
 - Contact info. For Dr. Rehan is: Sandra.rehan@unh.edu

Dr. Rehan’s presentation was fascinating and the photography of individual bees was absolutely beautiful. She also has great photos of the native bee habitat structures that she and the students have built to attract a variety of native pollinators. Here is one...and you can see more on the unh beelab website.



MASON BEES, CARPENTER BEES, and other native pollinators. If your garden is anything like mine, when you go there you see quite a few bees. But, most times, the bees aren't the honeybees you were probably hoping to see. They are bumblebees and other bees and insects that you can't quite identify.....our wonderful native pollinators.

What's good for the "natives" is also good for our honeybees. They are not really competitors.

Thanks to Richard Brewster, I have discovered that you can order mason bees, leaf-cutter bees, and bumblebees if you don't think you have enough naturally. There's a company: Crown Bees—the Gentle Bee Company out of Washington state that has all these bees to sell as well as accessories and information so you can better raise them. Their website (www.crownbees.com) is loaded with information, too. You can arrange to receive free of charge their 10-lesson course on raising mason bees. If you need to borrow my copy of that information, I would gladly lend it out.

After hearing Dr. Sandra Rehan's talk last weekend at the NHBA meeting, I've decided it probably isn't necessary to purchase these bees because they are already here. Just helping with their habitat and providing (and protecting) food sources should do the trick. I do recommend that you visit www.unhbeelab.com to get some suggestions for bee nesting "homes" that you can provide.

Here are some additional points taken from an article called "Bee-friendly garden can help struggling species" in the May 2014 edition of "Livewell New Hampshire", a Concord Monitor publication:

- Plant flowers and create green spaces, especially in urban areas.
- Leave patches of bare soil, rocks and brush piles for use by ground dwelling native bees
- Add caterpillar host plants
- Install bee hotels around the yard by drilling holes in wood blocks and creating reed or bamboo bundles.
- Plant woody plants with branches that have soft insides (elderberries, raspberries, sumac). Grow these up and then cut them back to expose the [hollow] stems.
- Eliminate or change the way you apply pesticides. Don't use them on plants that are blooming. Apply them at night when bees are less active.
- Spray from ground level to reduce drift, and create buffer zones next to agricultural areas.
- Rethink the use of herbicides, which reduce pollinator food sources by removing flowers from the landscape.
- Place pollinator habitat signs around pastures, community gardens, city parks, bike trails or suburban yards to promote conservation.
- Plant wildflowers that provide a high succession of bloom.
- Have home gardens free of chemicals. Get into natural gardening.

KBA 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____
Street or PO Box _____ Town _____
State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Check: New or Renewal

Check one: 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 _____

2015 DUES ARE \$20.00

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