

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

December 2014/January 2015

NEXT MEETING

SAT., JAN. 10, 2015
9-11 A.M.
PILLSBURY LIBRARY
WARNER, NH

AGENDA:

- Call to order, minutes of Sept. meeting, officers' reports
- Election of new officers
- Updates on NH Beekeepers, EAS, and Farm & Forest Expo
- Let's get acquainted
- In the Hive with Troy Hall
- Old and new business: Bee School, 2015 speakers, etc
- Presentation: Beeswax and Other Natural Waxes by Martin Marklin (time permitting)
See Page 2*

Letter from the President

It is the last day of 2014 as I write this message. I hope everyone had a joyous and peace-filled holiday season. And I—like you—look forward to a new year full of possibilities and opportunities.

It has been a wonderful experience to serve as president of Kearsarge Beekeepers

Association. I enjoyed getting to know more of the members and, of course, learning more about keeping bees. At our next meeting, we will elect new officers. I am happy to serve again as president, should the club so decide.

There are many things about which to be excited in the upcoming year. First of all, we will be hosting Bee School in February and March. (Particular thanks go to John Chadwick and his committee for undertaking this task). This is a wonderful chance for us to “evangelize” and recruit new beekeepers. Just think for a moment when you first started keeping bees . . . the uncertainty, the intimidation, the overwhelming amount of information. Here is a chance for us to return a favor and mentor another. I am continually amazed at just how genuinely helpful beekeepers are, and how willing they are to help tutor another along. I remember myself going to bee school 4 years ago and how much it helped me. So I encourage you to spread the word . . . for our club, for one another, and—most importantly—for the bees.

Additionally, I will be working on putting together speakers for our upcoming meetings. If all goes well, we will hear about diverse topics from a wide range of talented and seasoned beekeepers.

As we enter these cold months of winter, I pray for blessings on you and your loved ones and prosperity for your bees.

--Martin

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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. Submitted by Kim Tuttle, Secretary.

***PRESENTATION ON BEESWAX AND OTHER NATURAL WAXES by Martin Martin (continued from Page 1 Agenda)** Martin will share information from his visit to the largest commercial beeswax refiner in the US. Learn about how often in our lives we encounter plant waxes and beeswax, the only natural wax from an insect. We will also explore how beeswax is processed and tips on how to render your own beeswax from your hives.

New Hampshire's Greatest Winter Fair!

32nd Annual NH Farm & Forest Expo

Meet The Faces of Agriculture & Forestry in New Hampshire!

Friday, February 6, 2015 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, February 7, 2015 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Radisson Hotel 700 Elm Street Manchester, NH

At "New Hampshire's Greatest Winter Fair", there is **always** something for everyone! Industry Trade Show with Nearly 100 Exhibitors, Free Educational Workshops Open to the Public, Unique NH Made Products, Kidzone for the Kids, Fuzzy and Furry Animals, Lots of Networking and Much More!

The NEW HAMPSHIRE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION is seeking volunteers to man the double booth at Farm & Forest. Contact Kevin Lefebvre at 603-497-6067 (email: cjerb@aol.com) to volunteer for a timeslot and get more information. You will get a ticket and be reimbursed for parking. No experience is necessary.

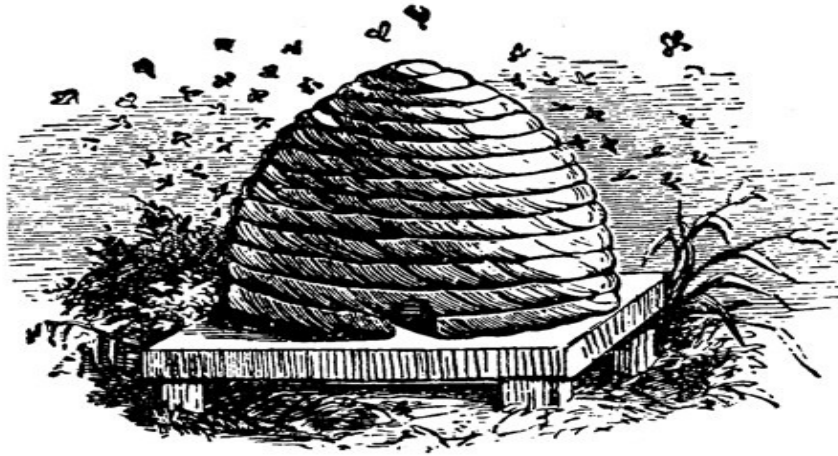
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KBA'S 2015 BEE SCHOOL

The Bee School Committee is working hard to plan another terrific bee school experience for those who wish to get into or at least learn more about beekeeping. On the next pages you will find the main poster and the registration form for the classes. Feel free to print off or copy as many as you like to pass out to your friends and to post around your town. Copies will also be available at the Jan. 10 meeting. Meanwhile, here's the schedule:

Feb. 14:	Intro: Martin Marklin Biology: Ben Chadwick Equipment: Ben Chadwick	Mar. 7:	Maladies; Disease, pests, bears and fences: TBD
Feb. 21:	Starting w/Bees: Wendy Booth Management: Wendy Booth	Mar. 21:	Honey Production & Processing: Keith Cutting Pollination: Keith Cutting Mind your beeswax! Products from the hive: John Chadwick

Kearsarge Beekeeper's Association



COME LEARN ABOUT THE FASCINATING WORLD OF
BEES, THE BASICS OF BEE KEEPING
& OTHER COOL BEE STUFF!

KEARSARGE REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL, N. SUTTON

FEBRUARY 14TH & 21ST AND MARCH 7TH & 21ST 1-4PM

\$50.00 INCLUDES TEXT BOOK,

SPACE IS LIMITED SO REGISTER EARLY!

FOR REG. OR MORE INFO CALL 863-4012

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association Registration

Form For

The 2015 Bee School

Dates: February 14 & 21, March 7 & 21, 2015

Time: 1-4 pm

Location: Kearsarge Regional Middle School, Gile Pond Road, Sutton, NH

Cost per Family: \$50.00 includes the book "Beekeeping Basics" by Penn State

Name/Names:

Address:

Phone Number:

Number of family members that will be attending with the registrant:

Where did you hear about the Bee School?

Email:

Fees: Classes and book \$50.00

KBA Membership (optional) (\$20.00 per family per year)

Total: _____

Make checks payable to: "Kearsarge Beekeepers Association"

Send to: Bill MacDonald
281 Blueberry Ridge Rd Newport,
NH 03773
Ph. 603 863-4012

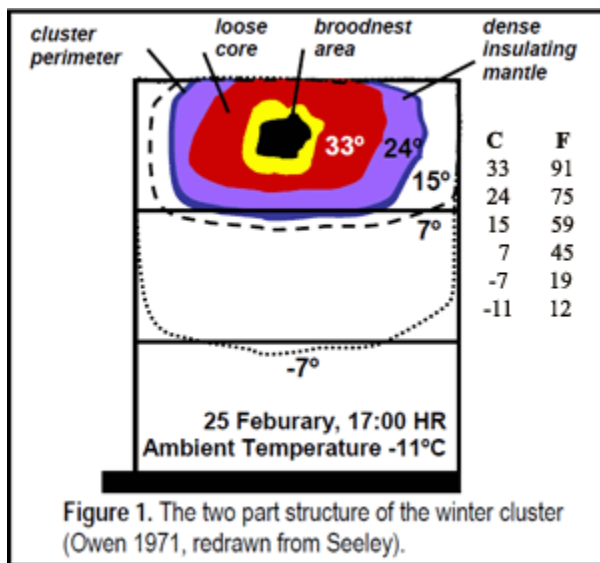
- Remember to register early as space is limited!

The Winter Cluster

(taken from West Mtn. Apiary website)

Like other insects, the honey bee is cold-blooded (exothermic). However, unlike other insects, the honey bee does not die off in the fall or hibernate, but is active all winter eating and metabolizing honey to keep warm. Individual honeybees are exothermic (maintaining body heat from outside sources), but a hive collectively is endothermic (maintains body heat from within). With the onset of cold weather, the bees congregate in a cluster, shivering their flight muscles to generate heat and warm the hive. Shivering the flight muscles activate different patterns from those during flight. The muscles contract against each other rather than on the wings.

A “winter” bee is produced at the end of the summer. It is physiologically different than the summer bee, with a different hemolymph (blood) protein profile than the summer bee. Winter bees also have fatter bodies which they rely for nourishment during the non-foraging months. A winter bee will live much longer (4 to 6 months) than a summer bee (45 days). The sole purpose of the winter bee is to get the colony through 'til spring. In the fall as the hive prepares for the long winter months ahead, the bee population drops as the summer bees die off, replaced by the smaller winter cluster. Brood production stops. When the outside temperature is above 50°, bees take cleansing flights as they do not defecate inside the hive .



As long as the temperature outside the hive is higher than 64°, bees in the hive are dispersed within it.

Come winter, however, the honey bees crowd tightly together in a cluster. The cluster expands and contracts as the weather warms and cools. The winter cluster is a well-defined cluster of bees that forms in the hive when the air temperature dips below 54-57°. As the temperature further decreases, the cluster becomes tighter and more compact as the bees cling tightly together on the combs in the hive. The bees at the core of the cluster maintain a temperature of approximately 64-90°, while the outer mantel layer of bees maintain a temperature from about 48-57°.

The mantel layer of exothermic bees serve as insulation for the inner bees. They do not participate in the endothermic heating of the core of the cluster. Individual mantel bees maintain a temperature that allows them to move about and remain attached to the cluster. If the thorax of the mantel bees, cools below 48°, they are no longer able to activate their flight muscles for heating, fall into a chill coma, and fall off the cluster.

When cold weather comes, the cluster is in the center of the two hive bodies. It covers the top bars of the frames in the lower chamber and extends over and beyond the bottom bars of the frames in the food chamber. The outer mantel edges of the cluster touch the honey stores. The cluster slowly moves upward and sideways to reach new areas of honey, they never move down. The bees rotate from the mantel of the cluster to the core. Through this rotation the bees maintain a viable body temperature and provide access for all to their honey stores. However, if the outside temperature drops too low, the bees will not move and can die from starvation though there is sufficient stores of honey still available.

For more information on winter clusters: www.capabees.com/main/files/pdf/winteringpdf.pdf

Winter Ventilation

During the winter, honey bees consume honey to generate heat. Carbon dioxide gas and water vapor result from metabolizing honey. Carbon dioxide is heavier than air and it settles to the bottom of the hive and flows out the bottom entrance. The warm moist air rises from the cluster hitting the cold inner cover causing condensation. This condensation drips down upon the bees as ice-cold water. The dripping water can have a negative effect upon the delicate exchange of food and warmth. Proper ventilation of the hive is necessary to keep the colony dry. Top entrances allow water vapor to escape and provide the bees a second exit.

Here's a selection of "Bee Quotes" They are from the website BuzzAboutBees.net. This is an amazing resource for information about many bee topics, gardening for bees, bee related coloring materials and games for kids, pictures and drawings of bees, etc. etc. It is huge. Take a look. BBB

"Human beings have fabricated the illusion that in the 21st century they have the technological prowess to be independent of nature. Bees underline the reality that we are more, not less, dependent on nature's services in a world of close to 7 billion people"

- Achim Steiner, Executive Director UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

The busy bee has no time for sorrow.

- William Blake

"The way humanity manages or mismanages its nature-based assets, including pollinators, will in part define our collective future in the 21st century.....The fact is that of the 100 crop species that provide 90 per cent of the world's food, over 70 are pollinated by bees."

- Achim Steiner, Executive Director UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

"..even the insects in my path are not loafers, but have their special errands".

- Henry David Thoreau, 1906

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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

Please make checks payable to: **KBA**

MAIL TO: Robin Gray

PO Box 275

Warner, NH 03278