

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

MAY 2015

NEXT MEETING:

**SAT., MAY 9, 2015
9-11 A.M.
PILLSBURY LIBRARY
WARNER**

We are having a special speaker at the meeting:

Planting for Honey Bees.
Amy Papineau, UNH Cooperative Extension Field Specialist, will discuss how to support your foraging honey bees by providing them with sources of quality pollen and nectar throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

President's Message

Happy May Day!

It has been two weeks since the official beginning of spring, but it seems Mother Nature is slow to shed winter's cold temperatures. Soon the bees will be out in full force, raising brood and foraging for pollen and nectar.

As beekeepers, we understand the relationship between good nutrition for our bees and the health of the hive. As Kim Flotum said at a past New Hampshire Beekeepers meeting, "Good nutrition is

simply this: enough good food, for each bee, all the time."

This is also the time of the year when we will prepare our garden beds for planting. So it is very timely that Kearsarge Beekeepers will welcome Amy Papineau as our guest speaker for our May 9th meeting. Amy works for the UNH Cooperative Extension, and is the Merrimack County Field Specialist in Food and Agriculture. Her talk will focus on flowering forage for honey bees, and, as she writes, "to get people thinking about planting for the bees this spring."

I am also happy to report that George Hamilton, another Extension Field Specialist for the UNH Cooperative Extension, will continue the forum at our June 13 meeting. George is a familiar face at our state beekeeping meetings, and will lead an open discussion with plenty of time for questions and answers.

I was pleased to meet so many new beekeepers at our last meeting, a direct positive outcome from our very successfully bee school. By now, most will have installed new packages and have a host of questions for us. So I encourage you to come to our next meeting to share your experience and expertise.

Be the Bee!

--Martin

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Bee School 2015

The club put on another bee school this year following our tradition of having a school every two years. The planning started in November at the potluck dinner in Andover where a committee was formed of six club members. The committee volunteers are Kevin Sargent, Bill MacDonald, Robin Gray, Rob O'Neil, Pebbles Sillars and John Chadwick.

We were fortunate to get volunteers from the club to be instructors; they were Troy Hall, Keith Cutting and John Chadwick. From outside the club we enlisted the services of Wendy Booth and Dave and Dorinda Priebe for two of the classes.

The registration numbers seemed to be lagging at the start of the registration period when we started advertising in January for the class but by the time the first class started on February 14th there didn't seem to be much empty space in the classroom at the middle school.

There was a raffle that the school held that had some great prizes that were donated by individuals. Kevin Sargent graciously gave the raffle a complete hive and a nuc setup that he made. Ben Chadwick donated a package of bees for a lucky winner. Wendy Booth gave a book and Allen Lindahl donated a \$50.00 gift certificate. Brushy Mountain also gave a 10 % gift certificate.

We were pleased to have a teacher, Donna Beth Murphy from the middle school take the class. She was able to help with the facility logistics and help the classes run smoothly. Many volunteers helped setup the class room at the school and also baked and provided refreshments for the break.

The committee recognized the need for a more organized approach and better record keeping for the school. There has been discussion in the club of having the school every year instead of biennial. We hope to maintain a folder on the school setup and planning so that future school will be easier to manage. One thing we did learn was to not schedule any classes on the NHBA spring meeting day!

There will be more information from Robin, our treasurer about the proceeds from the school at the April 11th meeting. Bill will have a report on a survey that he and Sharon gave to the students at the end of the school.

The weather kept reminding us that it was still winter because it snowed on a few of the class days but that didn't keep the wannabe beekeepers at home! How can you dampen the spirits of beekeepers? Not with a little snow, that's for sure. We wish to extend our thanks to the many members that gave of their time and services to have another successful bee school. To the new beekeepers out there remember to keep asking questions and we hope that you enjoy your new hobby/passion!

Kirk Webster Open House

Reported on by John Chadwick

New Haven, VT

April 25, 2015

Kirk welcomed about 35 enthusiastic beekeepers from New England, New York and Canada to his home and apiaries on this chilly day in April. One of Kirk's goals for the day was to show what treatment free colonies and nucs look like after a Vermont winter.

His hives and nucs had had their felt paper wraps removed and the nucs were spread apart on their pallet stands. He said that he takes the wraps off when he can get to the colonies in the late winter or spring. Normally this would be in March.



He opened several of his colonies and nucs for us to see. None of the colonies were busting out yet but they did look quite robust. There were hives with several frames of capped brood and the four frame nucs were loaded with bees. Kirk winters his double nuc boxes 4 to a pallet so each pallet has 8 nucs on it. The nucs are given foam insulation tops and bottoms and then all 4 deep boxes are wrapped with felt paper. Some of the pallets had only two or three deep boxes on them. The missing deep boxes had died during the winter. Looking around his nuc yard there weren't very many of these empty spaces. Most of the nucs had made it through the winter and were now ready to be sold or allowed to grow into production hives for this year.

Kirk uses nucs extensively to evaluate his bees. All of his bees have to make it through the winter before he evaluates the survivors. This is not unlike what many of us do but the difference is his bees haven't been treated and while I don't recall the overwintering percentages the bees did very well this winter.

Kirk's apiaries are in beautiful agricultural locations, something we don't enjoy much of in our area. Kirk is a

full time beekeeper who has had success with his bees. He has a wealth of information that he is more than willing to share with other beekeepers.



There is another open house scheduled for July 25, 2015 that will show his bees at the height of their strength. After attending the April Open House I think that I will definitely make plans to see his operation in the summer. There is no cost for the event and it would be a wonderful way to spend a Saturday and learn a bit about honey bees.

**NEXT OPEN HOUSE
AT
KIRK WEBSTER'S
SAT. JULY 25, 2015**

Sun Hill Farm

Summer 2015 Workshops

sunhillfarm@live.com

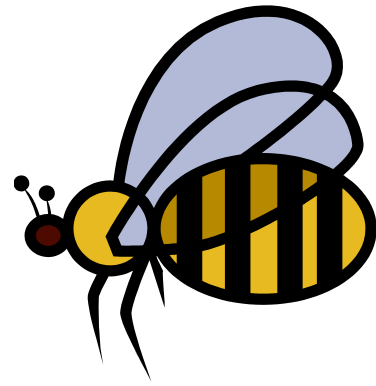
603-748-5334

Summer 2015

July 19th - Queen Rearing and Assessment - There is a lot to know about grafting, cell builders, and queen mating, but bees naturally swarm and make their own queens regularly. We take advantage of this natural impulse to grow our apiary. This workshop is for beginning beeks who want a better understanding of how a queen operates within a hive, and for intermediate beeks who will leave wanting to graft their own queens.

August 30th - Equipment Building and Open Workshop - We open our workshop doors (literally) and let you paw through whatever you want. Bring a tape measure, see how we break down sheets of plywood (easily), how to use a rip guide, dado blades, custom nucs boxes, home made feeders, etc etc. We want you to be able to leave and start brainstorming winter projects. For new beeks through advanced.

All workshops are free and open to any curious beek. Bring a friend. or your whole bee club. If possible, please RSVP. Locations are TBD at this time. They are worth the travel, and camping is allowed/encouraged; especially if you are traveling far.



Mass Bee Annual Field Day

June 20, 2015

**University of Massachusetts
Agronomy Farm**

River Rd. South Deerfield, MA.

9:00 AM -3:30PM

More details may be available in our next newsletter



**INFORMATION ON THE
NH BEEKEEPERS
SUMMER MEETING AT
MUSTER FIELD FARM IN
NORTH SUTTON
WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON**

WATCH FOR IT!!

EAS 2015 is coming to Canada!

University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario **August 10-14, 2015**



EAS Ontario 2015
CANADA

Yours to Discover



EAS
Eastern Apicultural Society

Hosted by:



ONTARIO BEEKEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION

Speakers

Mark Winston, Robert E. Page Jr., Dewey Caron, Phil Craft, Robert Currie, Keith Delaplane, Ernesto Guzman, Pierre Govenazzo, Tammy Horn, Zachary Huang, Greg Hunt, Doug McRory, Heather Mattila, Medhat Meer, Oard Otis, Steve Pernal, Nigel Raine and many more!

Workshops

Queen rearing, Integrated Pest Management, mead and beer making, how to win at honey competitions, beginner, intermediate and advanced beekeeping

Technical Tour

Full day bus tour featuring Niagara Butterfly Conservatory, Rosewood Estates winery and meadery, two of Ontario's largest commercial apiaries and a BBQ with queen auction and live entertainment

Register at www.easternapiculture.org

Mail in registration is now open, online registration will open early April

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



The scene: Friday April 17, 2015 in Lynnwood, WA.

A semitruck rolled early Friday morning, spilling a load of honeybees on the Interstate 5 median at the Interstate 405 interchange near Lynnwood. The truck held 458 hives holding as many as 14 million bees.

The driver was not hurt when the semitruck overturned, spilling a full load of bees on Interstate 5 Friday morning. (Mike Siegel / The Seattle Times)

Beekeepers were on site within an hour of the 3:30 a.m. wreck to round up the honeybees, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

As temperatures warmed and the bees became more agitated, firefighters sprayed a mixture of foam and water on the hives to slow down or kill some of the bees. Television reporters swatted at swarms of the insects surrounding their cameras and clumps of bee carcasses littered the roadway.

Related story

[Un-bee-lievable: Truck spills 450 hives along I-5](#)

A towing company was able to right the truck and pull it away by about 8 a.m., but traffic remained backed up throughout the morning as crews cleaned up the wreck.

WSDOT advised drivers to keep their windows and vents closed as they passed the buzzing-bee boxes.

Lewis said the truck was exiting I-405 northbound when the 36-year-old driver from Idaho lost control, hit a guardrail and spilled the bee boxes. The overturned truck's front-left axle and wheel were mangled in the wreck.

Investigators are looking into whether speed was an issue in the crash, Sgt. Keith Leary of the State Patrol said. He said the driver could face traffic citations, but there were no criminal charges in the wreck.

Leary said there have been several collisions near the sharp corner where I-405 merges with northbound I-5.

The overturned truck held 448 hives with as many as 14 million bees, Leary said. The honeybees, headed from Sunnyside, Yakima County, for pollination at a blueberry farm in Lynden, Whatcom County, were worth \$92,000, he said.

Seth Thompson, of Belleville Farms, said the company was able to save some hives. It's a huge blow for the family business, he said. Thompson said eight company employees, outfitted with beekeeping gear, helped responders at the scene.

"We saved 128 hives before the sun came up and it got too nice," he said.

Leary said an excavator and dump truck were needed to remove the bee hives from the roadway. The wreck was cleared early Friday afternoon, he said, noting that he had about six bees in his patrol car. The tractor was totaled, according to a news release from the state patrol. Its trailer suffered about \$750 damage. Leary said it was fortunate the wreck happened when there was the least amount of traffic on the roadway and that the truck spilled over into the HOV lane and shoulder.

"The biggest issue we have on those scenes ... is people taking video or cellphone pictures," said Leary, who encouraged drivers to "glance at it and move down the road instead of getting your paparazzi shot."

The bees were likely coming from California before Sunnyside, said Mark Emrich, president of the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Emrich said about 70 percent of commercial beekeepers bring their hives down to California to pollinate almonds.

After California, "they work their way north to do fruits, bush berries, vegetables," Emrich said.

Spring and summer are the busiest season for beekeeping. Emrich estimated that more than 100 trucks carrying hives on Washington roads at this time of year. Drivers typically travel at night, when bees are less active.

"We have a fairly large agricultural industry in Washington state," said Emrich. "It just kind of goes hand in hand with the amount of farming."

[According to a report for the Washington state Legislature](#), about 500,000 colonies of honeybees were needed in 2012 to pollinate Washington crops. In the same year, about 97,000 of the colonies were registered with the state department of agriculture, though that figure is from self-reported data and not all hives are registered.

Walter Sheppard, a professor of entomology at Washington State University, said about 400-500 colonies can fit on a truck.

"It's a pretty normal thing to see trucks loaded down with bees on the highway," said Sheppard.

Emrich said the firefighters, beekeepers and state troopers at the scene did not have much choice but to knock down the bees with water and foam.

"They're little flying solar panels. As soon as light hits them, they want to be active," said Emrich of the bees.

He said smoke probably would not have been practical in this situation, so wetting them was a sad but necessary choice. "We don't (wet them) in the beekeeping industry. Wet bees don't last very long."

