

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

JUNE 2015

**NEXT MEETING:
SAT., JUNE 13, 2015
9-11 A.M.
PILLSBURY LIBRARY
WARNER**

The business meeting will be followed by a Program on Fruits, Vegetables, and Bees presented by George Hamilton, UNH Extension Specialist. Please bring questions for Mr. Hamilton.

The date for our summer picnic will be selected, so please bring your calendars.

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President's Message:

Spring—as we traditionally know it—did not come this year.

It seems for us in New Hampshire, we went from winter to summer, with an April and May marked by the juxtapositions of unseasonably hot and cold temperatures. But now we are in June, and our bees certainly know it.

Whether we are a novice beekeeper or an old timer, this is the time of the year to pay close attention to your colonies. As our colonies ramp up their size, swarming is a major concern, as well as mite control.

George Hamilton, a UNH Extension Specialist in fruits and vegetables, will be our guest speaker at our next meeting on Saturday, June 13. George is a familiar face to the NH beekeeping community, and is a wonderful liaison between the beekeeping community and the commercial growers. He will have an open forum in which he will answer any questions you might have. Here is your chance to have your very own, personal gardening consultation—totally free!

We will have our July meeting on the grounds of the Marklin Candle Factory in Contoocok combined with our summer Pot-Luck cookout and raffle. We will try to nail down a date at our upcoming meeting.

Be sure to mark your calendars for summer meeting of the NH Beekeepers at Musterfield Farm in North Sutton on Saturday, June 27, from 9am-3pm. We will have a rare opportunity to watch Zach Lamas demonstrate several types of splits. Be sure to bring a veil.

Until next month, be the bee!

--Martin

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Kearsarge Beekeepers Minutes

May 9, 2015 Pillsbury Library, Warner, NH Meeting started at 9:00 am

Secretary's report; Previous month's meeting minutes have not yet been presented for approval.

Treasurer's report; Robin Gray reports that there is \$7500.00 in the club's checking account. This is a large sum to have but Robin reminded us that we had just completed Bee School and there was an anonymous donation recently. The coffers are healthy and maybe we should be looking for a worthy cause to direct some of our funds toward!

President's report; Martin Marklin was away so was unable to be at the meeting.

Vice President's report; John Chadwick reported on an open house at Kirk Webster's Apiary in New Haven, Vt. on April 25. It was a very informative and uplifting spending day with Kirk and fellow beekeepers. There is a report in the newsletter as well as our website that has some pictures from the day and more information. Kirk has scheduled another open house for July 25 that should not be missed if you are interested in seeing a very successful treatment-free bee endeavor.

Charles Andros in Walpole, NH will be having a workshop on May 16, 2015. Charles has nucs and equipment for sale.

Old Business; None

New Business;

Martin had received an email from Kym Car at the Fells in Newbury stating that there had been an interest in an introductory beekeeping class at the Fells. This was brought up for a bit of discussion and two members, Nonie Reynders and Mike McHugh volunteered to help out if the class were to take place.

John Chadwick inquired about the club's history and maintaining the minutes from past years. Peter Zac said that he recalled the club starting about 1990. Barbara Burns said that she would look over some of the material that was past to her by the previous newsletter/secretary Janet Eklund. John thought it might be nice to collect the past minutes and have them available for members.

At Nonie Reynders suggestion we all went around the room to report on our overwintering success. Deb Dunlop kept a tally of results and there were 47 hives at the start of winter and 23 colonies that made it through. So there was almost a 50% loss of hives for the members present, not a great outcome but considering the prolonged cold maybe things could have been worse.

Guest Speaker;

Amy Papineau, UNH Cooperative Extension Service, Merrimack County Planting for Honey Bees

Amy gave us a wonderful presentation on plants for bees and how to maintain them. She described in detail how to create wildflower meadows and what to expect when someone decides to plant a meadow. Soil preparation is the key to the success and having patience is required also. The first year is apt to be quite bleak with lots of weeds coming up. Amy described how to care for the new meadow and when to mow.

Year #2 has more diversity but still not many flowers. Year #3 is Beautiful!

Amy told us that in New Hampshire "Everything wants to be a forest" so you have to weed out the woody plants that want to creep in and take over. Meadows are not native to this part of the country so if they are not maintained the trees will take over. Amy said that she is available for consultation and even will make site visits. If you get the chance to see her presentation it is not to be missed.

The meeting ended at 11ish and Amy stayed around to answer questions from members for about a half hour.

Respectfully submitted,

John Chadwick

NHBA's annual Summer outing is coming up soon! Here's the details:

- The outing is open to all current NHBA members. (give me [Heather Achilles] a shout if you aren't sure if your membership is up to date & I'll check!)

- Date/Time : **June 27, 2015** from 9-3

- Location:
Musterfield Farms
Harvey Road
North Sutton, NH

- Zac Lamas, Sun Hill Farm, will be demonstrating several different techniques for doing splits and creating nucs.

To watch the demonstration you **MUST** wear a veil.. (sorry no exceptions!)

-We'll have the annual Smoker contest

-Lunch (Chicken, sausages & hot dogs) & Drinks are supplied by NHBA;

-Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share

Don't forget to bring a chair!

Hope to see you there!

EAS 2015

August 10-14, 2015

University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Registration is now open



Join us for our annual conference where there will be over 100 sessions to choose from or you can hang around with some of the most experienced beekeeping minds to be found anywhere. Not just the presenters but some of the most interesting attendees from an unbelievably diverse representation of the industry.

The Ontario team is working hard to make 2015 a year to remember. Les Eccles, from our world respected OBA Tech Transfer Team, will be looking after the short course program. Ernesto Guzman, one of our top researchers in the country, is responsible for our conference program. In addition to the excellent seminars there will be fun events, e.g. Pig Roast,

Auctions (including the famous Queen Auction), Tech Tour (visit to commercial bee operations, Niagara Falls, meadery, butterfly conservatory and more), and Annual Banquet. Want to become a **Master Beekeeper**? Then this is the place for you.

Speakers: Mark Winston, Robert E. Page Jr., Phil Craft, Robert Currie, Ernesto Guzman, Pierre Giovenazzo, Tammy Horn, Zachary Huang, Greg Hunt, Doug McRory, Heather Mattila, Medhat Nasr, Gard Otis, Steve Pernal, Nigel Raine, and many, many more.

Workshops include: Queens Rearing, IPM, Introductory Beekeeping, Mead and Beer Making, How to Win at Honey Competitions, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Beekeeping.

Technical Tour (Thursday)

Full day bus tour featuring Niagara Butterfly Conservatory, Rosewood Estates winery and meadery, and two of Ontario's largest commercial apiaries. Tech Tour attendees can sign up for a free BBQ with queen auction and live entertainment that evening (limited to first 350 who register).

There is just so much to do in the Ontario area. Bring your family and drop them off at the Falls—I mean, take the elevator to the bottom of the Falls for a Misty sail around the bottom of the falls. And, Niagara Falls is for lovers—so why not check out one of those heart-shaped beds, saunas, and be pampered for a second honeymoon? For the more financially savvy, there are casinos around the area, and you can easily double or triple your beekeeping profits or losses.

Beekeeping in Slovenia Seminars

12 June, Keene State, Keene, NH, Science Bldg, Rm 101,
6:30-9pm

\$10 for MBA members, \$15 for non-members

13 June, NH Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH
12:30-4:30pm



Our speaker is Biology Professor, Dr. Janko Božič. Mr. Bozic will talk about their beekeeping management techniques with the Slovene Hive. He received his Bachelor Degree (1988) and Master's Degree (1992) in Biology from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He completed his PhD degree in the Department of Zoology and Physiology at Louisiana State University in 1996. Then he was a Fulbright Scholar at Oklahoma University.

To be Slovenian is to be a beekeeper, one out of every 250 people are beekeepers. The Slovenian Beekeepers Ass. has 7000 members and Slovenia is the size of NH! As an avid beekeeper, Janko personally maintains 50 Slovenian hives at his village home near the Julian Alps. Having been a student in the United States for many years he is also thoroughly familiar with the Langstroth hive which are generally used in America. The Slovene type of beekeeping is very different from this as you work the hive from the back, not the top and the boxes are within a bee house or bee stand.

One of Janko's interests is to search for technological solutions to make beekeeping more profitable, but remain pleasant for the beekeeper. He is a relaxed and an engaging speaker. He is hopeful we will bring questions about beekeeping and about our bees to the evening's presentation. He is happy to return to America and acquaint himself with people who are beekeepers out of their respect and concern for the bees and the pleasure obtained from working with one of nature's most marvelous creatures.

Dr. Bozic has studied aspects of honey bees that deal with foraging, dance signals, social grooming behavior, varroa resistance behavior and comb building behavior, swarming, ecotypes of Carniolan bees, processing and automation of honey extraction and hive technology development.

Janko is presently working in the Ethology Lab (Science of Animal Behavior). He teaches Insect Biology, Comparative Endocrinology and Beekeeping courses at the undergraduate and graduate level at Ljubljana University, Slovenia. Ljubljana University is the largest Slovenian University. The undergraduate and graduate enrollment is 50,000 students. The population of Slovenia is about 2 million.

This lecture is sponsored by the Monadnock Beekeepers Assn. (MBA) and Slovenian Beekeeping LLC. MBA is a very active beekeeping group that meets the first Thurs every month usually at Stonewall Farm, www.monadnockbeekeepers.com.

Slovenian Beekeeping LLC is owned by Suzanne Brouillette in Harrisville, NH and Mark Simonitsch of Cape Cod. It started out of their love for beekeeping and for Slovenia. Suzanne lived in Slovenia and fell in love with the gorgeous countryside and its friendly people. They organize Beekeeping Tours to Slovenia and sell the Slovene hive boxes, you can check out their website at www.slovenianbeekeeping.com

For directions to Keene State College, 229 Main St, Keene, NH \$10 for MBA members and \$15 for non-members
www.google.com/maps/place/229+Main+St,+Keene,+NH+03435

A Slovenian Beekeeping Seminar is being held 13 June at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth from 12:30-4:30
For directions to NH Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Rd, Portsmouth, NH. It is located 2 min. off of I-95 off the Portsmouth Rotary Circle.
www.google.com/maps/dir/Urban+Forestry+Center+Portsmouth+NH+03801

Questions, please contact Suzanne at beeslovenia@gmail.com or call
At #603-499-3730

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS MENTIONED IN OUR MAY NEWSLETTER CONTACT:

ZACHARY LAMAS, SUN HILL FARM
Salisbury, NH 603-748-5334
July 19, Queen Rearing and Assessment

KIRK WEBSTER
1437 South St, New Haven Vt.
Mail: PO Box 381, Middlebury, VT 05753
Phone: 802-989-5895
July 25, Open House/Field Day, 9-4
Late June: 8-day workshop!

| Perennial Wildflowers ^a | Common Name | Bloom Period | | | | | Flower Color | Height | Photo key | Best Use | | Native to NE States ^b | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------|------|--------|-------|--------------|------------------|-----------|----------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|
| | | May | June | July | August | Sept. | | | | October | Garden Use | Meadow from Seed | Meadow from Plugs | CT | MA | ME | NH | RI | VT | | | | |
| <i>Vernonia altissima</i> | Ironweed | | | | X | X | | 5' | | X | X | | | X | X | X | | | | | | | |
| <i>Zizia aurea</i> | Golden Alexanders | X | X | | | | | purple yellow | 3' | | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |

Grasses

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|------|----|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> | Sideoats Grama | | X | X | X | X | | 2' | | X | | | | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | |
| <i>Elymus canadensis</i> | Canada Wildrye | | X | X | X | X | | 4' | 16 | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | Red Fescue | | X | X | X | X | | 2-3' | | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | Little Bluestem | | X | X | X | X | | 3' | | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> | Indian Grass | | X | X | X | X | | 6' | | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |
| <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> | Parlie Droopseed | | X | X | X | X | | 2' | | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | | |

This list includes species that have performed well in our pollinator habitat and meadow trials at UNH. Flowering times and heights will vary by location and density of planting. For more information, visit our website and online wildflower guide at

<http://extension.unh.edu/Wildflower-Meadows>

^a Source of native plant information: USDA, NRCS. 2014. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 7 August 2014).



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| ANNUALS, PERENNIALS & BIUBS | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------|---------------------------------|--|
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Type | Rank | Flower Color | Bloom | Hardiness Zone | NH Native? | Height | Soil/comments/light | |
| <i>Agrostachys scrophularifolia</i> | Giant hyssop | Perennial | N | blue/lavender | July-Frost | 5 | yes | 2-3 ft | drought; full sun | |
| <i>Alyugo reptans</i> | Bronze bugle | Perennial | N & P | violet/blue | May-June | 3 | | 4-6" | black scallion; invasive; shade | |
| <i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> | Chives | Perennial | N & P | lav/white | May | 4 | some | 1-2 ft | keep moist; full sun | |
| <i>Allium tuberosum</i> | Garlic chives | Perennial | N & P | white | September | 4 | | 2 ft | seed; keep moist; full sun | |
| <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> | Swamp milkweed | Perennial | N | pink | June-Aug | 4 | yes | 2-3 ft | ice ballee; full sun | |
| <i>Baptisia australis</i> | False indigo | Perennial | N & P | blue | June | 4 | yes | 2-3 ft | drainage; sun; don't move | |
| <i>Borago officinalis</i> | Borage | Annual | N & P | blue | June-Frost | 5 | | 2-3 ft | seed; full sun; moist | |
| <i>Brassica napus</i> | Canola | Annual | N & P | yellow | May-June | 3 | | 1 ft | seed; full sun | |
| <i>Brassica spp.</i> | Mustards | Annual | N & P | yellow | April-June | 4 | | 1-2 ft | start seed; full sun | |
| <i>Calendula officinalis</i> | Pot marigold | Annual | N & P | yellow | June-Sept | 4 | | 1 ft | seed; full sun; moist | |
| <i>Doronicum cordatum</i> | Leopard's bane | Perennial | N & P | yellow | April-May | 4 | | 2-3 ft | well drained; full sun | |
| <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> | Purple coneflower | Perennial | N & P | pink | July-Aug | 3 | | 3 ft | drought; p; sun | |
| <i>Echinacea spp.</i> | Coneflowers | Perennial | N & P | yellow/white | July-Aug | 3 | some | 3 ft | drought; full sun | |
| <i>Eupatorium maculatum</i> | Joe pye weed | Perennial | N & P | purple/pink | July-Aug | 4 | yes | 2-3 ft | likes moist areas; sun | |
| <i>Helianthus autumnale</i> | Sneezeweed | Perennial | N & P | yellow/red | Aug-Sept | 4 | yes | 3-4 ft | "helior" or maldit grass; sun | |
| <i>Helianthus annuus</i> | Sunflower | Perennial | N & P | yellow | Aug-Sept | 4 | yes | 3-4 ft | Sept/Oct. " salicifolius ", sun | |
| <i>Heliosis helianthoides</i> | False sunflower | Perennial | N & P | yellow | July-Aug | 4 | yes | 3-4 ft | well drained; full sun | |
| <i>Heliotropium spp.</i> | Heliotrope | Annual | N & P | purple | June-July | 5 | | 6" | well drained; full sun | |
| <i>Hyacinth spp.</i> | Hyacinths/grape hyacinths | Bulb | N | white/pink/purp | April | 4 | | 6"-8" | buy fall bulbs; sun | |
| <i>Liatris spicata</i> | Gay feather | Perennial | N | purple/white | July-Aug | 4 | yes | 2-3 ft | well drained; dry; full sun | |
| <i>Labelia siphilitica</i> | Great blue lobelia | Perennial | N | blue | July-Sept | 3 | yes | 2-3 ft | moist; p; sun | |
| <i>Labularia maritima</i> | Sweet alyssum | Annual | N & P | white | June-Frost | 4 | | 2-3" | creeps over walls; sun | |
| <i>Lupinus perennis</i> | Wild lupine | Perennial | N | w/blue/pink | May-June | 4 | yes | 2-3 ft | moist; full sun | |
| <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> | Bee balm | Perennial | N | purple/pink | July | 4 | yes | 2-3 ft | well drained; p; sun/sun | |
| <i>Origanum</i> | Oregano | Perennial | N & P | dark pink | June-Sept | 5 | | 15-18" | creeps over walls; sun | |
| <i>Peristemon digitalis</i> | Foxglove beardtongue | Perennial | N | white | July-Aug | 3 | yes | 2-3 ft | dry; full sun | |
| <i>Peristemon hispidus</i> | Hairy beardtongue | Perennial | N | blue/white | July-Aug | 3 | yes | 2-3 ft | Deft blue- riding hood; sun | |
| <i>Primula denticulata</i> | Primrose | Perennial | N & P | liac/white | April-May | 4 | | 1 ft | shade; moist | |
| <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> | Mountain mint | Perennial | N | white | July-Aug | 3 | yes | 2-3 ft | tenuifolium variety; sun | |
| <i>Sativa spp.</i> | Perennial Sage | Perennial | N | blue | June-Sept | 4 | some | 18"-2 ft | drought; full sun | |
| <i>Sedum spectabile</i> | 'Autumn Joy' stonecrop | Perennial | N & P | pink/red | Aug-Sept | 4 | | 2 ft | drought; full sun | |
| <i>Senna hebecarpa</i> | Wild semna | Perennial | N | yellow | July-Aug | 5 | yes | 3-4 ft | locust leaf; full sun | |
| <i>Silphium perfoliatum</i> | Cup plant | Perennial | N & P | yellow | Aug-Sept | 3 | yes | 5-6 ft | border or hedge; full sun | |
| <i>Solidago rugosa</i> | Winkkleleaf goldenrod | Perennial | N & P | yellow | Sept-Frost | 3 | yes | 3-4 ft | little lemon- zone 5; sun 14" | |
| <i>Symphoricarpon laeve</i> | Smooth blue aster | Perennial | N & P | liac/yellow | Aug-Oct | 4 | | 2 ft | well drained; full sun | |
| <i>Symphoricarpon nove-angliae</i> | New England aster | Perennial | N & P | lavender | Aug-Oct | 4 | | 2 ft | well drained; full sun | |
| <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> | Dandelion | Perennial | N & P | yellow | March-Oct | 4 | | 8" | common weed | |
| <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> | Creeping thyme | Perennial | N & P | white or purple | June-Sept | 5 | | 2" | creeps over walls; sun | |
| <i>Tradescantia spp.</i> | Spiderworts | Perennial | N | purple/lav | May-June | 4 | some | 2-3 ft | get cuttings- moist; p; sun | |
| <i>Vernonia spp.</i> | Ironweed | Perennial | N | purple | July-Aug | 4 | some | 3 ft | likes moist areas; sun | |
| <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> | Culver's root | Perennial | N | white | July-Aug | 4 | yes | 3-6 ft | good drainage; sun | |

Honey Bee Plants for NH

Compiled by Ann LaCroix, UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, February 2015.

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Type | Rank | N=Nectar P=Pollen | Flower Color | Bloom | Hardiness Zone | NH Native? | Height | Soil/comments/light |
|--|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| TREES & SHRUBS | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Alnus melanocarpa</i> | Black chokeberry | shrub | N & P | | white | May-June | 4 | yes | 8-10 ft | full sun |
| <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> | Catalpa | tree | N & P | | large white | May-June | 5 | yes | 70-80 ft | poor soil/clay; road; sun |
| <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> | Common hackberry | tree | N & P | | tiny flower | April-May | 4 | yes | sm tree | forms witches brooms in crowns |
| <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | Redbud | tree | N & P | | white-hardier | March-April | 4 | yes | 30 ft | full sun |
| <i>Cotoneaster frigidus</i> | Cotoneaster | shrub | N & P | | white or pink | May-June | 4 | yes | 12-24" | drought; sun |
| <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> | Honeylocust | tree | N & P | | white | May-June | 4 | yes | 30-40 ft | dry-street; thorns; sun |
| <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | Winterberry holly | shrub | N & P | | not showy/red berry | April-June | 4 | yes | 2-3 ft | evergreen- acidic; 2 plants |
| <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | Tuliptree | tree | N & P | | large green/yellow | May-June | 5 | | 80-100 ft | plant protected 5-facing |
| <i>Molus sp.</i> | Apple/crabapple | tree | VH-N | | white | May | 4 | | 25 ft | 2 plants needed; sun |
| <i>Prunus sp.</i> | Plum | tree | N & P | | pink/drk red leaf | April-May | 4 | | 20 ft | 2 plants needed for fruit; sun |
| <i>Prunus sp.</i> | Cherry | tree | N & P | | pink | April-May | 4 | | 20 ft | 2 plants needed for fruit; sun |
| <i>Prunus sp.</i> | Peach | tree | N & P | | pink | March-May | 4 | some | 10-20 ft | forms thickets; sun |
| <i>Rhus spp.</i> | Sumac | tree/shrub | N & P | | yellow | March-April | 3 | yes | 100 ft | dry-street; sun |
| <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> | Black locust | tree | N & P | | white | May-June | 2 | yes | 60+ ft | wet/moist areas; sun |
| <i>Salix alba</i> | Willow | tree | N & P | | green/then red | March-April | 3 | yes | 10-15 ft | leaf like a mitten; sun |
| <i>Salix discolor</i> | Pussy willow | shrub | N & P | | white/catkin | March-April | 4 | yes | 30-40 ft | leaf like a mitten; sun |
| <i>Sassafras albidum</i> | Common sassafras | tree | N & P | | yellow/blu fruit | April | 4 | yes | 40-60 ft | Heat/drought/insect tolerant |
| <i>Tilia americana</i> | Basswood, linden | tree | N & P | | white/cream | June | 4 | | | |
| AGRICULTURAL PLANTS AND COVER CROPS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Type | Rank | | Flower Color | Bloom | Hardiness Zone | NH Native? | | Soil/comments/light |
| <i>Cerastium arvense</i> | Field chickweed | annual | N & P | | white | June-Aug | 4 | some | | common weed; full sun |
| <i>Citrullus lanatus</i> | Watermelon | annual | N & P | | yellow | June-July | 5 | | | full sun |
| <i>Cucumis melo</i> | Melon | annual | N & P | | yellow | June-Frost | 5 | | | full sun |
| <i>Cucumis spp.</i> | Cucumber | annual | N & P | | yellow | June-Aug | 5 | | | full sun |
| <i>Cucurbita spp.</i> | Pumpkin | annual | N & P | | yellow | July-Frost | 5 | | | seed; full sun |
| <i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i> | Buckwheat | annual | N & P | | white | July-August | 4 | | | \$2.30/lb.; full sun |
| <i>Fragaria spp.</i> | Strawberry | perennial | N & P | | white | May-June | 4 | some | | full sun |
| <i>Morus, Prunus, Pyrus sp.</i> | Fruit trees | tree | N & P | | pink | April-May | 4 | | | full sun |
| <i>Medicago sativa</i> | Alfalfa | annual | N & P | | blue | July-August | 4 | some | | Cost \$400/50lbs; full sun |
| <i>Rubus spp.</i> | Black/Raspberry | shrub | N & P | | white | May-June | 4 | | | full sun |
| <i>Trifolium hybridum</i> | Alsike clover | perennial | N & P | | pink | May-July | 4 | | | full sun |

BEES IN THE NEWS – NATIONAL.

I received the following article from Bob Beland via Richard Brewster. It appeared in the Boston Globe 5/20/15 and was written by Seth Borenstein of the Associated Press. It is very similar to one that I cut from the 5/25/15 Concord Monitor which was credited to the Washington Post. Perhaps some folks in Washington are starting to wake up; we can only hope. BBB

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration hopes to save the bees by feeding them better.

A new federal plan aims to reverse America's declining honeybee and monarch butterfly populations by making millions of acres of federal land more bee-friendly, spending millions of dollars more on research, and considering the use of fewer pesticides.

While putting different types of landscapes along highways, federal housing projects, and elsewhere may not sound like much in terms of action, several bee scientists said this is a significant move. They say it may help pollinators that are starving because so much of the American landscape has been converted to lawns and corn, which don't provide foraging areas for bees.

“This is the first time I've seen addressed the issue that there's nothing for pollinators to eat,” said University of Illinois entomologist May Berenbaum, who buttonholed President Obama about bees when she received her National Medal of Science award in November. “I think it's brilliant.”

Environmental activists who wanted a ban on a much-criticized class of pesticide said the Obama administration's strategy falls well short of what's needed to save the hives. Scientists say bees — crucial to pollinate many crops — have been hurt by a combination of declining nutrition, mites, disease, and pesticides. The federal plan is an “all-hands-on-deck” strategy that calls on everyone from federal bureaucrats to citizens to do what they can to save bees, which provide more than \$15 billion in value to the US economy, according to White House science adviser John Holdren.

“Pollinators are struggling,” Holdren said in a blog post, citing a new federal survey that found beekeepers lost more than 40 percent of their colonies last year, although they later recovered by dividing surviving hives. He also said the number of monarch butterflies that spend the winter in Mexico's forests is down by 90

percent or more over the past two decades, so the US government is working with Mexico to expand monarch habitat in the southern part of that country.

‘This I think is something to get excited and hopeful about.’

The plan calls for restoring 7 million acres of bee habitat in the next five years. Numerous federal agencies will have to find ways to grow plants on federal lands that are more varied and better for bees to eat because scientists have worried that large land tracts that grow only one crop have hurt bee nutrition.

The plan is not just for the Department of Interior, which has vast areas of land under its control. Agencies such as Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Transportation will have to include bee-friendly landscaping on their properties and in grant-making.

That part of the plan got praise from scientists who study bees.

“Here, we can do a lot for bees, and other pollinators,” said University of Maryland entomology professor Dennis van Engelsdorp, who led the federal bee study that found last year's large loss. “This I think is something to get excited and hopeful about. There is really only one hope for bees and it's to make sure they spend a good part of the year in safe, healthy environments. The apparent scarcity of these areas is what's worrying. This could change that.”

University of Montana bee expert Jerry Bromenshenk said the effort shows the federal government finally recognizes that land use is key with bees. “From my perspective, it's a wake-up call,” Bromenshenk wrote in an e-mail. “Pollinators need safe havens, with adequate quantities of high-quality resources for food and habitat, relatively free from toxic chemicals, and that includes pollutants as well as pesticides and other agricultural chemicals.”

Berenbaum praised the plan for not laying the problem or the solution just on agriculture or the federal government. “We all got into this mess and we're going to have to work together to get out of it,” she said. The administration proposes spending \$82.5 million on honeybee research in the upcoming budget year, up \$34 million from now.



BEES IN THE NEWS – LOCAL

Concord beekeepers want to keep pollinating the city with more bees

By IAIN WILSON

Monitor staff

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Until three years ago, backyard beekeeping in Concord was limited to people with big chunks of property. But a move to loosen restrictions has led to more bees in the city, and advocates are buzzing.

“I think you’re now seeing more Concord residents interested in this,” said Nick Wallner, a beekeeper who led the charge to tweak the

ordinance. He was taking beekeeping classes three years ago when he realized he couldn’t have hives on his West Concord property, which wasn’t big enough. He could have tried to secure a special exception, but he opted to study ordinances in 40 other communities and present his findings to the city council, which eventually allowed beekeeping as a right in most zoning districts and with a special exception in downtown residential areas.

While it’s hard to pinpoint how many people are beekeeping as a result of the ordinance, there is evidence it has moved the needle. The Capital Area Beekeepers Association had 17 people at its first meeting five years ago. It now has about 150 members, including 30 from Concord, and its local beekeeping classes have drawn upward of 100 people.

“Bees have been around for a million years on their own, but the ordinance certainly has helped raise awareness,” Wallner said.

The city passed its first beekeeping ordinance in 2002, and Wallner started pushing the benefits of relaxed restrictions in 2012. Bees would contribute to fruit and garden pollination, and allow keepers to make honey and other wax products, he said.

The local pitch coincided with a broader shift in the way people look at sustainability and where food comes from, said Craig Walker, zoning administrator for the city. A similar push led to a backyard chicken ordinance a year before, allowing residents to keep up to five chickens if their lot meets minimum size requirements.

“There had been a significant change in the perspective of how many people looked at the keeping of bees,” Walker said. “People kind of got into the greening of Concord, the kinds of things that make the city a greener place.”

While sustainability and agricultural benefits were a key piece, the push was also spurred by the spotlight shifting toward the plight of the honey bee. Mass deaths in recent years have severely affected the country’s honey bee population. The reasons range from perplexing colony collapse disorder to pesticides used more commonly than they once were. In this context, with commercial beekeepers getting out of the business, what’s happening locally is viewed as more important.

What Concord has done ties in with what has happened on a statewide level, said Barbara Lawler, president of the New Hampshire Beekeepers Association. The University of New Hampshire’s Bee Lab and other projects like the pollinator meadow established in Holderness by Resources Management Inc. are evidence of increased awareness when it comes to honey bees.

“It’s hard to quantify growth related to the ordinances, but in the last four or five years, we have had classes in Concord grow to the point they are huge,” Lawler said.

But bees, with their reputation for stinging, weren’t a unanimous sell to the city council. Would more bees in Concord lead to more buzzing – and stinging – around pools, drinks or picnics? Gentler strands of honey bees like the ones kept by backyard beekeepers aren’t aggressive, and they can easily be maintained without causing a nuisance if properly managed and located, advocates said. “One of the good things is I have not received any significant increase in complaints, which means if people are keeping more bees, they are doing a good job of keeping them controlled,” Walker said.

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