

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

NEXT MEETING

SAT., JAN. 9, 2016
9-11 A.M.
PILLSBURY LIBRARY
WARNER, NH

AGENDA:

- Call to order, reports
- Election of new officers
- Updates on coming events
- Planning 2016
 - Meeting dates
 - Programs & speakers
- Old and new business
- In the Hive with Troy Hall

IN THIS ISSUE:

Comments from the Editor	Pg. 1 & 2
Plant for bees: Borage	Pg. 2
Report on Pollinator Summit	Pg. 2
KBA 2015 Recap	Pg. 3
Bee articles NY Times 2015	Pg. 3 & 4
Farm & Forest Expo	Pg. 5
KBA dues form	Pg. 5
Winter project: nuc boxes	Pg. 6-7

Another year begins, so let's consider our beekeeping life.

This will be my third year as newsletter editor. I've tried to stay away from editorializing in favor of having the current President write a message for each newsletter. Martin wrote his "goodbye/lame duck message" last time and elections haven't taken place, so here's my brief history and a stab at writing an editorial.

I went to bee school in 2011, spent that season trying to do reading and visiting a couple club members' apiaries, and got my bees in 2012. It has been an up and down ride ever since. I've had from one to three hives, two swarms (that I'm aware of), one dead-out, one decent honey harvest and 2 or 3 minor ones, many stings, and have spent a fair amount of cash. I've also made lots of new friends, impressed some of my old friends with my bravery and honey, and learned a ton about bees, beekeepers, and agriculture. This year I have two hives neatly wrapped which I hope (and believe) will make it through the winter.

As a KBA member and NHBA member, I attend quite a few meetings. A theme keeps coming out: you need a plan and a goal as a beekeeper. Sometimes it seems like some of the big, serious beekeepers might look down their noses at "hobby beekeepers" because some of us lack a coherent plan and/or experience some failures due to poor planning or management. Let the guilt go away. Bees are a hugely complicated species that requires lots of study and hands-on experience before you can even begin to understand what they are up to. They are not like any other animal you may have raised in the past. You can't fence them in (though you should fence predators out), control their behavior (much) or take them to the vet.

Here's what I want to say to those just starting out. 1) Learn all you can by going to meetings, reading books and magazines, and asking questions. 2) Get a mentor or mentors. It doesn't have to be a formal arrangement with regular visits. Just having someone to field a question or two between meetings will help. Other beekeepers love to talk about bees, but be considerate of their time. 3) Try to have a plan, but it needs to be a flexible one. 4) Wear enough protection when you visit your hives so that you are comfortable and can focus on what you want to do that day. 5) Be ready for surprises...and don't be discouraged by them. 6) Try new things.

One of the most important things you can do as a hobby beekeeper, as most of us in this club are, is to talk about bees to your non-beekeeping friends and acquaintances. People always ask me, "How are your bees?" The word is out about bees facing problems worldwide. Time to drop some hints about not using pesticides, letting the dandelions grow, the benefits of local honey, etc. Be an advocate for our honeybees and their wild cousins.

Happy New Year. See you at the meetings.

Barbara Burns, Newsletter Editor

Ordering seeds soon? Here's a great plant to try. It will attract lots of your honeybees and bumblebees....guaranteed. Plus the plants deter tomato hornworm and the edible flowers can fancy up your salads. It self-seeds easily so you probably won't need to purchase seeds again. Downside: The plants get heavy and flop all over!
BBB



Ensure that the soil is well drained and in a medium pH range. Sow seeds directly into the garden after the last date of frost. Plant seeds ¼ to ½ inch under the soil in rows 12 inches apart. Thin the **borage** herb to at least 1 foot when the plants measure 4 to 6 inches tall.

REPORT ON POLLINATOR SUMMIT by Martin Marklin

The NH Department of Agriculture and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension hosted the first New Hampshire Pollinator Summit on November 2, 2015 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Its theme was: "Global Issues - Local Solutions".

The conference drew several hundred attendees from New Hampshire and surrounding states. Included were many NH beekeepers from several of our local clubs. Also in attendance were many orchardists, vegetable growers, land conservancy groups, as well as concerned citizens. In addition to the major presentations, panel discussions were held. Troy Hall, KBA secretary, commercial beekeeper, and queen breeder participated as a presenter. Charles Mraz, of Champlain Valley Apiaries, also presented on how he is partnering with the dairy farmers on planting clover in their pastures to extend the foraging season for bees. The New Hampshire Beekeepers Association had a table with an observation hive as well as literature to hand out.

A wonderful buffet lunch was served with food from local farms.

—Martin

FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES

News about Bees, including commentary and archival articles published in The New York Times in 2015.

To read MORE, go to:

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/topics/bees/index.html>

Chronology of Coverage (newest to oldest)

1. Sep. 15, 2015

Study published in *Biology Letters* finds Argentine ants may be contributing to decline in honeybee population; biologist Alexandra Sebastien of Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, who leads research, says ants can carry deformed wing virus, which is linked to bee colony collapse. [MORE](#)

2. Sep. 11, 2015

United States Court of Appeals in San Francisco rules Environmental Protection Agency was wrong in permitting Dow AgroSciences insecticide, which was toxic to honeybees, onto market; cancels its approval. [MORE](#)

3. Aug. 10, 2015

Three-acre green space atop Brooklyn's Barclays Center, planted with thousands of sedum plants, briefly becomes foraging destination for hundreds, possibly thousands, of bees; experts have no explanation for the sudden appearance and equally rapid disappearance of the pollinators, but say they would be unlikely to have moved across East River to Manhattan. [MORE](#)

4. Jul. 28, 2015

Study published in *The Journal of Environmental Chemistry* reports finding insecticides containing neonicotinoids, which have been linked to colony collapse disorder, in more than 70 percent of pollen and honey samples collected from hives in Massachusetts. [MORE](#)

5. Jul. 10, 2015

Study in journal *Science* proposes warming temperatures as reason bees are shrinking away from southern limits of their North American

KBA Highlights of 2015

JAN: Master Beekeepers DAVE & DORINA PRIEBE SPEAK at KBA meeting

FEB & MAR: 4 BEE SCHOOL sessions at KRMS

FEB: KBA members help out NHBA booth at FARM & FOREST EXPO

MAR: Members hear MIKE PALMER and SUSAN BROUILLETTE speak at NHBA SPRING MEETING

APR: KBA MEETING includes tutorial on installing a package of bees

MAY: AMY PAPINEAU of UNH speaks on PLANTING FOR HONEYBEES at KBA meeting

JUN: GEORGE HAMILTON OF UNH speaks on FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND BEES at KBA meeting

JUN: Members see ZAC LAMAS do a demo of MAKING NUCS AND SPLITS at NHBA SUMMER MEETING

AUG: KBA POTLUCK PICNIC enjoyed at MARKLIN CANDLE DESIGN

SEP: KBA MEETING speaker is ANDREW MUNKRES of VT. His topic was USING OVERWINTERED NUCS TO EXPAND APIARIES

OCT: KBA HOSTS NHBA FALL MEETING AT CAMP METHUEN. BILL MARES speaks on COMB HONEY PRODUCTION and BEES AND HONEY OF THE YUCATAN

NOV: KBA POTLUCK TURKEY DINNER held at NORTH SUTTON CHURCH



and European ranges; research tracked bumblebee travels and observed range shrinkage from southern border by as much as 190 miles since 1970s; results may explain declining bumblebee species, but critics say study does not make strong case climate change is main cause.

[MORE](#)

6. Jul. 5, 2015

Download interview with beekeeper Tim Tucker, president of American Beekeeping Federation, who offers recommendations for books and other forms of entertainment. [MORE](#)

7. Jun. 13, 2015

Africanized honeybee, or so-called killer bee, is tormenting many parts of Arizona, stinging scores of people with such severity that they have had to be hospitalized. [MORE](#)

8. May. 31, 2015

Claire Martin Prototype column observes that Cedar Anderson and his father Stuart have developed potentially revolutionary bee hive in New South Wales, Australia; notes that setup, called the Flow Hive, takes much of the intensive labor out of traditional honey extraction. [MORE](#)

9. May. 20, 2015

Obama administration reveals strategy drawn up by Pollinator Health Task Force to address problems with nation's honeybee and monarch butterfly populations; strategy will largely focus on increasing acreage for wildflowers and milkweed in central United States. [MORE](#)

10. May. 14, 2015

Annual survey by research consortium Bee Informed Partnership shows increase in honeybee die-offs in United States in 2014, with beekeepers reporting loss of 42.1 percent of their colonies, up from 34.2 percent in previous year; rising deaths among bees, which are essential to agriculture, accelerates worry in agricultural world, with honeybee pollination services estimated to be worth \$10 billion to \$15 billion annually. [MORE](#)

11. Apr. 23, 2015

Research by European scientists published in journal Nature finds negative impact on bees from neonicotinoids, widely used class of pesticides restricted by Environmental Protection Agency; study indicates that wild bees and bumblebees pollinating crops treated with that type of pesticide, containing a nicotine-like substance, are less likely to reproduce.

[MORE](#)

12. Apr. 21, 2015

Dr. Heather Mattila and Hailey Scofield study in journal PLoS One concludes that worker bees that are not given access to adequate pollen early in life become poor foragers and communicators with other bees. [MORE](#)

13. Apr. 9, 2015

European Academies Science Advisory Council issues report finding group of pesticides known as neonicotinoids is likely to be more damaging to ecosystems than previously thought; previous research has shown chemicals are likely to have played role in mass deaths of honeybees; European Commission ban on some of the chemicals is up for review, and report is intended to provide officials with recommendations for proceeding. [MORE](#)

14. Mar. 3, 2015

Research shows that bees can suffer lapses of memory, sometimes confusing one flower for another, just as humans can. [MORE](#)

15. Feb. 24, 2015

Airports around world are beginning to install beehives on empty stretches of land as part of growing green initiative; hives make use of space that cannot be legally built on while also helping support embattled bee populations and providing way of testing local pollutants. [MORE](#)

16. Jan. 27, 2015

Science Q&A explains how bees adapt to very cold weather and whether they hibernate. [MORE](#)





PLEASE NOTE the dates for the NH Farm and Forest Expo are much earlier this year, due to political happenings in Manchester. This year's event will be at the Radisson at the Center of NH 9-4 on both days.

January 22, 23 2016 NH Farm and Forest Expo nhfarmandforestexpo.org

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. No experience necessary. 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.

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2016 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 _____

2016 DUES ARE \$20.00

Please make checks payable to: **KBA**

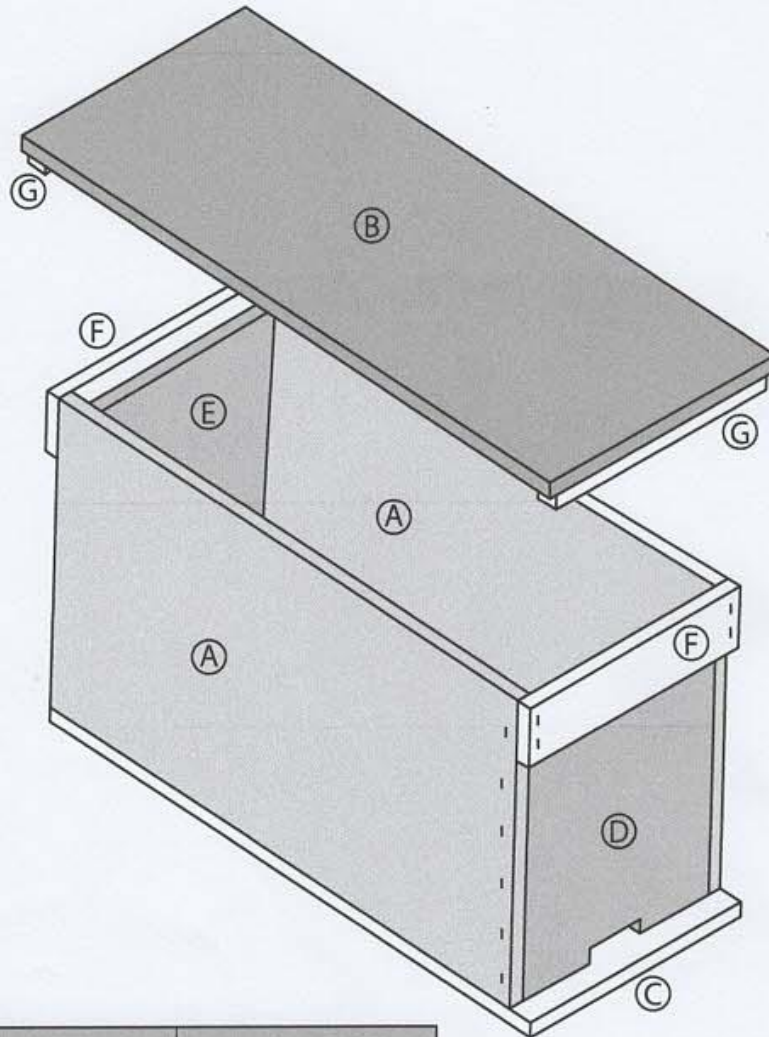
MAIL TO: Robin Gray

PO Box 275

Warner, NH 03278

5-FRAME NUC BEEHIVE - D. COATES

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS FOR 4 NUCS MADE FROM ONE SHEET OF
1/2" (12.7mm) THICK PLYWOOD

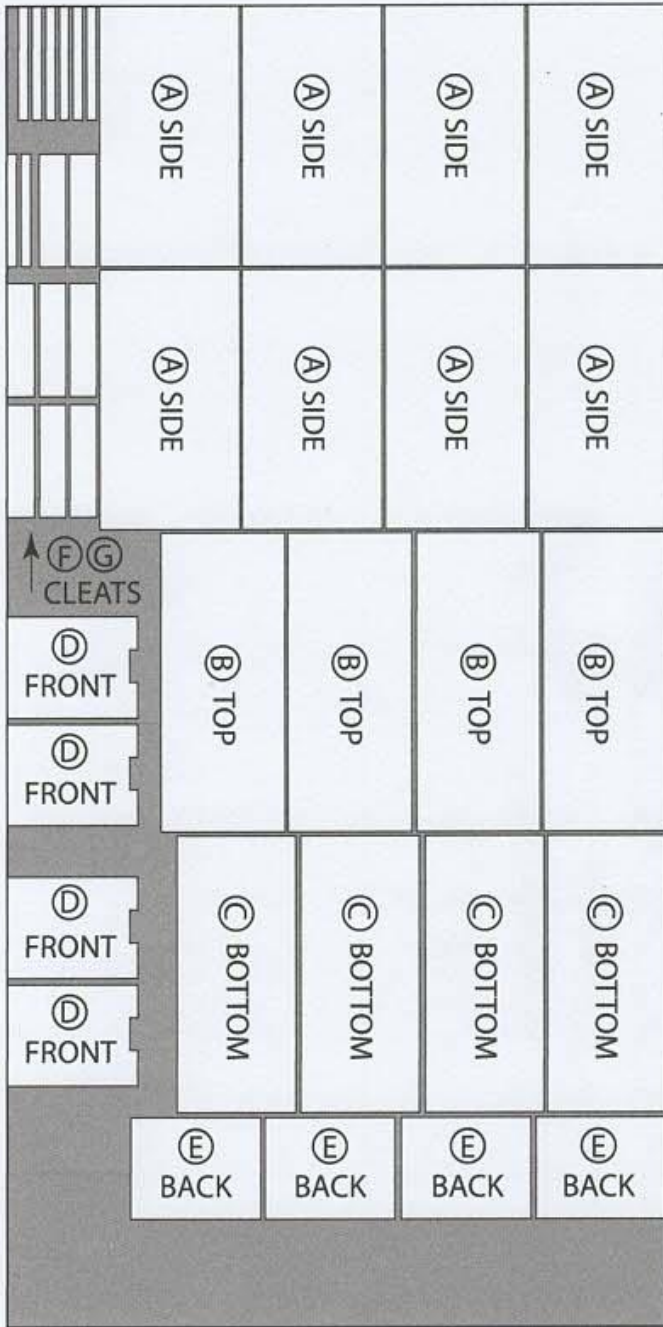


ITEM	QTY.	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
(A)	8	Side	10-1/4" x 19-1/8"
(B)	4	Top	9" x 22"
(C)	4	Bottom	8-1/2" x 20"
(D)	4	Front	7-1/2" x 9-1/2"
(E)	4	Back	7-1/2" x 9-1/2"
(F)	8	Hive Cleat	8-1/2" x 2"
(G)	8	Top Cleat	3/4" x 8-1/2"

©.2011.BeeSource.com - All Rights Reserved.
info@beesource.com/www.beesource.com
Reproduction for personal and non-profit use only.

5-FRAME NUC BEEHIVE

LAYOUT DIAGRAM FOR 4' x 8' - 1/2" PLYWOOD



ITEM	QTY.	DESCRIPTION	DIMENSIONS
(A)	8	Side	10-1/4" x 19-1/8"
(B)	4	Top	9" x 22"
(C)	4	Bottom	8-1/2" x 20"
(D)	4	Front	7-1/2" x 9-1/2"
(E)	4	Back	7-1/2" x 9-1/2"
(F)	8	Hive Cleat	8-1/2" x 2"
(G)	8	Top Cleat	3/4" x 8-1/2"

©.2011.BeeSource.com - All Rights Reserved.
 info@beesource.com/www.beesource.com
 Reproduction for personal and non-profit use only.