

# KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

April 2016

## Kearsarge Beekeeper's Association

*Presents*

### A Slovenian Beekeeping Presentation

By **Suzanne Brouillette**



- Plus: A Raffle of 2 Beehives with Bees
- Come and join us at our club meeting at the **Warner Town hall (downstairs)** On **Saturday, April 9 from 9-11 am**

You are invited to hear about the beautiful Slovene AZ hives that are worked from the rear and are usually kept in a house or shed. These hives are different from our traditional hives in that there is no heavy lifting while managing your bees.

As a bonus we are raising two nucs that will each be installed into a one story hive with a bottom board and top cover. These bees are from local bee supplier **Kevin Sargent** from Newport and the hives are donated by **Bill and Linda Tracy** of Webster.

There will be light refreshments to enjoy at the meeting.

#### MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

We are inviting the public to attend our meeting this month.

Please tell your friends and neighbors who might be interested in hearing about beekeeping in beautiful New Hampshire as well as beautiful Slovenia.

We will be at the *Warner Town Hall*, not the Pillsbury Library this time.

We are hoping lots of members will come to this meeting to get in on the exciting raffle AND to welcome and chat with the interested folks who are attending to learn more about beekeeping.

If there is a business meeting, it will be brief. The KBA library table will be there.

If you can bring something for the refreshment table, please call or email Linda Hartman @ 456-3881 [davidehartman@hotmail.com](mailto:davidehartman@hotmail.com)

Thank you & see you there,

KBA Officers: *John, Bill, Robin, Kim and Barbara*

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March 12, 2016 Minutes:

John Chadwick, Pres., called the meeting to order at 9AM  
Motion made and seconded to approve minutes from February meeting. Passed.

- A. Treasurer.....Robin Gray was absent
- B. Secretary....Kim Tuttle was absent
- C. Vice President...Bill MacDonald spoke on bee availability from Kevin Sargent
- D. President....John spoke about the state meeting coming up on March 19

Let's get acquainted:  
New club member Jenn Gonzalez from Sunapee was welcomed

#### Old Business

- a. We discussed whether to provide bee school every year. A committee consisting of Randy (Bam) Fleury, Bill Tracy, Linda Tracy, Mike McHugh and Katie Toomey was chosen to investigate our options.

#### New Business

- a. Dave Hartman asked that we reconsider our monthly meeting schedule. He was hoping we might go back to meeting on Friday nights with not as much frequency. i.e. no summer meetings or meeting in the same month as a state meet. This was tabled until the May meeting.
- b. April meeting with Suzanne Brouillette on Slovenian Hives
  - 1. Dave and Linda Hartman have procured the town hall and the projector and screen
  - 2. Linda will get coffee and water, other club members to bring light munchies
  - 3. Motion made and seconded to have (2) Nuc raffles and Bill and Linda Tracy offered to donate (2) hives with frames for the raffle.

- 4. Kevin Sargent will have the Nuc available for us to purchase in April
  - 5. Access to Warner Town Hall is through basement door.
  - 6. Advertising is being worked on by John and Bam (Randy Fleury)
- Motion to adjourn made and seconded.

Recorded by Bill MacDonald

#### KBA MENTORS

The following club members have graciously volunteered to be mentors to our new beekeepers. They are also available to share their experiences and knowledge with other members who have questions or need advice.

Richard Brewster, Andover, 735-5457  
Alan Carruth, Newport, 863-7064  
John Chadwick, Sutton Mills, 927-4327  
Tom Dickson, Andover, 340-3029  
Randy Fleury, South Sutton, 927-4144  
Dave Hartman, Warner, 456-3881  
Bill McDonald, Newport, 863-4012

#### NH BEE AND EQUIPMENT DEALERS:

- \*Hillside Apiaries, Merrimack 429-0808
- \*B-Line Apiaries, Alden Marshall, Hudson 883-6764
- \*Spring Fever Farm, Ben Chadwick, Alton 875-3544
- \*NH Honey Bee, Gilsum 354-8019
- \*Troy Hall, Plainfield 298-7209
- \*Kevin Sargent, Newport 843-5927

#### 2016 CLUB OFFICERS:

President  
John Chadwick  
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Barbara Burns  
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**Report on the NHBA Spring Meeting, Saturday March 19, 2016 by Barbara Burns for KBA**

The Spring meeting this year was held at the Bow Community Ctr. and the attendance was very high. The speakers were Doug McRory, beekeeper from Ontario, Canada; Andrew Timmins, Bear Project Leader from NH Fish & Game; and David Kennard from Wellscoft Fence Systems, Harrisville, NH. There was a huge raffle, a wonderful catered lunch, and a business meeting.

Doug McRory, Owner of Doug's Bees (<http://dougsbees.com/about.html>) Morning talk. Mr. McRory, a beekeeper for 30+ years, spoke in the morning about Integrated Pest Management. The beekeeper must understand bee diseases and their biology, the available tools to use and when to use what, and that honey must be pure and wholesome. He stressed that controlling varroa mites is the biggest problem for beekeepers and the largest cause of winter losses. He went on to describe how he uses Apistan, Apivar, formic acid pads and oxalic acid. In addition, he breaks the brood cycle to "knock down" the varroa population and uses drone cell frames for varroa removal. Testing methods used to determine varroa levels are: the alcohol/jar method, sugar/jar test, and sticky boards under a screened bottom board. Other problems mentioned were: small hive beetles, American foul brood, nosema, chalkbrood, sac brood, and European foul brood. Mr. McRory

assumes he has varroa in all of his hives (numbering 400 at present) and is always on the lookout for disease.

Andrew Timmins: "Bears and Bees Just Don't Mix". Mr. Timmins gave a very interesting talk illustrated with beautiful slides of NH's bears as well as the damage they can do. The bear population in NH is about 5200 now and a 10% decrease to 4700 is planned for over the next 10 years. Bear hunting is the tool used to reduce the bear population. 600-800 bears are killed each year by 3 methods of hunting: Baiting, stalking/still hunting, and hunting with hounds. Fish and Game has the job of managing conflicts between bears and humans. Agricultural complaints are low compared to property damage and safety complaints. Managing attractants is the key to deterring bears. Dumpsters need to be covered and locked, bird and other pet foods must not be left outside, chicken owners need to improve exclusion techniques, etc. Feeding bears is illegal. Beekeepers on the whole are doing a good job with fencing to exclude bears. *Please visit the NH Fish and Game's website for lots more information and to see photos. Their brochure "Protecting Beehives from Bears" is reproduced in this newsletter.*

David Kennard: "Bears, Bees, and Fencing". Mr. Kennard went over the options for fencing-in beehives to protect from bears and other predators. You can use strands of electric fence or netting for portability. It can be powered by

plugging in, using a car battery or using a solar charger. The #1 problem is grounding the fence. It is necessary to use the proper type of ground rod and test the fence. Vegetation must be removed from under the fence. Various baiting methods were described. Don't use guide wires outside the fence because bears will knock them down; use heavy corner posts instead. Under the fence, carpet strips work well as mulch (also tarpaper), but keep the strips narrow or the animal may not get shocked.

Wellscroft Fence Systems will be holding a **FREE FENCE BUILDING CLINIC** May 7<sup>th</sup> (and repeated on May 8), 2016 8:30am-4pm each day. The address is 167 Sunset Hill Road, Harrisville, NH, 855-327-6336; website: wellscroft.com email: info@wellscroft.com

Business meeting. NHBA Scholarship Program was explained. Please see their website for form and information. The summer meeting will be held June 25 at Musterfield Farm in North Sutton. The Fall Meeting, Oct. 22, 2016, will be hosted by the Monadnock Bee Club; details to be determined. NH Beekeeper of the Year was announced; congratulations to Jodi Turner of the Monadnock club. The following slate of officers was voted in: President, Starsha Kolodziej; V-Pres., Allen Lindahl; Treas., Heather Achilles; and Secretary, Derek Behee.

Doug McRory, Afternoon talk. "A Season with Doug". Mr. McRory described his beekeeping year beginning with insulating for winter (4" thick bag of shavings on top). He checks for life whenever the temperature reaches 45 degrees. If there are dead hives, they are placed on top of a live one to let the bees do cleanup, thereby avoiding wax moths in storage. He treats for mites 3 times in the spring. Queens arrive around April 20. June 1 he starts making up nucs using existing queens and replacing with queen cells that he raises. Doug uses Buckfast stock. In July he checks how nucs (his main crop) are doing before selling. August 1 he starts getting ready for winter. After the honey harvest, he treats again for mites 3 or 4 times in the fall. He takes any losses in the fall by combining weak hives with strong ones.

The 14-page handout distributed by Doug McRory can be found in pdf format at [apiary@ontario.ca](mailto:apiary@ontario.ca). The title is: "2014 Ontario Treatment Recommendations for Honey Bee Disease and Mite Control"



**Have you paid your annual KBA dues?**

**Just \$20**

**Mail to: Robin Gray, Treas., PO Box 275,  
Warner, NH 03278**

The following was given to the KBA by Ben Chadwick for distribution in this newsletter. **THIS LIST OF PESTICIDE PRODUCTS FROM THE EPA HAS ALSO BEEN APPROVED FOR USE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.** [EPA Home](#) » [Pollinator Protection](#) » EPA-registered Pesticide Products Approved for Use Against Varroa Mites in Bee Hives

## EPA-registered Pesticide Products Approved for Use Against Varroa Mites in Bee Hives

January 2016 – As part of the [National Pollinator Health Strategy](#), EPA committed to helping beekeepers combat Varroa mites. Varroa mites are parasites that feed on developing bees, leading to brood mortality and reduced lifespan of worker bees. They also transmit numerous honeybee viruses. The health of a colony can be critically damaged by an infestation of Varroa mites. Once infested, if left untreated, the colony will likely die. By [expediting the approval of pesticides that target Varroa](#) mites and publishing information about the products, EPA is honoring another commitment in the National Strategy.

The pesticide products listed on this page are registered by EPA at the federal level for use against Varroa mites. Rotating products to combat Varroa mites is an important tactic to prevent resistance development and to maintain the usefulness of individual pesticides. Beekeepers are encouraged to check with their [state pesticide regulatory agencies](#) to determine the regulatory status of the products in the individual states.

Primary registered products in the list have 2-part EPA registration numbers and are listed in bold. Distributor products have a 3-part EPA registration number, with the first two numbers reflecting the primary registered product's registration number. Distributors may market their products under different names, but the formulations and uses are identical to the primary registered.

| Registration #   | Product Name                                  | Active Ingredient  |
|------------------|---|--|
| <b>2724-406</b>  | <b>ZOECON RF-318 APISTAN STRIP</b>            | <b>Fluvalinate (10.25%)</b>                                      |
| 2724-406-62042   | APISTAN ANTI-VARROA MITE STRIPS               |  |
| <b>61671-3</b>   | <b>FOR-MITE</b>                               | <b>Formic acid (65.9%)</b>                                       |
| <b>70950-2</b>   | <b>AVACHEM SUCROSE OCTANOATE [40.0%]</b>      | <b>Sucrose octanoate (40%)</b>                                   |
| 70950-2-2205     | SUCROCIDE                                     |  |
| 70950-2-84710    | SUCRASHIELD                                   |  |
| <b>73291-1</b>   | <b>API LIFE VAR</b>                           | <b>Thymol (74.09%), Oil of eucalyptus (16%), Menthol (3.73%)</b> |
| <b>75710-2</b>   | <b>MITE-AWAY QUICK STRIPS</b>                 | <b>Formic acid (46.7%)</b>                                       |
| <b>79671-1</b>   | <b>APIGUARD</b>                               | <b>Thymol (25%)</b>  |
| <b>83623-2</b>   | <b>HOPGUARD II</b>                            | <b>Hop beta acids resin (16%)</b>                                |
| <b>87243-1</b>   | <b>Apivar</b>                                 | <b>Amitraz (3.33%)</b>   |
| <b>91266-1</b>   | <b>OXALIC ACID DIHYDRATE</b>                  | <b>Oxalic acid (100%)</b>  |
| 91266-1-73291    | OXALIC ACID DIHYDRATE                         |  |
| 91266-1-91832    | OXALIC ACID DIHYDRATE                         |  |
| <b>11556-138</b> | <b>CHECKMITE+ BEE HIVE PEST CONTROL STRIP</b> | <b>Coumaphos (10%)</b>   |
| 11556-138-61671  | CHECKMITE+ BEE HIVE PEST CONTROL STRIP        |  |

[Contact Us](#)\* to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem. \*See EPA website as listed above.



**(Selling at farmers markets? Look at what the National Honey Board has to offer!)**

The National Honey Board (NHB) announced that it has launched an online catalog for members of the honey industry. In a continued effort to provide materials to help promote honey, the NHB has made available to all industry members various materials that can be utilized to educate the general public about the story and benefits of honey. These materials are made available at little to no cost and can be displayed in storefronts, as well as at farmer's markets and other community events.

The new online tool, found at [www.nhbcatalog.com](http://www.nhbcatalog.com), brings the NHB into the modern digital age by simplifying the ordering process for industry members. This new catalog offers honey industry members a visual representation of materials available with clear product descriptions and photos. Some of the items available include educational brochures, promotional items and even a newly redesigned freebie.

"We are pleased to offer this online catalog to the honey industry," said Catherine Barry, Director of Marketing at the NHB. "By moving to an online system, we have streamlined the ordering process, making it as quick and easy to get materials as possible."

While previous freebies and favorite items are still available, the NHB started off 2016 with the creation of the completely

redesigned *Sweet Honey Recipes for the Everyday Cook*. This vibrant, accordion-style brochure features eight delicious recipes that showcase the many functions of honey in the kitchen, in a sleek new design. *Sweet Honey Recipes for the Everyday Cook* is available to industry members at no cost in limited quantities.

In addition to educational materials and recipe brochures, the NHB's numerous promotional items, great for farmer's markets and festivals, have been made available for purchase. Items include the NHB's exclusive honey vanilla lip balms, honey bee stickers, spatulas, tumblers and honey tote bags.

Also available for the first time are the NHB's honey bear mascot costumes. These limited edition bears were created for the NHB in 2015 and are the top of the line in mascot design. Each unit includes a battery-operated fan in the head piece, as well as underarm vents for keeping cool and comfortable at any event.

The catalog will be updated as products sell out and new products become available. For first time ordering assistance, please contact Andrea Brening, the NHB's fulfillment coordinator at 303-776-2337.

The National Honey Board is an industry-funded agriculture promotion group that works to educate consumers about the benefits and uses for honey and honey products through research, marketing and promotional programs. For more information, visit [www.honey.com](http://www.honey.com).



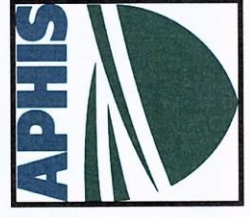
## MAINTAINING THE FENCE

- ⚡ Always keep the fence energized and properly grounded
- ⚡ Keep portable energizers inside the fence perimeter
- ⚡ Control vegetation and keep fence away from poorly grounded areas such as stone walls and gravel
- ⚡ Maintain hive at least 3' away from the perimeter of the fence
- ⚡ During severe storms disconnect the AC plug in energizers and use a surge protector to protect the energizer
- ⚡ Initially baiting a fence with either partially cooked bacon or jelly wrapped in aluminum foil will help train bears to avoid your fence

## MATERIALS WORKSHEET

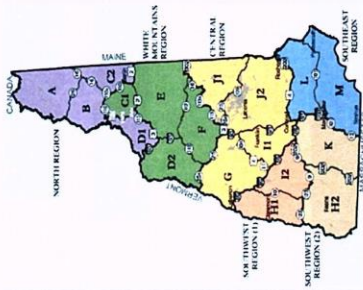
| Fencing                | Approx Cost   |
|------------------------|---------------|
| ■ Electronet Fence 82' | 79.00-99.00   |
| ■ Conductor            | 15.00-29.00   |
| <b>Energizers</b>      |               |
| ■ Solar                | 125.00-272.00 |
| ■ Battery              | 105.00-200.00 |
| ■ 110                  | 60.00-150.00  |
| <b>Posts</b>           |               |
| ■ Tread-ins            | 1.75-3.00ea   |
| <b>Accessories</b>     |               |
| ■ Voltage Tester       | 19.00-75.00   |
| ■ Ground Rod           | 6.00-10.00    |
| ■ Ground Rod Clamp     | 1.50-2.50     |
| ■ Warning Sign         | 1.00-3.00     |

# PROTECTING BEEHIVES FROM BEARS

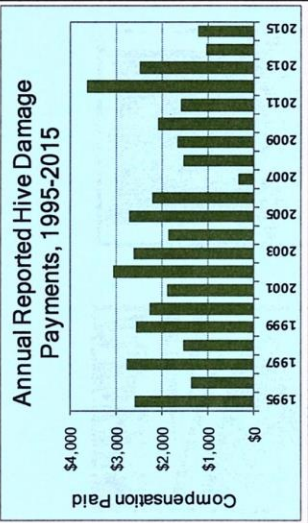


# BEEHIVES AND BEARS

Current estimates place New Hampshire's black bear population remaining relatively stable at around 5,000 bears. With bears now inhabiting all of the state, damage to beehives is predictable.



An average of 40 beekeepers report hive damage to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and USDA Wildlife Services annually. Bear damage to beehives typically peaks in May when natural food is limited or difficult for bears to find, and again in late summer, before fall foods such as beechnuts and acorns become available. Beekeepers can prevent this damage with a modest investment of time and money by electrically fencing beehives.

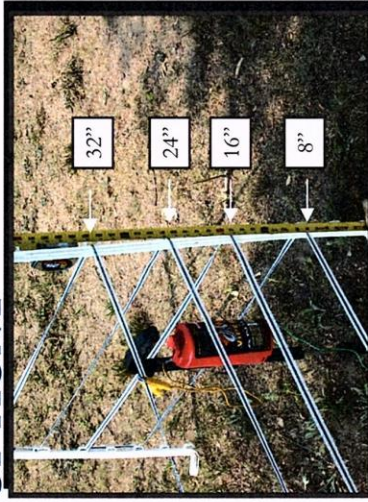


## OPTION 1

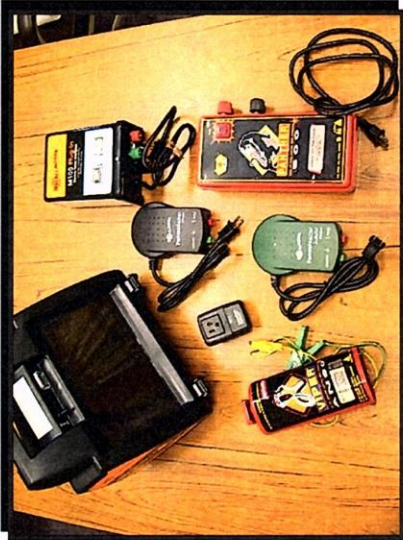


Those who move hives frequently will appreciate the convenience of electronet fences which are portable and can provide protection from bears as well as skunks. These fences come in a 82' or 164' roll and consist of a grid of conductive wires and plastic supports with pre-fitted metal-tipped posts. Some electronets are self-grounding, eliminating the need for a ground rod.

## OPTION 2



Less expensive, but less portable, is a component fence system composed of either tread-in molded posts or fiber rods with insulator clips. Place 4 strands of hot tape or other suitable conductor at 8" to 10" intervals. Use a continuous run of conductor or connect the 4 strands to one another with a length of conductive wire tightly wrapped several times around each strand and then attached to the energizer.



Examples of energizers and fencing components that may be used in various fence designs.

*The products and price ranges contained within this brochure are intended for reference only. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department does not endorse or guarantee the use of these products over others not mentioned. Contact your local fence dealer. For more information please contact the Wildlife Services office at 223-6832.*