

# KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

MAY 2016

## NEXT MEETING

**FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2014**  
**7-9 PM**  
**PILLSBURY LIBRARY**  
**WARNER, NH**

**AGENDA:** Call to order; intro. New members  
Speaker: **KEN KUHN on Catching Swarms**  
Approve minutes and hear officers' reports  
Committee reports: Bee School  
Facebook Page  
Old Business: KBA Monthly meeting sched.  
New Business: October meeting ideas  
By-law change/newsletter ed.

### President's Message

So the calendar says May, but it has not warmed up very much this spring. I still have wraps on all but a few hives. I was picking up some packages from Allen Lindahl on April 16<sup>th</sup> and mentioned that I wanted to unwrap my hives. He cautioned me to not be too anxious to get them unwrapped because we may still be in for cold weather. I guess he knew what he was talking about because it has been quite cool.

We had a nice turnout for our last meeting at the town hall with Suzanne Brouillette and our raffle of two nucs and hives. There were many new faces and some familiar ones of club members that I don't see too often. It was nice

to see so many attend the presentation. I do know that at least a few people joined our club that day. I'd like to thank everybody that helped to prepare for that meeting. Well Done!

Our next meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May is going to be on Friday night at 7 at the library. We are having Ken Kuhn from Candia come and give a presentation on swarms and swarming. This will be an interesting and timely presentation that you shouldn't miss. If you get a minute, try to get to his website <http://jackshoney.com/> and see his content. He has many photos and information about his various bee related interests.

We will have some business to attend to at the meeting so please come and join us in the discussion. One item on the agenda will be our meeting schedule so if you have any thoughts on when our meeting should be please come and let us know your thoughts and wishes.

Please come and join us.

Bee well,  
*John Chadwick*

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**Kearsarge Beekeepers' Association**  
**Meeting Minutes Saturday, April 9, 2016**  
**Warner Town Hall**

Richard Brewster gave some hints on installing package bees and catching swarms. A swarm box should use a wire screen cover (so the bees do not suffocate) with nails started in the four corners, ready to go. We pulled the raffle winners for the two complete hives and bees. Congratulations to Dana Ramspott from Sunapee and Mike Ayotte from Warner!

President John Chadwick introduced Suzanne Brouillette who gave a presentation on Slovenian Hives, which have been around for about 100 years. There are about 10,000 beekeepers in Slovenia, the former Yugoslavia, which is the size of NH. Slovenian hives are kept in bee houses or on bee trucks or trailers; all work is done from the back of the hives. The front face is double walled for insulation. Only the front and back doors are painted and they are traditionally made from spruce wood. The fronts are often decoratively painted. Suzanne is from Harrisville and is a US supplier of Slovenian hives which cost about \$200-\$300 per hive. Drawbacks include more frequent maintenance since design allows only 2 or 3 deeps including the brood boxes and the frames may not fit some extractors. In Slovenia, beekeepers can only legally have Carniolan bees which are adapted to the area, although Italians occasionally drift over.

There was a question about a KBA membership list so beekeepers can find other beekeepers in

their area. We will discuss at next business meeting.

Change: Next meeting is **Friday May 13 at the Warner Town Library from 7-9 p.m.** Ken Kuhn from the Concord Area Beekeepers' will be giving a talk on catching bee swarms.

Submitted by Kim Tuttle, Secretary.

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From Fox News via the Nat'l Honey Board website:

**Honey Nut Cheerios To Dedicate 3,300 Acres Of Land To Bee Habitats By 2020**

By Tonya Garcia Published April 26, 2016  
MarketWatch Pulse

Honey Nut Cheerios, a General Mills Inc. cereal brand, said Tuesday that it will commit 3,300 acres of land used for oat farming to pollinator habitats by 2020. The effort is designed to save bee colonies, which have experienced widespread die-offs in recent years. Honey Nut Cheerios said the pollinator habitats will be spread across 60,000 acres of land, and will include food sources and homes for North American bees. The acreage will be on oat farms used to supply Honey Nut Cheerios. Earlier this month, Scotts Miracle Gro Co. said it had expanded its garden product offerings that don't include neonicotinoids. There are concerns that these chemicals are harmful to bees. General Mills shares are up 0.2% in Tuesday trading, and up 8.6% for the past year. The S&P 500 is down 1% for the last 12 months.



The meeting was well attended. Estimated attendance was 50. There were a number of non-beekeepers who came to see what Slovenian beekeeping is about and visit with us local beekeepers. We met in the downstairs of the Warner Town Hall to accommodate the large crowd. There were lots of refreshments.



Jenn Gonzales and Martina Daley took charge of our bee raffle and new memberships. Thank you, ladies.

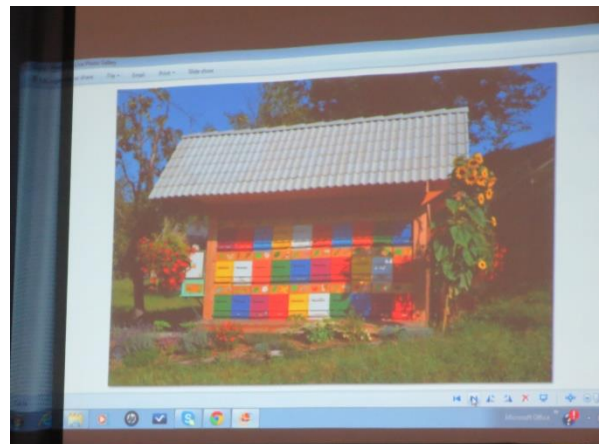


While we were waiting for our speaker to arrive, Richard Brewster talked about many aspects of beekeeping for the benefit of newbies and visitors. There was a brisk business in raffle tickets and much good conversation.



Our speaker, Suzanne Brouillette, arrived (after a detour to Warren, NH) and gave a fascinating talk about beekeeping in Slovenia. She takes tours there regularly and imports their unique hives (rear entry) for sale in the US. Suzanne keeps bees in Harrisville NH.

At right is a photo of beehives in Slovenia. It is common for them to be beautifully painted and part of a house or cottage. The beekeeper enters a corridor behind the hives to maintain them and to harvest honey.



## OVERWINTERING 2015-16.

The following comments were received from members over the last month or so. This was in response to my informal invitation to share information on how our bees are doing after our rather strange winter. The idea was originally brought up at the February or March meeting. Hopefully, I have recorded all who sent me an email; if not, please resend and I'll include it next time. Still taking commentary folks who want to send it. ....Barbara

*Bill from Newport on Feb. 29.....* **"I just want to say my bees were flying like summer last week. You can add that to the letter if you wish, and I have also gotten 3 calls from folks wanting to know about keeping bees, so things are looking good."**

*Debra from Newbury....* "Wintering- I had two new packages with southern queens in May 2015. Both have over wintered and look good."

*Dave from Warner....* "Went into fall/winter with 5 colonies. Each had 2 deeps and 2 full medium honey supers. Treated with Mite Away Quick Strips second week of September. Lots of varroa mites fell to the bottom. Insulated with 1" styrofoam foil backed insulating boards. As of April 1, this year, 2 survived, 3 died. Did not look like starvation was c.o.d. That's better than last year when 1 survived and 7 died. I'm treating the two survivors with Fumagilin-B at the moment."

*Shreve from Sutton....* "In response to your request for hive over wintering reports, I had 3 hives and 2 nuc hives going into winter. All made it through strong. April 15th I did my first inspections. Wow! All hives had lots of brood, new pollen, nectar and some capped honey. One of my strongest hives I found 2 queen cells with royal jelly in them. I reversed the hive bodies since there was room down below and this should give them room to grow. Both nuc hives were moved into full depth and are building up quickly. I put out a swarm trap today because I think it may be a tough year controlling swarms. "

*Barbara from Sutton....* "I'm at 50%. One of two hives survived and those bees are very busy on sunny days. The dead-out had plenty of honey left, which I have put in the freezer in the frames. I have hope that I can increase from the one hive back up to two. Not sure if I will buy in a queen or have them raise one. More investigation and study is needed for sure."

*John from Sutton....* "For my overwinter numbers I had 10 out of 12 hives survive. For my nucs only 3 out of 12 survived⊗ I did treat most of the hives with MAQS but not the nucs so that may be the reason for the lower nuc numbers."



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**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

For free bee photos and images, try [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com)

**CLUB EXTRACTOR**

KBA owns a 3-frame tangential extractor, great for small batches. It is available to any and all KBA members. Please contact Dave Hartman at 456-3881 to arrange to borrow it. Of course, it needs to be cleaned before it is returned