

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

JUNE 2016

NEXT MEETING

**SAT., JUNE 11, 2016
9-11 A.M.
PILLSBURY LIBRARY
WARNER**

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Introduce new members
3. Officer Reports
 - a. Treasurer
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Vice President
 - d. President
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Facebook
 - b. Bee School
5. Old Business
 - a. Monthly meeting schedule
6. New Business
 - a. ?
7. Break
8. Kevin Sargent's Adventures in Beekeeping
 - a. Q & A
9. Adjourn

Presidents Message:

Hello All,

As I write this it is a beautiful day and my bees are calling me. Well maybe they aren't actually calling me but I have to get to them and split at least one colony and maybe more. I peeked at an overwintered nuc on Thursday and saw queen cells when I tipped the box up. As of yesterday they hadn't swarmed (I think) so this morning I will split them once or twice.

The other thing that I need to do is to get some swarm traps out. After hearing Ken Kuhn talk about swarms and traps I knew that I wanted to put some out. I know that they should have been out prior to this, but it hasn't happened yet so today will be the day for that.

This month's meeting on the 11th should be a great meeting. Club member and bee guy Kevin Sargent from Newport will be telling us about his operation and adventures in raising bees. Kevin has a very busy work schedule and he somehow manages to raise bees, move them south in the winter and back in spring, sell bees, queens and make his own wooden ware.

Kevin will be explaining his treatments and even handing out samples to all who are present. He uses a mix of essential oils that he mixes himself and will share them with us. This should be an informative presentation so please come and learn about Kevin's operation.

Picnic! We need to sort out next month's Picnic/Cookout/Potluck gathering at this June 11th meeting. We may have a location but we will need a team to make it happen. The picnic is always fun and gives us a chance to visit and enjoy each other's company without any club business getting in the way.

*I hope to see you on the 11th so until then, bee well,
John Chadwick*

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Kearsarge Beekeepers Association Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 13, 2016 Warner Library

Due to scheduling conflicts, the May KBA meeting took place on Friday night May 13. Ken Kuhn of the Concord Area Beekeepers Assn. (CABA) gave a program on swarming and capturing swarms. There was just so much good info in this talk, here is just a snippet: The main swarm season generally runs from May 1 through the 4th of July. A cardboard box with the flaps secured with duct tape to avoid crushing and trapping bees, hive body, or Nuc box with frames of drawn comb, foundation, or foundationless frames can be used to capture swarms. Bring a saw or pair of loppers and cut limbs rather than shake them. AVOID shaking limbs to get bees, bring the box up to them. Bring along a ratchet strap or rope to secure boxes together or hold limbs in place while cutting. A swarm cluster can weigh 5 lbs. or more, so as you remove bees the branch will naturally relax and may get out of reach if it is not secured! Provide the swarm box with ventilation top and bottom, if possible, as they overheat quickly. The bottom screen must be up on spacers to allow air flow underneath. A screen on top allows you to feed syrup with a pump sprayer. If using boxes, a 2'x2' or 3'x3' piece of plywood can come in very handy to place in front of a box to place the swarm onto. A queen cage, queen clip, or queen excluder placed in the hive box will be needed to hold a queen or determine if you have captured her. The bees will pass through the excluder into the frames if you use boxes and the queen will be found at the excluder. Be aware that a swarm may contain multiple queens. Look for residual clusters with other queens while you are collecting the main swarm.

Fellow member Deb Dunlop took very good notes on Ken's presentation if you didn't take notes or were unable to make the meeting. We have them to share. (See next page.)

The Bee School Committee has not yet met. Pres. John Chadwick asked for a report by August. Business agenda items were tabled to the June meeting as there was not a quorum of Officers for a vote. One item is a proposed change for meetings back to the old schedule where we

met on Friday nights during the summer and met on Saturday mornings during the winter months to avoid night driving in inclement weather and conflicts for those members that do Farmers' Markets. Another item is to vote on a change in by-laws so the newsletter editor can become a voting officer. Editing the newsletter is a big job in itself and the editor is not always the same person as the recording secretary.

Reminder that the NHBA summer picnic will be held on June 25 from 10-3 at Musterfield Farm in North Sutton. The outing is FREE for current NHBA members. If not a member, you can fix that at the picnic! Bring along a side dish or desert. Drinks and barbecue choices are available free. Speaker: **Les Crowder, author of "Top Bar Beekeeping"**. Les has worked in large commercial operations, been the NM honey bee inspector as well as the president of NM Beekeepers Assn. He has been keeping bees without chemicals or antibiotics for over 15 years. For more information about Les, please see his website: <http://www.fortheloveofbees.com/>

Our next meeting: Saturday, June 11 at 9:00 a.m. at the Warner Library featuring Kevin Sargent, Newport NH. He will be giving a talk about his commercial bee operation which should be interesting.

Submitted by Kim Tuttle, Secretary.



SWARMS BY KEN KUHN, MAY 13, 2016 KBA MEETING. Notes by Debra Dunlop

Ken talked about why bees swarm. He shared that he already had a swarm on May 11.

Why do bees swarm?

1. Not enough space for egg laying
 - Queen would like to have drawn comb
 - You have not done any favors if you give her foundation
2. May be honey bound
 - If many frames are filled with honey there might not be space for egg laying
 - 2 deeps with 6 frames of honey might be too much
 - You can remove some honey and replace with comb if you have it.
3. May be pollen bound
 - Bees may not have used all the pollen from last year
4. May be brood bound therefore need some drawn comb.

To make a Split - A way that might help prevent a swarm

Ken describes how to remove some bees from the hive to make more room in the original hive. Need frames of pollen, honey, 2 brood, and frame of comb.

He uses a queen clip. He catches her and takes frames without queen cells and split her off. She can be fed from inside of here. He does this if he has extra queens or queen cells in the hive.

Container to Catch a Swarm

You need a container to catch a swarm. You can have a cardboard box, NUC box, hive body. You also need frames, covers, bottom boards and maybe a bee vac. The bee vac can be made to vacuum up swarms. He does not do this.

Cardboard box

A cardboard box can be used to catch the bees in. It is not for storing bees in. Banana size box or bigger would be good. Fix the flaps to avoid trapping and crushing the bees. Make sure to provide ventilation if keeping the bees in for any amount of time. Ken avoids shaking them as this causes them to go into a swarm again. Make sure to have secure ventilation if you are traveling with the box. Ken continued to stress not to shake bees and to provide lots of ventilation.

Styrofoam nuc

These are very handy to catch swarms
He makes sure there is ventilation in these boxes
Wipe lemon grass oil in

Needs:

Bottom Board with clearance - screened for ventilation

This means there is room on the bottom of the frame.

Cover -

A swarm can be very big and create much heat so make sure to have good ventilation. Ken uses homemade screened inner covers and that are bee tight. Try to have at least 1 screened cover. This is also helpful as a screen on top allows you to feed syrup or spritz with sugar solution

Hive for Swarm

Frames - you need drawn comb.

Drawn comb - give them drawn comb

empty comb will allow the queen to begin laying

Give Foundation

Bees ready to draw out foundation so give some empty frames.

Allows bees to start with clean foundation. Older practice was to give new foundation to prevent foul brood.

Foundationless

Allows bee to draw the type of comb they want
make sure to fill all spaces no matter what type you have

He puts swarms into hive bodies and locks up the swarm into the garage for a day.
Forces them to like each other.

Tools you need

- Bee bucket with normal hive tools
- Pruning shears to cut limb (avoid shaking a branch)
- Loppers for large branches
- Duct Tape good to make things bee tight. He likes to have extra wide tape
- Ratchet strap to hold boxes together or holding a limb when cutting
- A swarm might weight 5 pounds or more. He recommends using these straps on hives as it prevents a bear from doing more harm if they breach a fence.
- Smoker - bees are gentle when in a swarm so you don't really need this
- Spray bottle with sugar syrup to give them a drink
- Ladder - make sure it is worth the risk. This helps to hold the box under the swarm
- Veil
- Gloves
- Standard bee suit
- Sheet to shake clusters on to so they don't fall onto the grass
- Piece of Plywood can be used in front of box to place swarm on to it. Ken might place the swarm on to the board in from of the box. He showed pictures how they all went in the box.
- Queen cages/clips.
- Multiple queens could be in a swarm. Ken describes 12 queens in one large swarm. Some may have secondary swarms. He tells of finding 15 queens in one swarm! Ken likes to use the queen cage even when working in a large hive. He then knows she won't get hurt. Keep looking in the area of a swarm as if you see a group of bees doing strange things as there might be another queen.
- Honey Bee Healthy or Lemon Grass Oil
- Spray this on frames in the hive to attract bees. Avoid getting Lemon Grass oil on you as they will treat you as a hive. He tells of having a bee glove after spilling Lemon Grass oil on his hand!
- Bring your good Judgement -This all goes out the door when bees are swarming. If you are driving, make sure they are contained.

Trapping the Swarm

Trap - This can be any kind of extra hive

- 5 frame NUC box
- 8 frame hive body
- "Flower Pot" this is nailed to the tree. Put this out before swarm season.

Season - Season is May 1 to July 4. After this hive might not have time to build up.

Location

- 10 to 15 feet above the ground level
- put on a edge of wood line

- face it south to southeast
- should be near water source
- locate away from existing hives

Attractant

You can put comb in the trap if it is a hive body. Comb is an attractant.

A used frame can be an attractant vs the smell of pine boards. Make sure to put in the right number of frames or they will make comb everywhere.

Entrance should be 1 inch diameter

block birds and mice from getting in

Swarm Lure

Lemongrass Oil or Honey Bee Healthy

Commerical Swarm Lures such as Swarm Commander

Cover

Make sure to have ventilation and be able to make bee tight to move

Catch Placement

Showed how to catch from ladder. Two boxes with bottom board sitting on top of ladder. He used a tie down to bring the branch and secured it. The bees worked their way inside as he does not shake.

If he has multiple queens, he keeps them in queen cages and others attend them. These would be virgin queens and these take a long time to be accepted. These make new hives so the effort is worth it.

Ken describes how you can hear queens. Queen screams and pipe at each other. If the workers don't want her they will tear her apart. He tests a few bees by opening the queen excluder. He watches their behavior. He describes it sounds like a mosquito and at night it keeps them up as his observation hive is next to his bedroom. He describes listening to queens piping and moving around his observation hive. He showed pictures of a swarm that was more than 10 pounds. He filled two NUCs from this. He also showed a flower pot hive. They found the hive but landed on the side. He does not like the flower pot as they can all move in and make full comb inside. One should check swarm boxes every few days.

In another pictures he shows how to cut the swarm from a branch. He used a very tall ladder with assistance on both sides of the ladder. His video shows if a swarm is placed on the plywood board in front of the hive box, they will quickly move into the box. This was amazing. He wears latex gloves as he is allergic to propolis. He stresses again "Don't shake!" He has a tree where many of his swarms land so his has systems to work with this.

He would close the bees in with a bee entrance closer and puts them in the garage for a few days. He would have some honey in the box. This feeds the bees but you would give syrup to stimulate the queen to lay.

Other notes

Keep notes on each NUC

Don't add HBH when the syrup is hot.

Ken's wife told how she caught her first swarm. She used a long pole with a burlap sack with lemon grass oil. Bees caught on to the bag and she rested it next to the box and they all went in.



NHBA Summer Picnic Posted May 24, 2016 | By Heather Achilles

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

The outing is FREE for current NHBA members.

Date/Time: June 25, 2016 from 10-3

Location: Musterfield Farms, Harvey Road, North Sutton, NH

Speakers & Topics:

Les Crowder, author of "Top Bar Beekeeping", who has been a beekeeper in New Mexico & Texas for over 30 years. He has worked in large commercial operations, been the NM honey bee inspector as well as the president of NM beekeepers association. He has experimented with types & styles of hives, breeds of queens, and has been keeping bees without chemicals or antibiotics for over 15 years. For more information about Les, please see his website:

<http://www.fortheloveofbees.com/>

Is it possible to keep honeybees without toxic or non-toxic treatments?

Experiences & practices to keep healthy bees without miticides, antibiotics or chemicals by monitoring for disease and mites.

Challenges to monitoring for disease and mites when using different types of hives (e.g. top bar, Langstroth, Warre)

We plan to be opening some hives as part of Les' talk – to watch the demonstration you MUST wear a veil. (sorry no exceptions!)

Barbara Lawler, NHBA president-emeritus

labeling of honey & other bee products

Panel question & answer.

We'll have the annual Smoker contest.

Lunch (Chicken, sausages, burgers, & hot dogs) & drinks are supplied by NHBA

We might need additional grills – please let us know if you have one available that you could bring.

Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share

Don't forget to bring a chair!

This special meeting series is partially funded through the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Foods Integrated Pest Management Grant Program.

EAS 2016 NEW JERSEY, RICHARD STOCKTON UNIVERSITY



GALLOWAY, NJ

. SHORT COURSE JULY 25-27, 2016

CONFERENCE JULY 27-29, 2016

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Located just 10 minutes west of Atlantic City, this year's EAS conference is coming together as one of the best EAS event ever.

Presenters include James Frazier and Dennis vanEngelsdorp, Jeff Pettis and Medhat Nasr, Maryann Frazier, Sarah Red-Laird, David Tarpy and [many more](#).

EASTERN APICULTURAL SOCIETY MASTER BEEKEEPER MANN LAKE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

This scholarship, sponsored by Mann Lake Ltd. and created and administered by the EAS Master Beekeepers, was established to encourage a worthy young individual to pursue an interest in honey bees and beekeeping. The Scholarship will provide financial assistance for the selected candidate to attend an annual EAS conference. In addition to the waiver of registration fees by EAS for the short course and the main conference, the Scholarship will provide up to \$1,000 to the successful candidate to offset other conference expenses.

Proposed changes to Kearsarge Beekeepers' Association Bylaws (last revision was March 13, 2010) are highlighted.

ARTICLE IV, Section 1, Officers: There shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, **Newsletter Secretary** and Treasurer, all to be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV, Section 1, Duties of Officers: c) The Recording Secretary: shall be the secretary of the Association and Executive Committee; have custody of all Association and Executive Committee records and documents, except for those required to be kept by other officers; keep an up-to-date record of all Association meetings and decisions; transmit copies of the minutes and other items to the Association webmaster for inclusion on the website **and to the Newsletter Secretary for inclusion in the newsletter.** **The Recording Secretary may also hold the office of Newsletter Secretary.**

ARTICLE IV, Section 1, Duties of Officers: d) **The Newsletter Secretary: shall coordinate publication of the Association newsletter and distribute copies of the newsletter to members via US mail or email. The Newsletter Secretary may also hold the office of Recording Secretary.**

ARTICLE IV, Section 1, Duties of Officers: **e)** The Treasurer (change in paragraph letter due to addition above).

THE CURRENT BYLAWS ARE BEING SENT TO YOU AS A SEPARATE DOCUMENT. WE WILL BE ACTING ON THE ABOVE CHANGE AT OUR AUGUST MEETING DUE TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR HAVING 30 DAYS WRITTEN ADVANCE NOTICE FOR A CHANGE IN THE BYLAWS. THERE WILL NEED TO BE A QUORUM AT A MEETING WHERE BYLAW CHANGES ARE VOTED. A QUORUM WOULD BE 20% OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP. 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE WILL BE NEEDED.

Images in this newsletter are from www.BuzzAboutBees.net (www.public-domain-image.com). Visit this website for all sorts of good information about honeybees and wild bees. Also clip-art, coloring pages, recipes, tips, & poems!

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

Thanks to Richard Brewster for sending me a bee article from a recent Concord Monitor Livewell New Hampshire Friday, June 3, 2016. Perhaps you can look that up on the Monitor website if you did not see it. I will definitely be using some snippets from that in future issues.

Verse - Ogden Nash

I eat my peas with honey
I've done it all my life
It makes the peas taste funny
But it keeps them on the knife

