

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

JULY/AUGUST 2016

NEXT MEETING

**SAT., AUG. 13, 2016
9-11 A.M.
PILLSBURY LIBRARY
MAIN ST., WARNER, NH**

AGENDA: Reports, announcements, new members, old & new business. PROGRAM: "Bee Talk"

President's Message.....

Hello KBA Members,

It is August already, how did that happen? Today, Aug 1, we are having some much-needed rain and when it stops I want to get out and split a nuc that has overgrown its box and check on some others that may be queenless. In spite of the lack of rain the bees have been putting away some honey so we can refill our supply.

For all of you new members and those of you who are just starting, don't be bashful about asking other members for help. This hobby can be very difficult to grasp onto and feel like you know what you are doing. There is a list of mentors on the website, but there are many other members who can help out. Sometimes it just takes another set of eyes or a fresh look at the problem to get back on track. Don't get discouraged if the bees don't seem to be doing what you expect. Not every bee problem is your fault.

I would like to encourage you to join the Facebook group KBA-NH where you can post pictures of what's happening in your hive and get help from other members. To join, all you need to do is to go to Facebook.com and search for the group KBA-NH and then click on the join button. You will be notified that you have been accepted and then you can start to use the group. Don't worry about

nonmembers seeing your posts as it is a closed group and is only available to club members. Try it, its fun!

This month's meeting will be focused on BEES! Let's have questions, answers and discussion on some of your perplexing bee problems. We will discuss what you should be seeing in your hives and what to be thinking about in the coming months.

Oh, and maybe we should talk a little about harvesting your honey! Do you need an extractor? Or just a bucket and a knife? Will you be selling any honey? There are guidelines from the state that describe what is required to sell honey. Search online for "Guidelines for Selling Honey in NH" and you will find what is recommended by the state.

Will we have a honey tasting contest this year? If so we will need to decide when and who the judges will be and what categories we will have. Maybe we need a committee to set this up?

I hope to see many at the August 13th meeting,

Bee well,

John Chadwick



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"The keeping of bees is like the direction of sunbeams." --Henry David Thoreau

Kearsarge Beekeepers Assn. Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2016

Introductions were made with four local new members.

Treasurer's Report

60 members and \$6870.50 in bank
Insurance payment paid in April

Minutes

approved as posted at the website

President's Report

John Chadwick mentions his bees are keep him guessing.

He attended NH Beekeeper Meeting Executive Board. He encourages members to attend:

Muster Field Farm Picnic hosted by state association on June 25

- bring a side dish, a chair and a veil
- See State web page for details
- Various activities scheduled throughout the day.

Martin Marklin , past KBA president, provided a detailed and informative summary of the important state meetings for the new members. Of course with jokes about upstaging the current President.

1. Spring State meeting is in Bow
2. June Muster Field Farm, Sutton, NH - free food and lots of information

described with great detail the set-up of the event

3. Fall Meeting will be down near Keene this year but this moves around

4. EAS -Eastern Apiculture Society - members encouraged to attend

this year's meeting is in July in New Jersey

following year will be in Delaware Meeting is scientific, cosmopolitan and wealth of information first half is hands on course, classes, workshops

3 tracks from beginner to master whole week or short course

Additions:

Richard Brewster spoke about a past grant available to the club with funds that brought 14 members a package and top bar hive. Ben and

Robin were present members that received hives. Neither kept the hive very long. It was discovered that both hives are now at Muster Field farm and managed by John Chadwick. Richard shared his techniques with top bar hives and did not recommend them. John Chadwick says he has them for fun. Continuing, Mr. Brewster warns about hearing aids and bees. He told a number of stories about bees being attracted to his hearing aid. He will test this by placing the hearing aid a few feet from the hive. Of course, someone suggested they be used as swarm lures. Richard noted they were better attracting bees than for hearing.

Committee Report

Facebook Group is set up for you to post pictures and ask questions.

Go to KBA -NH and ask to join July Picnic for KBA members

Sunday afternoon July 10 from 1-4 pm at Muster Field

eat at 1:30

Raffle - rumor has it there will be bamboo poles there

Club will buy sausage, hamburger, hotdogs and buns

Family welcome but no dogs unless service dogs

Members with last names beginning with: A-K will bring salads

L-Z - will bring desserts

Group of three was made to coordinate plans

Richard Brewster says he is hungry after all this talk about picnic so recommends the Turkey Dinner at the church tonight in North Sutton.

Monthly Meeting Schedule was resolved when we decided not to talk about it. Agreed to keep meeting schedule as is for now.

In the Hive

Kevin Sargent bees got going early, really strong some have put on 80 pounds of honey, has been making splits to prevent swarming, and bees are feeding on honeysuckle, seen lots of basswood flowers. Reports things are 2 weeks early and warm weather.

Question on Mite Away Quick Strips led to mite treatment discussion.

Kevin Sargent speaker: Taking Bees to Florida

Kevin Sargent shared his experience taking bees to Florida for the winter. His goal was to make more colonies and have them over-winter in warm weather.

Location - They went down to his cousin's house in early December to look at farm land. They found a place at a sod farm. They were about 25 miles north of Daytona Beach, Florida where there was lots of agriculture like broccoli, lettuce, cabbage, potatoes, asparagus and more. They went in early December but there was little flowering in winter. Some roadsides had white clover.

Background - In Florida, you have to be a registered beekeeper in the state even if you have one hive. There is a cost based on the number of hives. A permit with a registration number is provided. Hive boxes have to be branded with the registration number. Apiary inspector comes for inspection for setbacks, fencing, water source, and neighborhood issues. The size of the lot determines how many hives one can have. There were other requirements for drone sources if rearing queens.

Introduction - Using his phone on the projector he showed us Goggle maps of the location and showed images of 4-6 hives per palette. The sod truck was helpful to unloading bee hives and owners were compensated with maple syrup. There is a 70 foot well which is used to irrigate the sod farm and bee's water source was an irrigation canal. Kevin brought down 258 hives some of which were from Maine. Right now he runs 200 hives in NH and wants to have 600 by the end of the summer in Claremont, Newport and other places.

When he was there he set up a second yard a few miles away. There he set up nucs. Few flowers but used something called Spanish Needle. Saw Palmetto was in flower while bees were there.

Trip to Florida - Before moving bees down, his bees were inspected by Ben Chadwick and Chris R. He has many apiary spots in NH so there is much traveling around. He started staging the hives in one area in Claremont in late November. He fenced

the staging area as in his 20 years, he has had 5 incidents of bears. Hives had brood so sore were given pollen. Trailer was loaded with hives on pallets. There is net that goes around the trailer and each hive is open. December 14 loaded the tractor trailer. They were delayed a week as the tractor trailer had been damaged. 268 hives went plus excess equipment to make splits down in Florida. They left on Sunday night and arrived 1:00 am Tuesday. Kevin flew down to meet them. The net was pulled off at night and bees came out as shown in his pictures. The pallets were unloaded with the sod fork truck. Showed pictures of lots of bees. He does use a pallet with bottoms boards.

Threats- There is a worry about weak hives as hive beetles can get inside. If there is extraneous pollen this attracts the hive beetle. These beetles are active at night. He showed pictures of how hive beetles overran a hive in 3 weeks. You could see small larvae in the debris. Beetles are in the pollen comb not the honey. One way to avoid this is to not give the bees any more pollen than they can eat in a few days. A strong hive would keep these out. Weak hives are susceptible.

Equipment for moving bees - When in Florida he went to a large commercial meeting where he saw fork truck for moving bees. He showed a variety of products that mechanize the honey extraction process. He showed an Australian made 8 way mating frame. It can fold up to accommodate nuc sizes but then can be opened up to a normal size frame. Showed oil filled beetle traps. Commercial bee pallets where there are clips to hold the boxes on and have built in entrances.

Kevin's showed interesting pictures of how sod was cut. His hope is to have a truck to move bees.

Return Trip - Kevin brought bees back in April. He needed to have an out of state permit after being inspected. At the Florida- Georgia inspection station they would check the hives and his paper work. He screened off the entrances and loaded the hives. He hand loaded hives at dark and was done about 1:00 am. Headed north and unloaded some early colonies. He reports his error in moving them when it was so cold. He lost 32 out of 67 colonies that he brought back. He thought they had enough honey. His plans may change in the future and may come back at the first of May instead of April.

The tractor trailer was loaded with the rest of the hives and he has it tracked with GPS so he would know where the truck was. The main concern when traveling is that it will get too cold and bees will come out of the hive but be trapped inside the net covering. If the truck stops, they come out inside the net. Tells story of truckers having to shovel bees up that came out. Bees went down on December 14 and came back April 24-26. Next year he will go in October early and come back May.

Cost - This was not a cheap adventure but his goal is to build up his hives so he can travel using them as pollinators. He told of the 900 (?) acres of almonds; million colonies are brought there. He is looking at this as an opportunity.

A second discussion ensued about mite treatments for feeding. Kevin shared how he makes mixtures with spearmint oil, tea tree oil, wintergreen and other essential oils.

Minutes taken by: Debra Dunlop

BY LAWS CHANGE TO BE VOTED ON AT AUGUST 13, 2016 MEETING

(Required notice has been given for this change, which will bring our bylaws into line with what we are actually doing.).

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).

American Foulbrood Experience

This year's summer meeting of the NHBA at Muster Field in Sutton had Les Crowder from Texas come and talk about beekeeping and top bar hives. For his afternoon presentation I had moved my two top bar hives from further away on the farm down to the event location so he could go through them. One of these hives had overwintered on the farm but the other one had died out from a family of mice moving in. I had put a package of Carniolans in and they seemed to be doing well at first. By June 25th the day of the state meeting they had really dwindled down to not many bees or brood.

The hive (blue) that had overwintered had swarmed recently so though there weren't too many bees they looked like they were doing ok. This was the first hive that Les looked at. The second hive (white) was really weak and not many bees flying that day.

The little brood that was there wasn't looking too good and Les said that it looked like foulbrood. He and Bam Fleury did a rope test and sure enough when they stuck a twig in a cell, mixed it up and pulled it out the brownish goo stretched out from the cell. They did this in a few cells and found the same results.

Yikes! This doesn't sound good. Will I have to burn this hive?

Les said that he would add bees to the hive and to see if they cleaned it up on their own. This sounded like good

advice but I figured that I should contact the state to see what they advised. Being a weekend and I couldn't call the state I talked with Ben Chadwick and asked if I had to burn the bees and hive. He recommended that I send a brood sample into the Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, MD and that I requeen and treat them with Terramycin. He also said that I should remove any diseased brood and destroy it. This sounded better than burning but I still wanted to talk to the state to get the recommended procedure from them. Meanwhile I ordered some Terramycin to treat the bees.

I went to the hive on the Friday after the state meeting and cut off all of the brood comb, there wasn't too much left to cut off because Les had removed some while he was in there. Back at my home yard I captured a Minnesota Hygienic queen from a nuc and caged her. Then I shook all of the bees into an empty nuc box to put into the top bar hive along with their queen. I had removed the original queen from the sick hive so I was able to dump all of the bees into the top bar hive and to direct release the queen also. I had dumped about 4 pounds of bees in the hive which was way more bees than were in the hive. I thought that the direct release of the queen should be fine.

That same Friday I went through the brood comb that I had cut off and I couldn't find much brood that I could do a rope test on but I did manage to find some. I also cut out some likely looking brood to send to the Bee Lab for testing. All of the information that I had read on AFB said that there was a foul odor that smelled like dead fish. All through this experience I was never able to smell any foul smell so maybe it wasn't AFB at all.

I was able to contact Chris Rallis, CAPS (Cooperative Agricultural Pest) State Survey Coordinator to find out what the state recommended for action on this hive. His recommendations were the same as Ben's: That I should have the brood tested at Beltsville and to start treatment with Terramycin. He said that some AFB was resistant to this treatment but it would be good to get started as most instances he has seen were not resistant.

The Terramycin came and after adding bees and requeening, I was ready to treat. The KBA picnic was 2 days away, so I waited until then to do the first treatment. On Sunday the 10th Kevin Sargent, Bam Fleury and I went to do the treatment while other members watched. The directions said to sprinkle the Terramycin on the top bars every 4 to 5 days for 3 treatments. This was going to be a problem in a top bar hive as the bees never get on the tops of the bars. We decided to sprinkle the powder on the comb directly as there weren't too many other choices. Ben cautioned against this as the powder could dry out the larvae.

I did the remaining treatments at the proper intervals as recommended. The queen was laying but there wasn't much brood in there. The test results came back from Beltsville confirming that it was indeed American Foulbrood and that it was susceptible to Terramycin.

On July 30th I was inspecting the yard and this hive had 12 bars with eggs or brood on them and it looked healthy. This was 10 days after the last treatment. I spoke with Chris Rallis and reported the condition of the hive and asked what I do now with this hive. He said that I should monitor it and if it shows signs of the AFB returning I should then destroy the hive.

So the lesson for me in this experience with AFB is:

- AFB is not an immediate need to destroy the hive.
- AFB does not always have a foul odor
- I can now recognize the sunken caps that indicate AFB
- Don't cross contaminate hives with your tools

Will I have to destroy this hive? I am not sure but if I do I have a plan to build a top bar hive to take its place that will accept Langstroth length top bars. This would make it easier to populate the hives from nucs and other Langstroth hives.

I will keep you informed of the state of the hive as time passes.

John Chadwick



KBA CLUB INFO.

Next scheduled meeting: **Sat. Sept. 10**

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, 927-4327
Tom Dickson, Andover, 340-3029
Randy Fleury, So. Sutton, 927-4144
Dave Hartman, Warner, 456-3881
Bill McDonald, Newport, 863-4012

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Our new Facebook group; message from Katy Toomey, one of the administrators:

"As a dues paying member, there is a new benefit and resource available to you. If you are a Facebook user, search Groups for "KBA-NH" and request to be added to the group. This is a private group for members of the KBA to post bee pictures and videos, ask bee related questions, and stay up to date with the KBA. This group is different from a regular Facebook page (which we also have) because the content cannot be seen by the public and any member can post content. It is a private message board type of group where you can further your relationships with other members of the KBA, and learn from our mentors posts and pictures. Please join us and stay connected through our mutual love of bees."

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!

NH AGRICULTURAL FAIRS to come....

The fair season has already begun. Can fall be far away?? You may want to think about entering your beautiful jars of honey and possibly some beeswax products at one or two of these fairs. Let me know if you need a copy of the Sept. 2014 KBA newsletter where you will find Mike Bayko's tips on entering honey contests. (This newsletter is still available at kbanh.org) There are rules and deadlines, so please don't wait too long to start planning your entries.

Cornish Fair

Fri., Aug. 19 – Sun., Aug. 21
Town House Road, Cornish
cornishfair.org

Lancaster Fair

Thurs., Sept. 1 – Mon., Sept. 5
516 Main St., Lancaster
lancasterfair.com

Hopkinton State Fair

Fri., Sept. 2 – Mon., Sept. 5
State Fairgrounds, Contoocook
hsfair.org

Hillsborough Cty. Agri. Fair

Fri., Sept. 9 – Sun., Sept. 11
15 Hill Dale Lane, New Boston
hcafair.com

Rochester Fair

Fri., Sept. 15 – Sun., Sept. 25
72 Lafayette St., Rochester
rochesterfair.com

Deerfield Fair

Thurs, Sept. 29 – Sun., Oct. 2
34 Stage Rd., Deerfield
deerfieldfair.com

Sandwich Fair

Sat., Oct. 8 – Mon., Oct. 10
Route 109 N., Center Sandwich
thesandwichfair.com



(CNN)Deep inside the Royal Botanical Gardens in London, a 40 ton steel sculpture has arisen in a peaceful wildflower meadow. The structure is called "The Hive" -- a 17 meter tall ode to the plight of honeybees, created by artist [Wolfgang Buttress](#).

Long journey home. Originally commissioned and designed for the [2015 Milan Expo](#) as the centerpiece of the UK pavilion, the structure went on to win the Gold Medal at the event. Composed of nearly 170,000 pieces of aluminum, "The Hive" has been painstakingly reassembled in London's [Kew Gardens](#) over the past six months -- marking the first time a UK pavilion has ever been rebuilt in the UK.

Controlled by bees. Wolfgang Buttress, a sculptor based in Nottingham, UK, was keen to design a multi-sensory experience. "The Hive" is fitted with thousands of LED lights and microphones entirely controlled by the vibrations of a nearby real-life beehive inside Kew Gardens. The structure emanates a meditative soundscape composed of bee noises, cello and vocals, which rise in intensity the busier the beehive gets.

"I think these days we are bombarded by so many digital images and sometimes we forget how powerful and important sounds, touch and smell are. So to me that was really important, that these elements were at the heart of the installation," the artist explained.

Highlighting the importance of bees

"The Hive" aims to highlight the importance of pollinators like the honeybee in feeding humanity, and the challenges facing the species due to climate change, pesticides, and lack of biodiversity -- a message which made it a perfect fit for its new home in London. "The purpose of 'The Hive'," says Director of Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew Richard Deverell, "is to tell the story of the role of bees in pollinating crop plants and therefore feeding the planet. I thought that was perfect for Kew because we want to bring alive why plants matter, and clearly one of the most important things that plants do, is to feed humanity."

Speaking about "The Hive's" new home, Buttress said: "It just seemed such a perfect fit with the whole history of Kew. To me it really feels like it's kind of come home, it feels like it's always been here."

"The Hive" will be installed in Kew Gardens until the end of 2017.

Note: Go online to view the video that accompanies this article. BB

