

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

OCT/NOV/DEC 2016

KBA POTLUCK TURKEY DINNER

Friday, November 11, 2016, 6:00 pm

North Sutton Church, on Rt. 114 in North Sutton village, across from Vernondale Store. If taking I-89, take Exit 10 and follow signs to Wadleigh State Park until you see the church. Parking and entrance are in the rear near Follansbee Inn or on cemetery side of church.

PLEASE RSVP TO David & Linda Hartman by Wed. Nov. 9. Phone: 456-3881
Or email: davidehartman@hotmail.com

Let them know what you plan to bring or get suggestions from Linda. If you can come early to help set up (5-5:15), please let them know that.

Please also bring **raffle items** (no junk) and a **jar of honey** for our first honey tasting contest!

Families and guests welcome!

President's message....

Hello KBA Members,

Hey, where did this cold weather come from? Wasn't I just feeding some bees last week and griping about all of the yellow jackets stealing the bee's feed? Well I haven't seen any yellow jackets or bees flying for a few days.

An update on my bee lining. I did get a few more opportunities to get out and sharpen my skills. So far I have not found any feral colonies but that only means I must do more lining! I do have an area that has bees

heading to and I don't think that there are any houses in the area. In a few more months I can resume the hunt!

I did manage to get any feeding done early in the month so next spring will tell how well they managed. I didn't take any honey off until September and I was surprised that there was as much as there was. Back in June I thought that I would have a great crop of honey but as the summer drought played out the honey was being consumed quicker than they could make it! I'm glad I waited to harvest any or I would have been doing much more feeding.

Speaking of the drought, it is great to have the rain that we have had in the last couple of weeks. I don't have to tell you how serious it has been around the state. We have been nursing our dug well along and trying not to use more water than necessary. Let's hope we'll get more rain before the ground freezes.

We have our harvest dinner coming up on the 11th so that will be a fun event. Rumor has it that there will be a honey tasting contest so bring a jar of honey to enter. (it will be returned) Who knows, you may get to have the honor of having the best tasting honey in the whole club for a whole year!

Muster Field top bar hive follow up. This is the hive that was diagnosed with American Foulbrood in July. After doing the recommended treatment with Terramycin they have cleared up nicely and look to be in good shape for the winter.

We will have a new procedure starting next year on using antibiotics on our bees. The FDA has a new rule that will require a prescription to obtain. I'm sure that we will be hearing more about this before next summer.

I look forward to seeing you at the dinner,

Bee well,

John

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
SATURDAY, JAN 14, 2017, 9-11 AM
PILLSBURY LIBRARY, WARNER**

IN THIS ISSUE:

Minutes of the Sept. 10 meeting.....Pg. 2
Ben Chadwick's talk Sept. 10.....Pg. 2-4
In the News & member notes.....Pg. 4
Report of Oct. 22 NHBA meeting.....Pg. 5-6
Cozying up for Winter.....Pg. 6-7

Kearsarge Beekeepers' Association Meeting Minutes Saturday, September 10, 2016 Warner Library

Thanks Deb Dunlop for taking notes on Ben Chadwick's talk today. President John Chadwick opened the meeting and a couple of changes were made to last month's minutes including American foulbrood was confirmed in John's top bar hive at Muster Field Farm. Also, a vote on the club's insurance contribution to the NHBA was not taken in August, only discussed. John also reported on Dr. Tom Seeley's recent demonstration on bee lining. The NH State Beekeeper's Assn. will raise their scholarships from \$500 to \$1000. American foulbrood is in our area and you should be able to smell it immediately. Mike Bayko, our well-known honey judge, reported that there were 27 honey entries at a recent fair he judged, although some were not that good. I had the only honey entry at the Hopkinton Fair this year- come on, I need some competition!

George Hamilton, UNH Cooperative Extension, reported that the water table has been dropping the last couple of years due to the continuing drought so drier ground may be freezing deeper explaining the lack of small hive beetle this year. Use old crock pots to melt wax and apply with a foam rubber brush to rejuvenate old plastic brood and drone frames. November we will be having our annual fall pot luck at the North Sutton Church on Friday November 11. Barbara Burns and Katy Toomey will each cook a turkey – yum and thank you! Linda Hartman, KBA member extraordinaire, will take the RSVPs for this one and figure out what we'll need. Bring raffle items. Our next regular meeting will be in January. Dave Hartman will again organize or be the nominating committee for next year's officers! Please contact him if you are interested in serving. I will be giving up my secretary position so there's one opening at least-

Ben Chadwick, former state bee inspector and commercial beekeeper will speak today on honey extracting and general bee topics. European foulbrood is present in the Northeast from Pa. to Maine. Some is resistant to antibiotic treatment. You will see brown goop; there is no fishy odor as with American foulbrood. Frames are still cheap- burn them if you have this disease.

Submitted by Kim Tuttle, Secretary.

KEARSARGE Beekeepers Association Meeting

SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 Ben Chadwick, State Bee Inspector, speaker

American Foul Brood – Ben informed the club of the presence of American Foul Brood in the northeast. It is a strain different from what has been here in that it does not rope out like you would expect. He does suggest burning frames but tetracycline can also be used as a treatment.

Bee lining – Following John Chadwick's stories of bee lining, Ben shared that 35 years ago bee lining was the thing to do. You feed and mark bees then follow them to their hive. Ben told the story how he has done this with 25 Boy Scouts. He described how excited they were and rambunctious to run off in all directions with the bees. He was thankful they all had Boy Scout uniforms on as they poured into a man's backyard. Unlike doing it with another adult, it was great to have so many eyes.

HONEY EXTRACTION AND OTHER ADVICE BY BEN CHADWCK

Location- Most beekeepers with few hives extract in the kitchen, but this can be a sticky job. Ben recommends putting cardboard on floors. Don't use newspaper as your feet will stick to it. Don't get Mother mad!

Extractor - Most new beekeepers like to watch, but he advises to close the extractor. The air will be laden with honey particles so in a week you will have dust stuck to all surfaces. Don't get Mother mad!

Comb cutting – Ben demonstrated a bucket that can be used to hold the frames while you cut (cappings from) the comb. There are special electric comb cutting (capping) knives but most bee keepers use a serrated kitchen knife.

Honey off - Ben takes honey off in November so there are no bees. If you have one or two hives use a bee brush. This is simple and easy. Ben recommends going as cheap as you can the first year. Next year add a bit more equipment. When you brush off frames, put a towel over the box as you remove them to keep bees from going back. Don't get water near your honey as it is hygroscopic and will absorb water.

Smoker - Use smoker at the end of the summer and into the fall. If you have one or two hives use the small pellets. Avoid using matches to light your smoker. Ben's advice: Don't use leaves as you can't tell poison ivy from other leaves.

Honey extraction board (escape board) - Use this for 24 hours. It prevents bees from going back up to super.

Fume Board - spray material onto board, drives the bees right out. He uses this on the Ross Round comb honey. He makes about 1000 of these a year. The material on the fume board is BEE - Go. Smells horrible. If you spill it, sell the car. * If you have 50 or more hives, use a Bee Blower or leaf blower. He takes the super and pulls it all back, then blows the bees out. They will then fly into the bottom. He loads these into frames on bottom boards using towels and canvas to cover supers. They do this quickly to keep bees off and prevent robbing.

Taking Honey - Old timers would take honey off early then store in the barn and then give back to the bees. If bees are eating light honey, then they have less need for cleansing flight. Bees in the fall might not cap fall honey as they will be using in it. If uncapped honey drips out, then it is not cured enough. In fall, don't be moving frames around as bees have this set up as they want it for winter. Bees have pollen where they want it. Queen stops laying in the fall. We know this so all bee inspectors are laid off mid-October.

In mid-August, Queen starts laying winter bees which will live 6 months. You want these to be healthy so do your mite treatment in July

Someone asked if we can rearrange bottom empty box? You can leave an empty bottom box. You can consolidate honey supers if you have two honey supers but don't be messing with the arrangement in the brood box.

Ben runs most in 3 deeps. He wants good clear honey in the top box. Ben weighs each hive with a spring scale. He wants 100 to 125 total weight combining both sides.

Fermented honey - if extracted and not stored, don't give back to bees. You can use this as a weed killer.

Honey industry has convinced people to eat the light honey but it is the dark honey that contains variation in flavor and other components.

Wax - Ben only uses mediums for honey. He never extracts honey from a deep. All his mediums come off before treating so his capped honey is never treated.

Culling - Cull out all weak hives. Dump hive on ground in evening. Weak bees might have viruses. We can't treat for viruses. He dumps out and spreads them out. He does not want them flying into other hives. If he sees a queen problem, then he might combine hives.

Packages - Ben gets bees from California. He does not want hive beetles from the south. California agricultural documents are required and paper work is needed. Ben talked about operations with 11,000 hives. These operations shake out each hive every 22 days to make packages. These bees are fed by 18 wheelers. Bees wait daily for this feed.

Queen Breeding - huge labor costs. Queen breeders work every day!

Some asked about moving hives. Moving hive: do in evening, close up, then move. Open up in new location at night. Tuck your pants in at night! If moving at night put red cellphone over the light. Otherwise bees will coat the light. Wear gloves. He made sure he had his wife help with this chore before they were married. :) He only moves two deeps at a time. It is easier with two people. Use straps with ratchet. Queen excluders help to keep straps from bending the wood. Ben can move 32 hives on his truck.

Use screen bottom board and in winter put in a piece of cardboard. Make sure it sticks out so you know that it is in. Bee cozy stays on until May 10th as this allows Queen to lay on all frames in the spring.

Spring feeding - gang feeding on top of a metal 55 gal drum. He has internal hive feeders in box on this top. Does not gang feed in fall due to robbing. He feeds individually in the fall. He direct feeds in zero-degree weather. Heat from bees can keep this warm. Likes frame feeder in every hive. He can feed then in February by pouring this in. He puts feeder in the warm side.

Filtering honey - used two strainer types. Warm honey will let bubble go up. Avoid whipping honey in the extractor as it bumps on the bottom of the frame. He heats honey to bottle.

*Ed. Note: The product "Bee-Quick" used on the fume board drives the bees down, but does not have a foul odor. I believe Ben said he uses this.

Report by Deb Dunlop

IN THE NEWS:

Two of our members got good press this fall.

Martin Marklin stars in a short video produced by Duke University Divinity Department on the spirituality of beekeeping.

Here is a link for that one:

<https://www.faithandleadership.com/bee-beehive-metaphor-life-christian-community>

Troy Hall was featured in a nice article entitled "The King of Queens" in the Valley News Life & Leisure Section on Sunday, October 2. Here is a link to that article, which has many great photos. I have snitched one for this piece; it was taken by Jennifer Hauck and the story was written by Liz Sauchelli.

www.vnews.com/Plainfield-Beekeeper-Raises-Queens-5045280



MEMBER NOTES:

BEE SCHOOL 2017 Bill MacDonald of the Bee School Committee assures us that the KBA will be hosting a bee school this winter. Look for a special posting and, of course, more information in the JANUARY Newsletter.

KIM TUTTLE, OUR RECORDING SECRETARY reports that she won the honey contest at the Hopkinton Fair this year. Sadly, hers was the only entry! Look at this photo of the honey on display at the Topsfield (Mass) Fair! Can't we do better by our local fair and let our friends and neighbors see our beautiful honey products?



Honey display at Topsfield Fair 2016

NHBA FALL MEETING:

The meeting took place Saturday, October 22, 2016. It was hosted by the Monadnock Beekeepers Association at the Marlborough House in Marlborough.

The featured speaker was Tammy Horn, an assistant professor of English at Berea College. She learned beekeeping from her grandfather, who grew up hunting bee trees in eastern Kentucky. She is the former President of EAS. She is the author of two books: "Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation" and "Beeconomy: What Women and Bees Can Teach Us about Local Trade and the Global Market"

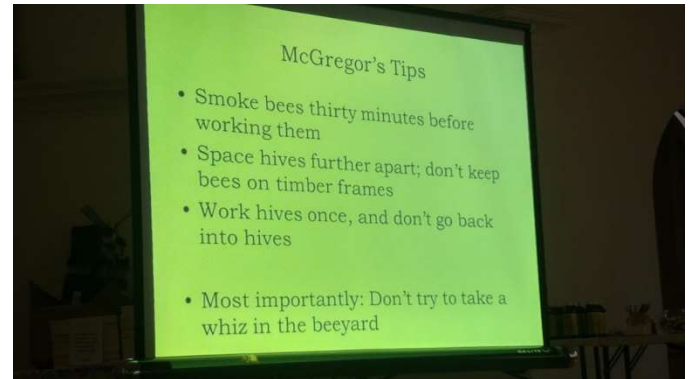
Tammy's first talk was titled: "Forest-Based Beekeeping in the 21st Century" It was about the effort being made in Kentucky to reclaim land left barren in the wake of coal mining on the surface. Trees and forests are needed for bees to succeed. Many coal mining companies have become reclamation companies. Beekeeping in Kentucky is making a comeback. 500,000 trees have been planted in her area of Eastern Kentucky in 2014 and 2015. "Bee gums" are legal for bee hives in KY; they are the hollowed out stumps of the black gum tree (also called sweetgum).

Important trees for honey production in KY are the black locust, tulip poplar, basswood (linden), American chestnut, sourwood, and witch hazel. The newly planted American chestnut trees can survive there now because the reclaimed soil they are planted in does not contain fungi that are present in normal topsoil containing humus.

Tammy's second talk was based on her newest book "Beeconomy" The book describes the history of beekeeping around the world geographically beginning in Africa and ending in North America. Highlighted were the important women in beekeeping today.

Tammy included a few tips from her own years of beekeeping. She likes to keep a few nucs on hand to help "take care of emergencies." To get away from wearing gloves, practice on your nucs and practice picking up drones. Roughing up the inside of bee boxes causes the bees to produce more propolis and a more hygienic environment.

More tips from Tammy:



Tammy Horn at NHBA Oct. 22, 2016 meeting.

After lunch, the featured topic was Lyme Disease Awareness and the speaker was Connor Coffin, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine with special interests in infectious disease and parasitology. He works at Greenhouse Naturopathic Medicine in Amherst, NH.

Lyme disease is a very controversial topic. Dr. Coffin recommended the website ILADS.ORG for

more information and statistics on Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. 50% of ticks in NH are infected with Lyme.

Ticks live in moist areas with shade. Eggs are on the ground; larvae are usually on small rodents. Nymphs and adults prefer particular hosts (such as moose). Preventative measures were covered (Permethin and Picarden) as well as wearing protective clothing and tucking pants into socks.

The controversy with Lyme comes with recognizing the symptoms and testing and treatment. Symptoms can show up in one or two days after a bite or be delayed 4 weeks. Common blood tests are not especially accurate. Testing of the tick itself is more accurate. See tickreport.com (UMass). Lyme symptoms include, in addition to a rash (which may not appear), flu-like symptoms, joint pain, moodiness, and depression. One month of treatment with an antibiotic is very effective if started early. Delay of treatment complicates matters.

Other tick-borne diseases discussed were: Bartonella, Babesia, Ehrlichiosis, and Anaplasmosis.

At the end of the meeting, Dorina Prebe spoke briefly about EAS. The 2017 Conference will begin around the end of July at the U. of Delaware

FDA requirement taking effect: A prescription from a veterinarian will be required for beekeepers to get antibiotics for treating American foulbrood and European foulbrood. This topic was briefly mentioned. Hopefully more information will be available soon from the NHBA.



Honey tasting contest winners were announced. They are pictured below with NHBA President Starsha Kolodziej at far right. Paul Water (?) was the winner. Troy Hall was one of those tied for second place. Ribbons were awarded to 4th place.

Report by Barbara Burns

COZYING UP FOR WINTER



The following article is from the website beethinking.com and was written by Tony Garrison

Winterizing Your Bee Hive. Preparing to winterize your hive can be a daunting task, even for an experienced beekeeper.

If you're working with Langstroth and Warre hives, you'll want to remove surplus boxes that could potentially become dead space for cold air, robbing valuable heat from clustered bees during winter months. Also, if you're using screened bottom boards, closing ventilation inserts will help to trap heat inside the hive. Bees expend an incredible amount of energy over the course of the winter to maintain a consistent 90-degree temperature inside of their clusters. Help them conserve as much energy as possible is crucial.

At the same time, it is also important to create a way for any excessive moisture to leave your hive. Because bees generate heat with the beating of their wings, that heat will rise and form condensation when it mixes with the cold air at the top of the hive. While some condensation is important — offering bees an important water source when they can't leave the hive and offering insulation — excess moisture can become a challenge for colonies who are already struggling. However, condensation tends to get a needlessly bad rap, but as Dr. Thomas Seeley has cited, bees in natural cavities have a warm, somewhat moist environment in the winter months.

Moisture enters the hive a number of ways. Leaks in the hive roof, between rickety boxes or inadequate ventilation are potential issues to pay close attention to. When working with a Warre hive, ensure that your quilt box material is dry and lofted in order to allow for proper ventilation. If you have a Langstroth hive, you might want to consider propping the inner cover up slightly to allow for excess moisture to be released.

If you live in the extreme north and feel there may be a need to add batting to the exterior of your Langstroth or Warre hive to fend off the encroaching cold, consider wrapping your hive with tar paper or a heavy construction paper. If you're working with a top bar hive, consider filling cavity space with straw, hay, or even an old woolen blanket to create a thermal barrier. However, be careful of over insulating. Too much insulation could block the heat of the sun. An overly warm hive could also increase bee activity, which would then increase honey consumption. David Heaf points out that the minimal use of honey stores occurs at 41 degrees Fahrenheit. "Either side of this temperature honey consumption arises."

Having a wind barrier or wind break is also something to consider when preparing your beehives for a long winter. Bales of hay provide a nice natural way to limit the impact that icy winds can have on a hive. Be

careful though! Michael Bush points out in his Practical Beekeeper series that hay bales are nothing more than "a mouse nest waiting to happen."

With all hive types; helping bees protect their stores is crucial going as move into the colder months. Mice, wasps, and even other bees can be predators looking to invade your hive. Preventative measures like mouse guards and entrance reducers can help restrict larger predators from entering the hive, as well as allow your bees to mount a formidable defense by limiting critical pathways to honey stores. Additionally, ensuring that boxes with larger stores of honey are not at ground level is also another good way of helping bees defend what they worked so hard making all spring and summer.

If you have been using a queen excluder during the spring and summer months, removing that tool is strongly encouraged during the winterizing process. Bees will migrate throughout the hive during the winter months as they continue to utilize honey stores. By removing the queen excluder, this ensures that the colony will not have to make the tough decision of following the food, or keeping the queen warm. Ultimately, it allows for more flexibility to let the bees do what they would naturally do.

Some final best practices that beekeepers should consider are periodic visual inspections throughout the course of the fall and winter months. However, avoid upsetting the hive during the winter. Opening or disturbing the hive could put a significant amount of stress on the colony, causing bees to rapidly deplete their food stores in a way they might not otherwise. A beekeeper may want to invest in a stethoscope to listen to your bees without disturbing the hive. Also, keep an eye out for signs that predators have been trying to access the hive. Lastly, pay attention to the hive entrance and make sure that the front door is not blocked by dead bees or debris, restricting access to vitally important airflow.

