

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

FEB, MAR, APR 2017

NEXT MEETING:

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017
9-11 A.M.
PILLSBURY LIBRARY
MAIN ST., WARNER, NH**

Business meeting: Reports, old and new business.

Speaker: Andrew Munkres on
“Sustainable Beekeeping”



President’s Message:

Hello KBA Members,

I would like to welcome all new members to our club and we hope to see you at our meetings in Warner at the Pillsbury Library and at our other various meeting places. Our meetings usually start with reports and business items. Then we normally have a speaker or a time for beekeeping questions. We have refreshments and a break so you can usually find someone to answer your questions.

Our guest speaker this month is Andrew Munkres of Lemon Fair Honey Works in Cornwall, VT. Andrew is a full-time beekeeper and teaches beekeeping at Green Mountain College. His talk will be on Sustainable Beekeeping. Andrew is a popular speaker in Vermont and New York and I’m sure he will have a great presentation.

It’s just about that time to get back into working your bees in 2017. Even though it may not look that way outside right now, trees and plants will be soon start to blossom for our little darlings.

By the time you read this I will have installed some packages from Rick Reault that arrived on April 3. The hives that they are to be installed into had plenty of stores so any feeding should be minimal. I am hoping that those blossoms I just mentioned materialize soon!

Hopefully if you had to order any bees you have already done so back in the winter. You may still be able to order some but the supplies will be limited.

So please come to our meeting on April 8th to listen to Andrew and to see other members you may not have seen since last season.

Bee well,

John Chadwick



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**Kearsarge Beekeepers' Association Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2017 Warner Library**

President John Chadwick opened the meeting and welcomed newcomers. Treasurer's report by Robin Gray accepted: we currently have approximately \$6800, a gain of \$226.44. Our income is generated from raffles, dues, and bee school every other year. Secretary's report from last club meeting on September 10, 2016 accepted. John reported that the NH State Beekeeper's Assn. Research Fund will donate \$500 to Randy Oliver (Scientific Beekeeping) and \$500 to Project Apis mellifera.

Nomination and election of officers for 2017 was conducted by David Hartman as follows:

John Chadwick – President
Bill MacDonald- Vice President
Robin Gray- Treasurer
Debra Dunlop- Secretary
Barbara Burns- Newsletter Editor

Congratulations to all!

Club members shared remembrances of Dick Shores, longtime KBA member from Springfield, who passed away on Nov. 4, 2016. Dick hosted several KBA summer picnics at his beautiful country home.

Old business: discussion of annual donation to Heifer International which can be directed towards the purchase of beehives, goats, chickens, etc. Vote was tabled until the April meeting so that some members could do further research.

New business: no regular KBA meetings in February and March because they fall on Bee School days. We will be able to hold our regular October meeting in 2017 because the Warner Fall Foliage Festival falls on the first weekend in October. Discussion followed on a variety of topics including the idea of establishing a club apiary to possibly be kept at Kevin Sargent's in Newport, also Connie O'Leary brought up the possibility of establishing an apiary for Sullivan or Merrimack Co. prisoners. She will do more research on this idea. Send ideas for speakers to John Chadwick. Barbara Burns will

coordinate a club T-shirt order. Tote bags, sweatshirts, etc. can also be ordered. Order will probably go in sometime in April.

Troy Hall- 'In the Hive': Spring colony dwindling begins the second half of February into March. He begins checking his hives mid Feb and March as he leaves sufficient honey stores on each hive. He likes to hear a faint hum when he puts his ear to the hive: a really noisy hive may be indicative of bee digestive issues or that it is in trouble and may not survive. In cases of a really dry fall, beekeepers should probably check their hives in January if you are unsure that enough honey was left on the hive. Place fondant next to the cluster in winter if a hive is starving. You can put out granulated sugar on newspaper in an emergency. Also, you could take a honey super off a dead colony and place on a good colony if needed. For ventilation, an inner cover with a notch should be sufficient; he doesn't worry about keeping the bottom entrance cleared of snow. A drilled hole up to 3/4 inch diam. above the hand hold in an upper super will also do for an upper entrance. He uses a 1 1/2 inch blue foam board over the inner cover for insulation. Troy also feeds pollen to colonies that he will use for queen rearing, no sooner than about 2 weeks (typically mid-March) before the first natural pollen sources appear. Troy talked about a new strain of European Foulbrood that has appeared in the last three years. A weak nurse bee population in summer leading to larvae stress appears to be the gateway for the disease. Troy doesn't use antibiotics, instead relying upon management techniques.

Our next regular meeting will be Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at our regular meeting place at the Warner Library.


Submitted by Kim Tuttle (filling in for Secretary Deb Dunlop).

KBA BEE SCHOOL 2017

The following notes were received about our very successful series of 4 classes held at KRMS during February and March:

From our Treasurer, Robin Gray: “There are 26 new memberships. Most of the new memberships were "families" and the average attendance at the school was approx. 40. I have a financial sheet which I can present at the meeting. Regarding the raffle, the items that were raffled included 1) A hive 2) A smoker 3) a box of honey jars & 4) a nuc 5) a veil. Thank you to all who helped with the school, especially those who gave their presentations and provided the refreshments and made the facilities available.”

From our Vice-President, Bill MacDonald: “ I would like to thank everyone involved in the successful completion of another KBA bee school. A great group of members worked very hard to pull this off with the result being we now have more NEWBEES>>, as well as new members for the club. Thanks to all involved for a great job.”



Many thanks to Connie O’Leary for taking the time to do research on Heifer International. This should clear up any doubts about whether they are worthy to receive any donation that we as a club might vote to give.

Here’s what Connie wrote: “There was a question at our last beekeeping meeting of whether Heifer International is a worthwhile organization for us to continue to donate to. I discovered that in the countries where Heifer has promoted beekeeping (China, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Armenia, Mexico, Romania, Tanzania, Uganda and the Ukraine) , one year is spent educating and preparing the families for beekeeping and 3 years is spent monitoring the project. The purpose is not only to help impoverished families become self-sufficient, but to promote beekeeping around the world. Heifer is also sensitive to cultural traditions- in Africa they use wild African bees and in Europe Langstroth hive bodies are used but in all other countries top bar hives are used. Heifer not only promotes beekeeping internationally but has worked extensively in Appalachia and Arkansas. One

young person to benefit from her experience at Heifer Ranch in Arkansas (an interactive, experiential ranch that teaches about agriculture and livestock management) was Kristy Lynn Allen. "Heifer Ranch was where I formed my passion for apiculture," said Allen, who has dedicated her career to the honeybee. She is founder of The Beez Kneez which offers educational programs to teach school children about nature through bees, holds a weeklong bee camp for adults, and promotes beekeeping through training and mentorship. This is just one example of how one person has spread the excitement of beekeeping after first learning from about it from Heifer.

3.6 million families have benefitted from Heifer since its inception in 1944. It’s reported spending is impressive. In 2016, only 5% of donations were spent on administrative costs. Given the fact that bee colonies are declining at an alarming rate, it would seem that this organization is doing great work to help strengthen their numbers worldwide while helping impoverished families at the same time.”

KBA EMBROIDERED SHIRTS AND TOTE BAGS

Please see the pictures and form on Pages 6 & 7 to order. **Note that the “new” Tote bags are not shown:** They are available in high-quality canvas in natural, black, navy, red, and royal. \$13.95. Dimensions are 10.5 x 14 x 5 with 24” handles. The club logo will be embroidered on one side. Our lovely logo is shown in the January 2017 newsletter.

NHBA Honeybee Hive Loss Survey Winter 2016-2017

Use link below or print out on next pg.

Send printed copies to:

Heather Achilles

PO Box 250

Gilmanon, NH 03237

By April 29)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G2M3Y5X>

Dear New Hampshire Beekeeper:

The NH Beekeepers Association is collecting data on NH honeybee hive loss for the winter of 2016/2017. The 10-question survey is open to all beekeepers in the state – you do not need to be part of NHBA to participate. The results will be published on the NHBA website, and available by mail to anyone who requests the data.

We are collecting the data both on-line (please see the link below) and via US mail until April 29.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the attached form before April 29 and send it to:

Heather Achilles
PO Box 250
Gilmanton, NH 03237

The online link to the survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G2M3Y5X>

If you have questions, please contact Heather Achilles (heather.nhba@gmail.com; 603-767-8155)

Thank you!

Heather Achilles

NH Hive Loss Survey for Winter 2016-7

The goal of this survey is to gather hive loss data from NH beekeepers from across the state. Please note, if you have hives in different towns, please fill out a different survey for each location

*** 1. What location are you reporting data for? (Town/City name is best, but County is OK)**

*** 2. How many hives were alive in at the beginning of October?**

Hives : _____

Nucs : _____

*** 3. How many hives have you lost as of today?**

Hives : _____

Nucs : _____

*** 4. When did you lose the hives/nucs? (select all that apply)**

October
November
December
January

February
March
unknown

If possible please tell us how many hives or nucs were lost each month

5. Why do you suspect your hives died? (select all that apply – list continues on next page)

starvation
dysentary
mites
nosema
bears
unknown
Other (please specify)

*** 6. Did you treat for varroa mites?**

Yes
No
Please tell us when you treated & what you treated with.

*** 7. Did you feed sugar syrup this fall?**

Yes
No
Please tell us how much (on average) you fed your hives and when you feed.

*** 8. What did you feed your hives over the winter? (select all that apply)**

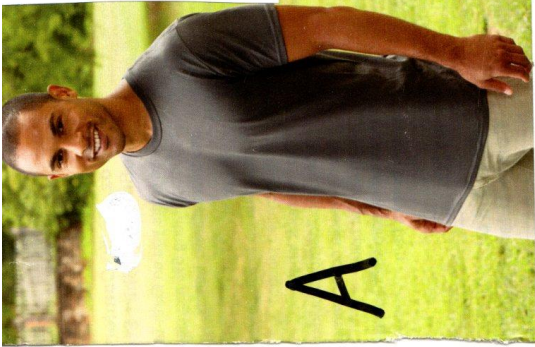
fondant
candy board
granulated sugar
pollen patties
nothing

9. How many years have you been keeping bees?

10. Could we contact you if we have questions? Please include your email if so

Yes
No

Contact information:



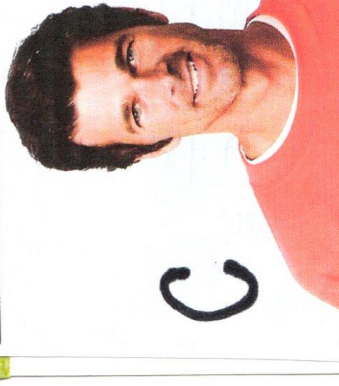
T-SHIRTS. 50/50 DryBlend* Youth sizes XS-L, Adult sizes S-3XL\$13.50**

Colors: White, black, ash grey, azalea, Carolina blue, daisy, dk. Chocolate, dk. heather, elec. green, forest green, garnet, gold, heliconia, Irish green, jade, Kelly green, kiwi, lt. blue, lt. pink, lime, maroon, natural, navy, orange, orchid, paprika, purple, red, royal, sand, sapphire, sky, sport grey, tan, Tennessee orange, and Texas orange.

*t-shirts also avail. in 100% preshrunk cotton

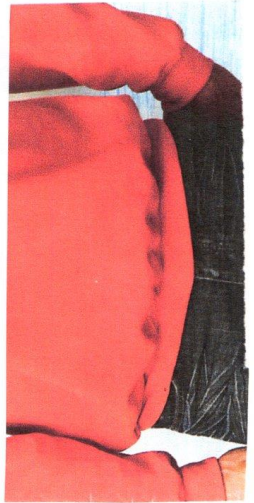
**tall available in 100% cotton t-shirts only (XLT, 2XT, & 3XT) in white, navy, royal, black, red and sport grey.

**extra charges for larger sizes are: 2XL add ~~2.50~~ 3XL add \$4.00 tall (cotton t's only as above) add \$3.50



CREW NECK SWEATSHIRT, 50/50 8oz Hvy Blend. Adult S-3XL \$22.00**

Colors: White, black, antique cherry red, antique sapphire, ash, cardinal red, Carolina blue, charcoal, cherry red, dk.chocolate, dk. heather, forest green, gold, heliconia, honey, indigo blue, Irish green, kiwi, lt. blue, lt. pink, maroon, military green, navy, orange, paprika, purple, red, royal, sand, sport grey, violet.



QUARTER-ZIP (CADET COLLAR) 50/50 NuBlend Sweatshirt. Adult S-3XL \$27.00**

Colors: White, black, ash, forest green, navy, maroon, oxford, royal, red.

KBA

EMBROIDERED SHIRTS

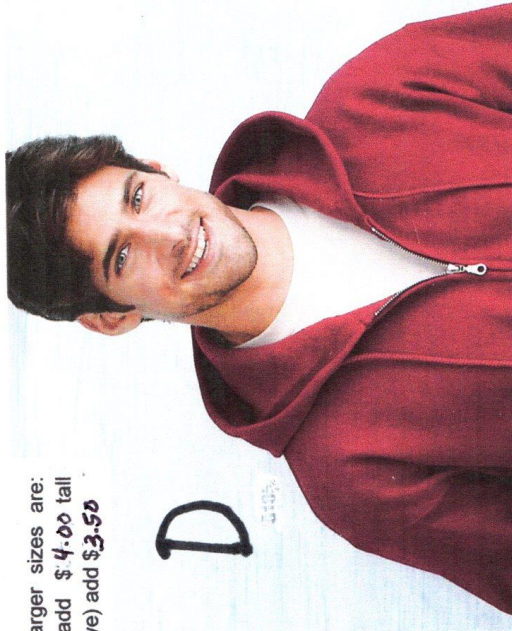
2017

B



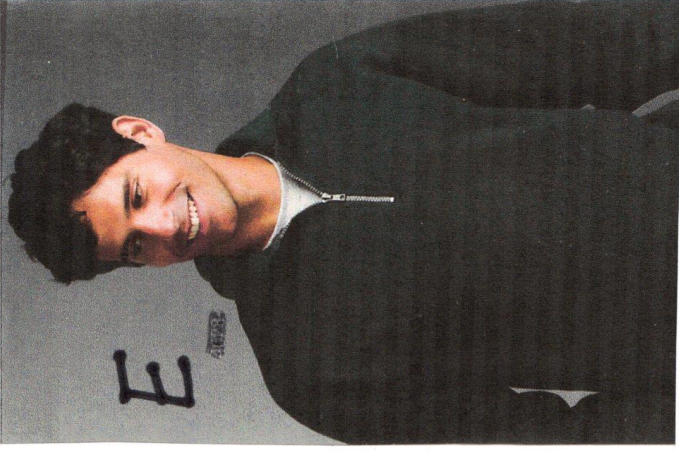
POLO SHIRTS, 50/50 DryBlend, Youth sizes XS-L, Adult sizes S-3XL\$21.00**

Colors: White, black, ash grey, Carolina blue***, dk. heather, forest green, gold, Irish green, lt. blue, lt. pink, maroon, navy, orange***, purple, red, royal, sand***, sapphire, and sport grey. ***not available in youth sizes.



HOODED SWEATSHIRT, 50/50 8 OZ Heavy Blend, Full Zip. Unlined Hood, Adult sizes S-3XL \$39.00**

Colors: White, flack, ash, cardinal red, Carolina blue, dk. chocolate, forest green, Irish green, lt. blue, lt. pink, maroon, navy, orange, purple, red, royal and sport grey.



KBA EMBROIDERED SHIRT ORDER FORM						
Name						
Address						SPRING 2017
Phone						
Email						
SHIRT STYLE (T-SHIRT, POLO, ETC)	FABRIC*	COLOR	SIZE	BASE PRICE	ADD'L FEE**	TOTAL
						GRAND TOTAL
<p>* The only shirt with a fabric choice is the t-shirt, which may be ordered in 100% cotton or 50/50 Dryblend (poly/cotton blend that melds moisture management capabilities with the texture of natural cotton.)</p> <p>**Extra charges for larger sizes are: 2XL add \$4.00, 3XL add \$4.00, Tall (100% cotton t's only in XLT, 2XLT, and 3XLT) add \$3.50</p> <p>Any questions, please contact Barbara Burns 927-4965/bbsews@gmail.com</p> <p>PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: KBA</p> <p>MAIL TO: Barbara Burns, PO Box 90, North Sutton, NH 03260</p> <p>or give to Barbara or to Cynthia Hayes APR. OR MAY MEETING</p> <p>FINAL DATE FOR ORDERS IS MAY 13 PICK UP AT JUNE MEETING (or call Barbara to make other arrangements).</p>						

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Street or PO Box _____ Town _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Check: New or Renewal

Check one:

I would like to receive my newsletter by downloading it from the club website _____
(Saves \$ for the club) www.kbanh.org

OR

Please send a printed newsletter to my mailing address above _____

2017 DUES ARE \$20.00

Please make checks payable to: **KBA**

MAIL TO: Robin Gray

PO Box 275

Warner, NH 03278

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KBA CLUB INFO.

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 MacDonald, Newport,
863-4012

2017 CLUB OFFICERS:

President

John Chadwick 927-4327

jachad@tds.net

Vice-President

Bill MacDonald 863-4012

smacd53@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Robin Gray 927-4127

myra_robin@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary

Debra Dunlop 938-2027

ddunlop@nec.edu

Newsletter Editor

Barbara Burns 927-4965

bbbsews@gmail.com

About our Facebook page from Katy Toomey, Administrator:

"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.

Don't forget our website:

www.kbanh.org ...where you can find archived newsletters and more good info. Thanks to Mike Bellino, Webmaster

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

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!