

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

APRIL 2019

NEXT MEETING:

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019
9:00 A.M.
WARNER TOWN HALL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

I hope that everyone had a great winter and you are excited for the upcoming spring and summer. I know that I am ready for the longer days, warmer weather and hard, rewarding work that is beekeeping. This winter brought me something I didn't expect and I would love to share with you what I have been up to.

In late fall I received an email from a young lady named Ruby who was entering her senior year of high school. She had decided to choose beekeeping as her senior project and was looking for a mentor to help her with the process. It took me a day to reply to her email, as I was unsure of my qualifications. After a day of contemplation I decided that beekeeping isn't learned from a book and I should be as willing to try something new as Ruby was.

Through a series of emails, we prepared a plan of action and began our mentor/mentee relationship. We decided the best way to start the process was to get Ruby enrolled in our 2019 bee school. Like many of you, Ruby attended bee school for 4 weeks in January/February and was able to learn from five of our club's generous teachers who volunteered their time. In bee school, our students were introduced to the basics of beekeeping, including bee biology,

beekeeping equipment, pests and disease control, and processing honey. After bee school Ruby was more excited than ever. The second step of our journey was to help Ruby build her own hives, On a Sunday in March we met at Brian's Vermont Apiaries and headed down-cellar to the workshop. Ruby and her mother (all photo credit) were eager and excited to get some work done. Ruby spent about 2 hours with Brian and myself in the workshop. She operated the chop saw, table saw and, of course, the nail gun. At the end of the day she had successfully built herself a pair of complete hives from bottom board to migratory cover. The third step in the process will be taking place in late April to early May. Ruby has ordered her first bees, a nucleus colony from Kevin Sargent, which I am excited to help her install it

This is where the project stands as of the time of this writing. Our complete plan involves making a split and preparing the hive and a nuc for the winter.

Overall I must share with all of you the amount of satisfaction I have received throughout this process. I almost feel selfish in saying how much I've gained. I encourage you all to be there when the next generation asks for your guidance. You might just surprise yourself with what you have to offer. (Please see photos on Page 2.)

Shane

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Shane Howard, Brian Jasinski and student Ruby work on boxes for Ruby's hive.

Minutes of Kearsarge Beekeepers Association
Meeting
March 9, 2019
Held at Newport High School

Meeting called to order by Shane Howard, Pres.

Officers Reports

Treasurer's Report – none

Secretary Report – Deb Dunlop

- No minutes from January meeting
- NH Honey Bee Diagnostic Network – Specimens in alcohol can be brought to next meeting for testing. Bring 25 bees that have not dried out in jars or bags with name of sample, name of owner, e-mail, phone number, zip code for sample. As you do mite checks please consider keeping bees in alcohol for Nosema tests. <https://www.nh-honeybee-health.com/>

Vice President Report – Brian Jasinski

- Please fill out the Winter Hive Loss Survey when available April 1.

President – Shane Howard

NHBA meeting report:

- Easy Mite Kit – Club will receive 7-8 alcohol mite wash containers which will be available at the club apiary. Others distributed and offered by NH Beekeepers Association.
- NHBA Annual Scholarship - Two \$1,000 scholarships given out to students in biology or other related discipline. Need to be member in a NH bee club. This can be offered more than once. See NH BA website
- Annual Meeting - March 16 in Manchester. Anita Collins will speak on genetics and bees and speaker from Xerces. Great time for all Beekeeper. Regrets shared that this conflicts with NOFA.

Bee School

This is the greatest thing KBA-NH does as we had 4-5 great instructors and 50-60 participants this year. School survey rated every instructor at 4 or better from 21 responses. All responses were very positive. All automatically nominated to teach

at next year's bees school. Bee School Committee open for all to join.

Apiary Committee

We need to solidify apiary committee.

Invitation open to all. Please talk with Brian Jasinski. Hives are housed in Sunapee.

Each Tuesday or Wednesday is a hands-on workshop based on what is needed seasonally. Please show up.

Nominating Committee

A motion was made and seconded to cast one ballot for the slate of officers presented (same as 2018: Shane Howard, Pres.; Brian Jasinski, VP; Robin Grey, Treas.; Deb Dunlop, recording secretary & Barbara Burns, newsletter secretary.) Officers remain for one year.

New Business

Bam (Randy Fleury) has packages of bees on April 15th coming from Georgia.

Speaker today (3/9/19)- Troy Hall from Hall Apiaries

This presentation was recorded and available on line Newport Community TV.

Troy gave an information-packed presentation on what new beekeepers need to know. He discussed: Nucs vs Package

How to install a package or nuc.

Acceptance of the queen.

How to feed bees in spring.

How to read frames

Warning about bears.

Discussed pollen traps and apiary locations.

Other Resources provided by Deb Dunlop:

Deadout CSI Data collection - A key component to understanding why our hive loss is so high is to start collecting the observations people are making when they autopsy their deadouts. We have put together a hive-side checklist to record what you see as you go through the dead hive. You can submit these observations online, via email or US mail. The checklist, FAQs, and how to submit observations can be found at: <https://www.nh-honeybee-health.com/deadout-autopsy>

NH Healthy Hives – This is a new multi-year initiative to promote healthy hive management. Each year there will be a specific management theme to focus on. The theme for April 2019- March 2020 is “**Varroa Mite Testing**”.

- a. The goal is to get more beekeepers (whether they treat or not) to do testing and make them more aware of their varroa situation.
- b. We ask participants to do monthly mite checks (either alcohol wash or sugar roll) of their hives and record the counts on a tracking spreadsheet. This spreadsheet also allows recording of other information such as Nosema counts (why not have a spore count done if you did an alcohol wash!), if you treated, if the hive swarmed, and more
- c. The data that is collected can be submitted on line, email or via US mail at intervals that are convenient to the participant.
- d. Early volunteers will have the opportunity to receive a free Varroa Easy Check Kit complements of NHBA.

More information about this program, the tracking spreadsheet, instructional videos, and more can be found at: <https://www.nh-honeybee-health.com/mite-testing>

How to submit a Nosema test.

<https://www.nh-honeybee-health.com/submit-sample>

Bee Selection Guidelines

Different bees are known to have difference infection rates so taking the right bees from the right location is very important to get an accurate count

- House bees from inside the hive near brood frames are ideal for collection
 - Field bees are known to have elevated infection levels; sampling the incoming foragers will result in higher spore counts
 - Newly emerged or young nurse bees are known to have lower infection rates; these bees will have lower spore counts

- Late fall/winter, bees can be collected from inner cover under insulation
- Avoid crushing the bees’ abdomens as their gut is the focus of examination
- Obtain live bees, avoid dead bees with hollow abdomens

Sample Collection

1. Collect around 50-60 live bees from inside the hive
 - Locate house bees on frames of uncapped honey near brood frames
 - Use a plastic container or paper bag to capture them
2. Preserve collected bees
 - Immerse collected bees in 70% isopropyl alcohol or windshield washer fluid, OR you may place bees in the freezer until you are ready to submit them.
3. Package bees to be mailed
 - IMPORTANT: If preserved in alcohol, drain excess alcohol and place bees on paper towel for a minute or two before mailing
 - Package so the bees will not be crushed during transport
4. Complete 'Sample Submission' form below to notify a diagnostician
 - You’ll be contacted by email with a mailing address
5. Check with your local bee club, as they may provide this service at regular, monthly meetings

Name:

Email address:

Phone #:

Zip Code of hive location:

Additional Comments:



NOTES FROM KBA VICE
PRESIDENT ABOUT ACTIVITIES
AT THE CLUB APIARY:

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER SUBMISSION

- After submission, your bees will be examined using a microscope by a trained volunteer from the club in your county
- Receive a diagnosis describing the presence of Nosema spores (none detected, high, medium, or low infection level, we cannot differentiate between *N. apis* and *N. ceranae*)
- If Nosema is detected, visit our resources page for information on possible management and treatment strategies
- The information will also be compiled by UNH Cooperative Extension to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Nosema levels in NH, and will help inform future management strategies statewide

Diagnosis results are reported as 'number of spores per bee'; it's understood that most northern colonies can tolerate up to 1 million spores per bee, though beekeepers should be aware and employ additional management strategies to control infection level. Diagnosis of your bees will provide you information on the level of Nosema infection your colony may have. Results will be reported in the following categories:

High = Greater than 5 million spores per bee

Medium = 2 million - 4.9 million

Low = 100,001 - 1.9 million

Detectable limit = 100,000

"Bam," alias Randy Fleury, is planning on installing a package at club apiary on **April 16th at 4pm.**

Kevin Sargent will be speaking **May 1st** at club apiary on "making splits, package shaking, and feeding colonies".

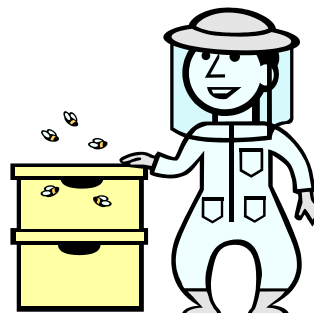
I will also be handing out a club apiary schedule for first half of summer apiary meetings that will include some changes based on members suggestions.

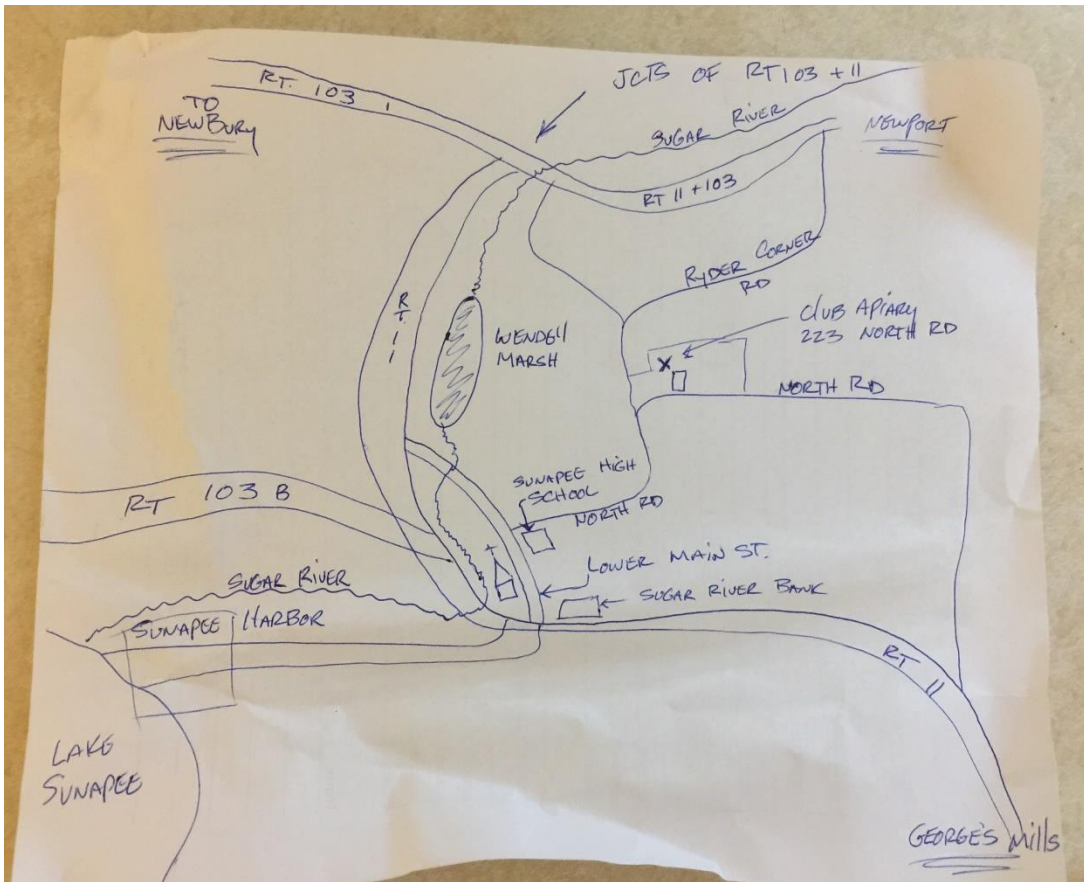
Thanks,
Brian Jasinski

Here's how to get there:

Directions to 223 North Rd., Sunapee. From rt 89 take exit 12 follow rt 11 west towards Sunapee approximately 6 miles. Look for Smokey bear sign at bottom of hill in Sunapee. Take next right lower main Street follow for approximately ½ mile North Rd will be on the right follow for exactly 1 mile 223 North Rd will be on the left. Plenty of parking in yard. From Claremont area follow rt 11 east through Newport towards Sunapee bear left at 11 and 103 junction look for lower main Street on left approximately 1½ miles beyond junction follow lower main Street for ½ a mile then take North Rd for 1 mile 223 will be on your left plenty of parking in yard.

Bring your bee veil (required for close-up viewing) and other protective clothing if you wish. Also bring needed supplies for any spring outdoor event such as a folding chair, tick repellent, water, camera, etc. Most of all bring all your curiosity and beekeeping questions. If you don't yet have a bee veil, there will be a few available to borrow at the apiary.





Map to KBA Apiary, 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH

HIVE LOSS SURVEY

The NH Beekeepers Association (NHBA) is collecting data on NH honeybee hive loss for the winter of 2018/2019. The survey is available online at the link below until 4/30.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NH2019HiveLoss>

The short 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 in June.

We will be giving away a 1 year membership to the NHBA to one lucky survey participant. In addition, the NH Bee club who has the largest percentage of membership participation will win \$50 toward refreshments at a future meeting.

If you have questions or would prefer to submit your information over the phone or by paper, please contact Heather Achilles (heather.nhba@gmail.com; 603-767-8155).

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2019 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 _____

2019 DUES ARE \$20.00

Please make checks payable to: **KBA**

MAIL TO: Robin Gray

PO Box 275

Warner, NH 03278

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association
c/o Barbara B. Burns
PO Box 90
North Sutton, NH 03260-0090



