

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS

www.kbanh.org

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

NEXT MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

9:00 A.M.

NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL

245 N. MAIN STREET

NEWPORT, NH

**BUSINESS MEETING &
SPEAKER FROM WELLSCROFT
FARM ON FENCING FOR BEES**

President's message:

Hello fellow KBA members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Past President Shane Howard and Vice President Brian Jasinski for all their efforts in bringing the club to the level of excellence it is now.

In the past we have been able to have some amazing speakers, and we plan to continue this at our March 14th meeting with a speaker from Wellscroft Fence.

The April 18th meeting will feature Dr. Tom Seeley. The March and April Meetings will be in Newport at the Sugar River Valley Technical Center beginning at 9.00 AM, I hope to see you there. If anyone has any topics they would like discussed or speakers they would like to hear, please reach out to me or Vice President Randy (Bam) Fleury.

The NHBA Spring Meeting is Sat., March 21 at Camp Carpenter in Manchester. I hope to see a good representation from the KBA.

The Hive Loss Survey will be out soon. PLEASE fill it out as this is very crucial data. Remember the more people filling these out will give representation to our region and the state.

I would like to take a moment to welcome all new Beekeepers to KBA. The bee school was a FANTASTIC success. We held the record for the highest number of students in the state among all other bee keeping clubs.

Thanks again to the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center for use of the space and especially Deb Stevens and her crew for providing the food. I would like to thank all those that helped with Bee School without your tireless efforts we would not have had the numbers of students we did.

Please keep an eye out in your email for an upcoming Apiary Hands On Work Shop Schedule. This is being worked on by the Apiary Committee.

I have asked Deb Stevens to relax and enjoy the next meeting. Therefore, I'm asking for people to bring a snack to share at our March 14th meeting.

Bee well and I will see you on Saturday March 14th.

Bee Happy! Dana



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KBA Meeting Notes – January 10, 2020

9:00am to 11:00am

This is the last meeting for President Shane Howard and Vice-President Brian Jasinski

NEW BUSINESS

Speakers

Brian contacted Dr. Tom Seeley to speak for our club on April 18, 2020. He will follow-up with KBA with confirmation. This will be a joint effort, and shared costs with Monadnock Beekeepers Association.

Dr. Sealy studied a wild bee population that survived for years without any intervention in upstate NY and Isle of Shoals and has written several books on bee behavior.

NH Beekeepers Association

Kim Pease Report

- Call for volunteers for the Farm and Forest. Dates are February 14 and 15. If you are interested visit the NHBA website and fill out a volunteer form early. This will help them coordinate time schedules for the show.
- Anita Collins will be speaking at the March 21, 2020 NHBA Spring meeting. This will be held at Camp Carpenter. This is an all-day event, with great raffles. The meeting cost is \$20 w/lunch. but for the speaking only, it is \$10. Dues must be paid for 2020.
- Sam Ramsey will be speaking at the October 17, 2020 NHBA Fall meeting. This will be held at the Manchester Technical College.
- Discussion on the KBA's donation to the Spring meeting raffle.
 - Shane: will donate a hive box
 - Brian: will donate a pollen trap
- *THANK YOU SHANE AND BRIAN!*
- NHBA has changed their non-profit status from an IRC 501:C(5) to a IRC 501:C(3). This allows for any donations to NHBA to be tax deductible.

- New By-Laws are being drafted for NHBA and should be out by February. A vote to approve will be at the Spring meeting.
- NHBA has two openings: Secretary and Treasurer. See the website for more information.
- NHBA meetings are open to all members.
- KBA's club insurance is paid through NHBA
- NHBA requests each club to nominate a Beekeeper of the Year. Shane nominated Olivia Saunders who raises queens. She pushed to have the Cornell Queen Rearing program be extended to the clubs (which Kevin and Shane participated last year). Olivia also obtained the funding for Nosema testing and works closely with NHBA Heather Achilles.

Motion: To write a letter to the NHBA nominating Olivia Saunders for 2019 Beekeeper of the Year Award.

Moved by Bam, Seconded by Jon. Motion Carries with unanimous votes in favor.

- NHBA George Hamilton Scholarship: this is a \$2k scholarship for any college bound, or already attending student who is focusing their studies on agriculture. Bee School usually has a few high school students, it will be announced then.
- NHBA has three research projects this year:
 1. Mite Testing Project – “Winter Hive Survey” (formerly, winter loss survey) emphasizing on hive success vs loss.
 2. Healthy Hive initiative
 3. What's Blooming

That's it from NHBA

KBA COMMITTEE REPORTS

Apiary Committee: 4 out of the 5 hives at the club are active. Amelia has *named* some:

“White One” – which is a Nuc is dead

“Mean Girls” is surviving but weak

“Scale Hive” is doing well

Other 2 hives, unclear of their health

Recorders Suggestion: That we either rename hives, or number them for the purchase of clarity and tracking the hive’s health. The boxes can have temporary numbers taped to them before going into winter.

Club Discussion on Post Mortem Autopsy: do it As Soon As Possible. Sampling for Nosema is different than sampling for mites.

You need: ½ Cup of bees

Mason Jar with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol (91%)

Varroa Mites: The bees need to be from the *brood nest*

Nosema Virus: Bees carrying nosema are the foragers, so bees need to come from *Inner Cover*

Treasurers Report: Robin is absent, so Jon will be collecting dues on his behalf

Secretary’s Report: none

Bee School Committee Report: Kevin is head of this committee and is absent. There are 9 committee members. Bam updated the club.

- Dates are set and in place for the Newport High School (Jan 18, 25, Feb 1, 8, 2020, 8:30 to 12:00)
- Newport Culinary Arts will provide the snacks (paid for by the Club)
- Agenda is made and set
- Raffle items are being received
- There are 13-15 already signed up.

OLD BUSINESS

State Bee Inspector letter to Depart of Ag:

Discussion on the letter to the Commission Shawn Jasper, Department of Agriculture to support the hiring of a full time bee inspector, similar to Vermont. Amelia was drafting, however, the content of the letter may need to be more focused on the funding of the inspector. VT’s inspector is funded by the hive registrations. NH does not have that type of requirement. The letter may need to encourage the registration of hives statewide as a base for the funding of the position. It may be better to address the letter to NHBA and the topic spearheaded by NHBA. Ultimately, the letter to the Commissioner should come from NHBA and endorsed by all the clubs statewide.

In the meantime, you are encouraged to register your hives. It is free (at this point) for hobbyist. The more hives registered, the more solid evidence of the need for a hive inspector. The benefit is that if there is EEE or mosquito spraying in your area, the spraying company is required to notify you.

Added Note by Betsey -

I talked to Commission Jasper about a State Bee Inspector back in November, and here are my notes on that short conversation. I didn’t have these at the meeting.

Commissioner Jasper said that the NH industry hasn't called for it (an inspector), and that the NH beekeepers don't want it because if there were a fulltime inspector, there would need to be inspection fees to help support it. The subject could be on the next NHBA meeting agenda, again. They (NHBA) could bring it to the legislature if there is enough support.

Stickers

Dana has designed two euro stickers for the Club to vote on. For each design, to order 250, will cost \$148. There discussion to “give” every paying member of KBA a KBA sticker.

The two designs are: KBA

I ♥ Honeybees

From "The Week" magazine 2/28/20 courtesy of Richard Brewster:

Bumblebees in dire trouble

Climate change is pushing the much-loved bumblebee to the brink of extinction, new research has found. The fuzzy, buzzy pollinators in the Northern Hemisphere, helping to spread pollen and fertilize many wild plants, as well as important crops such as tomatoes, blueberries, and squash. But their numbers have been dropping for years, and to understand why, scientists looked at a database of 550,000 records detailing where the bees have been spotted since 1901. It showed that bumblebee populations had crashed by 46 percent in North America and by 17 percent across Europe in recent years when compared with the base period of 1901 to 1974.

The biggest declines were in areas that have experienced the most extreme temperature swings, suggesting that climate change is a significant factor. High temperatures can cause bumblebees to overheat and can also kill the flowers on which they depend. Adding to the problem is that bees aren't migrating to cooler areas. "They're simply not able to colonize new regions at the same rate that they're disappearing from old ones." Lead author Peter Soroye, from the University of Ottawa, tells NPR.org. The authors stress that climate change isn't the only cause of the bees' decline; pesticide use and habitat loss also play a role. They say people can help the troubled insects by planting native flowers in their gardens and leaving out leaf piles and fallen logs to create shade for the bees on scorching days.



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
- John Chadwick, Sutton Mills, 927-4327
- Randy Fleury, South Sutton, 927-4144
- Dave Hartman, Warner, 456-3881
- Bill McDonald, Newport, 863-4012

NH BEE AND EQUIPMENT DEALERS

- Hillside Apiaries, Merrimack 429-0808
- B-line Apiaries, Alden Marshall, Hudson 883-6764
- Randy Fleury, Sutton 927-4144
- NH Honey Bee, Gilsum 354-8019
- Troy Hall, Plainfield 298-7209
- Kevin Sargent, Newport 843-5927

Motion moved by Bam, seconded by Jon that the Club spend \$148 for 250 KBA stickers.

Motion carries with unanimous votes in favor

Motion moved by Bam, seconded by Jon that the Club spend \$148 for 250 I ♥ Honeybees Stickers. Motion Carries with unanimous votes in favor

Motion moved by Betsey, seconded by Jerry to "give" each paying member a KBA sticker (if they want). Motion Fails with few in favor.

The stickers will be sold for \$1.00 apiece. They will be sold at the Farm and Forest.

ELECTIONS

Current Positions:

President: Shane Howard

Vice President: Brian Jasinski

Treasurer: Robin Gray

Secretary: Deb Dunlop

Incoming Position – for two years

President: Dana Ramspott

Vice President: Bam Fleury

Treasurer: Robin Gray

Secretary: Laurie Hardt

Motion moved by _____, Seconded by _____, to elect Dana as President, Bam as Vice Pres and Laurie as Secretary.

Motion Carries with unanimous votes.

Warning: BEARS ARE OUT!!

Meeting Adjourned.

KEARSARGE BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

2020 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 _____ (dues must be current)

2020 DUES ARE \$20.00

Please make checks payable to: **KBA**

MAIL TO: Robin Gray

PO Box 275

Warner, NH 03278



NH Beekeepers Association 2020 Member Registration Form (January 2020-December 2020)

Name(s) _____ Name of Apiary (if applicable) _____
_____ Street address/PO Box _____ Apt./Unit _____
_____ Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Single \$15 ___ Family \$20 ___ Single Life Membership \$175 ___ Family Life Membership \$250 ___

Add'l names _____

Date of payment ___/___/___ New member _____ or, Membership renewal _____

Cash amount _____ or, Check amount _____

Bee Research Fund Donation in any amount (optional) _____

Change of address from a previous one for renewing members? Yes ___ No ___

Newsletter will be available online at nhbeekeepers.org unless otherwise requested. Members with no online access or for other reasons, please check here for paper copies of newsletters: ___ Yes, I would like paper copies of newsletters

Please make checks payable to NHBA and mail to:

NHBA Membership % Janice Mercieri 56 Kilburn Street Littleton, NH 03561

