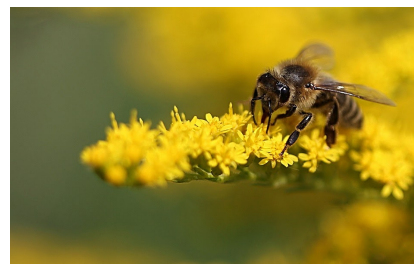


Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

August 2020

Next Meeting: Saturday, August 8th, 2020 at the Club Picnic

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President's Message

Hello fellow beekeepers,

We are in a dearth right now, but fortunately the golden rod is starting to turn yellow. Dare I say summer is starting to wane? I know a lot has been happening worldwide with the ever-changing coronavirus, as a result, we will be having our first ever bring your own BBQ on August the 8th at 223 North Road in Sunapee. Bring a chair, your favorite food, and beverages. There is plenty of room for social distancing. There will be a large tent there for shade. I would like to have a business meeting after we get the smoker contest underway.

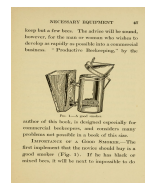
The coveted copper smoker is up for grabs, and Bam will be the judge this year as he must sit this one out. Bring your favorite winning smoker fuel. All of them will be mixed together to level the playing field. With any luck there will be one added surprise for the contest. Stay tuned!

I am looking for prizes for a raffle as well. We are planning on running the raffle so there is no contact between the person donating and the person winning.

Please RSVP to Laurie Hardt, if you have not done so, at kbanhclub@gmail.com or 491-8262.

I hope to see as many as feel comfortable joining us on the 8th. The smoker contest begins at 11 so we are not here all night. The meal will be after the meeting, followed by the raffle. Bring your mask and let us talk bees as well as enjoying one another's company.

Dana



Smoker Contest Rules

By Kevin Sargent

Bring 1 quart size container of your favorite smoker fuel to contest. Fuel will be mixed in a community bucket with other contestants' fuel. After mixing well, the fuel will be given out and used by all contestants for an equal playing field.

You will be using a smoker provided by the club so that everyone is on the same playing field.

Scope of this contest is to see whose smoker can still produce smoke over the longest time.

Smoker will consist of a commercially available factory smoker of 7" H design and no more than 4" diameter with no modifications internally or externally to its original design.

Contestants will be given a 5 minute heads up time warning by the judge to be at the designated starting line spot in which the smoker contest rules will be read by the judge.

Contestants will have 5 minutes to light their smokers in front of the judge to begin the contest.

The judge will give a 1 minute warning for when smokers are to be put upon the contest line. The judge will also call out at 30 seconds and will at 10 seconds give a numerical countdown to zero. At this time all smokers are to be on the contest line.

After the start of the contest the contestant can not touch their smoker. Only the judge is allowed to operate the bellows to verify that the smoker is still producing smoke.

The judge will push the bellows 5 times every 10 minutes to verify the smoker has not gone out. If no smoke is verified after 15 seconds, the smoker will be tipped on its side and the contestant is out of the contest for the remainder of the event.

At the 1 hour mark into the contest the judge will now increase the number of squeezes to the bellows to 10 times every 10 minutes. The judge will increase the amount of squeezes by a 5 count every hour. This is to stimulate a quicker burn out of fuel within the smokers pot.

The last smoker producing smoke is the Grand Champion.

July Meeting

On July 11th, 2020 at 9 am there was a short club meeting at the apiary. We had the pleasure of meeting Dana's neighbor and his daughter, hopefully future Beekeepers, and extracted some honey.

- Dana bought extracting equipment for KBA, about \$140 @Runnings, will send the receipt to Robin.
- Kim Pease asked, 'Is there an Apiary Operating Budget?'
Not yet.
- Kevin Sargent said 'KBA leadership is frugal with purchase and good with loyal fundraising/volunteering.'



Photo by Kevin Sargent

- John Chadwick said, 'Would help the treasurer if the amounts/designations had a line in the budget.'
- Discussed Club Picnic and set the date for August 8th at the Ramspott Farm

Apiary Update

The apiary has been in a dearth for the past few weeks. They enjoyed a treat of cleaning out the honey supers, extractor and buckets from the Honey Extraction HOW. Little to no resources are coming into the hives. We have been feeding syrup and pollen patties to the hives as necessary. Thank you to Amelia Lantz for keeping the apiary well stocked in syrup and homemade pollen patties. The girls thank you.

Status on the Hives as of 8/1

KBA 1 is doing well. Brood and bees of all ages are in hive. Eggs. No Queen spotted. I believe she was spotted last week. Syrup and pollen added. Queen slowed down laying due to dearth.

KBA 2 is doing well. Brood and bees of all ages are in hive. Eggs. Queen spotted. Honey super is 3/4 full. Pollen added. Queen slowed down laying due to dearth.

Top Bar Hive is doing well. Brood and bees of all ages are in hive. Eggs. Queen spotted. Syrup and pollen added. Queen slowed down laying due to dearth.

All hives need more bees for winter. We will be checking feed in between HOWS to make sure they have the resources to boost their numbers.

Thank you to all the mentors so far. Bam Fleury, Dana Ramspott, Kevin Sargent, Eric De King, Shreve Soule and Shane Howard.

Thank you all the folks that have held phones for the zoom video of the HOWs.

Upcoming HOWS

At the 8/8 KBA Picnic, we will go through the hives and check on them. Bring your veils and masks. Want to learn how to mite test? We are going to check all the hives and treat them as necessary.

8/16 KBA HOW - Hive Inspection with Shane Howard at 10:30am.

What topics would you like covered in the upcoming HOWS? Best way to learn is to go through as many hives as possible. Looking for newbies to help go through hives and learn. We will guide you through them. Please contact Kim Pease at kbanhclub@gmail.com

Master Beekeeper Course

Cornell offers a 15 month master beekeeper course with substantial discounts for bee club members. The course will start in January of 2021. The usual price is \$899, but membership in a bee club grants a \$300 discount. Pete Rauert took the liberty of registering KBA so that other interested club members can get the discount as well. Thanks, Pete!

Bampa's Bees is providing mobile extracting service. This is a great way to extract honey without owning the extractor. Call Ken at 603-558-9653 to set up an appointment today.

For Sale: Dadant Little Wonder, 4 frame extractor \$300.00 If interested call Paul Christiansen 603-748-5300

Letter from Ken Burke

For the past several years I have had hives located at Bascom Rd Blueberry Farm in Newport. I would like to move all of my hives to a location on a farm near my home simply for convenience. I am tired of all the running in multiple directions. Is there anyone in the bee club that might like to take over this location? I will leave the fencing, floor carpet and pallets which will accommodate a dozen hives or so.

Ken Burke 603 558 9653, email: **Computer Recycling of Claremont**
<oldcomputers56@yahoo.com>