

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

September 2020



Next meeting:

Saturday, September 12th

9:00am at 223 North Rd., Sunapee

Included in this newsletter:

Message from the President

Apiary Update from Kim Pease

Monthly Meeting notes

Photos by Pebbles Sillars

President's Message:

Hello all,

As I am writing this the maple tree up behind the house is starting to turn to its beautiful shade of yellow. The nights have been drastically cooler and thus the bees are not out as many hours as they have been throughout the summer. However, they are bringing pollen in like crazy.

For you "new bees" this is an important time of year, start feeding sugar syrup 2:1 ratio so the hive has time to process this into honey for winter stores. Another important thing is mite treatment if you choose to do it chemically or naturally.

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus we still can't get together like we have in the past. I would like to have September's meeting at the apiary. The meeting will be on zoom as well as the hive inspections.

Some things to think about in the not too distant future are: Bee school, possibly done virtually, and also the Harvest Supper. I am open to any and all suggestions.

A big shout out to Amelia Lantz for her untiring checking of the apiary, and the gallons of sugar syrup she has made.

Dana



HOWS UPDATE

Wednesday September 9th, at 5:30pm sharp, Kevin Sargent will host a trifecta HOWS at the KBA Club Apiary to talk about and demonstrate some things.

- (1) Electric fencing around your Apiary, The Good the Bad and the Ugly
- (2) Mixing Essential Oils for Mite Treatments, Who, What, When, Where and How.
- (3) Pre-Evaluations of hives for overwintering, Are you ready, Wanna be Ready, Can you do it?

Kevin says, "I will not and do not want to Zoom this. So get out of your rocking chair and be there or Square. If you don't show up you won't know what you will miss. So plan to be there."

Congratulations to Dana Ramspott on winning the Golden Smoker at this year's KBA Picnic!

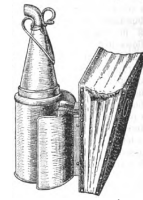


FIG. 25.—Bee-Smoker.
(Redrawn from the *A B C of Bee-Culture*, published by the A. I. Root Co., Medina, Ohio, U.S.A.)

What's Happening at the Apiary by Kim Pease

As summer ends, we start to think about bees and winter. This includes worrying about mite loads going into winter. On 8/8, a mite count was done on all the KBA hives.

KBA 1 - 4 mites per 100 bees, 4 percent treatment threshold

KBA 2 - 2 mites per 100 bees, 2 percent treatment threshold

Top Bar - 3 mites per 150 bees, 2 percent treatment threshold

All hives needed to be treated. Especially, KBA 1. On 8/16 during the HOWs, Brian Jasinski applied formic pro to KBA 1 and KBA 2. Formic Pro cannot be used on top bar hives. More research needed to be done for mite treatments for the top bar hive. As with formic pro, we had to wait two weeks to go into the hives. On 8/30 during the HOW, Shane Howard inspected the hives and removed the used formic pro strips.

KBA 1 queen was caged to prevent the possibility of the bees balling and killing her. They had two deeps. They had chewed the cork to remove her from the cage. No eggs or fresh larva could be found. Where was the queen? As we were going through the hive, queen cells. The hive had built queen cells during the treatment. There was evidence of them being torn down. Did one of the hatch? Did we have a virgin? Or new mated queen? Two queens? Or the original queen? Our quest to find the queen began. With Amelia, Shane, Gerry and Susan via zoom, the hunt began. After going through the upper and lower deep frame by frame, no signs of a marked queen. Now to reassemble the hive and go back through looking for an unmarked or virgin queen. All of a sudden a long big butt was spotted. We have a new unmarked queen from the cells. She is mated!!!! Yeah! Shane caught her and we marked her with a nice blue dot.

KBA 2 queen was not caged. They had two deeps and a super on. Queen was not caged. We noticed young larvae in the hive. Queen was found and marked. Shane captured the queen and put her in a clip for safety. He performed a mite check on KBA 2 using windshield fluid. No mites. Top Bar hive was testy and displeased with us. High mite load and dearth could be factors. Big thank you to Jeff McCormack for donating two Apivar strips for the top bar hive. We found the marked queen. They have shifted the brood chamber over more to the middle of the top bar hive. Apivar strips were placed into the hive. Thank you to Susan for her instruction via zoom.

All hives were very lean on resources except the top bar hive had pollen. All hives were fed sugar syrup. KBA 1 and 2 were fed pollen.



Please do your mite test and treat if necessary.

Honey Bee Health

Coalition has a great Varroa tool at

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

Did you know you should have a pesticide applicator permit with the State of NH? It is \$20 per year. I am applying for my permit. Once my application is processed, I will be happy to help you with any questions. The application and information can be found at

<https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/pesticide-control/licensing.htm#:~:text=New%20Hampshire%20law%20requires%20licensing,of%20pesticides%20may%20apply%20pesticides.>

The application is a Private Applicator Permit Application.

Big thank you to Brian, Shane and Amelia for volunteering for the HOWs

in August.

Interested in being a mentor or mentoring a HOW? Please contact me at

kim@tuckermountainfarm.com or 603-848-8468.

August 8th, 2020 Monthly Meeting

Old Business

Sunapee shop class may build a shed for the apiary for the cost of materials. Dana will check on this once school has begun.

New Business

Apiary budget: Was a dollar figure ever proposed? For about 2-3 years we have had an open-ended budget: whatever it takes to keep bees.

Robin can tell us what has been spent on the budget, we have 3 years worth of data.

Amelia has donated sugar and pollen patties this year. She needs to be reimbursed.

How much is spent on speakers, etc? It would be good to know this.

We may want to consider buying supplies for the apiary in bulk.

Bee School

We need to find out if we can have a bee school for 2021. There is a bee school committee that will get together after school opens.

Advertisements need to be done. We may need to limit participants. Stay tuned...

Harvest Supper

We need a bigger space so that everyone can come. We would still like to do it if it can be done safely. We will revisit this at our next meeting.

Think about a different spot.

Could it be an outdoor Harvest Supper?

Could we use Newport Highschool?

Could we get a tent with walls? This could get expensive.

Attendance may be down due to social distancing.

Questions

Are we putting HOWS schedules on Facebook?

Kim doesn't always know ahead of time when we will do the HOWS, but she posts the information on the Facebook page as soon as she knows. Please check the Facebook page for updates. Kim is still looking for people to do HOWS at the apiary. We need more people to step up to do them. It would be easier for all to let everyone know ahead of time. People appreciate the notice. Brian and Bam volunteered to do a hive inspection
In the old HOWS new beekeepers used to do the work and we would mentor them. Due to the pandemic, things have changed. Many people still want the ZOOM meetings as they don't feel comfortable attending in person.

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Dana Ramspott

Vice President: Randy (Bam) Fleury

Treasurer: Robin Gray

Secretary: Laurie Hardt

Please send information for newsletter to: kbanhclub@gmail.com

Join our facebook page at: KBA-NH (private group)