

# Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

January 2021

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## Next Meeting:

**Jan.9th, 2021 at  
9:00am via ZOOM**

Link will be sent out through email and posted on the KBA Facebook page.

Kim Pease photo

Message from our new president, Randy Fleury:

Hello,

As everyone probably knows, I have taken over for Dana as president. I will try to live up to past presidents. There are some awful big shoes to fill.

The hives at the KBA apiary are all put to bed for the winter.

We will still be having Bee School in 2021. It will be a virtual experience, via Zoom. January 16th, 23rd, 30th, and February 6th and 13th are the scheduled days. Many of the same teachers will be presenting again this year. We are expecting a bit less of a turnout this year. We have a lot of new club members helping out with the technical aspects of Bee School.

We are always looking for more club members to get involved and volunteer. If you would like to volunteer, reach out to one of the club officers and see what is available.

I'm hoping that 2021 will be a better year for everybody and a better year for the bees.

**November Meeting notes**

The meeting was held November 14th at the Ramspott Farm.

Minutes were accepted from the October meeting.

**Old Business:**

Apiary has been closed up for the winter.

We are in a “holding pattern” on the possibility of building a shed at the apiary. We would like to have the shed to hold empty supers and equipment. It would also make a nice windbreak.

John Howe from Belletetes , Andover may donate materials or give a reduced rate. We need to send in a materials list.

Marilyn Milne also said that her husband works at Durgin and Crowell and that they would donate shiplap.

We will also be asking LaValleys and Home Depot.

Kim Pease asked if KBA was a non-profit. Bam said we may need to have 5 people and a board of Directors. Eric DeKling will look into it in the next few weeks. Robin may have forms and history to help answer this question.

**Bee School 2021**

Our bee school will be held online via Zoom this year due to Covid-19. Classes will need to be shortened but we will record each class. We will need a place for instructors to do their presentations. Dana can arrange for the Sunapee Fire Station’s conference room for those who need it. There is an overhead projector and a white board available there.

We want to have a moderator for each class so that the moderator can ask questions on behalf of the participants.

Marilyn Milne and Laura Gary are club members who are willing to help with the technical aspects of presenting via Zoom.

The Bee School Committee has formed and will be meeting to plan for this year’s classes.

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Bam is going to look into getting some hives irradiated with a Massachusetts group. He thinks it costs \$5 to \$6 a box with frames.

There was a discussion on where we stand with hive survival. Eric DeKing said that European Foulbrood nearly wiped him out this year. Bam mentioned that to recognize European Foulbrood is not easy. You can look for off-white larvae. You may see a lot of eggs that don't make it to the capped stage. Veterinarians may not be able to spot it, but in order to get a prescription to treat it a veterinarian is needed.

**New Vice President**

With Dana resigning after a year and Bam moving to president, the club is looking for a new vice president. Please speak to John Chadwick if you are interested in being nominated for this position.

There will be no December KBA meeting, but the Bee School Committee will meet November 22nd, 9:00 am via ZOOM.

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Gary LaRose from Hillsborough, NH sent an email to the club. He is retiring from beekeeping due to worn out shoulders. He has some things for free and some for sale: four hives, a bee suit, brand new nucs, a case of new small cell foundation and a huge 21 frame extractor (for sale). Give him a call at (603) 478-5654 if you're interested.

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Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Randy (Bam) Fleury

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Robin Gray

Secretary: Laurie Hardt

Please send information for newsletter to: [kbanhclub@gmail.com](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com)

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

## October Meeting Notes

KBA Meeting

Ramspott Farm, 10/3/20 9am

Zoom, thank you Kim Pease, Susan Iellamo & Laurie Hardt  
you to Amelia Lantz for taking the October meeting notes.

Thank

In person attending: Dana Ramspott, Bam Fleury, John Chadwick, who brought friend John, who is a beginning beekeeper. Ann Harris, Kim Pease, Shreve Soule, Kevin Sargent, Amelia Lantz, Gordon Ramspott and his huge tractor.

**Shed updates:**

Dana has 2 size offers from the Sunapee High School for sheds with no windows. Ann has a window to offer. Could also use a small boat/car dome light to light shed if it's windowless.

Kevin offered that with club members help, we can buy wood, build it ourselves.

John C was nominated and accepted as Shed Building Committee chair! "Let's make a shed." will commence in Springtime 2021 inside the Apiary.

Will it be taxed? It was mentioned that the club might pay taxes if any. Dana will get necessary building permits.

### **Winterizing Hives:**

Discussion about winterizing Top Bar Hive. Again, John Chadwick is the MVP, and will demonstrate to us his technique for wrapping the hive for winter.

### **Harvest Supper:**

Sadly, the Harvest Supper is cancelled for Nov 2020, we all know why...

### **Bill MacDonald Scholarship:**

Fond remembrances of Bill MacDonald were shared, especially about how he faithfully helped at Bee School, even last year. There will be a scholarship to KBA Bee School given in Bill MacDonald's name. The application, criteria and aspects of the scholarship are being determined in the Bee School committee—please join and help!!

### **Bee School 2021:**

Newport Sugar River Tech. Center is probably a no to hosting Bee School due to Covid.

Kevin is wondering if Newport HS Cafeteria is available, we will offer to pay for additional cleaning. Seems like Bee School will also be Zoomed, those attending virtually to receive a locked link to access.

Ann Harris will ask about availability at Colby Sawyer College, a space large enough for 60 people, again KBA offers cleaning fee costs.

Colby Sawyer has come through with an available space if necessary.

KBA Bee School Textbook: Shall we update the current text? Kim & Dana report much success in other club's bee schools with Beekeeping For Dummies. KBA can bulk order this text with NHBA. The Beekeeper's Handbook was also put forward as a possibility. Bee School committee will decide on the textbook.

Dana relayed the request and possibility of an Intermediate Bee School, perhaps to take place over four Saturdays, starting two weeks after Bee School is done. Lots on for the Bee School Committee!

### **Apiary Committee:**

Shreve Soule asked 'Who is the Apiary Committee Chair?' and we all accepted that as his nomination, seconded it, and he graciously agreed. MVP2! Wisely, he asked for a set of written guidelines for the job, of which there are... in by-laws that need to be updated. It is understood that committee chair terms in KBA are for two years (or life). Dana, Kevin, and Kim recounted the basics of the Apiary: management; HOWS; mentors.

### **Other topics:**

Project APIS is Oct 6, 11-12

Richard Brewster's hive equipment, 8 frame, observation hive, mostly mediums were donated to KBA and cleaned up by John & Bam. Bam took 20 boxes to MA Beekeepers for irradiation.

Bam will contact to see if we can utilize this service as a club.

There WILL be a meeting in November. Dana checking on a spot where folk can stay 6' apart. November meet, hopefully in person, is crucial to support Bee School and Apiary committees.

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