

Kearsarge Beekeepers' Association

May 2021



Next Meeting: 9:00 am on May 15th at the apiary and via Zoom. Link will be sent out through email and posted on the KBA Facebook page.

In this issue: President's message, April Meeting Notes, News Article on Pesticide Toxicity.

President's Message

Hello all,

It is a busy time of year! We are rescheduling the May meeting from May 8th until the 15th due to my granddaughter's graduation. It is difficult to be two places at once.

You may already have noticed your bees getting very busy at this time. Once the dandelions are in bloom, you may want to consider switching the top deep with the bottom deep to make space for the queen to lay eggs. This is a good time to start keeping track of what you see each time you do a hive inspection. You'll want to be aware of what is going on in each of your hives so that you will stay ahead of the bees. This will help you prevent a swarm and prepare for making a split.

The HOWS schedule has been sent out. Please take advantage of these demonstrations put on by experienced beekeepers. There is so much to learn from our club members.

Bee well,

Bam

April KBA Meeting Notes

Saturday, April 17, 2021 9:00 Apiary/Zoom

Members Present: Randy Fleury, Dana Ramspott, Shreve Soule, Ann Harris, Kim Pease, Kevin Sargent, Laurie Hardt, Bill Beardslee, Bob and Sue DeLuca, Melissa Laverack, Jim Pollock.
Also in attendance was a 10 year old neighbor.

9:01 Meeting was called to order by Randy (Bam) Fleury

Minutes from the March meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

Robin Gray reported \$9,440 as the current balance.
Insurance has been paid and is valid until April 2022.

There are currently 93 paid memberships

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Bill Beardslee, Seconded by Ann Harris

Old Business

Shed Committee

John Chadwick has a materials list ready and is planning to email it today.

Brochures are to be decided on by the shed committee. After looking at the estimates, the Kearsarge Shopper is a favorite.

Shreve makes a motion to buy the brochures from the Kearsarge Shopper. Seconded by Kevin Sargent. All were in favor of going with the Kearsarge Shopper.

Laurie Hardt will send a copy of the updated brochure to all club members.

Directory Update

Laurie Hardt reported that 10 people have "opted in" to the directory so far. The directory will be sent out to those club members by the end of April.

Apiary Committee/Hands On Workshops

Shreve Soule said the first HOWs will be at the apiary in Sunapee this coming Wednesday, April 21st at 6pm. Shreve will be inspecting the overwintered hives. He will email this year's HOWS schedule to Laurie Hardt to be sent out to all members.

Shreve stated that we will be expecting swarming this year. Our hope is to prevent any swarming and also to be able to harvest some honey.



Please email Shreve at shreveosoule63@gmail.com if you would be willing to sign up to be the mentor for one (or more) HOWS nights.

Shreve said that sending hive bodies out for irradiation was discussed, but it was decided that we can buy new bodies for less money, if needed.

Amelia Lantz was happy to hear that the apiary bees survived the winter. She also stated that the equipment at the apiary needs “editing.” Shreve said he would send an email out to the apiary committee to decide what to do with the equipment.

Dana Ramspott made a motion to accept the HOWS report, Jim Pollock seconded it.

The **NH Bee Inspector** visited Bam Fleury’s house on Tuesday, April 13th. Eight people joined in helping inspect 170 boxes being sent to Massachusetts for irradiation.

The inspector said he would be willing to come to HOWS to do an inspection.

KBA website

Kim Pease reported that the website, kbanh.org, is up for renewal. Wordpress charges \$48 for the basic package which expires May 1st. A \$96 upgrade package would allow us to use Pay Pal. They take 3% off the top. Pay Pal could be used for bee school payments, membership, sticker purchases, etc.

Dana Ramspott made a motion to accept an upgrade to the \$96 fee to Wordpress for the website. Jim Pollock seconded. All voted to accept, no opposition or abstentions.

Kim will add the HOWS schedule and directions to the apiary to the website.

Please email Kim with information for the website. kim@tuckermountainfarm.com

KBA Facebook page

There was some discussion about whether we should add the KBA Facebook private page to the kbanh.org website, possibly in a “members only” section. Nothing was decided, but Kim said she would look into it.

New Business

Apiary Committee Expenditures

Kevin Sargent spoke about the Apiary Committee Expenditures. Every year the committee has to ask for money for the general operating expenses. He would like to propose that the apiary committee could use “*up to \$1000 per year*” to cover supplies needed to keep the apiary up and running. Receipts will be kept and sent to Robin. Kevin Sargent made the motion to budget up to \$1000 per year for the apiary committee expenses, Kim Pease seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor. No oppositions or abstentions.

Bill MacDonald Scholarship

Kevin Sargent reported on a Bee School Committee update regarding a scholarship to be given in honor of a former KBA member, William “Bill” MacDonald. This scholarship would allow for two students, ages 12 to 17 and 18 to 20, to attend bee school (which also includes a one year club membership), receive a complete hive set up with bees for their own home, and be set up with a mentor to help them through their first year. The scholarship would also include a one year club membership for a parent of the scholarship winner.

To apply for the scholarship, the bee school committee asks that each applicant write a 250 word essay about why bees are important and why they would like to keep bees. The bee school committee will decide which applicants receive the scholarships.

It was also decided that there would be an agreement that the equipment/bees would be donated back to the club if the scholarship winner was unable to continue keeping bees.

This scholarship will be available to students within a 20 mile radius of the apiary. There will be a list of towns that will be included when the scholarship is advertised.

Kevin Sargent said he would also donate a 3 frame nuc colony to the student if their hive fails the first year.

The Bee School Committee will need approximately \$750 each year to fund these scholarships.

Bam Fleury stated that we are “here to make more beekeepers!”

He also discussed that the bees are starting to arrive here in NH. The Saskatraz bees from Mann Lake are on their way here. He said that the bees really don’t mind being put in during bad weather. They are happy to have a place to go. Adding them to hives with drawn comb is best, if available. Bam’s bees will be coming in mid-to late May. Georgia is running late.

New Apiary Inspection Form

Shreve Soule has found a new form to be used to record weather, eggs, larva, frames with honey, brood, etc. when hives are being inspected at the apiary. If you are interested in using one for your own hives, use Google and search for “Apiary Inspection Form.” There are many to choose from.

KBA Apiary Waiver

Dana Ramspott is requesting that any visitors to the club apiary please fill out and sign the 2021 KBA Apiary Waiver. He will send the form to Laurie so that it can be sent out to all members. You can print it at home and bring it in or pick up a copy when you get to the apiary. There will be a spot for the signed forms at the apiary. These will be good for the 2021 year.

Slovenian Hives

Dana Ramspott has acquired two AZ Slovenian Hives that will eventually be attached to the new shed at the apiary (once the shed has been built).

At 9:49 am, Kevin Sargent made a motion to adjourn the April meeting. Ann Harris seconded the motion.

The following article was submitted by Barbara Burns for our newsletter.

Study: US pesticide use falls but harms pollinators more

By SETH BORENSTEIN April 1, 2021



[1 of 2](#)

American farmers are using smaller amounts of better targeted pesticides, but these are harming pollinators, aquatic insects and some plants far more than decades ago, a new study finds.

Toxicity levels have more than doubled since 2005 for important species, including honeybees, mayflies and buttercup flowers, as the country switched to a new generation of pesticides. But dangerous chemical levels in birds and mammals have plummeted at the same time, according to a paper in Thursday's journal [Science](#).

“The bottom line is that these pesticides, once believed to be relatively benign and so short-lived that they would not damage ecosystems, are anything but,” said Dr. [Lynn](#)

[Goldman](#), a former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assistant administrator for toxic substances who wasn't part of the study and is now dean of George Washington University's school of public health

German scientists examined 381 pesticides used in the United States between 1992 and 2016, combining EPA data that calculates toxic dosage effects for eight types of animals and plants with U.S. Geological Survey data on how much of the chemicals were used year by year for dozens of agricultural crops. The scientists calculated a new measurement they call total applied toxicity for the eight groupings of species and trends over time.

“Very often politicians, media, scientists just talk about amounts. They always argue ‘OK, the amount pesticides we use is reduced so things are getting better’ and this is not necessarily true,” said lead author Ralf Schulz, a professor of environmental sciences at the University of Kolenz-Landau. “It’s sometimes true, but not always,”

Industry keeps developing new pesticides and “very often these new compounds are more toxic,” Schulz said. They include **neonicotinoids**, which [have been connected](#) to one of the many causes of dwindling honeybee numbers.

The newer pesticides are aimed more toward animals without backbones to spare birds and mammals, but this means insects such as pollinators get poisoned, Schulz said.

The same goes for some land plants and for aquatic invertebrates including dragonflies and mayflies, which birds and mammals eat, he said, adding that future studies should look at the harm higher up the food chain.

Chris Novak, president of the pesticide industry group [CropLife America](#), said in an email that “it is critical to note that the study found great reductions in acute toxicity have been achieved for humans and mammals over the past few decades.”

Novak noted pesticides go through extensive studies and “only one in 10,000 discoveries make the 11-year journey from the lab to the market.”

It’s not surprising that newer generations of pesticides generally are more harmful to insects, which are [undergoing a massive decline for many reasons](#), said University of Connecticut entomologist David Wagner, who wasn't part of the study. But Wagner said this newest research doesn't provide data needed to show “that pesticides are the major driver of insect declines.”

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter: [@borenbears](#) .

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Randy (Bam) Fleury

Vice President: Betsey McNaughten

Treasurer: Robin Gray

Secretary: Laurie Hardt

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

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