

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*This is the busy time for all of us beekeepers. If you are new, you're installing packages, feeding, making sure the queen is out and laying. For the lucky beekeepers who have hives that overwintered you may have to make splits to keep them from swarming. The nectar is really coming in strong I have several hives that have filled at least three mediums.*

*I have been requeening all my Italian packages with Russian Queens hoping for a better survival rate. In the last week I have replaced 56 Italian Queens with Russian Queens and put the Italian Queens into two frames hives. This has used up a lot of my equipment. They say you can never have enough equipment.*

*The HOWS are going strong but we do need more volunteers. If you can spot eggs larvae and queen cells you can run a HOWS. So please reach out to Shreve Soule, the Chair of the Apiary Committee, and ask what days need to be filled.*

*We have decided as a club to follow the CDC guidelines for covid which are included in the newsletter. Please read and follow these guidelines while taking part in any KBA activity.*

*Stay safe and bee healthy. Your humble president,  
Randy "Bam" Fleury*

### MAY KBA MEETING NOTES

Saturday, May 15th, 2021 9:00 AM Apiary/Zoom

Members Present: Randy Fleury, Dana Ramspott, Shreve Soule, Ann Harris, Laurie Hardt, Bill Beardslee, Jim Pollock, and Laurie Bride. (Members present on Zoom are not listed.)

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

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed by Bam. Dana Ramspott made a motion to accept the minutes, and Bill Beardslee seconded the motion.

#### Treasurer's Report

Robin Gray is not present today.

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### NEXT MEETING

June 12, 2021 at 9:00 AM

In person at the KBA apiary or via Zoom. Zoom invite to be sent prior to meeting.

### Old Business

#### Shed Committee

John Chadwick has provided an updated materials list. So far there has been a door donated.

#### Directory

Laurie Hardt has had a few more members ask to be added to the directory. An updated list will be sent out to all who have “opted in.”

#### Apiary Committee/Hands On Workshops

Shreve Soule, committee chairperson, reported that Kevin Sargent would be doing the next HOWS on Wednesday, May 19th. The topic is: Preparing for a Swarm: How and Why.

Shreve reported that the season is here; nectar is coming in! A super has been added to the hives at the apiary. For KBA 2, we are hoping to suppress the urge to swarm. We are also hoping to get some honey, but we may need to do a split.

He is still looking for volunteers for the HOWS in June and July. Bam stated, “You don’t need to be an expert to be a mentor at a HOWS. We may need to change to every other week for the HOWS if we don’t get volunteers.”

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.

### New Business

Betsey McNaughten, our vice president, attended the recent New Hampshire Beekeepers’ Association meeting via Zoom. NHBA holds insurance for all bee clubs in the state. This statewide insurance policy requires us to comply with Covid restrictions due to its infectious disease coverage.

There was a lot of discussion on this topic, and Betsey said it would probably be best to wait for the minutes from that meeting to be posted before any final decisions should be made for our club. NHBA is banning “in-person” meetings unless everyone in attendance is vaccinated. Hybrid (some in-person, some on Zoom) is acceptable. She stated that policies may be cancelled for failure to comply.

It was suggested that we share the chart from the new CDC guidelines. We will use this as our guide

and continue to ask that all members who have not been vaccinated wear a mask and stand 6 feet away from others. (Please see the copy of the guidelines in the June newsletter.)

Betsey also reported that the NHBA \$1000 scholarships for education went unused this year. No one applied for them. So next year, the scholarship will be \$2000. Queen Breeding classes at Cornell University would be an acceptable reason to apply for this scholarship. It is for students of all ages.

Bam said that the NHBA insurance does not cover inside our apiary. We will need everyone who attends the HOWS to sign the waiver. We will also ask everyone to follow the CDC guidelines.

Bam is also trying to get in touch with our insurance person to see if we have another policy for the apiary.

Thank you to Betsey for attending the NHBA meeting.

#### KBA Newsletter

Laurie Hardt asked that a club member take over the newsletter editor position. When she became secretary, both the secretary and the newsletter editor “retired.” She has been doing both for a few months, but she is hoping to find another person to do the newsletter.

Marilyn Milne, who was present on the Zoom, expressed an interest in doing the newsletter. There was a vote, and the vote was unanimous that Marilyn Milne become our newsletter editor. Laurie is especially thankful to Marilyn for stepping up!

At 9:35 am John Chadwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Harris seconded the motion.





## APIARY REPORT—MAY 27, 2021

Hello everyone,

Hopefully you have strong healthy overwintered hives and those of you who ordered new packages have received them.

The weather has been a challenge this year for HOWS. We try to stay on schedule but mother nature has the final say. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for last minute weather reschedules or cancellations.

HOWS needs a few good beekeepers with the time to inspect the club apiary hives and share your knowledge. You can contact me if you are interested.

Ticks are everywhere! Please check yourself after apiary activities.

Do you own a weed whacker? The grass is growing rather fast this spring and some help keeping the yard in order would be appreciated. Let me know if you can help.

Thank you to Kevin Sargent. Tonight's HOWS was on marking queens which turned out to be a fun and interesting evening. He demonstrated how to hold the queen while marking and then clipping the wings. We then did an inspection on KBA 1&2. KBA 2 Kevin found 5-7 queen cells which then led to a search for signs of a queen. The hive had a strong population of bees. Kevin's sharp eyes found a queen. However it wasn't the blue dot queen that was in the hive. It was a newly hatched queen! So KBA2 must have swarmed at some point? Hopefully the new queen will mate well and provide us with a couple years of outstanding service.

Just a reminder that HOWS is open to everyone. Bring your bee suit and a question or two. Or just come to talk about bees.

Hope to see you there!

-Shreve Soule



Kevin Sargent marking a queen at the KBA apiary.



Queen cells in KBA 2.

## 2021 HANDS ON WORKSHOPS (HOWS) IN FULL SWING

This year's HOWS have started at the KBA Sunapee apiary. The remaining 2021 schedule is below. Please note that waivers are required to be signed for those visiting the apiary. A copy of the waiver can be found on the clubs website or picked up at the apiary. Come check out the apiary, share some knowledge and experience, swap some stories and get some tips all while working with the KBA bees. Come and join the fun! (Dates and times subject to change. Be sure to check our KBA-NH Facebook page for cancelation or rescheduling announcements.)

Jun 2	Wed	6pm	Check feed/Queen release/Hive room	
Jun 12	Sat	t/f Meeting 10am	Supering	Kevin Sargent
Jun 16	Wed	6pm	Check feed / Room / Queens laying	
Jun 22	Tues	6pm	Inspection	Kim Pease <b>**Note day of week**</b>
Jun 30	Wed	6pm	Dearth- Its coming.	
Jul 10	Sat	t/f Meeting 10am	Brood diseases State bee inspector??	
Jul 13	Tues	6pm	Inspection/Check Supers	Kim Pease <b>**Note day of week**</b>
Jul 21	Wed	6pm	Mite check and possible treatments	
Jul 28	Wed	6pm	Inspection	
Aug 4	Wed	6pm	Honey extraction	Dana Ramspott
Aug 11	Sat	t/f Meeting 10am	Mite treatment? Feeding for winter	
Aug 18	Wed	6pm	Inspection	
Aug 25	Wed	6pm	Inspection	
Sep 1	Wed	6pm	Inspection	
Aug 14	Wed	6pm	Inspection	
Aug 25	Wed	6pm	Inspection	
Sep 1	Wed	6pm	Mite check/inspection	
Sep 11	Sat	t/f Meeting 10am	Check feed/access for winter	
Nov/Oct	TBA		Winterizing your hive	Dana Ramspott

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



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT... PIPING QUEENS

Brian Jasinski recently posted some great video/audio of queen bees piping on the KBA-NH Facebook page.



According to Wikipedia: Piping describes a noise made by virgin and mated queen bees during certain times of the virgin queens' development. Fully developed virgin queens communicate through vibratory signals: "quacking" from virgin queens in their queen cells and "tooting" from queens free in the colony, collectively known as piping. A virgin queen may frequently pipe before she emerges from her cell and for a brief time afterwards. Mated queens may briefly pipe after being released in a hive.

Piping is most common when there is more than one queen in a hive. It is postulated that the piping is a form of battle cry announcing to competing queens and show the workers their willingness to fight. It may also be a signal to the worker bees which queen is the most worthwhile to support.

Thanks for sharing Brian!

## MEET THE MEMBERS

Did you know that KBA has 93 members? We see each other at meetings, on Zoom, and at HOWs. But COVID has really put a damper on getting to know each other. We thought it might be fun if each month we introduce a few members and tell a bit about who they are and why they are interested in bees. Of course we'll need volunteers... so don't be shy... step right up! If interested in sharing a little about yourself send Marilyn Milne an email at [calico.keeper@gmail.com](mailto:calico.keeper@gmail.com). We can't wait to meet you!

WHO: Marilyn Milne

WHAT: Bees... 4 hives (Russians and Italians)

WHEN: Since 2020

WHERE: North Sutton, NH

WHY: I have always had an interest in bees and the important role they play in our environment. I knew that someday I would like to try to "keep" bees, but it wasn't until I was 45 that I jumped in, went to bee school and bought my first hives; two Russian nucleus colonies. I have yet to venture into the production side of the process, but have thoroughly enjoyed learning about my bees in this first year.

This spring I got a bee suit for my boys (7 years old) and have loved getting them out in the yard with me. Hearing them talk about queen cells, drones and the dreaded varroa destructor has been great and the expression when you open the lid and they look in for the first time... priceless.





## UPDATED CDC MASK GUIDANCE

Recently updated mask guidance from CDC provides recommendations of safe mask protocol relative to social activities. Guidance varies depending on whether an individual is fully vaccinated or not.

With case numbers decreasing and social guidelines becoming less restrictive, it will be so wonderful to see each other in person! **As we start to gather again, KBA kindly requests that, if attending meetings and gatherings associated with KBA, please follow the mask wearing guidance in the chart below.**

THANK YOU!

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/pdfs/324153\\_choosingSaferActivities11.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/pdfs/324153_choosingSaferActivities11.pdf)

# Choosing Safer Activities

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

		Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>		
Least Safe	Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
			Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
			Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people	
	Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
	Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		<b>Indoor</b>		
Least Safe	Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
			Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
			Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe	Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
			Attend a full-capacity worship service	
			Sing in an indoor chorus	
			Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
			Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

**Get a COVID-19 vaccine**

**Prevention measures not needed**

**Take prevention measures**  
Wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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## **BEE TALK**

The Colby Sawyer College librarian is looking for someone to give a talk about beekeeping. Sounds like it will be given in the evening for around 1 hour to 90 minutes. Target audience is college age and older.

If you are interested in this please let me know and I will give you the contact information.

Thanks,

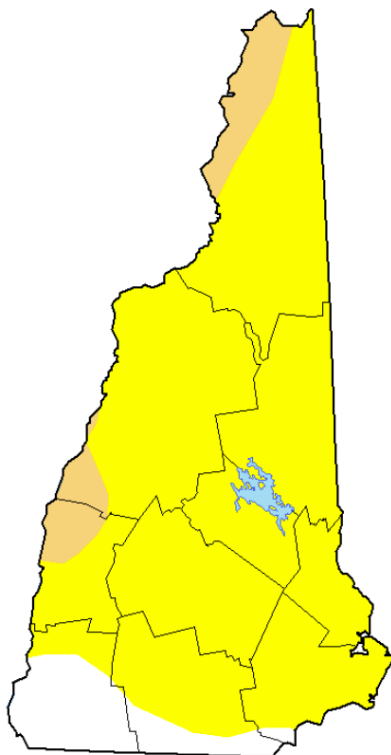
Shreve Soule

shreveosoule63@gmail.com



## **Could we see another drought in 2021?**

Some folks are still hurting from last years drought and the persistent dry weather has not helped to replenish ground water or surface water in many areas. The US Drought Monitor is updated weekly (on Thursdays) and provides a quick glance of the current drought status around the country. New Hampshire is currently abnormally dry across the state with some moderate drought conditions in a few counties. The rain over Memorial Day weekend will certainly help, but more is needed to fully recover from these dry conditions. It would be wonderful to intersperse these rain events with some sun and warmer temperatures! Fingers crossed we are headed in that direction! ([www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu))



**Map released: Thurs. May 27, 2021**

**Data valid: May 25, 2021 at 8 a.m. EDT**

### **Intensity**

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

### **Authors**

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):  
**Adam Hartman**, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):  
**Ahira Sanchez-Lugo**, NOAA/NCEI

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.*

## TICK CHECKS

There is certainly no shortage of ticks this year. Seems you can't cross the yard without picking up at least one.

The NH Department of Agriculture Markets and Foods provides resources for tick information and identification; and UNH Cooperative Extension provides a very thorough factsheet on "The Biology and Management of Ticks in New Hampshire" (links below).

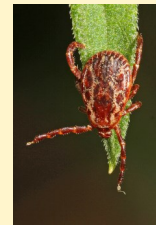
If you have concerns about a tick bite you should reach out to your doctor for guidance. Your doctor may be able to have the tick tested for disease.

In a recent beekeeper chat someone mentioned seeing their bees carry off a tick that was at the entrance of one of their hives. That would be worth seeing!

When you come in from the yard... don't forget the TICK CHECK!!!

[www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/plant-industry/tick-identification.htm](http://www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/plant-industry/tick-identification.htm)

[www.extension.unh.edu/resources/files/resource000528\\_rep1451.pdf](http://www.extension.unh.edu/resources/files/resource000528_rep1451.pdf)



Italian Queens and packages from Bam Fleury's recent trip to Georgia. Rob O'Neil and others helped to hand out packages. It was a beautiful day to pick up bees!

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Randy (Bam) Fleury  
Vice President: Betsey McNaughten  
Treasurer: Robin Gray  
Secretary: Laurie Hardt  
Newsletter: Marilyn Milne

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

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