

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June has come and gone in the wink of an eye. My bees are capping honey. It's a lot of work for me to keep ahead of them so they don't backfill the brood chamber. Luckily for me I'm a small operation and I can pull frames as I need to, extract them, and put them back in the hives.

My two yards of black locust flow didn't happen but the black cherry was very strong. I've been watching the basswood trees and by the time this newsletter comes out they should be in full bloom. I have two yards with a lot of basswood trees.

The summer picnic is coming up July 24th at the Ramspott Farm with a rain date of the 25th. I look forward to being able to enter the smoker contest this year. Dana's going to have to be the judge. Smokers are provided; bring your own smoker fuel. For those of you that don't feel comfortable with your smoker skills, we will have past club and state champs giving tips.

The Club is in need of more mentors to help out the new beekeepers and the apiary committee has a few dates open for people to run HOW's.

The possibility a couple field trips or workshops are being worked on. Stay tuned for more details.

I look forward to seeing you all at the picnic. Remember we have no July meeting because of the picnic.

Bee happy and bee safe!

Randy "Bam" Fleury



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NEXT MEETING

AUG 14, 2021 @ 9:00 AM
In person at the KBA apiary or via Zoom.
Zoom invite to be sent prior to meeting.

AGENDA TO INCLUDE

- Treasurer's Report**
- Apiary Committee Update**
- Shed Committee Update**
- NHBA Update**
- And Other Topics**



*** KBA ANNUAL PICNIC ***

July 24th @ 11:00AM
At the KBA Apiary
Rain date: July 25th

See page 4 for more info.

Please note that there will be no July meeting due to the July 24th picnic.

JUNE KBA MEETING NOTES

Saturday, June 12th, 2021 9:00 Apiary/Zoom

Members Present: Randy Fleury, Shreve Soule, Laurie Hardt, Bill Goggin, Jim Pollock, Kevin Sargent, Amelia Lantz, Pete Rauert, Laurie McBride, Larry Schissel (on Zoom), and approx. 4 others via Zoom.

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

Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed by Laurie Hardt. Pete Rauert made a motion to accept the minutes, and Laurie McBride seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report

Robin Gray is not present today.

Old Business

Marilyn Milne is taking over the newsletter. She is looking for club members to be featured in a new section of the newsletter called "Meet the Members." If you are interested, please send an email to Marilyn at kbanhclub@gmail.com.

We are following the CDC guidelines. These were sent out in the June newsletter.

We are looking for people to run the Hands On Workshops. Bill Goggin did a great job last Wednesday (June 9th).

Apiary Committee/Hands On Workshops

Today's HOWS will be done by Kevin Sargent and the topic is Supering. Locust, clover, Indian paintbrush are all in bloom now.

Please email Shreve at

shreveosoule63@gmail.com if you would be willing to sign up to be the mentor for one (or more) HOW's nights.

Speaker Needed

Kevin Sargent said that Deb Stevens, from Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, is looking for a speaker in August to talk about "beekeeping basics" for an agriculture class in Enfield. The meeting is August 4th at 10:30 am at the Enfield

Shaker Museum. The speaker would have an hour and a half. Kevin has her number if you are interested in speaking.

Shed Committee

John Chadwick reported that Durgin and Crowell Lumber Company in Springfield, NH has donated lumber in the name of Malcolm and Marilyn Milne.

Bam said that Dana has a door. He hasn't asked LaValleys for framing materials yet. Dana is talking to the town about a site permit. He asked Bam to speak to his friend who had volunteered to donate framing material.

John said the shed will be built in August. We will keep you posted on the date. If you're willing to help bring a hammer, a screwdriver, a tape measure, a good attitude, and FOOD!

New Business

KBA Picnic

There was a discussion about when we could hold the KBA picnic. Amelia Lantz made a motion to hold the picnic on Saturday, July 24th, with a rain date of Sunday, July 25th.

John Chadwick seconded the motion. A vote was held. Kevin Sargent was opposed, and all others were in favor.

There will be a smoker contest with a class prior to it. More information to follow.



JUNE KBA MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

Lumber for shed

Kevin Sargent picked up the donated lumber today. It will be unloaded after the meeting. Shreve is preparing a spot with the weed whacker.

John Chadwick stated that, as for the framing lumber, he would rather get lumber donated from a mill. It is easier to work with than freshly cut lumber. The Shed Committee will discuss this and decide.

State Insurance

Kevin Sargent stated that we give the state \$200 a year for insurance, and we have our own policy that we pay approx \$275 a year. He asked why we pay the state if it doesn't do anything for us.

Lifetime Membership

Kevin Sargent made a motion for KBA to give lifetime membership to the Ben Crowell family and Malcolm and Marilyn Milne for the donation of lumber for the shed.

This was seconded by Shreve Soule.

Larry Schissel (present on Zoom) suggested that we give them the honey from the apiary this year and place a Thank You in the Kearsarge Shopper (with a photo of the shed).

Laurie Hardt will get 2 thank you cards. All members who attend the KBA picnic this summer can sign the cards.

A vote was held and all were in favor.

Member Hive Share

Several members present shared information about their own hives.

Amelia Lantz has been working with Troy Hall. She's been learning a lot and feeling lucky to work with him.

Pete Rauert shared that he is halfway through the Cornell Master Beekeeping Class. He said it is a fantastic course and very rewarding. Pete is in Grantham if anyone in that area needs a mentor. 603-331-2028.....p.rauert@gmail.com

At 9:55 am Shreve Soule made a motion to adjourn

JUNE 12, 2021 CLUB MEETING AND HOWS AT THE KBA APIARY





KBA Club Picnic

Saturday, July 24th, 2021

(rain date, Sunday, July 25th)

at the Ramspott Farm

223 North Road, Sunapee

Dana has mowed a huge open space in the front field!

Smoker Contest starts at 11:00 am

(rules provided before the contest)

Raffle: Donations needed. Please bring to the farm the day of the picnic.



RSVP: Please let us know you're attending by emailing kbanhclub@gmail.com or leave a message for Laurie Hardt at (603) 491-8262

Bring your own: food, drinks, chairs, veils, etc.

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 smoker's pot.

The last smoker producing smoke is the Grand Champion.

2021 HANDS ON WORKSHOPS (HOWS) IN FULL SWING

The remaining 2021 HOWs 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.)

Jul 10	Sat	10 am	Mite check / Brood diseases	
Jul 21	Wed	6 pm	Mite treatment?	
Jul 28	Wed	6 pm	Winter Feeding	
Aug 4	Wed	6 pm	Honey extraction	Dana Ramspott
Aug 14	Sat	t/f Meeting 10 am	No HOWs—Shed Work	John Chadwick
Aug 18	Wed	6 pm	Inspection—TBA	
Aug 25	Wed	6 pm	Inspection—Is feeding needed?	
Sep 1	Wed	6 pm	Mite Count / Treatment?	
Sep 11	Sat	10 am	Inspection—TBA	
Sep 15	Wed	6 pm	Inspection—TBA	
Sep 22	Wed	6 pm	Remove feed for mite treatment	
Nov/Oct		TBA	Winterizing your hive	Dana Ramspott

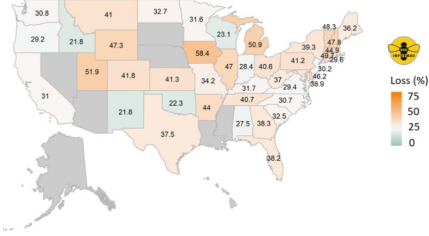
Please email Shreve at shreveosoule63@gmail.com if you would be willing to sign up to be the mentor for one (or more) HOWS nights.

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2020-2021 Managed Honey Bee Winter Colony Loss Rates



2020-21 WINTER LOSS SURVEY, PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Read more about the Winter Loss Survey on the “Bee Informed” website and see the preliminary results of the 2020—2021 survey.

[Winter Loss Survey – Bee Informed Partnership](#)

MEET THE MEMBERS

WHO: Brian Jasinski

WHEN: 2016, 5th Year Beekeeper

WHERE: Windsor, VT

WHY: Brian started beekeeping in 2016 after attending a seminar and working with a fellow beekeeper, now friend and mentor. He started with two hives. Brian shared that he has always been fascinated with pollinators such as bumble bees and honey bees.

“I’ve always been amazed with them, and enjoy the hardship they put into making wax and honey of course.”

Brian soon joined KBA through another great friend, and after a couple years became vice-president of the club. He helped mentor others while growing, learning, and expanding his business. Now in his fifth year of beekeeping, he has a total of 200 colonies from the two he started with in 2016. It’s a combination of queen castles, nucleus, and production colonies.

“It’s a lot of work, fun, and is very rewarding. I don’t mind getting stung; it keeps me attentive. I encourage all who are fascinated with pollinators to try beekeeping, join a club, find a mentor, and keep learning. Like anything, over time you will get better.”



There are 93 members in KBA! We started this section of the newsletter as a way to get to know each other a little better. If you are willing to introduce yourself and share a bit about your love for bees, reach out to Marilyn Milne at calico.keeper@gmail.com. We can’t wait to meet you!

BLOOMS OF JUNE AND JULY

This spring has been great for blooms and bees. The nectar and pollen loving creatures have been kept busy with a fantastic flow. Bees in my yard are now happily working the white clover. Other blooms that you may see for bees in June/July include: basswood, milkweed, elderberry, caneberries, summer-sweet, and goldenrod, just to name a few.

After a disappointing zero bloom reported for black locust this spring, it sounds like we are in for a phenomenal basswood flow. What blooms are your bees busy with these days?



Scientists Evolve a Fungus to Battle Deadly Honey Bee Parasite

From Science Magazine

Has *varroa destructor* met its match? This interesting article by Erik Stokstad, published in Science Magazine, provides some hope that an additional option in mite control may be available in the future. Researchers have successfully created a biopesticide in the form of a heat resistant, varroa blasting, fungus.



<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/06/scientists-evolve-fungus-battle-deadly-honey-bee-parasite>

NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK, JUNE 21–27, 2021

“This week we celebrate pollinators, essential partners to our Nation’s food system. Pollinator species, such as birds, bats, bees, and other insects play a vital role in producing more than 100 crops grown in the United States, ensuring Americans have a variety of fruits, vegetables, and nuts to support a healthy diet. These species are critical to the continued economic wellbeing of agricultural producers.” - USDA Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack

Read more about Pollinator week here: [usda-national-pollinator-week-proclamation-2021.pdf](#) and [Pollinator Week | Pollinator.org](#)



WORKSHOP REVIEW

SUSTAINABLE BEEKEEPING FOR YOUR SMALL APIARY

I recently listened to a workshop on Sustainable Beekeeping for your Small Apiary. It was hosted by Maine Organic Farmer and Gardener Association (MOFGA) and taught by Master Beekeeper, Karen Thurlow. One of the big take away messages from Karen was “Don’t Procrastinate”! If you think your hives need something, get out there and do it! She shared some great information and tips on how to create a sustainable apiary which included:

- Swarm prevention through managing queens, space and ventilation;
- Using the bee’s natural tendency to swarm to your benefit;
- Creating nucs in each yard to ensure resources are always readily available; and
- Regular (monthly) mite checks, particularly when winter bees are being raised to ensure the healthiest bees going into the winter.

After the workshop, Karen recommended the following resources:

- The Beekeepers Handbook
- Honey Bee Diseases and Pests

What great workshops have you listened to lately?



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

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