

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

*It was so good to see you all at the Harvest Dinner and to hear Kirk Webster speak the following day. For those of you who couldn't make it, we missed you, and you missed a very good speaker. Hopefully your hives are all wrapped up for the winter. Maybe you'll be doing one more OA treatment soon. We're at that time of the year where we're ordering new equipment and getting ready for next year.*

*The Bee School Committee has been emailing back and forth to prepare for the Jan 2022 session. We have the registration form, flyers and ads ready to go. They'll probably be placed in the next week or so. We will not be having a meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 8th.*

*I hope you're all staying safe and looking forward to another year of beekeeping.*



*Sincerely,  
Randy "Bam"  
Fleury*



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### NEXT MEETING

JANUARY 8 , 2022  
 @ 9:00 AM

In person location TBD. Zoom invite to be sent prior to meeting.

- AGENDA TO INCLUDE:  
*Minutes from the Previous Meeting*  
*Treasurer’s Report*  
*Apiary Committee Update*  
*Old Business*  
*New Business*

## OCTOBER 2021 KBA MEETING NOTES

### October 9th, 2021 KBA Meeting Notes

Members present at the apiary: Randy (Bam) Fleury, John Chadwick, Bob DeLuca, Jeff Nintzel, Kathy Ordway, Laurie Hardt

Bam called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Treasurer's Report

Robin Gray is not in attendance today.

### Apiary Report

Committee Chairperson: Shreve Soule

John Chadwick read the apiary report for Shreve Soule who could not attend today.

Shreve, Dana Ramspott and John Chadwick met on October 2nd, 2021. They decided that John would lead the work detail after the meeting on October 9th. The door to the shed will be installed. The bay window will be removed, trim placed under it, and then remounted. A workbench is to be built and mounted on the front wall. Dana will provide adjustable shelving mounts. The second floor boards need to be installed.

They also discussed moving the electric fence to include the shed. Came to the conclusion to leave it as is. We do need to adjust the tension of the wires.

Also discussed all hive equipment in the yard that is not in use.

Committee is looking into having a weed whacker on site. New vs used? No decision was reached.

After the shed is complete, we need to clear out Dana's shed. 10/16?

Committee is looking at purchases of equipment to keep on hand at the apiary. We are waiting to see what the final expenses from building the shed are.

The cost of the shed was estimated to be close to \$7000. Due to the generous donations from Durgin and Crowell (Malcolm and Marilyn Milne), Lumber Barn, and LaValleys, the final cost is about \$2000.48.

### Harvest Dinner

No one from that committee is in attendance.

### Hands On Workshop question

Bob DeLuca had a question about the HOWs. He doesn't have Facebook, and is wondering how he can be notified if a HOWS is cancelled. He asked who makes the decision to cancel, and who puts it on Facebook. He wondered who he could contact before driving over to the apiary.

A discussion about weather and different presenters followed. Sometimes the presenter cancels due to inclement weather. These decisions are usually posted on our Facebook page. The weather is hard to predict and at times these decisions are "last minute."

Also a few times this year, the presenter did not have anyone in attendance at their Hands On Workshop.

We came to the conclusion that next year it would be helpful if the HOWS presenter would include their contact number on the presenter schedule so that they could be contacted prior to the workshop. Also, if one decides to cancel and there is time, an email could be sent out to all members by the secretary. It was also discussed that members may be asked to RSVP to the HOWS they are planning on attending. It would be great for the presenter to know who is planning on attending. Everybody's time is valuable, and all of these workshop leaders VOLUNTEER to do this.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 by Bob DeLuca  
Seconded by John Chadwick



# NOVEMBER 2021 KBA MEETING NOTES

## November 20th, 2021 KBA Meeting Notes

This was a short meeting, held prior to Kirk Webster's presentation, primarily to get a Treasurer's report.

Members present: Randy (Bam) Fleury, Robin and Myra Gray, Laurie Hardt, Bill Goggin, Kim Pease, Bill DeLuca, Linda Hartman, Susan Menard, Shreve Soule, John Chadwick, and Kim Tuttle (There were 8 other members present whose names I didn't get.)

At 9:06 Bam called the meeting to order.

Bam said that the advertisements for Bee School 2021 had been approved, but have not been sent out yet. He hopes they will be advertised soon.

Kim Pease was asked about the website. She said she will update the website as soon as possible.

## Apiary Report

Shreve Soule stated that Dana's barn had been cleaned out. All items had been put in the shed.

There will be a clipboard to sign out the extractor. It will include a place for your name, phone number, and the estimated date of return.

Anyone who has receipts for items purchased for the shed needs to get the receipts turned in to Robin for reimbursement.

## Treasurer's Report

Robin Gray reported that there is presently a \$6,658 balance in the account.

He reported that the Porta-Potty expenditure is \$780 a year (May to October). Also, approximately \$1800 (so far) has been spent on the shed.

We have 100 current members which is about the same as last year.

He also said that Mary Lloyd-Evans and (her son and daughter-in-law) Peter and Anne Lloyd-Evans, donated \$100 in memory of Peter Zak, a former KBA president from 2008-2010 and member of our club, who passed away recently. Laurie will send thank you cards to both.

KBA Club dues of \$20 per person are due by January 1st. You may also choose a single lifetime membership for a one time cost of \$175 or a family lifetime membership for a one time cost of \$250. Please make checks payable to KBA or Kearsarge Beekeepers Association. Mail to: Robin Gray, PO Box 275, Warner, NH 03278

The raffle held at last night's Harvest Dinner raised \$183 for the club.

Amelia made a motion at 9:20 to accept the treasurer's report and adjourn the meeting.

Kim Tuttle seconded the motion.



Milne Photo 2020

*In winter we lead a more inward life. Our hearts are warm and cheery, like cottages under drifts...*

*- Henry David Thoreau*

# DECEMBER

## In the hive

The bees are in their winter cluster, and there is little to no egg laying in December.

## Seasonal conditions

In Ithaca, NY, in December, the average minimum and maximum temperatures are 22°F and 36°F, with 13" of snow and 2" of other precipitation. The shortest day of the year is December 21, although the earliest sunset is on December 8 at 4:32pm.

Nothing is in bloom, except perhaps some varieties of witch hazel.



## Beekeeping activities

### Equipment

- Order any replacement bees (packages, nucs, or queens) as soon as possible; producers generally run out fast.
- Clean your honey house, freezer, or other areas that are chaotic/full in the active season.
- Take inventory. Fix, clean/sterilize, purchase, assemble, and paint equipment as needed.

### Yard maintenance

- Remove ice blocking the hive entrances, to give the colonies better ventilation. Don't worry about snow around the entrance or hive body; it allows enough airflow and may help insulate the bees.

### Education and outreach

- Spend this time reflecting on what went well and what you might change next year. Plan for your upcoming year: do you want to downsize or scale up, try out a new form of honey production, get into the pollination business, or something else?
- Catch up on Bee Culture and American Bee Journal - and renew your subscription!

**What bee plans do you have for the winter? Any webinars, books or other references you're a looking forward to catching up on? Check out these references shared by KBA members:**

- [Steppler Farms and A Canadian Beekeepers Blog](#)
- [Hampshire Hives](#)
- [Beekeeper Confidential - Bees and Beekeeping on Apple Podcasts](#)
- [Catching up on back issues of American Bee Journal](#)
- [KBA Bee School](#)



*Photo by William Goggin*



**\*\*\* 2021 Harvest Dinner \*\*\***

Many thanks to those that helped coordinate, set up and clean up; brought a dish, hung out or just stopped by our 2021 Harvest Dinner. It was wonderful to see and “bee” with friends. Good food and good times. A successful raffle and honey tasting contest too!



Congratulations to Susan Menard of Slice of Heaven Apiary in Weare, NH for winning the honey tasting contest!



Kirk Webster (Champlain Valley Bees and Queens) joined us and shared information on his treatment free beekeeping methods at a presentation the day after our harvest dinner. Learn more about Kirk and his treatment free beekeeping at [www.kirkwebster.com](http://www.kirkwebster.com).

## KBA APIARY UPDATES

That's a wrap! Thank you to all who coordinated, lead and participated in our 2021 HOWs!



REMINDER: Any members of the shed building committee who purchased items and still have receipts from the shed build, please get them to Robin before the end of the year.

The Apiary Committee will be purchasing some items to have on hand in the shed, such as sugar, dry pollen substitute, etc. We often just drop by on the way home from work to weed whack or top off the feed if needed. **\*\*\*If anyone has a gas powered weed whacker they don't use anymore and would like to donate to the club, you can send me an email.\*\*\***

### HOWS for 2022

Next year we are looking at holding HOWS once a month at someone's personal apiary. We would join you for a routine hive inspection at your apiary. I will send out a volunteer request after the new year. Also, if anyone thinks they have a disease process going on in their hive, I would love to arrange a HOWS so other members can see and learn. Nothing like a show and tell mystery to learn from!

Happy Holidays!

Shreve Soule, Apiary Manager  
shreveosoule63@gmail.com

## 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)

