

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We are more than halfway through the 2022 KBA Bee School. I would like to welcome all the new members that are currently enrolled. Sessions seem to be going quite well!

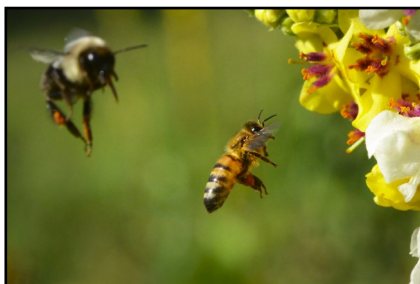
February and March is the time of year where you should be building new equipment, repairing old equipment, and getting ready for a new year. It's also a good time for you to be thinking about ordering replacement bees for those that have died, or if you are expanding your apiary.

New Hampshire Beekeeper Association will be having a booth at the NH Farm, Forest & Garden Expo this year. John Chadwick and myself will be manning the booth Friday, February 4th, between 4 PM and 6 PM. You should stop on by!

You will not want to miss our next monthly meeting, March 5, 2022. We'll be talking about old business, new business and where the club wants to go for this coming year. We would love to have input from all members regarding goals, activities and other things you would like to see the club pursuing in 2022.

Sincerely,

Randy “Bam” Fleury



KBA member Scott Niemyer recently shared some of his amazing photography with us. This is one of my favorites. Look for more of Scott’s awesome pics in upcoming newsletters and presentations! Thanks Scott!



Photo by Scott Niemyer

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NEXT MEETING

MARCH 5 , 2022
@ 9:00 AM

In person @ the Warner Town Hall

Zoom invite to be sent prior to meeting.

***** PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. USUALLY PLANNED FOR THE SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, THE MARCH MEETING WILL BE ON THE FIRST SATURDAY, MARTH 5TH. *****

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

- Minutes from the Previous Meeting*
- Treasurer’s Report*
- Scholarship Committee Update*
- KBA Goals for 2022*
- Old Business*
- New Business*

JANUARY 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES

Saturday, January 8th, 2022 KBA meeting, Zoom only

Members in attendance: Randy Fleury, Betsey McNaughten, Susan Menard, Larry Schissel, Marilyn Milne, Amelia Lantz, Bob DeLuca, Kim Pease, Troy Hall, Joey Byrnes, Bill Beardslee, Laurie Hardt, Ann Harris

At 9:00 am the meeting was called to order by Randy "Bam" Fleury.

Laurie Hardt read the minutes from the November Meeting. There is a correction to the date for Bee School, it should say 2022 instead of 2021. The minutes were approved.

No treasurer's report today.

Bee School 2022

Question from Larry Schissel regarding Bee School: Is there a deadline for registration? He has a neighbor who would like to attend.

Laurie replied that we are still accepting registrations, each session on Zoom will be recorded in case someone is unable to attend on the presentation date. Textbooks are being mailed out by Robin, but the book could also be delivered locally, if needed.

The presentation schedule has been sent out to all presenters. The Zoom person will also work as the moderator for the session they are signed up for.

Amelia has the box of photographs that can be used by presenters, if needed. They are presently being stored in her garage, but she plans to return them to the apiary.

On the first day of Bee School 2022, Betsey will welcome all participants to the class and introduce the speakers for January 15th.

We presently have 10 participants signed up, but we have had late registrations in the past and may get more before next week.

Marilyn said that KBA member Scott Niemeyer has shared some of his photographs for Bee School 2022.

Bam said that there will be a package of bees donated to the Bee School 2022 raffle.

NHBA Discussion

Troy asked what was going on with the New Hampshire Beekeepers Association.

Susan is pursuing a local program for gamma radiation. She reached out to NH apiary inspector David Priebe who is in support of that and sent her the Zoom link to participate in the NHBA meeting on Thursday, January 13th, 2022.

Betsey said the NHBA meetings tend to go late into the evening, and she is often not able to attend the complete meeting. Marilyn volunteered to attend these meetings as an alternate, if needed. Bam will add Marilyn as the "alternate."

The NHBA meeting minutes are a good resource for members to use.

Insurance Discussion

Kim Pease said the liability insurance for our club provided through the state will be due soon. Bam has concerns that they will not cover us due to having met "in person" at the apiary.

A discussion followed with many questions about insurance and especially the policy we purchased for the club after opening the apiary. It was decided that we would ask our treasurer Robin Gray to find out the answers to the following list. Laurie will email these this to Robin.

(continued on next page...)

JANUARY 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

Questions and requests regarding the insurance policy KBA purchased

1. What does our policy cover in regard to meeting places? Are we covered only at the apiary, or are we covered when we meet somewhere else as well (a public meeting space like a library or town hall)?
2. Are the club officers covered under the basic liability?
3. Have the Rampsotts (where the apiary is located) been listed as additional insurers on the policy, or if the property is in a trust is the trust listed?
4. We also need to add another person as a contact person on this policy. Presently, the insurance agent only speaks with Robin Gray, our treasurer. We want to add the president or the vice president as a contact as well.

Items for KBA March Agenda

Troy had a great question, "What direction do we want our club to go in 2022?" There were many ideas, and we decided to discuss the following ideas more at our next meeting.

Suggestions included: queen rearing, a nuc building demonstration or workshop, making online lectures from other clubs or organizations available to our members via the newsletter or Facebook page, schedule working visits to member apiaries, scheduling HOWS at member apiaries, a "hands on" fencing workshop,

equipment building workshops, update our website, Bee School Scholarship for 2023

Members who have volunteered so far:

- Troy Hall is always willing and available to have anyone in the club get "in the field, hands on experience" making nucs, harvesting queens, etc. He will know the first part of April what his schedule looks like.
- Bob DeLuca is interested in hosting a HOWS at his apiary.
- Kim Pease would like to do a fencing workshop.

If any members have ideas or needs for beekeeping they would like to see addressed, please share those with us at the March meeting.

Other

Larry Schissel has a weed whacker that he would like to donate to the apiary.

February Farm, Forest & Garden Expo is Friday, February 4th, and Saturday, Feb 5th. Joan O'Connor will be at the NOFA booth and would be willing to hand out brochures about our club. Bam will get some to her.

NHBA will also be there, at booths 211 and 213.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17am.



Bam Fleury will have packages of bees available in early April and Russian nucleus colonies mid to late April. Anyone interested should contact him at randybeeman4@gmail.com for more information.



Kevin Sargent's Essential Oil Recipe

Spring Recipe

2 Milliliters Of Tea Tree Oil
2 Milliliters Of Thyme Oil
2 Milliliters Of Spearmint Oil
1/2 Milliliters Of Lemongrass Oil

Fall Recipe

2 Milliliters Of Tea Tree Oil
4 Milliliters Of Thyme Oil
2 Milliliters Of Wintergreen

The above recipes are for making up 5 gals of sugar syrup to add into the sugar syrup that you will feed to your bees.

Generally feed a minimum of 1 Gal of this essential oil sugar syrup per hive but the more the Qty of this you feed them the better the results.

You need to designate a blender for this only as the smell will stay within the blender. Or it might be best to buy one for this purpose only.

In the fall you will notice that the recipe has doubled up on the Thyme dosage as that will give you a Heavy Varroa mite knock down for winter.

Add about 12 ozs of water to the blender and then add oils and run the blender with cover on top on high speed to emulsify for 5 minutes it will look like a milkshake color inside the blender.

You can use lecithin granules and a 1/2 teaspoon would be more than enough. Lecithin will keep the oils mixed better with the water which may separate in an hour but just shake the container and pour out what you need for say a 1 gallon batch.

Be sure to add the water first to the blender first. If you put straight essential oils into your blender it will eat up the rubber seals fast. Always rinse blender out at least 3 or more times with hot faucet water and run short cycles to get everything/oil residue removed before storage.

A small eye dropper with milliliter graduations can be purchased in the beauty section of a store.

- Kevin



FOCUS ON 2022

What goals do you think KBA should focus on for 2022? Do you have ideas for KBA events in 2022?

Please join us at our next regular meeting, March 5th, in person at the Warner Town Hall, or via Zoom, to participate in a group discussion regarding KBA's goals for 2022.

Initial ideas include:

- Visiting other members apiaries for HOWs
- Guest Speakers
- Workshops (Fencing, NUCs, Queen Raising)
- Advanced Bee School
- Scholarship
- Slovenian Hives
- Collaboration with other groups



Photo by Scott Niemyer

2022 KBA MEMBERSHIPS AND DUES

KBA Memberships due January 1.



A special reminder for everyone to make sure to send their dues in to Robin Gray.

More inf and form can be found on the kbanh.org website.

Please also submit a form to Robin to update any of your information (like a new email).

Please make checks payable to KBA or Kearsarge Beekeepers Association.

Mail to: Robin Gray, PO Box 275, Warner, NH 03278

Membership benefits include: HOWs, Newsletter (emailed and on website), Library, Mentors, Access to the KBA Facebook for members page

Dues are: \$20 for individual, \$175 Individual lifetime, and \$250 Family lifetime

Gamma Irradiation Program

Gamma irradiation can be used to sterilize hive equipment from microorganisms and diseases that may be harmful to honey bees. This can be especially helpful if you have recurrent hive losses.

Susan Menard is coordinating this year's Gamma Irradiation Program for the disinfection of beekeeping equipment. This will take place on or around April 1st. Susan will provide the inspection dates, as soon as they are determined.

If you are interested, reach out to Susan at sm-menard@outlook.com or 603-529-1311 for more information. Please note that prompt response is encouraged since participation will be limited.

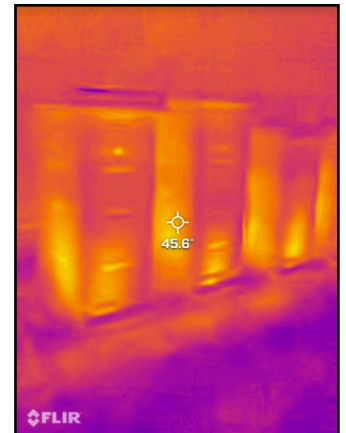
For more information on Gamma Irradiation you can visit

- Steritech - [Beekeeping - Steritech](https://steritech.com.au/industries/beekeeping) (<https://steritech.com.au/industries/beekeeping>)
- Extract and Box - [Gamma Irradiation – Extract and Box](https://extractandbox.com/forthebeekeeper) (<https://extractandbox.com/forthebeekeeper>)



Susan Menard recently shared these thermal pictures of her hives before being wrapped for the winter. The brighter areas indicate where the bees are clustering.

The brighter the cluster, the more likely they are to have brood. Photos were taken using a FLIR One Pro attachment for iPhone.



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

