

# Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Spring is almost here. The bees are bringing in pollen. It's time to make sure that your bees don't run out of carbohydrates as they start to raise brood.*

*It's an exciting time of the year for all new beekeepers. Many of you are getting ready for your packages or your nucleus colonies. If you ordered packages from me we're still on for an April 5th pick up. There are still packages available for the May 17th pick up. Nucleus colonies will be ready for pickup at the beginning of May.*

*I am pleased to announce that Shane Howard has been elected President of NHBA. If he is as good as he was when he was KBA President, NHBA will be in great hands.*

*We had our first HOWS and there was a great turn out. Right before the HOWS, we had the first bee school committee meeting. They will give an update at the next regular KBA meeting, April 9th. See you there!*

*Sincerely ,*

*Randy "Bam" Fleury*



*"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart."*

*~ A. A. Milne*



*Photo by Scott Niemyer*

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## NEXT MEETING

APRIL 9 , 2022  
@ 9:00 AM

In person @ the Warner Town Hall  
Zoom invite to be sent prior to meeting.

## AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

- Minutes from the Previous Meeting*
- Treasurer's Report*
- Committee Updates*
- Bee School Committee*
- Scholarship Committee*
- Old Business*
- KBA Goals for 2022*
- Website Discussion*
- New Business*

## MARCH 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES

Meeting was held at the Warner Town Hall and called to order by KBA President, Randy Fleury at 9:00 am.

There were 29 members present and 6 on Zoom.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Robin Gray submitted the Treasurer's Report for 2021. There was a balance of \$6,502.78 at the end of the year. The current paid membership is 23, and there were about 70 to 75 members last year.

Robin also had answers to the questions we had asked at the January 8th, 2022 meeting (see February 2022 newsletter). Robin said that none of the officers are covered under our current policy. The liability covers business relative to the club: any gatherings, business, and at the apiary. The premises at 223 North Road, Sunapee are insured, as well as the owner of the property, activity related to the apiary, honey and supplies. The shed is not covered now, but it should be added. Presently there is no coverage for the shed or equipment. The agent is hard to contact. We still need to add another contact person (other than our treasurer Robin Gray).

Bill Beardslee thought that coverage for officers should also be added. Susan Menard asked if NHBA insurance covers officers, and Robin thinks it only covers meetings.

We had a question about who covers the taxes for the shed at the apiary. Dana Ramspott is not present today. Susan said when she tried to insure her shed under her business, she found out it had to be covered under her property insurance.

We have 3 Lifetime members so far. It is \$250 for a family Lifetime Membership to KBA, \$175 for an individual Lifetime Membership to KBA, and \$20 for a yearly Individual/Family Membership to KBA.

If you have not sent in your 2022 dues yet, please make checks payable to KBA or Kearsarge Beekeepers Association. Mail to: Robin Gray, PO Box 275, Warner, NH 03278. If you need to update your address or email, please download the membership form from our website at

www.kbanh.org and send that to Robin as well.

### **Bee School Committee**

Current chairperson, Kevin Sargent could not be here today due to work. He has informed us that he will be stepping down as Bee School Chairperson, but he will still be willing to help.

Kevin has ordered bee publications to hand out at bee school and also collected donations from these same places for our Bee School raffle. There was a discussion that took place regarding what the bee school committee members do. Things were a little different having Bee School via Zoom for the past two years. This year a lot of planning was done through email. One thing that did not get done was the Bill MacDonald scholarship for Bee School. That is something we want to work on this year so that we can offer that for Bee School 2023.

### **Apiary Committee Report**

Chairperson Shreve Soule reported that the first Hands On Workshop (HOWS) will be Saturday, March 19th at 11:00 am. Shreve will be doing hive autopsies on some dead outs for the first HOWS.

KBA 1 is still alive, there is one dead-out, and the Top Bar Hive does not seem to have a lot of activity.

Shreve spoke about queen-rearing. He is wondering where we will graft eggs from.

He would like to overwinter some nucs at the apiary this year.

He created a new inventory sheet.

Some of the frames at the apiary need wax, old hive bodies need replacing, the electric fence needs some tightening. He would like to purchase some bee packages.

Continued....

## MARCH 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

Dana Ramspott has a Slovenian Hive at the apiary. Shreve will purchase bees for that hive. Help is needed with weed-whacking/mowing every 2 weeks.

Shreve improved upon the hive inspection sheet that we use at the apiary.

He also wants to remind everyone who attends HOWS that they need to sign the liability form which is located in the new shed.

Shreve will send out a copy of the new hive inspections sheet for members to use. He has also asked that anyone interested in hosting a HOWS at their own apiary to please contact him at shreveosoule63@gmail.com.

An email will be sent out, time permitting, if any of the HOWS are canceled. You can also check the KBA Facebook page for last-minute cancellations (usually due to weather).

### **General discussion**

There were some questions regarding the different committees you could join as a member of KBA. John Chadwick explained that the Nomination Committee nominates members for officers. We don't currently have a Functions Committee, but this may be helpful for things like the Summer Picnic and the Harvest Dinner. We had a Shed Committee for the shed build.

Linda Hartman has signed us up for the Warner Town Hall for most of our 2022 meetings. She has also set us up with coffee and snacks. Other members also brought snacks to share at the meeting. (We love snacks!)

### **Ideas/Goals for the year**

Bam wants to help people become sustainable beekeepers by teaching members how to raise queens, make nucs, and take care of mites. The queen rearing would be the whole process and would include several HOWS.

Rather than having an "Advanced Bee School", we are going to incorporate the more advanced classes into the

HOWS.

Bob DeLuca, Marilyn Milne, and Alison Conlon have all volunteered to do a HOWS this year.

Susan Menard is willing to host and mentor and would like members to visit her apiary during the week. She wants to teach observation skills.

Bob is hoping someone will do a HOWS on "What to look for during the Winter". John would like to see a workshop on different ways to wrap hives for the winter. Other ideas included frame building, honey extraction, and box building.

Guest speakers were discussed. Susan Menard, Kim Tuttle, and John Simonds would all be willing to help find some good speakers for our club.

Kim Pease had previously presented the idea that we collaborate with other beekeeping groups. Marilyn Milne thinks it would be interesting to share links to YouTube videos and more. In the past other groups have collaborated to hire speakers. Shreve mentioned that the Southern Ohio Beekeepers have had Randy Oliver as a speaker and he has watched some of these videos.

Marilyn said that the NHBA Spring meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2022.

### **KBA Website**

John Chadwick has been updating the website. He is asking for help managing it, possibly someone with experience as a webmaster. Mike Bellino set it up originally, but he has moved out of state.

Shelby Kinshaw expressed an interest and said she would present ideas at the April meeting.

### **New Business**

Bam spoke about the scholarship for bee school. The scholarship was created in honor of Bill McDonald, a former KBA member. Bam would like to see the information for this scholarship completed by July.

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## MARCH 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

In light of Kevin Sargent stepping down as the committee chairperson, it was decided that a new committee for Bee School 2023 would be started. There were 5 members who were interested in being on this committee and members of the 2022 Bee School Committee would be invited to the meeting. The five members are Marilyn Milne, Susan Menard, John Chadwick, Anna Chancey, and Bob DeLuca. At the first meeting, the group will nominate a chairman and a vice chairman for this committee. Laurie will send out an email to all 2022 Bee School committee members and invite them to the first meeting. If they are interested in continuing to help they should attend the first meeting which will be held at 10:00am at the KBA apiary in Sunapee (right before the first HOWS).

### **Irradiation Program**

Around April 1st, Susan Menard will be having hives inspected for this program. If you would like to have your hives included, please contact Susan at [sm-menard@outlook.com](mailto:sm-menard@outlook.com) or (413) 896-2833 The cost is \$25/\$30 per box and comb. Please freeze equipment for 4 days minimum prior to bagging each hive in a clear plastic bag in a bug-free environment. The hives will be returned in a 2 week period.

### **NH Honeybee Diagnostic Network**

Shreve Soule is taking part in The Winter Wrap Study 2021.

To learn more, go to <https://www.nh-honeybee-health.com>

### **BeeCounted.org**

BeeCounted is a service that displays environmental information from honeybee hives around the world so the data can be analyzed and shared, for the better survival of honeybees and in turn, our own food supply. Data for this site comes from MyBroodMinder.com (formerly beekeeping.io) which gets its hive data from BroodMinder devices. If you're a beekeeper, and would like to share your apiary's information with the public to enhance scientific understanding of honeybees, please purchase a BroodMinder Citizen Science kit from BroodMinder and upload your data to beekeeping.io. KBA member Bob DeLuca's apiary from Warner, NH is represented here.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.



## KBA COMMITTEES

At our last regular meeting, members interested in participating asked for more information on our Committees and what is expected of the members. Below is a description of each Committee; it's roles and functions.

**Apiary Committee** - Shreve Soule, Chair. The Apiary Committee oversees management of the Club Apiary and HOWs. Management includes care of bees as well as apiary grounds.

**KBA Bee School Committee** - John Chadwick, Co-chair; Anna Chancey, Co-chair. The Bee School Committee develops the curriculum for the Clubs annual Bee School. It plans the sessions and enrollment for School. A sub-committee of Bee School manages the KBA Scholarship.

**Nomination Committee** - John Chadwick, Co-chair; Dave Hartman, Co-chair. The Nomination Committee manages nominations for vacant offices.

**Summer Picnic Committee** - Coordinates and plans location and other logistics associated with our annual Summer Picnic.

**Harvest Dinner Committee** - Coordinates and plans location and other logistics associated with our annual Harvest Dinner.

**Ad-hoc Committees** (Organized as needed)

### ***Would you like to get involved with KBA?***

*If you have an interest in participating on a particular committee, don't hesitate to reach out to the Chair. If you'd like to get involved, but are unsure where help is needed, feel free to reach out to any of the Officers listed on the back page of this newsletter or any of the Chairs listed here. We'd welcome the added interest and volunteers!*



## NEWS FROM THE KBA APIARY

### Apiary Committee and HOWs Updates

The first HOWS of the year had a great turnout! Despite the wind and rain we gathered and went through 5 dead outs, most of which were mite related. Bam had one hive with mouse damage and one starvation. Thank you to Dana for allowing us to gather in front of his garage to get out of the wind. There were many good questions and discussions shared amongst new beekeepers and older members. The meeting finally broke up around 1:30!

We will have another HOWS on April 16th at 10 am. New packages will be arriving around the end of the month so we will do a refresher on installing your new bee packages. The club has both plastic and wooden bee packages (empty), so you will be able to practice opening them if you want. Bring your questions and let the discussions begin! This will be a rain or shine at the club apiary.

Keep an eye on those overwintered colonies. Make sure they have enough feed. Sugar cake or fondant is a good option if needed. The bees are starting to bring in a little pollen. Pollen sub patty is fine since the bees are getting fly time at least once a week now.

A second HOWS, Saturday April 30th will be at Kim Pease's home apiary in Andover at 10am. Topic is Electric Fences. Look for a Facebook invite and email with directions and full description of Kim's presentation.

Thanks

Shreve



*Thanks for the great pics Amelia Lantz!!!*

## Bees For Sale

*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](mailto:randybeeman4@gmail.com) for more information.*



*Susan Menard has locally raised nucleus colonies for sale. If interested, she can be reached at 603-529-1311 or 413-896-2833.*

# 2022 KBA CALENDAR

<b>APRIL</b>	9	KBA Meeting @ 9:00 AM, Warner Town Hall
	16	HOWs @ 10:00 AM, KBA Apiary
	30	HOWs @ 10:00 AM, Kim Pease, Andover. More details to come.
<b>MAY</b>	14	KBA Meeting
<b>JUNE</b>	11	KBA Meeting
<b>JULY</b>	TBD	Summer Picnic
<b>AUGUST</b>	13	KBA Meeting
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	10	KBA Meeting
<b>OCTOBER</b>	8	KBA Meeting
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	12	KBA Meeting
	TBD	Harvest Dinner



(Dates and times subject to change. Check KBA Facebook for updates and more information)

## NH Beekeepers 2021-22 Winter Hive Survey

The NH Beekeepers Association (NHBA) is collecting data on 2021-2022 winter beehive survival and comparing it to data collected from the previous 5 years of the survey. This data is being used to understand why our NH winter hive loss has been higher than the national average and what management practices have been helping improve survival.

The survey, which takes 5-10 minutes to complete, is available online until 4/30/2022 at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NH2022HiveSurvey>

**The survey is open to all NH beekeepers. You do not have to be an NHBA member.**

NHBA will be giving away a 1-year membership to one lucky survey participant. In addition, NH beekeeping clubs will compete for membership participation prizes.

Survey analysis and results will be available in mid-June. Results from previous surveys can be found at: <https://www.nh-honeybee-health.com/winter-loss-survey-results>

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

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

