

# Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

*Spring has sprung!*

*The bees are buzzing and the flowers are blooming. It's a busy time of year for us beekeepers: installing new packages or nucleus colonies, and checking over wintered hives.*

*It is a great time of year to start thinking about planting food for the bees. You can let the dandelions bloom or over-seed the lawn with white clover. Plant a cover crop that blooms for the bees such as buckwheat, field peas, or yellow clover.*

*Remember to keep feeding your packages until they have 20 frames drawn out. I will feed my nucleus colonies pollen and sugar water for a few more weeks so that they can keep building up. Some of my overwintered hives have started to make drones, I hope that's not a sign of early swarming. It has been too cold to reverse my boxes.*

*Swarm season begins May 15th and goes until July 15th. I will be checking my bees every 7 to 10 days.*

*I hope you all have a great season. I look forward to seeing you at our June meeting at the Warner Town Hall*

*Sincerely,*

*Randy “Bam” Fleury*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

April Meeting Notes .....	2-3
Thank you .....	4
No Mow May.....	4
Calendar .....	5
Queen Rearing .....	5

## NEXT MEETING

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:  
JUNE 11, 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*
- Old Business*
- New Business*

*Guest Speaker:*  
*Troy Hall*



# APRIL 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES

The KBA April Meeting was held April 9th, 2022 at the Warner Town Hall and also via Zoom.

Members present in person 29; on Zoom 7.

Meeting was called to order at 9:04 am

## Secretary's Report

The March meeting minutes were read by Laurie Hardt. The March minutes were accepted.

## Treasurer's Report

Robin Gray said there is a \$7,954 balance and no new expenditures. There are 70 paid members which includes 26 from bee school. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

## Bee School Committee Updates

John Chadwick is chairman. Anna Chancey and Bob DeLuca are co-vice chairs.

Committee members are currently working on the advertisement. They are planning on asking if there are other members who would like to speak during Bee School. The committee hopes that next year's bee school will be "live and in person." They are also talking about the scholarship.

## Apiary Report

Shreve Soule reported that the KBA 1 hive was alive but queenless. They added a package of bees to that hive as well as new packages to KBA 2 and KBA 3. The bees all went into the hives nicely as it wasn't windy that day.

The top bar hive is currently wrapped. It will be checked someday when the temperature reaches 60 degrees. Shreve is not sure if the bees are alive.

There will be a Hands On Workshop next Saturday, April 16th to check to see if the new queens are laying.

There will be an Apiary Committee meeting before the HOWS on April 16th.

Kim Pease is doing a fencing workshop on April 30th at 10 am.

Anyone who would like to host a HOWS at their apiary, please contact Shreve at [Shreveosoule63@gmail.com](mailto:Shreveosoule63@gmail.com)

Thanks to Kevin Sargent for making a video of the most recent HOWS and also for bringing a lawnmower to the apiary.

There was a question about whether a brood minder could be added to the apiary hives.

Bam said that someone had offered to donate queen rearing equipment. We are looking for someone to help with grafting.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Website Presentation

Shelby Kinshaw was not present at today's meeting.

### Insurance

Robin will contact the agent to see if we can add officers to our policy and a general liability for officers.

Dana stated that the state insurance covers all members present at the meetings, except for those held at the apiary. John Chadwick said he doesn't think we need additional coverage because we're already covered. Instruction at the apiary is covered under our club's policy.

The state insurance has not sent out a hard copy. Bam will reach out to them to ask for it.

We discussed getting our own coverage because the state was going to pull our coverage if we met in person during the pandemic. This was a decision by NHBA board members.

Kim Pease will give Robin the agent's email and his assistant's email.

### Irradiation

Susan Menard stated that there was little to no interest in the program. Susan ended up taking her hives to Pennsylvania and had the hives shipped back due to transportation costs.

The cost was approximately \$25/10 frame box (with drawn comb). If more people were involved, the cost would be less.

Eric DeKing didn't have time to get things ready. He suggests getting a list of interested people in the fall.

Bam said that the Massachusetts Beekeepers did their irradiation program in March.

There was a discussion about how to prepare the hives for this process.

(continued...)

# APRIL 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES

## **KBA 2022 Goals**

Bam said, "We're open for ideas."

KBA members would like to know more about what will be covered during the scheduled Hands On Workshops. Also, if many people attend, the group needs to rotate around so that all who are present are able to see what is happening. It is always quite windy at the apiary, so please be prepared for that when you attend a HOWS.

John Chadwick explained that beekeeping is a complicated hobby, and our goal needs to be to expose members to as much as possible during these workshops. Please ask questions and ask for information to be repeated if you cannot hear something that is said.

There was a question about fundraising. Dana Ramspott asked, "Do we need it?"

Shreve said we could sell honey if we have a surplus.

Laurie Bride spoke about how her beekeeping has helped to educate her neighbors. She wonders what we can do to provide more education.

It was mentioned how a lot of education is done by the beekeepers at Farmers Markets.

John Chadwick has spoken at a nursing home. Kim Pease is speaking at a garden club.

Bam asked if we should make an education packet for speakers to use. There are education hives available at our club for members to use. Materials could be gathered together and kept in totes at the apiary. Amelia has presentations that she has used with scout groups.

Amelia Lantz, Kim Pease, and Laurie Bride would be willing to speak. Laurie Hardt will send emails to Laurie Bride, Marilyn Milne and Dianne Mancino. These three are willing to chair an ad-hoc Education Committee.

## **Speakers**

Susan Menard spoke with Shane Howard regarding recommendations for speakers. She spoke with Durinda and Dave to see if they are interested. Bam suggested the Irradiation guy.

Dan Conlin, president of the Russian Queen Breeding Association is another possible speaker.

Joan O'Connor suggested that the Master Gardeners Cooperative Extension has speakers. Ruth Droescher of Henniker can talk about pollinators and vegetable gardens.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Porta-potty**

Dana Ramspott will search for a porta-potty rental for use at the apiary this year.

### **Insurance**

Kevin Sargent suggested that we change our donation to NHBA for our insurance policy from \$250 to \$50 so that our club can use the extra money,

Kim Pease explained that the payment is a donation and that the standard donation is \$100.

The insurance we have now covers us only at the apiary, so we do want to keep the extra coverage. Bam asked Dana to find out if the shed will be covered under his property insurance. Robin will look into getting our meetings covered under our policy. Mike Bertelone is the agent for NHBA as well as KBA. Robin will reach out to him.

### **Hand On Workshop Presenters**

There was a discussion held on about how to contact people if there are questions about the HOWS or cancellations. It was decided that whoever was hosting the HOWs would add their phone number to the HOWS schedule. Their name and phone number would be sent out to all members via email the weekend before the HOWs.

### **Website Questions**

Website is through Wordpress. Bam asked that we table this discussion until we hear from Shelby Kinshaw about her ideas for our website.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am

## ***A Belated Thank You***

***written by John Chadwick***

*This is a great big overdue thank you to our club member Richard Brewster for his generous donation of his bee equipment to KBA. Thank you, Richard!*

*Many of you know Richard as a long-time member of the club. He is the man that paints the hive equipment in those wonderful pastel colors, decorated with fruit. For many years he had a standing offer to members that he would assemble AND paint their equipment for them. His reward was just a thank you and a grateful beekeeper.*

*In the fall of 2020 Richard reached out to the club letting us know that he had given up beekeeping. He wished to donate his equipment to KBA. Bam and his wife Pebbles along with myself and my wife Betsy gathered up much of Richard's equipment from him. Our plan was to have some of the equipment used at the apiary and some to be included in our club raffles.*

*We were in the midst of Covid, and the club wasn't having regular meetings. The equipment didn't get dispersed and was just being stored. Now that we are getting together again you will start to see the equipment at the apiary and at raffles.*

*On April 23, Laurie Hardt made a great presentation at the Fells on beginning beekeeping. Richard's teaching hive and his miniature hive were great teaching tools.*

*Thank you, Richard Brewster! You have helped many beekeepers and are a wonderful power of example.*



### **\*\*\* NO MOW MAY \*\*\***



“Appleton’s No Mow May initiative had a clear purpose: to save the bees — and not just honeybees (which are European imports), but also native bees, such as bumble bees, mining bees and sweat bees.

Bees are facing catastrophic declines. In North America, nearly one in four native bee species is imperiled, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, partly because of habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change and urbanization.

Lawns typically provide poor habitat for bees. But if allowed to flower, lawn weeds — perhaps better characterized as plants other than grass — can provide rare spring food for bees emerging from hibernation.”

*Above: A rusty patched bumble bee queen (Bombus affinis) feeds on a dandelion flower in Madison, Wis.*

Read the entire article: [In Wisconsin: Stowing Mowers, Pleasing Bees - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/01/us/local-news/wisconsin-no-mow-may.html)



## 2022 KBA CALENDAR

<b>JUNE</b>	11	KBA Meeting @ 9:00 AM, Warner Town Hall
<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)

## QUEEN REARING TALK

**June 11, 2022**

Troy Hall will be speaking on Queen Rearing at our June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at Warner Town Hall.

For those of us interested in learning the queen rearing process in a more hands on experience, Troy has offered to explain and show us his process for Setting up Cell Builders, Selection and set up of his breeder Queens and Grafting on the First set of dates. Queen Catching only will be on the second set of dates. Start time will be 8:30 am at Hall Apiaries in Plainfield NH. Contact info: 603-298-7209 or troy@nhbeekeeper.com.

**Grafting**  
May 19, 27  
June 12, 20, 28  
July 6, 14

**Queen Catching**  
June 13,21,29  
July 7,15,23,31  
August 8



## 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)

