

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I hope you are all having a great year so far. We got off to a slow start with it being so cold in the spring, but the bees sure have made up for it. It is shaping up to be an excellent honey year for me. I have been extracting and trying to get the boxes back out. I test every pail the average moisture level has been 15.50%.

I look forward to seeing you all at the club picnic. We will have a very fun time. The smoker contest is always the highlight of the year. Don't forget to bring one of your favorite dishes to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided.

I'm very excited about things happening in the KBA apiary we are trying to raise our own Queens and start our own nucleus colonies so we can be more self-sustainable. The HOWS have been very informative. If you have not been coming you're missing out, especially if you're a new beekeeper.

I would like to say thank you to the guys that showed up and helped extend the fence around the shed. We did have a bear visit the week before but no damage was done to the hives.

I would also like to say thank you to Troy Hall for coming and speaking to the group last month at our monthly meeting. It was very informative and I believe we have some other speakers lined up for the future. Stay tuned!

Sincerely ,

Randy “Bam” Fleury

“Bees do have a smell, you know, and if they don't they should, for their feet are dusted with spices from a million flowers.”— Ray Bradbury



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NEXT MEETING

KBA PICNIC JULY 23RD, 2022

9:30
Smoker Contest to Start

10:00
HOWs

12:00
Potluck Meal

Raffle



JUNE 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES

The KBA June Meeting was held June 11th, 2022 at the Warner Town Hall and also via Zoom. (Troy Hall was the featured speaker after the meeting.)

Members present in person 19; on Zoom 4.

Meeting was called to order at 9:02 am

Secretary's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

Robin Gray was not present.

Apiary Report

Chairman Shreve Soule reported that the 4 Langstroth hives and 1 top bar hive are all doing well.

For the June HOWS Eric DeKing will speak about the dearth on June 18th. Amelia Lantz will do a mite wash and treatments on June 25th. The HOWs are Saturday at 10 am.

We need a cable for the lawnmower at the bee yard. Still looking for help keeping the bee yard cut.

Dana Ramspott purchased a nuc from Troy Hall for the apiary. Susan Menard donated 10 frame hives. Troy Hall also donated a nuc.

A small group attempted to graft queens. None of them took so far.

Medium supers were recently added to Troy's hive.

John Chadwick is building equipment at the apiary.

Anyone who would like to host a HOWS at their apiary, please contact Shreve at Shreveosoule63@gmail.com

Bee School Committee Updates

Chairman John Chadwick reported that the committee met today before the business meeting. Five members were present. They are talking about the school syllabus, save the date cards, reviewing past presentations, and continuing to work on the scholarship and advertising. They are hoping to finalize plans by September and advertise in October.

Old Business

Insurance

Bam spoke with KBA's insurance agent Mike Bertelone. We currently have a "slip and fall" policy at the apiary only. It would cost the club \$1500/year to have the officers covered.

New Business

Website

Shelby Kinshaw is not present. Laurie Hardt will contact her to see if she is still interested in doing a presentation about her ideas for our website.

Jodi Hedderig asked what needs to be done. The website needs revamping by someone who knows how. Jodi said she would take a look at it. John Chadwick will help Jodi access the information.

Annual Picnic

John Chadwick made a motion to have the annual picnic on July 23rd, with a rain date of the 24th. Shreve seconded the motion.

The club will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and members will be asked to bring a dish to pass as well as their own drinks and chairs.

We may be able to use tables from the Sunapee Fire Dept. Laurie will ask Dana about the tables.

Troy currently has the smoker trophy. If you would like to participate in the smoker contest, show up at 9:30 am as it takes a long time. The picnic will start after the 10:00 HOWS.

John Chadwick made a motion for the club to buy meat for the picnic, not to exceed \$500.

We will ask those attending to RSVP to the club email.

All members voted to approve motions.

Donation

Betsey McNaughten asked John about the Bee School Scholarship. She has 2 unused deep hives from Steve Waterman. They could be auctioned off or donated to the scholarship. There was a suggestion that it could be used as a raffle item or an online raffle. Mike Plunkett had a suggestion about tickets, decide how many we want to sell before we pull the winner.

It was decided to table this discussion until the next meeting. All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:42.





KBA Club Picnic

Saturday, July 23rd, 2022

(rain date, Sunday, July 24th)

at the Ramspott Farm

223 North Road, Sunapee

Please bring: a dish to share for the potluck, your own drinks, chairs, veils, and a raffle item to donate. The club will be providing hamburgers and hot dogs.

Please arrive at 9:30 am if you would like to participate in the **smoker contest**. Bring some of your smoker starting material to share. **HOWS** starts at 10:00 am, picnic after the workshop.



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



Wild Bees by Sandra Rehan

Bees hold a special place in nature. The best known is the honey bee, prized for its wax, honey and pollination services. Despite its popularity, domestication and mass production for commercial agriculture and honey production, the honey bee is an introduced species, brought to North America around 200 years ago by European settlers. Wild bees are the unsung heroes of the pollinator world, with over 20,000 species worldwide, 4,000 in North America and an estimated 200 species in the Granite State. They vary in nesting habits and exhibit a range of behaviors, from solitary to social. Wild bees have lived in North America for thousands, if not millions, of years and are remarkably well adapted to their regional habitats.

Full article: [wild-bees-nh.pdf \(state.nh.us\)](http://wild-bees-nh.pdf(state.nh.us))

Ten Things To Do To Save The Bees



Fall asters (New England asters)

1. Plant diverse types of flowers in your landscape. Try to make sure you have something in bloom from April through the hard freezes of early November. The most critical time for the bee is early spring, the summer dearth usually in July, and late fall.
2. Use clover in your grass seed mix, or allow it to come into your lawn naturally.
3. Celebrate dandelions in spring and don't mow until they've bloomed. Avoid applying pesticides to your lawn when clover or dandelions are in bloom.
4. Plant high nectar and pollen producing shade trees like basswood or linden, maples and willows where appropriate.
5. Avoid purchasing plants which may have been treated with systemic insecticides which could harm bees when they collect the plants nectar or pollen. Purchase plants that are labeled as neonicotinoid free, or ask your local garden center about bee-friendly plants.
6. Purchase locally grown or USA produced honey. There have been reports that some imported honey contains cane or corn-based sugar. While the USDA tests imported honey, they cannot test every batch. Make sure you are buying true bee-friendly honey by purchasing only USA produced honey.
7. Limit the use of insecticides and herbicides on your lawns and landscapes, especially if anything in the area is in bloom. If you are spraying, do so at night, when the bees are not flying. Let your neighbors who have bees know so they can close them up when you are spraying.
8. Work with your town or county governments to make publicly owned spaces more bee friendly.
9. Fall asters (New England asters) and goldenrods are two of the most important fall flowers for honey bees and bumble bees. They provide some of the last fresh food they will eat all year. Keep these plants in flower by delaying the mowing of them until the tops die down after a hard freeze. Better yet, leave them over the winter to provide seeds and habitat for birds and other wildlife.
10. Grow a cover crop like buckwheat or phacelia. Both produce massive amounts of nectar that bees love. Once in flower you can delight in the hum of the field, alive with healthy, hungry bees.

What is a summer nectar dearth?

Honey bee colonies store nectar and pollen to use in times of dearth. To a honey bee, a dearth is a shortage of nectar-producing flowers. The most obvious nectar dearth occurs during the winter, but many places also experience a summer nectar dearth, a hot and dry period between spring flowers and autumn flowers.

The summer nectar dearth can be devastating to a honey bee colony. At times, it can destroy a colony faster than a cold winter. Whereas a bee colony has time to prepare for winter by increasing storage and decreasing population, a summer dearth hits when populations are very high. Large numbers of bees—especially active bees—require a lot of food. A large colony can wipe out its warehouse very quickly, and if the beekeeper has already harvested, the problem is worse.

So what's a beekeeper to do?

Read the entire article and find suggestions to help manage your hives during dearth: [What is a summer nectar dearth? - Honey Bee Suite](#)



Fencing Updates at the KBA Apiary

Seems like quite a few apiaries are getting visits (unwelcomed) from marauding black bears this year. The KBA shed and the Ramspott's barn included! Thanks to those who helped to secure the bee yard fencing and extend it around the shed!



Additional articles of interest:

Living with Wildlife in NH: [Dealing with Nuisance Wildlife | New Hampshire Fish and Game Department \(state.nh.us\)](#)

Building Bear Fences for Your Apiary, by Kimberly K. Post and Cameron Jack

University of Florida Extension: [IN131800.pdf \(ufl.edu\)](#)



2022 KBA CALENDAR

JULY	23	Summer Picnic
	24	Summer Picnic (Rain Date)
AUGUST	13	KBA Meeting
SEPTEMBER	10	KBA Meeting
OCTOBER	8	KBA Meeting
NOVEMBER	12	KBA Meeting
	TBD	Harvest Dinner

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

WHAT'S BLOOMING?

The bees in the area seem to be having a pretty good year so far. The articles and resources below provide some great reference for what is blooming during certain times of the year and may help you to identify what your bees are bringing into the hive.

[Honeybee Nutrition | NH-is-blooming.com](https://www.nh-is-blooming.com)

Provides referenced for NH nectar and pollen resources. Allows people to report their observations to share with others.

[Beekeeping Calendar for the Northeast | CALS \(cornell.edu\)](https://www.cornell.edu/bce)

Provides likely blooms by month as well as management tips

[List of pollen sources - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_pollen_sources)

Site provides pollen information and charts by species of pollen producer. The charts are color coded and additional information including expected dates of bloom and significance to bees.



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

