

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe that it's almost August!

It was great to see everyone that made it to the KBA picnic. We missed those that could not come. The smoker contest was a great time. We have a new champion and it was her first time entering the contest. Congratulations Carol Currotto! There was a HOWS in the morning. Thank you Shreve! Thank you Shane for cooking the burgers and hot dogs! Much thanks to all who helped make the raffle happen and raised money for the club. There are too many people to list. A most important 'Thank You' to the Ramspott family for hosting!

I'm pulling, or have pulled, all of my honey supers, and it looks like a great honey year. I will start to feed pollen and sugar water, as needed, in the middle of the month so that they can raise the winter bees. I am also starting to think about mites and treatment.

We will have an August meeting at the Warner Town Hall. Susan Menard is going to do a presentation on treatment for mites, with a round robin panel. It will be good to get different people's preferences for treatment. I hope that you can all make it.

Sincerely,

Randy "Bam" Fleury



*Wood Burned Art on Hives
Photo and Art by Diane Mancino*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- KBA Picnic2
- Robbing Bees 3
- How to Stop Robbing Honey Bees .. 3
- Calendar 4
- Upcoming Presentation 4

NEXT MEETING

AUG 13, 2022

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 and Presenter:
Susan Menard
See page 4 for more info*

KBA Club Picnic



The 2022 KBA Summer Picnic was held Saturday July 23 at the Ramspott Farm in Sunapee. The day started out with clouds of smoke and the sound of bellows as the smoker contest got under way.

Congratulations to Carol Currotto, a first time contestant and smoker contest Champion!

Shreve Soule led the hive inspections at the HOWs; Shane Howard was Grill Master Extraordinaire; and wonderful prizes were won during the raffle. Everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck meal amongst friends and fellow beekeepers.

Thank you to all who helped to make it a wonderful day!

It was so nice to see everyone, catch up, and share some stories!



Robbing Bees: Questions and Answers

By Rusty Burlew
Honey Bee Suites

WHAT IS ROBBING?

Robbing is a term used to describe honey bees that are invading another hive and stealing the stored honey. The robbing bees rip open capped cells, fill their honey stomachs, and ferry the goods back home. They will fight the resident bees to get to the stores and many bees may die in the process.

WHEN DOES ROBBING OCCUR?

Robbing can occur anytime during the year, but it is most evident in the late summer or early fall, especially during a nectar dearth. Robbing can often be seen in the early spring as well, most frequently before the first major honey flow.

WHY DOES ROBBING OCCUR?

Honey bees are compulsive hoarders. They will collect nectar or honey from any source they can find, and that includes a poorly guarded or weak hive. Personally, I think "looting" is a better description because, like human looters, they tend to prey on the weak and vulnerable, especially a hive with a problem.

Think of it like this: It is a hot August afternoon. It hasn't rained in weeks. The flowers are long past their peak and the few that remain are crispy. A gang of bored workers with too much time and not enough to do is hanging out, looking for trouble. Suddenly, one of the gang picks up on a scent... sweet! It's coming from a nearby hive where the beekeeper has spilled some syrup. A few scouts check it out and believe they can overpower the lethargic guard bees lounging in the heat. Within minutes the dancers post directions on CombBook and the [siege is on](#).

HOW CAN I RECOGNIZE ROBBING?

Read the full article here... [Robbing bees: questions and answers - Honey Bee Suite](#)

How to Stop Robbing Honey Bees

By Rusty Burlew
Honey Bee Suites

No matter how you do it, you must stop robbing or you may lose your colony. Robbing bees will tear open all the honey cells and clean up every last drop. Fighting between bees will kill many and, once the hive is overpowered, predators such as wasps will move in and kill any remaining bees and brood.

Robbing is most common during a nectar dearth and can often be prevented by restricting the entrance to the hives. This works because the colony has a greater chance of defending a small opening than a large one. With very weak or small colonies, however, even this may not be enough.

[How to stop robbing honey bees - Honey Bee Suite](#)





2022 KBA CALENDAR

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 on upcoming meetings, HOWs and pop-up workshops)

Looking Ahead

Management strategies for late summer and fall to increase winter survival

What do beekeepers do after the spring and summer honey flow has stopped?

Susan Menard will lead a discussion on mite treatments, how to prevent robbing, fall feeding and other strategies to promote winter survival at our next regular KBA meeting, August 13th, at the Warner Town Hall.

Susan will share information on these topics and provide references for people to further research mite treatments on their own after the presentation.

Experienced beekeepers are asked to join the discussion and share the management practices that have helped them overwinter strong, healthy colonies.

With the end of the honey flow drawing near, and the summer dearth closing in, it's time to look ahead!

We hope to see you there!



Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Randy (Bam) Fleury
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