

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As summer comes to a close, I hope you have all been well. We set up a KBA table at the Honey and Maple House for Farm Day at Musterfield Farm. Shreve Soule, John Chadwick and I talked with a lot of people about bees. Two people were very interested in bee school. We also sold KBA’s honey, making over \$130. Several club members stopped by to say hi and to talk about bees.

Susan did a great job in her preparation on mite treatment at the last meeting. Thank you, Susan, for the great information! If you missed her talk, the slides and information was sent in an email following the presentation.

We should all be treating for mites now, or may be even done with treatment. Don't forget to do a mite wash after treatment to make sure that it was effective.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on September 10th at the Warner Town Hall.

Sincerely,

Randy “Bam” Fleury



Thank you to Bam, John, and Shreve for representing KBA and selling our honey at Musterfield Farm Days!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Meeting Notes2
- Meeting Notes continued.....3
- Apiary Update 4
- Scholarship Committee 4
- 2022 KBA Calendar..... 5

NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
@ 9:00 AM

In person @ the Warner Town Hall

Zoom invite to be sent prior to meeting, if applicable.

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

- Minutes from the Previous Meeting**
- Treasurer’s Report**
- Committee Update**
- Old Business**
- (Including Scholarship Committee)*
- New Business**

Guest Speaker:
Heather Achilles

Highlights from the Winter Hive Survey and What We Learned in our Winter Wrap Study

AUGUST 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES

Saturday, August 13, 2022 KBA Meeting, Warner, NH

Bam Fleury opened the meeting at 9:05 am. Sixteen members present, including a new member, Shane Shaw; and one visitor beekeeper (recently moved from Tx) who stopped by to donate OAV and queen-rearing equipment. Dave & Linda Hartman set up the coffee and the chairs. Susan Menard gave the presentation, Management Strategies for Late Summer and Fall to Increase Winter Survival.

Secretary Report—Amelia Lantz subbing for Laurie Hardt Marilyn Milne read the minutes of the June meeting (July meeting was the Picnic): Patrice Fredette made motion to accept, Barbara Marty seconded, members approved.

Treasurer Report--Robin Gray not present.

Apiary Report--Shreve Soule: (YEA SHREVE, FOR YOUR EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP!!!! and THANK YOU DANA & RAMSPOTT FARM!!) The bear fence was replaced and made to surround the shed with gate access. Thank You Kevin Sargent for leading that work in quick time after a bear visited the Apiary. Colonies KBA 1-4 in Langstroth hives are doing well and have low mite counts. We have six nucleus colonies building up. The Top Bar Hive was failing due to a poorly mated queen. She was replaced, and the new queen is laying. Thank you to Troy Hall for the donation of a queen and to Shane Howard for installing her. September plans are to treat with Apiguard and feed as necessary.

We can support Shreve in the Apiary in three ways right now:

1. Worker Bee Day end of Sept/ beginning of Oct to prepare a new location in front of shed so bees have a wind break for winter;
2. Lead a HOWS between now and Nov—watch for email from Shreve with the schedule;
3. Help with Apiary groundskeeping—lawnmower needs repair.

WE HARVESTED 80 LBS OF HONEY THIS YEAR! Discussion about gifting our Shed donors (LaValley, Lumber Barn, and Durgin & Crowell) cases of twelve 1 lb bottles of honey. Shreve motioned four bottles to LaValley, and a case each to Lumber Barn and Durgin & Crowell; Barbara Marty seconded, members approved. Shreve will disperse the bottled honey to Marilyn Milne, John Chadwick, and Dana Ramspott to dis-

tribute. Remainder of honey will be on sale to members for \$10/lb at the Sept meeting, limit 2. Some discussion about retailing in Sunapee and Andover, no decisions made. Cannot retail honey at Farm & Forest Garden Expo, as booth is run by NHBA, for information only.

Barbara Marty asked how to access Club extractor: Call Dana Ramspott (603-398-8116) to arrange pick up and instructions for use; sign out—including sieve, uncapping knife; return promptly.

Bee School Committee---John Chadwick: Our committee met twice since the last KBA meeting, July 14 and August 7. We have been fortunate to meet at committee member Bob Deluca's home in Warner. This has been a wonderful setting for us, and we are very appreciative of his and Susan's hospitality. One of our major tasks is to review all this year's presentations and produce recommendations for each session. This is a time-consuming project that we feel is necessary so that we can improve and strengthen our message to new beekeepers. We are near the end of this process, and will be sharing the results with the presenters.

Additional tasks we have discussed and worked on:

- Schedule of classes with the proposed presenters, all contacted and confirmed
- Syllabus to be sent with introduction packet to students
- Welcome letter for the introduction packet
- Flyers for advertising the classes
- Save the date cards
- Three new sections for Bee School: Introduction, Management in two sections, Advanced Topics
- Raffle & Refreshments .



The committee should be ready to start advertising in late September.

(continued on next page...)



AUGUST 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

Regarding scholarships, the Bee School Committee has come to the realization that this will take a dedicated group of club members to develop and manage the task and recommends the creation a KBA Scholarship Committee for the definition and execution of the proposed KBA scholarship. There was discussion as to why the scholarship is complicated, that it should start in the year 2024, and the general liabilities around keeping bees. Kim Tuttle said State has a scholarship; Kim Pease noted that scholarship is for college age student only. This scholarship is for KBA only. Motion to table the discussion about KBA Scholarship specifics, Susan Menard, Kim Tuttle seconded, all present approved.

Kim Pease motioned to create a KBA Scholarship Committee, Barabara Marty seconded, all present approved. This list of the Bee School Committee's recommendations was dispersed at the meeting, and will appear in the newsletter:

- Define the scope of the scholarship and refer back to club for discussion & vote.
- What will it include/cost/amounts of: tuition for Bee School; Equipment; Bees; Mentorship; Hive kept at Apiary; parental involvement?
- What/who is it in honor of: Bill MacDonald; others as well; will family of the honorees be brought into the scholarship process?
- Who is it for: 9-12th grade; post-high school age, to what age limit; criteria for the award?
- How will it be awarded: Application; Solicitating applicants; Read application; Determine and inform applicant?
- When to offer; when to award; when is award finished?
- Where will it be promoted: schools, areas, groups, KBA families, tech centers?

OLD BUSINESS

Website: Marilyn Milne will investigate website; John Chadwick seeks to update calendar and sync the information on the website with the Facebook groups-- Kearsarge Beekeepers (public) and KBA-NH (private). Main goal is to have several ways to get information out to members and to public when they inquire.

Betsy McNaughten donation: Discussion tabled until she's here; donate equip to future raffle?

NEW BUSINESS

Next meeting: Heather Achilles is presenting Hive Loss and Winter Wrap study, meeting will be in Warner on September 10th, 9am start.

Harvest Supper: A Friday evening in November before Thanksgiving—11th/12th? Is the church hall in Sutton available?—John Chadwick will confirm. Is there a speaker for Saturday morning after? Maybe Dave & Dorinda Priebe?

Speaker Committee: Third person needed for this committee—Kim Tuttle agreed to join Kim Pease and Susan Menard, yea!! Presentation of the KBA

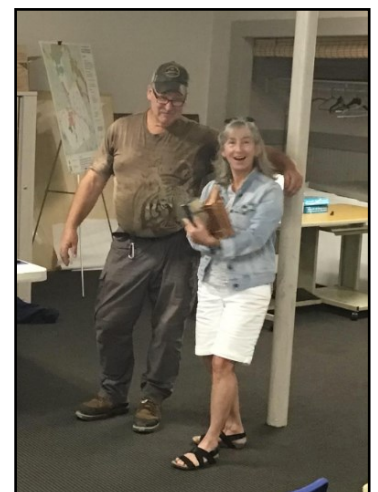
Coppah Smokah to Carol Currotto, winner of this year's Smoker Contest at the Picnic. Speech! Speech! and Carol said, "It was BEE-ginners luck." Kim Pease noted that Carol is the FIRST Queen of the Smoker. Bam reported being contacted by other clubs regarding Smoker Contest Rules.

KBA T-Shirts discussion: Bam showed us his 'nice' (dress) t-shirt with lovely embroidery, and remarked that he would like us to have T-shirts for the NHBA picnic that say, "We are the Smoker Club." Also, he reminded us that Barbara Burns has done t-shirts in past. Diane Mancino reports that Claremont is the place to get t-shirts made: Do we have a logo? John Chadwick will bring this topic for discussion next meeting.

Presentation by Susan Menard: She extended kudos to Marilyn Milne and her husband for MVP computing help. Intent of her presentation is to share her protocol for decision-making and her resources for helping with varroa mite control.

Business Meeting adjourned 10:20 am; Presentation concluded at noon. Chairs and tables restored.

Presentation of the Coppah Smokah to Carol Currotto, winner of this year's Smoker Contest at the KBA Picnic!



APIARY UPDATE

After the summer harvest, the club has around 53 one pound jars of honey for sale at \$10 per jar. There is a limit of two jars per member. Honey will be at the next monthly meeting for those members interested.



Report from Aug 20 HOWS:

Great time this morning at the apiary. Eight to ten of us were inspecting the KBA hives. The bees were very gentle. All four Langstroth hives look great and have lots of pollen coming in! Queens are laying in good patterns and there are no signs of stress from dearth. Fresh nectar is coming in! The Top Bar Hive queen is laying. The population is still low, but they are making progress. Seven out of eight nuc hives look good. One was being robbed earlier in the week and it looks like the queen was killed. Three emergency cells were found in that nuc hive. Thanks to everyone who joined me this morning!

September 3rd is the date for our next HOWS. We will perform another mite wash and place some Apiguard on the hives.

~Shreve

Photo by Dana Ramspott

SEEKING MEMBERS

FOR KBA'S NEW SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



KBA is looking to establish a Scholarship Committee. The Committee will be responsible for developing the guidelines for KBA's annual scholarship and overseeing the selection process. Suggestions for next steps and things to consider include:

- Define the scope of the scholarship and refer back to club for discussion & vote.
- What will it include/cost/amounts of: tuition for Bee School; Equipment; Bees; Mentorship; Hive kept at Apiary; parental involvement?
- What/who is it in honor of: Bill MacDonald; others as well; will family of the honorees be brought into the scholarship process?
- Who is it for: 9-12th grade; post-high school age, to what age limit; criteria for the award?
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- When to offer; when to award; when is award finished?
- Where will it be promoted: schools, areas, groups, KBA families, tech centers?

Additional discussion is planned for the September meeting. Please come to the meeting for more information or reach out to express an interest in volunteering.

2022 KBA CALENDAR

DATE	Day of Week	Location	Topic - Mentor
Sept 3	Sat	Apiary	Mite wash/Apiguard treatment?
Sept 10	Sat	Warner	Monthly Meeting - 9:00 AM / Heather Achilles Speaker*
Sept 17	Sat	Apiary	Hive winter ready assessment /Post treatment mite wash
Oct 8	Sat	Warner	Monthly Meeting - 9:00 AM
October	Sat	Apiary	Worker Bee, Apiary cleanup, Hive moving - Shreve Soule
October	Sat	Apiary	OAV treatment? - Shreve Soule
Oct/Nov	Sat	Apiary	Hive Wrapping Options - Dana Ramspott
Nov	TBD		Harvest Dinner
Nov/TBA	Sat		Candle making with Kim Pease

* Heather Achilles will be speaking at the September 10 KBA Meeting. She will provide an NHBA Citizen Science Project / Research Update: Highlights for the Winter Hive Survey and What We Learned in our Winter Wrap Study.

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

