

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

FIRST MESSAGE FROM NEWLY ELECTED KBA PRESIDENT SHREVE SOULE

Greetings,

My first thought as the newly elected President, is to thank Bam, Betsy and Laurie for serving the club over the last 2 years. It was not easy with Covid sticking its ugly head into our lives. Thank you to all the members that continue to serve on club committees. Your service to the club is greatly appreciated. Big thank you to Marilyn Milne for her outstanding work on the club newsletter! Without volunteers there is no KBA!

Let me introduce myself by starting with my addictions. I'll mention fishing as it used to be my first but has taken a back seat to beekeeping. I started beekeeping with my dad in the early 70's in north central Connecticut. He usually had around 8-13 hives that survived winter as mites were not around then. His packages came by mail from Georgia. \$9.50-13 for 3-pound package.

I took about a 20-year hiatus from beekeeping, married my wife (Anne) in 1995. We bought a house in North Sutton in 1996, raised 3 girls. We had vegetable gardens and fruit trees, never saw honeybees working the blossoms. That was when I started thinking about raising bees again. Now Anne is the gardener, and I am the beekeeper. Over the years Anne has captured a few swarms for me from my hives when I was at work. Catching swarms is not new to Anne. Her dad had around a 100 hives in western NY when I met her. He had a nice honey barn with a large warming room and 100 frame extractor. He sold honey/wax to local businesses in the Rochester NY area.

I've been back at it for around 10-12 years going through the initial pains of beekeeping in the varroa world. I currently have 8 hives overwintering which is about all I want currently. Hope to retire in 5 years and become a full-time beekeeper with 10 hives, and a fishing bum!

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Photo from: [bee2.jpg](#)

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NEXT MEETING

MARCH 11 , 2023
@ 9:00 AM

In person @ the Warner Town Hall

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

- Minutes from the Previous Meeting*
- Treasurer’s Report*
- Old Business*
- New Business:*

*Bee School Recap, Webpage,
July Cookout, Apiary, Package Donation for
Newport Tech Program*

Guest Speaker via Zoom:
Landi Samone

(... President's Message continued from page 1)

Here we are at the end of February, bee school began in January. It is so nice to be with people again and see their smiling faces without the masks. Thank you to the Bee School Committee and class instructors for all your hard work. "For the love of beekeeping," is what comes to mind when thinking of why the bee school/club exists. Why else would we spend so much time studying and talking about bees? It's not because you get rich keeping bees!

The Bee School raffle! WOW! Thank you to Brian Jasinski, Betsy McNaughton and Shane Howard. They organized and asked for donations from several companies and members. Big thank you to all the members who donated! Here is the list:

Better bee, Dadant, Mann Lake, Tractor Supply (Lebanon), Acorn Beekeeping Equipment, New Hampshire Hive Gilsum, McCormicks Bee Supply, Hall Apiaries, Brian's Vermont Apiaries

Members: Brian Jasinski, Troy Hall, John Chadwick, Bam Fleury, William Goggin, Stephen Waterman, Betsy McNaughten, Dana Ramspott. If missed someone I humbly apologize.

A new season of "HOWS," will be upon us. I'm looking forward to our weekly HOWS sessions and social time at the club apiary. Bam will be running the apiary this year. If you have any interest in leading a HOWS, please let Bam know what subject you would like to teach. If you can take 1 or 2 inspections that would be appreciated.

Lately I've been pondering how we as a club can help the new beekeeper succeed? What is the road that will lead them down the path to enlightenment? Is there a path to treatment free? Having tasted the sweet nectar of truly treatment free beekeeping I wish I had an easy answer. Beekeeping is an adventure, and it is work! We must continue to read and experiment with new ideas. This is part of what makes beekeeping fun and interesting! I will say, there is a rhythm to beekeeping. Once you find it, your success rate goes up most years.

Lastly, I would invite you to watch an interesting video on You Tube. Beekeeper Bob Binnie talks with Dr Keith Delaplane from U of Georgia on queen breeding & genetics. Most the time when I hear a talk on genetics, my eyes start to slowly close, followed by snoring. It is a fascinating discussion that won't go too far over everyone's head. [\(1\) Polyandry in Honeybees with Keith Delaplane, University of Georgia - YouTube](#)

Stay warm everyone! Hope to see you at the March meeting. Landi Simone will be speaking via zoom!

Shreve Soule
KBA President

2023 KBA MEMBERSHIPS AND DUES

KBA Memberships due January 1.



A special reminder for everyone to make sure to send their dues in to Robin Gray. Membership dues come with great benefits including: Access to Hands On Workshops (HOWs), KBA Newsletters (emailed and on website), Library, Mentors, and access to the KBA Facebook members only page, just to name a few!

More info and form can be found on the kbanh.org website.

If you are a current member and need to update your information (such as a new email address), please also submit a form to Robin.

Make checks payable to KBA or Kearsarge Beekeepers Association.

Mail to: Robin Gray, PO Box 275, Warner, NH 03278

Dues are: \$20 for individual, \$175 Individual lifetime, and \$250 Family lifetime

JANUARY 2023 KBA MEETING NOTES

Meeting was held January 7th, 2023 at The Warner Town Hall
Members present:19
Randy (Bam) Fleury called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Secretary's Report

Laurie Hardt read the November 2022 meeting minutes. There was a correction in the November minutes: The title of Troy Hall's lecture should be changed to "Coming Back from the Brink."
November minutes were approved with that correction. Motion by Dana Ramspott, Seconded by Patrice Fredette.

Treasurer's Report

Robin Gray stated that we currently have around \$6000 in the KBA account. We have 80 current members.

Betsey McNaughten asked about dues. Robin asked that all dues be sent in by the end of January. If you need to change your address, phone or email, please download the membership form on kbanh.org, "Join Us" tab, and mail that in with your dues. If there are no changes, please just send the dues. Dues are \$20/Family/year, \$175 Single Lifetime membership, \$250 Family Lifetime membership (from the September 2021 Meeting notes)

Bam Fleury had a question about the Lifetime membership. After a short discussion, it was decided that we discuss that at a future meeting.

Committee Reports

Apiary Committee

No apiary report as chairperson Shreve Soule is not in attendance.

Bee School Committee

Chairperson John Chadwick stated that Bee School 2023 starts next Saturday, January 14th. Enrollment is roughly 20. If there is a snow day, Saturday February 18th will be added.

Committee members will provide refreshments. Please drop these off the day of the meeting. Anna Chancey sent all presenters the schedule via "snail mail." Marilyn Milne will send an updated agenda to presenters and bee school members.

Betsey wants to talk to John about some raffle items she will be donating. Laurie Hardt also has some items from last year's bee school to be donated.

A question was asked about the t-shirts for bee school. These

t-shirts have the year of Bee School on the back and are different from the new t-shirts currently being pursued by Diane Mancino. Robin takes the orders for the Bee School t-shirts from the Bee School sign up forms.

Nominating Committee

John Chadwick stated that the committee has not formally met, but there have been people who have stepped up for officer positions. Voting will be later today.

Speakers Committee

Landi Simone will be speaking to us via Zoom at the March 11th meeting.

Kim Pease has spoken with Troy Hall and another person from Massachusetts to see if they are available to present. They are trying to find a suitable date.

Susan Menard will follow up with master beekeeper Dorinda Priebe.

Our speaker budget of \$1000 may need to increase due to travel expenses (gas prices, etc.) This is something that can be discussed at a future date.

Library

We had a discussion about the missing KBA library. The library's last known location was in an outside shed next to the greenhouse at the Sugar River Technical Center in Newport. Deb Stevens stored them for us.

Patrice Fredette stated that she would contact the librarian at the Newport Middle/High School to see if any of the books ended up in the school's library. All of our books had stickers in them identifying them as KBA's books.

Laurie Hardt will email Martina to see if she has a list of KBA library books.

Betsey McNaughten stated that "regardless of what happens, we need book donations." There is an open invitation for all members to donate books.

Betsey will pass the KBA Library book stickers that she created to Patrice.

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JANUARY 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

Old Business

T-shirts

Diane Mancino stated that our design has been accepted. She has an invoice from the Ink Factory for our first order. She can order 12 embroidered t-shirts for \$150 or 24 for \$268. There is also a \$45 "set-up" fee.

We would like to see some design proofs so that we know what the t-shirts will look like. If possible, please bring them to the next meeting.

Betsey McNaughten agreed to help Diane with the t-shirt ordering. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business

KBA Meeting Place/Key Holder

Amelia Lantz stated that Linda Hartman is no longer going to be the contact person for the meetings at the Warner Town Hall. She needs to transfer these duties to another Warner resident. Eric DeKing and Bob DeLuca are interested in helping out with this responsibility.

Honey Contest Trophy

Betsey McNaughten would like to propose that our club purchase a Honey Contest Trophy. She stated that it has four sides where names could be added. This will be tabled until the next meeting so that people can think about it.

2023 KBA Calendar

Kim Pease initiated a discussion about needing to know the dates of the Barbecue and the Harvest Dinner so that guest speakers can be secured.

After some discussion, the following tentative dates were set:

KBA Barbecue: Saturday, July 15th (rain date Sunday, July 16th) Harvest Dinner: Friday evening, November 10th
November meeting and speaker: Saturday, November 11th

Newsletter/Website Additions

Kim Pease would like to propose that a list of committees with members and contact information be added to the newsletter. A discussion followed on whether we add a permanent template to the newsletter for this "as space allows."

It was also suggested that these committees be posted on our website.

Marilyn proposed that we table this until the March meeting to see if she will be able to format it for the newsletter.

Bob DeLuca suggested we add wording on how to contact someone by referring them to the KBA email. We also need to address how officers for the club are to be presented and contacted on the website.

Amelia Lantz made a motion that we have a "contact us" box on the website so that the secretary can monitor this. It was also suggested that no personal information for any person be shared on our website. Kim Tuttle seconded the motion.

Webmaster

John Chadwick stated that we needed help with the website. Joey Byrnes volunteered for this position. Joey and John will plan a get together to work on the website.

Mike Plunkett asked if the club would post a list somewhere showing current committees and chairpersons.

Marilyn Milne asked about revisiting our bylaws and adding the webmaster position. Amelia Lantz made a motion to add a permanent webmaster position.

Kim Pease motioned that we table this until the April meeting. Dana Ramspott seconded the motion.

Email

Bob DeLuca asked that when we send out mail if it could be send it via "blind carbon copy." This would add privacy for all members.

BREAK from 10:13 until 10:28 am.

In Memoriam

Laurie Hardt read part of KBA member Brian Richardson's obituary. She will post the link to the full obituary on the Facebook page. Bam Fleury talked about Richard Brewster, another recently deceased long-time KBA member.

American Foulbrood Vaccine

Bob DeLuca mentioned that he recently heard about a new vaccine that has been developed for honeybees to prevent AFB. (KBA member Ann Harris recently sent a link about this vaccine that will be shared to the KBA website.)

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JANUARY 2022 KBA MEETING NOTES (CONTINUED)

Nominations for 2023 KBA Officers

John Chadwick shared the nominations for our new and continuing officers:

President: Shreve Soule

Vice-President: Patrice Fredette Secretary: Diane Mancino

Secretary Assistant: Amelia Lantz Treasurer: Robin Gray

Newsletter Editor: Marilyn Milne

A motion was made by John to accept these new and continuing officers. Amelia seconded. All approved.

Apiary Updates/Needs

Bam Fleury will take over as the new apiary chairperson.

Dana Ramspott mentioned that the battery on the apiary fence needs to be replaced. He will buy it and submit the receipt to Robin.

Bam asked that we check on the budget for the apiary. Currently the porta-potty is between five and six hundred a year. John's Johns is the company we use. Steve Heard is the contact person. John Chadwick has his number,

Amelia Lantz reviewed different ways to help at the apiary and asked that each member try to do something at least once a year:

If you live close or far, you could do a hive inspection at least once a year during a Hands On Workshop. Have one of the attendees complete the inspection sheet or you complete the inspection sheet and guide the attendee as they inspect the hives.

You can make syrup and feed the bees in the fall.

Weed whack during the summer.

Volunteer for a Hands On Workshop (maybe at your own apiary)

Bam wants to ask for help at the apiary. Mike Plunkett volunteered to join the apiary committee. At 11:00 we had an open discussion about our bees.

Adjourned

The January meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am. Dana made the motion, Kim Tuttle seconded.



KBA COMITTEES

Would you like to get involved with KBA?

KBA has standing Committees as well as occasional “pop-up” or ad-hoc Committees that are organized as needed. 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!

Apiary Committee

Randy (Bam) Fleury

KBA Bee School Committee

John Chadwick

Speaker Committee

Susan Menard

Kim Pease

KBA Scholarship Committee

Education Committee

John Chadwick

Library Committee

Patrice Fredette

Nomination Committee

John Chadwick

Ad-hoc Committees

(Organized as needed)

Summer Picnic Committee

Harvest Dinner Committee

NH Beekeepers Association (NHBA) has some great resources on their site, including links for information on the requirements and regulations associated with selling a honey, a recent topic of discussion at KBA Bee School.

[New Hampshire Beekeepers Association \(nhbeekeepers.org\)](http://nhbeekeepers.org)

[Resources – New Hampshire Beekeepers Association \(nhbeekeepers.org\)](http://nhbeekeepers.org)

[Guidelines for Selling Honey in New Hampshire \(nh.gov\)](http://nh.gov)



Many thanks and much appreciation to David and Linda Hartman for all their dedication, time and efforts in supporting KBA over the years!



Bam Fleury will have packages of bees available in early April and mid May, and Russian nucleus colonies mid to late April. Anyone interested should contact him at randybeeman4@gmail.com for more information.

2023 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Day	Time	Location	Topic	Mentor
Mar 4	Sat	10:00	KBA Apiary	Making Candy Boards	Bam Fleury
Mar 11	Sat	9:00 AM	Warner Town Hall	KBA Regular Meeting Guest Speaker Landi Samone via Zoom	
Mar 25	Sat	10:00	KBA Apiary	HOWs: Winter Hive Kill Autopsy	Shreve Soule
Mar / April	TBD	TBD	KBA Apiary	HOWs: Deadout Hives	
April 5	Wed	4:00	KBA Apiary	HOWs: Package Install	Bam Fleury
April 22	Sat	TBD	Andover	HOWs: Electric Fencing Tucker Mtn Farm, Andover NH	Kim Pease
July 15 (tentative)	Sat	TBD	TBD	KBA Summer Picnic	
Nov 10 (tentative)	Fri	TBD	TBD	KBA Harvest Dinner	
Nov 11 (tentative)	Sat	TBD	TBD	KBA Regular Meeting and Guest Speaker	

Additional events and HOWs may be added through the month. Check the KBA Facebook page for announcements and updates.
KBA Apiary: 223 North Road, Sunapee NH

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Shreve Soule
 Vice President: Patrice Fredette
 Treasurer: Robin Gray
 Secretary: Diane Mancino
 Newsletter: Marilyn Milne

Please send information for newsletter to: kbanhclub@gmail.com
 Join our Facebook page at: KBA-NH (private group)

