

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello,

I hope everyone is doing well. Flu and cold season is upon us, hopefully you have plenty of honey for your cough or sore throat. When I was sick and had bronchitis as a young child, my mom would make a homemade remedy. I recall only having this maybe 2 or 3 times growing up. She would warm some whiskey & honey and let me sip on it in the middle of the night. I wasn't a big whiskey fan at age 6. It seemed to do the trick letting me sleep and rest up. My country Doctor would still make a home visit then. Funny thing is I never thought to use that with my kids when they were sick and up during the night. Too many over the counter remedies I guess. Consult your local healthcare provider. I am not a Doctor and have never played one on TV!

As I write this we are having a warm spell. Sounds like some winter weather might arrive next week. Most of my hives are up to weight. Those that are not, which is 1 or 2, are on their own until springtime checks. It's a good time to put your mouse guards on if you haven't done so. I did OA vaporization yesterday. As expected, I did a few mite washes and found mite levels were higher than I like. 18 mites per 300 bees. See Randy Oliver's webpage on mite levels. ([How to use the XXX mite wash cup - Scientific Beekeeping](#).) I didn't do an early August treatment this year so I was expecting high counts. I guess what really was going on was my early August mite counts were below treatment levels unlike most years. Most hives had 3-0 mites per 300 bees. Am I experimenting? Can I get away with using OA vaporization in the Spring and Fall only? Deep down, I would love to maintain my hives without treatment. I grew up around hives in that time when treatment wasn't needed. I will try not to whine too much when spring comes around! To quote the late great Tom Petty, "the waiting is the hardest part."

Like every subject, beekeepers have different opinions on how to overwinter a hive. I have been changing up my routine but feel I am now keeping more to a similar routine every winter. Until I read another interesting article that stirs my beekeeper imagination!

Join Dana Ramspott at the club apiary on November 18th at 8am for a demonstration on how to winterize your hives.

I'm getting excited for the Harvest dinner 11/10 Friday evening, and guest speaker Dr Zac Lamas the following Saturday morning on 11/11 at the first baptist church in North Sutton. Hope to see you all there. Don't forget to bring a small jar of honey to the dinner for the honey contest. Make sure you let Carol Currotto know what you're bringing for a dish. She sent out an invite a few weeks ago to club members. Dr Lamas' talk is free to KBA club members.

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Honeybee on the last borage of the season.

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NEXT MEETING:

FRIDAY, NOV 10

HARVEST DINNER!
5:00 Social
6:00 Dinner

SATURDAY, NOV 11

A quick regular meeting followed by:

Guest Speaker
Dr. Zachary Lamas

Both Friday and Saturday Events are In-person at the **North Sutton Church**

See you there!

... President's Message, continued.

If you haven't visited the club website, [Kearsarge Beekeepers Association – Dedicated to promoting beekeeping and supporting local beekeepers \(kbeans.org\)](http://kbeans.org) you should! Our website committee (Joey Burns & Kim Pease) have been working hard to update and improve the club webpage. Joey is putting the finishing touches on, and soon we will be able to pay online for club memberships or special events we put on with a speaker. NHBA members who don't belong to the club will be able to purchase tickets online if they want to attend. Most of the work that goes with all of this, is way above my web surfing capabilities. Big thank you to Joey and Kim!

KBA had a great turn out at the NHBA Fall conference last weekend. Speaker was excellent, Dr Jon Zawislak. He gave a talk on Honeybee DNA and common beekeeper mistakes, that was very entertaining. The food was great with lots of great raffle prizes given away. It was held at the Rockingham Ballroom in Newmarket. If you haven't been to the Ballroom, you missed out on a seeing piece of NH history!

I would like to end on a positive note only because there is so much bad news around the world and nearby lately. The beekeeping community is wonderful. I love the interaction at club events both local and state wide. We are lucky and have some very dedicated members both local and at the state level, who work very hard for the club to make things happen. I would encourage members who don't make meetings or HOWS on a regular basis, to make it a goal to attend more. It is very good for the soul and is a great stress reliever. It's a distraction/hobby that makes a difference in my life.



At your service,
Shreve Soule
President of KBA



2022 Winter Ventilation Study

Heather Achilles and Melissa Hollston were guest speakers at the October KBA meeting. They shared the results of the 2022 Hive Ventilation Study and talked through some of the observations. For a copy of their presentation and more information on the study and results, please visit [Winter2022VentilationStudy | NH Honey Bee Health \(nh-honeybee-health.com\)](http://nh-honeybee-health.com).

Thank you Heather and Melissa!



Winter Ventilation Study Bee Club Presentation

Click to Download Study Setup & Goals

VPD Table

Comparison of all Colonies PDF

OCTOBER 2023 KBA MEETING NOTES

Meeting was held at the Warner Town Hall
October 14, 2023
9am

Attendance 20 present: Shreve Soule, Patrice Frette, Diane Mancino, Heather Achilles (NHBA), Melissa Hollston (NHBA), Betsy McNaughton, Marcy Miller, Ann Harris, Eric DeKing, Marilyn Milne, Amelia Lantz, Kim Tuttle, Myra Gray, Kilen Seeker (guest), John Chadwick, Joey Byres, Alison Conlon, Bam Fleury, Kim Pease, Robin Gray.

Kilen Seeker (guest), welcome to New Hampshire!

Secretary Report

Old Business

Harvest dinner will be November 10, 5 pm social hour, 6 pm dinner. Amelia asked for a harvest dinner committee to organize food. Carol Curroto sent out invitations to all of the KBA members on record. Raffle items are needed. Help with setting up and cleaning up is appreciated. Dr Zachary Lamas will be presenting on Saturday November 11 at 9 am, and other NH beekeeping clubs will be invited. \$15 admission for nonmembers or join KBA .

The **NHBA Fall Conference** was held on October 21.

New Business

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance \$7500 boosted from honey sales. 77 paid members, which is about average.

Apiary Committee

Bam, hives were not treated for mites, OA treatment is scheduled for November.

We sold honey at Musterfield Farms, Harvest days \$714.00 honey sales.

A HOWS on hive wrapping for winter will be held November 18, 8 am, conducted by Dana Ramspott.

Bam would like to sell his extractor to the club for \$250. This could be loaned out instead of the new extractor. Discussion was tabled as there is already a motion that was accepted (from the September 2023 meeting) to purchase a new extractor from Maxant for the club.

Bee School

John Chadwick. Committee met on October 12, flyers and cards were made up and are being posted. We are in good shape with presenters. Presenters dinner, for the Bee school committee, October 27. Betsy wants help with the raffle since she lives out of the area.

Speaker Committee

Kim Pease: Committee is looking at scheduling speakers for the next year. Thank you to Heather Achilles for coming and giving today's presentation. Heather is a Beekeeper from Gilmanton and member of the New Hampshire Beekeepers Association, and organizer of the honeybee hive loss survey.

Library Committee

We need a home for the library. Keep books at the apiary in rodent proof totes but getting to the apiary may be a problem for some in the winter. Propose we create a list of books to loan, possibly on the website.

Nominating Committee

John Chadwick we are ok at this moment.

Education Outreach

Bam and Kim did well educating the public at Harvest days, Musterfield Farms. Bees are a great conversation starter. Bam brought honey to sample. Honey sales will go towards the new extractor.

Scholarship Committee

A scholarship was created: KBA bee school scholarship. possibly has 2 scholarships, individual, or family. If under 18 needs to have a parent/guardian signature.

Should we purchase a complete hive for bee school raffle 2 deeps. 10 frames? Motion tabled till January, winner must be a bee school student . Motion to purchase table discussion till January.

Purchase price of an observation hive was approved for \$250.

Website

Joey, there is a \$2 convenience fee for online transactions. Motion was approved to charge \$80 and absorb the \$2 convenience fee.

Meeting was adjourned

Presentation from Heather Achilles on hive ventilation.



Honeybee on calendula.

Speaker Committee News

Upcoming Guests

November—Dr. Zachary Lamas



Zac Lamas
<https://zaclamas.com/cv/#>

2023 Smoker Contest Winners!

I had meant to include these pictures in the October Newsletter of Fred and Quinn accepting the Coppah Smoker Award at our September KBA Meeting.

Fred and Quinn tied for first at our KBA Summer Picnic.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



KBA COMITTEES

Apiary Committee

Randy (Bam) Fleury

KBA Bee School Committee

Bob DeLuca

Speaker Committee

Susan Menard

Kim Pease

KBA Scholarship Committee

Kim Pease

Education/Outreach Committee

Kim Pease

Library Committee

Patrice Fredette

Nomination Committee

John Chadwick

If you are interested in participating on a committee, reach out to any of the officers listed on the back page of this newsletter or any of the chairs listed above. Email KBA at kbanhclub@gmail.com for contact information.



Visit the KBA Library!

As a KBA member, you have access to the KBA Library. The Library is kept at the Apiary. Checking books out is easy!

Current books include:

- Following the Wild Bees, by Thomas D Seeley
- Selecting and Operating Beekeeping Equipment, USDA
- Beekeeping Basics, Penn State
- The Bee Hunter, by George Harold Edgell
- Elemental Genetics and Breeding for the Honey Bee, by Ernesto Guzman-Novoa
- Honey Bee Diseases and Pests, 3rd Edition, Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists
- Ontario Beekeeping Manual, Ontario Beekeeper's Association
- Ontario Introductory Queen Rearing Manuel, Ontario Beekeeper's Association
- IPM for Beekeeping in Ontario, Ontario Beekeeper's Association
- A Field Guide to Honey Bees and Their Maladies, Penn State Extension
- Identification and Control of Honey Bee Diseases, USDA

And more! Come check it out!



KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Day	Time	Location	Topic
Nov	TBD	TBD	KBA Apiary	Upcoming HOWs—OA *
Nov 10	Fri	5:00 PM	Sutton Baptist Church	KBA Harvest Dinner - 5 PM Social Hour , 6 PM Dinner
Nov 11	Sat	9:00 AM	Sutton Baptist Church	KBA Regular Meeting and Guest Speaker
Nov 18	Sat	8:00 AM	KBA Apiary	HOWs - Winterizing Your Hive with Dana Ramspott
Jan 13	Sat	9:00 AM	Warner Town Hall	KBA Monthly Meeting
Jan 27—Feb 24	Sat	9:00 AM— 1:00 PM	Sugar River Valley Technical Center in Newport,	2024 KBA Bee School

*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

NOVEMBER

In the hive

The bees are in their winter cluster, and there is little to no egg laying in November.

Seasonal conditions

In Ithaca, NY, in November, the average minimum and maximum temperatures are 32°F and 48°F, with 5" of snow and 3" of other precipitation. The latest sunrise of the year is on November 3, at 7:43am.

Nothing is in bloom, except perhaps some varieties of witch hazel.



[Beekeeping Calendar for the Northeast | CALS \(cornell.edu\)](#)

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)

