

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Hello and welcome to fall! It snuck up on us too quickly in my opinion. Fall is my favorite season of them all. It means the hot, sticky weather is done for the year and the smell of apple pies or apple crisp will soon fill the air at my house. However, we didn't really experience a typical summer so my mind isn't in sync with the seasons yet. One of my apple trees is over achieving and has required me to thin the apples several times and now install branch bracing so they don't break.*

*I am now trying to finish extracting honey so I can clean and organize my honey supers and equipment for next year. Soon my cars will be able to fit into the garage again!*

*It's been a good honey year in my area. We had no dearth, my hives are achieving winter survival weight without me feeding sugar syrup so far. The Goldenrod is done and Aster's are being worked hard by my girls. I still see some Knotweed in bloom.*

*We had a HOWS recently in which we all hefted the hives from behind and took a guess at how much they weighed. Then we took the fulcrum and scale Kevin Sargent built and lifted the hives from behind. The closest guess would earn that member bragging rights till the next hive was hefted. We only managed to dump one hive over! I think Kevin came the closest to guessing weight a few times. It's a real skill that everyone should practice.*

*Guessing the weight of the hives is an important fall activity. You want to see your hives with 2 deep boxes weighing around a minimum of 125-150 lbs. Having the target weight in your hives going into winter means you can relax a little and not worry about them starving out till March/April. But let's face it, I still worry anyways. It's like sending my kids off to college or with my riding lawnmower knowing there are some obstacles they will run over!*

*Have you seen the new reports of another invasive hornet in Georgia? Vespa Velutina, Yellow legged hornet. This is another Asian invader. France and Spain have been dealing with these pests for years now. The nests get huge, eating up to 25lbs of insect protein a day! They are decimating native insects where they spread too. They are responsible for a 15% to 30% hive loss in these countries. They like to hover in front of beehives and pick off workers as they return to the hive. The queens overwinter just like our common yellow jackets. How did they detect this unwanted visitor? A beekeeper in Georgia noticed these large predators hovering in front of one of his hives. Georgia is scrambling to contain this scourge. I will include a link to the Project Apis M. webinar on YouTube video.*

[The Yellow-legged Hornet \(Vespa velutina\) biology, updates, and what to expect in the U.S. - YouTube](#)

*Richard Noel is a commercial beekeeper in France and has some interesting videos on dealing with these pests. Check out this video and see how they hunt in front of the hives. [Facing up to the nightmare! - YouTube](#)*

Continued on page 2...



Honeybee on Aster

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message, cont.....	2
Fall Feeding and Other Timely Resources.....	2
KBA September Minutes .....	3
Speaker Committee News, Upcoming Guests .....	4
USDA Honeybee Assistance .....	4
KBA Committees .....	4
KBA Joins Musterfield Farm's Harvest Day .....	4
KBA Calendar .....	4
October in the Hive .....	4
KBA Officers .....	4

### NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 14, 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*

**Guest Speaker:**  
*Heather Achilles  
Hive Ventilation*

... President's Message, continued.

You can say, "awe, they are all the way down in Georgia, it won't affect my hives for years." With interstate commerce, and the number of cars, trucks, trains and planes going between states, this may be in our neighborhood soon. Is it the end of the world? No, but it is another major obstacle for beekeepers across North America. Each nest can send off hundreds queens to overwinter and carry on.

As beekeepers we need to be alert to unusual creatures around our hives and report them to our state apiarist. Capture it in a jar if you can. If it doesn't fit in a jar, you may want to leave it alone! If you are not sure, ask an experienced member to take a look with you. There are apps or websites out there that can help you identify insects. [Insect, Bugs and Spider Identification - North America \(insectidentification.org\)](#)

My apologies if the yellow legged hornet ruined your morning coffee. I try not to overreact to news stories but I have been watching beekeepers in France (via youtube) struggle with this creature and it is, in my opinion, worth a very serious discussion.

NHBA has a conference coming up on Saturday, October 21st. Please go to their website and support your state club! [New Hampshire Beekeepers Association \(nhbeekeepers.org\)](#)

NHBA news, our very own Mike Plunkett has volunteered to take over the membership chair position from long time member Janice Mercier. Thank you Mike!

Keep the dates free! November 10th, Friday evening is the KBA Club dinner at Sutton Baptist Church. More information will be sent as we get closer. November 11th Saturday, Guest speaker Dr Zac Lamas.

KBA members voted to purchase a new extractor for the club at last month's meeting. Sales from our club honey harvest will pay for the majority of the cost! The club currently has 3 extractors that members can sign out. Please make sure extractors are returned clean and with all the parts that make them operate.

At your service,

Shreve Soule  
President of KBA



## Fall Feeding and Other Timely Resources



[The Different Types of Honey Bee Feeders - Mann Lake Bee & Ag Supply \(mannlakeltd.com\)](#)

[Feeding Bees in Fall - {Beekeeper's Guide} - Carolina Honeybees](#)

[Feeding Bees in the Fall: Why, When, and How to Feed Bees in Autumn | Beekeeping Insider](#)

[What Happens to Honey Bees in the Winter? | Beekeeping Insider](#)

[The Beekeeper's Calendar | A Monthly Guide | Dadant & Sons 1863](#)

[Beekeeping Tips to Have a Successful October | Beekeeping Learning Center | Dadant & Sons 1863](#)

[Autumn feeding of honey bees - Honey Bee Suite](#)

[GuideFeedingBees.pdf \(ontariobee.com\)](#)

[The Different Types of Honey Bee Feeders - Mann Lake Bee & Ag Supply \(mannlakeltd.com\)](#)



# SEPTEMBER 2023 KBA MEETING NOTES

## **Warner Town Hall September 9, 2023 Meeting called to order at 0905**

20 present for meeting, 26 for Troy Hall Presentation.

Officers present : Shreve Soule and Robin Gray

Mike Plunkett filled in for Secretary

1. Club honey for sale to club members at meeting for \$10 per lb.
2. Mike read the secretary's minutes from the August meeting. Motion to accept with amendment/correct to Bee school chairperson name to Bob Deluca, Motion passed.
3. Treasurer's report by Robin Gray, no change from last month, \$7449 balance in checking. Motion made to accept and seconded, motion passed.
4. Apiary Report- Bam Fleury- due to illness and lack of volunteers Musterfield Farm honey sales did happen. Hives at the apiary are doing well, feeding hives to bulk up for winter. Two queens in the mating nucs did not return. Bam placed new queens in two nuc hives. There was an extraction HOWS over 100 pounds was extracted and bottled for sale. Bam has had few expenses for the apiary this year, 3 bags of sugar, glass bottle order and mite treatments.
5. Bee school committee report- Bob Deluca- committee met last Wednesday, dates and instructors are set for school. We are close to finalizing flyers and cards for classes. Presenters meeting coming up in October.
6. Speakers committee reports Heather Achilles will speak at the October meeting. Dr Zac Lamas for November Meeting at Baptist Church. Committee looking for ideas for next year.

### **Old Business**

7. Smoker champion trophy was presented to co-champions Fred and Quinn Chancey.
8. Website update- Joey- has reached an impasse with the new webpage because it is not clear who has ownership of the club webpage. Email will be sent out to see if any club members are the owner of the webpage.
9. Honey Trophy- Betsy M. via Kim- Motion was made

and seconded to allow Betsy McNaughton to purchase a honey trophy for the harvest competition. The motion passed with a \$200 limit on trophy purchase.

10. Harvest dinner- Amelia asked for a harvest dinner committee to organize the food. Carol Curroto volunteered to organize who will bring what to eat. Club email addresses need to be given to Carol. Raffle items will be needed as well. 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner. Help with setting up and cleaning up is appreciated
11. Harvest presenter– Dr. Zachary Lamas on Saturday Nov 11th, will begin at 9am. Other clubs will be invited.

### **New Business**

12. Bam requested to purchase a new Maxum extractor for the club. Motion was made and seconded for the purchase with a budget not exceeding \$1200. Motion passed.
13. NHBA- Fall conference is on Oct 21th, members should go to NHBA webpage for more details. Next year KBA will be hosting the fall conference.
14. Amelia made a motion to purchase an observation hive to use at public events the club attends for educational purposes. Motion was tabled until some prices were researched for the next meeting. She will try to purchase locally.

Meeting adjourned at 09:48.



## Speaker Committee News

### Upcoming Guests

October— Heather Achilles  
Hive Ventilation

November—Dr. Zachary Lamas



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

## Emergency Livestock,

## Honey Bee, and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)

### Honey Bee Assistance

ELAP covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including blizzards and wildfires. Eligible honeybees include bees housed in a managed hive and used for honey production, pollination or honeybee breeding. Losses of colonies must be in excess of normal mortality. ELAP covers colony losses, damage to hives and feed that was purchased or produced, including additional feed purchased above normal quantities. To be eligible, the producer must have an interest and risk in an eligible colony for the purposes of producing honey, pollinating or breeding for commercial use as part of a farming operation on the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or loss condition. Find out more about ELAP at [fsa\\_elaphoneybeefact\\_sheet-22.pdf](https://fsa-elaphoneybeefact_sheet-22.pdf) ([usda.gov](https://usda.gov))



## 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](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com) for contact information.



## KBA Joins Musterfield Farm's Harvest Day



On October 1, KBA joined in the Musterfield Farm Harvest Day in Sutton. It was a beautiful sunny day. Perfect weather. We were there to talk about bees and honey, promote KBA and bee school, and sell KBA honey. KBA Honey proceeds were going directly to the new club extractor. Big thank you to our volunteers, Bam Fleury, Denise Wilde, Mike Plunkett, Kim Pease, Anne Harris, Alison Conlon, Lawrence Schissel and a gentleman who's name we forgot. They did an amazing job representing KBA. John Chadwick and Bam keep hives at Musterfield Farm. We had honey, a frame of honey, empty

super frames, a bee suit with honey on it, and a brush coated in honey. The bees joined us and put on a show. Foragers were excellent conversation starters. We conversed and sold honey with bees flying around us. Big thanks to Bam for bringing a frame of honey for kids to have a taste from. Honey sales were a success. 24 one pound and 18 two pound jars were brought to sell. We sold out. \$714.50 was raised and is going towards the new club extractor.

Thank you,

Education Outreach Committee



# KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Day	Time	Location	Topic
Oct 14	Sat	9:00 AM	Warner Town Hall	KBA Monthly Meeting
Oct/Nov	TBD	TBD	KBA Apiary	Upcoming HOWs - Winterization, OA *
Nov 10 (tentative)	Fri	5:00 PM	Sutton Baptist Church	KBA Harvest Dinner - 5 PM Social Hour , 6 PM Dinner
Nov 11 (tentative)	Sat	9:00 AM	Sutton Baptist Church	KBA Regular Meeting and Guest Speaker
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

## OCTOBER

### In the hive

There is little to no egg laying in October. Drone populations dwindle and any drones that remain in the hive are kicked out by their sisters.

Bees tend to form their winter cluster at around 50°F, usually starting in the middle of the month.

On warm days, the bees venture out looking for food and may rob unprotected hives.

### Seasonal conditions

In Ithaca, NY, in October, the average minimum and maximum temperatures are 38°F and 59°F, with 3" of precipitation.

A few asters may still be in bloom. Fall witch hazel may flower, too.



[Beekeeping Calendar for the Northeast | CALS \(cornell.edu\)](https://www.cals.cornell.edu/beekeeping-calendar-for-the-northeast)

### 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](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com)  
 Join our Facebook page at: KBA-NH (private group)

