

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello and Happy Holidays,

I am currently in a food coma, so this may be a short letter. Hopefully everyone who traveled, made it to their destination safely. My childhood memories of Thanksgiving feast go like this: I start eating snacks, cheese, crackers, and nuts that you actually had to crack with a nut-cracker. Then the big dinner, followed by dessert. I’m lying on the floor in agony, ready to explode. An hour later I get up and have more pie! Now that I’m older and wiser? I can limit my appetite eating smaller dinner portions and larger dessert portions!

The thought of me stuffing myself makes me wonder if when field bees are coming back and slamming down on the landing board engorged with nectar, do they have that same feeling? We see the bees that fall short of the entrance, or land on the grass and rest for a while before flying into the entrance. Do they have that same sick feeling I had as a child snarfing any and all food put before me during holiday feast? Is it like the Roman party days, when a feather was provided to aid in relieving the discomfort so you could go and eat some more? Do the bees receiving the incoming nectar perform that function of the feather? I’m not trying to gross people out, my warped mind really does think like this!

If you aren’t familiar with Dr Thomas Seeley, you should make a point to read his book “Honeybee Democracy.” You will learn that the queen is not making most of the decisions for the hive. Life in the hive is more complex than you may think. Picking sites to swarm to are voted on by the bees. They have cute little machines to vote with. Just kidding! You will have to read the book to get the details! Honeybee Democracy is on CD as well so if you have a long commute it’s nice to listen too.

The harvest supper was a blast! Thanks to all that made it happen. So many tasty dishes and desserts. The tables were beautifully decorated. The raffle table was full and we made over \$360 from ticket sales. We were joined by Dr Zac Lamas and his Grandparents for supper and then for our monthly meeting. It was a very interesting presentation and I’m so happy Dr Lamas was able to present his research to the KBA and guests.

The real big news of the Harvest supper was the honey contest. KBA honey took 1st place out of 11 other honey contestants! Then we sold out of honey at the monthly meeting the next day!

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KBA barn quilt made by Betty Ramspott.

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NEXT MEETING:

SATURDAY, JAN 13

@ 9:00 AM In person @ the

Warner Town Hall

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Old Business

New Business

**Please note, there is no
December meeting.**



... President's Message, continued.

What's going on in my bee yards? Not much. I managed to finish wrapping my 10 hives with a rigid foam board. My 2 nuc's got wrapped with black roofing paper and a couple inches of rigid foam under the lids. Feels good to have it done for the year. I saw a few dead drones at the entrances of the hives. I could hear the hum from the clustered bees as I worked. A few came to the entrance to check out who was making all the noise outside. Now is the time to worry if my hives will survive the winter and start planning for next year. Some time in January I will take a stethoscope and listen for signs of life and heft the hives to check weight. I occasionally go out and take a small stick and clear the bottom entrance. I miss the gentle sound of the bees flying in and out of the hives already. The bee school committee is fired up and has been busy organizing and preparing for the program. Check out the details on our club webpage. Registration is available online now. If you would like to contribute a new raffle item for the bee school raffle, contact Betsy McNaughten.

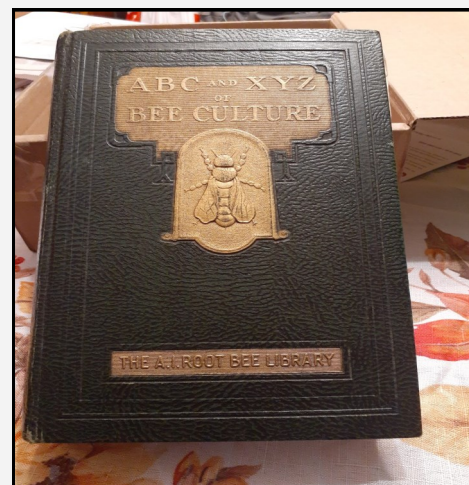
There is no December KBA monthly meeting. We will start up again in January on the 13th.

Recently, a cousin of mine passed on a family treasure to me. I think I mentioned a few newsletters ago, my dad/mentor kept bees when he was a teenager. His parents gifted him and his brother the "ABC and XYZ Bee Culture" by A.I. Root, for Christmas in 1940. My cousin found it amongst her dad's things and knew I would want to have it. Its beautiful cover almost brought tears to my eyes.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season, Happy Winter Solstice and Happy New Year!

At your service,

*Shreve Soule
KBA President*



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
- **The Beekeeper's Handbook**, 4th Edition, Diana Sammataro and Alfonse Avita-bile



NOVEMBER 2023 KBA MEETING NOTES

LOCATION Meeting was held November 11, 2023, at the Sutton Baptist Church, Sutton, NH. This was a brief meeting before our guest speaker, Zac Lamas spoke.

ATTENDANCE 23. Mike Plunkett, Sue DeLuca, Patrice Fredette, Quinn, Lydia Heukes, John Chadwick, Kim Pease, Kim Tuttle, Denise Wilde, Marla Miller, Amelia Lantz, Susan Menard, Fred Chancey, Barbara Marty, Carol Currotto, Cathay Chestley, John Hurley, Alexine Azota, Joey Byrnes, Betsey McNaughten Shreve Soule, Diane Mancino, Robin Gray.

Secretary Diane Mancino read the old business report.

TREASURY REPORT Robin Gray, \$7047. Balance, Paid members 84, The raffle netting \$366.00. Honey sales \$800.

Apiary Report Randy Fleury Not much to report. Hives are up to weight, hives will be wrapped November 18, The OA treatment will be done at that time. Amelia and Shreve will have 2 batteries for the O/A treatments.

Bee School Committee John Chadwick. Amelia hosted a dinner for the Bee School Committee. Posters and flyers were posted, advertiser in the Shopper, KBA purchased T-shirts for the committee and presenters.

Library committee Patrice Fredette Books were listed in the newsletter. Joey will have that list to put online on the KBA website. Shreve has books to add to the library.

Nominating committee John Chadwick Nothing new to report

Education outreach committee Kim Pease Nothing new to report Amelia reported on Newport, candy boards and O/A treatments were done on the Newport hives. Patrice will show her how to winterize Apimaye hives.

Scholarship Report Kim Pease We need to vote on the scholarships We want to do 2 scholarships, all ages, a 500 word essay, Titled, why are you interested in keeping bees, what do you hope to accomplish. Valued at \$80 each Joey and Kim will read the essays, and in case of a tie, Shreve will read the essays. Bam motioned to accept/Amelia Accepted/ motion accepted.

NHBA Notes Mike Plunkett attended the NHBA meeting. Most clubs are having their end of season dinners , winterizing. NHBA can fund a beekeeper's research/study scholarship for you. What do you hope to gain from your research? Micheal Resere (sp?) Is in charge of research.

\$15 KBA Membership was promoted for attending today's guest presentation, instead of just paying of attending a presentation.

NHBA is looking for members to be on committees.

No meetings until January

Meeting was adjourned. Zac Lamas gave his presentation.



November 18th Hands on Workshop

Report: Topbar hive is doing well. We have two well provisioned nucs. Of the four langstroth hives, looks like two absconded and two dwindled. While it is sad this happened, it's a prime example on how quickly supposedly strong hives can fail. We will discuss at the January meeting. Thank you to everyone that came out and helped Dana and John winterize and organize the shed - Shreve

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.



KBA CALENDAR

| Month/Date | Day | Time | Location | Topic |
|---------------|-----|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 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

Much Fun at the KBA Harvest Dinner

Thank you to all those who helped make it happen, contributed to the feast, and came to celebrate and have fun!



KBA members enjoying the harvest dinner. A packed house!



Dr. Zachary Lamas presented on Saturday morning.



Beautiful table settings.



The raffle was a success.



*Honey Contest Winners.
First Place: KBA! Second Place, a tie:
Quinn Chauncey and John Chadwick!
Congratulations!!!*

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)

