

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and Welcome to February!

The days are getting longer and it's been a mild winter so far. Still plenty of winter to go. I hope everyone had a nice holiday season. Did Punxsutawny Phil see his shadow? Doesn't seem to matter much up here in New Hampshire.

When my inlaws lived in western NY, our family would make a Spring trip over the Green Mountains to visit them in April. Most years we had at least a foot of snow on the ground. When we arrived at the Vermont/New York border, the grass would be green and temps were usually 10-20 degrees warmer. My father in law's hives (near Rochester, NY), would already be working. While it was always nice to arrive back home to NH, it was slightly depressing to still have snow on the ground for a few more weeks.

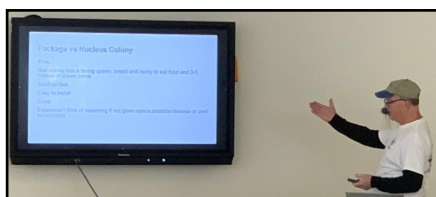
I guess with any hobby there is a certain amount of worry. If you ski, it's whether there will be enough snow. The ice fisherman worries about falling through the ice with this year's conditions.

As beekeepers, we worry about our hives surviving and having enough food stores to make it another month or two. We can usually count on winter temps and conditions till April. At some point, I will attempt to heft my hives and feel how heavy they are. If they lift easily, I know they need some fondant or sugar cakes. As a rule we normally don't feed pollen/pollen substitutes until the bee's are able to fly once or twice a week. Too much protein can cause dysentery if they don't get out enough. Eat 12 bean burritos and try not using the toilet for a week!

Every year I tend to try something new or change up my practices on management. Last year my method of swarm control was the DeMaree method on my stronger hives. While it was more work, those hives produced a good crop of honey. Check out this short article on "Honeybee Suite".

[How to use the famous Demaree method of swarm control - Honey Bee Suite](#)

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NEXT MEETING
MARCH 9 , 2024
@ 9:00 AM

Tentitively @
Warner Town Library

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:
Minutes from the Previous Meeting
Treasurer's Report
Old Business
New Business

JANUARY 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES

KBA Club Meeting Minutes, 13 January 2024, Warner Town Hall

Attendance: Shreve Soule, Patrice Fredette, Bob DeLuca, Kim Pease, Amelia Lantz, Denise Wilde, Marla Miller, Kevin Sargent, John Chadwick, Betsey McNaughton, Mike Plunkett, Randy Fleury, Robin & Myra Gray, Kim Tuttle, Joey Byrnes, Susan Menard, Eric DeKing, Marilyn Milne, Ann Harris, Joan O'Connor, Alison Conklin, Tim Young, Jeff Nintzel, Carol Currotto

Meeting opened 9am, Nov 2023 **Minutes** read & accepted.

Treasury: Robin Gray. \$8087 in the treasury. Fourteen paid members so far this year, 1 on-line, 3 lifetime members. Twelve Bee School registrations representing 18 people; 10 paid on-line. Eric motioned, Kim seconded, report accepted.

Apiary: Bam Fleury. Four production hives have died/absconded. There are two nucleus hives alive, one colony in medium hive alive, top bar hive is okay too. Bam will use Apiary budget money to purchase packages of honeybees to replace dead-outs in the spring, withdraws plans to buy new extractor. He has plans to replace foundations on four deep boxes (40 frames), he is focused on raising healthy winter bees.

HOWS: Bam needs a "Second," someone who can fill in for him at the Apiary when he cannot make it to the Apiary. Discussion about how to fill the HOWS calendar with topics and club member beekeepers so that the HOWS runs smoothly and the colonies in the Apiary get cared for properly. Discussion to continue at March 2024 meeting. Amelia will clean (melt wax off) and replace lids for mason feeder jars for Apiary.

Bee School: Bob DeLuca: Committee has had its last meeting before start on 27 January, all set. Bob will sort wifi and tech issues with support staff for new logistics in the cafeteria at Newport Middle High School. Please bring items to donate to the raffle, and snacks to share, when you come to visit Bee School. Eric DeKing will write and post to **kbanh.org** website a questionnaire for previous students. John asked us all to visit the **kbanh.org** website, and especially visit the Bee School page—it is awesome!

Speaker's Committee: Kim Pease & Susan Menard: KBA

monthly meetings speakers are Dorinda Priebe (April 13th)-- Integrated Pest Management, Kim Pease (May 11th)-- varroa, Ang Roell (June 8th)-- queen-rearing. Our KBA Club Picnic is July 13th. August 10th Susan Menard will cover winter preparation. Discussion about November speaker, maybe Tom Seeley? We hoped to have him teach us a Bee Lining workshop in the summer of 2020, but covid. Tom Seeley and Marla Spivak are speaking at the Worcester County Beekeepers Association on March 2nd. It's an all-day workshop in Sutton, MA, \$30 including lunch, sign up asap. Southern Adirondack Beekeepers Association have their spring seminar on March 23rd, all day, Malta, NY.

Library: Patrice Fredette: How do I check out books from KBA Library? Contact Patrice, pfredette2224@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee: John Chadwick: All current club officers are staying in place this year, yea! We should find/review our by-laws. Any of us who love word infrastructure, please come forward!

Outreach: Kim Pease: KBA support of the SRVRTC program at Newport Middle Highschool, Amelia Lantz working with students of Deb Stevens, is going well. The two colonies of the Sunshine Apiary had sugar up top and were flying in early January—fingers crossed for winter survival! Bam Fleury will bring any club honey to sell at Musterfield Farm Days August 24th & 25th, and Musterfield Farm Harvest Day October 6th. Bam Fleury and Mike Plunkett and Kim Pease talk to folk about honeybees and promote Bee School----club members, please join us there!

Scholarship: Kim Pease: No applications for KBA Bee School 2024 were received. Amelia will promote with SRVRTC students for 2025.

NHBA Report: Shreve Soule: The EPA in January 2024 issued "Advisory on the Applicability of FIFRA and FFDCA for Substances used to Control Varroa in Mites in Beehives" (epa.gov) for your well-informed reading pleasure about two new products—VARROXSAN and EZ-OX, both an oxalic acid product. Second, the spring meeting of NHBA is March 23 at Camp Carpenter (300 Blondin Road) in Manchester, Zac Lamas speaking.

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JANUARY 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

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Each club in NH contributes a raffle item for the NHBA spring meeting. KBA approved motion to purchase a \$100 gift certificate from Bagley Pond Perennials (<https://bagleypondperennials.com/pages/gift-cards>) Other ideas for future raffles are bag of KBA swag; scratch ticket tree; blueberry bush.

KBA will host the NHBA Fall 2024 meeting (we don't know the date yet.) NHBA pays an agreed upon amount for venue/catering; KBA can subsidize this amount to bring club FLAIR to the meeting. This is a big undertaking for KBA. The Club approved a motion to hold the meeting LOCALLY to our area, surrounding Mt. Kearsarge. The Club approved motion to convene a NHBA Host Committee to report back about various venues, costs, catering options; they are Kim Pease, Bam Fleury, and Mike Plunkett so far. If you know of a great venue or caterer in the area, or want to lend a hand to help, please let the committee know!

Website: Joey Byrnes: Three goals of website—promote, educate, communicate. Go look! **kbanh.org** There's a community forum, club history, the KBA By-laws from 2016, a members-only section, archives of Bee School presentations, and a suggestion box. So far, twenty-five folk have signed up for membership or Bee School on the website. If you have trouble filling in the website forms, use a different browser. The Club approved a motion to make the annual members-only access restart each 1st February.

Old Business: Amelia Lantz will procure the KBA observation hive from Dadant before March.

New Business:

1. Mike Plunkett introduced a discussion about KBA business cards. They might be good for discounts at local businesses who stock beekeeping supplies. Options include personal print-out pdf capability on website and printed cards for Robyn to hand to people with paid memberships.

2. The Club voted to approve Shreve's motion to name the Club Apiary the Gordon Ramspott Memorial Apiary. Shreve Soule and Betsey McNaughton will research a sturdy wooden sign to post on the shed at the apiary.
3. The Club approved Shreve's motion to donate \$200 to Sunapee Fire Dept in Gordon Ramspott's name.
4. The Club approved John's motion to make \$250 contribution to North Sutton Freewill Baptist Church in gratitude for Harvest Supper venue.
5. Elections: Per KBA by-laws, we vote in club officers—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor—annually in January. This year all officers remain in their positions. Betsey McNaughton proposed, and Mike Plunkett seconded, and club members unanimously approved the current slate of amazing leaders!

Miscellany

Thank you to Bob DeLuca, who collects and returns the key to Warner Town Hall the week before and after our Saturday club meetings.

Marilyn Milne asks if anyone else of us are interested in doing the newsletter?

Marilyn also reported that Hampshire Hives of Gilsum NH has moved to

**PO Box 241
Canterbury, CT 06331**

Office 206 Black Hill Road
Plainfield, CT 06374

**Wholesale & Retail
860-457-3400**

Patrice Fredette will lead club meetings in May & June because Shreve is having knee replacement surgery in May.

KBA Club Picnic is 13th July at the Ramspott Farm (where club apiary located), 223 North Rd, Sunapee.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2024, Warner Town Hall, Warner NH.



Kearsarge
Beekeepers
Association

2023 KBA Bee School



President's message continued from front page...

Bee school is in full swing! We have around 40 new students supported by the wonderful club members who continually give their time and attention to the program. It makes me proud to be a KBA member! Big "Thank you" to Deb Stevens and the crew at Sugar River Technical school who are so welcoming. Fingers crossed, the weather continues to be cooperative.

NHBA is looking for help with officer positions. Please consider helping them out. VP and Secretary positions are opening up. There are committee positions as well. Spring NHBA meeting is March 23rd, Dr Zac Lamas will be the speaker. \$15 admission, \$25 for lunch. Looks like they will be using the same vendor as the fall meeting. That food was very tasty! [New Hampshire Beekeepers Association](http://NewHampshireBeekeepersAssociation.org) ☐ (nhbeekeepers.org)



At your service,

Shreve Soule
KBA President

2024 Speaker Calendar

April 13 - Dorinda Priebe, Master Beekeeper

Perpetual Beekeeping - *Dorinda Priebe is an EAS Certified Master Beekeeper keeping honey bees in her home apiary in Raymond since 2003 and at a pollination site on an organic farm. A bee-lover since introduced as a child under her grandfather's elbow, she always knew she would have bees of her own. Dorinda has served on the Eastern Apicultural Society Board as the New Hampshire Director for the last 8 years. Named Beekeeper of the Year in 2019, Dorinda enjoys sharing the secrets of hive life as a speaker for groups and clubs. Bottling honey and developing other products of the hive are sidelines for her as her real passion is sustainable, perpetual beekeeping; making her own bees and Queens and preventing swarming.*

May 11 - Kim Pease

Varroa Mites, Testing, Tropi Mite

June 8 - Ang Roell

Queen Rearing - [Apiary And Beekeeping | Ang Roell | United States \(theykeepbees.com\)](#)



KBA COMMITTEES

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.

2024 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.

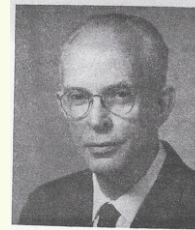
Mail to: Robin Gray, PO Box 275, Warner, NH 03278

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

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 Alfonso Avita-bile



KBA Member Joan O'Connor recently shared two great articles from the American Bee Journal archives: The Domination of

Bumble Bees by Honey Bees and Nectar Sources of New Hampshire. Both written by Dr. Francis O Holmes of Henniker, New Hampshire. Dr Holmes had a fascinating career in science and after retiring from Rockefeller University, retired to New Hampshire and kept bees and studied willows. The intro from "Nectar Sources of New Hampshire" follows. Reprints of these full articles can be found in the KBA library.

THE State of New Hampshire does not appear anywhere near the top of the list of our fifty states when these are arranged in the order of their production of honey in pounds per square mile of land area. Indeed, it appears very close to the bottom of such a list! One of my reasons for choosing to retire in New Hampshire was, in fact, to see whether something could be done about this.

American Bee Journal Vol 101, March 1961, p 88-89

American Bee Journal Vol 115, October 1975, p 395-397



GORDON RAMSPOTT 1928—2023



Lifelong friend to KBA and members.

If you haven't heard, we lost a long time, valued member of KBA. Gordon Ramsrott attended meetings and usually came out to say hello at club events. His smile and the conversations with Gordon will be sorely missed. For those who don't know, Gordon and the Ramsrott Family provide a home for KBA Apiary. At last month's meeting the club voted unanimously to send a donation to the Sunapee Volunteer Firemen's Association in Gordons memory. The club also voted to have the club apiary named in Gordon's memory. A sign will be professionally made and hung on the shed.

-Shreve

[Gordon Ramsrott Obituary \(1928 - 2023\) - Sunapee, NH - Union Leader \(legacy.com\)](#)

Dear Members of the Kearsarge Beekeeper Association ,



Please accept the thanks of the Sunapee Fire Department Association for the very generous \$200 donation you sent to the Association in memory of Gordon Ramsrott. Both Gordon & Janet and now Dana were and are active and vital members of our department and community. He was fully committed to the mission he undertook and everyone in town benefited from his devotion.

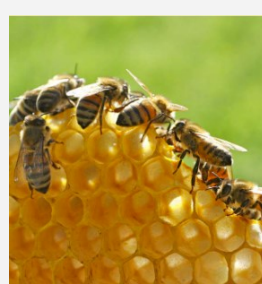
We don't serve our community for recognition or reward, solely to make our town a safe place to live and visit. Your generosity in his name is appreciated and very welcome. Just as Gordon was, we are proud to serve our community, and visitors to Sunapee. Thank you again.

Steven I. Marshall
Captain/ EMT, Clerk

Members of the
SUNAPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATION



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



2024 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Time	Location	Topic	Mentor
Jan —Feb 11 Saturdays	9:00	Sugar River Tech	KBA 2023 Bee School Sessions	
Mar 9, Saturday	9:00	Tentative location Warner Town Library. Final location will be announced via email and FaceBook	KBA Regular Meeting	
April 13, Saturday	9:00	Warner Town Hall	KBA Regular Meeting Guest Speaker: Dorinda Priebe	
May 11, Saturday	9:00	Warner Town Hall	KBA Regular Meeting Guest Speaker: Kim Pease	
June 8, Saturday	9:00	Warner Town Hall	KBA Regular Meeting Guest Speaker: Ang Roell	

Stay tuned for the 2024 Hands On Workshops to be added to the KBA Calendar in future Newsletters.



Visit the NH Beekeeper Association website for updates and upcoming events.

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

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Randy (Bam) Fleury
 Vice President: Betsey McNaughten
 Treasurer: Robin Gray
 Secretary: Laurie Hardt
 Newsletter: Marilyn Milne
 Website: Joey Burns

Please send information for newsletter to: kbanhclub@gmail.com

