

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello! Spring is here! Well, except for the 18 inches of new snow we are all cleaning up! It is so nice to hear and see the native bird population increasing every week. As much as I hate to see the snow, it's better for the bees. We usually still have snow on the ground most years. The last week or 2 my girls have been bringing lots of pollen. While it excites me to see this I worry that they will be getting ahead of Spring conditions, brood up too much only to have a deep freeze come. An over extended colony strong or weak colony can quickly perish this way trying to keep brood warm should temps drop down into the teens for a week or 2. Let’s hope temps moderate without the extreme dips.

Hopefully everyone has ordered their bee packages and nucs by now. Quite a few of us over-wintered near 90%-100% of our colony’s this year. This is very good! But winter/spring conditions can be hard on mediocre colony’s. Keep an eye on your hive's needs. Feed when needed. Fondant or a sugar brick is what most of us use. Liquid feed is risky until temps stay above 50 degrees. If you want to use pollen sub patties, you hopefully would see your bees getting a flight day at least once a week or two.

I personally don’t use pollen sub much. I’m not sure that it benefits the bees any more than a sugar brick does. Studies from Amy Vu and Dr Jamie Ellis at the University of Florida have shown that while the adult bees eat the pollen sub, the nurse bees don’t feed it to the larva or store it. It’s an interesting read, check it out! [Research Update: Following Pollen Substitute Patties in a Honey Bee Colony - UF/IFAS Entomology and Nematology Department \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.ufl.edu/~entomology/researchupdate/following-pollen-substitute-patties-in-a-honey-bee-colony/)

NHBA just held their Spring Conference at Camp Carpenter in Manchester. Me and a few other crazy beekeepers drove in the storm to listen to Dr Zac Lamas talk and enjoy a wonderful buffet from Celebrations. [Home - Celebrations Catering \(celebrationsmenu.com\)](https://celebrationsmenu.com) It was quite tasty!

I think Kevin Sargent was the big winner for KBA in the raffle. He won the \$100 gift certificate KBA donated for the raffle from Bagley Pond Perennials in Warner NH. Kevin graciously donated it back to the club for the apiary. Thank you Kevin! Check out the NHBA web page for the BeeKeeper of the Year award winner and list of new officers for 2024. Mike Plunkett and Bam were busy trying to recruit new members for KBA at the meeting. Go KBA!!

The April meeting will be at the Pillsbury Library one more time (9am). The rest of the year will be back at the Warner Town Hall. Dorinda Priebe will be presenting following the business meeting! I am looking forward to this very much! Hope to see you there!

*At your service,
Shreve Soule
KBA President*

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NEXT MEETING

APRIL 13, 2024
@ 9:00 AM

Pillsbury Library, Warner

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

Minutes from the Previous Meeting
Treasurer’s Report
New Business

Guest Speaker Following Meeting:
Dorinda Priebe, Master Beekeeper
Perpetual Beekeeping

MARCH 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES

March 9, 2024
Warner Town Library
9:00am

Attendance: 30

Shreve Soule, Diane Mancino, Robin Gray, John Chadwick, Randy Fleury, Mike Plunkett, Carol Currotto, Ted Hebery, Robert Joric, Kim Tuttle, Nyrna Gray, Tim Young, Paulette Fitzgerald, John Downing, John McVicar, Jessica, Dennis, Kowem Cotter, Mark Ruff, Denise Wilde, Marla Miller, David Bride, Deirdre Allen, Dawn Allen, Chris O'Connell, Marilyn Milne, Alison Conlon, Susan Menard, Heidi Nelson, Dave Nelson, Joey Byrnes.

Secretary's Report February's minutes read. KBA Membership list has been updated. We are striving to get email addresses for all members to eliminate the need for printing the few newsletter copies and sending them by USPS, which has gone up in price.

How long do people stay on the email list if they haven't paid? 1 year. We need to have a better understanding on who gets a membership password

Treasurer's Report Robin Gray Balance \$10,037.00 as of February 29, 2024. Membership 64 paid, 34 is from Bee school. We netted \$1300 from Beeschool, \$260 from registrations, \$284 from the raffle, \$105 from Tshirts, KBA Expenses amounted to \$1700.

Apiary Report Randy Fleury "BAM" As of Saturday March 2, all of the nucs and production hives were dead. 1 medium hive is alive and has honey in it. The top bar hive is alive also. This is only the second year that the top bar hive has survived the winter.

Help is needed at the KBA Club apiary, 233 North Rd Sunapee. Amelia Lantz spoke and has been working with BAM creating an apiary maintenance schedule for members to help with apiary tasks, such as weekday feeding, hive inspections, shed and yard maintenance, mite inspection & treatments, honey extraction and packaging and marketing. Queen rearing. Mentors are needed.

You can host a HOWS at your apiary. Any member with experience can teach a Hands on Workshop (HOWS) session. Amelia created a sign-up sheet and it will be available at the monthly meetings.

FYI for the queen rearing, you may be able to get a queen cell if you help with that project. BAM is trying to get that scheduled on a weekend with Troy Hall.

Our HOWS schedule can change due to weather or instructor change. Watch for changes on Facebook (KBA NH) and KBA website. Facebook is informal and our KBA website is official.

Keeper Tasks. Sign up when you are available, it can be 1 time a year or routine. The club will reimburse you for any supplies, such as sugar for feeding. Just give your receipt to the treasurer (Robin Gray) and he will cut you a check. We currently have 200 lbs of sugar in the apiary shed.

How do you get into the KBA Apiary with the electric fence? There is a gate that is wooden so you don't need to turn the fence off. But if so, the fence control is inside the fence, turn it to "off" don't forget to reactivate!

The dead hives need to be restocked. BAM will plan on buying 2 nucs and 2 packages, Susan Menard may have some splits in May.

Please sign up. It takes more than 1 person to run a club apiary

Our next HOWS: March 30 at Kim Pease's house April 6 unwrapping, April 10 install bee packages.

WEAR YOUR BEE SUITS/VEILS WHEN NEAR THE HIVES AT THE APIARY.

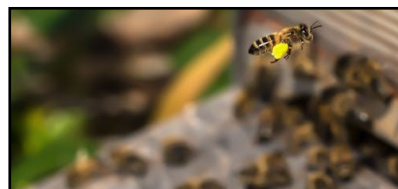
Bee School John Chadwick no new news, Bee school was successful. 34 paid attendees. Thank you to Mike Plunkett for the sound system. Members can access all the videos that were created at Bee School, through the KBA website.

Mentorship If you would like a mentor, send an email to KBA kbanhclub@gmail.com and we will find you some help. **MENTORS ARE NEEDED!**

Speaker committee

Dorinda Priebe April 13, Perpetual beekeeping
Kim Pease May 11 Mite testing/ control
Ang Roell June 8 queen rearing at the club meeting
July is our picnic
August Susan Menard Overwintering
September/ October nothing has been scheduled
November is the harvest dinner Our speaker will be **Andrew Munkres, Lemon Fair** Honeyworks Vermont Beekeepers Association -

Will our presentations be on zoom/video? Mike Plunkett suggested we want to purchase a video camera, for live broadcast /recording our speakers and HOWS. It was noted that some speakers do not like to be recorded.



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MARCH 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

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Library committee no report

Scholarship committee no report

KBA Website Joey Byrnes focus is on the events page. Members now can pay their dues online and will have access to the “members” only section.

KBA is Hosting the Fall Meeting Shreve Soule is going to contact Colby Sawyer about a catering hall. We need a bigger hall for our event instead of the church. No date is set.
Dinner, Honey contest, raffle.
Carol volunteered to do the invitations

Amelia brought the observation hive to be painted, and Mike Plunkett volunteered to paint it.

NHBA Spring Meeting Raffle

Shreve purchased the gift certificate to present to the NHBA spring meeting Raffle

Our cookout is July 13, at the apiary, smoker contest 9 am. BBQ and potluck, raffle & apiary inspection
Picnic is free and guests are welcome.

Newsletter Shreve suggested Marilyn present how she creates the newsletter/ and would anyone like to help her.

2024 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Time	Location	Topic	Mentor
April 6 Saturday	9:00 to 12:00	KBA Apiary 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH	Unwrapping hives and preparing dead outs for new packages	
April 13, Saturday	9:00	Pillsbury Library, Warner	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	
July 13 Saturday	9:00 to 1:00	Ramspott Farm 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH	KBA Summer Picnic	
Aug 24 - 25		Musterfield Farm, Sutton, NH	Musterfield Farm Days	
Nov 8 Friday	5:00 - 8:00	First Free Will Baptist Church 1533 NH-114, North Sutton, NH	KBA 2024 Harvest Dinner	
Nov 9 Saturday	9:00	First Free Will Baptist Church 1533 NH-114, North Sutton, NH	KBA Regular Meeting Followed by Guest Speaker (TBD)	

Visit KBANH.ORG for updates on HOWs and other KBA events.



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



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 \(theykeepbees.com\)](http://Apiary And Beekeeping | Ang Roell | United States (theykeepbees.com))



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 NH Beekeeper Association website for updates and upcoming events.

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

Picture at Right: Shreve Soule, John Chadwick, Bam Fleury, CABA Member, Diane Mancino, Susan Menard and Mike Plunkett all braved the weather to join NHBA at their annual spring meeting in Manchester. Guest speaker Zach Llamas.

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



Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

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

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

