

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello! Happy Summer Solstice! This season is flying by and it has not been one of my better years for swarm management. I do have a doctor's note to excuse me for the season. 😊

I am just getting to the point where I can work a few of my hives again on my own. Of course one of my hives that swarmed has yet to requeen. You wouldn't know they swarmed by the population of the hive. They are quite defensive at this point. It is not a pleasant task when I take 5-10 stings through my bee suit and have yet to start pulling frames for the inspection. Smoke helps but this hive followed me around the property for a while. Pretty sure that same hive sends a welcoming committee to greet me as I sit outside drinking my coffee. My wife got stung just under her eye while cleaning our car. The good news is I found a new queen in the hive yesterday and she is looking like she is expanding and getting ready to start laying. Hopefully the drones she mated with had some gentle genetics.

Milkweed is in full bloom around my neighborhood. It can be fun to watch the bees land back at the hive. Milkweed blooms have some very sticky parts and sometimes the bees come back to the hive with parts of the flower still attached to them! You will see some of the entry guards wrestling with the returning field bee to remove the attached item. For the first time I observed my bees working Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*): Native to swampy habitats in the Eastern United States. The bushes were loaded with little white blooms and most years I never noticed them on the blooms. Walking up the road I could hear the gentle hum of happy bees working the flowers.

As we near the end of the nectar flow, it's time to start to focus on mite control and what treatment options are best for you and your bees. Start with a mite wash and see if treatment is necessary. You will want to monitor mite counts for the next few months closely as our hive populations begin to decline in preparation for, dare I say it, Winter.

I would invite you to visit Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping webpage. He covers in great detail, testing and treating for mites. [Mite Monitoring Methods Archives - Scientific Beekeeping](#)

The Dearth- it's not a rock band, but it is coming to a bee yard near you! Generally by mid-July, the majority of nectar producing plants have stopped production. This is when a hive can begin to starve out. Too many mouths to feed and not enough nectar coming in to maintain the stores. Sometimes the beekeeper contributes to starvation by harvesting too much honey and not realizing the error. Watch for the early signs. Check out Rusty Burlew's blog for more information. [How to recognize a nectar dearth & safeguard your bees - Honey Bee Suite](#)

... continued on page 5.



*Gotta love those purple pollen pants! Pic from a video posted by KBA member Marla Miller on the KBA Facebook page.*

*Thank you Marla!*

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/380310501695098>

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#### NEXT MEETING

**KBA PICNIC  
JULY 13, 2024**

SMOKER CONTEST @ 9:00 AM  
PICNIC @ 12:00

Ramspott Farm  
223 North Road, Sunapee, NH.

NO BUSINESS MEETING  
JUST FOOD, FRIENDS AND FUN!

BRING A POTLUCK DISH, LAWN CHAIR,  
AND A RAFFLE ITEM!

# JUNE 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES

June 8, 2024. Warner Town Hall.

Attendance 15 Shreve Soule, Diane Mancino, Randy Fleury, Alison Conlon, Ken Meier, John Chadwick, Bob DeLuca, Paulette Fitzgerald, Heidi Nelson, Matt, Hoyt, Kim Tuttle, Marilyn Milne, Craig Eisne, Mike Plunkett, Carol Currotto

Treasurer's Report given by Robin Gray—\$6670.66 in the KBA account. Membership, new members noted: 159 members 87 paid for 2024.

Apiary Report given by Randy Fleury - HOWS were conducted weekly in June.

June 11, A Hands On Training was conducted at BAM's production yard at 102 Springfield Rd, Newport. Kevin and BAM went over electric fence issues with grounding rod spacing around a bee yard.

KBA Club Apiary 15 June 2024 223 North Rd, Sunapee 9am Top Hive inspection. Bam Fleury & John Chadwick inspected Apiary colonies & made a split with Top Bar colony.

Amelia Lantz and Marilyn Milne lead HOWS on 22 June, Saturday, 9 am at KBA Apiary, 223 North Rd in Sunapee.

Inspections of KBA 1-3 and OBS Hive nuc John Chadwick sent a report: The rain mostly held off and we had a great time. KBA #2 had us concerned the previous week with more drone brood than regular brood. Saturday's inspection showed some eggs and larvae but not great looking overall. We were decided on eliminating her but Marilyn Milne saved her bacon by checking the notes and finding that she was a new queen. She was spared from being pinched and let back into the hive.

KBA #4 was getting prepped for swarming so we removed the queen, some brood and resources to another deep. Lots of bees were shook into the new box as well because we were leaving them in the apiary. This new colony is KBA #4-A.

Amelia is maintaining the observation hive. She noted it is stressful to keep moving the bees and better to rotate the hives used for the demonstrations.

.KBA HOWS 29 June 2024, 9am, 223 North Road, Sunapee Dave Priebe, NH Apiary Inspector, and Dorinda Priebe, Master beekeeper and very active in Eastern Api-cultural Society,

Thank you all volunteers for chipping in and maintaining the apiary grounds.

Bee School - Bob Deluca reported they had a short meeting to discuss dates for the 2025 Bee School. They will use the same books and curriculum. Contact presenters. They are looking for people to join the Bee School Committee. Any graduates from the 2024 beeschool are welcome to be presenters. Ken Meiers and Matt Hoyt expressed interest in helping out.

Speaker committee no report

Outreach education Amelia reported Sugar River Valley Tech Center, 2 colonies, 3 deeps each, building out foundation frames, honey supers, mite test June 22. Named Hanna & Roses. Amelia would like help moving the hives. Farm day in Unity was a success, the observation hive was observed by about 300 children.

Web committee no report

Nominating committee Craig will take over coffee for June. Cathy Chesley will help in winter with coffee.

We will need a new person for scheduling and managing the hands-on training sessions at the apiary in Sunapee. Brian Demars expressed interest in taking on this task.

Scholarship Committee Kim Pease is stepping down after this term. We will need someone new for 2025.

Notes from President - Shreve purchased 2 banners for KBA and will make a case for them. 3x5 yellow.size.

A sign for the apiary will be ordered in Gordon Ramspott's memory.

KBA cookout July 13. Shreve will pick up meats and rolls. Will be held at the Ramspott farm/apiary. Smoker contest. Raffle items are needed for the cookout

Shreve will be at the Wilmot Farmers Market, August 17, 9am -12 noon. Would anyone like to join him setting up a booth/observation hive/to sell honey.

July 27, Musterfield farm days

NHBA meeting October 19, 2024 Nothing new till later in July. Nothing has been approved.

The club ok'd loan out the observation hive for Musterfield farm picnic display of beehives. Denise Wilde, Marla Miller and Mike Plunkett spoke at the Henniker Rotary. They gave their Bee School presentation.

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Annual Picnic

July 13, 2024, 9 - 1:00

Smoker Contest starts at 9:00 AM

**Come have fun with beeks and friends at the KBA club cookout!**

**What's on the menu?** Bring a dish or dessert to share. KBA provides the meat for the grill and rolls.

**There's a raffle?** Yep! Feel free to bring an item for the raffle. Tickets will be sold at the picnic.

**A smoker contest too?** Come early to join the smoker contest! It starts at 9:00 AM. Smokers and fuel provided by KBA.

**Where?** Ramspott Farm, 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH

**What if it rains?** Rain date is be Sunday July 14th. Notification will be provided on Facebook and email.



**Don't forget your lawn chair! See you there!**



### HOWs Update

**6/22/2024** - A nice group of bee wranglers show up. The rain mostly held off. All in all it was a fun time at the apiary!

- KBA #2 had us concerned the previous week with more drone brood than regular brood. Saturdays inspection showed some eggs and larva but not great looking overall. By checking the notes we saw that she was a new queen, and we gave her more time to settle in to her queenly role.
- KBA #4 was getting prepped for swarming so we remove the queen, some brood and resources to another deep. Lots of bees were shook into the new box as well because we were leaving them in the apiary. This new colony is KBA #4-A.

**6/29/2024** - Dave Priebe, NH Apiary Inspector, and Dorinda Priebe, Master beekeeper and very active in Eastern Apicultural Society, came to the KBA apiary! Despite the unpredictable weather, the bees were amiable and those in attendance were not disappointed by the knowledge and recommendations Dave and Dorinda shared.

Many thanks to those posting pics, videos and updates on Facebook! More pictures can be seen on the following page and on the KBA Facebook page.

Check out the KBA website, [kbanh.org](http://kbanh.org), and the Facebook page, [\(7\) KBA-NH | Facebook](#), for information on upcoming HOWs.





### 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



More pics from the 6/29/2024 HOWS ... Despite the rain last Saturday. We inspected six colonies, saw LOTS of honeybee biology on display, and got the low-down, souped-up wisdom on it with Dave & Dorinda Priebe! Thank you Amelia for coordinating a great HOWs!

## KBA COMITTEES

**Apiary Committee**

**KBA Bee School Committee**

**Speaker Committee**

**KBA Scholarship Committee**

**Education/Outreach Committee**

**Library Committee**

**Nomination Committee**

If you are interested in participating on a committee, email KBA at [kbanhclub@gmail.com](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com) for contact information.

### 2024 Speaker Calendar

**August 10 - Susan Menard**, Setting up your bees for successful overwintering starts now!!! Treatments, Feeding, and Robbing Prevention

**November 9 - Andrew Munkres**, Lemon Fair Honeyworks, [lemonfairhoneyworks](http://lemonfairhoneyworks) | [treatment-free beekeeping in vermont's champlain valley](http://treatment-free-beekeeping-in-vermonts-champlain-valley)





# SUPPORTING THE NH HONEY BEE TOGETHER



July 27, 2024

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Muster Field Picnic**

The New Hampshire Beekeepers Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and study of honey bees, beekeeping, and the economic importance of apiculture in the State of New Hampshire.

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



A beautiful day at the KBA Apiary!

Freshly mowed and tidied by the Apiary Angels. Thank you Kevin Sargent and others who helped to spiffy up the yard! It looks FANTASTIC!!!

... *President's message continued from page 1.*

My YouTube video pick this month: Chuck's Honeybees Channel

This hobbyist beekeeper is a citizen scientist and compares sugar:water ratios to see what the bees prefer? I'll warn you, he talks like he's had too much coffee, but it is an interesting 15 minute video. Perhaps one of our members would perform this experiment and see if our northern bees have the same tastes? August Dearth would be a great time for this experiment.

[What Sugar:Water Ratio do Bees Prefer in a Dearth? - Jacksonville FL Zone 9b - YouTube](#)

**Save the dates! KBA club cookout** is on Saturday July 13th. BYOB & chair, KBA provides the grilling meat and rolls. Bring a dessert or dish to share. We will have a raffle, Smoker contest and your chance to display the coveted trophy in your house! Nothing says "I rock!" more than a KBA smoker trophy in the kitchen to show off! The Smoker contest starts at 9am. Smokers and fuel are provided by KBA! Rain date would be Sunday July 14th.

**NHBA Musterfield Farm** cookout is on July 27th. This is a **free** event for all KBA members and family's! Dr David Peck will be the guest speaker from Betterbee. It's a cookout with demonstrations and another chance to talk bees with people from around the state.

**At your service,**  
**Shreve Soule**  
**KBA President**



June 6, 2024—Mike Plunkett, Marla Miller and Denise Wilde visited the Henniker Rotary Club to talk about bees and KBA. As guest speakers, they gave an introduction into beekeeping and Denise and Maura gave their First Year Beekeepers power point presentation from 2024 Bee School.

It was a great success and resulted in new members to our club, another speaking engagement and greater awareness for the bees.

Attached is a photo taken during the meeting

# 2024 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Time	Location	Topic
July 13, Saturday	9:00 to 1:00	Ramspott Farm 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH	<b>KBA Summer Picnic!!!!</b> 9:00 Smoker Contest 12:00 Lunch
July 27, Saturday	10:00 to 3:00	Musterfield Farm, Sutton, NH	NHBA Annual Picnic Guest speaker: Dr David Peck, Betterbee
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: Andrew Munkres, Lemon Fair Honeyworks

Visit [kbanh.org](http://kbanh.org) and the KBA Facebook page, KBA-NH, for updates on HOWs and other KBA events.  
The KBA Apiary is located at the Ramspott Farm, 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH.

## Beekeeping Calendar for the Northeast

Wondering what's happening in your hive this month? Do you know what's blooming in June? Check out Cornell's Beekeeping calendar for more information on hive and apiary activities as well as seasonal weather and forage options.



## 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](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com)

Join our Facebook page at: KBA-NH (private group)

[kbanh.org](http://kbanh.org)

