

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello!

I hope your spring season is going well for you and your bees. My hives have been very active with lots of pollen and nectar coming in from many sources. My honey supers have been on since the 2nd week in May. Seems like many plants are blooming a week or 2 earlier this year? It’s amazing how our springs differ from year to year. This time last year we had a late frost that killed many blossoms. Weak hives built up slowly with the cooler spring, not to mention all the rain that fell. This spring, “24” is looking better for my bees and fruit trees. The native pollinators seem to be having a good spring as well. My fruit bearing trees are done blooming. Black berry is beginning to bloom. I have a honey locust tree that the bee’s love, ready to bloom. Their flowers look more like walnut tree blooms. Like their white locust cousins, they are a good source for nectar but not found widely in NH. This tree came from western NY from my in-laws property along with a couple walnut trees. No doubt, the nectar flow is on!

The HOWS at the club apiary have been well attended. Thank you to all our club members that take the time to organize and lead these fun events. If you are timid working your hives, there is no better way than to attend the HOWS sessions and get some “FREE” help!

Swarm season is here and this is a good time to make a split if you want to increase your hive numbers, if your hives are strong. Youtuber “Jeff Horchoff Bees” is a channel to check out if you like to watch swarm captures and cutouts. He is located down in Louisiana. I found one video particularly interesting. Most of us use 5 gallon buckets on extendable poles when trying to capture a swarm out of safe distance from the ground. He has started using a wire trash basket and demonstrated that the bees tend to stay in the basket longer instead of trying to fly out. I might just try this one out! The basket should be lighter than a 5 gallon bucket. Check out the video link. [...and the day has just begun \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

HB 1698-FN is close to being signed by the Governor. Below is a link to send a message if you would like to voice your opinion.

[Tell the Governor To Protect NH Families and Pollinators from Pesticide Exposures— Oppose HB 1698-FN! \(everyaction.com\)](https://www.everyaction.com/petition/tell-the-governor-to-protect-nh-families-and-pollinators-from-pesticide-exposures-oppose-hb-1698-fn)

Remember, KBA Cookout is Saturday July 13th. Bring the family and a dish to share. KBA will provide the grilling items. Come sit under the shade of the Ramspott’s maple trees. It’s always good fun!

Lastly, thanks to everyone who reached out with well wishes. I am 2 weeks out from knee replacement surgery, and starting to feel more like myself. I hope to be making appearances at KBA events by the end of June. If someone could tell my bees that it’s not nice to chase an old man with a walker, I would appreciate it!

At your service,
Shreve Soule



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NEXT MEETING

JUNE 8, 2024
@ 9:00 AM

Warner Town Hall

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

Minutes from the Previous Meeting
Treasurer’s Report
New Business

MAY 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES

May 11, 2024. Warner Town Hall. Conducted by Patrice Fredette, Vice president.

Attendance 20 Kim Pease, Patrice Fredette. Robin Gray, Diane Mancino, Lydia Hawkes, Jodi Hedderig, Mark Zimmerman, Timothy Sileo, Betsey McNaughten, Randy Fleury, Eric DeKing, Susan Menard, Cathay Chesley, Marilyn Milne, Craig Eisner, Amelia Lantz, Brian Demars, Bob Deluca, Myra Gray, John Chadwich. New Member recognized **Tim Sileo WELCOME to KBA!**

Secretary's Report Our current newsletter was sent out to all KBA members past and present, via email, KBA website and postal mail. Emails were sent out for all Hands On Training events and videos were recorded and posted on Facebook.

The secretary is responsible for sending out the newsletter. Question was raised as to how long you can receive a newsletter. If you are getting the newsletter by postal mail your subscription expires after 1 year, Digital 2 years. Members only access to KBAnh.org is controlled by password that will be changed annually, Members will receive the new password with receipt of payment.

Treasurer's report Robin Gray \$6670.66 in the KBA account. Membership 159 members 87 paid for 2024. Questions addressed on if you pay your membership late in the year, if your enrollment will be applied for the following year's membership. ! new member this month.

Apiary Report Randy Fleury They had their first Apiary Committee Meeting to plan and set goals. Amelia Lantz is setting up the Hands on Training schedule for the apiary, contacting the volunteers, and managing the events. She does not want to do it after this year, so we need someone to take over in 2025.

Signups are still needed for June to conduct the session. This is not to just attend the event. You can sign up for specific topics or inspections. Situations can change due to nature, like a hive going queen less, or bad weather, or lack of manpower. We are successful in communicating to the group in emails and on Facebook.

Top bar hive: we have comb honey and BAM suggested we sell it.

Medium hive frame hive that was donated by Bethany from Henniker, swarmed, new queen installed, deep box on bottom.

Observation hive had queen cells, but may have swarmed, queens installed. Queen cells were moved to another NUC with 2 frames of bees. Hopefully we have a laying queen by the end of May.

Honey supers installed. On hives 5-18

Budget: \$1000,-\$1500 average \$100 profit from honey sales

Committee decided we would have special speakers on Sundays and club meeting days. BAM would like to have several grafting sessions.

HOW'S Report A Hands On Training was conducted every Saturday in May. Thank you to all that signed up and attended.

Special Events: Mike Plunkett, Ann Harris, set up a booth and observation hive at Runnings Store in Claremont, May 11. The response was very good. There are many beekeepers/potential members in our district.

Marilyn Milne suggested a zoom meeting with **Joey Byrnes** on how the newsletter and website is put together.

Bee School Bob Deluca has nothing new to report.

Speaker committee Kim Pease/Susan Menard. June's speaker Ang Roell, Queen Rearing, needs to be re-scheduled for later in the year. Andrew Munkres is the scheduled speaker for the harvest dinner.

Nominating committee We need a new coffee person to relieve Amelia Lantz from this task. Thank You Amelia! 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 Soule: Shreve and Mike Plunkett visited New England College in Henniker, NH for the harvest dinner venue. There is enough room for 128 people, but it was not approved by NHBA. due to size and expense. Dana checked on Croydon Hall \$200 for the rental and that wasn't approved either- the feeling is that NHBA wants it in Manchester, NH. Camp Carpenter is a good option for size, price and location.

What is KBA's function as host for the State Event event? October 19, 2024.

Find the location for 175 people, set up, snacks, food, presentations,

KBA cookout July 13. Shreve will pick up meats and rolls. Will be held at the Ramspott farm/apiary.

Continued page 3...

MAY 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

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NEW BUSINESS Patricia Fredette 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.

The club considered and approved a \$500 donation for member Mike & Lisa Plunkett who lost his house in a fire.

Club Pamphlets. Can the club order more pamphlets? Shreve is going to buy a banner for events.

July 27, Musterfield farm days

Farm and Forest Expo- no participants from KBA helped with the booth

Contact **David Priebe** if you have a suspected pesticide kill.

Dave Priebe
Apiary Inspector
New Hampshire Department of
Agriculture, Division of Plant In-
dustry
State Lab Bldg.
6 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

**Kim Pease conducted a presen-
tation on varroa mites**



HOWs Update

5/11/2024 - We had a small but engaging turnout for the HOWs. Cloudy and 60ish. Bam made up a nuc from Dana's overwintered hive. They had 3 frames with brood and one of resources. The other colonies were inspected and the new packages seem to be building up nicely. Our over-wintered top bar had 10 or 11 bars with brood on them. They will be getting more room once some honey and comb honey are removed, hopefully this week. Eric De King was paying close attention to the top bar hive as he will be starting his own later this week. Thanks for all who showed up and Cathy for the pics.

5/18/2024 - Bill and Bam lead inspections of all hives including the top bar. Eric provided great information and conversation on available forage, feeding and preparations for the upcoming dearth. Thank you, Eric, Bam and Bill for a great hands-on workshop at the K B A Apiary. Diane has posted some great videos of the HOWs on the KBA Facebook page.

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

Check out the calendar on the back page of this newsletter as well as the KBA website for information on upcoming HOWs, kbanh.org



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



May 11, 2024 - Mike Plunkett and Ann Harris had a honeybee informational table at Runnings in Newport. Here, Ann talks about bees and KBA with a customer. Runnings sells honeybee equipment and will provide a discount to KBA members showing a member card. Thank you, Ann and Mike for sharing your bee knowledge and representing KBA!

KBA COMMITTEES

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 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 | [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)

So nice to see the return of our native pollinators! We always do some version of “No Mow May” around our house and it is great to see the yard come alive as spring progresses. Not a great picture, but one of my favorites... a clearwing hummingbird moth. What fun pollinators have you seen lately?



Encourage Bees to Make Honeycomb

By [Charlotte Anderson](#) Updated December 22, 2023

Beekeepers hope to **encourage the bees to make honeycomb swiftly**. Comb construction in the hive is the result of the efforts of many bees. A lot of factors are involved in the rate of wax building for any colony. Can you help hurry the job along? Sometimes, yes.

[Encouraging Bees to Build Comb: Expert Tips- Carolina Honeybees](#)



Sugar/Water Ratios for Feeding Bees

Don't Make Deadly Mistakes

Mixing pure cane sugar with water is a common method of feeding bees. Different ratios are used to promote different targets



These are guidelines not rules

1:1 ENCOURAGES BROOD REARING & COMB BUILDING

1 to 1 mixture of sugar water is - equal parts of sugar and water.

8 lbs (16 1/4 cups) sugar to 1 gallon (128 oz) of water

4 lbs (8 cups) sugar to 1/2 gallon (64 oz) of water

2 lbs (4 cups) sugar to 1 quart (32 oz) of water

1 lb (2 cups) sugar to 1 pint (16 oz) of water

2:1 ENCOURAGES FOOD STORAGE - HONEY FOR WINTER

2 to 1 mixture of sugar water is - 2 parts sugar and 1 part water.

16 lbs (32 1/2 cups) sugar to 1 gallon (128 oz) of water

8 lbs (16 1/4 cups) sugar to 1/2 gallon (64 oz) of water

4 lbs (8 cups) sugar to 1 quart (32 oz) of water

2 lb (4 cups) sugar to 1 pint (16 oz) of water



I can't give proper credit for this meme, the author/creator is unknown. It has been floating around the internet lately, so maybe you've seen it. It's a pretty accurate representation of me... maybe you as well? Makes me giggle every time I read it.

Bee Safety Alert

Some beekeepers heat water to aid in dissolving dry cane sugar. Use care- do not cook sugar water. This could result in sick/dead bees.



It is not necessary to heat water for 1/1 Sugar Water.



©Carolinahoneybees.com

[sugar water ratios for feeding bee printable \(carolinahoneybees.com\)](http://carolinahoneybees.com)

2024 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Time	Location	Topic
June 8, Saturday	9:00	Warner Town Hall	KBA Regular Meeting, followed by Guest Speaker: Susan Menard - Setting up your bees for successful overwintering starts now!!! Treatments, Feeding, and Robbing Prevention
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: Andrew Munkres, Lemon Fair Honeyworks

Visit kbanh.org for updates on HOWs and other KBA events. Events also posted to the KBA Facebook page, KBA-NH
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

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

kbanh.org

