

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello! My bee's have been busy even on the cooler day's. I find it interesting that they will fly when it's 45 degrees in the Spring and not fly at all in the Fall at the same temperature.

My 12 hives overwintered. One hive when I cracked the lid was obviously queenless. They roared at me as soon as I lifted the lid. A mouse made its home in the hive for part of the winter. It chewed through a couple frames of foundation and made a nest in the corner. There were still around 4 frames of bees. I decided since we didn't have mated queens yet locally to just do a paper combination with another hive. What's a paper combination you ask? Check out this video from Jim Tew. He is a regular contributor to Bee Culture magazine. [September 2022 - A common and simple technique for combining \(uniting\) two bee colonies. \(youtube.com\)](#). It's a very simple and successful way to combine a weak hive, with a stronger hive.

I can see the bees are bringing in lots of red maple and pussywillow pollen. They usually get pollen bound pretty quick in May which leads to some swarming tendencies. It's like clockwork every year. Except this year clock seems to be a few weeks ahead.

I spent the afternoon going in and seeing what my girls are up to for the first time. I'm expecting at least 4 of them to be trying to swarm in the next couple weeks. That's right I was finding cups and scraping lots of drone brood off the bottom of frames. Those double deep hives already had 10-12 frames of brood of various ages and are ready to explode in population!

For the new beekeepers, some of you have already picked up your nuc's and packages. A new exciting journey has begun. Don't forget to reach out to mentors or club members with your questions. We love to talk about bees!

The HOWS (Hands on workshops) are happening pretty regularly now. Amelia has done a wonderful job of rounding up the volunteers and organizing the schedule. There is a lot to learn that you can't always get when reading a book for instruction. I encourage everyone to join in. Bring your questions. Like the monthly meetings, it's a great way to get your questions answered.

The KBA Fall Harvest dinner and speaker session will be at a new venue this year. The Wilmot Community Center has been reserved for Nov. 8th & 9th. I've also been busy trying to find a site for the Fall NHBA conference. KBA is hosting the event this year. The hosting club is rotated on a yearly basis. It will be around 8-10 years before we host again depending on the number of active clubs from year to year.

I will be out of commission for most of May and June due to knee replacement surgery. Our VP Patrice Fredette will be filling in at the meetings for me in my absence.

Thanks to all the members that continue to volunteer and make this a great club to belong too.

*At your service,
Shreve Soule
KBA President*



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NEXT MEETING

MAY 11, 2024

@ 9:00 AM

Warner Town Hall

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

**Minutes from the Previous Meeting
Treasurer's Report
New Business**

Guest Speaker Following Meeting:

Kim Pease

Varroa Mites, Testing, Tropi Mite

MARCH 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES

APR 13, 2024 9:00 AM

Attendees: Shreve Soule, Diane Mancino, Patrice Fredette, Robin Gray, Kim Tuttle, Deb Dunlap, Brian Demars, Betsey McNaughten, Carol Currotto, Diane Nault, Denise Wilde, Marla Miller, Paulette Fitzgerald, Cathay Chesley, Myra Gray, Bob Deluca, Heidi Nelson, Dave Nelson, Mike Plunkett, Jen Hurean, William Goggin, Barbara Marty, Sy Sisemore. Jim McDonald, Eric DeKing, Ann Harris, Amelia Lantz, Marilyn Milne, Joey Byrnes.

Secretary's report Diane Mancino Minutes read and New members recognized. I updated our member email contact list, noting all members who have paid/renewed their memberships, noting who has a lifetime membership. An email was sent out with the Members Only password. Membership can be renewed at <https://kbanh.org/>.

The newsletter is being sent out to members via email. Paper printing of the newsletter has been reduced to a few handouts for new members and a few who do not have email addresses. Members are subscribed to the newsletter for 1 year past the membership year. I don't have a way of dropping past due memberships yet, so I'm emailing the newsletter out to all contacts.

Treasurer's report Robin Gray 86 Paid members 3 in April. 12 in March. Discussion was made on how many renewals were due to online payments. Membership runs from the beginning of the year. We do not send out reminders. Bank balance \$7591. Insurance \$250.

Committee Reports

THANK YOU BAM AND MIKE PLUNKETT FOR DRIVING DOWN TO GEORGIA TO PICK UP THE BEES!

Apiary Report Randy Fleury BAM Amelia Lantz has created a sign up. Members are signing up on the Mentor and Keeper sign up sheets. There are still some slots that need to be filled. The keepers will do the feedings, mentors will do the hive inspections. Any experienced/confident beekeeper is welcome to sign up and is able to inspect. The sign-up sheet was passed around at the meeting. Having extra keepers allows the mentors to be able to focus on teaching the Hands On Training for that day.

HOWS events were conducted April 9, and April 13 April 20 and April 27. Cleaning up deadout hives and prepping for installation of replacement NUCs, NUC installations/queen release and inspections/feedings.

Yard maintenance list is filled up.

Please give Amelia your contact information. A sign in sheet was suggested to keep in the apiary shed, maybe with the inspection notebook, to keep track of members who might help out on their own time. Text Amelia / BAM that you were there. This would eliminate double visits for feeding, etc. Is feeding necessary?

Questions about Mite treatment, Cause of hive dead-outs were most likely mites.

Bee School Bob Deluca First meeting was on April 10, Dinner and discussion on what was learned from Bee School.

Mentorship

Speaker Committee nothing new to report

Library - Patrice Fredette A list of available books is on the KBA website. Books are available for check out. Contact Patrice for checkout

Nominating Committee John Chadwick nothing new to report.

Education Outreach Amelia Lantz Thank you to Mike Plunkett for painting the observation hive. Thanks to BAM a 5 frame NUC will be kept at the KBA Apiary. Bees are thriving. OA treatment was done at the Sugar Valley Technical Regional Center inside Newport High School.

River Valley Community College inquired about having beehives on RVCC property. Waiting for a response.

Proctor Academy wants BAM to take some students to an apiary. Dana Ramspott told him it would be OK to have them come out to the KBA Apiary in May.

Mike Plunkett video taped the trip and pickup of bees in Georgia. And will process the video for a presentation at a future meeting. He reminded the group that they have a discount at Runnings in Claremont.

Runnings asked if we would like to set up a booth. May 11 for question and answers 10-2pm. Same day as the KBA meeting.

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MARCH 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES CONTINUED

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Website Joey Byrnes is working on getting photos into the website. Mike Plunkett will work on getting videos onto the website.

Scholarship report Kim Pease no report

KBA cookout July 13 9am smoker contest and BBQ

Fall conference Shreve Soule is still looking for a location to hold the event. KBA is hosting the State event. He is reaching out to New England College, BAM suggested Eagle Pond in Wilmot. We will book Camp Carpenter if we do not have any other choices.

NEW BUSINESS

KBA welcomed guest speaker Dorinda Priebe for a presentation on "Swarms"

May 3, 2024 9am to 7 pm May 4 2024 9am to 4pm The Farm and Forest Expo is coming up and NH Beekeeper Assn is looking for members to man the booth, 2 hr time slots. Looking for 30 volunteers.

KBA Fall harvest dinner November 8-9, 2024. Shreve is going to look for a different site for our dinner. Shreve went to the Wilmot Community Center and will reserve a room there that can hold 75 people. It has a kitchen with dishwasher and tableware.

Patrice will help with evite invitations

NH Beekeeper Assn news: Dave Priebe inspection will start charging \$20 for hive inspections.

There is a House Bill coming up for a vote on Pesticide distribution with the use of drones. NB1698fn.



HOWs Report

April 27, 2024

John Chadwick led the inspection of the Top Bar Hive (TBH), Nucleus hive, and 5 full size Langstroth hives. There were around 14 people in attendance.

It was a cool start around 50 degrees, sunny and no wind.

The TBH looked very good with 4-5 frames with brood and no shortage of honey frames. John removed 5-7 honey frames from the bees "working space" to allow them to build up and maintain fewer frames until temps warmed up some more. Bee's were bringing in pollen.

KBA 1-4 hives- Packages installed in early April continue to grow. All the colony's had 4-5 frames of brood of all ages. KBA 4 seemed to be doing the best population wise. KBA 3 had a queen cell in it but it is unclear why? Queen appeared to be doing fine with the laying pattern.

KBA 5 overwintered hive was very populous and had numerous cups and drone broods. There was still room for the queen to lay. Will have to keep an eye for swarming signs for the next month.

Nuc hive is doing very well building up fast.

All the hives still had plenty of honey. Some of the frames of honey were scraped to encourage the bee to utilize it easier.

Next HOWS we will mark the queens.

Many thanks to Matt Tilley for posting the great pictures! More pictures can be seen on the KBA Facebook page.



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



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.

Honey Bee Life Cycle



	QUEEN 	WORKER 	DRONE 
EGG	Up to Day 3	Up to Day 3	Up to Day 3
LARVA	Up to Day 8½	Up to Day 8	Up to Day 9½
CELL CAPPED	Day 7½	Day 9	Day 10
PUPA	Day 8 Until Emergence	Day 10	Day 10 Until Emergence
DAYS UNTIL EMERGENCE	16 Days	21 Days	24 Days
START OF FERTILITY	Day 23 and Up	N/A	About 38 Days
BODY LENGTH	18-22mm (0.71-0.87in)	12-15mm (0.47-0.59 in)	15-17mm (0.59-0.67 in)
WEIGHT ON EMERGING	Nearly 200 mg (3.1g)	Nearly 100 mg (1.5 gr)	Nearly 200mg (3.1g)

2024 Speaker Calendar

May 11 - Kim Pease, Varroa Mites, Testing, Tropi Mite

June 8 - Ang Roell, Queen Rearing - [Apiary And Beekeeping | Ang Roell | United States \(theykeepbees.com\)](#)



[The Honey Bee Lifecycle \(bestbees.com\)](http://bestbees.com)

2024 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Time	Location	Topic
May 11, Saturday	9:00	Warner Town Hall	KBA Regular Meeting Guest Speaker: Kim Pease
May 12, Sunday	2:00 PM	KBA Apiary	HOWs: Creating nucleus colonies with Bam and John
May 18, Saturday	9:00	KBA Apiary	Inspection / Dearth Preparation
May 25, Saturday	9:00	KBA Apiary	Inspection / Marking Queens
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.

The KBA Apiary is located at the Ramspott Farm, 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH.

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)

