

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello,
 Here we are in the beginning of September. Hopefully you are done harvesting your spring honey and continuing to monitor your hives for food stores and mites. So far my hives are producing 1 or 2 mites per ½ cup or 300ish bees. This is below the treatment threshold (1% or 3 mites) and this always creates some uneasiness. What the treatment threshold is has changed over the years. I hate losing colonies but I also hate spending money on expensive treatments that based on my counts aren't necessary. With mite levels below the treatment threshold, this causes most beekeepers to struggle over whether to treat regardless of mite test outcome. I see some very prominent commercial beekeepers on YouTube who treat even though their mite levels are low. One can't help but imagine how much money they could be saving? On the other hand they are probably focused on how much money they could be losing in bees, honey, wax, and pollen sales. Treatment is cheaper than the combined financial losses as a result of mites and their associated viruses. As beekeepers we must always strive to find the path of enlightenment. LOL! What does that last line mean? I'll quote my mother during my school years, **"Do your homework!!"** Try to make practical decisions and talk with beekeepers who understand your situation. Educate yourself and don't leave your bee's survival to chance. The minimum we can do is monitor mite numbers knowing that with increased mite population, there is a greater chance of Varroa born viruses. Ultimately you are in control of your hives.

September is here and your bees should be trying to store up as much nectar as they can. We should be hefting our hives in September and they should be getting heavier. Usually by the end of September they should have the top deep full or almost full of honey. If the queen is laying in the top you shouldn't be reversing hive bodies. The workers will force her down by filling newly hatched cells with nectar. You don't want to leave half empty supers. Empty space requires more energy (honey) to keep the space warm in winter. Empty or undrawn frames should be removed or moved toward the outside if they need to be left in. You may need to feed syrup (2:1) to help them achieve their goal of 70lbs-100lbs. Queen excluders should be off your hives and extra supers removed if not being left on for food source. We want our bees to pack and surround themselves with honey. Golden Rod and Aster (Purple/White) flowers are the primary targets for most of us. If you have Chinese knotweed, that is another good source of nectar/pollen. There are other native sources out there, Boneset comes to mind. Do your bees need pollen? Yes. They store a little pollen to get brood rearing going in late January/Feb.



Gordan Ramspott Memorial Apiary

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NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
 @ 9:00 AM
 WARNER TOWN HALL

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AUGUST 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES

Warner Town Hall
August 10, 2024

Attendance 17 : Patrice Fredette, Robin Gray, Diane Mancino, Tim Young, Ted Hebert, Ann Harris, Dave Nelson, Heidi Nelson, Marla Miller, Denise Wilde, Christopher Norris, Mike Plunkett, John Chadwick, Bob Deluca, Myra Gray, Amelia Lantz, Randy Fleury. Joey Byrnes

Susan Menard gave a presentation on setting up your bees for successful overwintering, mite treatment, feeding, and robbing prevention.

Secretary's Report: Diane Mancino Minutes read. We did not have a business meeting in July. Nothing new to report. 1 new member was signed up in July.

Treasurer's Report Robin Gray Membership stands at 102 paid members \$5567 account balance.

Committee Reports John Chadwick

The Apiary Report Committee met and discussed that the hives needed to be fed/honey supers removed. 1/1 syrup. Honey Frame extractions will be done and members will help with that August 17. HOWS. Honey jarred / prepared for sale at Musterfield Farm Days August 24& 25. Location is at the KBA Apiary

Mite testing and treatment will also be completed at that HOWS.

No HOWS August 24, because of Musterfield Farm days, but hive maintenance still needed to be done. August 31, HOWS remove treatments and inspect hives. Shreve will lead this. We have 18 colonies to inspect and "Mite wash" and treat

HELP IS ALWAYS NEEDED AND WELCOMED. If you have been to bee school or have kept hives, you are qualified to help out. We have all kinds of resources at the apiary and we have fun sharing our knowledge. We need members to help with the apiary.

Bee School Bob Deluca No new news Deborah Stevens still needs tentative dates for Bee School. Hopefully confirm by September and work on a flier

Speaker committee Nothing until the harvest dinner in November. Andrew Monk will speak then.

Library Committee Patrice Fredette is the contact person. Let her know if you would like to check out a book.

Nominating committee John Chadwick, nothing new to report. We need a new coffee person. We need a scholarship person

KBA Website Joey Byrnes has been working on adding articles to the website.

Education outreach Amelia Lantz is working with Deborah Stevens and Joey Byrnes on scholarships. Newport High School has 4 thriving bee colonies. And needs help moving 2 hives out of the school. Mike Plunkett will help.

New Business The State Fall NHBA meeting is on October 19, 2024. Shreve Soule Dana Ramspott helped get the Croydon Fire Station approved.

KBA will be hosting, setting up, Mike Plunkett has signed up for that. We need ideas for handouts, gifts, grab bags, raffles etc.

Set up needed for 150 guests.

Registration will be through the NHBA website.

A Caterer has been hired.

Honey Tasting Trophy voted on. Betsy will order the trophy in time for the Harvest dinner

Beekeepers Relief fund. Mike Plunkett. Mike has pamphlets explaining the nonprofit program that helps beekeepers in need/giving financial assistance.

T shirts Diane Mancino will get a quote for long sleeve T Shirts. Black or Gold shirts chosen. KBA Logo front and back and on sleeve.

Harvest supper is in November. Signup is needed for set up. 4;30 set up and hands needed for clean up.

Today's presentation was given before the monthly meeting to allow adequate time for questions and answers. Many members suggested that we make this routine. This would allow more time for member questions & answers. This is good if we have a guest speaker. Discussion tabled for further discussion.

Kearsarge Beekeepers Annual Picnic

July 13, 2024



HOWs Update

Lots of great HOWs have taken place in the past couple months. Hope you've had an opportunity to attend! Some highlights shared here in case you missed any. Check out our Facebook page for videos, pics and reports from each day!



July 20th—The Observation hive was all a buzz!



Aug 3rd— Using Essential oils with Kevin Sargent and top bar inspection.



Aug 17th—Inspections and honey harvest

Essential Oils for Varroa

Making Up a 5 gallon Bucket Recipe

As posted by Kevin Sargent on KBA Facebook



Spring Formula

2 Milliliters Of Tea Tree Oil

2 Milliliters Of Thyme Oil

2 Milliliters Of Spearmint Oil

1/2 Milliliters Of Lemongrass Oil

Fall Formula

2 Milliliters Of Tea Tree Oil

4 Milliliters Of Thyme Oil

2 Milliliters Of Wintergreen

These above recipes are for making up 5 gals of sugar syrup to add into the sugar syrup that you will feed to your bees.

Generally feed a minimum of 1 Gal of this essential oil sugar syrup per hive but the more the Qty of this you feed them the better the results.

You need to designate a blender for this only as the smell will stay within the blender/best to buy one for this purpose only.

In the fall you will notice that the recipe has doubled upon the Thyme dosage as that will give you a Heavy Varroa mite knock down for winter.

Add about 12 ozs of water to blender and then add oils and run blender with cover upon top upon high speed to emulsify for 5 minutes it will look like a milk shake color inside the blender.

If you can use letchin granules and a 1/2 teaspoon would be more then enough as that will keep the oils mixed better with water which may separate in an hour but just shake container and pour out what you need for say a 1 gallon batch.

Add water first as if you put straight essential oils into your blender it will eat up the rubber seals fast. Always rinse blender out at least 3 or more times with hot faucet water and run upon short cycles to get everything/oil residue removed before storage.

A small eye dropper with Milliliter graduations can be purchased in the beauty section of a store which should have these.

Also you can add 1 teaspoon of liquid Lactic acid or ascorbic acid powder to your pail before adding sugar and water this will lower the PH of the syrup down to about 4.6 and be was easier for the bees to digest and convert otherwise your syrup is around 7 and a lot more work for the bees intestines to get it lower towards normal honey PH.

Kevin



The Importance of Sunflowers for Honeybees

Written by [Beekeeper Paul](#)

Sunflowers play a crucial role in the survival and well-being of honeybees. As pollinators, honeybees are vital for the reproduction of many plant species, including sunflowers. However, the relationship between honeybees and sunflowers goes beyond simple pollination.

[The Importance of Sunflowers for Honeybees - Honeybee Hobbyist](#)

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 Manual, 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



Members Bam and Rob at Musterfield Farm Days.



A Wilmot Farmer's Market 8/17

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.

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

Keep an eye on temperatures. I like to be done with feeding and inspections by October. Farmers Almanac is calling for a warmer fall. If you are feeding syrup, they need to evaporate it down for capping. A lot of open nectar or syrup is not good for moisture regulation in colder temps. If you see cold temperatures dropping into the low 50's during the day in the future forecast, then syrup should be removed. Ask your fellow beekeepers for help if you are not sure.

The KBA picnic back in July was a blast! The weather was perfect and there were many hungry mouths to feed. Thank you to the Ramspotts for hosting. Thanks to Javier for the bacon! Thanks to all that helped set up and tear down or brought a dish to share. Thanks to Bam who volunteered to run the raffle. It was a fun day and always goes way too fast. The smoker contest is always fun and this year was no different. I love when the more experienced beekeepers get their "smokers" kicked by an up and coming youth! As we load our smokers there is always some light hearted banter between competitors. Of course some of us try to coach the less experienced, it's in our blood, or we can't help ourselves! Well our winner ignored most advice and won the KBA Smoker trophy despite his lid not being tight to the canister. Thanks to Fred and Quinn Chancey for judging the contest. **Congratulations to Gavin Chancey!!!** Your hours of practice paid off! Yes, the Chancey family gets to take home the coveted trophy for another year.

The NHBA July Musterfield Farm Picnic was very well attended by the KBA membership. It was a beautiful day and they had an excellent speaker, Dr David Peck from Betterbee. Mike Plunkett had a wonderful display of different hive types. Even had one or 2 I have never seen before! Marilyn Milne had a table representing the USDA Farm service Agency. Brian Jasinski, Shane Howard and myself were the grill masters for the event. Thank you to everyone who brought food items and raffle items. Thanks to KBA members who lent out their grills to NHBA. John Chadwick, Dave Nelson and Brian Jasinski.

Here are my YouTube videos of the month to check out. Farming the Giant Asian Hornet in Vietnam. It's about 20 minutes long. I wonder what they did for protection before the space suits? [This Tribe Eats Murder Hornets! Harvesting Asia's Deadliest Delicacy](#). This is a shorter video in South Korea. They have an interesting device for removing bee's off the frames as they pull them from the hive. Check it out! [Process of producing 100% real natural honey - Korean Real Bee-Farm](#)

Dave Nelson and myself spent the morning at the Wilmot Farmers Market. The observation hive was a big draw. We were pretty busy talking with interested shoppers and their kids. We met some KBA family members. It was a lot of fun! We had 3-5 interested in beekeeping and possible students in the winter.

The club had its HOWS on 8/17 "Extracting honey." Can't wait to hear what the harvest was!

Upcoming monthly meetings at the Warner Town Hall, 09/14 & 10/12 @ 0900

At your service,
Shreve Soule
KBA President



NHBA Annual Picnic at Musterfield Farm. KBA had a great turn out! July 27, 2024

2024 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Time	Location	Topic
Sept 14, Saturday	9:00 AM	Warner Town Hall	KBA Regular Meeting
Oct 12, Saturday	9:00 AM	Warner Town Hall	KBA Regular Meeting
Nov 8, Friday	5:00 - 8:00 PM	Wilmot Community Center (Red Barn)	KBA 2024 Harvest Dinner
Nov 9, Saturday	9:00 AM	Wilmot Community Center (Red Barn)	KBA Regular Meeting Followed by Guest Speaker: Andrew Munkres, Lemon Fair Honeyworks

Visit 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 September? 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

