

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello,
 Welcome to Fall! The leaves are changing and hopefully you are well into your preparations for winter. It's Fair season and my wife and I along with our youngest (20yrs old) and a friend went down to the Big E in Springfield MA. We got a clue as to what a beehive is like at maximum population as they broke an attendance record (178,608) that day. The lines were long for everything. My wife was ready to make queen cells and swarm by 2pm!

KBA will be hosting the NHBA Fall meeting at the Croydon Fire station on Saturday October 19th starting at 9am to 12 pm. Since it is our year to host, KBA is responsible for setting up and cleaning up. KBA is also responsible for morning coffee and treats. The club will send out a request for help as we get closer. If you are gifted at making baked goods please feel free to contribute. If you cannot attend the meeting and would like to drop off a baked good, that would be great! Please make sure you sign up on NHBA's web page for the meeting. [2024 NHBA Fall Meeting with Cory Stevens](#) [New Hampshire Beekeepers Association \(nhbeekeepers.org\)](#) You will see "sign up here," click on the underlined "here" and it will take you to the place to sign up and pay.

KBA voted at the last meeting to purchase a brand new hive for the NHBA raffle. It should be a fun day!

I would like to draw your attention to a volunteer for NHBA, Michael Lesser is a retired Professor and NHBA's current Research Officer. He has been working on grants and is bringing in thousands of dollars to aid our local clubs with things like education, equipment and research projects. We are very lucky to have him on board. If you get a chance to meet him on October 19th, thank him.

Our club is very lucky because we have a very active volunteer base which makes my job as the President of KBA relatively worry free. With that said, the club is always looking for members to step up and serve on committees and fill officer positions for the next session (January 2025-2027). We ask for 2 year terms commitments but if 1 year is your limit, then we still appreciate you stepping up. If you are interested in serving, see or contact our membership committee chair, John Chadwick, jachad@tds.net. Officer Positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We have many committees. Come to a meeting and find out more. Next monthly meeting October 12th at the Sutton Fire Department..

My youtube pick of the month. This one I think by the time you read this will be found under the **Sustainable Beekeepers Guild of Michigan** and will require payment. [Global Evidence for Varroa Mite-Tolerant Bees with Dr. Stephen Martin \(youtube.com\)](#) It was a very interesting presentation. The quick summarization of the talk is that there are some isolated areas where mite resistance is happening. Some commercial beekeepers like Randy Oliver are having some success. Hobbyist beekeepers will need to continue with mite treatments for now. [Honey Buzzards Feast on Deadly Hornets \(youtube.com\)](#) a fun short video of a bird that likes to snack on hornets and bees.

At your service,
 Shreve Soule
 KBA President



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NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2024

@ 9:00 AM

AT THE

SUTTON FIRE STATION

4 NORTH ROAD

NORTH SUTTON, NH

SEPTEMBER 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES

Warner Town Hall
Warner, NH
September 14, 2024, 9 am

Attendance : 15 Alison Condon, Bam Fleury, Amelia Lantz, Betsy McNaughton, Myra Gray. Matt Hoyt, Marilyn Milne, George Milne, Ted Hebert, Bob Deluca, John Chadwick, Patrice Fredette, Robin Gray, Shreve Soule, Diane Mancino

Secretary's Report Diane Mancino 2 new members were signed up In August, increasing the email mailing list to 374 contacts. The KBA Newsletter was sent out mostly by email, \$22 was paid out just this month for 7 newsletters . I was reimbursed \$52.38 for newsletter and postage expenses. I need to review these few membership statuses to make sure they are current or lifetime members.

We received some offers for beekeeping equipment from retiring beekeepers. I sent out that information to our email members and found takers for all that was left at my house. Members are welcome to send me a list of items they would like to share or donate to the beekeeper relief fund. Any future offer like this will be referred to the apiary committee first to see if the items are needed at the KBA Apiary.

Treasurer's report Robin Gray Membership stands at 103 paid members account balance \$5773 includes honey sales from Musterfield Farms. porta potty expense was paid \$55 every 2 months

Committee Reports

Apiary Report Randy Fleury The committee met this morning. We may have a queenless nucleus hive, but we have a queen that can be transferred into it. The hives are being fed.

We need helpers at the apiary to help with feeding and check hive weights. HOWS event planners are welcome and needed for the winter months. Randy is scheduled to have surgery and will not be able to work the bees. Please help! Amelia will be away also.

We are cutting down to 2 production hives. We are just feeding at this time of year. We are finished with mite treatment. No HOWS on 9/21 due to mite treatment. Do we have too many hives at the apiary to manage? Goal is 9 hives, we have 12 Langstroth and 2 top bars Musterfield Farms honey sales were over \$500 from our KBA bees!

Beginning of July to the end of July is our goal for honey harvest. Can we schedule a date for extraction?? Depends on the weather and the bees. July 26 is a tentative date WE have a goal to have honey for sale before the state meeting and Musterfield Farm days.

Bee School Bob Deluca There was a committee meeting on 9/18 Jim Macdonald new board member, Dates still undecided for bee school. We contacted Deb Ste-

vens requesting dates, Approval is needed from the school board, then flyers can be updated. Raffle items are needed for the raffle that is held at the end of the course. We need presenters

Speaker committee no new report

Library committee Patrice Fredette No new report

Nominating committee John Chadwick We will need a vice president when Shreve steps down. Position is vacant. Do we need a coffee person? BYO It was voted on/seconded that we do not need a coffee person for the monthly meetings. Supplies will be reserved for Bee School.

KBA Website Joey Byres no new news

Education outreach Amelia Lantz Flyers will be sent out to area schools to promote bee school. Jim Macdonald . Shreve and Dave had a table at the Wilmot farmers market. 8/17 Presentation, pamphlets and observation hive. There was interest in Bee School and KBA club membership

New News

The Harvest dinner is November 8 2024 5-8 pm Location: Wilmot NH Community Center 64 Village Rd, Wilmot, NH 03287 off RT 11 AKA the "Wilmot Red Barn" . Patrice will be doing the Evites Sign up is needed for set up at 4:30 hands needed for cleanup.

Honey Tasting contest & Trophy contestants should bring ½ pint of honey for the contest. Betsy will order the trophy in time for the harvest dinner

The State Fall NHBA meeting on October 19 2024 Dana Ramspott helped get the Croydon Fire Station approved. KBA will be hosting, and setting up. We need handouts, gifts, grab bags, raffle items. We need to set up for 150 people. registration will be through the NHBA website. A caterer has been booked. KBA should have something good for the Raffle, A complete beehive from Mike Plunkett was approved for the raffle by members at the September meeting. (2deeps and a medium + excluder) was approved for the NHBA raffle. KBA has tablecloths and tableware for 60 that can be used. Cory Stevens is speaker

T Shirts We got a quote from the Ink Factory, Claremont, NH on 100 t-shirts and it was approved by the members at the September meeting. KBA paid \$1,565.00. Diane Mancino placed the order and we are waiting for delivery. \$ 20.00 pricing was suggested per shirt. Buyers will make payment to KBA, Cash or check. Can we set up online payments through our website?

The KBA T-Shirts are here!

Diane Mancino will have them at the Oct 12 meeting for purchase. \$20 cash or check payable to KBA.

You can also get them up at Diane's house in Claremont. Connect with Diane to schedule a pick up.

They look great Diane! Thank you!



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 and there are a number of different resources and topics available.



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.

Interested in Donating to the 2025 Bee School Raffle?

KBA puts on a fantastic Bee School each year. Five Saturdays in January and February are spent with members and new-bees talking and learning all about bees. On the last day of Bee School, there is a raffle for students and members to participate in, although some items are only for students. In the past, great items have been gifted and are a good way for a new-bee to get started.

Any donations of new beekeeping or bee related items for the 2025 raffle would be greatly appreciated. If you have an item that you would like to donate to the raffle, please feel free to bring it to the next meeting or the harvest dinner. Betsey McNaughton coordinates the raffle, but anyone on the Bee School Committee can help get your donation to where it needs to be.

Thank you! KBA Bee School Committee



This year's NHBA Fall meeting will be hosted by **Kearsarge Beekeepers** with Speaker Cory Stevens. Sign up [here](#)

The meeting features Cory Stevens speaking on breeding for mite and disease resistance followed by a round table discussion with Cory, Troy Hall, and Shane Howard about their experiences. A vote will be taken on some amendments to the bylaws. And two lucky winners will go home with a certificate for a North Country Queen. A catered meal is provided for those who sign up and pay separately. Cory Stevens is the owner of [Stevens Bee Co.](#)

"Our main focus is selecting and breeding for mite and disease resistant honeybees. To achieve this, we use no treatments on our colonies. This is the best method we've found to really test breeding candidates. In addition to mite and brood disease resistance, we select for aggressive foraging and conservative use of winter stores. Harbo's VSH assay is used to score mite resistance on overwintered colonies. Only colonies with very high VSH scores are used as breeding candidates. This ensures that we are steadily working our population to the highest achievable level of mite resistance. As a result of our choice to abstain from treatments, we can also offer raw honey guaranteed to be free from miticide and antibiotic contaminants."

[2024 NHBA Fall Meeting with Cory Stevens @ New Hampshire Beekeepers Association \(\[nhbeekeepers.org\]\(http://nhbeekeepers.org\)\)](#)

KBA Hands On Workshops Updates from September

September 18 - We were a small but sturdy crew last week HOWS. On the 14th, Chris, Diane, and Amelia inspected six colonies applied Formic to all colonies in the apiary, except the TBHs, and refilled syrups. It was a great day in honey-bees! The queenless nuc combined with the neighbor nuc, and they now live in a ten-frame deep named Susie. Welcome Chris—new to NH but not to beekeeping, joined the club in August, with compliments for our media presence—kudos to Marilyn, Joey, and Diane!! (Written by Amelia Lantz).



September 7 - We were very fortunate to have our long-time member Jim McDonald examine and teach at the apiary this past weekend. It was well-attended and the weather was perfect for opening hives. We found the bees calm and working hard and bringing in a lot of pollen. All but one hive had eggs, larva and capped brood. The OBS hive seemed to be struggling with no queen or new brood found. Jim recommended we look at it in one week and take any necessary action then. At the conclusion of the inspections Jim stayed and answered every question asked. The HOWs was another day of priceless education offered weekly at the KBA apiary. (Written by Mike Plunkett)

Fall management of honey bee colonies

[Fall management of honey bee colonies - Honey Bee Suite](#)

To have successful honey bee colonies in the spring, you need a detailed fall management protocol. The six weeks between Labor Day and Columbus Day are often considered the fall management window. Although southern beekeepers can wait longer, most North American beekeepers can use this rule of thumb with good results.

The objective of fall management

*The purpose of fall management is to assure your colonies remain healthy throughout the winter so they can build up quickly in the spring. To remain healthy your colonies must be disease-free, well fed, and led by a robust and productive queen. In the textbook *Honey Bee Biology and Beekeeping* (2013), Caron and Connor recommend that beekeepers make two fall inspections. On September 1, you gather information on each colony and take corrective action, if necessary. Then, in mid-October, you inspect again to assure the corrections worked. If not, you can make last-minute tweaks. Remember that schedule! Do an inspection in early September and a follow-up six weeks later in mid-October. If you diligently inspect and tweak during the fall management window, you will greatly increase your chances for a successful winter.*

Article Review: The article highlighted above is one of many that can be found in the Honey Bee Suite Bee Blog. [Beekeeping Beyond the Hive: The Surprising Secrets of Bees - Honey Bee Suite](#). Additional topics covered in the article include: Colony size and location in the hive, How to manipulate colony size, Items for the first, second and final inspection. Read the entire article at: [Fall management of honey bee colonies - Honey Bee Suite](#)



2024 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Time	Location	Topic
Oct 12, Saturday	9:00 AM	Sutton Fire Station 4 NORTH ROAD NORTH SUTTON, NH	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.

*** OCTOBER 12th MEETING LOCATION CHANGE ***

KBA's monthly October 12th meeting is being moved to the Sutton Volunteer Fire Department. Turns out its Fall Foliage Weekend! When the Town Hall was booked the Fall Foliage Festival was not on the calendar. Thank you to Barbara Marty for bringing this to our attention.

SVFD is off Exit 10 I-89 or off Rte 114 and North Rd right across from the Police Station.

From I-89 NB take exit 10, left off exit, underpass take 1st right onto North Rd

From I-89 SB take exit 10, right off exit, take 1st right onto North Rd.

Station is on the left 3/4's of a mile. Station is visible from Rte 114.

See you at 9am, Just a reminder that our meetings are now BYOC (bring your own coffee).

Shreve Soule, KBA President

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

