

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello,

This newsletter will cover both December 2024 and January 2025. Our next monthly meeting is on January 11th 2025. Plan on being at the Sutton Fire Department for 9am start. Warner town hall was already booked. We will vote in the Officers for 2025-2027. Since this is my last newsletter as acting President this might be longer than promised. ;-) Thank you to all the members that stepped up and served on the many committees. We have some very dedicated individuals and you made my job easy and fun. Happy Holidays, New Years, and Winter solstice!

Well I don't know about you, I enjoyed the Harvest dinner and speaker, Andrew Munkres, very much. Thanks to John and Betsy Chadwick for hosting Andrew for us. Andrew reminds me a little of my father in law. Let's say they share a creative trait that most of us just don't use enough. Having an inventor's mind can come in very handy and sometimes save you a lot of money. Andrew spoke on winterizing hives and presented some of his preliminary results which goes against what most of us have been taught over the years. Look up Condensing Hives on the web. He touched briefly on an experiment on treating mites with heat. The man built his own heater devices for this research when he figured the commercial item was too expensive. I can't wait to hear the results from that in a couple years. Back to Condensing hives, I did this last winter and had 90% survival and didn't need to feed in the spring. I winter with 2 deeps. I'm hoping for the same results this winter. This is not a new concept, it's been around for years. Check out this video when you can. It's got an easy to follow presenter.

[The Venting Hive vs. Condensing Hive: Beekeeping Winter Survival Tactics](#)

My hives are ready for winter. Just put my rigid foam around the outside of my hives. I'm up to 13 hives now and trying to figure out what I will need for next year.

I might build a few more deeps in the garage this winter. I'm going to use the DeMaree method again next year for swarm control and honey production.



Don't wait till spring to make your plans! Remember Bees should be ordered by March. One other project I'm going to make this winter is a Oxalic Acid vaporizer. Cheaper than a provap 110 unit. \$35 versus \$300-500. Torch not included. I'll let you know how it works.

[Homemade oxalic acid vaporizer for mite treatment](#)

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NEXT MEETING

JAN 11, 2025
SUTTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
@ 9:00 AM

Agenda to include:
Committee Reports
Old Business
New Business
Elections



NOVEMBER 2024 KBA MEETING NOTES

Wilmot Community Center, 64 Village Rd
Wilmot, NH 03287

Attendance 22, 1 guest: Shreve Soule, Patrice Fredette, Diane Mancino, Robin Gray, Bob Deluca, Kim Pease, John Chadwick, Kim Tuttle, Ann Harris, Dan Jones, Dave Nelson, Heidi Nelson, Betsy McNaughton, Carl Currato, Marla Miller, Denise Wilde, Susan Menard, Myra Gray, Valerie Carter, Rob O'Neil, Joey Byrnes, Cathy Chesly

Guest Speaker: Andrew Monkres

Secretary's report: The KBA Newsletter was sent out to all KBA contacts on record which included 103 paid annual and 10 lifetime members. We use gmail for our email and only one newsletter was sent by postal mail. 4 unsubscribed requests, and we are continuing to update our list to delete unsubscribes after 3 years of non renewals. 1 new member was added this month.

We will continue to include membership renewal information in the monthly newsletter and on the KBA website at <https://kbanh.org/>.

I received emails from members donating Beekeeping equipment and some members requesting assistance with their hives.

Treasurer's report 103 paid members, KBA Account balance stands at \$ 5,773 which included honey sales from Musterfield Farms farm days. The portapotty is paid up every town months \$55.

Committee reports

KBA Apiary Amelia Lance is away this month. The hives are planned to be treated with OA Vapor and wrapped for winter November 16.

Bee School Bob Deluca A committee meeting was held November 6. We did get approval from Newport school so the days were confirmed and we hope to have flyers out soon. We have a draft schedule that will be sent out to the presenters and Joey is working on the website information, including online enrollment.

Speaker committee If anyone has any ideas for next year reach out to us. It has been a good year for speakers. Tom Sealy is no longer traveling, but maybe he can do a Zoom presentation

Library Motion was made to donate books to Bee school or sell them. We have a page of suggested reading for new beekeepers.

Nominating committee We still have an opening for Vice president

Thank you everyone that helped at the Fall meeting. We had nothing less than positive feedback.

The next meeting will be January 11, Warner Town Hall, which still needs to be secured. Next harvest dinner will be November 7-8 2025.

A discussion took place on the subject of whether the club needs to file for 501c3 status. Bylaws need to be updated. Cathy Chesly offered to assist KBA with the non-profit status question.



Dust of Snow Poet: [Robert Frost](#)

The way a crow, Shook down on me
The dust of snow, From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart, A change of mood
And saved some part, Of a day I had rued.



2025 KBA MEMBERSHIPS AND DUES

KBA Memberships due January 1.

A friendly reminder for everyone to pay their dues. Membership dues come with great benefits including: Access to Hands On Workshops (HOWs), KBA Newsletters (emailed and on website), Library, Mentors, and access to the KBA Facebook members only page, just to name a few!

More info and a form can be found on the kbanh.org website. Current members needing to update information (such as a new email address), please submit a form as well.

Make checks payable to KBA or Kearsarge Beekeepers Association.

Mail to: Robin Gray, PO Box 275, Warner, NH 03278

Dues are: \$20 for individual, \$175 Individual lifetime, and \$250 Family lifetime

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.



The Beekeepers Relief Fund offers prompt support to beekeepers during critical events such as emergencies, illnesses, crises that necessitate specialized beekeeping skills, equipment replacement, or financial assistance. We can help Beekeepers with:

- Hive Management and Assessment
- Beekeeping Equipment and Supplies
- Financial Assistance

To find out more about the Beekeepers Relief Fund, for assistance, or to donate, please visit www.beekeepersrelieffund.org.

In the News

Articles of interest shared by fellow KBA Beeks.

[Our Better Nature: Put the Brakes on Honey Bees – Our Future Depends on It | The Saturday Evening Post](#)

[Company eyes robot copters - Concord Monitor](#)

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

Beeswax, what do you do with it? I collect it. Not because I have a fascination with it. I can't make up my mind on what to do with it and I hate to throw it away. I decided to ask Santa for a silicone mold for making foundation this year. I've been mostly good so I feel I have a pretty good chance of Santa coming through for me! [Silicone Foundation Mold | Betterbee](#) This would be a good way to make starter strips for my comb honey frames. You can find silicone molds on amazon as well.

This year's EAS dates have been released. July 27th-August 1st in New Jersey.

NHBA Spring meeting will be in March, in Concord this year at the National Guard Facility. Stay tuned for more info to come. Visit the EAS and NHBA webpages for updates.

Please remember to renew your membership after January 1st!

At your service, see you in the apiary!
Shreve Soule
KBA President

2025 Harvest Dinner

This year KBA gathered for our annual harvest dinner at the Wilmot Community Center, AKA The Wilmot Red Barn. It was a packed house with delicious food and much fun. Thank you to all who helped to make the evening enjoyable, including a successful raffle and honey tasting contest!



Honey tasting contest winner Gerard Godville (G's Bees) holding the trophy presented by Betsey McNaughten

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Guest Speaker: Andrew Munkres of Lemon Fair Honeyworks in Cornwall, Vermont, provided an interesting presentation on winterizing hives Saturday morning after the dinner. [lemonfairhoneyworks](http://lemonfairhoneyworks.com) | [treatment-free bee-keeping in vermont's champlain valley](http://treatment-free-bee-keeping-in-vermonts-champlain-valley.com)



2024 /25 KBA CALENDAR

Month/Date	Time	Location	Topic
Jan 11, 2025	9:00 AM	Sutton Fire Department	North Sutton, NH
Jan 25, Feb 1, Feb 8, Feb 15, Feb 22	9:00 to 1:00	Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, Newport NH	2025 KBA Bee School

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.

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

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.

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

