

# Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

*Hello fellow Beeks!*

*It’s been a very long winter and now that spring is finally here, our beekeeping activities are ramping up.*

*I hope you’re all as excited as I am for the upcoming bee season!*

*I believe our Bee School attendees got the link to this beekeeping calendar, but I also find this calendar a useful reminder for more experienced beekeepers: [Beekeeping Calendar for the Northeast.pdf | Powered by Box](#). This calendar is based upon the Ithaca NY regional climate; we are a bit further north, so keep that in mind.*

*I’ve already seen my bees collecting pollen on the warmer days we had in March, and it always gives me goosebumps when I see a colony (or colonies) survive our NH winters.*

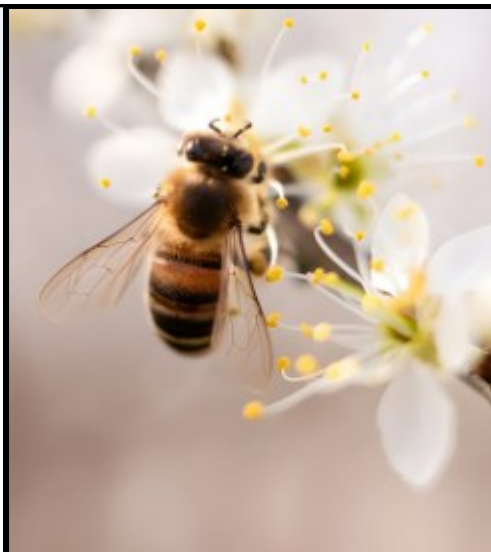
*If you’re a new beekeeper, one of the best ways to immerse yourself in beekeeping and pick the brains of more experienced beekeepers is to join our HOWS (hands on workshops). Unfortunately, our unpredictable NH weather interrupted plans for the first HOWS of the 2025 season, but we will combine the 3/29 dead-outs HOW with the electric fence HOW on 4/5.*

*Reminder, due to a conflict with the Warner Annual Flea Market, the 4/12/25 KBA meeting will be held at:*

*Sutton NH Fire Department  
2 North Rd  
North Sutton, NH 03278*

*Looking forward to seeing you all there!  
Bee well,*

*Patrice*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- KBA Meeting Notes ..... 2
- KBA Meeting Notes, cont..... 3
- Bees Mysteriously Dying ..... 3
- Honey Bee Net, Forage..... 3
- NHBA Resources..... 4
- Upper Valley Winter Losses.. 4
- 2025 Bee School ..... 4
- Honey Bee Pheromones ..... 4
- Beekeepers Relief Fund..... 4
- Upcoming Events..... 4
- KBA Dues Reminder..... 5
- KBA Committees ..... 5
- KBA Officers ..... 5

### NEXT MEETING

**APRIL 12, 2025**  
**SUTTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**2 NORTH RD**  
**NORTH SUTTON NH**  
**@ 9:00 AM**

*Agenda to include:*  
*Committee Reports*  
*Old Business*  
*New Business*

APRIL

**In the hive**

On cold days, the bees are still clustered, but on warm sunny days, they should be bringing in lots of pollen and nectar. If their flights are limited by cold or inclement weather, they may still be at risk of starvation.

The colony, if big enough, begins to rear drones in greater numbers.

# MARCH 2025 KBA MEETING NOTES

March 8, 2025 9 AM, Sutton Fire Department

**ATTENDEES** (33): Patrice Fredette, Matt Hoyt, Robin Gray, Diane Mancino, Shreve Soule, Myra Gray, Erica Montsesi, Mike Plunkett, Kim Tuttle, Mary Patterson, Francis d Agyare, Paulette Fitzgerald, Denise Wilde, Marla Miller, Cathay Chesley, Amelia, Lantz, Kim Foster, BAM Fleury, Kevin Sargent, Dave Nelson, Heidi Nelson, Laurie Bride, Carol Currotto, Betsy McNaughton, Bob Deluca, John Chadwick, Cody Ledoux, Bill Goggin, Mary Ellen Ward, Anna Ward, Valerie Carter.

## Last Meeting Follow-up

**Secretary's Report** (Diane Mancino): 85 Renewal notices and 156 expired membership notices were sent out March 13, resulting in 11 renewals.

A Members only ZOOM event was a success on March 20, 7pm, 7 members dropped in and we discussed how our hives fared over the winter, and gave advice on how to prepare for new packages, and availability of local delivery.

HOWS schedule sent out. Shreve created a HOWS schedule and that was sent out to our members. This will be updated as needed,

I want to remind our beekeeping members that our emails are only sent to current members. That includes lifetime, current 2025, and 2024 members who need to update their \$20 membership dues.

**Treasurer's Report** (Robin Gray): KBA account balance \$8986, Membership payments 51. We have 83 paid members. Bee School registrations 32, 3 \$75 gift cards for Bee school was approved

**Apiary Report** (Shreve Soule): The first HOWS will be on March 29th, on dead outs and assess what survived from last year and clean up and prep the hives for the new packages that will be coming if we need them. We will also have a schedule through the year.

We're going to have a sign up for the different HOWS and various subjects, everything will be covered from dead outs to the winterizing and feeding for winter. Probably be a little more in depth for the new beekeepers than bee school, and we tend to repeat things at each HOWs, "so that if you can't make one HOWS, it's all right to ask a question at the next. We don't mind at all. And we get some lively discussions with the members who have been doing this a long time. It's actually a lot of fun". Will the schedule be posted? Yes- in case of really bad

weather, it may go to the next weekend, or sometimes we'll go the following Sunday. We will also post the event on the KBA Facebook page and our KBA website.

The KBA Apiary in Sunapee is for everybody. There are things that new members can help out with, such as cutting the grass, trimming grass around the bear fence, inspecting the electric fence, feeding bees, we need somebody to come up during the week. So there's a lot of things that we can get involved with. You don't have to see an expert beekeeper to do a lot of this stuff. It was suggested that the lawnmower be upgraded or repaired. Kevin Sargent offered to bring a better one.

Note: There is a box of Beekeeping books at the apiary shed. We will look at them at the next meeting and decide what to do with them. Probably a donation dropped off. We are not accepting old equipment at the apiary.

THANK YOU, Laurel Bride and her husband made the sugar syrup, gallons and gallons, walked it up there, fed everybody, eight to 10, sometimes 13 hives, and she did it for an entire month!

**Bee School** (Bob Deluca): We had a very successful Bee School. 32 registrations, one scholarship. This is the first time we had a scholarship. The Bee school brought in about \$3,000. We would like to thank all of the committee members for all their hard work in getting this all together this year. And I'd also like to thank all the representatives for their presentations, and also to Deb Stevens in the school for the facility. It was just fantastic. It was a great place to have the Bee School. The raffle was successful. \$615 from raffle tickets. Betsey McNaughten did a great job with that. Thank you Betsey! It was a really good idea, so hope we keep it going for the next year.

Should Bee School have their own budget/account? We normally have like a \$500 budget a year for Bee school. It was suggested that Bob, Robin, John and the Bee School committee should get together two months from now, figure out what they spent, and then bring it to a meeting maybe September, August, and report this is what we spent, this is what we want for the budget. Discussion Tabled.

**Nominating Committee** (John Chadwick): nothing to report

**Educational Outreach** (Amelia Lantz): We have an invite to go to Plainfield libraries in May.

Continued on page 3...

# MARCH 2025 KBA MEETING NOTES, CONTINUED

...Meeting Notes continued from page 2.

**Website** (Joey Byrnes): KBA website, weeks one through four of 2025 Bee school presentations have been added to the archives page. John is working on editing for the final class, and I will post it when I receive it. We will update the events page as soon as possible, so I will wait for the location for the next meeting, and the HOWS schedule when they are available.

**Scholarship Committee:** KBA awarded its very first Bee School scholarship this year to Lucia Franta, a senior and high school who wrote a beautiful essay about her aspirations to pursue the field of Sustainable Ag after graduation, recognizing that beekeeping is an integral part of her goal.

**Speaker Committee:** Susan Menard was working on trying to maybe get Janice from White Mountain Apiary to be a speaker, probably in April. But nothing's been firmed up at this point.

NHBA had their meeting on February 13th. Musterfield Farm's Farm Day is August 23rd and 24th. When we go to Musterfield Farm for a farm day, we sell a lot of honey. We didn't have any leftover for harvest day. So, Bill Gogan brought his son and sold. We totally sold out this year. Anybody that wants to come and sit at the table.

Farm and Forest is going to be May 2 and May 3. The New Hampshire Beekeeper Association moved their booth to the second building next to the 4H demo areas this year, which is different from where they've been previously. This is a higher traffic area.

New Hampshire Beekeepers fall meeting, Monadnock Beekeepers will be hosting it this year. It looks like they are looking at the first week of November to do this due to a conflict with the end of October for them. Date has not been set, but it looks like they're looking at the first week, the first Saturday in Novem-

ber, but that's TBD. November 8 is our harvest supper and speaker the next day, so let's hope it's not concurrent.

**KBA Bylaws:** During the March meeting, a motion was made to accept the updated bylaws, which were read at the club's January meeting. Motion passed. No abstentions. No votes against. Again, a huge thank you to Cathy Chelsey for all her work on updating these bylaws.

**Beekeeper Relief Fund** (Mike Plunkett): We've been working with the Fells in Newbury NH. We will have our own fundraiser event, the Newberry Honeybee and Flower festival. The Fells has indicated they're willing to as long as we do all the organizing, we can also have some vendors there. The date is not set. They said three to five vendors and I'd like to offer the first table to our local Bee club. So if the KBA is interested in having an outreach table or a demonstration or an observation hive, we're open for it to be a one day all day event with a speaker every hour on the hour. One speaker would speak on bees, the other speaker on flowers. The next one would talk about pollinating and so go back and forth. We don't know when because the people we met with have to take what they learned to their board of directors, have a meeting, and figure out how they're going to schedule this. Their schedules are almost all booked. They might be talking about something as close to October as possible. So there isn't a date set, we're going to find out how many tables they're going to let us have and I'd like to offer the first table to the KBA for the local Bee club to be represented there.

The April KBA meeting location needs to be decided, the Warner Town hall is not available. So we have the option of either going to Sutton fire department or we could do a virtual meeting for April, motion on the floor to do it at the Sutton Fire Department was approved



YOUTUBE.COM

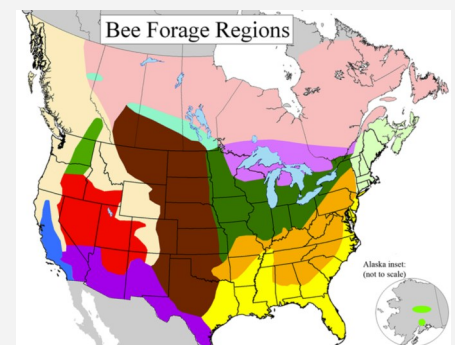
**Hundreds of millions of bees mysteriously dying**

The beekeeping industry is in crisis over the shocking and unexplained deaths.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWsBZbnt\\_4A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWsBZbnt_4A)

Check out this interesting **Honey Bee Forage Map** from HoneyBeeNet! Follow the link and click on New Hampshire to see a list of Honey Bee forage species for the state, their approximate bloom times and significance as a forage.

[Honey Bee Forage Map](#)





Helpful resources for beekeepers provided by the New Hampshire Beekeepers Association: [Resources](#) & [New Hampshire Beekeepers Association](#)

## Upper Valley beekeepers assess winter losses



Brian Jasinski, of Windsor, Vt., looks through a dead hive at one of his apiaries in Weathersfield, Vt., on Monday, March 31, 2025. Varroa mites infested the majority of Jasinski's more than 300 hives, killing nearly 70% of his bees. (Valley News - Alex Driehaus) Valley News photographs — Alex Driehaus

By [CLARE SHANAHAN](#)  
[Valley News Staff Writer](#)

Published: 04-03-2025 5:31 PM

[facebook](#)

[Valley News - Upper Valley beekeepers assess winter losses](#)

## Martin Giurfa Honey Bee Pheromones: New discoveries and unsuspected roles

Check out this video on honeybee pheromones. It runs around an hour long but is well worth it!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryVqyT7a7J8&list=WL&index=40>

## The case of bees: pheromones, the basis of sociality



## 2025 Bee School

2025 Bee School wrapped up on February 22nd with the last class. Thank you to all our students for attending! We are looking forward to seeing you at the HOWS and other KBA events! And MANY thanks to our presenters and Bee School Committee. We couldn't have done it without you!



*Pete Rauert shares his wisdom about Colony Management.*

Just a reminder, members can view the recordings of each session under "Bee School Archives" in the Members Only section of the KBA website: [Home - Kearsarge Beekeepers Association](#)

**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](http://www.beekeepersrelieffund.org).

# STAY UP TO DATE ON 2025 KBA EVENTS

## Events - Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

Next KBA Regular Meeting: April 12, 2025 @ 9:00 AM, Sutton Fire Department

Visit [kbanh.org](http://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.

## 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), 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](http://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: KBA, PO Box 243, Warner, NH 03278

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

## KBA COMITTEES

**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](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com) for contact information.

## Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Patrice Fredette

Vice President: Matt Hoyt

Treasurer: Robin Gray

Secretary: Diane Mancino

Newsletter: Marilyn Milne

Website: Joey Byrnes

Please send information for the newsletter to: [kbanhclub@gmail.com](mailto:kbanhclub@gmail.com)

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

[kbanh.org](http://kbanh.org)

