

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings KBA Members!

I hope you are all staying warm – it’s definitely been uncomfortably cold this past week or so. You know it’s bad when you think 32 degrees is an improvement.

We had our officer elections on January 11th, and after serving as Vice-President for the past two years, it is my honor and privilege to now serve as the President of KBA. I am aware that I have some very big shoes to fill.

I want to thank the outgoing President, Shreve Soule, for all of his hard work and dedication to our club. Shreve has been a great role model and it’s been a pleasure serving as his Vice-President for the past two years. As I said, his are some very big shoes to fill.

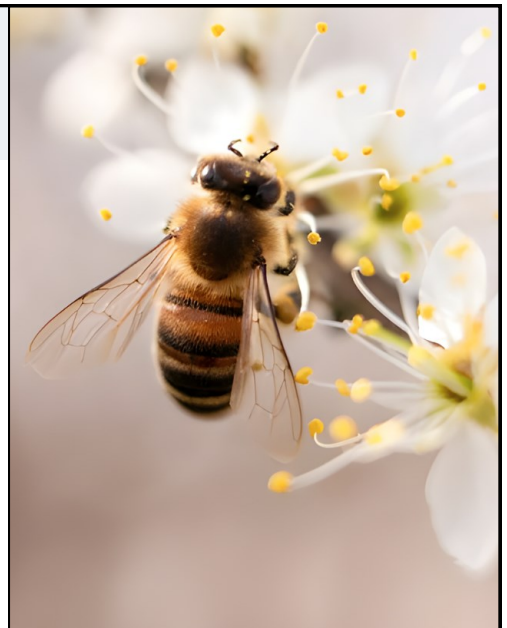
I would also like to welcome Matt Hoyt as incoming Vice-President. Matt is a newer KBA member, but he’s been extremely active in the club since joining, attending nearly all the HOWs and club meetings. Matt’s always willing to help out when he’s needed, and I am really looking forward to working with him.

As you may know, one of the major tasks the club undertook at the end of last year was to update the KBA bylaws. Cathy Chesley has taken the lead role in updating the bylaws to bring us into alignment with best practices for entities such as ours. Cathy’s subject matter expertise has been invaluable to crafting the new bylaws, which were originally drafted in 2010, and had not been updated since 2016. A huge THANK YOU to Cathy, as well as the rest of the bylaw committee, for taking on this task!

Just a reminder for the people who did not attend the January meeting, we read through the proposed bylaws at the 1/11 meeting, and some changes were recommended by those in attendance. Cathy is working on incorporating those edits. If you didn’t attend the KBA meeting on 1/11, the proposed bylaws **will** be posted on the KBA website under the members only section as soon as Cathy is done with the revisions from the 1/11 meeting. We will be voting on the new bylaws at the March meeting, so please plan to attend. Your voice matters.

Bee well!

Patrice



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NEXT MEETING

MARCH 8, 2025
WARNER TOWN HALL
@ 9:00 AM

Agenda to include:
Committee Reports
Old Business
New Business
Elections

JANUARY 2025 KBA MEETING NOTES

January 11, 2025 9 AM, Sutton Fire Department

Attendance: Shreve Soule, Robin Gray, Diane Mancino, Bam Fleury, Cathy Chesley, Myra Gray, Bob Deluca, Marla Miller, Denise Wilde, Heidi Nelson, Dave Nelson, Matt Hoyt, John Chadwick, Valerie Carter, Ericka Moatseri, Bill Monbleau, Mike Plunkett, Betsy McNaughten, Paulette Fitzgerald, Jim McDonald, Joey Burns, Patrice Fredette (virtually).

Secretary's Report: Diane Mancino - The KBA Google contact list was updated to reflect the current KBA member statuses. We have been pretty lenient, but going forward, any member who has not renewed their membership after 2023 and is not a lifetime member, (170 names) has been removed from our active database and will not get the newsletter or club announcements, unless their dues are paid. We are retaining their contact information in an inactive file and they can be reinstated when they renew their membership. Any membership received after November 1 is valid for the following year. We counted 172 active memberships (2024-2025) as of January 19. That number is improving since a renewal letter was sent out.

As of the January 11 meeting, We had only received membership due from 25 annual members for the year 2025. We have 18 lifetime members. After auditing the contact list I sent out a dues notice to all contacts, active and inactive. Many hours spent working on streamlining our operations to mesh the Google account with our web page, treasurer's paid member roster and media accounts: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iFfIA_Dpw0qGVR4-rLn2i0KBrcCa9PHLW1vSiGsBk70/edit?usp=sharing

Treasurer's Report: Robin Gray - Our bank balance is at \$4696. Income is from Bee School, honey sales, and T shirts. Expenses were from the NHBA meeting, KBA Webpage STRIPE transaction fees: \$379 which is about 7.4%

Apiary Report: Randy Fleury - Hives were wrapped in November and some were given OA treatment for mites. We want to mention that we are not accepting any donations of beehives or equipment at this time. Some unclaimed equipment was left outside the apiary, exposed to the weather. If you have items you would like to pass on we have resources, like the Manchester NH VA Valerie Carter is your point of contact.

Bee School: Bob Deluca - Bee school starts January 25. 19 have registered, but an additional 16 family members. That's 35 people. The class room holds about 40 people. We have a meeting on January 16th at 3 pm with Deb Stevens. One option is to go back to using the Cafeteria. Question : How old are the applicants? Should we limit how many family members can attend as a family? We want to talk about this for future

years, but if they have paid already this year, they have placement. A waiting list can be enforced.

Library Committee: Patrice Fredette - We decided we are doing away with the library. Any books will be raffled, or donated. Two books are checked out at this time.

Nominating Committee: John Chadwick - We are always interested in talking to members who might be interested in being on the board or assisting.

We had the election of officers for 2025. Thank you to Shreve Soule for your service and we welcome Patrice Fredette as our new KBA President! Matt Hoyt, was unanimously accepted to the Vice President's position. Robin Gray and Diane Mancino will continue to serve another term as treasurer and secretary.

Patrice Fredette - President
Matt Hoyt - Vice President
Robin Gray - Treasurer
Diane Mancino - Secretary

Educational Outreach: Amelia Lantz was away, but Shreve was in contact with Colby Sawyer College, and there are a few beehives that they may need assistance with. Maybe KBA can offer assistance.

Mike Plunkett will be interviewed on the local radio!
KBBA Newport NH 94.7 AM <https://www.stevesmithpodcast.com/podcast/episode/4a9d7bcc/beekeepers-relief-fund-mike-plunkett-12-9-24>

Scholarship Fund: Joey Byrnes - no new news <https://kbanh.org/>. Website Development Joey Byrnes. The goal this year is to consolidate our email program with the website improve our templates, synchronize our social media accounts.

KBA Bylaws: The members took turns reading the KBA Bylaws in the January meeting. We had not had any change since 2016. One of the issues was our tax exempt status and are we better off being under the NHBA?

We hope you have found the Newsletter to be valuable and don't want to lose anyone! We discussed the renewal date at the January Meeting and It was agreed that any payment after November 1 would be applied to the following year's membership. Sign up/Renew your membership online at <https://kbanh.org/>.

It's \$20 annual, Individual lifetime \$175, and \$225.00 Family lifetime. Credit card & Google and Apple pay is accepted! Please note KBA has a new postal mailbox: KBA, PO Box 243, Warner, NH 03278. Dues accepted, payable to KBA.



Shreve Soule awarding with the smoker contest winner, Gavin Chancey, with the trophy at the January meeting. **Congratulations!!!**

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 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

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



2025 Bee School kicked off Jan 25th. Bob DeLuca presenting on Equipment and tools.

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

2025 KBA CALENDAR

| Month/Date | Time | Location | Topic |
|--|-----------------|--|---------------------|
| 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 |
| Mar 8, 2025 | 9:00 AM | Warner Town Hall, Warner, NH | Regular Meeting |

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.

What Do Beekeepers Do In Winter?



After the last honey harvest of the year you might think that beekeepers can just keep warm indoors and put their feet up! While it would be true to say that a beekeeper is much busier during the spring and summer, there is still a lot of preparation to do over the end of autumn and things to stay on top of throughout the winter.

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: Patrice Fredette
 Vice President: Matt Hoyt
 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

