

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Warm spring greetings, beekeepers!

April is finally here, and if you're anything like me, you've been watching the calendar all winter just waiting for this moment. The snow is melting, the maples are budding, and our bees are breaking cluster and getting back to work — and so are we!

This is the most exciting time of year for a beekeeper. That first spring inspection is something I never get tired of. Pulling that first frame and seeing fresh brood, new eggs, and a colony that made it through a New Hampshire winter is one of the best feelings this hobby has to offer. It reminds you exactly why you do this.

As you head out to your hives this month, here's what to focus on: Is your queen laying well? Does the colony have enough room to expand, or are they getting crowded? Are your stores holding until the nectar flow picks up? Spring buildup happens fast here in New Hampshire, and a colony can go from thriving to swarming before you know it if we're not paying attention.

If you're a newer beekeeper doing your first spring inspection, don't go it alone — reach out to a more experienced member. That's what this club is for. We are always stronger together than we are standing alone in our backyards wondering what we're looking at!

Our next meeting on April 11th at the Warner Town Hall is a great opportunity to compare notes on what you're finding in your hives, so come ready to share. The conversation is always better when everyone brings their observations to the table.

Here's to healthy hives, warm April days, and a productive beekeeping season ahead.

*Bee well,
Patrice*



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NEXT MEETING

**APRIL 11TH @ 9:00 AM
AT WARNER TOWN HALL**

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



JANUARY 2026 KBA MEETING NOTES

KBA Business Meeting 3/14/2026 Minutes

Present: Emily Girard, Valerie Carter, Kevin Anderson, Becky Grammer, Mike Plunkett, Michael Morgan, Rhiannon Rhodes, Frances Agyare, Dave Nelson, Heidi Nelson, Denise Wilde, Marla Miller, Bob DeLuca, John Chadwick, Shreve Soule, Matt Hoyt Robin Gray, Myra Gray, Myra LaPierre, Patrice Fredette, Mary Patterson, Tyler Traeger, Allyson Traeger, Laurie Bride, Bruce Sanborn, Kim Tuttle, Barbara Marty, Betsey McNaughten

Call to Order: Patrice called meeting to order @ 9:04am, January minutes accepted, Motion by John Chadwick, second by Bob DeLuca

Treasurer Report: Robin reports \$8,825 in reserve. The club raised \$4,000 in 2025 mostly through dues, bee school, and significant honey sales. Major expenses for bee school were admin, presenters, and books

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: We gained 45 new members through Bee School with 23~ lifetime members and 73 year to year members.

Apiary Committee: Shreve reports 4 Langstroth hives made it through the winter. The Top Bar did not make it and needs a new package. The HOWs schedule is still weather dependent. The 1st will be held March 28th weather permitting at a location to be determined. Topic will be examining dead outs

Bee School Committee: Bob wants to thank Joey and the Bee School Committee, Betsey for helping with the raffle, John for recording video, all the presenters, and Shreve for the double presentation. We had 45 registrants and made \$500 on the raffle and \$4,288 on tuition, less expenses for books, Stripe fees, flyers etc., the club netted \$2,217.80.

We will know more soon about Bob handing off Bee School to a new committee chair.

There will be an AAR at the April Bee School Committee meeting to discuss survey results and compile sustains and improves.

Outreach Committee: Amelia will give educational presentations June 15th in Manchester, July at Abbott Library in Sunapee, and to the Grantham Garden Club in September.

Other Old Business:

Website: Joey has updated the website with the exception of the 2026 Bee School videos which should be up shortly. The HOWs schedule will be posted as soon as it's finalized.

NHBA: Spring meeting will be 3/21 at 9am @ Camp Carpenter in Manchester. They are asking for a raffle donation from the regional clubs and we discussed donation item ideas such as a package of bees or gift card. John motioned to donate a \$100 gift card and Mary second-

ed. Patrice will take care of this. NHBA needs help with setup on Friday 3/20 a 4:30pm and asked for volunteers to show up.

Farm and Forest will be held in May with date TBD.

NHBA summer picnic will be held at Musterfield Farm in Sutton with Randy Oliver as the guest speaker with a tentative date of 7/11.

NHBA Fall meeting will be 10/24 in Keene hosted by Mondanock Bee Club

CABA: in Concord will host Fred Dunn speaking in April. Black Forest Nursery will hold a plant sale at the May meeting. Patrice will check on our club attending. Bob Binnie will speak at the July CABA meeting. Additional club meetings across the state are listed on the NHBA site.

Discover Wild NH: will be hosted by Fish and Game on April 18th.

New Business:

Membership and Bee School Online Processing Fees: Attendees discussed increasing online tuition payment for Bee School and membership renewal by 3% to offset Stripe online processing fee. Robin stated that the club lost \$416 in processing fees for 2026 Bee School that could have been passed on to participants instead. Shreve motioned to include the fee in the membership renewal and bee school tuition total and Bob seconded it.

Harvest Dinner: Tentative date 11/6 at the Red Barn in Wilmot with guest speaker on 11/7.

KBA Club Picnic: Tentative date either 7/18 or 7/25. Patrice will confirm with Dana.

Intermediate Beekeeper Discord Group: Val Carter and Jesse Tyler will be hosting a virtual intermediate beekeeping discussion every other Wednesday night via Discord. The first one will be 7pm on March 25th. Email KBA Secretary (newsletter email) for more info.

New Logo Ideas: Emily Girard has designed several new logo options and posted mockups on the KBA Facebook group for feedback. Board will discuss.

Mentors: Rhiannon brought up mentorship and while we do not have a list year, the club discussed KBA business meetings as a great place to connect with a potential mentor in your local area. If members can make the HOWs workshops, this is also an excellent opportunity for hands on experience and asking questions. Experienced beekeepers, please consider mentoring NewBees if you are able!

Committee Openings: John Chadwick encourages you to get involved on a committee!

Motion to adjourn: 9:52am, Shreve, seconded by Matt Hoyt

*Minutes compiled by Mary Patterson KBA Secretary 3/14/2026



SUPPORTING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HONEY BEE TOGETHER

For honeybee resources, events and membership information visit the NHBA website: [New Hampshire Beekeepers Association](http://NewHampshireBeekeepersAssociation.org) ☞

KBA COMITTEES

Apiary Committee

KBA Bee School Committee

Currently seeking a chairperson.

Speaker Committee

KBA Scholarship Committee

Education/Outreach Committee

Nomination Committee

Newsletter

Currently seeking a creator

If you are interested in participating on a committee, email KBA at kbanhclub@gmail.com for more information.

THE BEEKEEPER'S CALENDAR

APRIL

In most areas, April in the beekeeper's calendar means spring is finally here. As day-time temps reach the upper 50s, your bees continue to clear out the hive and begin bringing in new pollen from the first blooms while the queen is rearing brood. This is the time to begin testing and treatments for Varroa mites. Thankfully, there are a number of new options for Varroa treatments that weren't available in years past.



When deciding on treatments in the spring, watch the temperature for a number of days before the first honey flow in your area. We've covered several of these treatments such as [formic acid](#), [Apiguard](#), [oxalic acid](#) and [Apivar](#) in our article, [Spring Mistakes to Avoid in Beekeeping](#).

Be sure to have plenty of spare hives and supers on hand for the upcoming season, too. If you plan on picking up package bees or catching a swarm or two, it's always best to be prepared ahead of time.

[The Beekeeper's Calendar](#) | [A Monthly Guide](#) | [Dadant & Sons](#)



Hands On Workshop

Despite the cold, there was a great turnout for the first HOWs of the year, assessing deadouts.

STAY UP TO DATE ON UPCOMING KBA EVENTS

Events - Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

KBA Club Picnic: Tentative date either 7/18 or 7/25.

Harvest Dinner: Tentative date 11/6 at the Red Barn in Wilnot with guest speaker on 11/7.

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.

2026 KBA MEMBERSHIPS AND DUES

A friendly reminder for everyone to pay their dues, by Jan 1. 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 can be found on the kbanh.org website. Download the form and send it in, or join / renew online right from our website!

If sending in, 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
\$250 Family lifetime

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.

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

President: Patrice Fredette

Vice President: Matt Hoyt

Treasurer: Robin Gray

Secretary: Mary Patterson

Newsletter: Marilyn Milne

Website: Joey Byrnes

Please send information for the newsletter to: kbanhclub@gmail.com

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

kbanh.org

