

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear KBA members,

There are moments that stop us in our tracks, and the sudden passing of our friend and fellow beekeeper Dana Ramspott is one of them. On behalf of the entire KBA community, I want to take a moment in this June newsletter to honor Dana's memory and acknowledge the profound loss our community is feeling.

Dana was the kind of beekeeper that every club hopes to have — not just skilled and knowledgeable, but genuinely generous with that knowledge. For so many of our members, Dana was the calm voice when discussing a hive inspection gone sideways, the steady presence at a meeting or at KBA Bee School who could turn a confusing question into a teachable moment, and the gentle reminder that beekeeping is as much about patience and humility as it is about technique.

Mentorship is a quiet gift. It doesn't always announce itself. It lives in the questions Dana took time to answer, the KBA Bee School beginners Dana didn't let feel foolish, and the confidence that grew in newer beekeepers simply because Dana believed they could do this. Many of you are better beekeepers today because of Dana. That is a legacy that will outlast any of us. And, as some KBA can attest, Dana's council went well beyond beekeeping. Dana was always a steady voice of reason. Dana was also a bona fide hero as a firefighter and EMT. Some heroes wear capes; some wear firefighter gear and bee suits.

The bees, of course, keep going — as they always do. But those of us who knew Dana will feel this absence in a particular way each time we suit up, pull a frame, plan a KBA event, or hear someone ask a question at Bee School that Dana would have answered so well.

Our thoughts are with Dana's family during this difficult time. If you have a memory of Dana you'd like to share, please bring it to our next meeting. Stories are how we keep people with us.

Rest easy, Dana. The hives are in good hands — you made sure of that.

Patrice



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NEXT MEETING

JUNE 13TH @ 9:00 AM
WARNER TOWN HALL

Agenda to include:
Committee Reports
Old Business
New Business



MAY 2026 KBA MEETING NOTES

KBA Business Meeting 3/14/2026 Minutes

Present: Kim Cooper, Valerie Carter, Kevin Anderson, Becky Grammer, Rhiannon Rhodes, Frances Agyare, Bam Fleury, Dave Nelson, Heidi Nelson, Rhiannon Rhodes, John Chadwick, Shreve Soule, Francis Agyare, Matt Hoyt, Marilyn Milne, Robin Gray, Myra Gray, Mike Bready, Patrice Fredette, Mary Patterson, Ken Foster, Chris Jones, Jim McDonald, Tyler Traeger, Bruce Sanborn, Betsey McNaughten, Susan Menard, Cathy ?

Call to Order: Patrice called meeting to order @ 9:01 am, April minutes accepted, Motion by Kim Cooper, second by Becky

Treasurer Report: Robin reports \$9,586.08 balance. We had 4 membership renewals in April with 96 paid 2026 and 27 lifetime members, Motion to accept minutes by Mary, second by Kim Cooper.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: No report

Apiary Committee: Shreve reports that we still have dates to lead HOWs in June, July, and September. Please let him know if you are interested in leading hive inspections and he can get you an updated list of open dates.

John C. will lead HOWs May 14th with a discussion on swarms and swarm traps.

The club will be selling honey at Musterfield Farm on Aug 29th and 30th and we need volunteers to man our booth both days. We'll send around a sign-up sheet as we get a little closer to the date.

The club will need help with mowing and weed whacking around the apiary this summer every few weeks. Contact Shreve if you are able to help.

Bee School Committee: No report

Nominating Committee: No report

Outreach Committee: No report

Other Old Business:

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.

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

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

New Business:

KBA Club Picnic: 7/25

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

Intermediate Beekeeper Discord Group: Val Carter and Jesse Tyler will continue hosting virtual Bee Talk group on Discord every other Wednesday night at 7:00pm.

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

Marilyn is looking for someone to help with the club newsletter. No graphic design experience needed! Please contact kbanhclub@gmail.com if you are interested.

Miscellaneous:

4-H Wildside kickoff will be June 6th at Gunstock Mtn Resort showcasing outdoor recreation and environmental conservation. Mary Ellen from NHBA will be sending us more info on volunteers needed so look for that in an upcoming email.

Mary will be writing an article featuring KBA in SoaNipi Magazine as a marketing strategy. If you have any good pictures from recent HOWs or Bee School or would be willing to answer a few questions about what KBA means to you, please email @ kbanhclub@gmail.com

Motion to adjourn: 9:25am, Mary motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kim Cooper

*Minutes compiled by *Mary Patterson* KBA Secretary 5/09/2026

When and How to Split a Beehive

By [Charlotte Anderson](#) Published: August 4, 2024

Learning **how to split a beehive** is a useful skill for beekeepers wanting to increase their number of hives or control swarming due to congestion. By dividing a very strong healthy hive into two or more new colonies, you can expand your apiary and have better colony production. This guide walks you through the basics of **splitting beehives** to reach your beekeeping goals. There are many ways to do it – you have to choose the method best for you.

[How to Split a Beehive: A Step-by-Step- Carolina Honeybees](#)





SUPPORTING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HONEY BEE TOGETHER

Tentative dates for upcoming events:

July 11

Summer Picnic at Musterfield Farm,
North Sutton

October 24

NHBA Fall Meeting in Keene hosted by Mon-
danock Bee Club

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

Hands On Workshops (HOWs)



Cool temps and rainy weekends prevailed through May. A few warm sunny days allowed for more pleasant workshops in the apiary and HOWs were still readily attend-
ed regardless of the weather.

Topics for the month of May included hive inspections, nuc installations, mite washes, OA treatments, swarm manage-
ment, and a special discussion about relaxation techniques when working with your bees. Thank you to all those who attended and led discussions and inspections!

June HOWs topics and dates:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 6/13 | 1:00PM @ Club Apiary | |
| | Making Splits | Led by Shreve Soule |
| 6/20 | 9:00AM @ Club Apiary | |
| | Inspection / Mite Wash | Led by Bam Fleury |
| 6/27 | 9:00AM @ Club Apiary | |
| | Inspection | Led by Dave Nelson |

The KBA Apiary is located at the Ramspott Farm, 223 North Road, Sunapee, NH.

KBA COMITTEES

Apiary Committee

KBA Bee School Committee

Speaker Committee

KBA Scholarship Committee

Education/Outreach Committee

Nomination Committee

Treasurer

Seeking a Treasurer starting in 2027

Newsletter

Currently seeking a creator

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

One of the treasures in the Kearsarge area is Musterfield Farm. We have the benefit of having this amazing work-
ing farm and historical museum right in our backyard. NHBA holds annual meetings there, so maybe you've
been to Musterfield to attend one of those meetings. But, if you haven't been outside of a meeting, it is well
worth the trip! Buy something from the farm stand, checkout the historical buildings on site, or attend one of
their festivals or events. Check out more at their website: [Muster Field Farm Museum](http://MusterFieldFarmMuseum.org) .



(Photo from the Musterfield Farm web-
site: [Muster Field Farm Museum](http://MusterFieldFarmMuseum.org))

STAY UP TO DATE ON UPCOMING KBA EVENTS

Events - Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

KBA Club Picnic: Tentative date 7/25.

Harvest Dinner: Tentative date 11/6 at the Red Barn in Wilmot 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

