

Kearsarge Beekeepers Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Beekeepers,

May is here, and with it comes one of the most exciting — and sometimes hectic — times of the beekeeping year: swarm season! As the days grow longer and our hives burst with activity, I want to take a moment to share a few reminders to help us all navigate the next several weeks successfully.

Swarms are a natural sign of a healthy, thriving colony, but they can catch even experienced beekeepers off guard. I encourage everyone to be checking their hives regularly — ideally every 7 to 10 days — looking for queen cells, overcrowding, and other signs that a swarm may be imminent. Staying ahead of the bees is always easier than chasing them through the treetops! Trust me on this.

A few tips to keep in mind this month:

- *Add a super or a brood box if your bees are running out of room. Congestion is one of the leading triggers for swarming.*
- *Consider making a split if your colony is especially strong. It's a great way to increase your apiary and give your bees a controlled outlet for that swarm impulse.*
- *Make sure your swarm traps or bait hives are set up and baited. May/June is prime time to catch a free swarm. You may also want to consider adding a Russian scion to your swarm-trapping arsenal. Here is a resource if you're unfamiliar with this tool: [Beevouac Swarm Catcher.pdf](https://www.dcbeckeepers.org/downloadable_files/Beevouac%20Swarm%20Catcher.pdf) (https://www.dcbeckeepers.org/downloadable_files/Beevouac%20Swarm%20Catcher.pdf)*

If you're a newer beekeeper feeling overwhelmed, please don't hesitate to reach out to a more experienced member. That's what our club community is all about. Also, our next meeting is Saturday, May 9th at 9AM at the Warner Town Hall. Hope to see you there!

Wishing everyone full supers and gentle bees this May!

*Warm regards,
Patrice*



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NEXT MEETING

**MAY 9TH @ 9:00 AM
AT WARNER TOWN HALL**

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



APRIL 2026 KBA MEETING NOTES

Present: Rhiannon Rhodes, Dave Nelson, Denise Wilde, Bob DeLuca, John Chadwick, Shreve Soule, Matt Hoyt, Robin Gray, Myra Gray, Myra LaPierre, Patrice Fredette, Tyler Traeger, Allyson Traeger, Bruce Sanborn, Kim Tuttle, Kim Cooper, Cathy Chesley, Valerie Carter, Jason Carter, Alison Conlon, Carol Currotto, Marilyn Milne, Yvonne Scrofano, Joey Byrnes.

Call to Order: Patrice called meeting to order at 9:00am.

Treasurer Report: Robin provided an update.

Committee Reports:

Apiary Committee: There are four hives alive and the bees are bringing in pollen. The colony in the top bar hive at the apiary did not make it through the winter. A schedule of HOWs will be sent out. There are two more HOWs planned for April. April 18th HOWs will be at the apiary. Hives will be unwrapped, a package installed, and we will do a mite wash on the stronger one. April 25th HOWs will be at Susan Menards house in Weare. Susan has around 50 hives and she has a good success rate of over wintering. Shreve also reported that the apiary has all the needed miticides for this year so we don't need to purchase more. Jars were purchased at a good price.

Nominating Committee: John reported that Robin, our current treasurer, will be stepping down at the end of the year, and KBA is looking for a new Treasurer. Treasurer duties include: funds management, recording dues, and writing checks. The club is also looking for someone to take over doing the Newsletter.

Bee School Committee: Bob reported that there was a Bee School meeting last Wednesday to go over lessons learned and the surveys from 2026 Bee School. The Committee will discuss more at the next meeting. Jim has stepped up as the next bee school chairman. Will pass the baton at next meeting.

No updates from other Committees.

Other Old Business:

Website: Joey shared some planned updates to the KBA website including that she will be switching "bee school" menu to "supplies". This will provide an opportunity to advertise and find local resources. Reach out to Joey if you want to add or update. Joey sent the recent newsletter out and reported a 58% open rate.

Workshop: Dave Priebe was not able to make the March meeting. Patrice is working on rescheduling him for an upcoming meeting.

Farm, Forest and Garden Expo: The expo will be held at Deerfield Fairgrounds on May 1st and 2nd. NHBA usually has a booth. Contact Mary Ellen from NHBA if you'd like to volunteer to help at the booth.

NHBA: Patrice reported that the NHBA summer picnic will be held on 7/11 at Musterfield Farm in Sutton with Randy Oliver as the guest speaker. The NHBA Fall meeting will be 10/24 in Keene hosted by Mondanock Bee Club. They are still working on finding a venue. NHBA is in the process of switching website providers, which is causing delays in processing memberships online and posting updates and information.

New Business:

KBA Harvest Dinner: Planned for Nov 6 and 7 for at the Red Barn in Wilmot, NH.

KBA Summer Picnic: All agreed that 7/25 would be the preferred date. Patrice will confirm with Dana. 9:00 AM set up time with 10:00 arrival and smoker contest. Ending at 2:00 PM.

Next Meetings: The May and June meetings will be held at the Warner Town Hall.

Club Directory: Carol mentioned that she was recently trying to find someone in KBA, but there is no directory. How do we find people if we want to connect with someone? Can we have a list behind the members only part of the website? Matt suggested having an option to opt in. Some members expressed concerns about the security on website. Suggestion of an "old school" list that can be shared at meetings for people to reference. Carol motioned that we create a member directory that is available only to include members that give consent to be listed available to paid members and for noncommercial use. Shreve 2nd. All in favor none opposed.

NHBA insurance: KBAs portion of insurance is due to NHBA. It is typically \$100. Their insurance covers us at all our meetings. All in favor.

Minutes: March minutes accepted.

Meeting adjourned 9:43. General Discussion Followed.



SUPPORTING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HONEY BEE TOGETHER

For honeybee resources, events and membership information visit the NHBA website: [New Hampshire Beekeepers Association](https://www.nhba.org/) ?

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 committee, email KBA at kbanhclub@gmail.com for more information.

Hands On Workshops (HOWs)

The 2026 HOWs have kicked off with great success. April HOWs were well attended. Topics included installing packages, unwrapping hives and inspections. Photos shared by members on the KBA Facebook page. Thank you for sharing!



Protect Beehives From Bears (How To Set Up An Electric Fence)

From: [Beekeepingfornewbies.com](https://www.beekeepingfornewbies.com)

An electric fence, while not 100% fail-safe, is the best way to protect beehives from bears. An electric fence requires an adequately powered charger and proper grounding to complete the electrical circuit. After a bear is shocked, an electric fence remains an intimidating psychological barrier.

In this article, we'll discuss the challenges in protecting your hives from bears, how an electric fence works, and how to set up an electric fence to deter bears from your beehives.

[Protect Beehives From Bears \(How To Set Up An Electric Fence\)](https://www.beekeepingfornewbies.com/protect-beehives-from-bears-how-to-set-up-an-electric-fence/) - [Beekeeping For Newbies](https://www.beekeepingfornewbies.com/) - [Start smart with honeybees](https://www.beekeepingfornewbies.com/start-smart-with-honeybees/)

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

