

June 2011

Volume 3, Issue 3

Pemi-Baker Beekeeper's Association NEWS

Here's What's Buzzin'

NHBA 2011 Spring Meeting

On Saturday March 19, 2011, the NHBA Spring meeting was held at the Lake Shore Farm in Northwood, NH. The guest speakers this year was **Allen Hayes** from Maryland and EAS Master Beekeeper. He is better known as the "Gadget Guy" – because he says you don't need these gadgets for beekeeping but will want to use them! He also discussed the Hive Scale project for beekeepers working with NASA. This project studies how climate changes affect pollination. There are a couple of reasons why NASA is interested – one being if the climate makes any difference in pollination and the second is to see if our country can support the Africanized bees. He was encouraging beekeepers to check the government website – <http://honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov/> for some very interesting reading. Mr. Hayes would like folks to start weighing their hives daily (before, during and after honey flow) and share the information with the national program. One of his gadgets was a scale that was established under the hive bodies in the apiary – which would help with gathering the statistics. He demonstrated some of his gadget ideas including a mouse guard tied on with a rope; a four hole feeder; metal geometric figures to mark hives; double bucket set up to drain/strain wax caps/honey into other bucket and put the cappings in a mesh bag; paper ream box to make a swarm box for swarm removals – this would be relatively light weight and easy to handle – it would keep the swarm for about 1-2 hours; wintergreen alcohol makes the bees think you are flower and will clean you; tool belt/bee bucket – 6 ½ gallon bucket (or 2-5 gallon buckets together) to keep tools on the outside in the tool belt pockets and keep other stuff inside with the cover on – keeps stuff dry if needed.

The second speaker was **Bill Mares**, VP of the Vermont Beekeepers Assn and VT EAS Director. He discussed the Eastern Apicultural Society Conference that will be held in RI in 2011 and at the University of VT (Burlington) in 2012. He also gave a presentation on "Sustainable Beekeeping work with Dewey Caron" while in Central and South America. He talked about the killer bees (Africanized bees) – in that they are a 'triumph of evolution' because the (1) adapt rapidly to increased population by responding to immediate recourses; (2) swam more readily for new food sources; and (3) they are highly defensive and will chase predators (human or otherwise) until they catch them. There was no information on whether they produced more honey than normal bees. They have been here for approximately 21 years and he was only aware of 15 deaths caused by these bees since they arrived. He also talked about his and Dewey Caron's work with the Central and South American coffee farmers – teaching them about apiculture – by incorporating this into their farming. This proved to be helpful in that: it provided a more diverse source of income; improved health and nutrition; improved coffee production with pollination; reduced migration – created jobs; helped preserve indigenous cultures; and it was more easily integrated into coffee growers' routine of work.



Allen Hayes



Bill Mares

It was the annual election of officers again – and Wendy Booth was voted as President; Mike Bayko is Vice President, Moe L'Heureux is Treasurer; Ellie Palmer is Secretary, and Mary-Ellen Godville is Corresponding Secretary. It was announced again that Wendy Booth, President of the NHBA, will be the NH Director to the Eastern Apicultural Society for a four year term. The 2011 EAS meeting will be held in Warwick, Rhode Island on July 25-29, 2011. The NHBA members sold and took orders for hats, denim shirts, t-shirts, and fleece vests or jackets throughout the day. There was a great representation from the PBBA club this year having 20+ members in attendance...and some were even winners of the great silent raffle that was held. Many PBBA club members donated items to the raffle this year and were proudly noted during the business meeting by Wendy Booth! Thank you to everyone who made donations of a variety of items. The NHBA board was very pleased to have PBBA as the first club to sponsor an item as a club. They are hoping that the idea will catch on to all the other clubs and make it a true collaborative event!

2011 NH BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR



One of the most exciting events that took place at the meeting was when our very own **GERARD GODVILLE** was voted as the **2011 BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR!!** A BIG congratulations to Gerard for all his hard work for the state and local clubs over the past years. It was stated that it was a unanimous vote by the clubs around NH. Gerard has spent much of his time working with the other instructors to get the PBBA 2011 bee school off ground and was a big success with all those who attended. He has given presentations at a number of local schools; Ag in the Classroom events such as the Grafton and Belknap County School to Farm days; and Old Home Day events in surrounding towns with other members of PBBA. He has opened his Bridgewater apiary for two PBBA workshops that were attended by the State Bee Inspector and State Entomologist. Gerard recently became a member of the Maine and Vermont Beekeepers Assns and looks forward to learning more about how their state associations work. The PBBA meetings are generally geared towards the beginner beekeeper as much as possible in hopes to spark new interest in the field. He is adamant about having all other experienced members give their input at all the meetings on any of the topics discussed. He, with Mary-Ellen, volunteered with the Merrimack Beekeepers Club to serve in the New Hampshire Exposition Building at the Big E in Springfield MA for the last two years – as a nice fund raiser for the club.

The First PBBA Bee School was held in January 29 –February 19 2011 – for members only. The fifteen students attending learned about the Life of the Honeybee; Hive Equipment, Tools and Clothing; Hive Management – ‘Getting Started’ and ‘Going Deep-Beyond Basics’; Swarming; Pest and Diseases and IPM; Bear fencing and control; Products from the Hive and State Laws pertaining to Honey Sales and Production. We gave a special thank you to the Pawtuckaway Beekeepers for their support, encouragement and participation. The instructors were from our own club – Gerard, Dave Boynton, Harley Putnam, Mel Lamson, Mitch Jenness, Greg Sanderson, Mike Burt, and Atty Robin Fisk, who spoke on the laws for the sale of honey and products in the State of NH.

We had Wendy Booth and Ben Chadwick as guest speakers. The \$60 fee paid for the *Beekeepers for Dummies* text book, one year membership and a three ringed binder full of reference materials. We kept everyone’s attention by supplying each class with breakfast goodies and coffee/tea! **Thank you to everyone who made this school a great success!** We hope to have enough beginners next year to offer it again.

2011 PBBA BEE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS AND TOPICS

Harley
Hive Management



Ben
Pests/Disease Control



Wendy
Bee Biology



Gerard
Hive Mgmt/Extraction



Mike
Smoker Information



Dave
Swarming



Greg
Apiary Bear Fencing



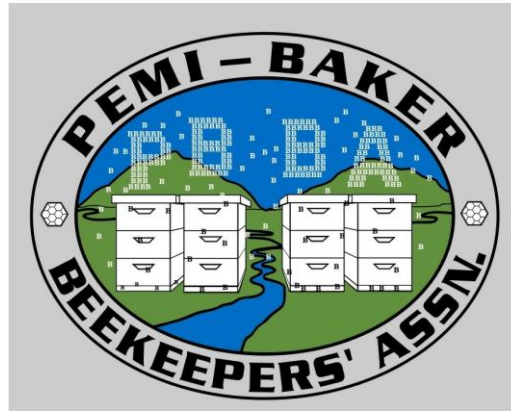
Mel
Use of Refractometer



Mitch
Pollen Capture



A BIG THANK YOU to **Tyler Durham** for creating our PBBA logo –He was given a nice hooded sweatshirt for his creativity for the club! We have already had one order of shirts, hats and bags – everyone is very happy with the way they look! Everyone thought this was a very nice representation of our community club! Body Covers of Laconia did a nice job of incorporating this logo onto their apparel. Anyone interested in shirts, hats, bags, polo shirts, or sweatshirts – please contact Mary-Ellen Godville for further information.



2011 Summer NHBA Workshop will be held at Musterfield Farm in Sutton, NH on Saturday, June 18th from 10am to 3pm – rain or shine. It is free to all NHBA members and has always been a great workshop and networking gathering for all who attend. There will be hot dogs and hamburgers supplied by the NHBA. Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Soda and water will be provided thanks to the Seabrook and Pawtuckaway clubs. Bring your own chairs, plates and utensils. There will be beekeeping supply vendors set up as well.

The **smoker contest** will be going on all day. Bring your smoker for the contest – **RULES:** no wood pellets; smoker plugs will be allowed; smoker to be average size not extra large, all participants to stock smokers in front of judge at the start time – 10:30am. No one is to touch smokers except judge. Last one burning at the end is the winner.

Topics this year include: Troy Hall speaking on rearing northern queens; setting up an Observation hive by Wendy Booth; State Inspector's Report – Ben Chadwick; Bee Removal and Extracting by Dick Dionne; and Electric Fence Demo by Greg Sanderson. There will also be a Top Bar Grant update.

Please check out the web site for the Farm Museum and Matthew Harvey Homestead – which is a bicentennial working farm and restored 18th century homestead and farm buildings. Set on 250 acres of field, woods, fruit, flower and vegetable gardens...
www.musterfieldfarm.com

Other NHBA News Updates:

Penn State website talks about their pesticides booklet - \$12.00 plus shipping. Go to the web site (www.psu.edu) – under publications. Code: #AGRS116 – “A Field Guide to Honeybees and their Maladies”. Some interesting reading.

Merrimack Beekeeper's Assn will be hosting the Fall 2011 meeting on October 22, 2011.

The **“Queen of the Sun”** movie was shown at the Red River Theatre in Concord as well as in Portsmouth Music Hall in Portsmouth. After the movie there was a panel discussion around the theme of the movie. If you'd like to check out the movie – please go to www.queenofthesun.com for more information.

Wendy Booth will be sending a “winter bee loss survey” at some point to gain some information about our hives.

If anyone would like their **bees tested for viruses** – the NHBA will help pay the costs of the tests – sponsoring the beekeeper – but they must be members of the NHBA. Local clubs could help as well. Person would get reimbursed for their share of the costs. There will be a three (3) sample minimum – 200 bees in a zip bag. Chris Rallis (State Entomologist) and Wendy Booth are working on the form and the requirements.

The **US Farm Service Agency** (www.fsa.usda.gov) will help reimburse for dead bees. They will provide some disaster assistance – but the claims must be in to the agency within 30 days of the loss. There are a number of honeybee programs operated by the US Department of Agriculture. Phone: 401-822-8860.

Reminder – if a town is spraying – the town needs to notify the individuals with honeybees...but hives must be registered with the State.

There will be no July or December NHBA meetings this year.

Speaking Engagements by PBBA Members:

Ag in the Classroom at the Haverhill Fairgrounds (May 12, 2011): Dave, Gerard and Mary-Ellen provided the demonstrations to approximately 129 fifth graders and chaperones this year. A number of the students asked some very interesting questions after they enjoyed the program as well as viewing the photo display that has been added to the traveling program supplies list.

Monroe School; Rumney/Plymouth/Campton Elementary after school program accompanied by Lydia and Jim McCart;



Bridgewater/Hebron School – Gerard, Dave and Mike gave their presentation to the 4th and 5th graders. We may have even gotten a new student beekeeper to check out the program!

Greg Sanderson has been doing workshops at the **Shaker Village**.

Bristol Area Daisy and Brownie Girl Scout groups invited our speakers to one of their meetings – great questions were entertained

Dave Boynton read the “*In the Bees, Honeybees*” book to 90-100 K-2 school children at the **Paul Smith School in Franklin**.

Upcoming events:

NH Science Teachers Assn has asked our group to present a day long forum in one hour sessions to the **NH Science Teachers annual fall conference to be held at Church Landing in Meredith on Monday October 2011**.

Belknap County School to Farm Day at Ramblin’ Vewe Farm in Gilford, NH is also scheduled for Oct 2011: This will be the second Ag in the Classroom day for Belknap County students. This is being organized by Ruth Smith. Last year - Gerard, Harley and Dave gave their talk to approximately 165 fourth grade students and their chaperones – some of the students had some very interesting questions – one in particular was “Why isn’t there a King Bee?”

Speaking engagement with the **NH Audubon Society** – Tyler Durham is making the arrangements for this presentation in July 19, 2011.

Announcements

State Bee Inspector, Ben Chadwick mentioned that if you would like your ‘dead’ hives looked at—please DO NOT clean them up—leave them alone so he can try and see what caused them to die off. It would be very difficult to determine if they are cleaned up! After the NH state budgets were set - the state apiary inspection program is still in existence and Ben Chadwick is the inspector.

2011-2012 Election of Officers for NHBA – Wendy Booth-President; Mike Bayko -Vice President; Recording Secretary-Ellie Palmer; Treasurer – Moe L’Heureux; Newsletter Editor – Wendy Booth; and Corresponding Secretary- Mary-Ellen Godville.

The 2011 NHBA membership dues are \$15/individual and \$20/family.

Meeting Summaries from December 2010 through May 2011

December - A signup sheet and final discussion regarding the Bee School in January was presented. A discussion about the insurance coverage we have under the NHBA which covers liability at established meetings but not individuals' sales of hive products. There was a question about nucs vs. bee packages – which is better – there was a variety of answers and preferences. Along with this folks asked questions about top bar hives vs. the Langstroth hives...there are pros and cons for both. We held a honey tasting contest – which was won by Mel Wiltse! Congratulations! We also made the final choice for our logo – and Tyler Durham was the winner! Congratulations!

January –we held the annual election of officers and it was unanimous to have the same officers carry on their positions for another year. A reminder was given about paying dues for the year for not only PBBA but for the State Assn as well. There was a request for club members to let the officers know of anyone they think would be an interesting speaker at one of our future meetings. A reminder to take this time to clean your tools, store honey supers so that mice/insects won't get them. All part of the winter management. Make sure you order your bees early and prepare you IPM (Integrated Pest Management) plan to control the mites. Farm and Forest Exhibition is at the Radisson Hotel the first weekend in February. The Spring meeting will be held at Lake Shore Farm again in March.

February – we are still working on getting quotes from area screen printing vendors. Body Covers of Laconia will be sending some samples. We still have some PBBA club informational book for sale at \$5. Kevin Frank mentioned that he knew of an author who wrote a book on bees for children that might be able to come and speak at the March meeting. This is a critical time for the hives to make sure there is enough store. If not – make sure to add fondant and pollen patties to help them through the rest of the winter. If the hives are light weight – they may not have enough food to make it into spring. Make sure the hives are tipped forward to let the melting snow/water runoff. If anyone wants nucs from 'Tony' in Maine – he is only creating 20 nucs this year – so order early.

March – It was voted to pick up \$25/gift cards – either for a restaurant or gas card – as a thank you gift for presenters. Harley gave a presentation on swarming and how to keep it minimal. They tend to swarm due to congestion in spring/early summer. Keep young queens – they don't seem to swarm as much. Re-queen every year as a precautionary measure. Also reverse hives in the spring – because bees won't go down – they travel up through the hive bodies. Mike Bertolone and his assistant, Darryl, were guest speakers from the Farm Family insurance company. It is very important to have liability insurance if you plan on selling your honey – because you go from 'hobbyist' to 'commercial' - and your regular home owners insurance may not cover you if someone experiences problems with your product. If you plan on selling honey products at a farm stand or farmer's markets – there has to be information on your jars in case there are problems. In order to do that – you must have a certificate of insurance. An SFP 10 will do what your home owners doesn't – folks who work at this insurance company know what beekeepers do and the terms dealing with issues. If you have your hives on someone else's property – that would be listed on your policy. Their policies are tailored to meet your needs. Contact information for Mike Bertolone at the Farm Family Insurance Company is: mike_bertolone@farmfamily.com or 297 Sheep Davis Rd, Concord, NH (603) 223-6690.

April – Mike Bayko, the newly elected Vice President of NHBA came and spoke on spring feeding. Mike has been keeping bees for 38 years and belongs to 15 bee clubs all over New England, New York and a couple of National clubs. He does a lot of speaking in schools and clubs. In his spare time – Mike does a lot of honey and was judging at several fairs in NH and MA. He offered many choices of feeding processes. Some work for him – while others may not. You want to feed in the spring to stimulate the queen into laying eggs. One of his best tips is – be prepared! It helps! There was a nice surprise reception held at the April PBBA meeting - with cake and refreshments for everyone. Thank you very much for this honor...It is very much appreciated! Alden's bees will be here on April 26th and 27th. Ben's bees will be here on Friday. Mel Woolsey offered to bring back bees from Alden's. There was a discussion on the new mite strips that were approved by New Hampshire – make sure to read the directions and ask for help!

May – Andy Maves gave a presentation on insecticide certificates to use chemicals in hives. There is a voluntary registration form on the State of NH website for a chemical certificate. This is highly recommended if you are going to give away your hive products as gifts, sell them at local farmers markets, or sell them privately. You must make sure you have all the contact information on your labels. Some of the stuff used in hives is not pesticides – some chemicals are considered pharmaceuticals –antibiotics (like Fumigelin-B). It's important that you print out a materials data safety sheet. The Purdue University website has lots of information. David Rousseau, Director of Pesticides announced that the NOD Apiaries Mite Away Quick Strips have been approved for use in NH – more information on this product: http://www.miteaway.com/html/what_is_maqs.php
The ABJ February issue had field studies done by Randy Oliver on this product.

PBBA Officers and Contact Information

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Mitchell Jenness, Treasurer

(603) 968-3366

linger@metrocast.net

David Boynton, Secretary

(603) 744-6465

Gonepostal31@hotmail.com

PBBA Recipe Sharing

This section will be dedicated to all the cooks in the club—who use honey as part of their regular cooking and meals. We would really like to have some 'home made' recipes from our club cooks!

Here are two recipes:



Pure Honey Pound Cake (Harley and Sue Putnam)

1 Cup Butter	¼ tsp Soda
½ Cup Shortening	½ tsp Salt
2 ½ Cups Pure Honey	1 Cup Canned Milk, undiluted
8 eggs	2 tsp Vanilla Extract
3 ½ Cups of Whole Wheat Flour	2 tsp Lemon Extract
1 tsp Baking Powder	

Cream butter and shortening together. Add pure honey and cream again. Add eggs one at a time. Add flour, baking powder, soda and salt. Blend with milk, add vanilla and lemon extracts. Beat well. Pour batter into greased loaf pans to a level of ¾ full. Bake at 300° F for 40 minutes. Continue baking at 225° for another 40 minutes. Enjoy!



Honey Chicken Kabobs (S Clermont, Contributor to the PSU Clock Newspaper)

(Serving Size: 12)

- ¼ Cup Vegetable Oil
- 1/3 Cup Honey
- 1/3 Cup Soy Sauce
- ¼ tsp Ground Black Pepper
- 8 Skinless, Boneless Chicken Breast Halves, cut into 1" Cubes
- 2 Cloves Garlic
- 5 Small Onions – Cut into 2" pieces
- 2 Red Bell Peppers, Cut into 2" pieces
- Skewers

In a large bowl, whisk together oil, honey, soy sauce, and pepper. Before adding chicken to mixture, reserve a small amount of marinade to brush onto kabobs while cooking. Place chicken, garlic, onions and peppers in the bowl, and marinate in refrigerator at least two hours (the longer the better). Preheat the grill for high heat. Drain marinade from the chicken and vegetables, and discard marinade. Thread chicken and veggies alternately onto the skewers. Lightly oil the grill grate, Place the skewers on the grill. Cook for 12-15 minutes until the chicken juices run clear. Turn and brush with reserved marinade frequently!

New Web Links—these are for informational purposes only.

NH Beekeepers' Association

www.nhbeekeepers.org

USDA Bee Research

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/>

The National Honey Board

<http://www.honey.com>

Eastern Apicultural Society

<http://www.easternapiculture.org>

Randy Oliver

<http://scientificbeekeeping.com>

Brushy Mountain

<http://www.brushymountainbeefarm.com/>

Other NH Club WebPages:

Pawtuckaway Beekeepers: www.PawtuckawayBeekeepers.org

Capital Beekeepers Assn: www.capitalareabeekeepers.org

Merrimack Beekeepers: www.mvbee.org

Kearsarge Beekeepers: www.kbanh.org

Sea Coast Beekeepers: www.seacoastbeekeepers.com

Monadnock Beekeepers: www.monadnockbeekeepers.com

NH State Dept of Agriculture

https://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/plant_industry/documents/BeeApplication.pdf

Members of the New Hampshire Beekeeper's Association since 2008

This organization came together in January 2008 to bring local beekeepers together for the purpose of learning, education and sharing information on the art of beekeeping.

The membership is open to all those truly interested in learning the history, techniques, skills and development of a beekeeping establishment...as a hobbyist or a entrepreneur for the honey industry.

The Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm at 1062 River Road Bridgewater, NH

1062 River Road
Bridgewater, NH 03264

Pemi-Baker Beekeepers' Association

Mary-Ellen Godville
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PEMI-BAKER BEEKEEPERS ASSN
2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

NAME (S) _____

STREET OR PO BOX ADDRESS

_____ TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

RENEWAL \$10 (Individual/family) _____ DONATION TO PBBA _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Pemi-Baker Beekeepers Association PLEASE MAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS IN JANUARY FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. This can be done by paying at the meeting—or by mailing your check to the PBBA Treasurer, Mitchell Jenness, 88 John Jenness Road, Plymouth, NH 03264