

November 2010

## Pemi-Baker Beekeeper's Association

Volume 2, Issue 2

### NEWS

## Here's What's Buzzin'

### NHBA 2010 Fall Meeting

On Saturday October 16, 2010, the NHBA Fall meeting was held at the Bridgewater Town Hall in Bridgewater NH – hosted by the Pemi-Baker Beekeepers Assn. The guest speakers this year was **Cindy Bee, Master Beekeeper** from Georgia. She gave a presentation on Extracting Bees from Buildings. She provided a nice slide show and very interesting stories on her adventures in extractions. She has a new book on extractions that came out just before the meeting. She indicated that AI Root Publishers should have it for sale (possibly on Amazon by November). Cindy handed out an informational sheet on supplies that are needed to collect a bee swarm; what to ask the customer when you call bank; what to say to the customer regarding your process; and other things to consider when collecting a swarm. She was joined by **Nancy Comeau, a Nuisance Blank Bear Specialist** with the USDA Wildlife Services and NH Fish and Game cooperative Bear program. Her program directly addressed bear complaints through dissemination of education materials, exclusion equipment and aversive conditioning methods. She spent the last three summers trapping; radio collaring and tracking nuisance bears within northern NH communities while working towards a graduate degree at PSU.

There were approximately 100 in attendance from all the clubs. We had a great representation from the PBBA! The food that Mitch and Mary Jenness and helpers provided was EXCELLENT! If anyone went away hungry – it was their own fault!! There were at least 8 different kinds of miniature muffins and breakfast cakes to go along with coffee, tea and hot cocoa. For lunch there were four soups plus a chili in the crock pots to go with the finger sandwiches made of seafood, egg, chicken and ham salads. For dessert, you could make your own brownie sundae or enjoy a delightful cake with raspberry and coconut frosting.

We also want to thank all the PBBA volunteers for all of their help setting up on Friday afternoon; working at the front desk at registration on Saturday morning, and the cleanup crew at Saturday's end! There was a lot of hard work done and we feel this made for a very special conference. Another special thank you goes to Lois Kerkawich for her welcome drawing on the white board at the front of the room. Her artistry was nicely done and really appreciated.

During the business meeting the Smoker winners from the Musterfield Farm workshop this summer – CJ Maslowski and Allen Lindahl were announced and given their t-shirts. A hat and t-shirt was also given to Cindy and Nancy as a thank you for their presentations. It was announced that Wendy Booth, VP 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 an announcement regarding National Agriculture Literacy Day in which there is a special children's book being offered for sale at a reduced rate of \$9.99: "In the Trees Honeybees" – geared for second graders, The NHBA will order these in bulk for anyone interested in purchasing them. More to come regarding these orders – for March 2011.



**2010 Summer NHBA Workshop at Musterfield Farm** in Sutton, NH was held on June 26<sup>th</sup> and was very well attended with over 60 members from the state clubs. The PBBA was nicely represented by thirteen members. There were various presentations given by Wendy Booth on using a queen castle; Ben Chadwick gave his Inspectors report on summer findings; Greg Sanderson gave a demo on electric fencing; and Allen Lindahl with Alden Marshall gave a refresher on drone brood removal for mite control. There was a nice display of “Antiques and Uniques” and the Musterfield Farm museum curator showed his antique beekeeping collection. A new Maple and Honey House was built since last year on the property as well.



**Speaking Engagements by PBBA Members:**

**Holderness Recreation (April 26, 2010):** Harley, Dave and Gerard spoke to approximately 6 potential beekeepers that evening – from which we did get two new members – Lydia and Jim McCart!

**Ag in the Classroom at the Haverhill Fairgrounds (May 13, 2010):** Harley, Gerard and Mary-Ellen provided the demonstrations to approximately 150 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.

**New Hampton Old Home Day (August 14, 2010):** Harley, Dave and Gerard presented to approximately 25-30 people on that hot afternoon. The display was set up prior to the talk which provided a good opportunity for many people who could not attend the program to ask questions of the speakers.

**Bath Grange Association (October 4, 2010):** Dave, Gerard and Harley spoke to about 15 members of the grange. There were many interesting questions and stories of the grange member’s beekeeping experiences.

**Belknap County School to Farm Day at Ramblin’ Vewe Farm in Gilford, NH (October 19, 2010):** This was the first Ag in the Classroom day for Belknap County students. This was organized by Andrea Bye. 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?”

PBBA in cooperation with NHBA and Ag in the Classroom have donated five *‘The Honey Files: A Bee’s Life’* packages at these surrounding schools: Bridgewater/Hebron Elementary School (by Gerard/Mary-Ellen Godville); New Hampton Community School (by Dave/Sherry Boynton); Warren Village School (by Judy/Dave Whitcher); Russell School in Rumney (by Lydia and Jim McCart); and Inter Lakes Elementary School District (by Patti Morrow). This packet is an educational teaching guide for the grades 4-6 teachers with the help of individual PBBA members – who have volunteered to go and speak on beekeeping at the various schools. This should give those students a wonderful introduction on art of beekeeping. There were 75 of these packets from the NHBA – and they are all gone. Individual packets can be order/purchased for \$20 each when gifted to a school system. If someone wants one personally – the cost will be \$25.

**Summer Inspection/ PBBA Workshop at the Godville’s Apiary** – August 22, 2010 – Hive Inspection by Ben Chadwick, State Bee Inspector. This was attended by 22 PBBA members and guests plus 4 members of the NHBA executive board – Besides Ben Chadwick - Allen Lindahl, President, Dick Dionne, Alden Marshall and Colin Eagan- members, and Ellie Palmer Secretary along with their spouses. Regardless of the amount of rain that happened all day – the workshop and inspection went very well. The pork/turkey/beef spit roasted meats were done to perfection by Master Rotisserie Supervisor, Mel Lamson and along with all the side dishes and desserts – everyone had a great experience. The information that was obtained through Ben’s instruction was invaluable! Upon inspection- it was discovered that there was a very low supply of winter stores for the bees. It was recommended that Gerard start feeding the syrup immediately to assist them in making more. He was also told to leave the supers (which were mostly uncapped) for them to use as well. “Knock on wood” the mite count seemed to be managed well and the count was low!

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## 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.

**2010-2011 Election of Officers for NHBA** – Allan Lindahl - President; Wendy Booth -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.** It has not been increased in 8 years. This is due to rise in costs for: 4 newsletters, 2 meetings, summer BBQ workshop and Liability Insurance for clubs. These prices are more in line with the surrounding state beekeepers associations.

There is a new beekeeping association in Concord, NH area – **Capitol Area Beekeepers Assn** – contact information is Randy and Deb Harris ([DebnRandy-RNs@comcast.net](mailto:DebnRandy-RNs@comcast.net)) Information from the Fall Newsletter indicates that already have 20 members already.

**PBBA Bee School** will begin in January 2011 – for members only. This will give the instructors the opportunity to initiate the curriculum. Wendy Booth will help launch the new school at the first session (s). More to come on this.

## Meeting Summaries from May through October

**May** - Gerard and Mary-Ellen have been working with Wendy Booth in setting up the bee school outlines. The officers will set up a meeting soon to begin organizing the school program. There will be more to come on that nearer fall. The Vermont apiary inspectors must inspect all nucs that are sold before they cross state lines. There have been some findings of foul brood recently. Many folks got new packages of bees this spring. Judy and Suzy contacted the state about the spraying on the power lines – and found that they were spraying low bushes and using chemicals from backpacks that are not supposed to get into the air. Most folks lost hives this winter. It seems like the weakest of the hives made it through for some reason. The club has formed a 'calling tree' to help capture or remove swarms. Please let officers know if you'd like to be on that calling list. Lots of good advice was listed regarding what to do with bees at this time of year: moving of hives (no more than 3' at a time); don't move brood frames out of order – could cause queen to lay less eggs; do not use chemicals or feed sugar syrup after the supers are on; and swarm lures should not be more than 150-200' away from hive and 12-15' in the air. Harley's trivia corner provided lots of interesting facts once again!

**June** – We tentatively thought about having the bee school for September and October – however, everyone agreed that there would be too much going on with the planning for hosting the fall meeting. However, everyone agreed that it would be good to hold 'double sessions' (2 classes sections) on consecutive Saturdays. This will be better during the winter months – because we can educate folks throughout those sessions and they'll be already to set up their spring hives at the completion of the course. Greg brought in his demonstration hive and showed folks what European foul brood looked like – they'll tend to clean this up themselves. If it were American foul brood – the hive would have to be destroyed. It is not recommended to buy used hives and equipment...due to the now knowing if they are infected or exposed to. If you are registered with the State – you will be notified if/when they plan on spraying in your area. Everyone was encouraged to attend the Musterfield Farm workshop in Sutton – lots of good information is given, the demonstrations are very educational and just networking provides an opportunity to talk with members from the other clubs. Bears are out – check fences and batteries! It is also swarm season – so keep an eye on your hives for any signs of swarming. Joanne and Dave had swarms already. Harley, Gerard and Mary-Ellen gave the demonstration at the Ag in the Classroom day in Haverhill fairgrounds – 150 5<sup>th</sup> graders went through our station and asked lots of great questions! Harley warned folks to check your drone boards carefully before swapping it for an empty one – make sure the queen is not on it!

**July** – the club was contacted by the State requesting that we add an amendment to our bylaws dealing with any leftover money we have if the club disbanded. After some discussion – the club decided to donate the funds to the NHBA research fund. This was voted on at the August meeting. We would like to have a club banner and t-shirts made up so we have been asking for ideas for a design. Tyler Durham, Susie Putnam and Lois Kerkawich have drawn up some samples. Please get your ideas/drawings to Gerard and we hope to

have something for the fall meeting. The club has five Ag in the Classroom packets as teaching guides for local schools geared for grades 4-6 – These are free to the school systems and it would be great to have a local beekeeper speak to the classes on the program. All five of the packets have been distributed. We are getting our plans ready for organizing the fall meeting – a group of us will meet at the facility to see what it's like and what is needed. Mitch is developing the catering list of options which will be voted on next month. Mini workshop at Godville's on Sunday August 22 – rain or shine. We held a discussion on the top bar hives – we are still learning about those set ups.

**August** – here was a discussion about medicating the hives and mite control methods. Richard Lobban talked about his capturing a couple of feral hives and trying to contain them in his hives...but attempts did not work out. A discussion about extracting the honey included how to store the supers and on cleaning the extractor (with hot water and by the bees themselves). It was advised not to purchase used woodenware from a beekeeper unless you know them well – there could be chemicals and diseases imbedded in them. All of the Ag in the Classroom instructional packets on “*The Honeybee Files*” have been distributed. An amendment to the by-laws was voted on and approved. It states “In the event that the Pemi-Baker Beekeeping Assn ever ceases to function as an organization, any money left in our bank account after all debts are paid will be donated to the State Beekeepers Assn's Research Fund.” This motion was passed. The Treasurer was authorized to pay the \$25 to the State of NH for the amendment. Several members visited the location of the NHBA Fall meeting – and discussed what needed to be done. There was a mini workshop held at the Godville's apiary on August 22<sup>nd</sup> for all members...Ben Chadwick, State Apiary Inspector went through the hives and a great deal of information was shared to those in attendance...There were 35 in attendance -Rain and all! The Godvilles wish to thank the PBBA for covering cost of the roasting meats purchased for the workshop. It was encouraged that if you have any questions or concerns anytime – please feel free to contact members by phone or email. They'll do their best to get you answers. There was a bumblebee home extraction performed by Gerard and Mel Lamson which went very well. They tried to relocate the nest – but it did not work out.

**September** – there was discussions around the final planning of the NHBA fall meeting planning. The catering menu was finalized for Mitch and group could begin their final plans. The discussion around the PBBA logo continued – we would like to have some designs ready by November and vote on by December – with any luck we might have some samples in January 2011 for t-shirts and hats. Mouse guards are to be placed in the hives very soon...as the mice mark their hives -leave and come back once it turns cold. It's almost time to remove the supers and start feeding Fumigelin-B to treat for nosema. If you are using chemicals to treat for the mites, make sure to remove the supers – as the chemicals will get into the wax/honey – and this is not for human consumption. **Fall syrup recipe:** 10 lbs granulated sugar/2 ½ quarts of water. Bring water to boil; turn off heat (if you don't the sugar will caramelize and make the bees sick; stir in sugar until clear; let cool at room temperature; then add Fumigelin-B if you needed. You can open the hives as long as it is around 50 degrees if you want to check on them...or just listen with a stethoscope as well...you should hear a nice humming noise! We voted to give the NHBA \$150 towards the liability insurance policy.

**October** – Harley and Gerard gave a demo on winterizing the hives. This should be done in November. Ventilation is very important when closing up. If there is not proper ventilation there could be condensation and the bees will chill and die. You want to make sure you have a queen before closing up or else they won't make it through the winter. Keeping them in an open sided shed might help. We are still looking for logo designs so we can purchase hats and shirts. We reviewed all the plans for the NHBA fall meeting. There were a couple of presentation dates for the our traveling demonstration group – one at the Bath Grange and another at Belknap County School to Farm program in Gilford. Gerard and Mary-Ellen travelled to Springfield MA to help the Merrimack Beekeeper's Club at the Big E in the NH Building.

## PBBA Officers and Contact Information

Gerard Godville, President

(603) 968-7992

[gsbeesbrdgh2@yahoo.com](mailto:gsbeesbrdgh2@yahoo.com)

Greg Sanderson, Vice President

(603) 286-3029

[nhbeekeeper@yahoo.com](mailto:nhbeekeeper@yahoo.com)

Mitchell Jenness, Treasurer

(603) 968-3366

[linger@metrocast.net](mailto:linger@metrocast.net)

David Boynton, Secretary

(603) 744-6465

[gonepostal31@hotmail.com](mailto: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:



## Honey-Garlic Pork Chops (From Cindy Pelczar)

¼ C Lemon Juice

¼ Cup honey

2 Tbsp Soy Sauce

2 Garlic cloves – minced

4 Boneless Pork loin chops (6 oz each – 1 ¼ -1 ½ “ thick)

In large reseal able plastic bag – combine 1<sup>st</sup> four ingredients; add chops. Seal bag and refrigerate 8 hours. Drain and discard marinade. Grill over medium heat 12-18 minutes or until juices run clear. Prep time: 5 minutes plus marinating – Grill time – 20 minutes. Enjoy!

## Honey Bee Ambrosia (Betty Crocker’s Cookbook)

4 Medium Oranges

1 Medium Banana

½ C Orange Juice

¼ C Honey

2 Tbsp Lemon Juice

¼ C Flaked Coconut

Pare oranges; cut crosswise into thin slices and place in serving bowl. Peel banana; cut thin slices into bowl with oranges. Toss fruits. Blend orange and lemon juices and honey; pour over fruits. Sprinkle with coconut. Makes 4-6 servings.

## Interesting Web Links—these are for informational purposes only.

NH Beekeepers’ Association

[www.nhbeekeepers.org](http://www.nhbeekeepers.org)

Bee Culture

<http://www.BeeCulture.Com>

Brushy Mountain

[www.BrushyMountainBeeFarm.com](http://www.BrushyMountainBeeFarm.com)

Randy Oliver’s Webpage

[www.scientificbeekeeping.com](http://www.scientificbeekeeping.com)

Mid-Atlantic Apiculture

[www.MAAREC@psu.edu](mailto:www.MAAREC@psu.edu)

Other NH Club WebPages:

Pawtuckaway Beekeepers: [www.PawtuckawayBeekeepers.org](http://www.PawtuckawayBeekeepers.org)

Merrimack Beekeepers: [www.mvbee.org](http://www.mvbee.org)

Kearsarge Beekeepers: [www.kbanh.org](http://www.kbanh.org)

Sea Coast Beekeepers: [www.seacoastbeekeepers.com](http://www.seacoastbeekeepers.com)

Monadnock Beekeepers: [www.monadnockbeekeepers.com](http://www.monadnockbeekeepers.com)

**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  
PBBA Newsletter Editor  
megrg74@yahoo.com

PEMI-BAKER BEEKEEPERS ASSN  
2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET OR PO BOX ADDRESS  
\_\_\_\_\_TOWN\_\_\_\_\_STATE\_\_\_\_\_ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

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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