

# Pemi-Baker Beekeeper's Association

## Year 2009 in Review

### Summaries of the NHBA Meetings through 2009

Spring Meeting in March was held in Northwood at the Lake Shore Farm-Guest speaker was Frédérique Keller – a licensed Acupuncturist, medical herbalist with over 35 years of experience in the holistic health field incorporating Traditional Chinese Medicine and Ayurvedic principles into her healing protocols. Some attendees volunteered to be stung for medicinal purposes.

Summer Workshop in June- held at Musterfield Farm in Sutton – had several sessions occurring: (1) Ben

Chadwick, the State Apiary Inspector gave a workshop on how to mark the queen bees;



(2) Alden Marshall and Allen Lindahl demonstrated on how to check for American Foul Brood; showed how to use the powered sugar method to control mites; and mentioned 'checker boarding' – a way to help strengthen your hives; (3) Mike Z gave a brief presentation on the *NH State Laws Pertaining to Honeybees and Honey*



*Products*- he handed out the materials for each club present for reference;

(4) Greg Sanderson demonstrated how to set up wire fencing to keep bears from the yard.



Fall Meeting held in October hosted by the Monadnock Beekeeper's Club at the Mole's Hill Theatre in Alstead – hosted Kirsten and Michael Trainor from Maryland. Both individuals are avid contributors to the American Bee Journal. Kirsten spoke at length about the German Hive Rotation process. They gave us a lot of reference information during the afternoon session on what the 'honey stomach' really is, having a good source of pollen must be 300 yards from the bee yard in the spring, what 'nasanoving' is – the release of a fruity smell you might notice during a swarm, bees cannot see 'red' flowers, drones need to be 18-20 days old for mature mating, and they mentioned some flowers that bloom in the winter referencing this website: [www.pacificcrestapiaries.com](http://www.pacificcrestapiaries.com). Erin Forbes from Maine talked about her use of the SARE grant funds and how to get those for the purpose of research.

Spring Meeting 2010 will be held on March 20, 2010 at the Lake Shore Farm hosting guest speaker Mary Ann Frazer

Fall Meeting for 2010 will be hosted by the Pemi-Baker Beekeeper's Club on October 16, 2010.

## Events and Notable Contributions of Participating Pemi-Baker Beekeeper members

**January** Officers for 2009 were voted on and accepted as well as passing the Articles of Incorporation required by the State during the business portion of the meeting. Harley Putnam developed an introductory booklet for all beginner beekeepers. Update on ordering bees during this month from your contacts.

**February** Harley Putnam, Gerard Godville and Greg Sanderson discussed and demonstrated various methods on introducing a queen to the hive. Harley began his 'Bee Trivia' segment at the end of the meeting.

**March** Wendy and Bill Booth, from the Pawtuckaway Beekeeper's Assn spoke to the club on later winter feedings and spring preparation. Some members have brought articles and reference information to share with the group...which is very helpful and interesting.

**April** The topic of talking with your neighbors regarding what kind of pesticides they use around their properties that could affect your bees. Also – if your hives are registered with the State – they will contact you if/when they are going to spray the area for EEE. Gerard and Harley each gave their demonstration on how they place a new package of bees into the hive. The Newfound Farmer's Market was mentioned if anyone was interested in having a sales spot.

**May** Harley, David B and Gerard gave day long presentations at the *Ag for the Classroom* day held for area school fifth graders at the Haverhill Fairgrounds. There were 129 students who stopped by our "The Get the Buzz on Bees" station to watch the demonstrations which ranged from the history of bees and beekeeping in the US; showing the parts of the hive; and how to extract the honey. According to the reviews, they would love to

have us back next year!



Harley gave us our first test on the 'Bee Trivia'. Everyone passed (eventually☺)

**June** There was a nice article in the Newfound Voice interviewing David Boynton on his beekeeping experiences. Ben Chadwick, State Apiary Inspector and Chris Rallis, State Entomologist came for an annual inspection of the Godville's hives. The PBBA club members were invited to attend – this turned out to be a very

interesting and informative workshop!



**July** Gerard held hands-on mini workshop for beginner beekeepers at the Godville's home – which included a



section on how to check your hives and using the powdered sugar mite control method. There were 18 people in attendance with lots of good questions and seemed to enjoy the hands-on experience.

**August** PBBA members were invited to give a presentation at the Bridgewater Old Home day on beekeeping. Topics discussed were: History of Bees and Beekeeping in the US (Dave Boynton); a demo of the hive components (Harley Putnam); honey extraction processes (Gerard Godville) and an explanation of the use of a honey refractometer (Mel Lamson). This was very well received by a large audience! Gordon Dubois presented a nice slide show to the club members on the capturing of a swarm – he was able to get some great pictures of this event. Other slides shown were from various club activities (state inspection, Musterfield Farm and mini workshop) taken by Mary-Ellen Godville. Nice job, Gordon.

**September** Several members (Mel Lamson, Sherry Boynton, Gerard and Mary-Ellen Godville) made a trip to Springfield MA to the Eastern States Exposition to help the Merrimack Beekeepers Assn who was volunteering in the NH



State Building under the Department of Agriculture. What a great experience!

The new NHBA decals went on sale for the clubs.

**October** Several PBBA members attended the fall meeting held at Mole's Hill Theater in Alstead with the Trainor's presentations mentioned earlier. Harley Putnam donated a beautiful handmade wooden sign to the club. Bonnie Drew volunteered to stain and highlight the lettering as well. Thank you both for your craftwork! Gerard and Harley demonstrated winterizing the hives and different methods to prepare the bees for cold weather.

**November** Susie Putnam and Sherry Boynton brought several items to raffle off at this meeting. It was a nice success and raised about \$27 for the club treasury. It was decided that this would be a good fund raiser at the upcoming meetings as well.

**December** It was announced at the NHBA meeting that the state membership dues would be increasing effective January 2010 - \$15/individual and \$20/family memberships. The dues have not increased in eight years – due to the rise in the newsletters, two meetings, summer BBQ workshop and liability insurance – it was deemed necessary. These fees are more in line with the surrounding state fees as well. The PBBA membership will remain at \$10 for the 2010 individual/family memberships. We are also going to 'go green' as much as possible with the newsletter. So please make sure that the newsletter editor has your current email addresses.

A discussion was held on cleaning your bee suits and tools for spring. An interesting point was brought up on washing the bee suits – please be careful when handling and washing them as the bee venom will dry on the suits and that dust could be inhaled when handling the suit. This, too, could cause an allergic reaction.

George Hamilton, the Hillsboro County Grants Coordinator is looking for funds for farmers to plant certain crops which would be beneficial to the beekeepers as well. Our county representatives may be doing the same...the idea would be

partial grant funding to help both the farmer and beekeeper with those crop plantings. You are encouraged to contact your county representative for more about this topic.

Alden Marshall of the Merrimack Beekeepers' Assn presented Gerard with a surprise check at the NHBA meeting in the amount of \$246.15 for helping their bee club at the Big E. This was a nice addition to the club treasury!

After our business meeting - we had a wonderful holiday pot luck buffet to munch on while the raffle drawing was going on – there were many nice items available - adding \$50+ to the treasury! Thanks to everyone who donated items for the raffle. A special thank you to JoAnne Morrison for the beautiful bee jewelry and car gems from which she donated the proceeds to our club account! Everyone went home happy!

### **Wish List for 2010**

- (1) Workshops given by Wendy Booth on any topic of interest. She will also run a bee school.
- (2) Speakers from other State Beekeeping Clubs
- (3) Rotation of club visits to members hive yards
- (4) Planning for the fall NHBA meeting – committee to be established
- (5) Interest in helping with Farm and Forest Exposition on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
- (6) Workshops sponsored by PBBA members for community groups – doing what we do best