



# Pawtuckaway Beekeepers Association

Monthly Newsletter [www.pawtuckawaybeekeepers.org](http://www.pawtuckawaybeekeepers.org)

August 2015

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Hello PBA,

What an amazing summer it has been! Beautiful weather, sunny, mild days, a plethora of flowers and pollinator forage. The rain we received earlier this week should give a bump to the late summer plants and help out the goldenrod flow. I got my wife and older kids out of bed at three o'clock this morning to sit in the backyard and watch the Perseid meteor shower. Even from our backyard with its postage stamp sized piece of the sky we enjoyed quite a show. I have told my friends that in my 30 years living in New Hampshire, I can't remember a finer summer.

Our next meeting is on Monday, August 17th, at 7:00pm, at the Lodge in Candia. To go along with this great season, we hope for a great honey harvest for our members. In preparation for this, we will be going over the basics of extraction and bottling, filtering and heating/not heating, and preparation for entering honey to the Deerfield Fair. Jan Litvin, Karen Eaton, Mike Bayko and others will be taking part in presenting our program. Also labels! Need some ideas? Need to know what must be on your labels if you are going to sell you honey? We'll cover that as well.

Do you have any interest in serving the club as a board member or committee member? One of the committees we need to have in place soon is the nominations committee, which will take names of anyone interested in being considered by the club for position on the PBA Board for the year 2016. Let any of the current board members know if you would like to serve the club in this way. We will be voting on next year's board members in November at our End-of-the-year Potluck.



Bee well, and see you soon!

Jeremy Everson

# PAWTUCKAWAY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

July 20, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The July meeting was called to order by President Jeremy Everson at 7:05. The minutes as posted in the newsletter were accepted unanimously. The Treasurers report for June as posted in the July newsletter were accepted unanimously. Jeremy made a donation of \$75.00 that he received for an extraction of honeybees from a home in Raymond. He got to keep some Carneolan bees for a new hive at his yard and gained experience of extracting. There was a discussion about what to do with the extra funds. There has been communication with the Seacoast Beekeepers Association about co-hosting a speaker.

On Saturday August eighth at 1pm, there will be a PBA Social at the home of Guy and Dee Lessard at 115 Brennan Street, Manchester, New Hampshire. Bring a chair and a bathing suit if you would like to swim in the salt-water pool! The steak tips and chicken for the grill will be provided by the club. A side dish or dessert would be good to share with all. Also Mike Bayko reminded us that our insurance policy requires all attending the hive inspection to be wearing veils or bee suits.

There will also be a regular August meeting at the Masonic Lodge on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We will be discussing extraction and bottling of honey. Also what is required for entering honey in the Deerfield Fair.

Jim Kuhn, PBA member from Goffstown is selling Clover, Basswood, and Locust Honey. His farm is at 116 Normand Road and he has been selling honey to many loyal customers for many years.

The board of directors is looking for nominations or volunteers for the posts or committees. They are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Librarian, Education Committee, and Hospitality Committee. There will be an election at our annual business meeting and potluck dinner on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Recently Karen Eaton caught two swarms. At one house in Raymond, Jeremy removed a newly established swarm. There were five combs that were cut and put into a cardboard box, brought down a ladder, then bee vacced.

Lorry also caught a swarm and gave it to a beekeeper in Bedford to tend. It is not too late to catch a swarm and have it overwinter. Call Karen Eaton if you would like to be on a call list for swarms.

Jim Kuhn shared an interesting National Geographic article about honeybees.

Wendell initiated a discussion about beekeeper and bee preferences of frame types: wooden with wax foundation, wooden without foundation, plastic with plastic foundation, and sizes: medium and deep. Wendell mentioned he is changing from deeps to medium frames. It was said Alden Marshall had all wooden frames with wax foundation and changed to medium plastic and his bees refused them. Jeremy said he has a mixture of all kinds and the bees do not seem to show a preference.

Wendell also offered an anecdote from a lecture he attended at his local library. The speaker said that dryer sheets may be used to keep bears from raiding compost heaps. Could they be used in the bee yard?

The main topic of the meeting concerned the Varroa mite. They have existed with Asian bees and do not cause the destruction they do with the European varieties. Bee breeders and researchers are looking to develop characteristics that allow the European varieties to thrive during an infestation. Some traits include hygienic behavior that has the nurse bees remove any developing larvae that have mites in the cell. Marla Spivak of the University of Minnesota and a MacArthur fellow is leading this research. Another trait being developed is the grooming behavior where the mites are brushed off themselves and other bees. These are still being developed. Mites are vectors or carriers of a variety of viruses that are detrimental to the health of the bees. The results of the disease causes the larvae to emerge stunted with deformed wings. This is known Deformed Wing Virus or DWV. When this appears in a hive the mite load is too much for the health of the hive. Medicinal treatment is a necessity. There are many different chemicals that each requires its own method of applying. Whether they are safe to use with the honey supers on is a factor. Also some are weather determined and need certain temperatures to be effective.

There are different methods for monitoring mite load varying with the time of year. In the spring, monitoring by use of a sticky board to count the mites that drop onto it in three days, is considered best.

Later in the season many of the mites, (up to 2/3rds), are living in the cells under the cappings. During this time the jar sampling method is more accurate. Jar sampling is ½ cup of powdered sugar per ½ cup of bees from the brood nest (the most recently emerged). The wide mouth Mason jar has a #8 wire screen cut out and placed in the lid ring. The jar with bees and sugar is shaken vigorously with your hand covering the screen, to dislodge the mites. Let the jar sit for 4 minutes to heat up to facilitate the mite drop. Then sprinkle the powdered sugar containing the dislodged mites into a white container. Water is then added to the container to dissolve the powdered sugar and make the mites more visible. Open the container over the top bars of the frames and let the bees crawl out. They are usually pretty fussed! Stand back! Then pour the remaining sugar into the container. Count the mites. Experts vary on when to treat. It can be between 2-20 mites considered the threshold. Refer to the charts at <http://scientificbeekeeper.com/fighting-varroa-reconnaissance-mite-sampling/> written by Randy Oliver.

The maximum bee population occurs on the summer solstice, June 21st. The maximum mite population occurs in August. Before August fifteenth is the time to treat for the prevention of winter losses caused by mite infestation. The new winter bees will be stronger, fatter, more numerous and healthier.

Beekeeper and bee breeder, Kurk Webster has been working at developing more mite resistant and winter tolerant Russian bees. . He has NUCs in May and queens in June and July available for purchase in limited numbers. Kurk Webster bees are not treated for mites with any chemicals. Mike Palmer another noted beekeeper of Vermont will treat when mites reach his threshold limit. Another method of monitoring is sampling drone brood for mite infestation. Using an uncapping fork, pull out the larvae and observe how many contain mites. There are times when there are 6-8 mites under the cappings for every one mite observed on the surface.

The mite drop monitoring method requires a sticky board. It can be a white plastic corrugated signboard 16"x12". Vaseline or cooking spray can be used to make it sticky. It is placed between the hive and bottom board for three days. Check the IPM 4 Scientific Beekeeping website for economic threshold numbers. Randy Oliver says 10 mites/24 hours is the limit.

There is a method similar to the sugar roll only it uses either and is fatal to the sample bees. Either is available in a spray can as antifreeze. The sample size is ½ cup of bees and the threshold is three mites.

There is a whole hive monitoring with powdered sugar dusting. It requires 1 cup of powdered sugar per two 10 framed deeps. If there are 5-10 mites the hive needs treatment.

A method of mite reduction is interrupting the brood cycle. If there is no brood then there is no place for the mites to reproduce. This reduces the population of mites, although the mites that are already attached to the bees could last for months.

There are many choices of monitoring and treatment methods. If you decide on soft or hard chemical treatments please follow the instructions carefully. The most advantageous plan is to be aware of the health of your hives and act accordingly. We are working for what is best for the bees and mite control is a very important part of the puzzle that is beekeeping.

The raffle was held and the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Thank you to all who brought snacks and to the Hospitality Committee for the refreshments.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Litvin

**PBA MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT -  
2015**

jjj	July	Jan-July
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations	\$75.00	\$90.00
Meeting Raffle	\$44.00	\$356.00
Membership Dues		\$520.00
Sale of T-Shirts	\$120.00	\$120.00
School		
Book Sales		\$120.00
Hive Raffle		\$270.00
Registrations		\$1,495.00
Total School	\$0.00	\$1,885.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$239.00</b>	<b>\$2,971.00</b>
<b>COST OF GOODS SOLD</b>		
Hive Raffle Cost		\$322.00
School - Cost		\$560.82
<b>TOTAL COGS</b>	\$0.00	\$882.82
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$239.00</b>	<b>\$2,088.18</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Bank Service Charges	\$3.00	\$21.00
Functions		
NH State Meeting		\$60.00
Internet Service		\$207.00
Licenses & Permits		\$10.00
Postage		\$9.80
Rent		\$600.00
Supplies		
Education		47.49
Hospitality		\$36.01
T-Shirt Purchase	\$445.50	\$445.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$448.50</b>	<b>\$1,436.80</b>
<b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>-\$209.50</b>	<b>\$651.38</b>
Beg. Balance: 7/1/15	8,386.70	
Ending Balance: 7/31/15	8,177.20	
Change in cash balance:	-209.50	
<b>Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Riehl, Treasurer</b>		

## Calendar

August 17, 2015

PBA monthly meeting  
Masonic Lodge  
Candia, NH 7-9 pm

September 21, 2015

PBA monthly meeting  
Masonic Lodge  
Candia, NH 7-9 pm

### PBA Officers

#### President

Jeremy Everson

Email - [Jeremyeverson@gmail.com](mailto:Jeremyeverson@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Karen Eaton

Email - [Karenlarryeaton@comcast.net](mailto:Karenlarryeaton@comcast.net)

#### Secretary

Jan Litvin

Email - [Litvin@att.net](mailto:Litvin@att.net)

#### Treasurer

Cheryl Riehl

Email - [Cheryl.riehl@gmail.com](mailto:Cheryl.riehl@gmail.com)

#### Newsletter Editor

Lorry Roy

Email - [Lorryroy@comcast.net](mailto:Lorryroy@comcast.net)

One of the rewards of all your and your bees hard work is *HONEY* from Karen

*Eaton*

For beekeepers in our area it is common to take honey off the hive from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. Most years we have a goldenrod and aster flow in late August and September that is left on for the bees winter stores. You need to leave 60 lbs. on the hive for them to consume through next April. There are many ways to extract honey. Reference your books and the Internet. So now is the fun part, bottling and labeling.

### New Hampshire's Honey Products Law,

**RSA 429:20-28** Labeling Every shipment, package or container of honey packed, sold, offered or exposed for sale or distribution by any person shall be plainly marked for packaging and labeling, and shall include: (a) The name, address and zip code of the packer, distributor, or producer; (b) The true name of the product; (c) The grade, or the term "not graded"; and (d) The volume of the contents at 68 degrees Fahrenheit or 20 degrees Celsius or the net weight of the contents. NH Honey Any labeling on bulk, packaged honey, or honey products which indicates "state of New Hampshire pure honey", "New Hampshire honey", or any other words which imply that the honey so marked was produced in New Hampshire shall be used exclusively upon honey which is entirely produced within the state of New Hampshire. Pure Honey .Honey which is labeled as being pure honey and which is produced, packaged, handled or sold in this state shall not in any way be adulterated with cane sugar, corn sugar, or any other foreign sweetener. Honey which is produced, packaged, handled or sold in this state shall not be bleached or lightened in color by artificial means except by simple filtration through cloth or paper to remove solids.



Monday's program will be **Your Honey Harvest**

Our region's expert honey judge and PBA lifelong member, Mike Bayko will give a presentation on how to prepare honey for the State

fairs. Could this be your blue ribbon year?

We are asking you to bring a sample of your finished product to our meeting to share how you store or market your honey. What jars do you use?



Lisa Hennessey uses Muth jars.

A Muth Jar is a beautiful replica of the old fashioned square honey jars used by Charles Muth, one of the largest honey sellers in the 1800's.



Bring and show us your labels.

Creating and original label is more of the fun. We will have a slide presentation of label ideas from around the world



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**Wendy Booth (603) 557-7468**

Hello Beekeepers!

It's that time already...time to start thinking about Fall and Winter with your bees. I am having a 3 hr class at my house, on the lawn Sunday AUGUST 30, **9:30AM-12:30PM** (please note the 1/2 hour time change).

Bring your own chair, come casual and feel free to bring your coffee/tea, snacks etc. Bring a note book. It's \$15 per person and I would love a rsvp but don't feel like you can't come if you don't rsvp.

We will discuss:

fall feeding	robbing
winter prep - are they ready?	wrapping styles
moisture boards	hive weight
checking bees in winter	winter reading
emergency feeding	spring feeding needs
getting ready for nectar flow	

AND MORE!!

Please bring checks or exact change.

Please park as many cars as possible in my driveway (I can fit at least 10) Please do not block my neighbor's driveways. There is a dirt road along my property; please park on the lakeside as much off the road as you can so cars can pass. There is lots of dirt road to park on.

My yard is some sun and then shaded mostly. If it rains I will hold the class over my workshop in the apartment (there are stairs). It will be cozy but we will take breaks :-). Hope for no rain.

I live at 37 Swan Drive Nottingham NH 603-557-7468. Directions below.

If we finish early we can talk extracting and Q&A but I do have to head out afterwards to a family event. My poor planning and busy schedule.

Hope to see you! If I don't see you I will email again when I plan the 2016 bee classes.

Bee Well.

Wendy Booth

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

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

Directions:

\*From the East: take Rte 4W to Lee traffic circle (actually now its a roundabout) and head South on Rte 125. Look for Cedar Water Nudist Park sign on the right and turn at that road (West Mill Pond Rd). If you get to the Lee USA Speedway you went too far. \*\*Take the second road on the right, Fort Hill Rd (just after the small bridge and lake/dam on your right). Take right on Swan drive and wind along the lake to the END of the PAVED road #37 on the Right. My driveway goes downhill. If the driveway is full GO PAST THE DRIVEWAY TO THE LEFT and park on the LEFT on the SIDE of the dirt road.

From the North: Take rte 125 South to Lee Circle and follow directions above \*

From the West: Take rte 4E to rte 125 and the Lee traffic circle. follow from above.\*

From the South: Take rte 125 North through Epping and Lee. Look for Lee USA speedway on the left. Take next left on West Mill Pond Rd (under Cedar Water Nudist Park sign). Follow from above\*\*

## Spring Fever Farm

Ben & Bev Chadwick  
49 Lane Drive  
Alton, NH 03809



603-875-3544

**We are MANN LAKE Dealers!**

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We'll be setting up at all future Pawtuckaway meetings

Feel free to call and place an order for specific items and we will bring them to the next meeting.

## Hillside Apiaries Merrimack, NH

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