

Seacoast Beekeeper's Association
Next meeting: Thursday April 21 7-9pm
Jeremiah Smith Grange, Lee NH

President's Notes:

Happy Spring! The bees have been bringing in lots of tree pollen which is good news.

I want to start by thanking all of you who donated to the NHPTV auction basket which made a very handsome contribution to their efforts at fund raising. I have attached a photo which Chris will hopefully add below. Also thanks to Ben and Bev Chadwick for donating a package of bees for our raffle last month. It raised \$170 for our club; perhaps we could use it to further our education in some way...suggestions are welcome.

Congratulations to members Wendy Booth and Mike Bayko who are now President and Vice President respectively of the NH Beekeeper's Association. Thanks to Wendy's efforts as well as the NH Dept. of Pesticides head David Rousseau, the new NOD Apiaries Mite Away Quick Strips are now legal to use in NH. These are the formic acid treatments for varroa mites (certified as an organic treatment) that are much safer and more versatile to use than the old formic pads. In theory they can be used even in very warm temperatures, although those of us who attended the MA State Beekeeper's Assn. spring meeting heard Jerry Hayes say that the formic acid can still evaporate too quickly during extreme heat and humidity. He lives in Florida and of course our climate is very different, but personally I would still be careful about application during one of our super heat and humidity spells. You are killing a bug on a bug so *anything*, even an organic treatment, even powdered sugar, is going to be a stress to the bees. But this is another tool at our disposal when varroa counts are too high.

Wendy also asked that I pass on this message: "Please remind your membership that anyone selling or giving their honey away that uses any foreign non food product in their hives should have a permit application on file at the state. The permit is \$20 per year, requires no classes and the form is available for download at the NHBA website www.nhbeekeepers.org left side, bottom of column. It is a small price to pay to the Dept. of Pesticides for taking a special interest in the beekeepers needs and moving swiftly to approve this product. " I was not aware of this myself, so am glad she passed this on.

At our April meeting, member Richard Beaumier has volunteered to talk briefly about the different races of bees, a topic which has been confusing to some of our newer beekeepers. If you have done well--or done poorly--with a certain race of *Apis Mellifera*, there will be room for discussion.

See you then..Amy Robinson

PS: Linda Coe has donated a 1914 copy of "Gleanings in Bee Culture" which I will put on the raffle table this month. I was interested to read that a pound of bees went for \$1.50 and a queen for between 60 cents and one dollar!