



Brown County Beekeepers Association

March 2019 meeting minutes

Brown County Bee Keepers Association, March meeting minutes: Wednesday March 20, 2019. Green Bay Botanical Garden's Donald Schneider Education Center.

Attendance: Dave Elsen, Julie Mazzoleni, Carl Fisher, Tom Cashman, Dan Diers, Josh Jahnke, Sara Mueller, Tracy Sumner, Kaelyn Sumner, Sara Kowalski, Detlef Weiler, Matt Jea quart, Madelyn Jeanquart, Jordan Steinhart, Ronald Melchert, Jim Suchon, Tim Lantenslagen, Jackie Chee, Bezzarell Chee, Beledine Chee, Mary Sickel, Cindy Slivers, Todd Witthuhn, Marianne Puckett, Dan Holstead, Noah Dugan, Sue Richardson, Wayne Richardson, Molly Martzke, Ken Tomcheck, Terri Tomcheck, Katie Schuette, Dillon Weist

Dave Elsen President called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you to Carl Fisher for bringing cookies and refreshments!

Club Business:

- *Motion made and carried to approve March Minutes
- *Motion made and carried to approve club bills

REMINDER: Volunteers are important to the club. If you are interested in sharing your talents please reach out to us.

NEED A MENTOR/WANT TO MENTOR and LAND

Several club members have requested shadowing an experienced beekeeper as a mentor. If you are interested in either shadowing or mentoring, please let us know and we will work to make it happen. Additionally. Several land owners have land available for club members to place their bees. Please let us know if you are interested and we will make connections.

Club Activities:

Carl Fisher - Intro to Beekeeping held Saturday February 23, 2019 - A huge success for the students as well as for the club! Carl also recognized our title sponsors, NWTC and volunteers!

BCBA encourages continued Education

There was good participation from BCBA member at the Wausau NTC conference in Wausau. BCBA is allocating funds to help reimburse members up to \$25.00 for continuing education. Club criteria was outlined and shared at the meeting (i.e. giving an overview at a BCBA meeting)

Honey Tasting Event

- Julie Mazzoleni took a poll regarding interest in having a Honey Tasting event outside normal club meeting times. The poll also showed week nights was the choice over weekend. There was significant interest, and we will look to scheduled sometime late spring/early summer. Location: Nalas Fromagerie in De Pere
- Kent Pogorsch (president of WHPA) will present flowers and nectar sources
 - We will taste 4 to 5 different types of honey against each other aided by the honey flavor wheel from American Honey Tasting Society (and flavor descriptor charts). We will taste different cheeses that compliments these same honeys supplied by Nanas
 - There will be a 20.00 charge per person
 - There is a 20 person limit due to the space @ Nalas, a second event can be scheduled.

NOTICE: Club members are welcome to post **ITEMS FOR SALE** on our webpage. Please feel free to reach out to *Carl Fisher (BCBA Webmaster)* so he can add your items to our list. Also, if you are **LOOKING** for bee related items, be sure to check our webpage first ! www.browncountybeekeepers.com

CLUB MEETING EDUCATION SCHEDULE:

We are planning on holding our annual picnic in July. Please let us know if you're interested in assisting. In August, Dan Ziehli our state bee inspector has offered to inspect Club member hives on Tuesday and Wednesday before the meeting. Please contact Dave if you are interested.

(?) denotes volunteers needed to help organize

Date	5:30 MbM	6:30 Meeting start
4/17	Installing bees	Splits
5/15	Mite Checks (?)	Location Effect on Glucose in Honey
		Probiotics and Hive Health
6/19	Hive Checks (?)	Mite Monitoring & Control (?)
8/21	Honey Extraction (?)	Dan Ziehli - State Inspector
9/18	Networking	Winterization
10/16	Networking	Honey Sales, Marketign your product (?)
11/20	Networking	Self Study, Life Long Learning (?)

Club opportunities were discussed:

- **Garden Fair at the GB Botanical Garden -May 31st**
- **Green Bay West – EarthStock – April 27th**

These two potential events were discussed with minimal interest for a coordinator. If you are interested please contact Dave or anyone on the Board.

Teaching opportunities for youth, school or scouts

BCBA is contacted occasionally to present information to schools or organizations. If you are interested in talking "bees" or helping to set up an education program please reach out.

EDUCATION SPEAKER – Ronald Milchert

THANK YOU Ron for talking to us about POLINATOR PLANTINGS !

Very good and much appreciated!



Meeting was adjourned at 8:00



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APRIL NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

In February the Club held the Introduction to Beekeeping Class. I am very appreciative to all the Club members that volunteered and to the participants that invested in their bee education. The event was a success and we welcome the 8 participants who joined the Club. We are excited to discuss some interesting topics with beekeepers throughout the year. In April, we will cover Installing Your Bees and Splits. In May we added Slava Strogolov, CEO of Strong Microbials Inc to the agenda to share information a natural bee supplements. See the Education Calendar for a complete list. If there are other topics you are interested in or would like to present or co-present, please let me know.

With the warmer weather, soon we will be able to evaluate our hives. Be mindful of the temperature if checking brood and feeding syrup. It's also time to assess your equipment and prepare for packages. Please review the monthly calendar or your references for additional points.

Happy Beekeeping
Dave Elsen

An interesting note from Dave Doering:

As the weather warms up March thru April, some very important pollen and nectar sources become available to the bees.

Maples begin to bloom. They are a good source of early pollen (red to green color) and nectar. They produce enough nectar that if the temperatures were warmer, a couple large trees could fill a medium super. Red Maples have a longer bloom time (5-6 weeks) than Sugar Maples which only bloom for a couple of days.

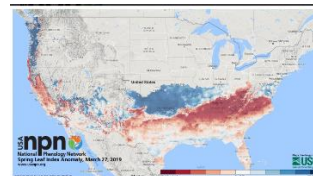
Another prime source of pollen this time of year are Willows. Their yellow pollen is a very important source for brood raising and will help build the bee population for upcoming honey flows.



3/9/2019

Keeping an eye on phenology, helps us predict what will happen with our bees: be sure to check :

<https://www.usanpn.org/news/spring>



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL

The bees are flying more and they start to find pollen as the month progresses. The queen will start laying eggs at near full capacity mid-April. The entire hive begins to return to an almost normal operation now that winter is almost over. There will be cold snaps, but the bees will do fine as their numbers begin to expand

- Check food reserves and feed if needed (sugar syrup and pollen)
- Check queen quality/laying pattern and adjust as needed
- In strong hives, keep an eye on brood and overcrowding. Reverse boxes if necessary, to reduce chance of swarming.

WHAT TO PREPARE FOR IN MAY

The bees are nearly at full swing. The queen should be laying well now. The hive should be expanding rapidly.

- Inspect hives every 7-10 days and take appropriate action
- Continue feeding nucs and packages.
- Keep feeding weaker hives until a heavy nectar flow is in progress.
- Overwintered hives SWARM in May (sometimes late April). Consider swarm prevention practices.



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