



February 2020

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

BCBA Mission Statement: We are dedicated to promoting sustainable, responsible, and healthy beekeeping practices in Northeast Wisconsin for both experienced and first-time beekeepers. We strive to create a fun environment where learning opportunities exist for association members and the general public.



Welcome New and Renewing Club Members

Intro to Beekeeping Class January 2020



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's time to renew your
annual membership
\$20 Individual
\$30 Family

Renew online:
www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Send check to:
BCBA
P.O. Box 10371
Green Bay, WI 54307-0371

Renew at meeting, pay:
Tom Cashman Treasurer

Coffee and Bee Talk

February 4, 2020
8a-10a
Luna Café on GV



The Introduction to Beekeeping class held on Jan 18, 2020 was a huge success. Forty-one new beekeepers attended and many have already become members of the club. Thanks go out of all of the instructors for braving the snowy weather to share their bee knowledge. Special thanks to Todd Witthuhn for driving to Appleton and back to get our lunch. Some quotes from the students:

"Very impressive speakers"

"I came knowing ZERO about bees. I left today very informed."

"I loved how in depth all the sessions were."

"I learned so much!"

"I felt so welcomed into the association and I hadn't even joined yet."

"I liked the variety of speakers with different levels of experience."

Beekeeping Meetings Midwest

- **Michigan Beekeeping Spring Conference** March 6 and 7, 2020 held at Michigan State University michiganbees.org
- **Marathon County Beekeeping Conference @ NCTC** on the Wausau campus 3/14/2020 www.marathoncountybeeassociation.com
- **Wisconsin Honey Producers Assoc.:** Northeastern District Spring Meeting Sunday, March 1, 2020 1pm at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London. For more information check out the WHPA website <https://www.wihoney.org>

Club Education Calendar 2020



January	First year Beekeeping Buying Bees
February	What are you missing: Advances in hive monitoring Brood Minder
March	Hive Health: University of MN Bee Squad
April	Installing Bees – MB4M Spring Prep
May	Hive Inspection @ the Garden – MB4M Splits
June	Mite Treatments
July	Picnic
August	Honey Extraction – MB4M Open Topic
September	Prep Bees for Winter – Capitol Bees
October	Master Beekeeper
November	Raising Queens
December	Christmas Party

Club Goals



Improve Member Engagement and Develop Better Beekeepers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Social Media Leadership Chair | Carl Fisher |
| 2. Membership Leadership Chair | OPEN – Contact Dave if interested |
| 3. Education Leadership Chair | OPEN – Contact Dave if interested |
| 4. Club Events: Picnic, Christmas Party | |
| 5. BCBA Facebook: Transition to an interactive site with Q & A and pics | |

Club = Valuable Resource for Beekeepers

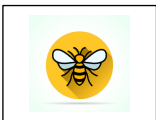
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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| • External Speakers | • Coffee and Bee Talks Monthly |
| • Hive Checks | • Add to Club Member Resources |
| • Pollinator Movie | • Meeting and Newsletters |

Support Honey Bee Research

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Purchase Bee Squad Mite Kits | • Bee Squad Presentation in March |
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Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Dave Elsen



1. Looking for someone to assist one of the club leaders in presenting "Introduction to Beekeeping: Learn how to get started in beekeeping from a representative of the Brown County Beekeepers Association." At the Brown County Library - Denmark Branch April 13, 2020
2. Einstein Expo 2020
Volunteers to set up: Friday 3/6/2020
Expo 3/7/2020 2 people/2-hour shifts – 9a-4p
Contact Dan Lauth daniel.lauth@durrusa.com

January February Hive Happenings



January: What are the Bees Doing? The bees are in a tight cluster staying warm and eating UP the honey stores. You may notice dead bees outside the hive which is normal. On days when temps are warmer, you may see them out flying (Cleansing flight).

What you should be doing: Typically, a hands-off month for interacting with bees. Ensure entrance is clear of snow for ventilation, check apiary for damage and do needed repairs. On warmish days 45,° you can “pop the top” and do a ‘Steve Sneak a Peek” no longer than 30 seconds, to assess amount of stored honey and feed if needed – Do NOT remove frames. Join local Beekeeping association, take a class, read and ORDER BEES

February: What are the bees doing? Expect the bees to be higher up in the boxes. Days are becoming longer and bees are acting similar to January → The bees are in a tight cluster staying warm and eating UP the honey stores. You may notice dead bees outside the hive which is normal. On days when temps are warmer, you may see them out flying (Cleansing flight).

What you should be doing: Emergency/ Insurance feeding: Honey is best. White granulated table sugar can be used. If you have not ordered your bees, ORDER NOW! Be sure to order needed equipment now or you may find it backordered. Educate yourself!

Looking ahead to March: High risk for starve out - make sure food is readily available. Brood rearing has started. Clean and prepare equipment. Continue educating yourself.

BCBA Equipment Rental

See BCBA Website for
details

Honey Extractor

Infrared Camera

American Bee Journal Discount for club members GET INFO FROM TOM CASHMAN

BCBA Leadership

President: Dave Elsen
Vice President: Julie
Mazzoleni
Secretary: Sarah Mueller
Treasurer: Tom Cashman

Social Media: Carl Fisher
Membership:
Education:

Bee Club Happenings:

Farmory:

Dave and Carl did a Beekeeping presentation at the Farmory in GB. It is a nonprofit campaign to bring local, sustainable and indoor agriculture to GB and NE Wisconsin year-round.

To learn more about the Farmory visit Farmory.org

Pollinator Movie was a hit. 63 attended the showing.

The first monthly informal Coffee and Bee Talk in January was a small group which we are hoping to grow this year. It is an event open to all on the first Tuesday of the month 8am-10am. February 4, Luna Café on GV.

Urban Bee Project downtown GB is getting underway introducing bees to the rooftops in the railway. Contact club member Tawny Casey for information on how you can help at Tawny@onbroadway.org