



July 2020

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

BCBA
P.O. Box 10371
Green Bay, WI 54307-0371

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.

New Facebook
Interactive Group

Northeast WI
Beekeepers

Join today!

The club will continue to hold our monthly meetings via ZOOM.
In addition to the ZOOM meeting, we are trying to come up with a plan for a face to face meeting in August outdoors at GBBG. Stay tuned for more info.



Join us
for a Virtual
Coffee & Bee
Chat Tuesday
7/7/2020 8AM
Via ZOOM
MEETING
Details Below

July

Robbing can be a real problem.
Be aware of robbing activities.
Try to limit the time you are in the hive.
Have your goal for your inspection BEFORE you pop the cover.

Swarm season is still happening
Add your supers if you have not yet.

Varroa Mite Monitoring Resource
<https://pollinators.msu.edu/resources/beekeepers/varroa-mite-monitoring1/varroa-mite-monitoring/>



Varroa mites peak in July-August.

Evaluate your mite levels: Alcohol Wash or Sugar Roll or Sticky Board.

Purdue University Bee Lab: 'rule of thumb' indicating treatment needed.

Alcohol Wash or Sugar Roll: 3 mites per 100 bees.

Sticky board user: 50 or > mites on a sticky board in a 24-hour period.

Consider treatment options and take into account your goals.

Remember, "the label is the law" when it comes to mite treatment.

Water for your bees is necessary. You may find them around swimming pools because they like the salt in the chlorinated water.

Take a gallon of water and add a teaspoon of salt, mix thoroughly and put in a birdbath, or chicken water/feeder. Be sure to add rocks so the bees can climb out if they fall in the water. They drown easily.

Place water source within 50 to 100 feet of your hive.

*A club member, Evie Dieck came up with a good idea to use a paint tray as it provides a ramp for the bees to walk down to safely reach the water.

It's hot out.
Overheating and dehydration can be fatal to the beekeeper.
Keep yourself hydrated and take breaks.

2020 Club Calendar

MONTH	TOPIC
July	No Meeting <u>July BCBA Picnic 2020 Cancelled due to Pandemic</u>
August 19	Swarms Honey Extraction
September 16	Prep Bees for Winter – Capitol Bees
October 21	Master Beekeeper
November 18	Raising Queens
December 17	Christmas Party?

BCBA Leadership

President: Dave Elsen
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

Vice President:
Julie Mazzoleni
vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

Secretary:
Sarah Mueller
secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

Treasurer:
Tom Cashman
Tcash99930@aol.com

Social Media Chair:
Carl Fisher
Carlfisher22@gmail.com

Membership Chair:
OPEN

Education Chair:
OPEN

Virtual Meeting Link for July Coffee and Bees

Coffee and Bees is still on for July 7. It will be in the Zoom meeting format. The link is listed below:

Time: Jul 7, 2020 08:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82047086308?pwd=bi8wQzkyZDFQandTQ2JFSXdjY2hEZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 4708 6308

Password: 315428

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to look for a couple of fellow BEEKS to partner with the BCBA leadership team to enhance the club by collaborating in coordinating educational opportunities and supporting membership. In these roles you would share the responsibilities rather than take them on as your own making them more manageable for all. Take a seat at the table and have a voice in ideas to create engagement within the club. This is a great way to build your beekeeping network and get involved.

Open Positions

Education Chair AND Membership Chair

Contact Dave Elsen

BIG Thanks to Jacki Chee for letting us into her hives for the June ZOOM hive inspection

2020 Winter Loss Information

Initial results are in from Bee Informed partnership – check it out

<https://beeinformed.org/citizen-science/loss-and-management-survey/>



Free Education Opportunity

Capitol Bee Supply

Check out the link below for some **FREE** e-learning topics by
<https://www.facebook.com/CapitalBeeSupply/posts/2890729754299781>

September 16 club presenter



American Bee Journal

Discount for club members

GREAT PUBLICATION

GET INFO FROM TOM CASHMAN

BCBA Equipment Rental

<https://browncountybeekeepers.com/members/equipment/>

Honey Extractor and Equipment
Infrared Camera

Experienced Swarm Catchers

Brown County Beekeepers
Association

List can be found on our website
<https://browncountybeekeepers.com/warm-removal/>

Education Reimbursement Opportunity

Club members are eligible for up to \$25/ calendar year for continuing education

Eligibility Guidelines:

- Must be a current member for at least 12 consecutive months
- Member must submit their request to the Leadership Team prior to the event including details on how it aligns to the Club's Mission

Note: BCBA sponsored events, books or magazines not eligible for reimbursements

Club Expectations of Members Receiving Education Reimbursement

- Overview of the education to the club or an education session
- Write-up with photos and/or video for club publication

Events in the Works

Cooking with Honey



Honey Extraction Event



WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES IN JULY:

In the hive

The major swarm season winds down in mid-July, even though the population is still high.

Left untreated, the *Varroa* mite population continues to build.

The summer heat requires the bees to ventilate and perhaps beard outside the hive on the hottest evenings.

Seasonal conditions

July is usually the hottest month of the year in Green Bay Wisconsin. An average of 21 days during the month experience sunshine for 9 hours. The average minimum and maximum temperatures are 55°F and 85°F, with 3" of precipitation.

Ongoing blooms may include milkweed, chicory, purple loosestrife, sumac, clovers and sweet clovers, raspberry and blackberry, Russian olive, knapweed, hairy and purple vetch, birds foot trefoil, tulip poplar, pear, elderberry, yellow rocket, grape, dogbane, and alfalfa.

New flowers may include summer sweet or sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), thistle (*Cirsium* spp.), buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*), viper's bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), mints (*Mentha* spp.), Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium* spp.), common jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), and asters (*Aster* spp.). Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.) (also called Mexican bamboo) is another invasive. The American basswood nectar flow usually starts

around July 4th. Corn (*Zea mays*) may also be a source of pollen, even though it does not rely on insect pollination.

Despite this long list, as flowers fade and temperatures rise, there may be a dearth of forage for your bees. Monitor their food stores and behavior (especially robbing).

Hive Inspection

- Colony inspections should take place at least once a month and include evaluating the brood pattern, confirming the presence of the queen and/or eggs, evaluating colony growth and available room, monitoring for pests and diseases, and other metrics.
- If you cannot inspect every one of your colonies, inspect those that are not showing as much activity on the outside.

Nutrition

- If there is a dearth (scarcity) of forage and if you have taken off spring honey, monitor honey stores.
- If the weather is dry and there is no good water source near to the hive, consider providing one. They may need it to cool the hive.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Monitor *Varroa* mite levels. At this point in the year, if you find two or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash, you will want to treat. Treatment methods will depend on your management goals the condition of the colony, and external conditions. Drone comb can continue to be used as a cultural method at this time of year, but fewer drones are produced. This may be a good time to break the brood cycle (and therefore the *Varroa* reproduction cycle) by caging the queen.

Population management

- Swarm control: see the guidelines for May.
- If you want to split colonies this season, this month may be your last chance, unless there are unusually favorable conditions in August.

Equipment

- Consider adding a queen excluder to manage the honey supers more easily.

Hive products and services

- The nectar flow may require you to put more supers on the hive. If you are producing varietal (monofloral) honey, remove the capped honey once the nectar flow is over.

Depending on how you choose to treat, you may need to remove the supers to avoid chemical residue in the honey.

- As propolis collection increases, you may consider harvesting it.
- You may be able to trap pollen.
- Cranberries and pumpkins are commercially pollinated this month in the Northeast.

Yard maintenance

- Mow the yard as necessary.

Education and outreach

- It's state fair season; check to see whether there is a beekeeping display at your state's fair – or whether it's up to you to create one!

Adapted from the Cornell University
Beekeeping Calendar 2020