



August 2020

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

Facebook  
**Northeast WI  
Beekeepers**



**Join us  
for a Virtual  
Coffee & Bee  
Chat Tuesday  
8/4/2020 8AM  
Via ZOOM  
MEETING  
Details Below**

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

# Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

[www.browncountybeekeepers.com](http://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.

## **The club will continue to hold our monthly meetings via ZOOM.**

In addition to the ZOOM meeting for August, we will be having a face to face meeting in August outdoors at GBBG with a meeting before the meeting 5:30pm (Honey Harvest)  
Meeting begins at 6:30pm



## **August**

Honey Harvest Time

Robbing is in full force – if you notice an increased number of wasps flying around your hives, be sure to use your entrance reducer especially important for weak hives.

Have your goal for your inspection BEFORE you pop the cover.

Try to limit the time your hive is open as the robbing scouts are out and about.

A message from the President:



If honey is going to be harvested it would ideally come off the second week of August. You will want to be sure to leave each hive with about 100-120 lbs. (about two deeps) of honey for the winter. After harvesting or if the bees struggled to build up adequate reserves we recommend feeding 2-1, two parts white granulated sugar to one-part water. Heat water to dissolve sugar, but don't boil. We generally feed thru mid-September. By stopping the feed around mid-September it will allow the bees to process and store the sugar water and also provide time to get a final mite treatment in if needed. It's best to use an internal top feeder to help avoid robbing.

Continue your mite checks.  
Remember that Varroa mites peak in  
August.

We will learn more about Winter Preparation at the September meeting.

**Club Elections in** will be held as the first order of business at the October Meeting.

At the August Meeting (this month) we will look to appoint a nominating committee of three members who will seek out members who would like to run for one of the officer positions.

## 2020 Club Calendar

MONTH	TOPIC
August 19	Meeting before the Meeting <b>5:30pm</b> Honey Extraction Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Swarms; Dick Sturm presenting
September 16	Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Prep Bees for Winter <b>Capitol Bees</b>
October 21	Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Master Beekeeper
November 18	Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Raising Queens
December 17	NO MEETING Christmas Party?

## BCBA Leadership

**President: Dave Elsen**  
[president@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:president@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Vice President: Julie Mazzoleni**  
[vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Secretary: Sarah Mueller**  
[secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Treasurer: Tom Cashman**  
[Tcash99930@aol.com](mailto:Tcash99930@aol.com)

**Social Media Chair: Carl Fisher**

**Membership Chair:**  
 OPEN

**Education Chair:**  
 OPEN

## August Club Meetings

For the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting there will be a Honey Extraction Demonstration for the Meeting before the Meeting beginning at 5:30pm. The Regular Club Meeting will begin at 6:30pm.

This month we will offer two meeting options.

1. Zoom Virtual – LINK BELOW
2. Face to Face for those who want to venture out we will be conducting the meeting outside at the Botanical Gardens.

There will be tables set up behind the building to meet. Social distance guidelines maintained.

We ask that each of you bring a mask to wear in the event that proper social distancing cannot be kept. Thank you in advance.

### Topic: Coffee and Bee Talk

Time: Aug 4, 2020 08:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89750508700?pwd=cjR1Ynk5cEtJMi9waFpCbW1zYmU0QT09>

Meeting ID: 897 5050 8700

Passcode: 281901

### Topic: Honey Extraction - Meeting Before the Meeting

Time: Aug 19, 2020 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86483681242?pwd=bEthZGF4cUdPaDY1MlpgREpMZm1qQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 8368 1242

Passcode: 632480

### Topic: Brown County Beekeeping August Meeting

Time: Aug 19, 2020 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89879599606?pwd=ZHdUVkc5V2RJTU8rSDJEVlRGNTVIZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 7959 9606

Passcode: 829429

**Wisconsin  
 Conferences**

**November 2020**

NTC Annual Conference Wausau: Rescheduled to Saturday Nov 14

Wisconsin Honey Producers Fall Conference November 5-7 Wisconsin Dells

Key Note Speaker: Maria Spivak  
 American Honey Tasting Society

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Open Positions

Education Chair AND Membership Chair

**Contact Dave Elsen**



### 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 Related**

##### **Equipment**

2 frame extractor  
4 frame extractor  
available

Infrared Camera

### **Experienced Swarm Catchers**

Brown County Beekeepers  
Association

List can be found on our website  
<https://browncountybeekeepers.com/swarm-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

## WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES IN AUGUST:

### In the hive

There is a second, smaller swarm season in August and September.

The bee population begins to diminish faster than it is growing; the brood area may contract. Many of the bees born from the end of August onward are called “winter bees” and live longer than their summer sisters.

Left untreated, the *Varroa* mite population usually peaks in August or September. Remember that *Varroa* is tough to manage because the mites thrive in healthy, populous colonies, unlike many of the other maladies that affect honey bees.

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

### Seasonal conditions

In Green Bay Wisconsin, in August, the average minimum and maximum temperatures are 56°F and 79°F, with 4” of precipitation.

Blooms that began last month or earlier are ongoing: milkweed, summer sweet or sweet pepper bush, buttonbush, common jewelweed, alfalfa, hairy and purple vetch, clovers and sweet clovers, mint, chicory, viper’s bugloss, asters, birds foot trefoil, purple loosestrife, Joe-Pye weed, sumac, buckwheat, Japanese knotweed, corn, knapweed, and thistle.

The goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.) nectar flow is greatest in August. “(Don’t be alarmed by the smell of its honey, which has been compared to dirty socks!)”

### Inspection

Inspections should be especially thorough, particularly for pests and diseases. Your colonies should be able to take on the fall honey flow and then overwinter successfully.

Check that the hive is not honey bound. Move the honey combs out of the brood nest and into a super if needed. The queen should have all the room she needs to lay, to have a strong young cohort of winter bees.

### Nutrition

August is the month when colonies begin preparation for winter. A full-sized colony should have at least 70-90 pounds of honey to eat by the beginning of October, or more than one full super (the hive would weigh about 135 pounds total). Nucs of course need less. Estimate the weight by slightly tipping and hefting the hive. If you extract honey, leave enough for the bees or feed them sugar syrup to make up for the difference.

If you feed the bees sugar syrup, it should be a 2:1 ratio, thicker than the spring feed; the bees can evaporate the excess moisture from the hive faster from this thicker syrup.

If the weather is dry and there is no water source near the hive, consider providing one.

The bees will need at least two double-sided frames of pollen/bee bread by late winter/early spring. Supply bees with pollen or pollen substitute if they are short on protein. In autumn, bees use the decrease in pollen flow as a cue to begin rearing winter bees.

## **Pests, parasites, and diseases**

Monitor for *Varroa* mites and treat if necessary. The threshold for treatment changes at this time of year to 3 mites per 100 bees, as the number of mites rises. Note that a fall population spike may be due to mites coming in from bees from other colonies, in addition to natural population growth within the colony of interest. Therefore, even if you have diligently managed mites through the summer, continue to monitor consistently.

Carefully check every brood frame in each colony for an American foulbrood infection.

## **Population management**

Swarm control: see the guidelines for May. It is probably too late to split colonies to ensure they are strong enough to overwinter.

Combine weak and strong colonies or equalize them if you want to ensure strong populations going into winter, but only after you have checked for diseases in the weak colony.

If you are considering re-queening, this is a good month to do it. An overwintered young

queen should start laying in earnest in the spring.

## **Equipment**

Prepare for the fall flow with at least one super and be prepared to add more if necessary.

Upper entrances will help the bees ventilate the hot hives and evaporate the excess moisture from their honey.

Removing bees from honey supers may require a fume board, bee brush, bee escape, or other tools; they each have advantages and disadvantages for different beekeepers and in different environmental conditions.

## **Yard maintenance**

Mow the yard as necessary.

If bears live in your area, you may want to fence off the yard, in anticipation of a fall visit.

Adapted from the Cornell University  
Beekeeping Calendar 2020