



September 2020

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

Facebook

**Northeast WI  
Beekeepers**



**Join us  
for a Virtual  
Coffee & Bee  
Chat Tuesday  
9/1/2020 8AM  
Via ZOOM  
MEETING**

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 September we are working with GBBG on space for a face to face meeting outdoors weather permitting – MORE TO COME  
Meeting begins at 6:30pm

## **September**



Winterization

Time to feed your bees 2:1 Sugar Syrup

Check mite count and treat if indicated  
&  
Plan for winter

September Meeting Topic: Winter Preparation



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

Nominating Committee for the October Election: We have 2 volunteers - Julianne Sanders & Dan Lauth. **Need of one additional member**. The committee of three members will seek out members who would like to run for one of the officer positions. If interested in one of the elected positions contact any member of the nominating committee or a current officer.

**Consider joining the leadership team**

## 2020 Club Calendar

MONTH	TOPIC
September 16	Meeting <b>6:30pm</b> Prep Bees for Winter <b>Richard Schneider Capitol Bee Supply</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?

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2021**

WE ARE ACCEPTING MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2021 STARTING THIS MONTH

Payments can be made on the brown county beekeeper website via PayPal or Credit card

<https://browncountybeekeepers.com/about/join/>

**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**  
[info@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:info@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Membership Chair:**  
**OPEN**

**Education Chair:**  
**OPEN**

**September Meeting Link**

This month we are trying to provide two meeting options.

For the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting we are working on a plan to offer a face to face meeting at the GBBG at 6:30pm and a virtual ZOOM meeting.

1. If things work out, **Face to Face** for those who want to venture out to meet outside at the Botanical Gardens. **More to come on this.**  
 As per the previous meeting,  
 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.

2. Zoom Virtual – LINKS BELOW

**Topic: Brown County Beekeeping September Meeting**

Topic: BCBA Sept 16th Meeting  
 Time: Sep 16, 2020 07:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83785237534?pwd=Rnc0a3h6YW1xTDJoNlpVK0MzTjd0QT09>

Meeting ID: 837 8523 7534  
 Passcode: 555715

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Open Positions  
 Education Chair AND Membership Chair  
**Contact Dave Elsen**

**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



### 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/>

## **Club 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

## BEES IN September

### In the hive

The queen's rate of egg laying slows and the brood area continues to contract. Little drone brood is laid. This is the end of a second, smaller swarm season.

Nectar sources continue to diminish, although resin/propolis collection continues.

Left untreated, the Varroa mite population usually peaks in August or September. The bees may be more defensive, protecting their hive and robbing other colonies.

### Seasonal conditions

In Green Bay Wisconsin, in September, the average minimum and maximum temperatures are 49°F and 71°F, with 4" of precipitation. The first frost is in mid-September.

Flowers are abundant in the fall in the Northeast, including goldenrod, buckwheat, asters, clovers and sweetclovers, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, knapweed, sweetpepperbush, and thistles.

### Beekeeping Activities

#### Inspection

- This is the last month when a beekeeper can expect to perform thorough colony inspections. Roger Morse once wrote, "I often think of September as the month when one corrects errors made in August".
- The queen's egg laying slows dramatically by the end of the month, so the brood pattern may be difficult to accurately evaluate.
- 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.

- The bees will need at least two double-sided frames of pollen/bee bread by late winter/early spring.
- September is the last month it is recommended to feed pollen or pollen substitute for the remainder of autumn, as bees use the reduction in pollen flow as a cue to begin rearing winter bees.
- If the weather is dry and there is no water source near the hive, consider providing one.

If you plan to raise rear queens next year, begin to prepare cell finishers this fall: feed it lavishly now (carbohydrates and protein).

You should have been keeping records the entire active season, but it is especially important now as your hive is readied for winter. Take note of the number of the bees/size of the cluster, the amount (weight) and position of honey stores they have, etc., so that if the colony fails, you can make a more accurate deadout diagnosis in the spring.

Bees may rob hives left open during a long inspection. Be thorough but efficient.

#### Nutrition

• A full-sized colony should have at least 85-100 pounds of honey to eat by the beginning of October, or more than one full deep. (Nucs of course need less.) Estimate the weight by slightly tipping and hefting the hive, or use a hive scale (total weight about 150lbs). If you extract honey, leave enough for the bees or feed them heavy sugar syrup to make up for the difference.

#### Pests, parasites, and diseases

Monitor for *Varroa* mites. At this point in the year, if you find three or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol

wash, you will want to treat. If you have extracted your honey harvest, this is a good time to use treatments that cannot be used when supers are present.

Remove drone comb foundation for the remainder of the year.

Monitor for *Nosema*. It is present all year round, but regular monitoring will help you understand your normal levels and when/if they peak, particularly if you are seeking to understand why a colony is struggling.

### **Population management**

Consider combining weak colonies with strong ones or culling them: if a colony can accurately be judged as doomed, it will probably be a waste of resources to try to overwinter it individually.

If you are considering re-queening, this is a good month to do it. An overwintered young queen should start laying a good pattern in the spring.

Do not interrupt the brood pattern in September as it may disrupt the production of winter bees.

### **Equipment**

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.

### **Hive products and services**

If you remove fall honey, it should be extracted immediately afterward to prevent a small hive beetle infestation.

Fall honeys usually granulate more quickly than spring honeys and may need to be warmed a bit to flow through filters or other equipment.

### **Yard maintenance**

Mow the yard as necessary.

### **Education and outreach**

Many beekeeping clubs have meetings on winterizing hives this time of year.

*Adapted from the Cornell University  
Beekeeping Calendar 2020*