



Est: 1918

# Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

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.

December 2020

**It's time for Membership Renewals**

Online or mail in check

\$20 for individuals

\$30 for families

BCBA

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

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

**No Meeting for December.  
Happy Holidays and stay safe out there.  
See you in January**

## December in the Hives



Facebook  
**Northeast WI  
Beekeepers**



Join us  
for a Virtual  
**Coffee & Bee Chat**  
Tuesday  
12/1/2020  
8AM  
Via ZOOM  
MEETING

Bees can handle the cold no problem, that's never an issue. They need proper ventilation.



Moisture, as a result of weather, and starvation are the top bee killers in winter.

### A Message from the President:

In beekeeping it is often said that this year's preparations will greatly impact next year's successes. This principle applied to our club and our ability to deal with the COVID restrictions this year. While many clubs stopped meeting, we continued thanks to the foundation we had set in place and your willingness to adopt new forums. The club introduced online collaboration tools to efficiently work with each other on club activities, Facebook events, a FB group called Northeast WI Beekeepers as a forum for you to interact real-time outside of meetings, Coffee and Bee Talk (in person and online), and many website improvements to include a resource section and online payments. This foundation helped the club not only survive, but improve and expand by leveraging these improvements and virtual capabilities so the club could continue to fulfill our mission. I am so thankful to each of you for embracing these new mediums. It was instrumental to our success in 2020. I believe many of the virtual meeting concepts may lead to a hybrid online and virtual approach going forward.

While it was unfortunate that many in-person club events were cancelled we were able to provide a virtual hive inspection at Jacki Chee's apiary. Additionally, with the use of bee suits from the Schneider Foundation through a grant we held a Girl Scout event installing bees at a hive and also held a hive inspection and mite check with a NWTC class. We were also pleased to establish a relationship with Dr. Jammie VerGiesen, a veterinarian who can assist club members with disease identification and treatments.

Let's build on this momentum and have a great 2021. The Leadership Team is working on the plans which we will present at the January meeting.

I have two requests from you.

1. If you have ideas for the club or education you would like to see in 2021 please reach out to me at [president@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:president@browncountybeekeepers.com)
2. I encourage you to renew your membership and to continue having Brown County Beekeepers as part of your beekeeping journey. Follow this link for renewal info <https://browncountybeekeepers.com/about/join/>

It was a pretty good year for honey production. I hope your bees are in good shape for the winter. Monitor your hive's resources and provide backup feeding if required. See the what's going on in the hive section for additional information.

With Christmas approaching the entire Leadership Team wish each of you a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the January meeting or one of the other bee events noted in the newsletter.

Dave Elsen

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### Free Education Virtual Class Offerings for Club Members for 2021

The Club is excited to announce that we have partnered with several other bee clubs to co-sponsor two nationally recognized speakers. The first is Dr. Kirsten Traynor who is a honey bee researcher, runs Flickerwood Apiary ([www.mdbee.com](http://www.mdbee.com)), a boutique operation that specializes in producing top quality nucs and MD queens reared from mother colonies. She was a past editor of American Bee Journal and is the author of Two Million Blossoms: Discovering the Medicinal Benefits of Honey and Simple, Smart Beekeeping. Mark your Calendar for Tuesday, January 19th. Details in January Newsletter.

In April we will be co-sponsoring a virtual lecture with Bee researcher and Professor of Entomology Dr. Jamie Ellis from the University of Florida. Watch for an email detailing registration codes and instructions.

## 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

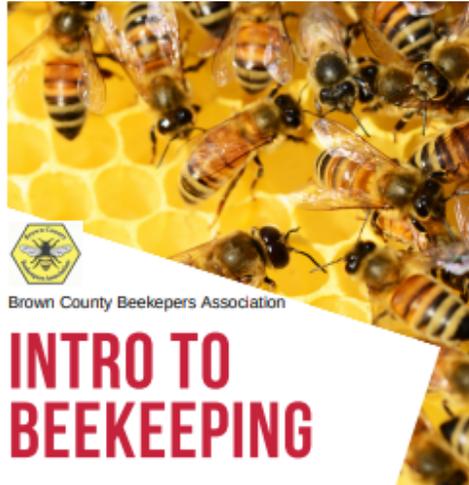
## Intro to Beekeeping Class DETAILS – January 2021

The club is once again conducting an Intro Beekeeping class. It consists of two virtual classes and one hands-on at the hive class. The cost is \$40 for all three sessions. More details can be found at the Event Brite site where tickets can also be purchased. <https://beekeeping-green-bay.eventbrite.com>. Please let your family and friends that might be interested in beekeeping know about the class and forward the link to them. For any questions contact Carl Fisher at [info@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:info@browncountybeekeepers.com)

## Members we need your help advertising the Intro Class

We have some 11x17 and 8.5x11 posters made up. If any of you would like a poster to hang up, please contact Dave at [President@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com](mailto:President@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com) or Carl Fisher at [info@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com](mailto:info@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com) and we will get posters to you.

Thank you in advance!



Learn all of the essentials of beginning beekeeping for the low cost of \$40 and \$30 for each additional family member.

JAN 9, 2021 • 9 TO 11 AM • VIRTUALLY  
 FEB 13, 2021 • 9 TO 11 AM • VIRTUALLY  
 MAY 29, 2021 • 8 TO 10 AM • IN-PERSON AT A HIVE

For more information and to register visit:  
[www.browncountybeekeepers.com](http://www.browncountybeekeepers.com)

Sponsor



## 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/CapitolBeeSupply/posts/2890729754299781>



#### **AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL**

**Discount** for club members

**GREAT PUBLICATION**

**GET INFO FROM TOM CASHMAN**

### **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

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## December Meeting Link

### Tuesday Morning Coffee and Bees

Time: Dec 1, 2020 08:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83119821529?pwd=YzM1VTI4bIVtOGw2c3BFODZhWjAvQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 1982 1529

Passcode: 476110

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## **NEW in January**

### Bees and Brews

We will be mixing things up in January in effort to engage all club members with casual evening of Bees and Brews, a virtual get together to enjoy your favorite brew, whether it is coffee, tea, a good kombucha, ale or stout and talk bees with members of all levels from novice to expert. The first BCBA Bees and Brews is January 6<sup>th</sup> @7pm. Check out the link below and plan to join if you are able.

*This will take the place of the January Coffee and Bees*

### January Meeting Links

#### **\*NEW Wednesday Evening BCBA Bees and Brews**

Jan 6, 2021

7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89834490188?pwd=S2hSamJXQ0VEMXRJSzJOeitQc3Y0QT09>

Meeting ID: 898 3449 0188

Passcode: 140859

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### **BCBA January Meeting**

Time: Jan 20, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82922696486?pwd=TSsrZEdsQmFBY2lyNIBJdnFLWFppQT09>

Meeting ID: 829 2269 6486

Passcode: 530924

Member  
Suggestion

**BEES**

**&**

**BREWS**

Thanks

Jenny Renfro

# WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD

## BEES IN December

### In the hive

The bees are in their winter cluster, and there is little to no egg laying in December.

### Seasonal conditions

In Green Bay, Wisconsin in December, the average minimum and maximum temperatures are 19°F and 32°F, with 13.1" of snow. The shortest day of the year is December 21, although the earliest sunset is around December 8 at 4:17pm.

Nothing is in bloom, except perhaps some varieties of witch hazel.

### Yard maintenance

Order any replacement bees (packages, nucs, or queens) as soon as possible; producers generally run out fast. Clean your honey house, freezer, or other areas that are chaotic/full in the active season.

Take inventory. Fix, clean/sterilize, purchase, assemble, and paint equipment as needed.

### Education and outreach

Spend this time reflecting on what went well and what you might change next year. Plan for your upcoming year: do you want to downsize or scale up, try out a new form of honey production, get into the pollination business, or something else?

Catch up on Bee Culture and American Bee Journal – and renew your subscription!

Remove ice blocking the hive entrances, to give the colonies better ventilation. Don't worry about snow around the entrance or hive body; it allows enough airflow and may help insulate the bees.

- *Adapted from the Cornell University Beekeeping Calendar 2020*