



Est: 1918

November 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

Facebook

Northeast WI Beekeepers

Join Today

Join us
for a Virtual
Coffee & Bee Chat
Tuesday

11/3/2020

8AM

Via ZOOM
MEETING



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.

**The club will hold our November 18th meeting via
ZOOM.**

November in the Hives



Don't be alarmed if you see this at the entrance of your hive at this time in the season.

The undertakers are busy cleaning out the hive and kicking out drones.

The population is decreasing daily.

Others are propolis the seams for winter.

Bees are not eating much or foraging.

They are spending their time in cluster staying warm.

ELECTION 2020



→ **Moved to the first order at the November 18th meeting**

Club Education 2020

November 18: Year in review, words from some first year BEEKS, Discussion on activities and education for 2021- suggestions welcome, Guest Speaker: Chris Hansen – Hansen Honey Farm - What it takes to become a Master Beekeeper Check out his bio @ hansenhoneyfarm.com

December NO MEETING

Note from Dave:

This has been a challenging year and we have all adopted new, and in many cases, improved ways of operating. As a result of the COVID19 pandemic, the club, with your support, successfully adopted a virtual meeting format. Many clubs ended up not meeting at all so we are pleased that things worked out the way they did. In the future this may continue to be an option combined with in person meetings. The membership is as high as it has ever been since I have been in the club and I hope we can continue our positive momentum into 2021.

Intro to Beekeeping Class – 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 \$50 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

November Meeting Links

BCBA Coffee and Bee Talk

Tuesday November 3, 2020
8am

Topic: November BCBA Coffee and Bee Talk
Time: Nov 3, 2020 08:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89620818124?pwd=cW55NGE5L2dPL3lrWHgzWkptRzdtZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 2081 8124
Passcode: 835433

Club Meeting

Wednesday November 18, 2020
6:30pm

Topic: BCBA November Meeting
Time: Nov 18, 2020 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85046377654?pwd=aFdyahRkbkxQNINjdTVaNkV3ajZOZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 4637 7654
Passcode: 280577

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
info@browncountybeekeepers.com

Membership Chair:
OPEN

Education Chair:
OPEN

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Open Positions
 Education Chair AND Membership Chair
Contact Dave Elsen

NTC 2020 Annual Conference Wausau: Cancelled

NTC 2021 Annual Conference Wausau: Cancelled

Wisconsin Honey Producers Fall Conference: Cancelled

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

Some Cool Club History from Sarah Mueller BCBA Secretary:

After doing some research earlier this year I was able to dig up a few Green Bay Press Gazette articles from the Brown County Library dating back to 1918. At that time the 300 beekeepers of Brown County organized their first BCBA meeting December 21, 1918 for the purpose of working together in ordering equipment and supplies to enable all to get help from the state apiary inspection service. Foulbrood was noted to be a serious problem. One of the goals was to get local honey on many more tables in the community. At the first meeting they proposed a 3-day bee school to be presented by Professors from the University of Wisconsin.

While reading the article about the "County Bee Men," ironically, on the same page was an article talking about the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic in which Appleton was threatening to close the entire city unless people adhered closely to instructions to refrain from large public meetings during this period of illness.

The original officers of the club include: Miss Jennie Matzke of De Pere who was named the first President of the Association... of bee men. George Miller of Green Bay VP, Frank Mongin of Allouez Secretary/Treasurer.

In February 1919 a Professor Mc Murray of the University of Wisconsin stated that Brown County was one of the best natural localities for honey production in the country and the BCBA responded with a plan to boom Brown County Honey Products. About 125 members met for an annual banquet to plan the use of uniform labeling and packing the crop.

The first bee school was held October 13, 1920 at the courthouse with Professor McMurray as the presenter. As it turns out, it looks like the 3-day class turned out to be a 1-day class with topics: young queens, fall brood rearing, winter stores, winter conditions, quietness, even temperature, warm cellars, outdoor packing and general discussion with questions.

In August of 1921 Mr. Frank Mongin of Allouez discussed how his hobby which started with 2 hives, after a couple of years grew into one of the "largest farms" in the county with 126 hives in Allouez, Greenleaf, Brussels and Kewaunee. He notes that to properly operate an apiary "it is necessary to do a great deal of studying and inform yourself on every point."

In 1921 there were between 2500 - 3000 colonies in the county and it was estimated that the number would double within a year. The number of active members was 40 and they were energetically preaching the gospel of pure honey and promoting the interest of beekeepers.

More info will be added to the website soon.. Thanks to Carl

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD

BEES IN November

In the hive

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

Seasonal conditions

In Green Bay Wisconsin, in November, the average minimum and maximum temperatures are 27°F and 42.3°F, with 2.1" precipitation accumulation. The length of daylight is rapidly decreasing. The latest sunrise is on November 30, at 7:07am. Daylight savings time ends @ 1am November 1, 2020. Time to "fall back" an hour.

Nothing is in bloom, except perhaps some varieties of witch hazel. The bees are not coming out of the hive much at this point They are focusing on tasks within the hive and clustering. On a warm sunny day the bees may fly out to take a cleansing flight.

Equipment

You may insulate the hive, but be sure foremost to avoid moisture build-up in the hives. Cold is less of a problem for bees than condensation.

Since much of the heat escapes out of the top of the hive, some beekeepers add a super with an insulating, absorbent material (e.g., dry leaves, woodchips) or a quilt box. Others wrap the hives in black tarpaper or special winter wraps.

Leave an upper entrance open for the exhaust of moisture.

Tilt the hives forward a few degrees so that any moisture that does accumulate can drain out the bottom entrance.

Be sure that any equipment you are storing during the winter that may harbor wax moths has been frozen and/or is stored carefully.

Yard maintenance

Consider setting up a wind break around the hives avoiding haybales as they attract mice.

- *Adapted from the Cornell University Beekeeping Calendar 2020*