



Est: 1918

# Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

**February 2021**

Website  
BCBA

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

Facebook

**Northeast WI  
Beekeepers  
Join Today**

## ***Coffee and Bees!***

*Tuesday morning  
Feb 2, 2021  
8:00 AM  
Via ZOOM*

### **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.

### **President's Message:**

Welcome to 2021. Was pleased to see so many of you attend our initial meeting. Our goals, budget and actions towards achieving them were laid out and approved for the year. I am most excited about our goal to develop better beekeepers. We have some speakers from the Minnesota Bee Squad, Bee Informed Bee Squad, Garfield Park Conservatory, Let it Bee and Capital Bee Supply to mention a few. Check out the section of the website for a full list of topics. In addition to speakers the club is working with Hansen Honey, Let it Bee and Capital Bee on member discounts. Watch your Newsletters and emails for more information as it comes available. Many members have also been asking about various bee magazines. The club gets a discount for American Bee Journal. We have included the subscription form. Bee Culture also has a nice magazine and a Beginning Beekeeping one as well. Will bring copies to in person meetings when the CDC guidance allows.

Thank you for renewing your membership. The Club is working hard to provide you education and hopefully some fun events throughout the year. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to any members of the Leadership Team.

### **Interesting Fact:**

Honey Bees can fly between 15 – 20 mph! At a top speed of 15-20 miles per hour, honey bees are not the fastest fliers in the bug world. That's because they're built for short trips from flower to flower, not for long-distance hauls. Their tiny wings must flap 12,000 to 15,000 times per minute just to keep their bodies aloft for a flight home to the hive—usually at a clip of about 12 miles per hour—when fully loaded up with pollen.

## Club Discounts

### Club Sponsor – Hansen Honey Farm, Rhinelander, WI

- 15% Discount for all first time purchases
- 5% discount for all BCBA members for ongoing purchase
- Note: You must use specific code for these discounts.
- Contact BCBA Secretary for this code! ( [secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com) )

### Club Sponsor – Let It Bee, Inc., Greenville, WI

- 15% Discount for all first time purchases
- 5% discount for all BCBA members for ongoing purchase
- When purchasing **in-store only**, let them know you are a member of the BCBA.

## Bee Culture and American Bee Journal Subscriptions



ABJ Association  
Member Subscription



Bee Culture  
Subscription.pdf

## Upcoming Meetings

### Coffee and Bees

Time: **Feb 2, 2021 08:00 AM**

Zoom Meeting ID: 849 6563 4685 Passcode: 319554

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84965634685?pwd=RVNBOFF3MTF3enJrOVc3U1JLUXB3dz09>

### BCBA February Meeting

February education topic – **Splits!**

Time: **Feb 17, 2021 06:30 PM**

Zoom Meeting ID: 817 6360 1118 Passcode: 382756

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81763601118?pwd=UGlnYTFiUm9PYzlvva2RCb00vU09CZz09>

## Membership Renewal Drawing

**Congratulations to the following winners of the membership renewal drawing!**

- Stacey and Ben Klemp: Stained Glass Window
- Cindy Silvers: MN Bee Squad Mite Kit
- Kaelyn Sumner: Hansen Honey Farm gift certificate
- Steve and Christy Oswald: Hansen Honey Farm gift certificate

## BCBA Leadership

**President: Dave Elsen**

[president@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:president@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Vice President:**

**Julie Mazzoleni**

[vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Secretary:**

**Bob Michiels**

[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**



### Infrared Imaging

The club has an infrared camera that you can rent to locate your bees in cluster during the winter months. The picture above shows a nice size cluster in **white**. They appear to be up close to the top indicating they need some emergency food added.

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Open Positions

Education Chair AND Membership Chair

**Contact Dave Elsen**

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### 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>



## 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.

**1960 - 1969**

**February 1962:** An article in the local paper showed that Wisconsin was 4<sup>th</sup> in honey production with 92 lbs per colony with an average price of 17 cents per pound.

**August 12, 1962:** Minutes should show we are sponsoring a honey queen for 1962. Motion made and carried. Treasurers report accepted as read, balance \$63.09. 8 members present. Motion made to have the beekeepers picnic on June 24<sup>th</sup> as pot-luck.

**October 11, 1962:** President Kazmierczak will crown out Honey Queen Mary Zelten on achievement night. Mr. Burchell will provide transportation for the Queen to our state convention. \$20 will be required for her expenses at the convention.

**November, 1962:** Mrs. Toebe contacted the Old Dutch Supper Club and found that we could have chicken dinners at the Christmas party for \$1.75 per person. Members approved.

**May 9, 1963:** BCBA Elections were held and motions carried.  
President – Mr. Arvey, Vice President – Mr. Landreman  
Secretary – Mrs. Pfluger, Treasurer – Mr. Burchell



Rev. Urban DeCleene,, 1956 Honey Queen Elsie Verheyen, R.B.Shuster,  
Runners up: Norma Verheyen and Rosalind Peterson.

## FEBRUARY - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

### In the hive

The bees are still in their cluster, perhaps breaking away for brief cleansing flights on the warmest days. The cluster has likely moved up to the top of the hive. The queen begins or continues to lay a small number of eggs. Nutritional needs increase and the risk of starvation rises.

### Seasonal conditions

In Brown County Wisconsin, February average low temperature is 13, average high 31. Record low -29 (1996), record high 63 (2017).

Nothing is in bloom except maybe some varieties of witch hazel (*Hamamelis* spp.).

### Inspection

When inspecting a colony in winter, it is not necessary to open it. Do a quick external inspection, visual and auditory, to check the cluster. Listen for the bees with your ear directly on the upper part of the hive.

You can open the hive if it is relatively warm and windless outside, but do not pull frames or break open the cluster if it is below 50F. If you open the hive, check for moisture around the inner or outer covers. If the cluster is far to one side of the food stores, you can carefully move it closer, keeping it together while you do so, or move frames of honey closer to it.



### Nutrition

Colonies are at a higher risk of starvation as the winter progresses. Depending on a number of factors (winter weather, fall stores), the bees' stores could be running low, since they do not ration their food. Feed them if the hive is light or the stores obviously empty, or if the bees are visible through the inner cover at the very top of the hive. Use dry sugar or a candy board. Some beekeepers feed their bees winter pollen patties at this time to stimulate and support brood rearing.

### Equipment

Finish fixing, cleaning/sterilizing, buying, assembling, or painting equipment as needed.

### Yard maintenance

As in January, ensure that the hive cover is properly secured, check for animal pests, remove ice blocking the entrance, and don't worry about a few dead bees on the snow outside the hive.

### Education and outreach

Look to further your beekeeping education by attending some online courses, reading, etc.