



Est: 1918

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

March 2021

Website
BCBA

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Facebook

Northeast WI

Beekeepers

Join Today

Bees and Brews!

*Tuesday evening
March 2, 2021
5:30 PM
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:

We just came through a long stretch of bitter cold. Most beekeepers are concerned about their bees. If they came into winter healthy, with resources and adequate moisture control you have prepared them. The bees will, however, have consumed more resources than normal. Continue to check resources until the dandelions bloom because starvation is a concern. Don't pull frames, just quickly crack the top cover to see if the bees are at the top of the hive or if the hive is light when lifted from the bottom. If needed, add a sugar source or winter pollen patties as emergency feed.

Spring is a great time to expand your knowledge and catch one of many virtual bee sessions. Many are posting on the Brown County Beekeepers Facebook page, but there are many more which you can find on the web.

Good luck, spring is just around the corner!

Dave

President, Brown County Beekeepers Association

Interesting Fact:

A Single worker bee produces about 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey. For honey bees, there's power in numbers. From spring to fall, worker bees must produce about 100 - 110 pounds of honey to sustain the entire colony over the winter. At a rate of 1/12th of a teaspoon per bee, it takes tens of thousands of workers to get the job done!

Attention!

Don't miss our fantastic lineup of education and topics for this year! Make note and put them on your calendar! Some local experts and nationally renowned beekeeping speakers are part of this lineup!!

| Dates | Topic | Edu Type | Presenter |
|------------|---|--------------|---|
| Jan 19 '21 | | Special | Dr. Kirsten Traynor |
| Jan 20 '21 | First Year Beekeeping | Reg | Jenny Renfro, Bob Michiels |
| Feb 17 '21 | Splits | Reg | Craig Spindler , Let it Bee |
| Mar 17 '21 | What are you Missing: Advances in Hive Monitoring | Reg | Bridget Mendal Lee , Minnesota Bee Squad |
| Apr 20 '21 | Special Event | Special | Dr. Jamie Ellis |
| Apr 21 '21 | Installing Bees Spring Management | MBM Reg | Rich Schneider , Capital Bee Supply |
| May 19 '21 | Mite Test - Sugar Roll Oxalic Acid | Spec. Reg | Matt Hoepfinger , Bee Informed Partnership |
| Jun 16 '21 | Hive Inspections (At Hive) Hive Management | MBM Reg | (TBD) |
| Aug 18 '21 | Honey Extraction Winter Management | MBM Reg | Charlotte Hubbard , President Kalamazoo Bee Club |
| Sep 15 '21 | Special Guest: | | Randy Oliver – Scientific Beekeeping |
| Oct 20 '21 | Queen Rearing | Reg | Augie Linskens |
| Nov 17 '21 | Products of the Hive | Reg | |



Queen, Drone and Workers!



February Meeting Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss it..

Jennifer Hinkel, 2021 American Honey Queen attended and led a discussion on her background and role as the American Honey Queen!

Jennifer Hinkel will be buzzing about the nation's honey industry.

The 23-year-old who calls Franklin, Wisconsin home, was chosen as the 2021 American Honey Queen by the American Beekeeping Federation.

Prior to being selected as the American Honey Queen, Jennifer served as the 2020 Wisconsin Honey Queen where she helped to promote the honey industry in schools, through farmers' markets and festivals, and media interviews.

Support the American Honey Queen Program by purchasing a raffle ticket(s) for \$5 each for a chance to win a handmade queen size quilt. Mail a check (payable to ABF Queen Fund) to 10432 W. Norwhich Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53228. Once payment is received, Jennifer will then send you the raffle ticket stubs.



Craig Spindler of Club Sponsor, Let It Bee, Inc., led a discussion on the topic of Splits. Discussions were had on the reason why to split and on the different approaches on how to split. Discussions reached into spring feeding, bee health, swarms, etc.



www.letitbeeinc.com 920-757-1042

MARCH - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

In the hive

This is the month of the colony's minimum adult population, after winter losses, but before significant spring build-up. The queen is laying at or near full strength and brood is being reared if pollen/protein is available. Bees may be able to bring some pollen into the hive on occasional foraging flights, but because of the growing population and limited external resources, nutritional needs increase and the risk of starvation is high.

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin for March

Average low temperature - 23

Average high - 40.

Average Precipitation – 1.83 inches.

Average Snow – 8 inches

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.

Consider renting the [club infrared camera](#) to see where the cluster is located in the hive.



Nutrition

Most colonies that starve die in late winter or early spring. They need more food for brood rearing, but cannot yet forage. At this point, they should have at least 3-4 combs full of honey. Feed them if the colony 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, fondant, or a candy board, or replace empty combs with combs of

capped honey (do this last piece only if warm and open the hive for only 30 seconds or less and don't disrupt the cluster). You will likely need to continue to feed until nectar and pollen are available and accessible outside.

- The location/proximity of the bees to their food stores is key. 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.
- You might consider feeding pollen substitute or supplement to support or further stimulate egg laying. If you do so, be sure to use clean pollen.
- If you plan to rear queens this year, lavishly feed the cell finisher colony chosen in the fall (carbohydrates and protein) for early spring buildup.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

Mites are breeding in the colony. There is no need to monitor and treat just yet, but be aware that the mite population is starting to rise.

Equipment

Your equipment should be fixed, cleaned, bought, assembled, or painted by now.

Yard maintenance

Ensure that the hive cover is properly secured.

Remove ice blocking the hive entrance, 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.

A few dead bees or a small amount of fecal matter outside the hive is nothing to worry about, especially after a warm day; this is a sign that they are still alive inside.

Education and outreach

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



Last summers "other" pollinators!

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)

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

Bees and Brews

Time: **Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:30 PM**

Meeting ID: 879 2120 3693 Passcode: 748274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87921203693?pwd=UFI5YTBCQ0w0TGtRWW5vOGE2dEh4UT09>

BCBA March Meeting

March education topic – *What are you Missing: Advances in Hive Monitoring!*

Bridget Mendal Lee, Minnesota Bee Squad

Time: **Wednesday, March 17, 2021 06:30 PM**

Meeting ID: 875 6635 3433 Passcode: 249417

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87566353433?pwd=b0JnbUVxRWUxWFZQaVJSVbWbVNuQT09>

BCBA Leadership

President: Dave Elsen
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

Vice President:
Julie Mazzoleni
vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

Secretary:
Bob Michiels
secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

Treasurer:
Tom Cashman
Tcash99930@aol.com

Social Media Chair:
Carl Fisher
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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WHPA Youth Program Mentors: Contact Julie Mazzoleni
 Botanical Gardens Adult Pollinator Program (2): Contact Julie Mazzoleni
 Botanical Gardens Children's Program, 2 days (2): Contact Julie Mazzoleni
 Introduction to Beekeeping Class – May 29th (2): Contact Carl Fisher

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>



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.

1970's

1970 Joe Arvey is joined by his wife in the club

- Floyd Burchell displayed a chart on bee anatomy and life to be used when giving talks – club is considering purchasing
- Club is discussing ways to increase membership and promote honey
 - suggestion to hold meeting in a bigger space such as the court house annex - ended up meeting at the regular spot YMCA
- Meeting attendance remains low 4-6
- Christmas party well attended with 22 members and guests
- December **1970** - Joe Arvey set up a checking account for the club – 2 signatures required president and treasurer
- 2 club members had a net honey crop of 354 pounds and donated the proceeds to the club
- **1971** - membership drive to help increase membership and attendance – 16 pd members
- Suggestion made to buy charts Floyd Burchell showed at an earlier meeting – life and history of honey bees, wild bees and honey bees idea tabled for now.
- March 11, **1971** - Clarence Pfluger brought old documents from club – years of documentation and the members went through and sorted everything. They only kept the most valuable ones – he donated a file for all of the valuable items
- Christmas gift exchange limit increased to \$1. 28 members and guests in attendance
- **1974** throughout the years there were a good number of memberships that were couples
- No funding to continue the State inspector
- Suggested that the club pool orders for bees for everyone in the BCBA
- **1975** Map committee still working to get members to mark their hive locations
- **1976** unable to get a booth at the Brown County Fair
- *Raymond Duffy President*
- Meetings now moved to alternate locations from the YMCA to Northeast Wisconsin Technical Institute and East De Pere High School
- Membership dues raised from \$1 to \$2

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American Honey Queen Program

Dear Brown County Beekeepers
Association,

What a pleasure it was to
speak with all of your
members to share about
my background, my promotions so
far as the 2021 American Honey
Queen, and our goals for the year.
Thank you for having me at your
meeting!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hise

2021 American Honey Queen