



Est: 1918

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

April 2021

Website
BCBA

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Facebook

Northeast WI

Beekeepers

Join Today

Coffee and Bees!

*Tuesday morning
April 6, 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:

- This month (Wednesday, April 21, 5:30 PM) we will have a session on how to Install packages and Nucs at the Botanical Garden.
- The regular meeting on April 21, 6:30 PM will be attended via Zoom and in person at the Botanical Gardens. The education will be on Spring Management by Richard Schneider from Capital Bee Supply.
- On April 20 at 7:00 pm the BCBA is cosponsoring Dr. Jamie Ellis to talk about Swarms and Swarm Management. The session is free to club members. We will pass along the link via email the day prior to the session.
- The club was interviewed by Brooke Hafs, anchor of NBC 26 morning show to talk about honeybees and education. The interview was planned to be aired on Monday, March 29th. Thanks Emily Skala and Bob Michiels for helping to put this together. Link: <https://www.nbc26.com/news/local-news/pulaski-teen-become-beekeeper-with-help-from-brown-county-beekeepers-association>
- Judy Lemieux donated her late husband and former club member, Jules' Beekeeping equipment for us to auction off to benefit the club. We will have all of the equipment (some boxes, new unassembled frames and an antique extractor) available for review prior to the May meeting. Sale will take place at 6:15 prior to the start of the meeting.

Dave

President, Brown County Beekeepers Association

Interesting Fact(s):

Is honeybee one word or two?

Many people notice that dictionaries list "honeybee" as one word. However, entomologists use the two-word naming convention "honey bee". Both are correct!

Average per capita honey consumption in the US is 1.3 pounds.

Upcoming Meetings

Coffee and Bees

Time: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 8:00 AM

Meeting ID: 882 2034 4968 Passcode: 526798

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220344968?pwd=dXlRUjUwRUZBVFUzVzJ3aDBaUTNNZz09>

BCBA April Meeting

April 21, 2021

Our April meeting will be held both on Zoom and in person at the Botanical Gardens.

Meeting before the meeting – Installing bees, nucs and packages
(In person at the Botanical Gardens) starting at 5:30 PM

April education topic – *Spring Management!* **Rich Schneider, Capital Bee Supply**

Time: **Wednesday, April 21, 2021 6:30 PM**

Meeting ID: 864 4979 4334 Passcode: 701555

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86449794334?pwd=OXl3M2gxZGdweUNRYTN3Rm80V3B6Zz09>



The above picture is from a queenless hive. Note, no brood, few bees and supersedure cells. Eventually a new queen showed up, but I lost a month of productivity. A great experience watching this happen, however! And no mites when the hive was full again!

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!!

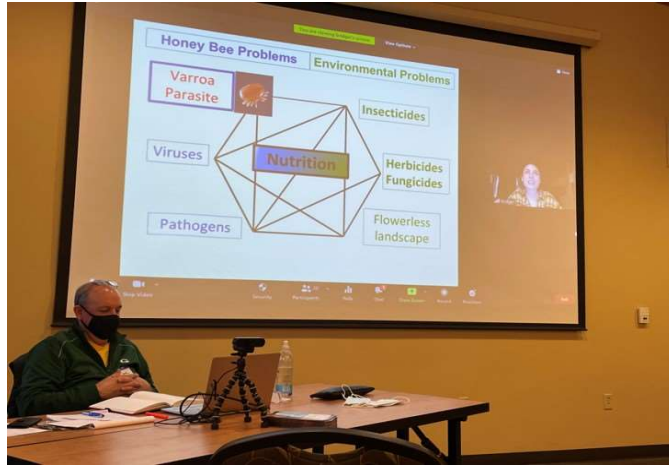
Dates	Topic	Edu Type	Presenter
Jan 19 '21		Special	Dr. Kirsten Traynor
Jan 20 '21	First Year Beekeeping	Reg	Jenny Renfro, Bob Michiels
Feb 17 '21	Splits	Reg	Craig Spindler , Let it Bee
Mar 17 '21	What are you Missing: Advances in Hive Monitoring	Reg	Bridget Mendel Lee , Minnesota Bee Squad
Apr 20 '21	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	

Notice: March meeting attendance mite kit drawing. Winner – Becky Oudenhoven!

March Meeting Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss it..

We had a very successful March meeting. 19 members attended via Zoom and 10 members attended in person at the GB Botanical Gardens.



Recognized Emily Skala (pictured on right) as the recipient of the WHPA Youth Beekeepers Scholarship! Emily is a club member and is currently attending our Introduction to Beekeeping course!



Bridget Mendel (pictured on the right), Director of the Minnesota Bee Squad did an excellent presentation on Assessing your colony (and your colonies environment)! Bridget thanked the Club for the speaking honorarium and replied, It was her pleasure to speak and that we have an awesome engaging club. She referenced the Beekeeping for Northern Climates free online class which can be found at [Beekeeping Classes | Bee Lab \(umn.edu\)](#) and also a "Mite Check" mobile app that you might wish to check out.



April - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

In the hive

On cold days, the bees are still clustered, but on warm sunny days, they should be bringing in lots of pollen and nectar. If their flights are limited by cold or inclement weather, they may still be at risk of starvation. The colony, if big enough, begins to rear drones in greater numbers.

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin for April

Average low temperature - 35

Average high - 53.

Average Precipitation – 2.633 inches.

Average Snow – 3 inches

Inspection

- On the warmest days, you can quickly inspect a colony's brood pattern and food stores, taking care not to chill the brood.
- If the bottom brood chamber is empty, move it to the top of the brood nest. Doing so before a day or two of warm temperatures will help brood survive the move.
- After installing a new package or nuc, allow two weeks for the colony to establish before an inspection.

Nutrition

- The colony should have at least 3-4 combs full of honey. 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, or replace empty combs with combs of capped honey. Sugar syrup is also an option: feed a 1:1 mix in a feeder that holds enough syrup that it doesn't need refilling every day, but not so much that it gets moldy before the bees finish it. If the bees are reliant on this food, you will likely need to continue to feed until nectar and pollen are 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.
- Feed package bees or nucs upon their arrival.
- If you plan to rear queens this year, lavishly feed the cell finisher colony chosen in the fall lavishly (carbohydrates and protein) for early spring buildup.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Begin monthly monitoring for Varroa mites. At this point in the year, if you find two or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash, you will want to treat. Treatment methods will depend on your management goals, the condition of the colony, and external conditions. This is an ideal time to use treatments that cannot be used when supers are present.
- If drones are being reared in significant numbers, you can use drone comb for early Varroa management, but be sure to return within 28 days at a minimum, to ensure that it doesn't become a haven for mites!
- Carefully check every brood frame in each colony for an American foulbrood infection.
- Cleaning dead bees and detritus off the bottom board during the first thorough inspection may help keep the hive disease- and pest-free.

Population management

- Install any new packages or nucs that arrive.
- Equalizing can be accomplished through donating a frame or two of brood from one hive to another or swapping hive locations.
- If your inspection reveals that a queen is under-performing, if you want the vigor of a young queen, or if you want to introduce new stock for hygienic behavior or other traits, you might consider re-queening. This is a good month to do it, although local queens are probably in short supply this early in the year.
- To rear queens yourself this year, continue to build your cell builder colony while preventing it from swarming. Check often for swarm cells, and cut out any you find.

Equipment

- Remove insulation, winter wraps, mouse guards, etc. Entrance reducers can be left on; many beekeepers use them year-round.

Yard maintenance

- Check that any bear fencing is still working properly and replace batteries if necessary.

Education and outreach

- In the event that some colonies did not survive the winter, this is a good time of year to diagnose dead-outs and learn from your mistakes.



Here comes
da 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)

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 Subscriptio



Bee Culture
Subscription.pdf

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

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/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.

Club History

1978 – 1979 (Research provided by club member Sarah Mueller)

The Club President in 1978 was Raymond Duffy. He submitted his resignation due to an accident, but it was rejected by the members. He had been a longtime club member and was very involved and well liked. Common practice at this time was for beekeepers to kill their bees once winter came and just replace them in the spring. Packaged bees were inexpensive. The club discussed “Cyno gas” which was used to kill the bees. Ray’s daughter shared that her dad did not practice killing his bees in the winter. He overwintered his bees in the basement of their home. Paul Hartman, a Horticulturist from UW extension provided guidance on to the club throughout the year. One meeting activity that was enjoyed by all was when club members traveled to other areas visiting apiaries and came back, sharing slide shows at the meetings. In 1978 Bruce Ramage from Arkansas arrived on the BCBA scene and he joins the club- keep following his name.. a good story is coming.

Meeting attendance in the late 1970s continued to be low and the club searched for ways to improve it. In 1979 one thing that was suggested was that BCBA apply to have the WHPA State Convention in Green Bay in 1979 or 1980. The club voted on moving forward with the application to hold the convention at the Downtowner Hotel.

Dues were increased to \$5/ individual and \$7.50 for family (*includes spouse and children under age 18*). 1-year free membership for youth until age 18 (*which we still do today*). It was decided that meeting frequency would increase from every other month to every month.

As a fundraiser for the club, Ramage suggested the club hold an auction of old bee equipment and the money would go to the association. Suggestion to form a co-op to give members a commercial rate when buying equipment and supplies – lots of discussion including other clubs that tried it did not recommend it. The co-op idea was eventually shot down.

In April 1979 the Club Newsletter was born – this was a place that club members could express opinions freely. The majority of the club was in favor of the newsletter.

June 1979 Bruce Ramage was elected President. He started a glass hive. Nothing else was written about it though. Closing out the decade, a pesticide committee was formed to look at spraying crops/ canning factories, Port Plaza Mall allowed the club to promote honey and a suggestion was made to sell honey at the farmers market. It was reported that some honey from China was found to have chunks of metal in it. Questions arose as to why Brown County does not have a Honey Queen. The club revisited the idea and put it to rest. Interestingly enough, Dadant & Sons asked for volunteers to work the honey booth at the state fair on Saturday am and NOBODY volunteered. Back at the close of 1979, Ray Duffy suggested that all county associations write up the history of their association – No such documentation found on BCBA. If anyone has any club history please share your stories. Stay tuned for the next chapter on the Bruce Ramage story.