



Est: 1918

# Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

**June 2021**

Website  
BCBA

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

Facebook

**Northeast WI**

**Beekeepers**

**Join Today**

***Coffee and  
Bees!***

***June – no Coffee and  
Bees meeting***

## **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:**

It was great to finally be able to see members at the May meeting without masks. The Gardens is allowing vaccinated members to go mask-less while attending our meetings. Very exciting change.

Our membership is growing and we continue to work on ways to provide information to help you with your beekeeping. Prior to next month's meeting at 5:30 we will do a hive inspection at the Botanical Gardens. Come check it out. During the June meeting we will cover Hive Inspections. Please send Bob or me questions you would like covered. We also encourage you to join Northeast WI Beekeepers Facebook group to get answers to your questions from other beekeepers. One other avenue to explore is podcasts. Check out "Two Bees in a Podcast".

Swarm Season is Here. We had a nice third session of the Introduction to Beekeeping class at the Botanical Gardens. The hive we inspected was split three weeks ago; however, it still swarmed. The swarm was in the woods out of sight, but close to the hive. When we started the inspection for the class the swarm was about 15 feet away and took flight through the woods up over us and off to the north. Quite an experience for the class. We found several swarm cells on different frames in the hive and since many bees remained, we split the hive again. Be diligent watching for overcrowding and adding boxes to give the bees space to grow.

Dave

President, Brown County Beekeepers Association

## **Interesting Fact(s):**

- . Bees do not sleep. Even though they rest at night, bees remain conscious 24/7. Definitely one for bee facts you shouldn't sleep on.
- . In their 6 – 8 week lifespan, a worker bee will fly the equivalent distance of 1 ½ times the circumference of the Earth.

# Upcoming Meetings

## Coffee and Bees

Time: **No Coffee and Bees meeting, will resume in July.**

## BCBA June Meeting

**June 16, 2021**

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

(MBM) Meeting before the meeting – Hive check starting at 5:30 PM  
Botanical Gardens. 1/4 mile from entrance, park in NWTC lot, walk across street through gate entrance.

June education topic – *Hive Management*

Time: **6:30 PM**

Meeting ID: 834 7813 3437 Passcode: 148764

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83478133437?pwd=TU50ckZGeXg5OTJRY1YzN1dvc3ltZz09>

## **Save the Date!**

## **BCBA Summer Picnic – Wednesday, July 21st**

Last chance to register for the: **Honey Themed Dinner**

Join fellow BCBA members for a fun filled, informative evening at Ledgestone Vineyard, Greenleaf, WI while Chef Ace Champion entertains us with his unique cooking style. A three-course dinner will be served.

When: June 29, 2021

Time: 5:00 to 6:00 Happy Hour cash bar

6:00 to 8:00 Cooking demo and dinner

Cost: BCBA Member \$25 (only one member per family)

BCBA Guest \$45

- Limit - 50 persons.
- Event held outdoors and will follow health department COVID recommendations.
- Chef Ace will provide recipes for each dish.
- Door Prizes

***2 Tickets Remaining!***

**Check with Carl before sending payment!**

***Honey Themed Dinner Registration form on last page of this Newsletter!***

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

**Always in need of volunteers! Please send to Dave at [DaveElsenBK@gmail.com](mailto:DaveElsenBK@gmail.com) if interested.**

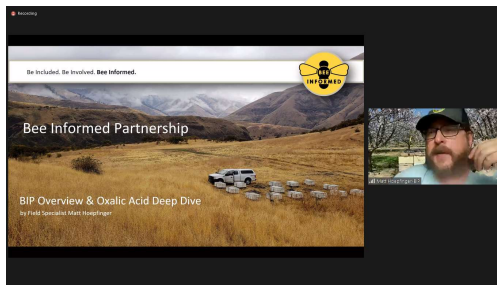
- Botanical Gardens Spring Flower Market on Friday June 4 from 9 am-6 pm. Talk about bees with the public. If you would like to volunteer for a two hour spot please let us know.
- Botanical Gardens Adult Pollinator Program on July 28, 4:00-7:00. We will teach 8-12 adults about bees and spend some time at the hive. Looking for 1-2 members to help.

# May Meeting Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss it!

We had a very successful May meeting on May 19th at the Botanical Gardens and on Zoom. Our guest speaker was Matt Hoepfinger of Bee Informed Partnership talking about Oxalic Acid treatments. Matt led an excellent discussion!

Matt Hoepfinger discussing Oxalic treatments!



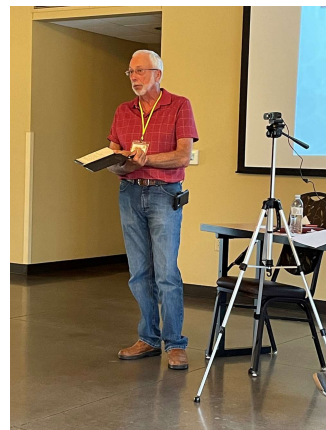
MBM – Sugar roll mite check!



BeeBuzz – James Arvey takes control!

Are there some questions you have?

If so please send or you can also post on our Facebook group Northeast WI Beekeepers.



## ***June - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES***

### **Seasonal conditions**

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average low temperature - 55

Average high - 66.

Average Precipitation – 3.9 inches.

Average Snow – 0 inches

### **In the hive**

- June and July are the months of maximum population in the colony. Depending on your area and management style, the population will vary. Most estimates are in the range of 40-60,000 but some go up to seven digits. The colony, if big enough, continues to rear drones. Swarm season also continues in June. The Varroa mite population continues to build.

### **Inspection**

- Colony inspections should take place at least once a month and include evaluating the brood pattern, confirming the presence of the queen and/or eggs, evaluating colony growth and available room, monitoring for pests and diseases, and other metrics.
- If you cannot inspect every one of your colonies, inspect the colonies that are not showing as much activity on the outside.
- If you install a package or nuc, allow two weeks for the colony to establish before you inspect it.

### **Nutrition**

- Feed package bees or nucs upon their arrival.
- Provide supers if the brood chambers are full and the population/stores growing.

### **Pests, parasites, and diseases**

- Monitor Varroa mite levels. 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.
- Drone comb can be an effective cultural method at this time of year.
- This may be a good time to break the brood cycle (and therefore the Varroa reproduction cycle) by caging the queen or performing splits.

### **Population management**

- Swarm control: see the guidelines for [May](#).
- This is the best time (swarm season) to rear queens.

### **Equipment**

- Foundation will be more likely to be drawn out during a honey flow.
- Consider adding a queen excluder to manage the honey supers more easily.
- Set up bait hives if you want to catch a swarm!

### **Hive products and services**

- Depending on the strength/size of your colonies and your management goals, you may consider extracting the spring honey. Extract immediately after removing the supers to prevent a small hive beetle infestation.
- You may be able to trap pollen.

### **Yard maintenance**

- Mow the yard as necessary.





Dealing with Queen cells. Note on bottom of frames.

## 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 Subscriptio



Bee Culture  
Subscription.pdf

## 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**

## 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

## 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>



Above.. Club Secretary, Bob Michiels, providing some pollinator education to a few 5 year-olds at Brown County Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve.

## 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 & Bee Keeping History

## BCBA Club History – 1970's: *Special history noted in red!*

- **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
  - move meetings to members homes
- 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
- Bee and honey promotion was becoming more of a thing – many requests were coming to the club from schools and garden clubs
- **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
- Continue making donations to the YMCA
- 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
- *June 20, 1971 Tom Cashman Jr arrives on the scene accompanying his father to the annual summer picnic*
- *January 1972 Tom Cashman Jr becomes the Club Secretary*
- 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
- *Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Duffy joined the club*
- No funding to continue the State inspector
- Suggested that the club pool orders for bees for everyone in the BCBA
- Annual summer picnic everyone was encouraged to bring something to be auctioned off and the \$ would go to the club
- October 3, **1974** Tom Cashman Sr died - \$10 flowers sent from Club
- It was decided that individual counties would set up their own zoning and ordinances
- **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



- **1977** club initiative to get representation from 4H in the fair booth to help explain bee culture and answer bee questions – worked with Larry Schneider the Ag teacher at E. De Pere HS
  - Working on getting an observation hive for the booth
- Club was asked for donations by members so the club could donate to Wisconsin Honey Producers Association (WHPA)
- Club continues to send delegates representing BCBA at the state convention
- **1977** Lots of planning continued
  - Booths at State Fair and the Brown County Fairs – honey recipe books and honey and comb honey sales advertisement and fundraising
  - WHPA annual meeting
  - Summer picnic and Christmas Party
  - State inspections
  - Bee Legislation
  - Mapping County hives to help prevent crowding – started in 1975
  - Honey sales and wax ornaments
- **1978** Bruce Ramage from Arkansas joins the club
- Club continues to search for ways to improve meeting attendance
- May **1978** President Raymond Duffy tries to resign due to an accident, but his resignation is rejected by club members
- October **1978** Club discussion on Cyno gas used to kill bees – people often killed their bees once winter came and they bought new bees in the spring. Packaged bees were inexpensive
- Paul Hartman, Horticulturist from UW extension provided guidance throughout the year and was invited to the Christmas party. He was given a gift in appreciation for his involvement with the club
- Members who traveled to other areas and visited apiaries sometimes presented slide shows at the meetings
- **1979** New Business
  - Suggested that BCBA apply to have the WHPA State Convention in Green Bay in 1979 or 1980
  - Increase dues
  - Increase meetings from Every other month to every month
  - Ramage suggested club hold an auction of old bee equipment and the money would go to the association
- February **1979** club decided to move forward with application to hold WHPA State Convention in GB at the Downtowner Hotel
- Dues were increased to \$5/ individual and \$7.50 for family (*which includes spouse and children under age 18*)
- 1 year free membership for youth until age 18
- ***March 1979 “Quarrel broke out between Tom Cashman and Floyd Burchell State Association Badger Bee Editor. Bruchell demanded BCBA Secretary must report every detail @ BCBA meetings to Badger Bee Editor”***
  - ***Motion made that BCBA Secretary will solely make the decision what to report to Badger Bee***
- Suggestion to form a coop to give members a commercial rate when buying equipment and supplies – lots of discussion and other clubs that tried it did not recommend it
- ***Club Newsletter was born April 1979 – 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 elected President
- Ramage started **glass hive box**.. nothing else written about it
- Pesticide committee was formed to look at spraying crops/ canning factories
- Port Plaza Mall to allow club to promote honey and a suggestion was made to sell honey at the farmers market
- 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
- Interestingly enough, Dadant & Sons asked for volunteers to work the honey booth at the state fair on Saturday am and nobody volunteered
- Raymond Duffy suggested that all county associations write up the history of their association – No such documentation found on BCBA

# Honey Themed Dinner

Join fellow BCBA members for a fun filled, informative evening at LedgeStone Vineyard, Greenleaf, WI while Chef Ace Champion entertains us with his unique cooking style. A three course dinner will be served.



When: June 29, 2021

Time: 5:00 to 6:00 Happy Hour cash bar

6:00 to 8:00 Cooking demo and dinner

Cost: BCBA Member \$25 (only one member per family)

BCBA Guest \$45

- Limit - 50 persons.
- Event held outdoors and will follow health department COVID recommendations.
- Chef Ace will provide recipes for each dish.
- Door Prizes

Learn more about LedgeStone Vineyard: <https://www.ledgestonevineyards.xyz/>

Learn more about Chef Ace: <https://www.chefchampion.com/>

## Registration Form

BCBA Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25

BCBA Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 45

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ (to verify registration)

Send check made out to BCBA to:

BCBA C/O Carl Fisher

2811 Otto Court

Green Bay, WI 54313