



Est: 1918

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

August 2021

Website
BCBA

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

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**Northeast WI
Beekeepers**

Join Today

**Northeast WI
Beekeepers**

(beekeepers
helping
beekeepers site)

**Coffee and
Bees!**

August 3rd

**8:00 AM Starbucks
Coffee, Lineville
Road Howard**

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 are quickly approaching the time to assess our hive's honey stores to determine if there will be honey available to harvest. The actions we have taken throughout the year are the first steps in preparing your bees for winter. The next steps we take can greatly improve our overwintering success. To that point, at the August meeting Charlotte Hubbard will present Overwintering Hives. She has had very good overwintering survival rates on her 40 hives and is excited to share her message with the club. Hope you will be able to join.

The club had a busy July with several events. Thank you volunteers for all of your contributions. Your engagement led to the event's success and the wonderful feedback received from participants. We also had the Honey Themed Dinner and Summer Picnic which had very good club member attendance.

Dave Elsen

President Brown County Beekeepers

Interesting Honey Bee Fact(s):

1. Honey bees don't sleep. Instead, they spend their nights motionless, conserving energy for the next day's activities.
2. The honey bee is the official insect of Maine.
3. Honey was found in King Tut's tomb, and, because it never spoils, it was still good!

Other Notes

Coffee and Bees will be on Tuesday, August 3rd from 8-9 am at the Starbucks on Lineville. We talk about bees and any questions the group has. Feel free to bring your bee questions, videos and pictures. Good conversation with your fellow beekeepers.

The **club has honey extracting equipment available to rent**. Fall rentals pick up, so this year we have started a calendar so you can reserve your 2-3 day rental. If you would like to reserve / rent the equipment please send an email or message to Dave Elsen. Equipment rental is \$10 for the 4 frame extractor. We also have an uncapping tub, uncapping plane, double strainer and 5 gallon bucket to rent. The additional equipment is \$5. The club also has a 2 frame extractor which rents for \$5.

The **Refractometer** will be available at the August meeting if you wish to test your honey's moisture content. Ideal moisture is 18.2% or less. If it is higher the honey will eventually ferment. If the honey you extract is capped, you can be confident that it has the proper moisture content.

Partnership with the Green Bay Botanical Gardens on Youth Pollinator Day and Adult Honey Bee Education. We received wonderful feedback from the participants and the children's parents.

We are working on the **club education calendar** and speaking topics for 2022. If there are any topics you would like to see, please reach out.

The club is considering having a **Holiday Celebration** this year. We will open up this topic for discussion and see if there is interest. If there is, we will look for a few volunteers for the planning group to come up with a budget, location and format.

Northeast WI Beekeepers Facebook Group. We now have 253 members. If you have questions this is a great way to receive quick answers specific to the region from your fellow beekeepers.

Upcoming Meetings

Coffee and Bees

Tuesday, August 3rd, 8:00 AM - Starbucks, Lineville Road, Howard

BCBA August Meeting

Wednesday, August 18th

6:30 – 8:00 at Green Bay Botanical Gardens

Education – Winter Management

Charlotte Hubbard, President – Kalamazoo Bee Club

Join Zoom Meeting

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88551039296?pwd=SIRqTE9HQW9UdGtmTU9NN3ZrL3JTZz09>

Meeting ID: 885 5103 9296 Passcode: 425551

Meeting before the meeting (MBM)

5:30 – 6:30 - Honey Extraction

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	MBM Reg	Matt Hoepfinger , Bee Informed Partnership
Jun 16 '21	Hive Inspections (At Hive) Hive Management	MBM Reg	(Julie Mazzoleni)
Aug 18 '21	Honey Extraction Winter Management	MBM Reg	5:30 pm 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	

July Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss them!

Honey Themed Dinner at Ledgeview Winery!

Great food, drink and
fun!



BCBA Summer Picnic!

A great evening, great
food and great people!



Adult Pollinator Program at the Botanical Gardens!

Included taste testing, fun
and really enjoyed seeing
the queen!



AUGUST - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average low temperature - 59

Average high - 81

Average Precipitation – 3.5 inches

Average Snow – 0 inches

In the hive

- There is a second, smaller swarm season in August and September. The bee population begins to diminish faster than it is growing; the brood area may contract. Many of the bees born from the end of August onward are called “winter bees” and live longer than their summer sisters. Left untreated, the Varroa mite population usually peaks in August or September. Remember that Varroa is tough to manage because the mites thrive in healthy, populous colonies, unlike many of the other maladies that affect honey bees. The summer heat requires the bees to ventilate and perhaps beard outside the hive on the hottest evenings.

Inspection

- Inspections should be especially thorough, particularly for pests and diseases. Your colonies should be able to take on the fall honey flow and then overwinter successfully.
- Check that the hive is not honey bound. Move the honey combs out of the brood nest and into a super if needed. The queen should have all the room she needs to lay, to have a strong young cohort of winter bees.

Nutrition

- August is the month when colonies begin preparation for winter. A full-sized colony should have at least 70-90 pounds of honey to eat by the beginning of October, or more than one full super (the hive would weigh about 135 pounds total). Nucs of course need less. Estimate the weight by slightly tipping and hefting the hive. If you extract honey, leave enough for the bees or feed them sugar syrup to make up for the difference.
- If you feed the bees sugar syrup, it should be a 2:1 ratio, thicker than the spring feed; the bees can evaporate the excess moisture from the hive faster from this thicker syrup.
- The bees will need at least two double-sided frames of pollen/bee bread by late winter/early spring. Supply bees with pollen or pollen substitute if they are short on protein. In autumn, bees use the decrease in pollen flow as a cue to begin rearing winter bees.
- If the weather is dry and there is no water source near the hive, consider providing one.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Monitor for Varroa mites and treat if necessary. The threshold for treatment changes at this time of year to 3 mites per 100 bees, as the number of mites rises.
- Note that a fall population spike may be due to mites coming in from bees from other colonies, in addition to natural population growth within the colony of interest. Therefore, even if you have diligently managed mites through the summer, continue to monitor consistently.
- Carefully check every brood frame in each colony for an American foulbrood infection.

Population management

- Swarm control: see the guidelines for [May](#). It is probably too late to split colonies to ensure they are strong enough to overwinter.
- Combine weak and strong colonies or equalize them if you want to ensure strong populations going into winter, but only after you have checked for diseases in the weak colony.
- If you are considering re-queening, this is a good month to do it. An overwintered young queen should start laying in earnest in the spring.

Equipment

- Prepare for the fall flow with at least one super and be prepared to add more if necessary.
- Upper entrances will help the bees ventilate the hot hives and evaporate the excess moisture from their honey.
- Removing bees from honey supers may require a fume board, bee brush, bee escape, or other tools; they each have advantages and disadvantages for different beekeepers and in different environmental conditions.

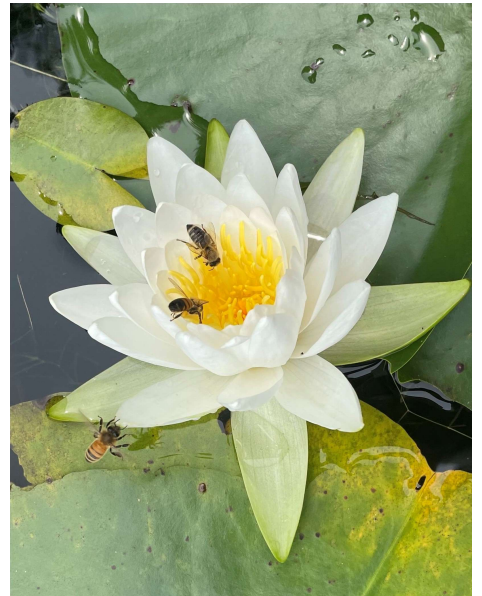
Hive products and services

- You may be able to trap pollen.

Yard maintenance

- Mow the yard as necessary.

What does a beekeeping fisherman see when he/she comes across water filled with water lilies?? Not just the potential for bass, panfish and northern Pike..... but a lot of pollination by honey bees!



A couple of great sights for Beekeepers in August!



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

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.

Club & Bee Keeping History

Club History (Captured by Sarah Mueller, club member)

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 (September newsletter)!