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Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

October 2021

Website
BCBA

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Facebook (2)
**Northeast WI
Beekeepers**
Join Today
(beekeepers
helping
beekeepers site)

Coffee and Bees!

October 12th 8:00 am

**Luna Coffee
Bellevue
Off of GV on Monroe**

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 changed up the education for October. Augie Linskens is going to come to our meeting to review his electronic hive monitoring learnings and results. His family manages over 1000 hives and we are fortunate to have him share some of his learnings with us. I am always interested in understanding new technologies can be integrated into our beekeeping practices. We will add Queen Rearing to the 2022 Education Calendar.

All honey should be harvested and we should be making preparations to prepare our hives for winter. Link to our August Winter Preparation Education was sent out if you need a refresher. This fall Carl and I are trying a few new concepts in our beekeeping. We incorporated Oxalylic Acid dribble into our mite management plan and we are planning to try the Mountain Camp method for winter feeding and moisture control. The learning in Beekeeping never ends.

Dave Elsen

President Brown County Beekeepers

Interesting Honey Bee Fact(s):

- Honey bees are not born knowing how to make honey. Instead, they are taught in the hive by older bees.
- There are estimated to be nearly 212,000 beekeepers in the United States.
- Honey is 25% sweeter than table sugar.
- Honey is the only foodstuff that contains all of the necessary nutrients to sustain life.

Other Notes

Club Elections at our October meeting:

- **Nominating Committee:** Dick and Carol Sturm will run October elections.
- If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Dick at 920-722-5141 or dick.sturm.menasha@gmail.com

Randy Oliver: Varroa Management

It was exciting to have Randy Oliver join the club virtually to present Varroa Management for our September education. There are some nuggets in his presentation for beekeepers of all experience levels. If you were not able to attend in person here is the link to the presentation that you can watch virtually. Take a look at the Scientific Beekeeping site to check out the mite check using Dawn detergent (links below), thoughts on proactive management of outlyer (Mite Disseminator) colonies and his new Mite Treatment App (Coming Soon)

Presentation

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/iZc9USK7w1JdbCuSAIT1vIMUF8DG_pNjExwSmuHgJ3zespX84Wt9uWMMvsVTDJmE.PNffPzbtAGOa1zuH Passcode: gm*9X8by

[Refining the Mite Wash: Part 4 - Comparing the Release Agents - Scientific Beekeeping](#)
[An Improved, But Not Yet Perfect, Varroa Mite Washer - Scientific Beekeeping](#)

Oxalic Acid (OA) Dribble Method

At recent meetings we've talked about using the Oxalic Acid (OA) dribble method to treat mites. The method requires administering 5ml of OA to each of the seams between the frames where bees are clustered. The question many have asked is how does one measure out and administer 5 ml. The answer is a simple tool, available at Fleet Farm, that costs around \$26. This syringe, found in the large animal section, allows one to load up 50ml of OA and has a setting such that each pull of the trigger administers the amount of solution on the setting (in our case 5 ml). Several club members have used the device and it works well.



Finally – are your mites under control? Counts can unexpectedly soar this time of year And when monitoring, or working your hives in any capacity, you might experience a new “attitude”. Bees are very focused right now in filling up the cupboards for winter and raising the bees that need to make it through the winter. So, they may be less tolerant of your interventions. (Double-check your protective wear.)

Upcoming Meetings

Coffee and Bees

(Second Tuesday of every month)

October 12th, 8:00 AM, Luna Coffee, off of GV on Monroe (Bellevue)

BCBA October Meeting

Wednesday, October 20th

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

Education

Electronic Hive Monitoring by Augie Linskens

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86810177591?pwd=cTFZS1NwUVA1MHVpQmlBTDYyOGhPd09>

Meeting ID: 868 1017 7591

Passcode: 782312

Membership:

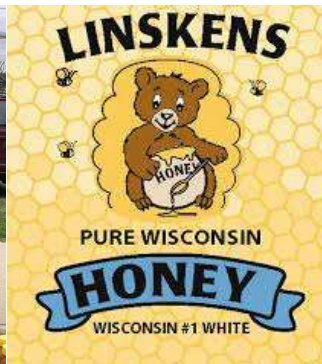
Not too early to renew your membership. We again will be running an early renewal raffle for members who renew before January 1. Renew at a meeting or online at

<https://browncountybeekeepers.com/about/join/>

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	Electronic Hive Monitoring	Reg	Augie Linskens
Nov 17 '21	Products of the Hive	Reg	

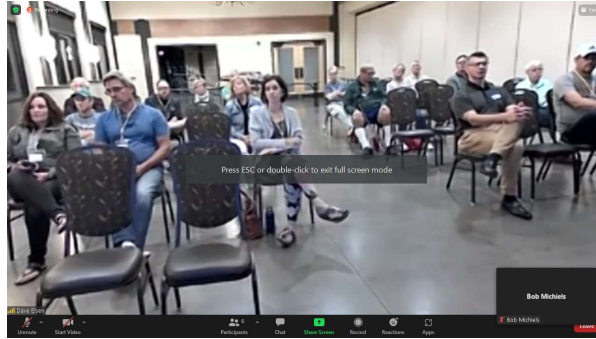
Augie Linskens and Linskens Honey



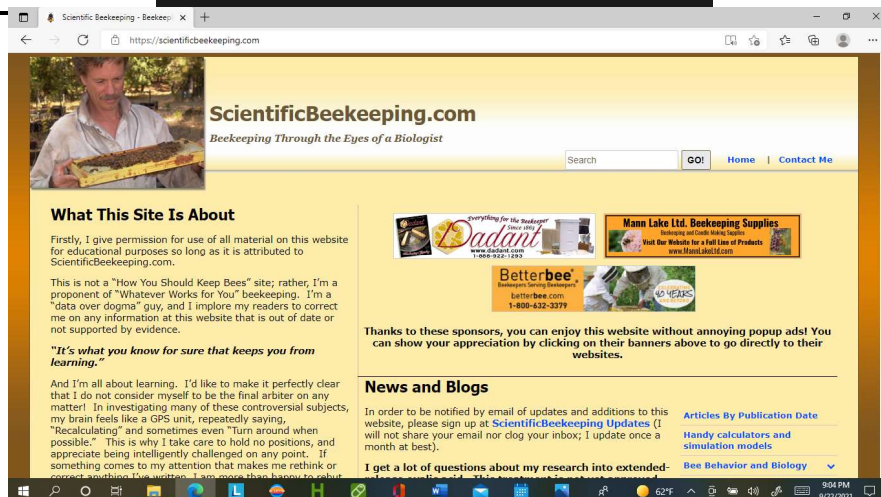
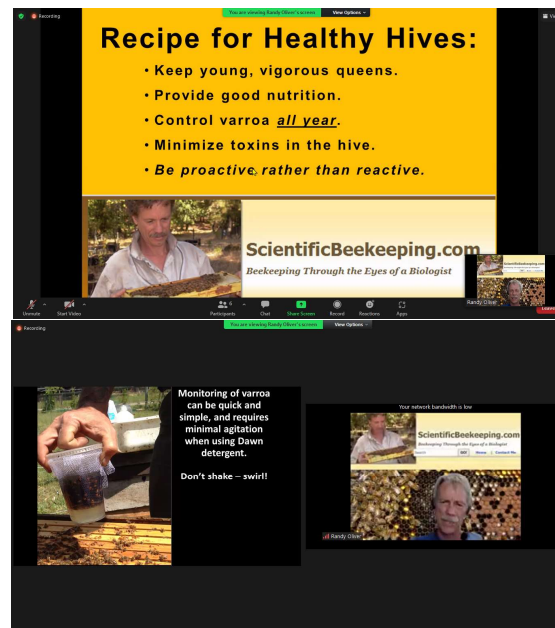
September Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss them!

September Meeting



Randy Oliver Varroa Management



OCTOBER - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average low temperature - 45

Average high - 54

Average Precipitation – 3.1 inches

Average Snow – 0 inches

In the hive

- There is little to no egg laying in October. Drone populations dwindle and any drones that remain in the hive are kicked out by their sisters. Bees tend to form their winter cluster at around 50°F, usually starting in the middle of the month. On warm days, the bees venture out looking for food and may rob unprotected hives.

Inspection

- The weather may be too cold for extended inspections. It will also be difficult to correct any problems this late in the season.

Nutrition

- 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 deep. 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. It is better to feed protein earlier in the season, although you can do so in late winter/early spring if necessary.
- Do not feed pollen or pollen substitute for the remainder of autumn, as bees use the reduction in pollen flow as a cue to continue rearing winter bees.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

- At this point in the year, if you find three 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.
- Treatments that are most effective when there is no brood present are good options now.
- Always remove chemical Varroa mite treatments according to label directions, but make sure none remain in the hives before you winterize them.
- Carefully check every brood frame in each colony for American foulbrood infection.

Equipment

- Winter preparation should continue: remove extra supers and queen excluders, secure the hive cover with a rock or straps, add a mouse guard (after confirming that a mouse has not yet moved in), and add an entrance reducer (if it is not already in place). Consider raising the hive up off the ground, if it is not already. Remove any supers that have not been filled.
- You may insulate the hive, but be sure foremost to avoid moisture build-up in the hives. Cold is less of a problem for bees than condensation. Since much of the heat escapes out of the top of the hive, some beekeepers add a super with an insulating, absorbent material (e.g., dry leaves, wood chips). Others wrap the hives in black tar paper or similar materials.
- Leave an upper entrance open for the exhaust of moisture.
- Tilt the hives forward a few degrees so that any moisture that does accumulate can drain out the bottom entrance.

Yard maintenance

- Consider moving your hives to sunny winter yards. They can be crowded in these yards, since they will not be foraging.
- Be sure that these yards and the spring/summer yards will be accessible in mud season (early spring).
- Consider setting up a wind break near the hives.

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/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 & Bee Keeping History

The History of Beekeeping in America

- The earliest known records of bee colonies being imported to the North American colonies are from 1622 to 1638, to certain Colonies on the East Coast. What is also sure is that by the early 1800s, there were bee hives from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Settlers carried hives with them, and from those hives swarms created new colonies.
- Reverend L.L. Langstroth, known as the “Father of American Beekeeping,” was also a pioneer in scientific beekeeping methods. He first invented the beehive that is most familiar to us today, with movable and removable frames. In this way, honey and wax could be gathered without extensively disrupting the colony.
- Soon after this, other beekeeping farms in America and other continents adopted Langstroth’s style of bee hives. This pioneering move changed the picture of beekeeping forever, and standardized it across the world. Extraction of honey, queen bee rearing, and separation of worker bees all grew quickly after this discovery.
- Eventually, commercial beekeeping extended far past honey and beeswax. Now, professional beekeepers around the world take colonies and swarms from place to place to pollinate fruit-bearing and flowering plants.

How Is Beekeeping Today?

- 2019, saw a nearly 40% drop in honey bee colonies in the United States. Similar drops in numbers were seen across the world. As colonies are taken from area to area to aid in pollination of fruit crops, the loss would have a negative effect on the crops that depend on this beekeeper-directed movement. The honey bee colonies have been steadily declining in number, with higher death rates each winter, for the past 15 years. With COVID-19 keeping beekeepers home in nearly every country, hives are unable to pollinate at their normal rate. Both colonies and crops are sure to feel the impact in 2020 - 2021.