



Est: 1918

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

**November
2021**

Website
BCBA

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Facebook (2)

**Northeast WI
Beekeepers**

Join Today
(beekeepers
helping
beekeepers site)

Coffee and Bees!

**November 9th
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 are quickly approaching our last club meeting of the year. This has been quite a year navigating around COVID. I am thankful for our Leadership Team and the membership for embracing new concepts and the time commitment and effort each of you put forward to deliver a successful year of education and events. It was also great to have beekeeping as a welcomed endeavor this year.
- Hopefully your bees are well prepared for winter and you are all planning out your approach to moisture control (ie. insulated top covers or quilt boxes) as well as mouse guards. One other reminder is to also make sure to remove your queen excluders.
- Hope to see you at the November meeting. Members will be demonstrating what they have produced with various products of the hive.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving

Dave Elsen

President, Brown County Beekeepers Association

Interesting Honey Bee Fact(s):

- Bee venom is used as a treatment for several ailments, including arthritis and high blood pressure.
- The ancient Greeks and Romans viewed honey as a symbol of love, beauty, and fertility.
- There are people in Africa that keep elephants out of their fields by keeping honey bee hives around the fields in what is called a "bee fence."

Other Notes

Help needed:

Hello, my name is Emily Skala and I'm a member of the Pulaski FFA and a current member of the Brown County Beekeepers Association. I have been trying to get the FFA to have some hives, and this year we did! We currently have 2 hives but are in dire need of equipment. Anything would be appreciated, from frames to especially deep boxes. Even if you can't donate, please pass on the word to someone you know. Contact Emily if you can help out - 23emskala@pulaskischools.org

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/>

Annual Club Elections:

Annual club elections were held for 2022 during our October meeting. Dick Sturm was our Elections Officer and the results were as follows.

President:	Dave Elsen
Vice President:	Julie Mazzoleni
Treasurer:	Tom Cashman
Secretary:	Bob Michiels

Electronic Hive Monitoring (October meeting):

Augie Linskens gave a superb presentation on Electronic Hive monitoring. Linskens Honey has multiple electronic scales that capture weights, times, temperatures that enable better understanding when nectar flows occur, impact of weather, time of day, etc.

Honey Recipe provided by Carol Sturm!!

Chewy Honey Oatmeal Cookies

½ C Butter
 ½ C granulated sugar
 ½ C honey
 1 large egg
 1 tsp vanilla
 1 ½ C quick cooking oatmeal
 1 C flour (white or wheat)
 ¼ tsp salt
 1 tsp cinnamon
 ½ tsp baking soda
 1 cup raisins or chocolate chips or butterscotch chips (I used raisins and chocolate chips)

Beat butter and sugar together until creamy. Blend in honey, egg and vanilla, mixing till smooth.

In a separate bowl, mix together oats, flour, salt, cinnamon and baking soda. Blend into the honey mixture. Add in raisins and/or chips.

Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls on a baking sheet. Bake 350 degrees for 12-14 minutes. Remove from the oven and let sit 2-3 minutes on the cookie sheet before removing. Makes 24-30.

Upcoming Meetings

Coffee and Bees

(Second Tuesday of every month)

November 9th, 8:00 AM, Luna Coffee, off of GV on Monroe (Bellevue)

BCBA October Meeting

Wednesday, November 17th

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

Education

Products of the hive!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165879677?pwd=SHA4VE9MT2sxd0FrMIV0dFZjMWx3dz09>

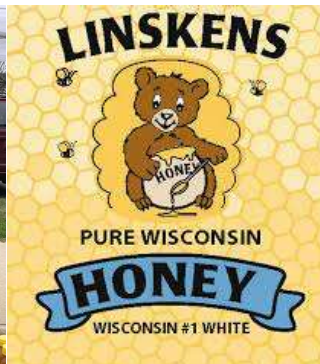
Meeting ID: 871 6587 9677

Passcode: 343649

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



October Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss them!

October Meeting

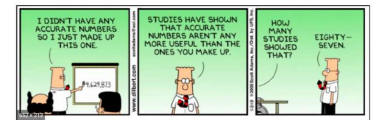


Augie Linskens Electronic Hive Monitoring



What's the point?

- Improved decision making.
 - Rate of feed consumption
 - Brood rearing?
- Nectar flow timing and intensity
 - Adding/removing supers
 - Latest/earliest mite treatment
- Identification of primary nectar flows
- Status of feed stores
 - Starvation?
 - Honey bound?



Talking: Dave Elsen



NOVEMBER - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average low temperature - 34

Average high - 42

Average Precipitation – 1.7 inches

Average Snow – 1.5 inches

In the hive

- The bees are in their winter cluster and there is little to no egg laying in November.

Equipment

- 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.
- Be sure that any equipment you are storing during the winter that may harbor wax moths has been frozen and/or is stored carefully.

Yard maintenance

- Consider setting up a wind break near the hives.
- If it snows, make sure the entrances are clear of snow to ensure proper air flow.

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

History

- The Brown County Beekeepers Association (BCBA) has a long, rich history of supporting beekeepers and honey production in Brown County, WI and Northeast Wisconsin. The roots of BCBA can be traced to December 1918 when, during the midst of the Spanish Flu pandemic, 300 beekeepers in Brown County, WI decided to band together. They proposed to *“work together in the ordering of equipment and supplies and to enable all, through cooperation to get more definite help from the state apiary inspection service.”* (taken from a Green Bay Press Gazette article dated November 22, 1918)

The Early Years (1918 – 1935)

- Foul brood was noted to be a serious problem. One of the BCBA goals was to get local honey on many more tables in the community.
- At the first meeting they proposed a 3-day bee school to be presented by Professors from the University of Wisconsin. On the same page in the Green Bay Press Gazette announcing the formation of the club was another headline about the City of Appleton, WI (25 miles south of Green Bay, WI) which read “Appleton Threatens To Close Up Entire City” if residents fail to *“adhere closely to their instructions to refrain from large public meetings”*. This was due to *“many new cases of the “flu” being reported daily.”*
- The original officers of the club include: Miss Jennie Matzke of DePere, WI who was named the first President of the Association, ironically, of bee men! George Miller of Green Bay VP, Frank Mongin of Allouez Secretary/Treasurer. In February 1919 a Professor McMurray of the University of Wisconsin stated that Brown County was one of the best natural localities for honey production in the country and the BCBA responded with a plan to boom Brown County Honey Products.
- About 125 members met for an annual banquet to plan the use of uniform labeling and packing the crop. The first bee school was held October 13, 1920 at the courthouse with Professor McMurray as the presenter. As it turns out, it looks like the 3-day class ended up to be a 1-day class with topics: young queens, fall brood rearing, winter stores, winter conditions, quietness, even temperature, warm cellars, and outdoor packing. In August of 1921 Mr. Frank Mongin of Allouez discussed how his hobby which started with 2 hives and after a couple of years grew into one of the “largest farms” in the county with 126 hives in Allouez, Greenleaf, Brussels and Kewaunee. He notes that to properly operate an apiary *“it is necessary to do a great deal of studying and inform yourself on every point.”* In 1921 there were between 2500-3000 colonies in the county and it was estimated that the number would double within a year. The number of active members was 40 and they were energetically preaching the gospel of pure honey and promoting the interest of beekeepers.
- [*“Winn Advises Against Sale of Honey Now”*](#) screamed the headline in the Press Gazette on January 29th 1931. James Winn was the honey marketing representative of the State Department of Agriculture and Markets. His reasoning for the warning was the expectation that next year’s honey production would be far lower than normal *“due to predicted short crop of*

clover and alfalfa due to undeveloped stands when winter set in.” Also hurting honey sales was *“under consumption due to the hard times and to men being out of work.”* (remember is was the beginning of the depression)

- Jump to October 29, 1934 when the Press Gazette reported that plans for entertaining the Wisconsin State Beekeepers convention had been completed. The announcement was made by club president Thomas Cashman Sr.. As a side note, Thomas Cashman Sr. was a club member until his passing in 1974. As the article noted, *“The convention banquet Tuesday evening in the main dining room of the Beaumont (hotel) will feature several speakers and J. N. Kavanaugh, Brown county agent, will serve as toastmaster.”*