



Est: 1918

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

**January
2022**

Website
BCBA

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Facebook (2)

Northeast WI

Beekeepers

Join Today

(beekeepers

helping

beekeepers site)

Coffee and Bees!

**January 11th
8:00 am**

Virtual meeting only!

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:

I was chatting with one of our first-year beekeepers recently and was energized by the questions about splits and preparations for the 2022 season. Helping members achieve their goals along their beekeeping journey is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a member of the Brown County Beekeepers. To that end, the club is excited to share the 2022 plan at the January meeting.

This has been an interesting winter so far. The wind, critters, moisture control, resources and mites dominate most conversations. As beekeepers we are optimistic about what spring will bring. If we have prepared our bees for winter hopefully our dreams of successful splits in spring will come true.

(continued on next page).

Dave Elsen
President (Brown County Beekeepers Association)

Interesting Honey Bee Fact(s):

- Every species of bee performs their communication dances differently.
- The darker the honey, the greater amount of antioxidant properties it has.
- Bees can be trained to locate buried land mines.

Other Notes

President's message continued:

Here are some ideas of what beekeepers should be doing this time of year:

- Education: Time to search the Internet for some great online speakers, You Tube and Podcasts
- Repair & replace equipment
- Join us for the winter BCBA meetings

I am appreciative of our active club and our many members that have volunteered throughout the year. In the upcoming year if you have a special skill or interest in helping support the work of the club, please contact me. We've also had a number of folks contacting us to ask about getting a mentor. If you'd like to help a new beekeeper, again please let me know and we'll work to connect you.

Thanks so Much,

Dave

Upcoming Meetings

Coffee and Bees

(Second Tuesday of every month)

January 11th, 8:00 AM, **Virtual meeting only.**

Join Zoom meeting:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87866836337?pwd=a1haUjdFMHd0cmM5TStLanhkcDhLQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 6683 6337

Passcode: 418336

BCBA January Meeting

Wednesday, January 19th

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

Education

Success Factors in Successful Beekeeping

Kelly Kulhanek, Ph. D. Washington State University

First Year Beekeeping Experience

Member - Sean Melvin

Join Zoom Meeting

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83804523024?pwd=WFE5UEphazhETHpUbVlXSGZ1Nk1jQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 0452 3024

Passcode: 073408

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 '22	Success Factors in Successful Beekeeping First Year Beekeeping	Reg	Kelly Kulhanek, Ph. D. Washington State University Sean Melvin
Feb 18, 22	Queen Rearing	Reg	Augie Linskins
Mar 18, 22	Spring Management	Reg	Dave Elsen and Julie Mazzoleni
Apr 20, 22	Oxalic Acid Hive Health, What an Inspector looks for	MBM Reg	Dick Sturm, Julie Mazzoleni and Carl Fisher Wisconsin State Inspector
May 18, 22	Beginning Beekeeping	Reg	Chelsa Cook Ph. D., Marquette
Jun 14, 22	Topic TBD (Special Date)	Reg	Dr. Jamie Ellis, University of Florida
July 20, 22	Topic TBD		
Aug 17, 22	Honey Extraction Over-wintering Hives	MBM Reg	TBD
Sep 21, 22	Topic TBD		
Oct 19, 22	Topic TBD		
Nov 16, 22	Topic TBD		
December	No Meeting		

MBM (Meeting Before the Meeting), Reg (Regular meeting)

November Highlights!

(No December meeting)

Hope you didn't miss them!

Emily Skala
"First year Beekeeping"



Products of the Hive!

Candles, Candy,
wraps, lotions, scents,
wax and Mead!



JANUARY - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average low temperature - 12

Average high - 27

Average Precipitation – 1.46 inches

Average Snow – 13.3 inches

In the hive

- The bees are in their winter cluster, except for very warm and sunny days (roughly 50°F and above), when they might leave the hive for a cleansing flight. Queens may lay a few eggs in which case the cluster will need to keep the brood warm. Dead bees may pile up on the bottom board; on warm days, the bees may remove the bodies, and other bees may fly off to die. Dead bees scattered on the snow outside the hive are therefore a good sign.

Inspection

- When inspecting a colony in winter, it is not necessary to open it. Do a quick external inspection, visual and auditory, to check the cluster. Listen for the bees with your ear directly on the upper part of the hive; if you do not hear anything, consider get a stethoscope or renting the club infra-red camera. Tapping the outside of the hive will get the bees should respond but is not recommended.
- You can open the hive if it is relatively warm and windless outside, but do not pull frames or break open the cluster if it is below 50°F (not likely in Green Bay, WI). If you open the hive, check for moisture around the inner or outer covers. 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.

Nutrition

- Check if the colony is light on food stores (you can tell by gently hefting the hive). If so, use dry sugar, fondant, or a candy board on a warm day.

Equipment

- Order any replacement bees (packages, nucs, or queens) as soon as possible; producers generally run out fast.
- Check any stored equipment for pests such as wax moths.
- Take inventory. Fix, clean/sterilize, purchase, assemble, and paint equipment as needed.

Hive products and services

- Cut-outs tend to be easier this time of year, when populations are low.

Yard maintenance

- Ensure that the hive cover is properly secured and weighted down.
- Check for evidence of critters living in the nice, toasty hive.
- Remove ice blocking the hive entrance, to give the colonies better ventilation. Don't worry about snow around the entrance or hive body; it allows enough airflow and may help insulate the bees.

- A few dead bees or a small amount of fecal matter outside the hive is nothing to worry about, especially after a warm day; this is a sign that they are taking cleansing flights, and are still alive inside.

Education

- Don't forget to renew your club membership and to get the upcoming year's meetings on your calendar.
- Also check the schedule for bee school; many bee schools are held in the late winter.

Club & Bee Keeping History

and other interesting stories

Happy New Year! Bee Keeping History:

If you would like to remain sweet throughout the year eat honey on New Year's Day. This prescription was given at the eighteenth annual meeting of the Chicago Northwestern Beekeepers Association during a discussion to the best means of producing a demand for honey. It was pointed out that in Germany honey was found on every table and was used far more extensively than in America. On New Year's Day, it is said, every person in Germany eats honey in order that that his/her disposition might remain sweet during the whole year. -The Washington Post, December 24, 1914 Washington, District of Columbia.

Romans would celebrate January 1st by offering sacrifices to Janus in the hope of gaining good fortune for the New Year, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties. This day was seen as setting the stage for the next twelve months, and it was common for friends and neighbors to make a positive start to the year by exchanging well wishes and gifts of figs and honey with one another.

National Honey Bee Day will be celebrated this year (2022) on August 20th. The third Saturday of August!! ***Put it on your calendars!*** National Honey Bee Day is a holiday that many individuals may not be aware of that has a huge impact on the beekeeping community. This national awareness day, started in 2009, began as a grassroots movement to build active community awareness around the beekeeping industry through promotion and education. Over the years, National Honey Bee Day has grown to incorporate many different beekeeping organizations including associations, individual programs, and beekeeping clubs.

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.