

# March 2022

## BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER



Mission: We are dedicated to promoting sustainable, responsible and healthy beekeeping practices in Northeastern Wisconsin for both experienced and first time beekeepers. We strive to create a fun environment where learning opportunities exist for association members and the public.

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter is slowly starting to lose its grip. Last week bees' were flying and taking cleansing flights. This is an important time of year to monitor your bees resources. If the weather is in the 40-50 degree range it's a good time to pop the top and check to see where the bees are. You can look between the frames (a flashlight comes in handy) to see where the bees are. It's important to not disturb the cluster. If they are at the top of the top box you might want to consider some supplemental feeding. We have used all three of the methods below (next page). Mountain Camp is just placing sugar on paper over the top frames.

Winter patties can also go on the top frames. The 4 pound bag of sugar with a hole which goes over the top of the hole in the inside cover. Add about a 1/2 cup of water or so the day before and it will make the sugar hard so you can turn over the block. For this method some space is needed for the sugar so we put a medium on top of the inside cover and then put on the insulated top cover and top cover.

The year is off to a great start with many new and returning beekeepers. We have a good lineup of speakers that hopefully will provide us with some timely topics and education.

Hope to see you at the March Meeting!

Dave Elsen

Brown County Beekeepers Association President

*Monthly Club Meeting*  
*Wednesday, March 16, 2022*  
*6:30 pm*

*In Person: Green Bay*  
*Botanical Garden*

*Virtual: Here's the link*

*Meeting ID: 869 8936 5065*

*Passcode: 860925*

*Coffee and Bees*

*Tuesday, March 8, 2022*  
*8:00 am*

*Luna Coffee Roasters*  
*Bellevue*

*Off of GV on Monroe*

# President's Message, continued



## "Bee"ing Funny"

What do you call a Honey Bee from the United States????

See following page(s) for answer!



## Interesting Honey Bee Facts

- While a worker bee will die after it stings, a queen can survive stinging.
- Worker bees have barbed stingers, while a queen has a smooth stinger, which she mostly uses to kill other queens.
- In the Hittite Empire (modern-day Turkey and Syria), a swarm's value was equal to that of a sheep, and the penalty for bee thieving was a fine of 6 shekels of silver.



SITES MANAGED BY  
BCBA

Brown County Beekeepers  
updates on club happenings

Northeast WI Beekeepers  
beekeepers helping beekeepers

# 2022 Education Calendar

Date	Education	Type	Presenter
January 19, 22	Success Factors in Beekeeping	Reg	Kelly Kulhanek, Ph. D. Washington State University Sean Melvin
February 18, 22	Queen Rearing	Reg	Augie Linskens Linskens Honey Apiaries, LLC
March 18, 22	Spring Management	Reg	Dave Elsen Julie Mazzoleni
April, 20, 22	Oxalic Acid Hive Health, What an Inspector looks for	Reg	Dick Sturm, Julie Mazzoleni, Carl Fisher Wisconsin State Inspector
May 18, 22	Beginning Beekeeping	Reg	Chelsa Cook, Ph. D. Marquette University
June 14, 22 (Special Date)	TBD	Reg	Dr. Jamie Ellis University of Florida
July 20, 22	TBD		
August 17, 22	Honey Extraction Over Wintering Hives	MBM Reg	TBD
September 21, 22	TBD		
October 19, 22	TBD		
November 16, 22	TBD		
December (no meeting)			

# Last Month's Education

## February Education

**Augie Linskens**  
**Queen Rearing**



**Marsha Walls**

**First year Beekeeping**



**"Bee"ing Funny"**



**A USB!**







# March

## What's going on in the World of Bees

### Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average high - 37, low temperature - 28

Average Precipitation – 1.8 inches

Average Snow Days– 9



### In the hive

- This is the month of the colony's minimum adult population, after winter losses, but before significant spring build-up. The queen is laying at or near full strength and brood is being reared if pollen/protein is available. Bees may be able to bring some pollen into the hive on occasional foraging flights, but because of the growing population and limited external resources, nutritional needs increase and the risk of starvation is high.

### Inspection

- When inspecting a colony in the winter, it is not necessary to open it. See the January guidelines for evaluating its health. Consider renting the club infrared camera to see where the cluster is located in the hive.

### Nutrition

- Most colonies that starve, die in late winter or early spring. They need more food for brood rearing, but cannot yet forage. At this point, they should have at least 3-4 combs full of honey. Feed them if the colony is light or the stores obviously empty, or if the bees are visible through the inner cover at the very top of the hive. Use dry sugar, fondant, or a candy board, or replace empty combs with combs of capped honey. When replacing comb, do so on a warmer day and be quick about it. You will likely need to continue to feed until nectar and pollen are available and accessible outside.
- The location/proximity of the bees to their food stores is key. 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.
- You might consider feeding pollen substitute or supplement to support or further stimulate egg laying. If you do so, be sure to use clean pollen.
- If you plan to rear queens this year, lavishly feed the cell finisher colony chosen in the fall (carbohydrates and protein) for early spring buildup.

### Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Mites are breeding in the colony. There is no need to monitor and treat just yet, but be aware that the mite population is starting to rise.

### Equipment

- Your equipment should be fixed, cleaned, bought, assembled, or painted by now.

### Yard maintenance

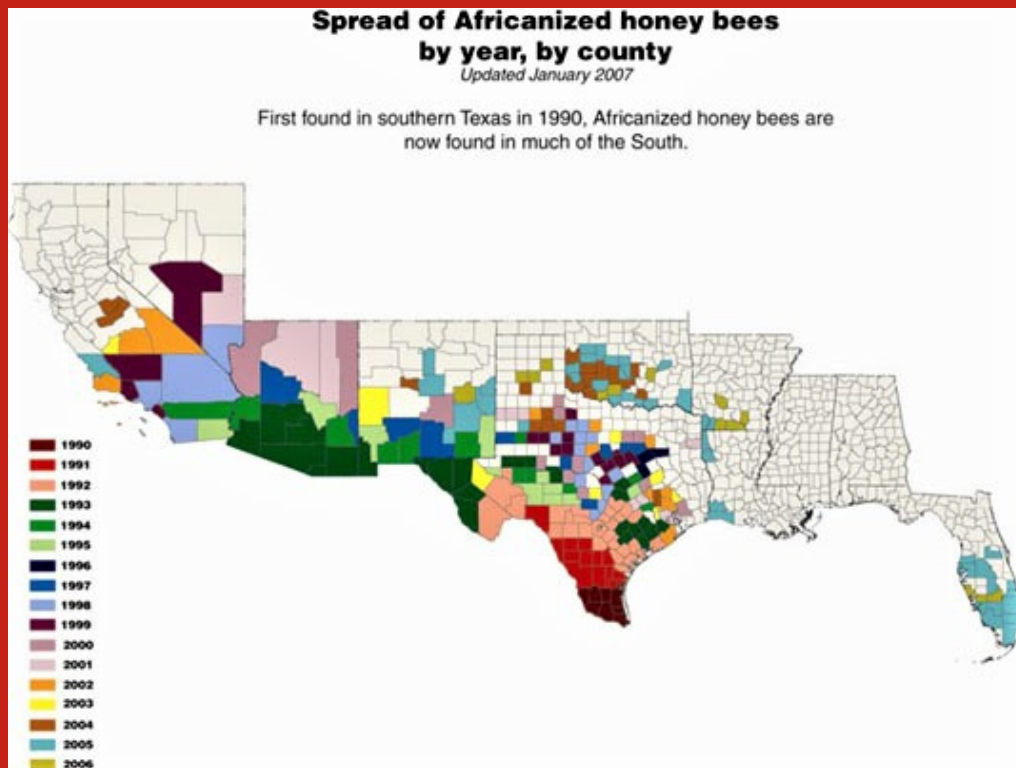
- **Ensure that the hive cover is properly secured.**
- **Remove ice blocking the hive entrance, to give the colonies better ventilation. Don't worry about snow around the entrance or hive body; it allows enough airflow and may help insulate the bees.**mall amount of fecal matter outside the hive is nothing to worry about, especially after a warm day; this is a sign that they are still alive inside.

# CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

## AND OTHER INTERESTING STORIES/TIDBITS

The Africanized honey bee has descended from tropical African bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) that were introduced to South America in 1956. These African bees mated with the European honey bee to create the hybridized or 'Africanized' honey bee. These bees have migrated since their introduction, reaching the lower United States in 1990.

USDA map of Africanized Honeybee distribution by US county



### Africanized Honey Bee Facts

- Are slightly smaller than the European honey bee, but only an expert can tell them apart
- Defend their hive more rapidly than the European honey bee
- Usually sting in greater numbers
- Are less selective about where they nest
- Swarm more often than European honey bees
- Do not have stronger venom than the European honey bee
- Each bee can only sting one time – females die after stinging
- Eat nectar and pollen and make honey
- Are not native to the U.S.; they came from Africa

# Brown County Beekeeping Association

## Member Benefits



### **Club Sponsor – Hansen Honey Farm, Rhinelander, 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.

### **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.

### **Club Sponsor Website Page**

### **Club Equipment Rental**

### **American Bee Journal Subscriptions**

(Contact Club Treasurer for Discount form)

### **Past Newsletters + Meeting Minutes**

### **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 Officers

**President: Dave Elsen**

president@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Vice President: Julie Mazolleni**

vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Secretary: Bob Michiels**

secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Treasurer: Tom Cashman**

Tcash99930@aol.com

**Social Media: Carl Fisher**

info@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Membership Chair: OPEN**

**Education Chair: OPEN**