

June 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Leadership Team is excited to see our membership grow. So much interest in beekeeping and supporting pollinators. We have a good mix of beekeepers with all levels of experience. It's exciting to see that attendance at the meetings is up. We strive to provide timely information in the Bee Calendar section of the Newsletter and at meetings. In June (**special meeting day of Tuesday June 14th**) we are excited to have Dr. Jamie Ellis speaking on Sustainability of Beekeeping. He is truly a dynamic speaker. We will also do a Hive Inspection starting at 5:15 at the Gardens as well. Check in the Newsletter for details.

Many of you have noted that the social and networking aspect of the club is what you enjoy most. To help with that let's start adding the location where we keep our bees on our Name Tags. Also, the Club Picnic is a great time to talk bees. In Sept-Nov we will use 5:30-6:30 before the meeting for Networking time. And at the September meeting, the Education portion will be set aside to answer your beekeeping questions.

Please keep up with the suggestions, speaking topics and speakers you would like to hear.

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Monthly Club Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

6:30 pm

In Person: Green Bay Botanical Gardens

MBM - 5:15 Hive Inspection

Virtual: Here's the link

Meeting ID: 823 9072 9099

Passcode: 173272

Coffee and Bees

No June meeting!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As far as the bees - it's swarming season. Monitor your hives and add those additional boxes when your current box is about 70% full. I've included a copy of a swarming document from Dr. Meghan Milbrath that has some great information on swarms.

<https://threeriversbeekeepers.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Milbrath-Swarms.pdf>

Thanks

Dave Elsen

Brown County Beekeepers Association, President

Other Notes:

Pollinator week is June 20-26, 2022. We are playing our part by being part on June 25th, at UWGB's "Pollinator Palooza" - Many thanks to the Volunteers which include: Marsha Walls, Tom Cashman, Wayne Steigelman, Keith Wendlandt and our youngest BCBA member, Josh Matuszak (and his dad Brian). If anyone else wants to volunteer they can contact Julie Mazzoleni.....

June MBM Hive Inspection: Julie Mazzoleni and Chris Groth will conduct a Hive Inspection training at our June meeting starting at 5:15. The hives are by the Greenhouse. to get there go past the Botanical Gardens entrance about 1/4 mile and it's the next driveway on the right. Please park across the road and walk down. The Bee Event sign will be out. Please bring your bee suits. We will have some available as well.

June Reg meeting: If anyone would like to bring treats for the June meeting to let us know by sending an email to Julie Mazzoleni vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

June Education: Dr. Jamie Ellis will be addressing the sustainability of Beekeeping.

- Beekeeping is harder than ever
- Colony loss rates are high in many areas around the world
- Old pests and pathogens continue to cause problems
- New pests and pathogens threaten colony health
- In this climate, university faculty are challenged to address the problems facing honey bees in an ever-changing colony health environment
- Dr. Ellis will discuss what he and his team are doing to address bee colony health, with an eye toward improving the sustainability of beekeeping in the U.S. and beyond

Dr. Ellis, Professor of Entomology in the Dept. of Entomology at the University of Florida. Dr. Ellis has responsibilities in instruction and research related to honey bees and created the UF Master Beekeeper Program. Dr. Ellis also hosts "Two Bees in a Podcast" where listeners can learn about honey bees, beekeepers, researchers, and specialists from around the world in educational, fun, yet practical episodes!



CLUB SUMMER PICNIC!

July 13 from 5:30-8:00

Dick and Carol Sturm are Organizing

Families welcome

At Ashwaubomay Park in Ashwaubenon WI, shelter 4

**Meat, buns, condiments, couple of sides,
water and soda provided by club.**

BYO anything else you'd like for refreshments!

**RSVP for both attendance count and if you are
going to bring a dish to pass by July 9!**

Dishes are needed for both sides and desserts!

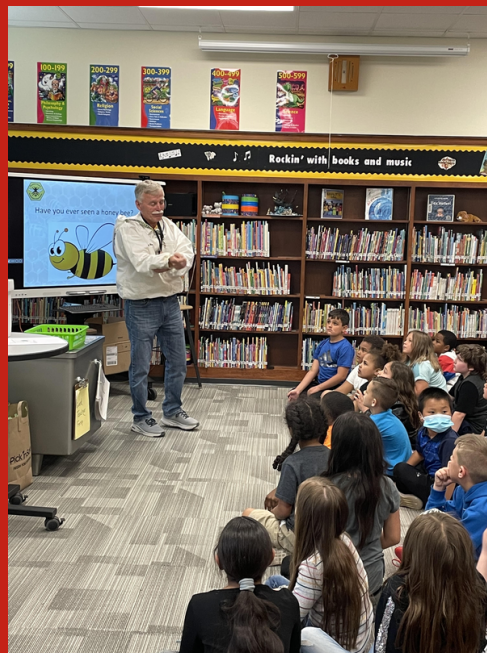
RSVP to Carol Sturm

**csturm91010@gmail.com
or text/call 920-475-7301**



Club provided Education

On May 19th, Club member Bob Michiels provided Honey Bee education to 50+ 2nd graders at Elmore Elementary School in Green Bay



Interesting Honey Bee Facts!

- During the American Revolution, George Washington said “It was the cackling geese that saved Rome, but it was the bees that saved America.”
- Honey bees have 170 odorant receptors, and have a sense of smell 50 times more powerful than a dog.
- Every bee colony has its own distinct scent so that members can identify each other.
- A hive is perennial, meaning that it becomes inactive in the winter but “awakens” again in the spring. When individuals die, they are quickly replaced – workers every 6-8 weeks, and the queen every 2-3 years. Because of this, a hive could technically be immortal!

"Bee"ing Funny"

What did the Honeybee say to the flower??

See following page(s) for answer!



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 Mite Treatment Hive Health, What an Inspector looks for MBM (5:45) - Bee nucs and package installation (in-person only) | Reg | Dick Sturm, Julie Mazzoleni, Carl Fisher Wisconsin State Inspector Wayne Steigelman |
| May 18, 22 | MBM - Powdered Sugar Roll Mite Check Demonstration | MBM | Duane and Becky Oudenhoven |
| | Beginning Beekeeping | Reg | Chelsea Cook, Ph. D. Marquette University |
| June 14, 22 (Special Date) | MBM - Hive Inspection | MBM | Julie Mazzoleni and Chris Groth |
| | Sustainable Beekeeping | 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

May Education

Chelsea Cook enlightens club members on Fanning Bees, Temperature Control Storage and Microbiomes and bees.



May MBM

Duane and Becky Oudenhoven demonstrate how to do a Mite check using the powdered sugar roll method!





June

What's going on in the World of Bees

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average high - 66, low temperature - 55

Average Precipitation – 3.9 inches

Average Snow Days– 0

In the hive

- June and July are the months of maximum population in the colony. Depending on your area and management style, the population will vary. Most estimates are in the range of
- 40-60,000 but some go up to seven digits. The colony, if big enough, continues to rear drones. Swarm season also continues in June. The Varroa mite population continues to build.

Inspection

- Colony inspections should take place at least once a month and include evaluating the brood pattern, confirming the presence of the queen and/or eggs, evaluating colony growth and available room, monitoring for pests and diseases, and other metrics.
- If you cannot inspect every one of your colonies, inspect the colonies that are not showing as much activity on the outside.
- If you install a package or nuc, allow two weeks for the colony to establish before you inspect it.

Nutrition

- Feed package bees or nucs upon their arrival.
- Provide supers if the brood chambers are full and the population/stores growing.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Monitor Varroa mite levels. At this point in the year, if you find two 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.
- Drone comb can be an effective cultural method at this time of year.
- This may be a good time to break the brood cycle (and therefore the Varroa reproduction cycle) by caging the queen or performing splits.

Population management

- Swarm control: see the guidelines for May.
- This is the best time (swarm season) to rear queens.

Equipment

- Foundation will be more likely to be drawn out during a honey flow.
- Consider adding a queen excluder to manage the honey supers more easily.
- Set up bait hives if you want to catch a swarm!

Hive products and services

- Depending on the strength/size of your colonies and your management goals, you may consider extracting the spring honey. Extract immediately after removing the supers to prevent a small hive beetle infestation.
- You may be able to trap pollen.

CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

AND OTHER INTERESTING STORIES/TIDBITS

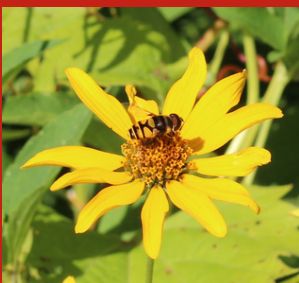
National Pollinators Month - June 2022

National Pollinators Month in June brings attention to the importance of the relationship between pollinators and plants. Pollinators are insects and animals that transfer pollen from one plant to another. This pollen transfer leads to plants being able to produce fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Pollination, thus, is a crucial method through which humans and wildlife get their food resources. Research studies estimate that about 75% of the food sources in the world are dependent on pollination. However, due to increased pollution and invasive non-native plantations, pollinators like bees and wasps are in danger of extinction.

The History of National Pollinators Month

National Pollinators Month started as National Pollinators Week (June 22–28), and the latter is celebrated until today. The week was first celebrated back in 2007 when the U.S. Senate passed sanctions regarding it. Later on, the celebrations were expanded to the whole month. The month encourages people to protect pollinators by providing them with the right environment in terms of the right pollination plants and avoiding the use of pesticides. By protecting pollinators, we will, in turn, ensure the steady production of food resources. Over the centuries, specific pollinators have developed a special relationship with the specific plants they pollinate. For example, special fig trees can only be pollinated by a specific wasp. Furthermore, certain insects and other types of pollinators only come out when the plants they pollinate are in season.

Therefore, the conservation of pollinators through research, education, and awareness has become of utmost importance. According to the National Wildlife Federation, every one in three bites of food you take comes from a pollinated source. Food shortage isn't the only danger due to a decline in pollinators. Thanks to the increased destruction of forests as well as urban developments, pollinators are not only losing their natural habitats but humans and wildlife are also in danger of a rise in natural disasters like flooding. The danger of extinction of one or a few pollinators will also likely signal the extinction of other pollinators and plants. The destruction of complex ecosystems has countless repercussions in the short and long term if nothing is done to preserve nature.



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

Includes Honey Extraction equipment and other items. See website for full list.

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

Social Media: Carl Fisher & Wayne Steigelman

info@browncountybeekeepers.com

Treasurer: Tom Cashman

Tcash99930@aol.com

Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm

Membership Chair: OPEN

Education Chair: OPEN