

August 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

Hard to believe the heart of the bee season is winding down. It's time to start thinking about fall management and preparing the bees for winter. We traditionally harvest our honey around mid-August and give the bees the rest of the year to fill their deep honey supers.

Come join us at the August meeting to hear Chris Groth discuss more on Honeybee Fall Management. Jim Arvey will also review Honey Extraction prior to the meeting starting at 5:30. Should be a fun meeting.

With fall approaching and both mite and bee populations booming we should test and if needed treat for mites, ideally with Formic Pro this time of year.

Use the <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/resources/varroa-management/>. Then follow the Varroa Decision Management Tool to provide more information on treatment options. Take the time now to give your bees the best chance to make it through winter.

Thanks
Dave Elsen
President, Brown County Beekeepers Association

Monthly Club Meeting.

Wednesday, August 17th 2022

6:30 pm

In Person: Green Bay Botanical Gardens

MBM - 5:15 Fall Hive Management

Virtual: Here's the link

Meeting ID: 828 6376 9304

Passcode: 481885

Coffee and Bees

Tuesday, August 9th, 2022

8:00 am

Luna Cafe and Roastery

2665 Monroe Rd, DePere

Club provided Education

Mated Queen vs. Virgin Queen

Generally, a virgin queen looks and moves differently. She's still relatively slender, as her ovaries are not yet fully developed. This allows her to move faster, and is often characterized as skitterish, zippy. She's quite capable of jumping, flying, and leaping off the frame where you're holding her trying to figure out if that's a queen or not. 😊

If you're regularly monitoring (and documenting) what you find in the colony, your notes might also be helpful. Egg to emergence of a queen is roughly 16 days. A queen cell is capped for approximately a week. A virgin queen spends a few days in the colony awaiting her wings to prepare for flight, and perhaps ideal weather. If, for example, you know when a hive's requeening started, a bit of math will tell you if the insect you're seeing is most likely a virgin queen or not

Interesting Honey Bee Facts!

- Bees have long, straw-like tongues called a proboscis which they use to suck liquid nectar out of flowers.
- During the winter, some worker bees take on the job of "heater bees," where they vibrate their bodies in order to keep the hive at the optimal temperature of 95°F.
- Bees make honey by regurgitating digested nectar into honeycomb cells and then fanning it with their wings.
- Honeycomb cells have many uses other than storing honey. They are also used to store nectar, pollen, and water, as well as a nursery for larvae!

"Bee"ing Funny"

Why did the Honeybees go on strike?

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 13, 22	Club Picnic		
August 17, 22	Honey Extraction Fall Management	MBM Reg	James Arvey Chris Groth
September 21, 22	Swarm Catching	Reg	Dave Elsen, Carl Fisher
October 19, 22	Beekeeping Q&A Panel	Reg	Wayne Steigelman
November 16, 22	Bee Related Products	Reg	
December (no meeting)			

2022 Club Picnic

Great weather, great attendance and great food!

Special thanks to Dick and Carol Sturm for organizing the picnic and James Arvey for grilling the Hamburgers, bratwurst and hot dogs!



For the highly popular Raspberry Cream Cheese Kringle use this link! (per Tom Marquardt) [Recipe](#)



"Bee"ing Funny"



Because they wanted
more honey and shorter
working flowers!



August

What's going on in the World of Bees

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average high - 77, low temperature - 60

Average Precipitation – 4.2 inches

Average Snow Days– 0

In the hive

- There is a second, smaller swarm season in August and September. The bee population begins to diminish faster than it is growing; the brood area may contract. Many of the bees born from the end of August onward are called “winter bees” and live longer
- than their summer sisters. Left untreated, the Varroa mite population usually peaks in August or September. Remember that Varroa is tough to manage because the mites thrive in healthy, populous colonies, unlike many of the other maladies that affect honey bees. The summer heat requires the bees to ventilate and perhaps beard outside the hive on the hottest evenings.

Inspection

- Inspections should be especially thorough, particularly for pests and diseases. Your colonies should be able to take on the fall honey flow and then overwinter successfully.
- Check that the hive is not honey bound. Move the honey combs out of the brood nest and into a super if needed. The queen should have all the room she needs to lay, to have a strong young cohort of winter bees.

Nutrition

- August is the month when colonies begin preparation for winter. 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 super (the hive would weigh about 135 pounds total). 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. Supply bees with pollen or pollen substitute if they are short on protein. In autumn, bees use the decrease in pollen flow as a cue to begin rearing winter bees.
- If the weather is dry and there is no water source near the hive, consider providing one.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Monitor for Varroa mites and treat if necessary. The threshold for treatment changes at this time of year to 3 mites per 100 bees, as the number of mites rises.
- Note that a fall population spike may be due to mites coming in from bees from other colonies, in addition to natural population growth within the colony of interest. Therefore, even if you have diligently managed mites through the summer, continue to monitor consistently. Carefully check every brood frame in each colony for an American foulbrood infection.



August

What's going on in the World of Bees

Population management

- Swarm control: see the guidelines for May. It is probably too late to split colonies to ensure they are strong enough to overwinter.
- Combine weak and strong colonies or equalize them if you want to ensure strong populations going into winter, but only after you have checked for diseases in the weak colony.
- If you are considering re-queening, this is a good month to do it. An overwintered young queen should start laying in earnest in the spring.

Equipment

- Prepare for the fall flow with at least one super and be prepared to add more if necessary.
- Upper entrances will help the bees ventilate the hot hives and evaporate the excess moisture from their honey.
- Removing bees from honey supers may require a fume board, bee brush, bee escape, or other tools; they each have advantages and disadvantages for different beekeepers and in different environmental conditions.

Hive products and services

- You may be able to trap pollen.

Yard maintenance

- Mow the yard as necessary.

CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

AND OTHER INTERESTING STORIES/TIDBITS

Symbolism of Bees

Due to their strong presence and unique characteristics, bees have become important symbols, seen to represent community, brightness, productivity, power, fertility, and sexuality.

Bee Tattoo Meanings

Tattoos are body art with deep meaning. Generally, bee tattoos can be chosen to represent one of these qualities: dedication, duty, structure, teamwork, loyalty, love, and family. Specifically, bee tattoos carry different meanings based on the precise design chosen.

- **Beehive Design** – A beehive is one of the most intricate constructions in nature, only made possible because of a hierarchy, including a queen, workers, and guards. As such the tattoo of a beehive is a representation of connectedness and family, as well as social order and stability.
- **Honeybee Design** – Honeybees are big contributors to the pollination process and are fiercely protective of their home and their queen. For this reason, honeybee tattoos are a representation of environmental preservation, courage, and loyalty. They also represent hard-work and perseverance.
- **Honeycomb Design** – Bees are talented constructors. They make their honeycombs with walls that have perfect hexagonal shapes. As such a honeycomb tattoo design is a representation of structure and cooperation, as well as creativity and ingenuity.
- **Honey Pot Design** – This design represents abundance, because honey is a food source for a lot of animals and humans alike.
- **Killer Bee Design** – A tattoo designed as a killer bee is a representation of ferocity and lethal power.

Also

- **Fertility and Sexuality** – Bees are seen as representations of fertility mainly because of the role they play in pollination and also because of how they reproduce in masses.
- **Dream Symbolism** – Seeing bees in your dream is an indication of happiness, good luck, abundance, and good things to come. However, being stung or chased by bees in a dream is an indication of unresolved issues or suspicions about a person.
- **As a Spirit Animal** – A spirit animal comes to present you with life lessons through its skills. Having a bee as your spirit animal is a reminder that you should exercise a proper work-life balance by being industrious and enjoying life.
- **As a Totem Animal** – A totem animal is invoked based on what animal you feel most connected to, as well as the specific animal's skills and powers. People with bees as their token animal are industrious, devoted, positive, and conversant with the pleasures of life.

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