

September 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

I'll start by saying we measure success when "you" celebrate your accomplishments with having healthy hives throughout all the year. We understand that's no small task, but we are here to support you on that journey with honeybee education.

Sure, we have club meetings and Introduction to Beekeeping Class, but there are other avenues available. If you haven't visited the BCBA Facebook page, Website or Northeast WI Facebook group page recently, you should. Our goal is to supplement your education with both timely and informative posts? We believe it's important to provide you with information and timely feedback outside the meetings from area beekeepers to help with your hive management needs.

It's been a fun year. I see our new members at meetings talking about their hives. It's great to see the progress you have made. When you share your learnings and can start to pass on your knowledge others, that is a true success.

Thanks
Dave Elsen
President, Brown County Beekeepers Association

Monthly Club Meeting.

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

6:30 pm

In Person: Green Bay Botanical Gardens

No MBM but treats are networking
are great!

Virtual: Here's the link

Meeting ID: 876 5894 4268

Passcode: 972381

Coffee and Bees

Tuesday, September 13th, 2022

8:00 am

Luna Cafe and Roastery
2665 Monroe Rd, DePere

A Couple of notes

Interesting Article: Using a Beehive Inspection Checklist - Backyard Beekeeping
<https://backyardbeekeeping.iamcountryside.com/health-pests/beehive-inspection-checklist/>

Volunteer(s) needed: "The Botanical Gardens is having their Fall Festival on Sept 24th. If anyone is interested in working for all or part of the day with Tom Cashman to educate attendees on Honeybees and it's a good chance to sell your honey (if you wish). Please contact us at President@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com if interested."

Annual Elections: We will be holding our annual elections at the October club meeting. If you are interested in any of the officer positions, please contact either the nomination committee or a current officer.

Interesting Honey Bee Facts!

- Bees create wax in a special gland on their stomach, which they then chew to form honeycomb.
- Bees communicate in 2 ways: the waggle dance, and through the use of pheromones.
- Due to the rise in popularity of urban beekeeping, it is estimated that honeybees outnumber the residents of London 30-1 in the summer months.
- Ever wonder why a beekeeper's suit is always white? It's because bees react strongly to dark colors!

"Bee"ing Funny"

What type of bee can't make up
it's mind?

See following page(s) for answer!



SITES MANAGED BY
BCBA

Brown County Beekeepers
updates on club happenings

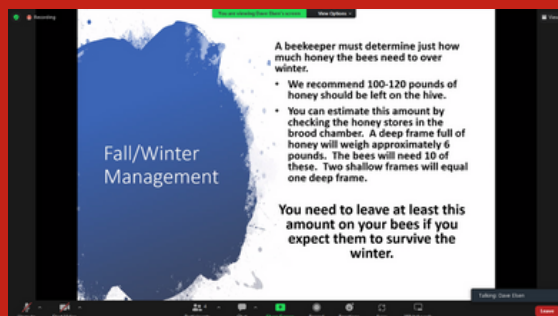
Northeast WI Beekeepers
beekeepers helping beekeepers

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, Wayne Steigelman
October 19, 22	Beekeeping Q&A Panel	Reg	Wayne Steigelman
November 16, 22	Bee Related Products	Reg	
December (no meeting)			

August Club Education

Christ Groth - August Education - Fall Hive Management



James Arvey educates club members on Honey Extraction





September

What's going on in the World of Bees

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average high - 70, low temperature - 53

Average Precipitation – 3.3 inches

Average Snow Days– 0

In the hive

- The queen's rate of egg laying slows and the brood area continues to contract. Little drone brood is laid. This is the end of a second, smaller swarm season. Nectar sources continue to diminish, although resin/propolis collection continues. Left untreated, the Varroa mite population usually peaks in August or September. The bees may be more defensive, protecting their hive and robbing other colonies.

Inspection

- This is the last month when a beekeeper can expect to perform thorough colony inspections. Roger Morse once wrote, "I often think of September as the month when one corrects errors made in August".
- The queen's egg laying slows dramatically by the end of the month, so the brood pattern may be difficult to accurately evaluate.
- You should have been keeping records the entire active season, but it is especially important now as your hive is readied for winter. Take note of the number of the bees/size of the cluster, the amount (weight) and position of honey stores they have, etc., so that if the colony fails, you can make a more accurate deadout diagnosis in the spring.
- Bees may rob hives left open during a long inspection. Be thorough but efficient.

Nutrition

- 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 deep. (Nucs of course need less.) Estimate the weight by slightly tipping and hefting the hive, or use a hive scale. If you extract honey, leave enough for the bees or feed them heavy 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. September is the last month it is recommended to feed pollen or pollen substitute for the remainder of autumn, as bees use the reduction 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.
- If you plan to raise rear queens next year, begin to prepare cell finishers this fall: feed it lavishly now (carbohydrates and protein).
- Continued next page



September

What's going on in the World of Bees

Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Monitor for Varroa mites. At this point in the year, if you find three or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash, you will want to treat. If you have extracted your honey harvest, this is a good time to use treatments that cannot be used when supers are present.
- Remove drone comb foundation for the remainder of the year.
- Monitor for Nosema. It is present all year round, but regular monitoring will help you understand your normal levels and when/if they peak, particularly if you are seeking to understand why a colony is struggling.

Population management

- Consider combining weak colonies with strong ones or culling them: if a colony can accurately be judged as doomed, it will probably be a waste of resources to try to overwinter it individually.
- If you are considering re-queening, this is a good month to do it. An overwintered young queen should start laying a good pattern in the spring.
- Do not interrupt the brood pattern in September as it may disrupt the production of winter bees.

Equipment

- 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

- If you remove fall honey, it should be extracted immediately afterward to prevent a small hive beetle infestation. Fall honeys usually granulate more quickly than spring honeys and may need to be warmed a bit to flow through filters or other equipment.

Yard maintenance

- Mow the yard as necessary.

CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

AND OTHER INTERESTING STORIES/TIDBITS

Odds and Ends

What is the 7/10 rule in beekeeping?

- Before adding a super, beekeepers often use a standard rule of thumb, which is known as the 7/10 rule. This rule says that the proper time to add a super to a beehive is when the bees have already covered 7 of the 10 frames in the existing box or boxes.

The 10 best famous beekeepers

- Sherlock Holmes.
- Agnes Baden-Powell.
- Sir Edmund Hillary.
- Sylvia Plath.
- Scarlett Johansson.
- Maria von Trapp.
- Suggs.
- Martha Kearney.

Guide to Celebrity Beekeepers

- Flea – Bassist, Red Hot Chili Peppers. ...
- Scarlet Johansson – actress. ...
- Morgan Freeman – actor. ...
- Michelle Obama – First Lady. ...
- Karen Pence – Second Lady. ...
- Steve Vai – guitarist. ...
- Leonardo DiCaprio – actor. ...
- Sir Edmund Hillary – mountaineer.

What values do you learn from honey bees?

The basic thing that we learn from social insects like honeybee is Teamwork and hardwork. The worker honeybee works from dusk to dawn and collect nectar for the hive and the queen. They are completely loyal to their queen.

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