

November 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

Well, it's November and as beekeepers we should all be starting to work on our final hive preparations for winter. At the October meeting we discussed education topics for 2023. We came up with some really good ideas. One topic I wanted to spend a few minutes on is how each of us can expand our beekeeping knowledge beyond the club's education. I'll just mention a few that I have used. The first is podcasts, I like Two Bees in a Podcast, Beekeeping Today Podcast, and Honey Bee Obscura Podcast. On Facebook I follow the clubs in Northeast WI Beekeepers (the Club's Group) and several other regional Facebook groups. I love the education the southwest Ohio beekeepers put on (swohiobeekeepers.com) As far as magazines I like American Bee Journal and Bee Culture magazines. Two books I recommend are The Beekeeper's Handbook by Sammatori and Beekeeping Basics by Penn State. YouTube is interesting, but make sure you're finding regional content. What energizes the Leadership Team is when our members seek out knowledge to improve their beekeeping. Keep the suggestions coming.

The November Meeting will be a short 15 minute meeting and then we will have tables set up around the room demonstrating and selling various "Bee Related Products". This event was a hit last year with some fun networking and socializing. We will have some door prizes and treats as well. Feel free to bring family and friends. Hope to see you there.

Thanks
Dave Elsen
President, Brown County Beekeepers Association

November Club Meeting.
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
6:30 pm
In Person: Green Bay Botanical Gardens
"Bee Related Products"

A Couple of notes

2023 Membership Dues Announcement:

It's that time of year again when we need to renew our membership. Dues are the same as last year, \$20 per individual membership and \$30 per family membership. Members may renew by cash, check or by paying by credit card on-line.

Link - [Membership renewal](#)

2023 Elections:

We held our annual elections at our October meeting and the results are as follows. Special thanks to Sarah Mueller for being our election committee! Congratulations to our new Leadership members, Chris Groth and Nathan Frailey!

President - Dave Elsen was re-elected (No Challengers).

Vice President - Chris Groth was elected, replacing Julie Mazzoleni who stepped down.

Treasurer - Tom Cashman was re-elected (No Challengers).

Secretary - Nathan Frailey was elected, replacing Bob Michiels who stepped down.

Interesting Honey Bee Facts!

- A single ounce of honey could fuel a honey bee's flight all the way around the world.
- Honey bees are the only type of bee that dies after stinging.
- Honey bees usually travel about 3 miles away from the hive in search of nectar and pollen.
- Honey is composed of 80% sugars and 20% water.

"Bee"ing Funny"

What do you call a Honeybee that has returned from the dead?

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)			

October Club Education

Beekeeping Q&A Panel



The Beekeeping Q&A Panel was hosted by Wayne Steigelman. The Panel was made up of Chris Groth, Dick Sturm and Sarah Mueller. Topics covered included "Types of Bees", mite management, building of comb, etc. This forum was very well received by our attendees. So much so that we ran out of time...



"Bee"ing Funny"



A Zom-bee!



November

What's going on in the World of Bees

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average high - 45, low temperature - 29

Average Precipitation – 2.01 inches

Average Snow – 2.36 inches

In the hive

The bees are in their winter cluster and there is little to no egg laying in November.

Equipment

- You may insulate the hive, but be sure foremost to avoid moisture build-up in the hives. Cold is less of a problem for bees than condensation. Since much of the heat escapes out of the top of the hive, some beekeepers add a super with an insulating, absorbent material (e.g., dry leaves, wood chips). Others wrap the hives in black tar paper or similar materials.
- Leave an upper entrance open for the exhaust of moisture. Tilt the hives forward a few degrees so that any moisture that does accumulate can drain out the bottom entrance.
- Be sure that any equipment you are storing during the winter that may harbor wax moths has been frozen and/or is stored carefully.

Yard maintenance

- Consider setting up a wind break near the hives.
- If it snows, make sure the entrances are clear of snow to ensure proper air flow.

Overwintering bees - podcast

In last month's October issue of ABJ Jamie Ellis was asked about upper entrances for overwintering bees. With his limited experience in cold weather beekeeping he referred readers to his Two Bees In A Podcast S1 E50 Insulating Honey Bee Colonies. In this episode, released on March 18th, 2021, Bill Hesbach, discusses over-wintering and insulating honey bee colonies. Take away point, if you don't insulate, ventilate but if you insulate, don't ventilate.

[Overwintering bees podcast link](#)

CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

AND OTHER INTERESTING STORIES/TIDBITS

Bee Beard has returned to Philadelphia



Shump poses with his "bee beard." His day was nearly ruined when he received a call from his wife: "She said, 'Don, the queen died.' And I was in a panic. I was like, 'I just put her in the package last night. How do you know? She's surrounded by bees.' 'No, no, no. The Queen of England.' I was like, 'Oh, well, thank goodness.'"

Imagine you're a knight in Game of Thrones — but your heavy helmet is made of honey bees. That's how Don Shump describes the experience of wearing the "Bee Beard," an event that's part of Philadelphia's annual Honey Festival. A crowd of intrigued children gathered around Shump on Thursday evening at Glen Foerd, a Fairmount Park property along the Delaware River. Shump, a longtime Philadelphia beekeeper, tied the bees' queen around his head and then waited for the roughly 15,000 bees to swarm his face, as he answered questions from his captivated audience.

"Will the bees come to sting us?" someone inquired.

"We hope not ... we haven't had that happen yet," Shump answered. "However, when dealing with beekeepers, if a beekeeper starts running, I encourage you to run faster."

Shump said the bees don't hurt his face.

"They're all grabbing on, their tarsal claws are into my skin ... it's like really tiny acupuncture."

Children later fed the bees off Shump's face with sugar water. Some held multiple bees in their hands, fearlessly. Shump's goal is to educate kids about bees so they become more than just afraid.

"Hopefully ... they'll become beekeepers when they get older."

Honey bees are more than just entertainment — they are vital parts of our ecosystem, pollinating \$15 billion worth of crops each year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture,

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