

December 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

Member engagement is a true indicator of a group's success. We have over 150 club members engaged in learning, teaching and volunteering in many capacities. The club doesn't exist without each of your contributions. Special recognition goes to Kaelyn Sumner - WI Honey Queen, Emily Skala - Youth Award and Julie Mazzoleni - Education Award who were recognized by the Wisconsin Honey Producers. Nicely done. I'd like to think some of their contributions with BCBA were contributing factors.

Next year is starting to take shape. We have Chris Groth as our new VP and Nathan Frailey as our new Secretary. Congrats! Special thanks to Julie Mazzoleni and Bob Michiels for their leadership. We look forward to their continued involvement on the Leadership Team in other capacities. If you have an interest in getting involved, please speak to any of us on the Leadership Team and we will put your talents to good use.

Hope to see you at the January meeting. Thanks and may each of you have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Thanks
Dave Elsen
President, Brown County Beekeepers Association

December Club Meeting.

No December meeting!

Merry Christmas!

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](#)

2022 was a great year!! This link will take you to the [2022 year in review!](#) **Enjoy!**

Kaelyn Sumner, our Wisconsin Honey Queen is scheduled to make a visit to our club meeting on March 15th!

Introduction to Beekeeping Class! This class starts January 14th near the Botanical Gardens in Green Bay. So, if you know someone who is interested in Beekeeping or someone who needs a refresher, this is a great class.

Use this link to go to the class registration. [Intro to Beekeeping](#)

Interesting Honey Bee Facts!

- During the winter, worker bees will take short “cleansing flights” in order to defecate and remove debris from the hive.
- Some worker bees have the job of being an “undertaker bee” and are in charge of removing dead bees from the hive.
- Due to colony collapse disorder, bees have been dying off at a rate of approximately 30% per year.
- In Wisconsin, beekeepers can apply to have their honey certified as pure and use “Wisconsin certified honey” on their packaging.
- Bees hate human breath.

"Bee"ing Funny"

What do bees normally sit on?

See following page(s) for answer!



SITES MANAGED BY
BCBA

Brown County Beekeepers
updates on club happenings

Northeast WI Beekeepers
beekeepers helping beekeepers

2023 Education Calendar

(a work in progress)

Date	Education	Type	Presenter
January 18, 2023	Moving to Almonds	Reg	Matt Hoepfinger, BIP
February 15, 2023	Queenless Events (Taped presentation)	Reg	Dr. Jamie Ellis, Ph. D., Florida State
March 15, 2023	Splits	Reg	TBD
April, 19, 2023	Spring Management	Reg	TBD
May 17, 2023	Queenless Hive	Reg	TBD
June 21, 2023	Bee Disease and Treatments	MBM	Donna Stine
	Bee Package and Nuc Installs	Reg	
July	TBD		
August 16, 2023	Honey Extraction Fall Management	MBM Reg	TBD TBD
September 20, 2023	Varroa mites	Reg	Donna Stine
October 18, 2023	Overwintering Indoors	Reg	TBD
November 15, 22	TBD	Reg	
December (no meeting)			

November Club Meeting/Education

Julie Mazzoleni received two awards during our meeting. 1: A recognition award from our club for 5 years as our Vice President and 2: A recognition award for her service as a Honey Bee education advocate from the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association! **Emily Skala** also received a Youth Award! Congratulations and well done Julie and Emily!!



Our main feature of our meeting was "Products of the hive". We had approximate 10 tables set up with different products of the hive to either sample, view or buy. Sponsor Let-it-bee was there. Meade, wine, wax products, art products, honey ice cream and pollen products were among the variety.





December

What's going on in the World of Bees

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average high - 33, low temperature - 18

Average Snow – 11.11 inches

In the hive

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

Equipment

- Order any replacement bees (packages, nucs, or queens) as soon as possible; producers generally run out fast.
- Clean your honey house, freezer, or other areas that are chaotic/full in the active season.
- Take inventory. Fix, clean/sterilize, purchase, assemble, and paint equipment as needed.

Yard maintenance

- Remove ice blocking the hive entrances, to give the colonies better ventilation.
- Don't worry about snow around the hive body which may help insulate the bees.

Education

- Don't forget to renew your membership in the club and get the meetings on your calendar.
- Spend this time reflecting on what went well and what you might change next year.
- Plan for your upcoming year: do you want to downsize or scale up, try out a new form of honey production, get into the pollination business, or something else?
- Catch up on Bee Culture and American Bee Journal – and renew your subscription!



CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

AND OTHER INTERESTING STORIES/TIDBITS

Honey Bees and Christmas

SCOTLAND: There was an old belief that early on Christmas Morning all bees would leave their hives, swarm, and then return. Many old Scots tell tales of having witnessed this happening, though no-one can explain why. One explanation is that bees get curious about their surroundings, and if there is unexpected activity they will want to check it out to see if there is any danger. As people were often up and about on Christmas night observing various traditions, or just returning from the night services, the bees would sense the disturbance and come out to see what was going on.

IRELAND: An Irish legend is that honey bees celebrate the Nativity by waking up from their winter sleep and humming a song of praise to Christ. Unfortunately, only those who have led a blameless life could hope to hear their song, which is said to be the 100th psalm, that is perhaps why no-one can be found who has heard this.

ENGLAND: English farmers used to put sprigs of holly on their beehives. On the first Christmas, they believed, the bees hummed in honour of the Christ Child. Early texts also state that Britain was known as the "Island of Honey" and that the Beehive was considered to be an example of orderly British society. On the Isle of Man, it was considered a capital offence to steal Bees.

SCANDINAVIA: The Bee was also worshiped in Scandinavian cultures, such as Finland, where the insect is thought to transport the prayers of ordinary people up to the creator in the sky. Several Countries, including Poland had a tradition at Advent and, in some homes, on Christmas Eve, of pouring melted bees wax into a dish of cold water, and fortunes were told from the shapes which emerge.

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