

# March 2023

## 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](http://www.browncountybeekeepers.com)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello BCBA Members!

The club is busy planning activities and education for 2023 and it is shaping up to be another exciting year! Keep an eye out on our monthly newsletters and Facebook page for upcoming activities.....

All of our new beekeepers are ramping up their education and starting to get their equipment in order while anxiously awaiting their first delivery of bees. This is an exciting time!

Our seasoned beekeepers are hoping to reap the rewards of last year's preparation by having some overwintered hives. Now through March is when most hives perish. So, even with all the right steps you still might end up with a dead-out. If so, it is important to find a good evaluation guide to help you assess what happened and what to do next.

With the recent warm weather many of us have checked our hives for resources and if needed, added some (sugar, fondant or winter patties). Some even started early mite treatments. Check out the resources below for more information.

If you have any questions reach out to me via email, [president@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:president@browncountybeekeepers.com)

Thanks,

Dave

<https://browncountybeekeepers.com/education-2/>

<https://capitalbeesupply.com/resources/>

### March Association Meeting.

Wednesday, March 15th @ 6:30p CST

In person: Green Bay Botanical Garden

Zoom: Click Here

Meeting ID: 862 8551 4961

Passcode: 522677

5:30p - 6:30p: Networking & Socializing

# WI Honey Queen to Attend BCBA March Meeting!

## WI Honey Queen



### Hello Wisconsin Beekeepers!

During my break from school, I presented in three different school districts: Pulaski High School, Gillett Secondary School, and Suring High School. I talked to 114 sixth to twelfth grade students in seven presentations. At Pulaski High School, I was in the

Agriscience Department and spoke to two classes of Agricultural Processing students, and two classes of Small Vet 1 students. At

Gillett Secondary School, I

had one class of the 6th grade in the Exploratory Agriculture class. Suring High School was the first school presentation where I did a cooking demonstration with the students in the Agricultural Processing and the Plant Science classes. They greatly enjoyed the Peanut Butter and Honey Protein Balls



from my brochure. Thank you to Ms. Montgomery and Mr. Pettis of Pulaski, Mrs. DeBauch of Gillett, and Mrs. Smith of Suring for inviting me to come and talk to your students.

I gave a live television interview with WFRV – Channel 5 of Green Bay. Millaine Wells of the Midwest Farm Weekly show also recorded a longer segment for her show on the weekend. These interviews both reached more than 1,000,000 viewers! The American Beekeeping Federation Conference was held in Jacksonville, Florida January 3-7. I attended many educa-



tional sessions, helped with the liquid honey portion of the honey show, and got to attend many of the same events as the 2023 American Honey Queen Candidates. During the Kids and Bees Expo, I welcomed students, helping the kids get their passport and goodie bags made so that they could get stamps at every station and take home some of the items that they made throughout the event. The conference ended with Lucy Winn, the 2022 American Honey Queen, crowning the 2023 American Honey Queen, Selena Rampolla of Florida, and the 2023 American Honey Princess, Allison Hager of Iowa.

I am buzzing with excitement for all my upcoming events, both in person and on Zoom while I'm at school.

If anyone has any bottled honey that they are willing to donate to the Queen program it would be greatly appreciated. When I go into schools and other promotional events the host receives a bottle of honey in appreciation of my time. I also use the honey in my cooking demonstrations.

To schedule an appearance, contact Mary Kettlewell at [wihoneyqueenprogram@gmail.com](mailto:wihoneyqueenprogram@gmail.com) or by calling 414.429.5502.

Kaelyn Sumner  
2023 Wisconsin Honey Queen



# 2023 BCBA Meeting Education Calendar

(a work in progress)

**Reg = Regular Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30p**

**MBM = Meeting Before the Meeting: Same Wednesday, starts at 5:30p**

Date	Education	Type	Presenter
March 15, 2023	Splits	Reg	Craig Spindler - Let It Bee
April, 19, 2023	Spring Management	Reg	Julie Mazzoleni and Dave Elsen
May 17, 2023	Queenless Hive First Year Beekeeping	Reg	Video & Discussion Andrea Michaud
June 21, 2023	Foul Brood: Identification, Testing & Treatments	Reg	Donna Stine, WI State Apiary Inspector Dr. Jammie VerGiesen, Veterinarian
July 2023	No Meeting. Club Event TBD		
August 16, 2023	Honey Extraction Fall Management	MBM Reg	TBD TBD
September 20, 2023	Varroa mites	Reg	Donna Stine, WI State Apiary Inspector
October 18, 2023	Overwintering Indoors	Reg	TBD
November 15, 2023	TBD	Reg	
December 2023	No Meeting. No Club Event. Enjoy your holiday!		



# Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers

from VP Chris Groth

A follow up on a question submitted at the February meeting:

A member asked if bees can fly vertically to clear a ten foot barrier (shed) with the hive entrance only 20 to 24 horizontal inches away, facing the shed.

Bees are extremely adaptable to their environment; therefore, I imagine they would figure it out. However, your diagram brings out some other discussion items regarding how to orient a hive. In the diagram, the entrance is facing west toward the shed. Most beekeepers would suggest that the hive entrance faces south or southeast to maximize exposure to the sunrise and sunset, giving the bees an earlier start and a later end to their day. Also, the entrance should be facing away from prevailing winter winds (if wind is from NW, hive entrance should face SE) so the hive isn't subject to that wind blowing into the hive.

By changing your hive's orientation to the south, the shed no longer becomes a barrier to the bee's flight path. In my experience, foragers leave the hive at an inclined flight path, clearing my 6 foot height in about 10 to 15 feet. That being said, consider whether or not the south facing entrance, next to your shed, is going to cause unnecessary interaction between people and the bee's flight path. This is normally a recipe for aggression, i.e. stings.

As I stated earlier, bees are adaptable. You can try your original set up and see if that orientation works. If not, experiment and change the orientation of the entrance or the location of the hive. For more information check out the [BCBA's education on hive orientation](#). Good luck with your bees. - CG

## "Bee"ing Funny"

What artists are on a hive's  
favorite playlist?

See following page(s) for answer!



SITES MANAGED BY  
BCBA

[Brown County Beekeepers](#)  
*updates on club happenings*

[Northeast WI Beekeepers](#)  
*beekeepers helping beekeepers*



# 2023 BCBA Outreach & Teaching Opportunities

**Want to help kids understand the amazing magic of the Honey bees? Want to share your excitement and knowledge with local gardeners about bees and how they impact their landscapes? Do you have kids or grand-kids in school, summer school or camps that would benefit from learning about bees and pollination?**

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER and help our outreach and education program. All presentations are available and easy to use. We will be there along side you to make sure you have whats needed and comfortable- its easy, its FUN and above all .... rewarding.**

**Please reach out to Julie Mazzoleni at [mazzojm@gmail.com](mailto:mazzojm@gmail.com) for more information.**

Date	Time	Opportunity	Volunteer
March 25, 2023	9a - 11a	4H Growing Together - elementary age kids - BCBA will present importance of Honey bees and pollination	Julie Mazzoleni
May 7, 2023		4H Honey Bees - elementary age kids	Wayne Steigelman to lead. Multiple volunteers needed.
June 23, 2023		GBBG - Critter Camp - kids camp	Need someone to lead education. Julie is out of country.
June 30, 2023		GBBG Critter Camp - kids camp	Need someone to lead education. Julie is out of country.
TBD		GBBG - Adult Pop-up - adult summer class	TBD
TBD		GBAPS - Summer School Programs	TBD



# March

## What's going on in the World of Bees

### Seasonal conditions (WeatherWX.com)

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 38F Low: 26F

Average Precipitation: 3.3 inches (15 inches of snow, 1.8 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight: 130

### What you should be doing for your Bees in March:

#### GET READY!

In Wisconsin, March is a pivotal beekeeping month. As the weather warms, the bees will need to fly for bathroom outings aka cleansing flights. If you're like me, you have signs of Nosema via brown fecal streaks on the exterior of the hive. This is a tell-tale sign of dysentery caused by fungus and spread by bees relieving themselves inside the hive. Based upon my readings, Nosema can only be fixed with access to cleansing flights (in warmer weather) PLUS anti-fungal medication. I plan on feeding fumigillin in syrup as soon as the weather is warm enough for my bees to take frequent flights. Additionally, now is a good time to treat for mites due to low adult and brood populations.

#### KEEP FEEDING!

We have reached an awkward transition where it's above freezing enough to feed syrup, but not warm enough to evaporate moisture out of stored syrup. Too much moisture in the hive in March is still a threat. Resist the temptation to feed syrup, unless needing to administer medications. Dry sugar is still your best option if you have a HEALTHY hive running low on resources. Pollen patties may also be used as nutritional supplement, but make sure to do your research before making that decision. Depending on what you read out there, and depending on your management priorities, pollen supplements can be a waste of money OR can be an impactful stimulant for brooding. Do what's best for your hive and your apiary.

"Bee"ing Funny"



Bee Gees, Bee-yonce,  
and Sting.



# CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

STRAIGHT FROM THE CLUB'S ARCHIVES: MARCH 1980 & 1982 NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

## BROWN COUNTY



## HONEY QUEEN

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\*1980 Wisconsin Honey Queen\*

## LYNN LUDACK



**MISS LYNN LUDACK**

is the daughter of  
MR. & MRS. EUGENE LUDACK  
Centuria, Wisconsin



**HONEY PRODUCERS OF WISCONSIN**  
*are proud to be part of American agriculture*

- ★ *Bees Pollinate Wisconsin Crops*
- ★ *Use Honey in Baking and Cooking.*
- ★ *Have Honey on Your Table Every Day.*

**BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSN., INC.**

Thomas Cashman, Treasurer, 432-7256

# Brown County Beekeeping Association

## Member Benefits



### **Club Sponsor – Hansen Honey Farm, Rhinelander, WI**

- \$5 off each package or nuc of bees until May 2023
- 5% discount for all BCBA members for ongoing purchase
- For online discount code, contact [secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com)
- 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
- For online discount code, contact [secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com)
- When purchasing in-store only, let them know you are a member of the BCBA.

**[Click here for the Club Sponsor Website Page](#)**

### **Club Equipment Rental**

Perks of being a member! [Click here for the full rental list.](#)

### **American Bee Journal Subscriptions**

(Contact Club Treasurer for Discount form)

### **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.

## 2023 Club Officers

**President: Dave Elsen**

[president@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:president@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Vice President: Chris Groth**

[vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Website Chair: Carl Fisher**

[info@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:info@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Social Media: Wayne Steigelman**

**Treasurer: Tom Cashman**

[Tcash99930@aol.com](mailto:Tcash99930@aol.com)

**Secretary: Nathan C. Frailey, Sr.**

[secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Education Chair: Julie Mazzoleni**

**Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm**