

April 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello BCBA Members!

I have been in Arizona and will be returning in April. I love watching the bees which are very active on all of the blooming cactus. (see photo below). I am thankful for Carl Fisher, my apiary associate, who has been checking on our GB hives and doing some supplemental feeding this winter. Also, Chris Groth has done a great job running BCBA during my remote availability. Thank you!

In Northeast Wisconsin we have seen some warmer days and the bees are starting to fly. It's an anxious time for new beekeepers awaiting their nucs or packages and wondering if they are ready. Those of us who overwintered bees are hoping the hive made it through successfully and asking ourselves: "Is feeding required?", "Will the hive require splitting?" and "How shall I approach a mite management program?". We are all in different places in our beekeeping journey, which makes being an active member of the club so important. Each month the newsletter notes relevant beekeeping tasks. Our meeting education is targeted around the seasonal beekeeping activities. Also, club members wanting to do some networking and/or ask questions should stop by from 5:30p-6:30p.....it's a great way to learn.

I hope each of you will consider some of the various volunteering opportunities available throughout the year. It's a great way to give back to our community and club. Reach out to anyone on our Leadership Team if you would like to learn more (emails are on the bottom of the final page). - Thanks, Dave



April Association Meeting.
Wednesday, April 19th @ 6:30p CST
In person: Green Bay Botanical Garden
Zoom: [Click Here](#)
Meeting ID: 872 1299 7742
Passcode: 810025

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



Honey Bee Hygienic Behavior & Hygienic Testing *Virtual Meeting - Tuesday, April 18 @ 7p*

In collaboration with Brown County Beekeepers Association

The Walworth County Beekeepers Association will be virtually hosting the Bee Informed Partnership (BIP) on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

During this 50 minute presentation, Mary Anne Fauvel, Tech Transfer Team Coordinator for Bee Informed Partnership will be presenting on:

HONEY BEE HYGIENIC BEHAVIOR AND HYGIENIC TESTING

Honey bees have been selected and bred to increase hygienic behaviors conferring them resistance (or increased tolerance) toward specific pests and diseases, notably chalkbrood, sacbrood virus and potentially, the pernicious Varroa. The Bee Informed Partnership Tech Transfer Teams have been testing these hygienic behaviors with some of the key queen breeders in Northern California improving the hygienic stock in the US. In this presentation, we will describe what hygienic behaviors are and how we test and score colonies for the traits.

The presentation is free to BCBA members. Anyone interested must email Nathan Frailey, at secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com to RSVP. The link to the virtual meeting will be sent out to RSVPs only, via email, by 5p on the day of the meeting.

"Bee"ing Funny"



What do you call a bee
with messy hair?



**FACEBOOK SITES
MANAGED BY BCBA**

Brown County Beekeepers
updates on club happenings

Northeast WI Beekeepers
beekeepers helping beekeepers

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
April, 19, 2023	Spring Management	Reg	Chris Groth 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!		

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 for more information.

Date	Time	Opportunity	Volunteer
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



April

What's going on in the World of Bees

Seasonal conditions (WeatherWX.com)

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 54F Low: 34F

Average Precipitation: 2.9 inches (3 inches of snow, 2.5 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 13

Here is what to expect in and around the hive in April:

In the hive

On cold days, the bees are still clustered, but on warm sunny days, they should be bringing in lots of pollen and nectar. If their flights are limited by cold or inclement weather, they may still be at risk of starvation. Feeding 1:1 (Sugar to Water) syrup will help assure your bees are fed and stimulate the queen to lay brood. For an easy syrup calculator, visit <https://www.bellfarmiowa.com/syrup>

Equipment

Remove insulation, winter wraps, mouse guards, etc. Entrance reducers can be left on; many beekeepers use them year-round.

Inspection

- On the warmest days, you can quickly inspect a colony's brood pattern and food stores, taking care not to chill the brood.
- If the bottom brood chamber is empty, move it to the top of the brood nest. Doing so before a day or two of warm temperatures will help brood survive the move.
- After installing a new package or nuc, allow two weeks for the colony to establish before an inspection.
- Cleaning dead bees and detritus off the bottom board during the first thorough inspection may help keep the hive disease- and pest-free.

To read more about April beekeeping visit the BCBA website:
<https://browncountybeekeepers.com/what-to-expect-in-april/>



CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

STRAIGHT FROM THE CLUB'S ARCHIVES: APRIL 1983 NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Honeycomb built, eggs laid by bees as they orbited Earth

GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE, APRIL 15, 1984
SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — A colony of honeybees sent into space aboard the shuttle were able to build a nearly normal comb despite the six days of weightlessness and the colony's queen laid several eggs, a master beekeeper said Saturday.

One day after being returned to Earth aboard the shuttle Challenger, the bees were busily visiting flowers gathering nectar and pollen.

Mel Coplin removed the bees Saturday from a box that had been the insects' home during the six-day flight of space shuttle mission 41-C. He said the bees were "surprisingly gentle."

"They were so quiet and gentle it was abnormal," said Coplin. "I don't know why they were that way."

Coplin said the bees had built about 30 inches of wax comb, proving that the insects' instinctive abilities were not seriously affected by the weightlessness of orbit.

"Some of the comb is distorted as if they were disoriented for a day or two," said Coplin. "But after that they picked up a pat-

tern that looks just like a normal comb."

A control group of bees, kept in a box identical with that flown in space, made 30 to 50 square inches of comb in six days during earlier tests, said Coplin.

The colony of 3,300 bees was flown on the shuttle as an experiment developed by Dan Poskevich, a student at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tenn.

Honeybees on Earth routinely build combs made up of perfect six-sided cells.

Poskevich said he developed the experiment to determine if the bees depend upon gravity to aid in the design of their combs. He theorized that the bee combs could be affected by weightlessness.

But Coplin said it appears that gravity is not a factor.

"The first few cells were built with the holes vertical when they should normally be horizontal," said the beekeeper. "Then they gradually turned the comb so that the holes are horizontal like a normal comb. I think they adapted to zero gravity."

The bees were fed sugar water mixed with gelatin. Coplin said they could not make honey from such food, but the bees stored some of it in the cells of the comb.

Coplin said the bees survived better than he expected in the box. Only 125 died and 500 to 600 casualties had been predicted, he said.

The colony's queen laid 35 eggs during the mission. Coplin has removed some of the eggs and hopes to nurture them to maturity to see if the space exposure affected their development.



Image Source: <https://biology.stackexchange.com/>

C-6

Tuesday, April 5, 1983 Green Bay Press-Gazette

UW research links honey with botulism in infants

Honey should not be fed to infants younger than 1 year because researchers have linked it with infant botulism, which can cause death.

Botulism spores which can affect infants have been found in honey samples, according to Hiroshi Sugiyama of the Food Research Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Some parents add honey to their baby's cereal or drinking water with the belief it is more healthful than sugar. Pacifiers or nipples are sometimes dipped in honey to encourage the baby to suck.

Any advice to use honey in this way is outdated, said Sugiyama. There is no prohibition against feeding

honey to older children.

Sugiyama is investigating why babies are susceptible to infant botulism, which was recognized in 1976.

Infant botulism is different from conventional botulism because it isn't caused by eating spoiled food. Botulism spores are present everywhere but normally don't cause trouble.

With certain conditions, such as low acid and no oxygen, they can multiply and produce a fatal toxin in food.

Also, they sometimes multiply and produce this poison inside babies' intestines, causing infant botulism. Infants probably don't have the organisms adults have in their intestinal tract to prevent the spores from growing, said Sugiyama.

Infant botulism has also been diagnosed in infants who haven't been fed honey, he pointed out, although honey has been recognized as the main culprit so far. Honey is a raw agricultural product which is not heated or processed.

"Since honey is not necessary for nutrition and growth, why take the chance?" he said.

According to the UW-Extension, the first symptom of infant botulism is constipation, followed by weakness, difficulty in breathing and swallowing, poor sucking and a weak cry. The symptoms may appear within a few hours or develop over a period of several days.

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
- 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
- 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

Vice President: Chris Groth

vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

Website Chair: Carl Fisher

info@browncountybeekeepers.com

Social Media: Wayne Steigelman

Treasurer: Tom Cashman

Tcash99930@aol.com

Secretary: Nathan C. Frailey, Sr.

secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

Education Chair: Julie Mazzoleni

Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm