

May 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!

There is certainly a lot going on in beekeeping this month. It's time to take all of your education and preparation and put it into practice. Our hives are rapidly building out as bees are trying to fly and forage on the few days that are nice out. Keep an eye on your colony's nectar intake and be prepared to add some 1:1 sugar water if needed. Some beekeepers are starting to make splits and add/replace queens as necessary. Beekeepers establishing new colonies have installed packages and are in the process of, or soon will be, installing nucs into that brand new equipment. Very exciting time. Most of us have already performed an initial mite test and applied the initial mite treatment for the year. If you need some help on what treatments to apply please see the two links below from the Honey Bee Health Coalition. We have even had to add a box to our strongest hive. That one will need to be monitored or split to stay in front of potential swarming.

On the club front there, May has a lot going on. We were asked to do a Fox 11 TV segment on "No Mow May" and Pollinators. Thanks Wayne Steigelman and Sarah Mueller for joining me and at 4 AM to represent the BCBA and pollinators. Nicely done! [You can see our segment here.](#) We are also getting ready for the Green Bay Packers "Go Green with Titledown" event on May 13th from 10a to 2p. Finally, May 20th is the final segment of the "At the Hive" portion of the Introduction to Beekeeping class. I am most pleased to see our members, with all experience levels, engaged in club activities.

See you at Barkhausen for the May meeting!

Thanks,
Dave

honeybeehealthcoalition.org

honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa-management/

May Association Meeting.

Wednesday, April 17th @ 6:30p CST

**In person: Interpretive Center at
Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve**

Zoom: Click Here

Meeting ID: 858 4161 0342

Passcode: 496050

5:30p - 6:30p: Live hive inspection



Randy Oliver's "Handling Bees: How to Get Less Stings" *Virtual Meeting - Tuesday, May 16 @ 7p*

In collaboration with Brown County Beekeepers Association

The Walworth County Beekeepers Association will be virtually hosting Randy Oliver on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

During this presentation, Randy Oliver, 5 decades-long beekeeper, biologist, writer for American Bee Journal and author of scientificbeekeeping.com, will be presenting on:

Randy Oliver's Handling Bees / How to get Less Stings

Tips from a lifetime of experience of working bees. How to understand what initiates the honey bee defense response, and how to avoid it. What upsets bees, and what doesn't. How the bees perceive you. How to perform a hive inspection with minimal stinging.

Randy Oliver sees beekeeping through the eyes of a biologist, building a small commercial beekeeping enterprise in the foothills of Northern California. His sons now manage around 1,500 colonies for migratory pollination and produce queens, nucs, and honey, freeing Randy to engage full-time in beekeeper-funded research projects.

The presentation is free to BCBA members through Zoom.

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:00 pm

<https://gtc.zoom.us/j/84437301711>

Meeting ID: 844 3730 1711

"Bee"ing Funny"



What do bees like with
their sushi?



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
May 17, 2023 *Meeting at Interpretive Center, Barkhausen Preserve	Queenless Hive First Year Beekeeping	Reg	Video & Discussion Andrea Michaud
	Hive Inspection (Barkhausen)	MBM	Donna Stine, WI State Apiary Inspector
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	MBM	TBD
	Fall Management	Reg	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 13, 2023	Event 10a to 2p	Green Bay Packer's "Go Green with Titledown"	Nathan Frailey to coordinate. Chris Groth to provide bees for observation hive. Need volunteers to discuss pollination and beekeeping in 1 hour increments.
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: 64F Low: 46F

Average Precipitation: 1.6 inches (0 inches of snow, 1.6 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 14 hr 29 min

New-bee mistakes and discoveries (lessons learned by Nathan Frailey) :

This is my 3rd spring having bees. I've made a good amount of bone-headed mistakes such as foregoing mite checks, shaking a queen off a frame and on to the ground, to killing a queen by eagerly applying mite treatment. As much as I don't like publicizing my errors, I do so hoping that my calamities may help someone else avoid them. Also, I share this information so that newbies can know that beekeeping isn't an exact science. In fact, it's nature, and nature is messy. As such, it requires patience and perseverance.....and hopefully the ability to not make the same mistake twice.

-When applying Formic Pro for mite treatment, if time allows, follow the slower, multi-step 20-day treatment. Last fall I successfully treated using the 2 strip, 14 day method, but it was my best option. I had to choose between losing the hive to high mite count or potentially to Formic Pro. This spring, was a different story. I opted to go the lazy route and treat using the 2 strip method again. I have now lost the queen to my strongest hive.

-Nosema. It's nasty. Don't put diarrhea-riddled dead-out equipment on other hives hoping a strong hive will clean it up. They won't, and the nastiness just spreads. Some advise just to dispose of the equipment, while others suggest disinfecting with a heat treatment. I did neither and now my hive is paying for it.

-This last one likely doesn't apply to all, but if your hope is to split hives yearly and expand your apiary, then pay attention. Every year order bees. I came out of winter with 1 strong hive and 1 populous but sick hive. I really thought that by the end of May I'd have 3, if not 4 hives. I'm now looking down the barrel of maybe not having any hives at all. It's an exaggeration, but the truth is I now am at the mercy of others' splits and swarms.

"Bee"ing Funny"

Wasa-bee!



CLUB AND BEEKEEPING HISTORY

STRAIGHT FROM THE CLUB'S ARCHIVES: MAY 1976 NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

A-14

Tuesday, May 4, 1976 Green Bay Press-Gazette



Hive Alive—Above, Floyd Burchell of the Brown County Beekeepers Association places honeybees in combs and he and the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary manager, Ty Baumann, place the combs in a hive at the sanctuary nature center. Visi-

tors will be able to watch the bees work through plexiglass walls on the hive, while a tube to the roof provides exit for the bees. The exhibit was financed as a memorial to the late Michael Stencil.

(P-G Photos by Orvell Peterson)

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