

August 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

Greetings BCBA Members,

The bee year is winding down. Seems like just yesterday that we were all getting equipment ready and anxiously awaiting our bees. Now we are getting ready to pull our honey supers and helping our bees to get ready for winter.

A few notes about the bees. Make plans to do your fall mite checks and treatments if needed to position your bees in the best position for winter survival. As a rule, we recommend pulling your honey supers around August 12th or so to give the bees the remainder of the fall to fill their brood boxes with the final fall nectar (i.e. goldenrod). As noted in an earlier email, your bees health is the number 1 factor in winter survival.

As we assess the bees' readiness for winter it is also a good time to assess the Club's health as well. We have 92 memberships and including families there are 140 club members. Nathan sends out the monthly newsletter to 115 recipients. The Club's Facebook site has 1,200 followers, and the Northeast WI Beekeepers Facebook group has 780 followers since being created in 2020. The site sees about 32 posts per month. Our monthly attendance at meetings is growing and runs between 30-50. Financially we stayed well within the budget laid out in January and are set up very nicely for the future.

Our club's education focus has seen a slight shift with more in person speakers, hands on and Q&A. The feedback has been very positive on this approach. If you have thoughts on education or topics please reach out to me. I am also pleased to see a good number of our members engaging in mentoring other members through in person, phone and text. With the ever-increasing interest in honeybees and your engagement in learning or sharing, the future of the club looks bright.

Hope to see you at the upcoming meeting

Dave

August Association Meeting.
Wednesday, August 16 @ 6:30p CST
In person: GB Botanical Gardens
Zoom: [Click Here](#)
Meeting ID: 827 8721 2339
Passcode: 818866
MBM @ 530p with hands-on honey
extraction

August Management Info



FACEBOOK SITES
MANAGED BY BCBA

Brown County Beekeepers
updates on club happenings
Northeast WI Beekeepers
beekeepers helping beekeepers

Seasonal conditions (weatherspark.com)

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 75F Low: 57F

Average Precipitation: 3.0 inches (0 inches of snow, 3.0 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 13 hr 47 min

In the hive:

There is a second, smaller swarm season in August and September. The bee population begins to diminish faster than it is growing; the brood area may contract. Many of the bees born from the end of August onward are called “winter bees” and live longer than their summer sisters. Left untreated, the Varroa mite population usually peaks in August or September. Remember that Varroa is tough to manage because the mites thrive in healthy, populous colonies, unlike many of the other maladies that affect honey bees. The summer heat requires the bees to ventilate and perhaps beard outside the hive on the hottest evenings.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

Monitor for Varroa mites and treat if necessary. The threshold for treatment changes at this time of year to 3 mites per 100 bees, as the number of mites rises. Note that a fall population spike may be due to mites coming in from bees from other colonies, in addition to natural population growth within the colony. Therefore, even if you have diligently managed mites through the summer, continue to monitor consistently. In addition to mites, carefully check every brood frame in each colony for an American foulbrood infection.

For more August management info, visit our month by month education on the BCBA website.

"Bee"ing Funny"

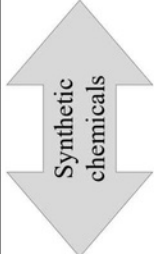
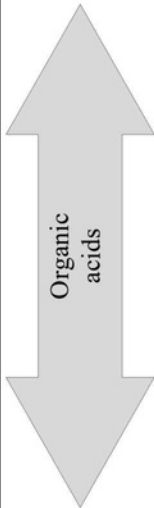
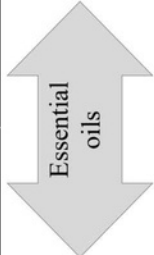
What did the bee say
to the flower?
Hey bud.





2023 Wisconsin Honey Bee Pest Management Options

The application instructions listed below are only short summaries. **Read the product label thoroughly before applying any treatments and follow label instructions precisely.** The pesticide label is the law. Any listed medications require a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Order or a prescription from a veterinarian. This list may not be complete, and is subject to change. Information in this document does not imply endorsement by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and is provided strictly as an additional resource for honey bee pest management.

Name of Pest	Registered Treatment (Active Ingredient)	Registration Number	Applications	App. Season & Temps.
 Synthetic chemicals	*Apistan (Tau-fluvalinate)	EPA Reg. No. 2724-406-79671	6-8 weeks, apply in spring and fall. No more than 2 strips per brood box. Do NOT use when honey supers are in place, see label.	spring, fall; temps >50°F
	*CheckMite+ (Coumaphos)	EPA Reg. No. 11556-138	6 week – 45 days, max., apply in spring and fall. Do NOT leave the strips in hive for more than 45 days. Do NOT treat more 2 times per year. Only 2 strips per brood box. Treat all infested colonies within the yard. Can be	spring, fall
	*Widespread resistance of Varroa mites to above products. NOT recommended for Varroa mite control in Wisconsin.			
 Organic acids	ApiVar Strips (Amitraz)	EPA Reg. No. 87243-1	Use 2 strips per brood box (or 1 strip per 5 frames of bees), hang each in bee cluster with 2 frames between strips. Leave strips inside hive for 42-56 days, max., then remove. 2 treatments per year, max. Do not re-use a strip. Can be used as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Remove strips 2 weeks before honey flow. Do NOT use when honey supers are in place, see label.	spring, fall
	HopGuard III (Hop Beta Acids Resin)	EPA Reg. No. 83623-2	Use 2 strips per brood box (or 1 strip per 5 frames covered with bees). Unfold strips and hang over a center brood frame with 1/2 of the strip on each side of the frame. Leave the strips in the hive for 14 - 30 days, max. Use up to 4 times per year. <i>Can also be used in packages, see label.</i> Can be used as part of an IPM program. Can be used during honey flow, see label.	spring, summer, fall; temps >50°F
	Formic Pro (Formic Acid)	EPA Reg. No. 75710-3	Use 2 strips (staggered) for 14 days (<i>allow a minimum of 1 month between applications</i>); –OR– 1 st strip for 10 days, remove and replace with 2 nd strip for additional 10 days. Lay flat across the top of lower brood box. Do NOT disturb hive. Close screen bottom board, open entrance fully. Can be used as part of an IPM program. Can be used during honey flow, see label.	spring, summer, fall; temps 50°F-85°F
	Mite Away Quick Strip (MAQS) (Formic Acid)	EPA Reg. No. 75710-2	Place 2 strips (staggered) on top of the bottom brood box for 7 days (<i>allow a min. of 1 month between applications</i>); –OR– Apply 1 st strip on day 1, then apply 2 nd strip on day 14, for a total of 21 days. Do NOT disturb hive. Close screen bottom board, open entrance fully. Can be used as part of an IPM program. Can be used during honey flow, see label.	spring, summer, fall; temps 50°F-85°F
 Essential oils	Api-Bioxal (Oxalic Acid Dihydrate)	EPA Reg. No. 91266-1-73291	See label for application instructions. Ensure bees are clustered before applying treatment. Trickle solution or vaporize in the hive late fall or early spring when little or no brood is present. Treat broodless packages/swarms. Can be used as part of an IPM program. Can be used when honey supers are in place. Respirator required, see label.	spring, fall; temps > 37°F
	ApiGuard (Thymol)	EPA Reg. No. 79671-1	Combine weak colonies before treatment. See label for instructions. Place 1 50g tray facing upwards on the top of brood frames. After 2 weeks, remove and add 2 nd tray for 2-4 weeks (4-6 weeks total for entire treatment). Best used late summer/ fall. Use 25mg dose if temps above 77°F. Do not enter or allow others to enter treated area(s) for 48 hours after treatment. Do NOT use when honey supers are in place, see label.	late summer after honey harvest (preferred), fall, spring; temps 60°F-105°F
	Api Life Var (Thymol, Oil of eucalyptus, Menthol)	EPA Reg. No. 73291-1	Break 1 tablet into 4 pieces and place near 4 corners of brood nest. Leave the 1 st tablet 7-10 days. Place 2 nd tablet for an additional 7-10 days. Place 3 rd tablet for 12 days. Close off screen bottom boards. 2 applications per year max. Best if used in fall. Remove from hive at least 30 days before harvesting honey. Use the appropriate respirator when handling tablets. Do NOT use when honey supers are in place, see label.	fall (preferred), spring; temps 64°F-95°F

Mite products discontinued for use in Wisconsin include: Zoecon Apistan with Anti-Varroa Mite Strip, Sucroside, Hivastan, and Mite-Away II.

MAQS, ApiLife Var and Apiguard also show some control of **tracheal mites**. ApiVar and oxalic acid do not.

Stock Bred for Improved Hygienic Behavior: Queens and packages bred for improved hygienic behavior are available from many producers including Russian, SMR, VSH, MN Hygienic, Purdue “Ankle-Biter”, and Pol-line.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – Varroa Mite: No single treatment option is 100% effective. **Check mite levels frequently.** Use a combination of mite resistant stock, drone brood trapping and removal, screen bottom boards, brood interruption, and re-queening when needed. (*See the next page*).

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Frances Hegarty, Apiary Program Coordinator, Division of Agricultural Resource Management | Bureau of Plant Industry

2811 Agriculture Dr., PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911 (608) 224-4629, frances.hegarty@wisconsin.gov

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
August 16, 2023	Honey Extraction	MBM Reg	Nathan Frailey & Wayne Steigelman
	Fall Management		Chris Groth & Dave Elsen
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.

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