

October 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

I hate mites!

We have been checking all year and performed early treatments and even introduced a brood break on the hive. Our checks have been zero, zero and 1 this summer. Carl and I took a break during the Botanical Gardens Fall Festival Event to check our hives at the Gardens. We found the queen on a frame so felt safe in doing an alcohol wash. We had a 34 count of mites. We decided to treat with Formic Pro because it penetrates the brood. Just have to be mindful of the 85 degree upper temperature threshold to determine when to administer. With a count that high we will follow up with Oxalic Acid treatments later this fall. Crazy!

As noted above we had the Botanical Gardens event on Sunday, October 1st. It was great to see so many volunteers helping out. We have a great group of members sharing their time and knowledge with everyone who stopped by. My most fun question of the day was when someone saw the red marked queen they asked if the queens were bread special to get the red dot on the queen. It was a fun day, thanks to all who helped out. I also enjoyed the conversations about bees with our members. Everyone shared their views on how to address various situations and we had a good time talking through them. I heard on a recent podcast that most beekeepers will ask a question, get 15 different answers, and then go to their own apiary to create a 16th answer. That's about how it goes.

Dave
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

October Association Meeting
Wednesday, October 18 @ 6:30p CST
In person: GB Botanical Gardens
Zoom: [Click Here](#)
Meeting ID: 824 4079 7774
Passcode: 923329
No MBM, but feel free to arrive at 5:30p
for Networking & Socializing

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
October 18, 2023	Overwintering Indoors	Reg	Chris Hansen, Hansen Honey Farm
November 15, 2023	Products from The Hive	Reg	Reach out to Julianne Sanders to suggest coordinate vendors for this meeting.
December 2023	No Meeting. No Club Event. Enjoy your holiday!		

The Beekeeper of the Year Nominations must be submitted no later than the day of our Oct Meeting. We are excited to have several nominations submitted. I am excited that our two main club sponsors, Hansen Honey and Let it Bee have both contributed \$25 gift certificates for the award.

Club Elections are at the October Meeting. We have some positions open and are excited to see some interest from our membership.

Chris Hansen from Hansen Honey Farm is going to share his new Overwintering Indoors offering and the experience from last year. Something new and potentially available to us. Come check it out.



**FACEBOOK SITES
MANAGED BY BCBA**

Brown County Beekeepers
updates on club happenings

Northeast WI Beekeepers
beekeepers helping beekeepers



October Management Info

Seasonal conditions (weatherspark.com)

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 51F Low: 37F

Average Precipitation: 2.8 inches (0 inches of snow, 2.8 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 10 hr 59min

In the hive:

There is little to no egg laying in October. Drone populations dwindle and any drones that remain in the hive are kicked out by their sisters. Bees tend to form their winter cluster at around 50°F, usually starting in the middle of the month. On warm days, the bees venture out looking for food and may rob unprotected hives. The weather may be too cold for extended inspections. It will also be difficult to correct any problems this late in the season. A full-sized colony should have 80 to 100 pounds of honey for overwintering by the beginning of October, or more than one full deep. Estimate the weight by slightly tipping and hefting the hive. If you extract honey, leave enough for the bees or feed them sugar syrup to make up for the difference.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

At this point in the year, if you find three or more mites per 100 bee: from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash, you will want to treat. Treatment methods will depend on your management goals, the condition of the colony, and external conditions. Treatments that are most effective when there is no brood present are good options now. [Click here for the WI DATCP list of pest management options.](#)

Winterization

Winter preparation should continue: remove extra supers and queen excluders, add a mouse guard (after confirming that a mouse has not yet moved in), or add an entrance reducer. Consider raising the hive up off the ground, if it is not already.

For more October management info, visit our [month by month education on the BCBA website.](#)

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.



"Bee"ing Funny"



It had hives.



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

- 5% discount for all BCBA member purchases, except nucs.
- 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