

November 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

At the October meeting I noted that having a succession plan was a crucial responsibility of the President and Leadership Team. Because we have such an engaged membership, I feel this task was successfully accomplished at the election. Congratulations to the newly elected 2024 BCBA Officials: President Chris Groth, Vice President Nathan Frailey, Secretary Ed Poillion, and Treasurer Tom Cashman!

It is an honor to have been BCBA President for the last 5 years. The many ways our members have shared their time and talents has made this a memorable experience. I believe the club's openness to explore new ideas and technology is a key element to beekeeping and the club's success. I am particularly pleased with how we took on Covid when many clubs ceased operations. Also the ever improving Intro Class, Social Media, Facebook group for beekeepers, bringing in some nationally recognized speakers and our outreach programs to mention a few. This is a collective group success.

We together make up the BCBA and I thank you for your support over the last few years. I feel good about the Club's future and am excited to see where Chris will take us.

Dave
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

November Association Meeting

Wednesday, November 15 @ 6:30p CST

In person: GB Botanical Gardens

Zoom: Nov's meeting is in-person only

No MBM, but our Products of the Hive

Expo should be set up by 5:30p, so feel

free to come early, socialize & check

out all our wonderful vendors!

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
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!		

Membership Renewal

Holiday season is quickly approaching and so is membership expiration.

Why not renew now?

Renewal is available online on the [BCBA Website](#)

Or in person at a meeting by seeing Tom Cashman



**FACEBOOK SITES
MANAGED BY BCBA**

Brown County Beekeepers
updates on club happenings

Northeast WI Beekeepers
beekeepers helping beekeepers



November Management Info

Seasonal conditions (weatherspark.com)

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 37F Low: 25F

Average Precipitation: 1.9 inches of snow, 1.7 inches of rain

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 9 hr 39min

In the hive:

The bees are in their winter cluster and there is little to no egg laying in November.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

November allows for a couple decent days to quickly access the hive. Hive dissections are not suggested; however, mite treatments can still be made via Oxalic Acid dribble or vaporization. Other mite treatments may be rendered useless due to ambient temperatures being outside of application range and the lack of brood in November. To find out what mite treatment is best for you and your Integrated Pest Management approach visit the [Honey Bee Health Coalition's Decision Making Guide](#) or [Click here for the WI DATCP list of pest management options](#).

Winterization

November is a good month to insulate the hive, but be sure to avoid moisture build-up in the hives. Cold is less of a problem for bees than condensation. Since much of the heat escapes out of the top of the hive, some beekeepers add a super with an insulating, absorbent material (e.g., dry leaves, wood chips). Decrease your bottom board entrance to as smallest possible (usually 3/8" x 1" wide). Also, leave an upper entrance open for the exhaust of moisture. This also gives your bees a secondary exit if the bottom entrance becomes impacted with dead bees throughout the winter. Tilt the hives forward a few degrees so that any moisture that does accumulate can drain out the bottom entrance.

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

Beekeepers Helping Beekeepers

“Wisconsin Honey Label Requirements”

During the social hour before our October meeting, I had a member ask me about Wisconsin’s label requirements for selling honey. Having never researched it, I found myself with no good answer. Being one to not accept “I don’t know” as an answer, I immediately researched label requirements after the meeting. Below is a summation of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection’s web page titled “Selling Honey in Wisconsin”. This summation is for education only and should not be taken as instruction nor legal advice. Enjoy! Nathan

Licensing

You don’t need a license if:

- You extract, package and sell only your own honey or bee products from your own bees and apiaries, and
- You don’t process the honey except to:
 - Facilitate packaging by straining or heating, or
 - Allow honey to crystalize to make spun or creamed honey, even if using starters from your own honey.

Grading

- If you choose to grade your honey, Wisconsin standards are to be used and all of the honey crop must be graded.
- If you choose not to grade your honey to Wisconsin standards, your label shall list “ungraded.”
- All of DATCP’s Wisconsin grading is at the web page linked above.

Labeling

Your label must include:

- Your name or your business name and address.
- Net weight of contents; you must list the weight in pounds/ounces and in metric measure.
- If not graded, the word “ungraded.”
- If graded, include:
 - Grade
 - Color of honey if it is Wisconsin No. 1.

You can label your honey by predominant flavor or main source if people in the business could clearly distinguish the flavor or source. You can’t name more than one flavor or source, or name the honey by season.



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