

December 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

The November BCBA meeting was great. I want to thank Julianne Sanders for such a wonderful job bringing in some great participants for the Products of the Hive. Wayne Steigelman was awarded Beekeeper of the Year and James Arvey was named runner up. Congrats! Thank you also to Hansen Honey and Let it Bee for donating the gift certificates that were awarded. It is great to have such wonderful major sponsors.

I also want to thank the club of the recognition for my 5 years as Club President. I appreciate it very much. We have continued to build upon the foundation of my predecessor and I am excited to see where Chris Groth and his Leadership Team take the Club going forward.

To you, the BCBA members, thank you for showing up and participating at meetings and activities. It truly is appreciated. Continue be curious, learn and strive to share your knowledge and time.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dave
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

December Association Meeting

No meeting in December.
Remember to renew your memberships!
Renew online on the BCBA Website
or renew inperson, see Tom Cashman

2024 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 5:45p

Dates	Topic	Education Type	Presenter
Jan 17 '24	Heritage Honey Bee, Queen Rearing, Nucs and Packages	Reg	Tim Wilbanks
Feb 21 '24	Honey Judging and Working Bees in Texas	Reg	Stephanie Slater
Mar 20 '24	First Year Beekeeping & Bees and Butterfly Habitat Fund	Reg	Mike Laes
Apr 17 '24	Installing Bees Spring Management	MBM Reg	
May 15 '24	Beekeeping with Nucs	Reg	James Arvey
June 19 '24	Swarm Recovery	Reg	Dave Elsen
Aug 21 '24	Honey Extraction Fall Management	MBM Reg	Nathan Frailey
Sep 18 '24	Technology in Beekeeping	Reg	Wayne Steigelman
Oct 16 '24		Reg	
Nov 20 '24		Reg	

December

Management Info

Seasonal conditions (weatherspark.com)

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High:28F Low: 15F

Average Precipitation: 4.8 inches of snow, 1.2 inches of rain

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 8 hr 55min

In the hive:

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

Equipment and Preparation

- Order any replacement bees (packages, nucs, or queens) as soon as possible; producers generally run out fast.
- Clean your honey house, freezer, or other areas that are chaotic/full in the active season.
- Take inventory. Fix, clean/sterilize, purchase, assemble, and paint equipment as needed

Winterization

Winterization should have been done by December; however, if not completed, a nice December day is a good time to play catch-up. If you have questions on how to insulate or ventilate your hive, visit the November page of the BCBA website or see the November newsletter. You'll want to reduce your entrances or install a mouse guard to keep out unwanted inhabitants.

Yard Maintenance

- Remove ice or snow blocking the hive entrances, to give the colonies better ventilation.
- Don't worry about snow around the hive body which may help insulate the bees.
- Keep an eye out for critter tracks/evidence around the hive. Do your best to keep pests out.

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

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