

# January 2024

## 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](http://www.browncountybeekeepers.com)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday and with the new year it is time to look forward to a new beekeeping season. With the start of the new year, now is a good time to set some goals for your hives. Begin by reviewing last year and ask yourself: what did I do well, what did I do somewhat well and what do I need to improve upon with my beekeeping. Those thoughts should inspire some goals for this year. Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and try something new. The reward might be huge for you.

The next step is an action plan for each of your goals. Winter allows plenty of time to research for your goals and create an action plan. Take time to read some books, cruise the internet, and talk to some fellow beekeepers on what you want to accomplish. Now that you have your plan established, create a timeline of the plan's task on a calendar, while keeping in mind the bee's calendar. For example, to get ready for swarm season, you need to have your equipment ready prior to the bees building up their numbers in April and May. Or if you are splitting hives have your boxes and frames built/bought prior to splitting. Another example would be mite testing, treatments and applications schedules, before the mites become a problem.

Those task items, especially supplies are a good thing to try to accomplish in February and March, before the full start of the beekeeping season. Also, don't forget to check in on the girls once a month to make sure they are doing well.

The new and old leadership team met in December and did the exact same goal/planning process for the club. At the January club meeting, hopefully you will be as excited as we are to see what we have planned for 2024.

- That's what this month's buzz is about

Chris  
[president@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:president@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**January Association Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 17 @ 6:30p CST  
In person: GB Botanical Gardens  
Zoom: [Click Here](#)  
Meeting ID: 789 664 2249  
Passcode: c5f9aw  
No MBM, but feel free to arrive at 5:30p  
for Networking & Socializing

# 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 5:30p**

Date	Education	Type	Presenter
January 17, 2024	Heritage Honey Bee, Queen Rearing, Nucs and Packages	Reg	Tim Wilbanks
February 21, 2024	Honey Judging and Working Bees in Texas	Reg	Stephanie Slater
March 20, 2024	Bees and Butterfly Habitat Fund & Native Pollinators	Reg	Mike Laes & Julie Mazzoleni
April 17, 2024	Spring Management Installing Bees	Reg MBM	
May 15, 2024	Beekeeping with Nucs	Reg	James Arvey
June 19, 2024	Swarm Recovery	Reg	Dave Elsen
August 21, 2024	Honey Extraction Fall Management	Reg MBM	Nathan Frailey
September 18, 2024	Technology in Beekeeping	Reg	Wayne Steigelman



**FACEBOOK SITES  
MANAGED BY BCBA**

**Brown County Beekeepers**  
*updates on club happenings*

**Northeast WI Beekeepers**  
*beekeepers helping beekeepers*



# January Management Info

## Seasonal conditions (weatherspark.com)

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 26F Low: 11F

Average Precipitation: 5.1 inches (4.6 inches of snow, 0.5 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 9 hr 18 min

## In the hive:

The bees are in their winter cluster, except for very warm and sunny days (roughly 50°F and above), when they might leave the hive for a cleansing flight. Queens may lay a few eggs, in which case the cluster will need to keep the brood warm. Dead bees may pile up on the bottom board; on warm days, the bees may remove the bodies, and other bees may fly off to die. Dead bees scattered on the snow outside the hive are therefore a good sign.

## Nutrition

Check if the colony is light on food stores (you can tell by gently hefting the hive). If so, add dry sugar, fondant, or a candy board on a warmer day.

## Equipment

- Order any replacement bees (packages, nucs, or queens) as soon as possible; producers generally run out fast.
- Check any stored equipment for pests such as wax moths.
- Take inventory. Fix, clean/sterilize, purchase, assemble, and paint equipment as needed.

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

**"Bee"ing Funny"**



**A bee flying  
backwards.**

# Brown County Beekeeping Association

## Member Benefits



### **Club Sponsor – Hansen Honey Farm, Rhinelander, WI**

- \$5 off each package or nuc of bees until May 2024
- 5% discount for all BCBA members for ongoing purchase
- For online discount code, contact [secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 2024 Club Officers

**President: Chris Groth**

[president@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:president@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Vice President: Nathan C. Frailey, Sr.**

[vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Website Chair: Carl Fisher**

[info@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:info@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Social Media: Wayne Steigelman**

**Club Education CoChairs: Emily Skala and Dave Elsen**

**Treasurer: Tom Cashman**

[Tcash99930@aol.com](mailto:Tcash99930@aol.com)

**Secretary: Edmund Poillion**

[secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Education Outreach Chair: Julie Mazzoleni**

**Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm**