

March 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The warm weather has made for a lot of activity at the bee hives. With reports of bees bringing in pollen, and Wayne Steigelman's Broodminder temperature observations of hives beginning to raise brood, March madness has begun in the bee world. However, we as beekeepers must be aware of not letting our guard down, winter isn't over-Beware the Ides of March. Many hives are lost in March.

The delicate balance begins as food stores run low and the bees start raising brood. They also start flying more in search of food, burning energy. In other words, a lot more mouths to feed and food is really critical this time of year. You should start closely monitoring food stores because the bees may not be able to gather enough for their needs.

Beekeepers are thinking about building up the number of bees in the hive for the up coming nectar flows. Supplemental feeding of pollen patties, and when the temperatures are warmer sugar syrup, to really stimulate the queen to lay. Mites are also going to start to build up. Mites are at their low point in their yearly population numbers. Some beekeepers take advantage of this by 'kicking the mites when their down' with another mite treatment this time of the year. Really driving down the mite numbers.

So are you ready for this spring build up? What I mean swarming season beings as well. Do you have a plan to deal with swarming behavior? Splits, Demaree method, Snelgrove method, extra boxes for providing space.

Are you ready for the other side of the swarming coin? Setting out swarm traps. Are your swarm collection tools ready for when get a call about a swarm someone located? Do you have extra wooden ware to hive that swarm?

Not to forget our first year beginning beekeepers. Have you gone through your checklist of the equipment you going to need to hive your bees when they arrive? Have you prepared the site for your hive location yet? Do you have a mentor you can tag along with as they start their spring beekeeping chores so, you can become more comfortable around and handling bees?

Take advantage of the warm weather to spread out that work, before the madness begins.

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

Chris
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

March 2024 Association Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Location: Green Bay Botanical Garden

Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 859 2714 8953 Passcode: 722061

No MBM, but feel free to arrive at 5:30p for Networking & Socializing

Chili Dump

Let's welcome our March meeting speaker Tim Wilbanks from Heritage Honey Bee with a social hour before the meeting.

We are looking for three award winning volunteer chili cooks to bring their favorite pot of chili for our first ever "Chili Dump".

In addition, we are also looking for volunteers to bring toppings, sides, and treats. We are making Dick & Carol's fruit tray with honey dip mandatory!

If interested in bringing an item, please email or text Wayne Steigelman at wsteigelman@gmail.com or 920-241-2226.

Fun, Food & Bee Talk...Join us!



**FACEBOOK SITES
MANAGED BY BCBA**

Brown County Beekeepers
updates on club happenings

Northeast WI Beekeepers
beekeepers helping beekeepers



Chili Dump



Social Hour
March 20th 5:30-6:30 PM

Chili

CHILI POT 1

Chefs Choice

CHILI POT 2

Chefs Choice

CHILI POT 3

Chefs Choice

"DUMPED" TOGETHER IN ROASTER

PLEASE BRING WARMED CLOSE TO
SERVING TEMPERATURE

IF YOUR CHILI REQUIRES NOODELS,
PLEASE BRING AS A SIDE



Toppings

SHREDDED CHEESE

Shredded Cheddar or Cheese of Choice

DICED ONIONS

Diced Red Onions

SOUR CREAM

Homemade or store bought...Yummy



Treats/Sides

CORN BREAD

Include butter and or honey

FRUIT TRAY W/DIP

Hopful Dick and Carol select this option

TREAT 1

Bakers Choice



TREAT 2

Bakers Choice

TREAT 3

Bakers Choice



ROASTER OVEN, EATING WARE & DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED BY CLUB

2024 BCBA Meeting Education Calendar

Reg = Regular Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30p

MBM = Meeting Before the Meeting: Same Wednesday, starts at 5:45p

Date	Education	Type	Presenter
January 17, 2024	Winter Management Panel	Reg	
February 21, 2024	Honey Judging and Working Bees in Texas	Reg	Stephanie Slater
March 20, 2024	Heritage Honey Bee, Queen Rearing, Nucs and Packages	Reg	Tim Wilbanks
April 17, 2024	Spring Management	Reg	
	Installing Bees	MBM	
May 15, 2024	Beekeeping with Nucs	Reg	James Arvey
June 19, 2024	Bees and Butterfly Habitat Fund & Native Pollinators	Reg	Mike Laes & Julie Mazzoleni
	Swarm Recovery	MBM	Dave Elsen
August 21, 2024	Fall Management	Reg	
	Honey Extraction	MBM	Nathan Frailey
September 18, 2024	Pollen Analysis	Reg	Angie Perrotti, Owner, Melliflora Honey Pollen Solutions
October 16, 2024	TBD	Reg	
November 20, 2024	TBD	Reg	

March Management Info

Seasonal conditions (weatherspark.com)

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 41F Low: 26F

Average Precipitation: 10 inches (8 inches of snow, 2 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 11.5 hr

In the Hive

This is the month of the colony's minimum adult population, after winter losses, but before significant spring build-up. The queen is laying at or near full strength and brood is being reared if pollen/protein is available. Bees may be able to bring some pollen into the hive on occasional foraging flights, but because of the growing population and limited external resources, nutritional needs increase and the risk of starvation is high.

Nutrition

- Most colonies that starve die in late winter or early spring. They need more food for brood rearing, but cannot yet forage. At this point, they should have at least 3-4 combs full of honey. Feed them if the colony is light or the stores obviously empty, or if the bees are visible through the inner cover at the very top of the hive. Use dry sugar, fondant, or a candy board, or replace empty combs with combs of capped honey. When replacing comb, do so on a warmer day and be quick about it. You will likely need to continue to feed until nectar and pollen are available and accessible outside.
- The location/proximity of the bees to their food stores is key. If the cluster is far to one side of the food stores, you can carefully move it closer, keeping it together while you do so, or move frames of honey closer to it.
- You might consider feeding pollen substitute or supplement to support or further stimulate egg laying. If you do so, be sure to use clean pollen.
- If you plan to rear queens this year, lavishly feed the cell finisher colony chosen in the fall (carbohydrates and protein) for early spring buildup.

Equipment

Your equipment should be fixed, cleaned, bought, assembled, or painted by now.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

Mites are breeding in the colony. There is no need to monitor and treat just yet, but be aware that the mite population is starting to rise.

March Management Info

Yard maintenance

Ensure that the hive cover is properly secured.

Remove ice blocking the hive entrance, to give the colonies better ventilation. Don't worry about snow around the entrance or hive body; it allows enough airflow and may help insulate the bees.

A few dead bees or a small amount of fecal matter outside the hive is nothing to worry about, especially after a warm day; this is a sign that they are still alive inside.

For more March management info, visit our month by month education on the management info, visit our month by month education on the management info, visit our month by month education on the 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 2024 (Min purchase required)
- 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. In-store only.
- 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

Vice President: Nathan C. Frailey, Sr.

vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

Website Chair: Carl Fisher

info@browncountybeekeepers.com

Social Media: Wayne Steigelman

Club Education CoChairs: Emily Skala and Dave Elsen

Treasurer: Tom Cashman

Tcash99930@aol.com

Secretary: Edmund Poillion

secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

Education Outreach Chair: Julie Mazzoleni

Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm