

# June 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

Hopefully your swarm control method worked and/or you got to collect a swarm to add to your apiary. The nectar flow is on and from my observations, the early flow seems to be strong. So, do we sit back and just add boxes until honey harvest? Not really.

If you were present at last meeting you got to enjoy club member James Arvey's presentation on nucleus hives and using those hives to address issues in your apiary – dead outs, weak hives, weak queens, and other resource issues. Now is a great time to start a couple of nucleus hives to give them the rest of season to build up to a strong hive. This system is called Sustainable Beekeeping and I encourage you to research it. It could be what you're looking for in your beekeeping management.

Don't forget about your mite management. With the bees building up so do the mites. You should be doing your mite assessment to see where your counts are at and whether you need to do a treatment. With honey supers on, your treatment options are limited. The Honey Bee Health Coalition has the Varroa Management Decision Tool to help you with your treatment options. Give it a try, and it may help you're looking for.

The club has the summer picnic coming up in July and the honey judging contest in November. Look for future information on those events. With all that is going on in the bee yard, now is a good time to introduce someone into the world of beekeeping. That introduction will help you remember your excitement and apprehension with your first experiences in beekeeping. Also reminds you, how far you have come in your beekeeping journey.

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

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

# June 2024 Association Meeting

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, June 19, 2024

**Location:** Green Bay Botanical Garden

**Zoom Meeting:** [Meeting ID: 868 8401 1420](#) [Passcode: 879700](#)

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

## Have You Checked Out the Website Recently?

We use the website to provide information that is not necessarily time sensitive (that is what we use Facebook for) and to highlight member and public education. During the average month over 300 people view pages on the website. Right now the swarm collection page is the most popular and in the fall the Intro Class page takes the number one spot. In this article we want to highlight some of the more obscure pages on the website.

[FOR SALE](#) (on the right side menu) - club members can list items for sale. This page is generally one of the pages with the most monthly hits (even though there is not a lot for sale). Contact [info@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:info@browncountybeekeepers.com) to have your item(s) listed.

[Click to BUY honey](#) (on the right side menu) - members of the public can request to be contacted by a beekeeper with honey for sale. To be added to the list send a request to [info@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:info@browncountybeekeepers.com).

[FAQ](#) (on the right side menu) - there are over 27 Frequently Asked Questions. The most popular FAQ is [When should I remove the entrance reducer?](#)



[Click to BUY honey from a local beekeeper](#)

[Join](#)

[Education](#)

[For Sale](#)

[Newsletters and Minutes](#)

[By-Laws](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Swarm Removal](#)

[HOME](#)

[SWARM REMOVAL](#)

[BEEKEEPING CLASS](#)

[SPEAKERS](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[ACTIVITIES](#)

[SPONSORS / SUPPORTERS](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[BLOGS](#)

[Resources / Members Only / Rental Equipment](#) (top line menu) - here club members will find the equipment that the club has available to rent out. The most popular items are the honey extractor and associated items. The extractor gets booked up quickly in August and September.

[About / History](#) (top line menu) - want to learn more about the rich history of our 116 year old club. We trace our origins back to 1918 during the Spanish Flu Pandemic. Sarah Mueller has done an excellent job going through historical documents and club minutes to paint a picture of the club over time.

Carl Fisher

# 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
	Swarm Recovery	MBM	
June 19, 2024	Bees and Butterfly Habitat Fund & Native Pollinators	Reg	Mike Laes & Julie Mazzoleni
August 21, 2024	Fall Management	Reg	Nathan Frailey
	Honey Extraction	MBM	
September 18, 2024	Pollen Analysis	Reg	Angie Perrotti, Owner, Melliflora I Honey Pollen Solutions
October 16, 2024	TBD	Reg	
November 20, 2024	TBD	Reg	

# June Management Info

## Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 75F Low: 54F

Average Precipitation: 3.88

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 15.3 hr

## In the Hive

June and July are the months of maximum population in the colony. Depending on your area and management style, the population will vary. Most estimates are in the range of 40-60,000 bees but some go up to seven digits. The colony, if big enough, continues to rear drones. Swarm season also continues in June. The Varroa mite population continues to build and management of mites is of extreme importance.

## Inspection

- Colony inspections should take place at least once a month and include evaluating the brood pattern, confirming the presence of the queen and/or eggs, evaluating colony growth and available room, and monitoring for pests and diseases.
- If you cannot inspect every one of your colonies, inspect the colonies that are not showing as much activity on the outside.
- If you install a package or nuc, allow two weeks for the colony to establish before you inspect it.

## Nutrition

- Feed package bees or nucs upon their arrival.
- Provide supers if the brood chambers are full and the population/stores growing.

## Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Monitor Varroa mite levels. At this point in the year, if you find two or more mites (per 100 bees) 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.
- Drone comb can be an effective cultural method at this time of year.
- This may be a good time to break the brood cycle (and therefore the Varroa reproduction cycle) by caging the queen or performing splits.

## Population management

- Swarm control: see the guidelines for May.
- This is the best time (swarm season) to rear queens.

# June Management Info

## Equipment

- Foundation will be more likely to be drawn out during a honey flow.
- Consider adding a queen excluder to manage the honey supers more easily.
- Set up bait hives if you want to catch a swarm!

## Hive products and services

- Depending on the strength/size of your colonies and your management goals, you may consider extracting the spring honey. Extract immediately after removing the supers to prevent a small hive beetle infestation.
- You may be able to trap pollen.

## Yard maintenance

- Mow the yard as necessary.

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



**FACEBOOK SITES  
MANAGED BY BCBA**

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

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

**"Bee"ing Funny"**



**What happened when  
the bee phoned  
home?**

**"Bee"ing Funny"**



**She got a buzzy  
signal.**

# 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

**Treasurer: Tom Cashman**

Tcash99930@aol.com

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

vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Secretary: Edmund Poillion**

secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Website Chair: Carl Fisher**

info@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Education Outreach Chair: Julie Mazzoleni**

**Social Media: Wayne Steigelman**

**Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm**

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