

# September 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

The wind down of the year is upon us. I hope your honey harvest was everything you hoped it would be. Now we need to focus on what we need to do to get our bees through the winter – mite control and food stores. Beekeepers need to monitor their hives mite loads and treat if necessary. The hive is still raising brood which gives the mites an opportunity to increase their number before the queen shuts down egg laying for the season. Remember, your winter bees are being raised now.

Honey stores need to be appropriate for the upcoming winter. What will that be? That will depend on the weather and at what rate the bees consume the honey. So, if you feel that your hives are light, start your supplemental feeding now to give the bees time to dry down that incoming feed.

Now back to the honey you harvested. What are you going to do with it? This is a point in the beekeeping year where you become a marketer of your product{s}. Products of the hive are not just about honey. How about an infused honey product? A fermented honey product? Baking with honey? Mead? There are a lot of options to use honey, so it may be worth experimenting with something new to you. What about the wax? Candles, soap, salve, and lip balm may be something you would like to try. If you collected the propolis, there are products you can make with that as well

So as the bees start winding down, there are other bee “items” to devote that extra time you have now in the fall.

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

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

# September 2024 Association Meeting

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, September 18, 2024

**Location:** Green Bay Botanical Garden

**Zoom Meeting:** Meeting ID: 890 2914 7021 Passcode: 754795

MBM: Honey Show Prep. Feel free to arrive at 5:30p for the MBM, along with  
Networking & Socializing

## Member Spotlight

Hello my name is Emily Skala and since starting college I have been a part of the UW Oshkosh beekeeping club.

When I joined it was great to see so many peers invented in beekeeping and how to help pollinators. Sadly, they were not getting the help they needed when it came to beekeeping. When we were in the hive I would be giving pointers on how to handle frames and identifying the queen. We had to start almost everyone on the basics. I am glad that I do get so many questions because it means the club members genuinely want to grow their knowledge.

I am proud to say that the bees are doing well this year and can't wait to see how the club will continue to grow as more members gain experience and confidence in their skills as beekeepers.

Emily

\* Emily is currently the co-chair of the BCBA Education Committee, along with Dave Elsen. Please feel free to reach out with any ideas/requests for educational topics you would like to see covered in a future meeting. You can send these to the BCBA Secretary, email address at the bottom of this newsletter.

# 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	Dave Elsen
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
	Honey Show Prep Q&A	MBM	Stephanie Slater, AHSTC
October 16, 2024	Discussion Panel	Reg	
November 13, 2024	Products of the Hive and Honey Judging Contest	Reg	Stephanie Slater and Club

# September Management Info

## Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 64F Low: 47F

Average Precipitation: 3.1 inches (0 inches of snow, 3.1 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 12 hours 30 minutes

## In the Hive

The queen's rate of egg laying slows and the brood area continues to contract. Little drone brood is laid. This is the end of a second, smaller swarm season. Nectar sources continue to diminish, although resin/propolis collection continues. Left untreated, the Varroa mite population usually peaks in August or September. The bees may be more defensive, protecting their hive and robbing other colonies.

## Inspection

- This is the last month when a beekeeper can expect to perform thorough colony inspections. Roger Morse once wrote, "I often think of September as the month when one corrects errors made in August".
- The queen's egg laying slows dramatically by the end of the month, so the brood pattern may be difficult to accurately evaluate.
- You should have been keeping records the entire active season, but it is especially important now as your hive is readied for winter. Take note of the number of the bees/size of the cluster, the amount (weight) and position of honey stores they have, etc., so that if the colony fails, you can make a more accurate deadout diagnosis in the spring.
- Bees may rob hives left open during a long inspection. Be thorough but efficient.

## Nutrition

- A full-sized colony should have at least 70-90 pounds of honey to eat by the beginning of October, or more than one full deep. (Nucs of course need less.) Estimate the eight by slightly tipping and hefting the hive, or use a hive scale. If you extract honey, leave enough for the bees or feed them heavy sugar syrup to make up for the difference.
- If you feed the bees sugar syrup, it should be a 2:1 ratio, thicker than the spring feed; the bees can evaporate the excess moisture from the hive faster from this thicker syrup. The bees will need at least two double-sided frames of pollen/bee bread by late winter/early spring. September is the last month it is recommended to feed pollen or pollen substitute for the remainder of autumn, as bees use the reduction in pollen flow as a cue to begin rearing winter bees.
- If the weather is dry and there is no water source near the hive, consider providing one.
- If you plan to raise rear queens next year, begin to prepare cell finishers this fall: feed it lavishly now (carbohydrates and protein).

# September Management Info

## Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Monitor for Varroa mites. At this point in the year, if you find three or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash, you will want to treat. If you have extracted your honey harvest, this is a good time to use treatments that cannot be used when supers are present.
- Remove drone comb foundation for the remainder of the year.
- Monitor for Nosema. It is present all year round, but regular monitoring will help you understand your normal levels and when/if they peak, particularly if you are seeking to understand why a colony is struggling.

## Population management

- Consider combining weak colonies with strong ones or culling them: if a colony can accurately be judged as doomed, it will probably be a waste of resources to try to overwinter it individually.
- If you are considering re-queening, this is a good month to do it. An overwintered young queen should start laying a good pattern in the spring.
- Do not interrupt the brood pattern in September as it may disrupt the production of winter bees.

## Equipment

- Removing bees from honey supers may require a fume board, bee brush, bee escape, or other tools; they each have advantages and disadvantages for different beekeepers and in different environmental conditions.

## Hive products and services

- If you remove fall honey, it should be extracted immediately afterward to prevent a small hive beetle infestation. Fall honeys usually granulate more quickly than spring honeys and may need to be warmed a bit to flow through filters or other equipment.

## Yard maintenance

- Mow the yard as necessary.

For more September 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*

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

**Treasurer: Tom Cashman**

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

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

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

**Secretary: Edmund Poillion**

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

**Website Chair: Carl Fisher**

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