

November 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 weather is telling us winter is right around the corner and very few nice days are left for the season. The bees will utilize those nice days to find what ever food is available to them. As beekeepers we need to keep in mind that any feeding of syrup needs to be dried down by the bees, which adds moisture to the hive. Moisture can be detrimental to the hive. As a general rule, when the temperature gets around 50 degrees and the bees start to cluster, it is time to stop syrup feeding.

November is also the time most beekeepers think about winterizing and wrapping their hives. To wrap or not to wrap is the question. Again the 50 degrees temperature is the key, or should I say 40 degrees - 50 degrees it the clustering temperature for the bees. When bees cluster, there is less movement and they are just generating heat to keep the hive warm which saves food stores. As the temperature drops below 50 degrees the more heat they need to generate. So, they use more food stores. That balance between heat and food stores, according to some research, seems to be 40 degrees.

Getting back to wrapping. If we wrap too early, the bees will continue to be active and not clustering. Flying uses a lot of energy which equals more used food stores. Wrapping to late, the bees are using more food stores to keep the hive warm. That is the art of beekeeping answering the question of when to wrap and if needed add sugar to supplement the hives.

Also, don't forget to take advantage of any warm days when the bees are flying to do another oxalic vapor treatment. The hives are basically brood less and mite levels are on the down swing. So hit those mites again.

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

Chris
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

P.S. I would like to thank you for the vote to continue as president of the club for 2025. The leadership has already had some verbal discussion for some exciting plans for next year. Thanks again!

November 2024 Association Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Location: Green Bay Botanical Garden

Zoom Meeting: [Meeting ID: 823 3400 6049 Passcode: 832617](#)

MBM: Products of the Hive and Honey Judging Contest

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

NOVEMBER MEETING EVENTS

Products of the Hive |

Honey Show |

Meeting |

Membership Renewals

Main Level Meeting Room

Vendor Set Up

5:00PM - 6:00PM

Show Hours

6:00PM - 7:30PM

***Bring a favorite Treat to Share!**

Coordinator:

Julianne Sanders
847-309-9686

julianne.sanders@yahoo.com

Lower Level Meeting Room

Entry Registration

5:00PM - 5:30PM

Judging and Viewing

6:00PM - 7:30PM

No entries will be accepted after 5:30PM without prior approval

Coordinator:

Dave Elsen
920-370-5281

daveelsenbk@gmail.com

Main Level Meeting Room

Club Meeting

6:30PM - 6:45PM

Due to numerous activities, this will be a short meeting covering only basic club information

Coordinator:

President Chris Groth
920-655-2779

president@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com

Main Level Meeting Room

Membership Renewal

5:30PM - 6:30PM

Renewals will be accepted in person with check or cash. If paying via CC please visit our website at...

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Coordinator:

Wayne Steigelman
920-241-2226

wsteigelman@gmail.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING

 BCBA MEMBERS
Watch your email for more information!

First Annual Honey Show

November 13th Meeting

- Liquid Honey
Light-Amber-Dark
- Honey Frame
- Beeswax Products



STEPHANIE SLATER American Honey Show Certified Judge



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



Individual Membership

\$20.00



Family Membership

\$30.00



Products of the hive

Botanical Garden

Main Level Meeting Room

November 13th 6:00-7:30 PM



Organizers

JULIANNE SANDERS

847-309-9686

JULIANNE.SANDERS@YAHOO.COM

ASSISTED BY: ANDREA MICHAUD AND
MELISSA MAURER-FORD

MEMBER GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

Refreshments Needed



**CLUB WILL PROVIDE: SLIDERS, CHEESE,
SAUSAGE & VEGGIE TRAY, SODA, WATER**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
FAVORITE SIDE DISHES, TREATS, MEAD!**



PRIZES-BEE TALK-FOOD-FELLOWSHIP

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

WISCONSIN BEEKEEPING EVENTS

WHPA Fall Convention
Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2024

Midwest HoneyBee Expo
Jan. 25th – 26th, 2025

Beek Meet 2025
Jan. 25th, 2025

Chippewa Valley Bee Expo
Apr 19, 2025

Stoney Creek Hotel
La Crosse in Onalaska, WI

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Liz Walsh, USDA-ARS,
Baton Rouge, LA

Dr. Hannah Gaines-Day,
Adrian Quiney, Charlie
Koenen, Trevor Bawden
and more!

www.wihoney.org

Waukesha Expo Center
Waukesha, WI

Keynote Speaker:
Ian Stepler
Stepler Farms, YouTube-A
Canadian Beekeeper's Blog

Peggy DeSanto cofounder
*Hive Hugger winterization
system*

Steve Cantley From
BroodMinder

www.midwesthoneybeeexpo.com

Midstate Technical College
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Keynote Speaker:
Ian Stepler
Stepler Farms, YouTube-A
Canadian Beekeeper's Blog

Fred Dunn-*The Way To Bee*
Chris Hansen-*Hansen Honey*
The Stream Team
and more!

www.cwbees.com

Northern Wisconsin State
Fairgrounds
Chippewa Falls, WI

Events include honeybee
demonstrations, cooking with
honey, raffles, food trucks,
seminars and youth programs.

www.chippewavalleybeekeepers.com

WHAT'S NEW IN THE FIGHT AGAINST VARROA

ApiLife Var is Back and Ready to Kill Varroa Mites

Club Sponsor, Betterbee is now the United States distributor

With over 30 years of international use, ApiLife Var is a thymol-based treatment that uses four natural ingredients synergistically working together to kill varroa mites. Its effectiveness exceeds 94% and the back-to-back, low-dosage treatments mean no varroa resistance and good tolerance by the bees.

ApiLife Var (ALV) has been used for decades to knock down mite levels in honey bee colonies. Each package includes two wafers made of a sponge-like material that allows for the gradual evaporation of its four natural ingredients: thymol, eucalyptus oil, L-menthol, and camphor.

For more information or purchasing, go to www.betterbee.com

Watch this video to learn all about ApiLife Var:



Extended-release oxalic acid for varroa management

According to Randy Oliver's website
www.scientificbeekeeping.com,

This method of application of oxalic acid is now federally allowed by the EPA for one's own use, but may be restricted by your State, so check first with your State pesticide regulator. If you are not a DIY type of beekeeper, there is a new product on the market creating a lot of discussions...

VarroxSan is a highly effective varroa control treatment, based on oxalic acid dihydrate in slow-release strips, ensuring correct dosage that covers at least three live cycles of the varroa mite. Oxalic acid is an organic compound, naturally found in many plants.

Watch this video to learn all about VarroxSan:



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 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

November Management Info

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 37F Low: 25F

Average Precipitation: 3.6 inches (1.9 inches of snow, 1.7 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 9 hours 39 minutes

In the Hive

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

Equipment

- You may insulate the hive, but be sure foremost to avoid moisture build-up in the hives. Cold is less of a problem for bees than condensation. Since much of the heat escapes out of the top of the hive, some beekeepers add a super with an insulating, absorbent material (e.g., dry leaves, wood chips). Others wrap the hives in black tar paper or similar materials.
- Leave an upper entrance open for the exhaust of moisture. Tilt the hives forward a few degrees so that any moisture that does accumulate can drain out the bottom entrance.
- Be sure that any equipment you are storing during the winter that may harbor wax moths has been frozen and/or is stored carefully.

Yard Maintenance

- Consider setting up a wind break near the hives.
- If it snows, make sure the entrances are clear of snow to ensure proper air flow.

For more November 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
- 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