

December 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

December is a good time to reflect on the past year's beekeeping work. How did your plan work out from last January? Did you accomplish all the tasks that you planned? What are the things that you would like to do, or change, are tasks for 2025 year's plan. I find myself thinking about 2024 issues and going into my bee books for ideas. Researching those ideas and what I might do next season. That includes next years mite management. How can I incorporate the new treatments methods into my mite management scheme.

Being bombarded with holiday sales advertisement, from beekeeper suppliers, I have also started to think about supplies I need for next season – frames, foundation, etc.. How I might expand my apiary/operation. Winterizing the hives I have made some mental notes of woodenware issues that need to be addressed also. More winter projects!

In 2025, I encourage you to try something new to you in beekeeping. Something new expands your understanding of your bees and keeps your endeavor fresh. Very similar to the club's honey show, last month. It was something new and very well received. I believe we all learned something. As with anything new there are things that we can improve upon for next year. The leadership team is meeting in December, so if you have any other ideas for next year let us know.

Enjoy your holiday season.

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

Chris
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

December 2024 Association Meeting

No meeting in December

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2024 Awards Night

AS WE WRAP UP ON THE 2024 BEEKEEPING SEASON AND TAKE THE TIME TO REFLECT ON THIS YEAR'S BEEKEEPER AND NEW BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS, IT IS EASY FOR ME TO SEE THE POSITIVE IMPACT AND LEGACY LEFT BY OUR CLUB'S FORMER PRESIDENT STEVE HUPFER. HE ABSOLUTELY LOVED BEES AND BEEKEEPING, AND IT WAS CONTAGIOUS. HE IS ONE OF THE BEST THAT MANY OF US CAME ACROSS. HE WAS INQUISITIVE AND WAS NOT AFRAID TO EXPERIMENT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DID NOT.

AS A CLUB MEMBER, STEVE REMAINED ACTIVELY INVOLVED AND NEVER MISSED A MEETING. HE WAS A SELF-TRAINED MASTER BEEKEEPER WITH EXTENSIVE BEEKEEPING KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES THAT CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE CURRENT AND PAST BCBA CLUB MEMBERS, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF SURROUNDING CLUBS IN SHAWANO, DOOR COUNTY, FOX VALLEY, EVEN WAUPACA. ALL THOSE LITTLE PIECES HE SHARED WITH THOSE HE GUIDED AND MENTORED CONTINUE TO BE CIRCULATED AND ADAPTED AS THE EVER-CHANGING COLONY AND CLIMATE REQUIREMENTS UNFOLD. I FOR ONE WOULD NOT BE THE BEEKEEPER I AM TODAY WITHOUT HIS INFLUENCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

STEVE CREATED THE "NEW BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR AWARD" DURING HIS TENURE AS CLUB PRESIDENT. WHAT AN HONOR TO BE RECOGNIZED BY OUR BEEKEEPING COMMUNITY. IT WOULD MAKE HIM PROUD TO KNOW THAT THE CLUB IS ONCE AGAIN SUPPORTING THIS AWARD. HE NEVER PERSONALLY RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR "BCBA BEEKEEPER OF THE YEAR," BUT CERTAINLY DESERVED SUCH AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR ALL HE ACCOMPLISHED OVER 30 YEARS IN BEEKEEPING.

STEVE'S DEDICATION TO THE PRESERVATION OF BEES AND THEIR KEY ROLE IN OUR ECOSYSTEM WAS UNPARALLELED. HIS PASSION FOR BEEKEEPING WAS EVIDENT IN THE THRIVING HIVES HE MAINTAINED AND THE KNOWLEDGE HE SHARED WITH OTHERS. THOUGH HE IS NO LONGER WITH US, HIS LEGACY LIVES ON THROUGH THE COUNTLESS BEEKEEPERS AND BEES HE HELPED NURTURE OVER THE YEARS. WE ARE HONORED TO RECOGNIZE HIS CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMITMENT TO THE WELLBEING AND PROTECTION OF THESE VITAL POLLINATORS. STEVE HUPFER AKA "PROUD PAPA" WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AS A TRUE CHAMPION OF BEEKEEPING.

- Sarah Mueller

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2024 Beekeeper Awards



And the Winner is...



WHAT'S THE BUZZ

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2024 Honey Show Awards



Jim Sharp
Dick Sturm
Chris DeWolfe



Dick Sturm
Dave Elsen
Jim Sharp

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2024 Honey Show Awards



Shellie Milheiser
Chris DeWolfe
Jim Sharp



Dick Sturm
Wayne Steigelman
Chris Groth

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2024 Honey Show Awards



Dave Elsen
Dick Sturm
Bob Michiels



Dick Sturm
Chris Groth
Wayne Steigelman

2025 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 15, 2025	Varroa Mite Management	Reg	Dick Sturm
February 19, 2025	Bee Diseases and Diagnosis Minnesota Bee Squad	Reg	Jessica Helgen Bee Squad Pgm Director or Jenny Warner Bee Squad Beekeeper
March 19, 2025	Queen Rearing	Reg	Keith Zaidel, Zaidel Wild Apiary
	Honey Decrystalization	MBM	Rance Bennett, This Old Hive
April 16, 2025	Spring Management	Reg	Dave Elsen
	Installing Bees	MBM	
May 21, 2025	Girl Next-Door Honey	Reg	Hillary Kearney
June 18, 2025	Dr. Chelsa Cook, Marquette	Reg	
August 20, 2025	Fall Management	Reg	
	Honey Extraction	MBM	Nathan Frailey
September 17, 2025	Wax Processing and Products	Reg	Rance Bennett, This Old Hive
October 15, 2025	Discussion Panel	Reg	Wayne Steigelman Facilitates
November 19, 2025	Products of the Hive and Honey Judging Contest	Reg	Stephanie Slater and Club

December Management Info

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 33F Low: 18F

Average Precipitation: 14.5 inches (13 inches of snow, 1.5 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 8 hours 52 minutes

In the Hive

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

Equipment

- Order any replacement bees (packages, nucs, or queens) as soon as possible; producers generally run out fast.
- Clean your honey house, freezer, or other areas that are chaotic/full in the active season.
- Take inventory. Fix, clean/sterilize, purchase, assemble, and paint equipment as needed.

Yard Maintenance

- Remove ice blocking the hive entrances, to give the colonies better ventilation.
- Don't worry about snow around the hive body which may help insulate the bees.

Education

- Don't forget to renew your membership in the club and get the meetings on your calendar.
- Spend this time reflecting on what went well and what you might change next year.
- Plan for your upcoming year: do you want to downsize or scale up, try out a new form of honey production, get into the pollination business, or something else?
- Catch up on Bee Culture and American Bee Journal – and renew your subscription!

For more December 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