

# BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2025



**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 you had an enjoyable Holiday season with family and friends, and maybe some time with your bees. The new year begins, along with the new beekeeping season. In this year's Presidents Messages, I would like to focus on two specific topics.

The first topic being phenology in the bee year. The best way I have found to start your own phenology for your apiary is to use your cell phone camera to document what you are seeing. What plants the bees are visiting, what pollen they are bringing in and what plants are blooming at any given point in the year. Those photo date stamps will help you anticipate nectar flows in following years. I will share my photos on the club's Facebook site.

The second topic would be Sustainable Beekeeping. After you learned to keep your bees alive through a winter, you realize that beekeeping is an expensive hobby. You are addicted to beekeeping now and is there a way to reduce that economic impact on your wallet? I will try share some ideas to keep your apiary sustainable.

Let me know what specific items in those topics you are interested in.

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

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



# January 2025 Association Meeting

## Bee News



### NATIONAL SURVEY INDICATES HIGHEST BEE COLONY LOSSES IN 14 YEARS

U.S. beekeepers lost an estimated 55.1% of their managed bee colonies in 2023-24 – 14.8 percentage points higher than the 13-year average annual loss rate of 40.3%.

This surge in colony losses was driven largely by losses among commercial beekeepers managing more than 500 colonies.

“Backyard beekeepers traditionally experience greater losses than commercial beekeepers, but this time around it was flipped

[Read the entire survey from Apiary Inspectors of America here...](#)

**LATEST  
NEWS**

**Date/Time:** Wednesday January 15th 6:30PM

**Location:** Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve

**Zoom Meeting:** Meeting ID: 881 7771 7916 Passcode: 989284





### MEMBER EXPERIENCE

#### Trip to Louisville Kentucky for the North American Honeybee Expo 2025

My sister and I were lucky enough to attend The North American Honey Bee Expo in Louisville Kentucky January 2nd-4th 2025. There were so many great things about the expo. The venue provided a really good space for the speakers, vendors and all the beeks. It was a phenomenal experience to be around so many beekeepers from all over the world and get to interact with them, as well as the top of the line speakers. We were particularly interested in hearing Randy Oliver talk about mites and mite control. We learned a bunch from his researched techniques and found some good takeaways that we will be implementing in our bee yards. The other topics we found most intriguing were bee nutrition, the research on queens and requeening/supersedure.

Although we did learn many evidence based practices from some of the best, it was Kamen Renolds keynote address that inspired us to be beekeepers that aren't just about successes in our bee yard, but to consider how to inspire the next generation of beekeepers, the future of bees and all pollinators. As we plan for the 2025 season, we are looking at how we can fire up that next generation in joining this incredible journey. The NAHBE was a 10/10 experience and highly recommend it to anyone considering.



- SARAH MUELLER & JEN RENFRO

# NORTH AMERICAN HONEY BEE EXPO



## MEMBER EXPERIENCE



SARAH MUELLER & JEN RENFRO

# 2025 WISCONSIN BEEKEEPING EVENTS

BCBA Intro Class  
January 18th

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

Beek Meet 2025  
Jan. 25th, 2025

Chippewa Valley Bee Expo  
Apr 19, 2025

January 18th, 2025 – 8:00am to 2:30pm (in-person, location: Great Lakes Energy Education Center on the campus of NWTC, Rooms EE201/202). Booyah lunch will be provided.

May 17th, 2025 8:00am to 10:00am (at the hive, location: Green Bay Botanical Gardens)

[www.browncountybeekeepers.com](http://www.browncountybeekeepers.com)

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.midwesthoneybeexpo.com](http://www.midwesthoneybeexpo.com)

Midstate Technical College  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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

Freddie Gunn-The Way to Bee  
Chris Hansen-Hansen Honey  
The Stream Team

*Cancelled*

[www.cwbees.com](http://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](http://www.chippewavalleybeekeepers.com)

## 2025 BCBA LEADERSHIP TEAM



**President:** Chris Groth  
**Vice President:** Nathan Frailey  
**Secretary:** Edmund Poillion  
**Treasurer:** Chad Ford

**Chair Positions:**  
Bob Michiels  
Dave Elsen  
Carl Fisher  
Julie Mazzoleni  
Mimi Gerner  
Sarah Mueller  
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	Dr. Chelsa Cook, Marquette
August 20, 2025	Fall Management	Reg	Panel
	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



# January Management Info

## Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average Temperatures: High: 26F Low: 11F

Average Precipitation: 5.1 inches (4.6 inches of snow, 0.5 inches of rain)

Average Hours of Sunlight per Day: 9 hours 18 minutes

For January 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.

## 2025 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: Chad Ford**

treasurer@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Secretary: Edmund Poillion**

secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

**Education Outreach Chair: Julie Mazzoleni**

**Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm**