

BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

JUNE 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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank Wayne Steigelman for hosting May's At the Hive event. He set the bar high for Dave Elsen's June At the Hive event. I came away from that event realizing as beekeeper's how much knowledge we quickly attain. There was a group discussion about mite control with oxalic acid vaporization and some of the beginning beekeeper's attending had confused looks. The disconnect was understanding the oxalic acid vaporization and the brood cycle. Oxalic acid only affects exposed mites that are not under the cap brood. So roughly at the time of a single application of oxalic acid only 1/3 of the mites in the hive are exposed to the oxalic acid. Explaining this to the group got me thinking. Beekeeping is understanding the fundamentals – brood development cycles.

As I am writing this message, I am trying my hand at grafting queens. Again, understanding the brood development cycle– 3 days after an egg is laid it hatches to a larva. These young larvae are the best for grafting from. 4 days from now, I will get to see what grafts have taken. In 15 days, I need to have mating nucleus ready for those accepted queen cells. Fundamentals.

In the past week, the black locust trees have really blossomed and the nectar is coming in. Understanding brood development, if a beekeeper wanted to really capture this specialty nectar, they would have to have a lot of brood being laid in the beginning of May with strong hive numbers. 21-day brood cycle for worker brood. The basswood bloom will happen the first week of July, now is the time to start making sure you have a strong brood nest to capture that flow. Fundamentals.

Fundamentals combined with phenology with help with sustainability of your apiary.

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

President: Chris Groth

president@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com



JUNE EDUCATION



REMINDER



Justine is studying how beekeeping antibiotics affect honeybee fanning. She recently performed a USDA grant study looking at the effects of preventative treatment of antibiotics (oxytetracycline or Terramycin) on colony health and the spread of antibiotic resistance. She will provide a brief overview of my research and go into more detail on the USDA study.

The Cook lab takes a holistic approach to understand social behavior. We aim to explain why and how collective behavior occurs at every level; from the collective, to individual behavior, to the physiology and genetics of the individual. Ecological context is critical for understanding social behaviors, so we also explore the environmental conditions that elicit many social behaviors, such as the need for food or a change in temperature.



Justine Nguyen

PhD Candidate – USDA SARE Grant Fellow

Justine is interested in how internal factors, such as the gut microbiome, and external factors, like exposure to pollutants, all influence social behavior and scale to affect societal dynamics.

Online

Join Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84564867148?pwd=IN0uthdSxxX0u7Wywh9bCz5J6UCYJy.1>

Meeting ID: 845 6486 7148

Passcode: 186188

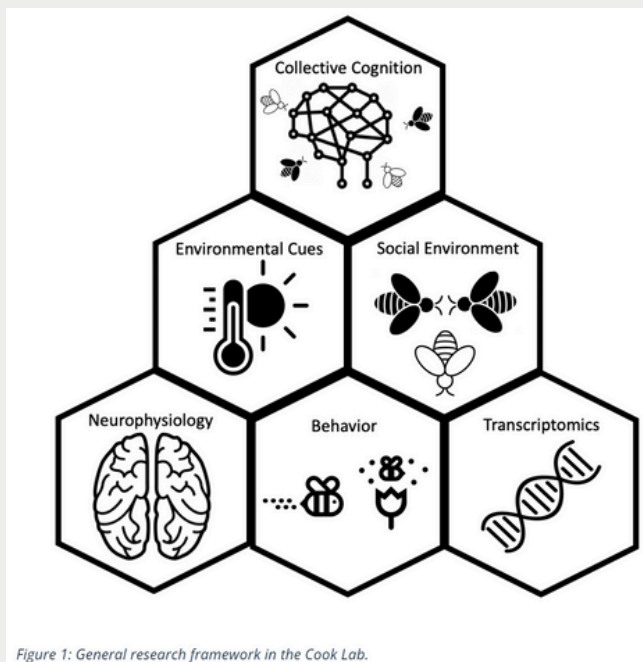


Figure 1: General research framework in the Cook Lab.

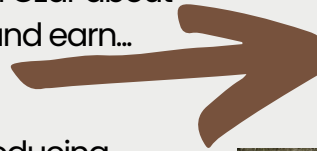
Member Tip - Swarming



**2024 Co-New Beek of the Year
2025 Swarm Czar
- Chris DeWolfe**



Ask our Swarm Czar about
swarming and earn...



Swarming is the honeybee's natural way of reproducing on a colony level. When a hive is thriving with plenty of bees, honey, pollen, and a healthy queen it can start to feel a bit crowded. That's when the bees decide it's time to expand.

A swarm typically means the queen and about half the colony leave the hive to find a new home, leaving behind queen cells and the rest of the bees to continue the original colony.

How to Prevent a Swarm

While you can't always stop a swarm, you can reduce the chances by:

1. Give Them Room to Grow

Add supers or rotate empty frames into the brood nest to relieve congestion. Bees need space, if they run out, they start packing their bags.

2. Split the Hive

If your colony is booming, consider splitting it into two smaller colonies. This satisfies their urge to reproduce and gives you another hive.

3. Monitor Closely

During peak swarm season, inspect your hives weekly. Look for swarm cells and signs of overcrowding. The earlier you catch it, the better your odds of heading it off.



-Continued on pg. 4

BCBA Members Bob Michiels
and Dave Elsen capturing a
swarm in 2024



Member Tip - Swarming

How to Catch a Swarm

1. Be Prepared

Keep a nuc box or spare hive ready to go before you actually need them.

2. Spot the Cluster

After taking flight, swarms often settle in a nearby tree or bush while scout bees search for a new home. They're usually calm and not defensive during this phase.

3. Collect the Swarm

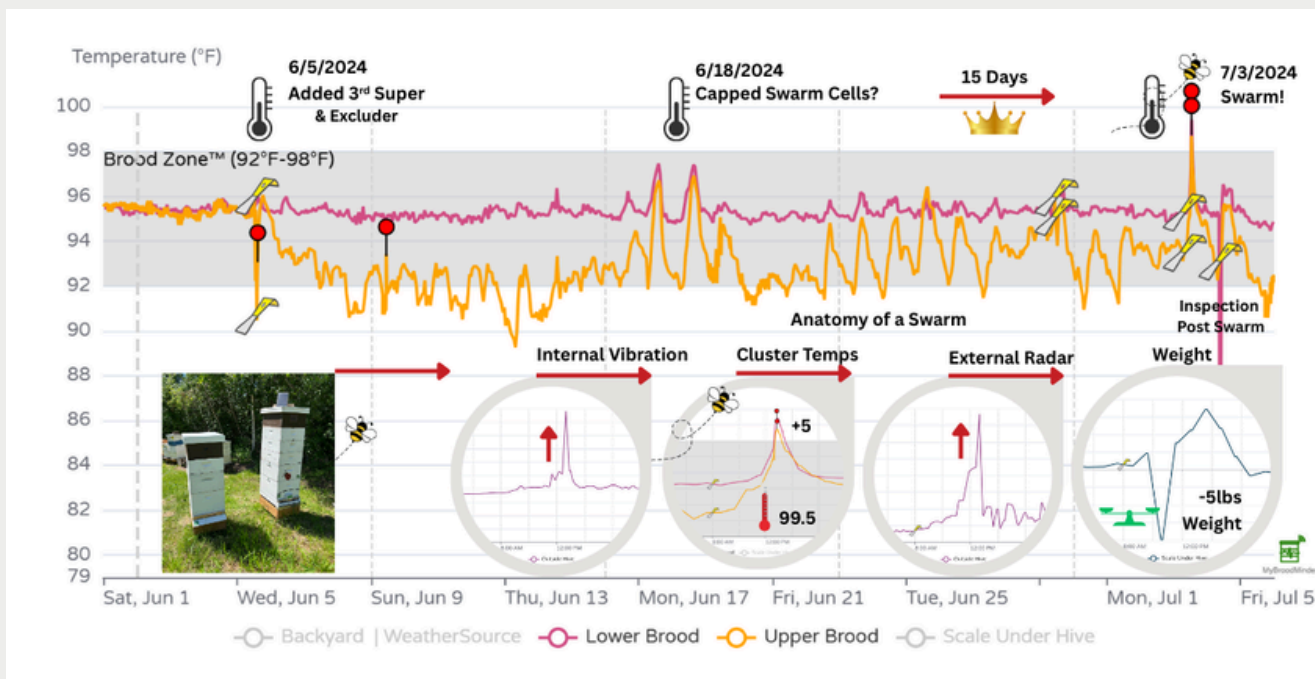
Gently shake or brush the bees into your box or hive. Try to get the queen—once she's in, the rest will follow.

4. Treatment

When you get them back to your apiary you will want to treat the swarm. With the lack of brood, oxalic acid is an excellent option.

5. Let Them Settle

Give them a few days in their new hive. If they like it, they'll stay. If not, well... that's bees for you.



Swarm by the data captured by Wayne Steigelman

HIVE RECIPES FROM THE RECIPE REBEL

Honey Rhubarb Crumb Bars

Ingredients

Filling:

- 3 cups chopped rhubarb
- ½ to ¾ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons cold water
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Cookie Crust & Topping:

- 1 ½ cups whole rolled oats
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup brown sugar (use 1/2 cup for a less sweet bar)
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (if using unsalted butter, increase to 1/2 teaspoon)
- 1 cup butter softened and cut up (or coconut oil to be dairy free)
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans, optional



Instructions

1. Combine filling ingredients in a medium saucepan and bring to a boil over medium-high heat and then lower heat to keep mixture at a very low boil. Cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened and rhubarb is starting to break down, about 8-10 minutes. Set aside to cool while continuing with the recipe.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a 13 x 9 inch pan with parchment, leaving some to hang over sides to lift bars after cooking (or grease well).
3. Add all crumb ingredients into a large mixing bowl, and stir until combined and large crumbs form. Set aside 1 ¾ cups for the topping.
4. Press remaining crumb mixture evenly into the prepared pan. Pour partially cooled rhubarb mixture over the crust and then sprinkle evenly with the reserved crumbs for the topping, pressing down slightly.
5. Bake for 35-40 minutes, until browning around edges and filling is bubbling some.
6. Cool completely on a wire rack before lifting bars out of the pan using the parchment and cutting into 24 bars.
7. Serve within a couple of days, refrigerate for a week, or store in the freezer for up to 3 months.

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Carol Sturm

gramma of two pink plus one blue!!

Maker of critters, watcher of fish, birds & bees 🍷🐝

New home to the GMD named Denali!!

Mother of four plus more

Go Pack Go 🏈

Menasha, WI



BCBA BEEKEEPING EVENTS

June “At the Hive”

Hosted by Dave Elsen at the Botanical Gardens on Wed, June 25th starting at 4:30.

The hives are on Larsen Road just past the Gardens entrance across from NWTC. Park in NWTC parking lot and walk through chain link fence gate.

Hope to see you there. Bee suits will be available.

May “At the Hive”

Hosted by Wayne Steigelman at A-Frame Acres



WHPA COMMITTEE NEWS

Hello Wisconsin Beekeepers!

We're looking forward to seeing you soon on Saturday, June 14th at the WHPA Summer Meeting at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in Appleton, WI. Guest speakers include Chris Werner, Indian Summer Honey Farm; Sherri Benson, Hives for Heroes; and a Q&A Panel with Doug Hauke, Chris Werner, and William Werning! Plus updates from DATCP Apiarist Brooke Nikkila, WI Honey Queen Emily Sydow, and the BLACK JAR HONEY TASTING CONTEST! See you there!

WISCONSIN HONEY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION BLACK JAR HONEY TASTING CONTEST



SUMMER MEETING - JUNE 14, 2025 - APPLETON, WI

- FREE to enter
- Entry must be a 1-pound jar of liquid honey
- One entry per person
- Entry must be produced by the entrant
- Must be a WHPA member to enter
- All Summer Meeting attendees may vote
- Prize awarded for the 1st place entry
- Entries must be submitted by 10:00 am on Saturday, June 14, 2025
- Voting will take place 11:00 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday, June 14, 2025
- Winner will be announced at 2:15 pm on Saturday, June 14, 2025

Honey jars will be covered so voting is anonymous and based only on flavor.

Entries will not be returned to entrant.

Contact Stephanie Slater with any questions - stephanie.d.slater@gmail.com

Wisconsin Honey Producers Summer Meeting Agenda
Friday, June 13th WHPA Meet & Greet (aka Summer Social) from 7:00pm-9:00pm in the hotel bar. Network and connect with fellow beekeepers! All are invited!

HOTEL INFO – DoubleTree by Hilton, 150 South Nicolet Road, Appleton. Rooms are blocked under Wisconsin Honey Producers Association for \$119/night. Room block closed after May 19 but if you call 920-735-9955, the hotel might give you the discounted rate if you sweetly mention the WI Honey Producers Association.

Bee Well,

Tracy Malterer

President, Wisconsin Honey Producers Association

JUNE Management

Here is what to expect in and around the hive in June.

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.

For more detailed May management info, visit our month by month education on the BCBA website.






USDA-ARS Releases Key Findings on Spring Colony Losses



 Viruses vectored by Varroa mites were a major factor, and every mite tested carried genes associated with resistance to Amitraz, one of the most commonly used Varroa treatments. This underscores a growing concern within the beekeeping and research communities: the declining efficacy of one of the most widely used Varroa treatments. Thanks to the hard work and urgency of the researchers involved, these results were collected, analyzed, and written up for publication quickly—despite other USDA delays, providing critical information that will help shape how we respond to this ongoing challenge.

👉 Here's everything you need to stay informed:

-  [Honey Bee Health Coalition Press Release:](#)
-  [Scientific Paper \(Preprint\):](#)
-  [PAm Roundup & Resources Page:](#)



Project Apis m. is closely tracking this situation and supporting the industry's response.



FACEBOOK SITES MANAGED BY BCBA

[Northeast WI Beekeepers](#)
beekeepers helping beekeepers

[Brown County Beekeepers](#)
updates on club happenings

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	Identifying and Managing Honey Bee Diseases 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	Wayne Steigelman Nathan Frailey
May 21, 2025	Girl Next-Door Honey	Reg	Hillary Kearney
June 18, 2025	Beekeeping antibiotics	Reg	Justine Nguyen PhD Candidate - USDA SARE Grant Fellow
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





BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS SUMMER PICNIC

Location: **Green Bay Botanical Gardens**
Outdoor Patio (inside if it rains)

Date: **Wednesday July 16, 2025**

Time: **5:30 to 8:30 PM**

Master of Ceremonies – Wayne
Steigelman
Grill Master – James Arvey

Meat, buns, condiments, paper
goods, water and soda
provided by the club

**SIGNUP TO BRING A DISH TO
PASS! APPETIZERS, SIDES OR
DESSERTS!**

Organizers

Dick and Carol Sturm

RSVP text/call 920-475-7301

Signup by July 13

Members Guests are welcome.

Please include in RSVP



**DOOR PRIZES! BEE TALK! FOOD!
FELLOWSHIP!
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

*Summer
Vibes*



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Brown County Beekeeping Association

Member Benefits

Club Sponsor – Hansen Honey Farm, Rhinelander, WI

- 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: Mimi Gerner 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