

BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 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

This month let us explore another part of sustainability in our apiaries- Biosecurity. If you haven't given this any thought for your operation, you should. I have had a number of beekeepers talk about disease issues that they are having with their hives. Most of the discussion focuses on how to cure the problem and very little about how the problem started.

Most of the viral and bacterial diseases are in hives to begin with and a stressor allows the diseases to express themselves. That is the observation we see in the hive. I had my hives tested as a part of a USDA monitoring program and was surprised by the viruses and bacteria detected in what I thought were "healthy" hives. So those viruses and bacteria were being held in check by the bees and not being expressed (observation of their presence.)

So how did those viruses and bacteria get there? Well, you maybe unwittingly part of that transmission method. When you bring in nucs, packages or swarms do you isolate them for inspection/observation first from your other hives? You should - that will give you time to catch any issues before exposing the rest of your hives to a potential disease or pest.

What do you do with equipment? Are you sanitizing your hive tool between hives? Wearing disposable gloves? What about the wooden ware from dead outs or hives that you know that had a disease issue? Using a disinfectant to wash woodenware and hive tools, such as washing soda or bleach solution would be a good practice to follow to reduce the transmission rate.

Lastly, get to know the diseases. What do they look like. How are they transmitted. What stressors may express those diseases. What are the disinfectant methods are used to deal with those diseases. What vectors move the viruses and bacteria - mites? Control those vectors also.

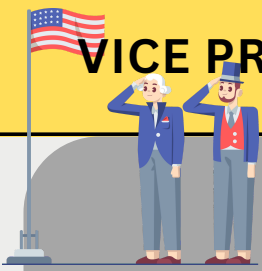
As beekeepers we all have a desire to cure what ails our bees, but culling (destroying) an infected hive maybe the best option to save the apiary. At the very least, remove and isolate the infected hive. We all know that bees can and do drift between hives. So, limit the exposure of the infected hive to your other hives.

Biosecurity is an in-depth subject and I have just touched on some of the topics. There is a lot of information on the internet and I would encourage you to explore biosecurity. Learning about biosecurity will help you with your long-term sustainability of your apiary.

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

President: Chris Groth
president@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com





VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ● BUMBLE BEE AMBASSADOR

Bees vs Honey

At the beginning of this year I had big dreams to have 10 hives. As spring came, and finances tightened, I elected to not spend money on purchasing more bees this year. With some planning, and diligent swarm monitoring, I took 1 overwintered hive and now have 4 (maybe) hives. I'd like to drive home my strategy by asking a couple questions, hopefully helping you make decisions as a beekeeper.

1. Do you want to produce honey or bees? My focus this year was to grow bees and expand colonies using what I have and not buying more. I will not get a honey harvest (unless goldenrod produces extremely well). At this point I have 4 solid deeps and completely empty supers. It's very difficult to have both without investment.
2. How much money are you willing to spend? This year I was going to spend \$1,500 on bees, but backed out last minute. Place your time and money where your priorities are. I'm always trying to build and I had to let myself know it's OK for beekeeping to remain a hobby.
3. How risky are you willing to be with your livestock? In my case, how late are you willing to split? I had a hive that was 2 very strong deeps. I just decided to split (walk away), hoping I have enough time for the hive to still make a queen. Over the next 6 weeks, the hive numbers will dwindle, impacting any chance of honey from that hive. Worst case scenario, the split is unsuccessful and I combine in October. Risky, but lines up with my strategy.

Make plans. Have a strategy. Dream big, but stay grounded. Keep beekeeping.

BCBA VP. Nathan Frailey, Sr
vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

Julie Mazzoleni,
Bumble Bee



Brigade Ambassador

A Bumble Bee Brigade Ambassador is a volunteer who shares their love of bumble bees with the community while helping the Wisconsin DNR learn what's happening with these pollinators in WI. Ambassadors are trained to recognize different species, understand their biology and habitats, and talk to people about why bumble bees matter. At outreach events, Julie will connect with the community to talk about bumble bees: how to spot them, understand their life cycle and role as pollinators, why they are in trouble and what can be done to protect them. Ambassadors also invite others to join the Bumble Bee Brigade citizen science project, where anyone can report bumble bee sightings and submit photos. These observations help protect and conserve bumble bees across Wisconsin. Julie hopes to inspire others to notice, appreciate, and care for bumble bees in their own backyards.





AUGUST MEETING EDUCATION

FALL MANAGEMENT PANEL



DAVE ELSSEN

EF HONEY



MBM EDUCATION

**5:30PM - 6:30PM HONEY
EXTRACTION**

**WAYNE STEIGELMAN
A-FRAME ACRES**



NATHAN FRAILEY



Topic: BCBA Zoom Meeting

Time: Aug 20, 2025 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87114788806?pwd=SrMRNbB8QcFx20vqgyaawJW9paklZS1>

Meeting ID: 871 1478 8806

Passcode: 541036



Botanical Gardens Children's Pollinator Camp

Day 1

Thankful for all our volunteers! Dave Elsen CR Groth Michelle Riemer Mimi Gerner Wayne Steigelman

[Link](#)



Day 2

Thank you volunteers CR Groth, Jeff Schroeder from Schroeder Honey, Dave Elsen from EF Honey and Pat Laes for another successful day at Green Bay Botanical Garden "Kids Camp."

[Link](#)

2nd BCBA Honey, Wax and Crafts Judging Contest



Club members, the 2nd BCBA Honey, Wax and Crafts Judging Contest is a go for November. We are getting out the contest criteria early so you can start thinking about preparing your entries. Preparation is a key factor in success. I strongly encourage all entrants to read the Judging Criteria, which will be handed out at upcoming meetings and posted on BCBA Website. It's the best first step. There are also many YouTube sites available to help you prepare the perfect entry. Watch for future Newsletter updates for additional helpful references.

Last year we had 18 participants total which broke down as:

- 11 Light Honey
- 12 Amber Honey
- 3 Dark Honey
- 6 Beeswax Blocks
- 3 Beeswax Candles
- 7 Frames of Honey



This year we are adding Black Jar Honey, Photography, Drawings, Artwork and Craftwork categories.

First, second and third place finishers receive an awesome BCBA ribbon and some bragging rights.

We've included some photos of our judge Stephanie Slater from 2024 and some pictures of two types of boxes used to display frames of honey.

If you have any questions, please reach out.

Dave Elsen - daveelsenbk@gmail.com
Member of the BCBA Judging Contest Team



BCBA BEEKEEPING EVENTS

AUGUST

"HIVE DIVE"

T B D

WATCH YOUR EMAIL AND BCBA FACE BOOK FOR UPDATES

2025 WHPA Events

WI State Fair Honey Booth
July 31 - Aug. 10, 2025
Wisconsin Products Pavilion, West Allis

Farm Technology Days
Aug. 5-7, 2025 Bear Creek

WHPA Fall Convention
Keynote: Bob Binnie, Blue Ridge Honey Co.
Nov. 6-8, 2025 Neenah, WI

WHPA Board of Managers Meetings
June 14 @ DoubleTree Hilton, Appleton
November 6 @ 3pm in Onalaska, WI

WHPA Executive Board Meetings
September 17 @ 8pm by Zoom
November 8 @ 4pm in Neenah, WI

DATCP Welcomes New Eastern Apiary Inspector Zac Nelson

The Apiary Program is excited to announce that Zac Nelson has been hired as our new seasonal Eastern Apiary Inspector!

Zac has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Marquette University where he worked as a lab technician and field researcher performing hands-on experiments to study honey bee thermoregulatory behavior in the Chelsea Cook Lab. During his time at Marquette, Zac managed honey bee colonies on campus, designed experiments, worked with graduate experiments, and received awards for his research. He also gained valuable apiary field experience working with Lloyd Street Bees.

Since starting with DATCP on April 21, Zac has completed the University of Minnesota's Beekeeping in Northern Climates short course, performed 29 voluntary apiary inspections, and attended the Wisconsin Honey Producers

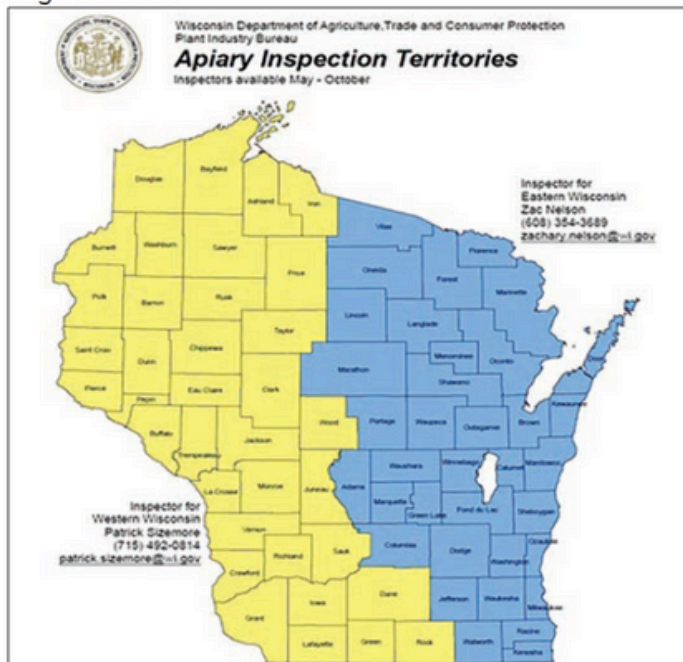
Association Summer meeting.



Apiary Program Coordinator Brooke Nikkila-Sommerfeldt, Western Wisconsin Apiary Inspector Patrick Sizemore, and Eastern Wisconsin Apiary Inspector Zac Nelson are eager to provide inspection services to beekeepers from May through October.

If you would like to request a free, voluntary apiary inspection of your bees; if you are a migratory beekeeper needing one or more \$50 Certificate(s) of Inspection to move your bees to another state for crop pollination (generally in September and October); or if you have 10 or more hives and are also interested in participating in the National Honey Bee Survey,

please contact us at DATCPapiary@wisconsin.gov so that our staff can follow up with you. While we try to meet all inspection requests we receive, contacting us as far in advance as possible is always helpful, as it enables staff to cover all requests in a county or region at once. You can schedule an apiary inspection online here: <https://forms.office.com/g/qsHqzpvfia>.



August Honeybee Management Guide for Northeast Wisconsin

1. Colony Health Assessment

- Population check: By August, colony populations begin to naturally decline, but you still want strong brood production to ensure healthy winter bees emerge in September.
- Queen evaluation: Confirm queen is present and laying a solid brood pattern. If she is failing, replace her early this month so her daughters can raise the winter cluster.
- Disease inspection:
 - Watch for European Foulbrood (EFB) and American Foulbrood (AFB), especially in stressed colonies after July dearths.
 - Look for signs of Chalkbrood or Sacbrood Virus, which may appear if colonies are under nutritional stress.

2. Varroa Mite Management

- Critical timing: August is the month to get mite counts down. High mite loads now lead to shortened winter bee lifespans and high winter losses.
- Monitoring:
 - Alcohol wash or sugar roll from at least 300 bees from the brood nest.
 - Target: <2% infestation (less than 6 mites per 300 bees).

Treatment options for August in WI:

- Formic Pro – Works with honey supers on but requires temperatures between 50–85°F for safe application.
- Apiguard (thymol) – Temp range 60–105°F; requires 2 applications, 2 weeks apart; supers off.
- Oxalic Acid Dribble/Vaporization – Most effective when broodless, but can be used in rotation with other treatments.

Tip: Treat early August so September bees are mite-free.

3. Nutrition & Feeding

Nectar flow status: In NE Wisconsin, goldenrod, asters, and late clover start blooming mid-late August, but flows vary year-to-year. Dearth may occur early in the month.

Supplement feeding:

- If light on stores (<40–50 lbs), feed 2:1 sugar syrup to encourage storage and conserve for winter prep.
- Pollen patties only if natural pollen sources are poor—stimulates brood rearing for winter bees.
- Avoid heavy feeding late August if goldenrod flow is strong—can lead to backfilling and swarming.

Continued on page 8



FACEBOOK SITES MANAGED BY BCBA

[Northeast WI Beekeepers](#)
beekeepers helping beekeepers

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

August Honeybee Management Guide for Northeast Wisconsin

4. Hive Configuration & Space

- Remove excess supers once major flow is done, leaving only what the bees can fill and defend.
- Consolidate weak hives—combine if necessary to prevent winter losses.
- Check for robbing behavior; August robbing can decimate weak colonies.

6. Beekeeper Chores Checklist

- Inspect brood pattern and queen health
- Check for disease signs (especially EFB)
- Perform mite counts and treat if needed
- Assess honey and pollen stores
- Remove unused supers to reduce space
- Watch for robbing and install robbing screens if needed
- Start preparing winter equipment (inner covers, moisture quilts, wraps)

5. Preparing for Winter Bees

- Remember: Bees raised in late August–September will make up your winter cluster.
- Ensure they have:
 1. Low mite loads
 2. Adequate protein and carbohydrate stores
 3. Healthy brood nest conditions



MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
CONTINUING EDUCATION

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Beek Meet 2026

BEEK MEET
Central Wisconsin's largest beekeeping conference!

Mid-State Technical College and the Central Wisconsin Beekeeping Association (CWBA) are partnering to host Beek Meet 2026, featuring expert speakers and sessions that will help you improve your honey production and beekeeping skills.

Saturday, February 21 • 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Mid-State Technical College • Wisconsin Rapids Campus

Keynote Speaker: Randy Oliver
Reading the Comb: A Summary of Randy's Series "Understanding Colony Buildup and Decline"

Randy Oliver sees beekeeping through the eyes of a biologist. He now helps his sons to run a commercial beekeeping operation of around 1500 hives in the foothills of Northern California, managing them for migratory pollination, rose sales, and queen and honey production. Randy happily shares his knowledge through various articles in bee magazines, speaking engagements, and on his website: www.ScientificBeekeeping.com.

Questions
For general conference or vendor inquiries, please contact:
Central Wisconsin Beekeeping Association at marthahoneybees@gmail.com.

For registration inquiries, please contact:
Ashley at Mid-State at ce_events@mtsc.edu or call 715.422.5147.
If you have a disability and require accommodations to participate in this activity, contact the event coordinator as soon as possible, ideally 14 days in advance.

Scheduled Speakers

- Dr. James Lee - Raising Queens in a Northern Climate
- David Burns - How to Inspect a Hive in 12 Minutes
- Brooke Nikula-Sommerfeldt & Carla Pahl, DVM - Diseases of the Hive & How to Treat
- Dr. Patrick Fratellone - Bee Venen Treatment and Lyme Disease (Zoom session)
- Fred Duns - The Amazing Honeybee UP CLOSE
- Mike & Laurie Lawrence - Beginning Beekeeping
- Dr. Angelina Perotti - Multifloral
- Dr. Dale Hill - Winter Feeding for Survival

Mid-State Technical College
WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

BEES, QUEENS, BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIER OF:

- Hive Kits
- Wooden ware
- Foundation
- Tools
- Medications
- Feeds & Supplements
- Harvesting Equipment
- Containers

*Dealer in Dadant Equipment,
Honey B Healthy Products,
Sundance Pollen Traps
Ross Rounds, and Pierco*

FOR ORDERING INFORMATION CONTACT:

CHRIS HANSEN

Hansen Honey Farm LLC

www.hansenhoneyfarm.com

chris@hansenhoneyfarm.com

715-369-0383 or 715-482-0136



**Midwest
HoneyBee Expo**

**February 6 - 7, 2026
Alliant Energy Center
Exhibition Hall
Madison, Wisconsin**

HIVE RECIPES FROM THE RECIPE REBEL

🍯 Honey Lime Fruit Salad

Servings: ~6 | Prep Time: 15 min | Make Ahead: Up to 1 day (see tips)

Ingredients

Dressing

- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tsp lime zest
- 1 1/2 tbsp fresh lime juice

Fruit Suggestions (choose any combination)

- Strawberries
- Blueberries
- Kiwi
- Apples
- Pears
- Oranges
- Grapes
- Bananas (add just before serving)



Instructions

1. Prepare the fruit:

Wash, peel if necessary, and cut fruit into bite-sized pieces. Slice bananas last, just before serving.

2. Make the dressing:

In a small bowl, whisk together honey, lime zest, and lime juice until well combined.

3. Assemble the salad:

Pour dressing over the prepared fruit and gently toss to coat. Serve immediately.

Make Ahead Tips

- **Fruit:** Chop all fruit except bananas up to 1 day in advance. Refrigerate in an airtight container.
- **Dressing:** Mix honey, lime zest, and lime juice up to 1 day in advance; refrigerate.
- **Serving:** Let dressing rest at room temperature for 20 minutes before tossing with fruit. Add bananas last.

--

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



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	Wayne Steigelman Nathan Frailey
September 17, 2025	Special Guest	Reg	???
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 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 and Bob Michiels

Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm