

BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 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

September to me seems to be the busiest month of the year for a beekeeper. Honey harvest and processing. Mite treatments. Feeding and building up stores for the winter. Setting up your hive configurations and components for winter.

Hopefully your honey harvest was fruitful. Remember to enter some of fruits of your labor in the club's honey judging contest at the November meeting. Maybe you will win a ribbon for some bragging rights.

Mite management should be a cornerstone for successful overwintering of your bees. The queen is laying eggs for winter bees and those bees do not need stressors from the mites or the viruses they carry. Focus on getting those mite levels as low as possible. Make sure you are monitoring the efficacy of your treatment of choice. Mite treatment isn't a one and done process. Also, vary your treatment chemicals as you don't want those mites to develop a resistance to your preferred treatment.

Monitor what the hive has for stores and if the weight is low supplement with feeding. I noticed this Fall's nectar flow was almost nonexistent. Goldenrod flow is providing some relief to the low weights, but I think hives are still stressed. My reasoning is that I have seen an increase in hive beetles in some of my hives. An indication that something is not quite right with the hive.

Not to add another job to the to do list, but gathering and setting up hive components for the winter. However you choose to winter your bees, now is the time to start digging those items out of the garage or shed to make sure you have what you need. Don't forget to take those queen excluders off.

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

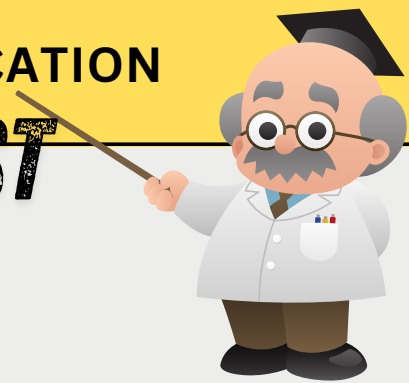
President: Chris Groth
president@BrownCountyBeekeepers.com





SEPTEMBER MEETING EDUCATION

SPECIAL GUEST



September Meeting Special Guest: Eugene Makovek, Editor of American Bee Journal

We are excited to welcome Eugene Makovek, Editor of the American Bee Journal (ABJ), as our special guest speaker at the **September 17th BCBA meeting**.

Eugene brings a wealth of knowledge and perspective from his role at ABJ, the nation's oldest and most widely read beekeeping publication. As Editor, he works closely with researchers, commercial and hobbyist beekeepers, and industry leaders to bring timely, science-based information to the beekeeping community.

Join us as Eugene shares his insights into the current state of beekeeping across the country, trends shaping the future of the industry, and the role publications like ABJ play in keeping beekeepers informed and connected. This is a fantastic opportunity to hear directly from one of the most influential voices in modern beekeeping!

 **Don't miss this engaging session – September 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM.**



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82498417477?pwd=YzI0sYe5kzJWJz9a4st78aZrfLBTbh.1>

Meeting ID: 824 9841 7477

Passcode: 253232



Pre-Meeting Special Guest Social Hour

Meet Eugene Makovek, Editor of
American Bee Journal



Organizer

5:30-6:30 PM

WAYNE STEIGELMAN

RSVP BY JULY 12 TO CAROL STURM -
WSTEIGELMAN@GMAIL.COM OR
TEXT/CALL 920-241-2226

*IF YOU HAVE TIME TO COME EARLY TO
SET-UP, LET ME KNOW*

Food & Refreshments

PROVIDED BY BCBA

- BAGGED CHIPS
- SUB SANDWICHES
- DRINKS
- EATING UTENSILS



Treats/Sides

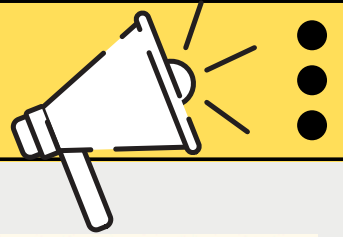
**ADDITIONAL APPETIZERS, SIDES & DESSERTS NEEDED
BRING YOUR FAVORITES TO SHARE!**



BEE TALK-FOOD-FELLOWSHIP
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



ELECTION TIME IS COMING



Upcoming October Elections Get Involved!

Each fall, the Brown County Beekeepers Association elects new officers to lead our club. This year's elections will be held at the October 15, 2025 meeting. Positions up for election are:

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

At the August meeting, a nominating committee was appointed to prepare a slate of candidates. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the October meeting. Each candidate will have the opportunity to speak briefly before voting.

Voting Details

- ✓ Must be a member in good standing at least 48 hours before the election
- ✓ One vote per family membership
- ✓ Quorum required to proceed
- ✓ Voting is by paper ballot; majority decides

Why It Matters

Our officers form the leadership team that keeps BCBA thriving—organizing programs, managing finances, welcoming new members, and promoting our mission of sustainable and healthy beekeeping practices.

Serving as an officer is a rewarding way to grow your leadership skills while giving back to our beekeeping community. Plus, elected officers receive a one-year subscription to American Bee Journal or Bee Culture!

👉 Mark your calendars:



October 15, 2025 – Elections & Monthly Meeting, 6:30 PM

BCBA ELECTIONS COMING IN OCTOBER



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- Secretary
- Treasurer

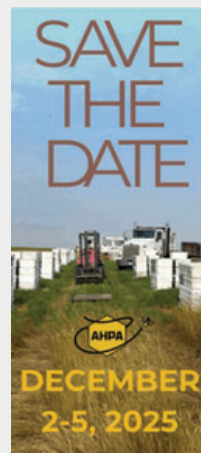
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

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American Honey Producers Association 2025 Convention



Embassy Suite by Hilton
USF Near Bush Garden
Tampa, Florida



Wisconsin Honey Producers Association

FALL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2025

SAVE THE DATE!

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
NEENAH, WI

Keynote Speaker:
Bob Binnie
of Blue Ridge Honey Co.
Lakemont, Georgia



Registration, schedule, &
activities will be posted soon
at whoney.org

TRIBUTE TO TOM CASHMAN



In Memory of Tom Cashman 🐝

A Beekeeper Who Carried on a Tradition

Link



The Brown County Beekeepers Association is deeply saddened by the passing of longtime member and friend, **Tom Cashman**, who devoted more than 50 years of his life to our association and to the craft of beekeeping. 🍯🐝

Carrying on a Family Legacy 👨👦

In 1934, Tom's father, **Thomas Cashman Sr.**, served as President of the Brown County Beekeepers Association. Nearly four decades later, Tom Jr. joined the club in 1971, beginning a half-century of service that would shape the future of the organization. For 102 years our club has stood, and for 75 of those years there has been a Cashman at its heart. ❤️🍯

Guiding the Club Through Growth 📈

Tom became an officer almost immediately after joining, serving faithfully as treasurer and leader **every year since 1972**. Under his watchful care, the club grew from a small circle of **28 members to over 125 today**. His steady hand helped guide us through changing times, keeping alive the values of education, stewardship, and community that define our association.

Tom often reflected on the growth of public awareness about honey bees and their critical role as pollinators. 🌸🐝 He took pride in the club's expanding efforts to **educate both members and the public**—a legacy that will continue to blossom thanks to his dedication.

A Humble Steward, a Lasting Inspiration 🙏

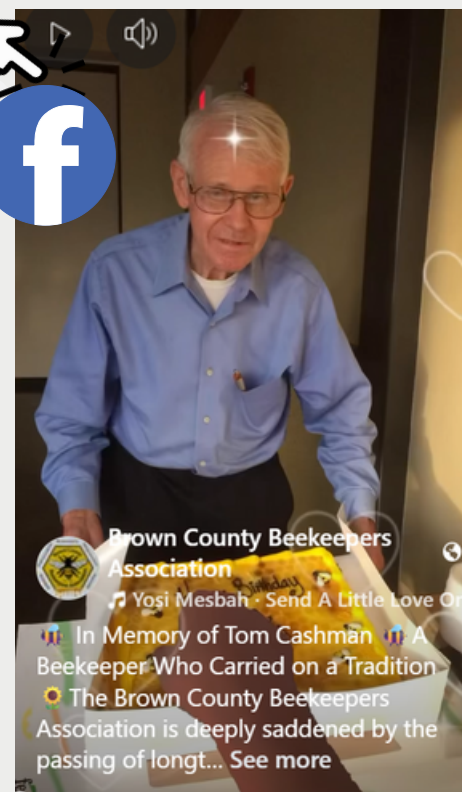
Tom never sought the spotlight, but his presence was constant and essential. Whether managing club affairs, mentoring new beekeepers, or sharing insights from decades at the hive 🍯, Tom embodied the spirit of service. His contributions, like the bees he cared for, worked quietly but tirelessly to strengthen the whole. 💪



Our Tribute 🌟

We honor Tom not only for his remarkable 50 years of membership and leadership but also for his role in carrying forward a tradition begun by his father nearly a century ago. Few families have given so much to one organization, and few individuals have left such a lasting imprint. 🐝🍯

Tom's life was proof of what steady commitment can build: a thriving community of beekeepers, a stronger understanding of honey bees, and a legacy that will endure in every frame, every meeting, and every new member welcomed to our ranks. 🌻🐝❤️



Tom Cashman Jr. in the late 70's

In October 1934 Thomas Cashman Sr. was the President of the Brown County Beekeepers Association. Fast forward to today and his son, Thomas Cashman Jr., is the Treasurer of the very same organization and celebrates his 50th anniversary as a member. The Brown County Beekeepers Association of Green Bay, WI was organized in 1918 and has been active in the community ever since. Articles in the Green Bay Press-Gazette from the 1930s indicate numerous Wisconsin state bee conventions were held in Green Bay. In 1934, C.P. Dadant, the second-generation owner of Dadant and Sons, was a speaker at the convention.



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"



Nothing beats suiting up and diving into the hive! Huge thanks to **Pat & Mike Laes** for hosting our August "Hive Dive"—what an awesome evening spending time with bees and friends!"



Wisconsin
Honey Producers



WHPA Fall Convention in Neenah, WI Nov. 6-8, 2025

The WHPA Fall Convention features keynote speaker, Bob Binnie. Join us Nov. 6-8 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Neenah, WI!

September Honeybee Management Guide for Northeast Wisconsin

🍁 September Beekeeping Tips – Northeast Wisconsin

1. Winter Bee Production

September bees are your winter cluster! Ensure queens are still laying a healthy brood pattern and that colonies are strong enough to raise well-fed winter bees.

2. Varroa Management – Last Call

By now, mite treatments should be completed. Verify mite loads are low (<2%) using an alcohol wash or sugar roll. High mite counts in September almost guarantee winter losses.

3. Feeding & Stores

- Target: 60–80 lbs of honey or syrup per hive going into October.
- If light, feed 2:1 sugar syrup consistently until stores are adequate.
- Consider feeding pollen substitute if natural pollen is scarce, but avoid overstimulating brood rearing late in the month.

4. Hive Configuration

- Remove any remaining empty supers—leave only boxes the bees can fill and defend.
- Reduce entrances or install mouse guards to prevent intruders as nights cool.

5. Disease & Health Check

- Watch for signs of European Foulbrood, Nosema, and chalkbrood.
- Cull or combine weak colonies—better to strengthen a few than lose many over winter.

6. Equipment & Winter Prep

- Begin setting up moisture quilts, inner covers, and insulation wraps for October installation.
- Repair or replace damaged boxes now so hives are weather-tight before frost.

7. Beekeeper's September Checklist

- ✓ Confirm queen status & brood pattern
- ✓ Final mite check & treatment (if needed)
- ✓ Feed until hives are heavy with stores
- ✓ Remove empty supers
- ✓ Add entrance reducers & mouse guards
- ✓ Prep winter equipment



FACEBOOK SITES MANAGED BY BCBA

[Northeast WI Beekeepers](#)
beekeepers helping beekeepers

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

HIVE RECIPES FROM THE RECIPE REBEL



Twice Baked Honey Cakes

These twice baked honey cakes are simple and flavorful cakes for any special occasion.



Recipe Corner – Twice Baked Honey Cakes

A simple, flavorful treat for any occasion!

Ingredients (makes 12 cakes):

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups flour
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter (plus extra for greasing)
Zest of 1 lemon
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp nutmeg
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup honey ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup in batter + $\frac{1}{4}$ cup for glaze)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F and butter muffin pan.
Mix dry ingredients; cut in butter.
Whisk milk, eggs, honey, and vanilla; combine with dry mixture.
Fill 12 muffin wells and bake ~16 min.
Remove, brush with warm honey, then bake 8–10 min more until golden.
Cool & enjoy!

--

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	Eugene Makovek
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