

BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



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

Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable 4th of July and got to spend some time in the bee yard. The nectar flow is in full swing. During the last week of June, I observed that the sumac was in bloom. Also, the red clover bloom was starting to come to a close, or most of the clover fields were being cut. The week of July 1st, I saw a lot of White Dutch clover in bloom in yards and mowed fields, and could really smell the floral scent of that bloom. I also noticed that the white sweet clover was starting to bloom along the highways. The basswood tree I monitor, next to my apiary, bloomed July 3rd. The bees have quite a few nectar choices and hives have been putting on weight.

Comb space becomes a premium in the hive with all this gathered nectar. Beekeepers need to be adding honey supers, so the brood nest doesn't plug up with nectar. If the brood nest does plug up with nectar, the queen has no place to lay and the bees are going to want to swarm. If the brood nest does plug up, you may want to pull some frames and add empty drawn comb in its place. That will give the queen a place to lay. You could try your hand at making a nucleus hive with the comb you pulled, and some bees.

After this flow what is next? Beekeepers need to think about what they going to do during the dearth. How are they going to feed the bees to keep them strong in the fall. After pulling honey supers, monitoring mite levels and what treatment you going to use is a must do item. The mite population is going to be reaching its peak in late July.

After pulling the honey supers, the honey extraction work is going to begin. A lot of chores in the bee yard to work on in the next month. Hope to see you at the club's picnic.

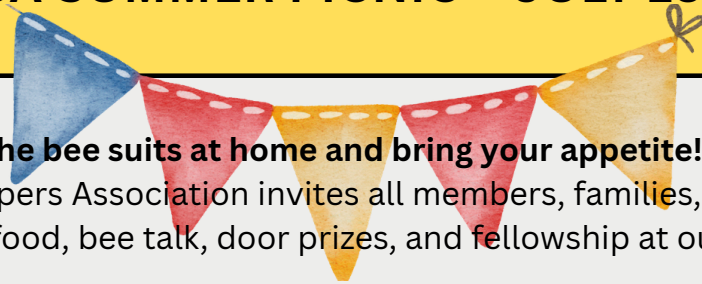
That's what this month's buzz is about

Chris Groth - President
president@browncountybeekeepers.com





BCBA SUMMER PICNIC – JULY 15TH!



Leave the bee suits at home and bring your appetite!

The Brown County Beekeepers Association invites all members, families, and guests to join us for an evening of great food, bee talk, door prizes, and fellowship at our annual Summer Picnic.

Whether you're a first-year beekeeper with a single hive or a seasoned beekeeper managing dozens of colonies, this is a chance to relax, share stories, compare swarm tales, celebrate the season, and connect with fellow bee enthusiasts.



Event Details



Green Bay Botanical Garden Outdoor Patio
(Inside if weather doesn't cooperate)



Wednesday, July 15, 2026



5:30 PM – 8:30 PM



**BROWN COUNTY BEEKEEPERS
SUMMER PICNIC**

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

Date: Wednesday July 15, 2026

Time: 5:30 to 8:30 PM

**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!**

**Brown County
Beekeepers Association**

This has become one of our favorite gatherings of the year. It's a great opportunity to swap stories about honey harvests, queen rearing adventures, swarm catches, mite management victories, and everything else that comes with life as a beekeeper.

Organizer Dick Sturm is coordinating food sign-ups. Please RSVP by July 13 and let him know what dish you'll be bringing.

We hope you'll join us for an evening of food, friends, and beekeeping fellowship. After all, the best part of beekeeping isn't just the bees—it's the people who share the journey with us. Bring a dish, bring a friend, and come enjoy a summer evening with your BCBA family! 🐝🍯



BCBA SUMMER PICNIC RAFFLE



Help Make Our Raffle a Success!

We invite each member to bring a new or unused item to donate to our raffle. It could be a beekeeping item, a homemade craft, a gift, or anything you think someone would enjoy. Smaller items can be combined into themed gift baskets, while larger items can be raffled on their own.

Every donation helps make the raffle more exciting, supports our club, and adds to the fun of the day. Thank you for your generosity! 🐝🎁

How the Raffle Works

Purchase raffle tickets for \$5 for 10 tickets or \$20 for an arm's length of tickets. Browse the prize table, then place as many tickets as you'd like into the bucket in front of the prizes you hope to win. At the end of the evening, one winning ticket will be drawn from each bucket. Good luck! 🐝🎟️

BCBA SUMMER PICNIC RAFFLE!

Great Prizes! Great Cause!

WEDNESDAY
JULY 15, 2026
5:30 - 8:30 PM

GREEN BAY BOTANICAL GARDEN OUTDOOR PATIO
(inside if it rains)

GRAND PRIZE
HANSEN HONEY FARM
VENTILATED BEEKEEPING JACKET!

YOU COULD WIN THIS BASKET & MORE!

MORE GREAT PRIZES Including:

CUSTOM CREATIONS BY:

- ✓ **Let It Bee** Custom Gift
- ✓ **Sarah Mueller** Custom Gift
- ✓ **Shellie Milheiser** Custom Gift
- ✓ **Carol Sturm** Custom Gift
- ✓ **Rance Bennett** Custom Gift
- ✓ **Tom Marquardt** Custom Gift
- ✓ **Season to Taste** Custom Gift
- ✓ **Pat Laes** 9-Frame Spacers
- ✓ **Refractometer** Bee Tool

...and more!

RAFFLE TICKETS

\$5 = 10 TICKETS
\$20 = 50 TICKETS (ARM'S LENGTH)

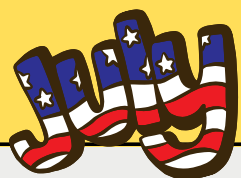
-PLEASE RSVP!
Text or call Dick & Carol Sturm
920-475-7301 with:

- ✓ Your RSVP
- ✓ How many will be attending
- ✓ What dish or item you'll bring

-JOIN US FOR:

- 🍯 Great Food & Fellowship
- 🍯 Bee Talk & Good Company
- 🍯 Door Prizes & Raffles
- 🍯 Fun for the Whole Family!

♥ ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT BCBA EDUCATION & OUTREACH IN OUR COMMUNITY



Beekeeping Tips – Northeast Wisconsin



What's Going on in the Hive? – July (Northeast Wisconsin)

July is honey harvest season in Northeast Wisconsin! Colonies are at or near their peak population, with tens of thousands of worker bees taking advantage of basswood, clover, and other summer blooms. Every warm, sunny day is spent gathering nectar and packing away honey for the colony's future.

As the month progresses, queens begin slowing egg production, signaling the transition from rapid spring growth to preparing for late summer. Swarming becomes less common, but it's still possible if colonies remain crowded or experience a queen event.

July is also when Varroa mite populations begin increasing rapidly. While honey supers are still on, now is the time to monitor mite levels and develop a treatment plan for immediately after harvest. Healthy bees going into late summer are the foundation of healthy winter bees.

July Priorities

-  Add or remove honey supers as needed
-  Monitor nectar flow and colony weight
-  Check for queen performance and healthy brood
-  Perform mite monitoring and plan post-harvest treatment
-  Ensure colonies have plenty of ventilation and access to water
-  Enjoy watching your bees at their busiest!

Remember: The decisions you make in July don't just affect this year's honey crop—they set the stage for successful overwintering. Strong, healthy colonies now become strong, healthy colonies next spring.

July Heat: Trust Your Bees



A look inside the Hive

Even during the hottest days of summer, a healthy colony works together to keep the brood nest at the ideal temperature through fanning, evaporative cooling, and teamwork.

BroodMinder sensors let us watch the bees do what they've been doing for millions of years without opening the colony.

The takeaway: Technology doesn't replace the beekeeper or the bees. It simply helps us better understand and trust what they're already telling us.

July Heat Tips

-  Provide a reliable water source nearby.
 -  Keep entrances clear for good ventilation.
 -  Avoid lengthy inspections during the hottest part of the day.
 -  Don't panic if you see bees "bearding" on the front of the hive—it's often a normal way to reduce heat and crowding inside.
- The bees are talking to us. We just need to listen through the data.



BEEKEEPING ACROSS THE STATE



Wisconsin

Honey Producers



WHPA Needs Your Help at the Wisconsin State Fair!

Dear WHPA Members,

The Wisconsin State Fair is just around the corner, and we're asking for your help to make this year's event a success. Our State Fair booth is the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association's largest fundraiser, and it gives us a wonderful opportunity to promote Wisconsin honey and educate thousands of fairgoers about beekeeping.

Honey Donations Needed ASAP

We are still in need of 2.5- or 5-gallon pails of honey to produce the nearly 30,000 honey sticks we sell during the Fair. If you're able to donate honey, please let us know as soon as possible so we can begin preparing our honey sticks.

Volunteers Still Needed

Our volunteer schedule is just over half full, which means there are still plenty of shifts available! Whether you can help for a few hours or several shifts, we'd love to have you join us.

Volunteers help:

- Sell Wisconsin honey and honey products
- Answer questions from fairgoers about honey bees and beekeeping
- Share the story of Wisconsin beekeeping with the public

As a thank-you, volunteers receive free admission to the Wisconsin State Fair during their scheduled shift (parking on your own).

Every pail of honey donated and every volunteer hour makes a difference. Your support helps fund WHPA programs, educational outreach, youth initiatives, and our mission to promote Wisconsin beekeeping.

If you're able to volunteer, please sign up using this link: <https://signup.com/go/gdDvTMY>



- If you can donate honey, please contact Matt LaForge at mjlaforge@gmail.com as soon as possible so we can coordinate pickup or delivery. Thank you for helping make the Wisconsin State Fair a success. We truly appreciate your continued support of the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association and Wisconsin's beekeeping community.

Sincerely,

Wisconsin Honey Producers Association  



Stephanie Slater
stephanie.d.slater@gmail.com

2026 BCBA Meeting Education Calendar



Reg = Regular Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30p
New Beekeeper Forum (5:30-6:30)

A one-hour forum for new beekeepers to connect, share questions and challenges, and learn from one another. An experienced beekeeper will join the discussion to offer guidance and support.

Dates	Topic	Edu Type	Presenter
Jan 21 '26	Wax Processing and Wax Products	Reg MBM	Rance Bennett, This Old Hive New Member Forum
Feb 18 '26	Splits, Understanding the Queen Calendar and buying queens or hive requeening math	Reg MBM	Dick Sturm Kevin Berry New Member Forum
Mar 18 '26	Development of his northern VSH queens and nucs. How to establish and maintain mite resistant genetics Research with Marquette University.	Reg MBM	Trevor Bawden of Lloyd Street Bees and Marquette University New Member Forum
Apr 15 '26	Spring Management Package and Nuc Install	Reg MBM	Round Table New Member Forum
May 20 '26	Mite Management - Testing, Treatments and Honey Bee Health Coalition	Reg MBM	Club Workshop New Member Forum
Jun 17 '26	Non-standard beehives, like Layens, AZ houses, Top Bars and native bee houses	Reg MBM	Charlie Koenen New Member Forum
Aug 19 '26	Fall Management Honey Extraction	Reg MBM	New Member Forum
Sep 16 '26		Reg	New Member Forum
Oct 21 '26	Discussion Panel or Networking?	Reg MBM	New Member Forum
Nov 18 '26	Products of the Hive and Honey Judging Contest	Reg MBM	Club Judged Competition & Party New Member Forum

SAVE THE DATE
SUMMER PICNIC
JULY 15TH

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)

2026 Club Officers

President: Chris Groth

president@browncountybeekeepers.com

Vice President-Social Media-Newsletter

Wayne Steigelman

vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

Treasurer: Chad Ford

treasurer@browncountybeekeepers.com

Secretary: Chris DeWolfe

secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

Leadership Team

Board Member at Large: Dick Sturm

Historian — Edmund Poillion

Mentoring Committee - Shellie Milheiser

Webmaster: Carl Fisher

info@browncountybeekeepers.com

Education Outreach: Bob Michiels

Swarm Czar — Jesse Kallioinen

Club Education CoChairs: Mimi Gerner and Dave Elsen

