



# Brown County Beekeepers Green Bay WI

April 2018

Volume 23 issue 4

**Brown County Beekeepers Association, March meeting minutes** : Green Bay Botanical Garden, Donald Schneider Education Center, Cornerstone foundation Hall West room, Wednesday, March 21, 2018.

There were 35 members and 6 guests present

**Attendance:** Ronald Melchert, Bob Rukamp, David & Alice Blood, Dennis Moeller, Allen Kohn, Julie Mazzoleni, Beth Ubl, Julianne Sanders, Kevin Erdmann, Kaelyn Sumner, Traci Sumner, Cindy Silvers, Jon Bootz, Dave Elsen, Lisa Miotke, Mary Sickel, Tyler Sigl, Zach Gussert, Olivia Smits, Gordon Lederhaus, Jim Suchon, Diane Aldrich, John Parsons, Daniel & Vicky Parsons, Scott Veriha, Paul Siegmann, Thomas Allen, Dick & Carol Sturm, Sara Kowalski, Lynne Lindgren, Thomas Cashman, Steve Hupfer, Steve Krueger, Chris Naske, Jonny Naske, Keith & Maren Skovera and Chris Linskens

**Steve Hupfer, President of BCBA**, called the meeting to order at 6:30. Thank you Sara Kowalski for the Meeting Before the Meeting about hive foundation. Great job at taking over on the fly.

**Bills:** \$100.00 to Chris Harris for refreshments at the Beginning Bee Class in February. \$70.00 Carl Fisher for Volunteer Recognition – gift cards at Beginning Bee Class and \$30.00 to Steve Hupfer for Volunteer Recognition at the Beginning Bee Class. \$37.55 paid to Alice Blood for refreshments. THANK YOU Alice

**Business:** . April Meeting before the Meeting will be: PACKAGE INSTALLATION.

There was a question regarding March newsletter and the Manitowoc County Bee keepers—to restate: The Manitowoc County Beekeepers held a meeting on Saturday, 2/17 to decide where to get packages from and cost. Anyone could get in on the bee order. Many beekeepers in northeastern Wisconsin were invited to the meeting

Congratulations to Lisa Miotke for the recent Bee Culture Magazine Photo contest. She received flowers and signed a number of calendars for attendees. Thank you Lisa for representing BCBA !!

Dave Elsen gave a report on the Beginning Bee Class held Feb. 24th. 27 people attended the class, 8 Beekeeping Basics books were sold and we acquired 7 new memberships. The club took in \$458.00. There are still bee supply catalogs available if anyone wants them. Thank you to Dave and Carl for leading the class and to all those who volunteered.

**NOTE: MAY MEETING LOCATION CHANGE:** This meeting will be held at Titledown Brewing Co. (upstairs in the back beer cellar) at 200 Dousman St., Green Bay. Along with our regular meeting we will be having a mead making demonstration by one of our members. Samples included ! Titledown is not charging us a fee to use the facilities so feel free to come early and order a burger/beer in appreciation of their generosity. 

**SPEAKER/Member: Gordon Lederhaus**—Gordon has been working with bees for the last 8 years and talked about his teaching basic bee class at a school. Gordon mentioned his experiences with bees and working with another beekeeper. His bees are kept in Stiles and he has never had a bear problem. The type of bees he had were Italians

**Sara Kowalski** gave a talk on moisture in honey. If there is too much moisture in honey, it can ferment. When the bees bring in nectar, it has about 80% moisture. It should get down to around 18.5% moisture. We use a refractometer which uses the bending of light to check on the moisture content of honey. A person can shake a comb of honey to see if any honey runs out, but using a refractometer is a more accurate reading of moisture content.

Steve mentioned the Beekeeping conference held at North-central Technical College in Wausau on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. There were 8 people from the Brown County Beekeepers club present at the meeting. Kevin Erdmann gave a brief talk on the conference. Next year's Beekeeping conference will be on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

There will not be a Garden Fair this year at the Botanical Garden. Other events were discussed i.e. Farmers Markets and Breakfast at the Farm.

**Closing business/discussion:** There is a request from Sunny-side school in Pulaski for a speaker on bees 4-5:00 in April (possible dates were 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th)

Julie Mazzoleni will be the April Speaker. Topic is Bee Nutrition. Sharing information from the conference.

**BCBA Officers 2018:** Steve Hupfer, President, Julie Mazzoleni, VP/Editor [bcbavicepresident@outlook.com](mailto:bcbavicepresident@outlook.com) Tom Cashman, Secretary [bcbasecretary@outlook.com](mailto:bcbasecretary@outlook.com), Lynne Lindgren—Treasurer [treasurerbcba@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerbcba@gmail.com)



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## WHAT TO DO IN APRIL

- Get hives ready for package installation
- April should provide a few days of warm weather, 60 or better you can do a deeper dive on inspection.
- Check food reserves and feed if needed 1:1 sugar water and pollen substitute.
- Check winters lost colony boxes to determine cause
- Check queen quality/brood pattern/brood health
- If your hive is strong, remove reducers/mouse guards
- April is swarm season—watch your hive closely and reverse boxes if needed to give more space.
- Feed packages installed on undrawn foundation as bees have little to work with.
- Continue to educate yourself

**Great Job Sara and thank you again for the Meeting before the Meeting—FOUNDATION !**



## A note from LISA MIOTKE:

Ah, the joys of the English language and vocabulary! If you were present in the March meeting, you heard the short discussion on terminology. We heard a few words:

Hydrophilic, Hydrosopic, and Hygroscopic. Here is the low-down:

**Hydrophilic:** refers to substances that **absorb water**, bonding on a molecular level with water. These are materials with a special affinity for water (think of those little packets of silica in your shoes, purses, or prescription drugs).

(This is not to be confused with **Lipophilic** which refers to substances tending to combine with or dissolve in lipids or fats - good to know when talking about wax absorbing chemicals).

Bonus: **Hydrophobic** are materials that naturally repel water, causing droplets to form (think oil & water).

**Hydrosopic-** Although it sounds like it should be, it doesn't appear to be a real word! Hydroscope refers to any instrument for making observations of underwater objects. (Clearly not beekeeping related)

**Hygroscopic:** refers to the ability of a material to **absorb humidity from the air**. A hygroscopic substance is one that readily attracts water vapor from its surroundings. Examples include **honey**, glycerin, and lye.

When talking about honey, hydrophilic and hygroscopic could both be used, depending on the context. When leaving honey open & out on your countertop or using it in place of sugar in your baking, honey is then considered hygroscopic. When you mix honey with tea, it is then hydrophilic.

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## REMEMINDERS:

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 18th at the Green Bay Botanical Garden.

The meeting before the meeting will be at 5:30

topic : *PACKAGE INSTALLATION*

Our standard meeting starts at 6:30!