



Brown County Beekeepers Green Bay WI

August 2018

Volume 23 issue 8

There was no Brown County Bee Keepers Association July meeting :

We had a beautiful day for the July picnic. Thank you to Richard and Carol Sturm for heading up and organizing. You can check out photos of the picnic on our webpage: www.browncountybeekeepers.com

August meeting

Wednesday August 15, will be held at the Village Grille, 801 Hoffman Road, Allouez. *Please join in and come early for food, drink or to just walk the trail. It's a beautiful area. Regular meeting starts at 6:30.*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

⇒ **Definitely De Pere**, Farmers Market—Thursday Sept, 6th 4:00 to 7:00 (10 volunteered) **THANK YOU!!** Location: 101 North Broadway De Pere – George street landing.

NOTE:

- There will be a sign-up for Volunteers to sign up for specific time coverage.
- If you are interested in selling honey, please bring it—(you'll need to be present to manage the sales also please)

⇒ **Neville Public Museum**—Exhibit on BEES, Sept 1 to Nov. 4th. We are sponsors for this event and members have loaned their equipment. Please be sure to attend.

FOR SALE— HEALTHY YOUNG 2018 QUEENS

Fall discounts apply !!

920-497-1998—ask for STEVE



BYLAW COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Over the last few months the Bylaw Committee has met and discussed various suggested updates to the club bylaws. Some are minor clarifications and some are new sections related to membership and also meeting guidelines.

Please take a few minutes to review the sections that are highlighted in yellow; we will discuss these proposed changes in the next meeting.

A Newbee Reflecting on the First Year of Bee-keeping by Julianne Sanders

While reflecting on my first year of beekeeping, I still feel that I have a lot to learn. I have had many challenges and am compiling a list of do's and don'ts for my second summer of beekeeping. I am devising a way to document what I am seeing in the hives upon each inspection. I am open for suggestions as well. I simply cannot rely on the photos to know one colony from another. Even though the photos are shown by date, some photos simply don't show the detail that I need when reviewing. In a perfect world, I would keep my bees in my own yard so that I can observe and document behavior at different times of day and during different weather conditions.

I began my endeavor with two nucleus colonies. I purchased the hives, marrying some used components with new boxes. I chose to use all medium boxes for brood and honey supers so that I would be able to handle the heavy boxes and also be able to utilize all parts efficiently. I am grateful for the medium boxes now because not only are the boxes heavy but even the frames are hard to manage when they are full of honey.

One challenge was losing a queen, because of my inexperience, I don't know if the colony swarmed or if the queen was crushed or rolled. The upside is that I have a great support system in the Brown County Beekeeping Association



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Reflections continued:

I reached out to Julie Mazzoleni many times to text pics of what I was seeing in the hive and discussing my concerns.

Steve Hupfer helped by visiting my hives and was able to find the virgin queen running. He knew what to look for after we discussed what was going on and what I had documented by dates. Being a "newbee," I am not sure I would have recognized the new queen in a timely manner. Now I just have to carry on and do the best for the colony that I can, given that we are approaching the end of the summer. I am hoping that they are able to go into the winter in a strong enough state to survive.

CHANGES OVER THE YEARS : by Tom Cashman

If you go back to the 1960's, much has changed in beekeeping since that time up to the present. While some things remain the same such as checking on our bees from time to time to see if the queen is doing well and adding supers on to the hives as the bee hive population grows larger during the summer, other things have changed. There have been some changes in equipment such as eight-frame hive bodies being used, the use of plastic foundation, better honey extracting equipment. As for the bees themselves, the cost of package bees has certainly gone up dramatically. There was a time when you could get a package of bees in the spring for only \$5.00. Now the prices have gone up to where we are paying as much as \$125.00 and up for a 3 lb. package. The retail price of honey has also seen a dramatic increase. People used to be able to buy a pound of honey in the store for less than a dollar and now most places sell honey for at least \$5.00 a pound and up to as high as \$8.00 a pound. Also today we have many more people getting into beekeeping and with new beekeeping ordinances being written up by many cities and towns, many small beekeepers are being allowed to keep their hives in their back yard. So things have really changed in respect to beekeeping over the past 50 years or so

What to do in August:

Bees become more defensive as they ripen the last incoming honey. Hot days and humidity are upon us which also agitates bees. Bees may go through a dearth period.

If you have multiple hives, be careful not to let a strong hive rob out a weaker hive. Be careful not to open up over extended periods as other hives tend to attempt to rob the open hive. If it is necessary to have a hive open for an extended period of time, have a plan ahead of time.

- Continue to check and monitor
- Do a thorough mite check and treat. In today's world, all bees have mites. Learn to calculate mite load.
- Check your honey supers, remove and extract capped honey. Be sure to leave at least 100 pounds or more for overwintering.
- Reduce the size of the entrance on weaker hives.