



# Brown County Beekeepers Green Bay WI

May 2018

Volume 23 issue 5

**Brown County Bee Keepers Association, April meeting minutes** : Green Bay Botanical Garden, Donald Schneider Education Center, Room 26, Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

There were 25 members and 6 guests present

**Attendance:** Julie Mazzoleni, Kaelyn Sumner, Traci Sumner, Ed Grys, Carl Fisher, Dave & Diane Elsen, Todd Witthuhn, Dave Doering, Daniel Parsley, Kevin Erdmann, Gordon Lederhaus, Paul Siegmann, Bob Rukamp, Tom Eisenreich, Dick & Carol Sturm, T. J. Freeman, Cindy Silvers, Tyler Sigl, David & Alice Blood, Thomas Cashman, Lynne Lindgren, Steve Hupfer, Sara Kowalski, Roy Lindeman, James Arvey, Pat & Pam Broekman & Gary Pusick.

**Steve Hupfer, President of BCBA**, called the meeting to order at 6:30. Thank you to Dave Elsen for the Meeting Before the Meeting about installing bee packages. It was well attended and great job. This will be the final Meeting before the Meeting until September with a topic of Honey Extraction.

*thank you* **Dave Elsen and the Schneider Foundation** for their generous donation of \$250.00 to BCBA This donation was the result of the work both Dave and Carl did for the BCBA Beginning Bee Keeper class. This money will be put to good use in advertising or education.

**Bills:** \$25.29 to Steve H. for raffle gifts, \$25.00 to Julie M. for the Farmers Market in De Pere and \$28.18 to Thomas C. for printing and postage.

**Business:** There is a team working to update the BCBA website. The goal is to have an updated site that has a wide range of information and functions and will be easy to manage. Carl Fisher has agreed to be the club webmaster.

## **upcoming EVENTS:**

- ⇒ Agricultural Expo, Oneida Falling Leaves 4H group—June 9th—10:00 to 3:00 (4 Volunteered—all officers) Location: Norbert Hill Center, N7210 Seminary Road, Oneida  
***Please consider volunteering !!***
- ⇒ Definitely De Pere, Farmers Market—Thursday Sept, 6th 4:00 to 8:00 (10 volunteered) ***THANK YOU!!*** Location: 101 North Broadway De Pere –George street landing area.
- ⇒ Neville Public Museum—Exhibit on BEES, Sept 1 to Nov. 4th. They are looking for BCBA sponsorship and any items we can loan them for the exhibit.

We are no longer going to be involved in Octoberfest in Appleton as interest has decreased. If at any event we sell honey, those selling the honey will be required to attend the event.

**NOTE: next meeting in MAY** : 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 appreciations of their generosity.

**SPEAKER/Member:** **Julie Mazzoleni**—Bee Nutrition and Mite control. Key issues are parasites, pesticides and poor nutrition. Nutrition all starts with the nurse bees. Healthy nurse bees = healthy larvae = healthy hive. Feeding protein as well as sugar water is important. Larvae should be swimming in royal jelly/worker jelly. Note if cells are dry or wet when doing hive inspections. Secondly, it is important to stay on top of mite control. – Julie showed Randy Olivers Varroa model and will be using this to help manage her hives. .



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## SPEAKER/Member: continued :

Julie highly recommends that if interested in this model to go to the site and view the tutorials. Its easy to use and a good visual predictor of what will happen in your hives if you don't pay attention to mites. Another good site to help with understanding varroa and how to control is The Honey Bee Health Coalition. This site is full of well vetted information and videos on how to manage and treat mites

## Closing business/discussion:

Ed Grys questioned reading in the Badger Bee that bee keepers with less than 50 hives can now buy equipment tax free. He was looking for feedback or information.

UPDATE: Carl Fisher did some internet research and learned the following:

Using WI Tax Pub 221 which talks about tax exemptions for farmers, Under section III. "Definition of Farming" the following is the description of farming - " Producing honey products by a beekeeper of 50 or more hives". According to Carl, it looks clear that beekeepers must have in excess of 50 hives to qualify as "farming" and thus receive the sales tax exemption.

Thanks you Carl for looking into this and finding answers.

Steve mentioned that the varroa carry viruses—you have varroa you will have viruses. It's the viruses that kill the bees.

## **REMNIDERS:**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 16th  
Title Town Brewery. 6:30

We still need volunteers for our two events ! Please consider signing up and joining in !

## WHAT TO DO IN MAY

Bees should be nearly in full swing. The queen should be laying well. They should be rapidly expanding and bringing in pollen and nectar.

This is a good time to equalize your hive if needed. Combine weak hives or split strong ones.

Consider marking your queen if she isn't marked.

Inspect every 7-10 days, monitor colonies for queen cells, pests and diseases. Continue feeding nucs and packages until combs are drawn

This is swarm season! Healthy over wintered hives may have to have swarm management implemented.

***Thanks again Dave Elsen*** for a great meeting before the meeting on Packages !! VERY INFORMATIVE.



**BCBA Officers 2018:** Steve Hupfer, President,  
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