



# Brown County Beekeepers Green Bay WI

September 2018  
Volume 23 issue 9

**Brown County Bee Keepers Association, August meeting minutes :**  
Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at the Village Grille in Allouez.

There were 18 members and 3 guests present.

**Attendance:** Julie Mazzoleni, Julianne Sanders, Dave Elsen, Carl Fisher, Lisa Miotke, David & Alice Blood, Thomas Cashman, Tom Eisenreich, Dick & Carol Sturm, Lynne Lindgren, Todd Witthuhn, Ronald Melchert, James Arvey, Traci Sumner, Kaelyn Sumner, Steve Hupfer, Brad & Melody Skenandore and Julie Schaal

**Steve Hupfer, President of BCBA**, called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**September we will be back at the Green Bay Botanical Garden , 6:30 standard meeting time. HOWEVER, PLEASE JOIN US for the honey extracting demonstration starting at 5:30 pm. Carl Fisher will do the demonstration. WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO BRING CAPPED HONEY FOR THE DEMONSTRATION.**

**Bills:** Checks were written out to pay Julie Mazzoleni \$83.79 for picnic expense, Thomas Cashman \$52.67 for postage and printing, \$15.17 to Carl Fisher for website renewal, \$67.39 to Carol Sturm for picnic expense, \$369.00 to Brown County Graphics for printing of notepads and \$53.24 to Lynne Lindgren for copies, postage and birthday items at June meeting.

#### **Business:**

**Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>** is the Farmer's Market in De Pere. The market will run from 4 – 7 pm. We will need people in the booth from about 3:30 – 7:30 pm. A sign-up sheet was passed around to volunteer for the Farmer's Market sale. We will sell honey there at \$7.00 per lb. We have a supply of notepads with the club's logo to hand out . Extra notepads were passed out to club members at the meeting.

**September 1st—November 4th** there is a beekeeping exhibit at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay. Steve H. shared a copy of the poster that will be used for the exhibit with our club's logo. Several members of the club volunteered to be at the Museum September 5<sup>th</sup> from about 4 – 7 pm for the opening of the exhibit. Steve H. will be there with an observation hive. Several tickets were handed out during the meeting.

**Nomination committee** was selected to prepare for the club's next officer election in October. The following members were selected for the committee: Julianne Sanders, Lisa Miotke & Carl Fisher.

#### **Business cont.**

The By-laws committee reviewed the club Constitution and By-Laws came up with a number of proposed changes.

#### 1. ARTICLE IX Quorum:

A quorum shall consist of 25% or a minimum of 15 voting members of the general membership in good standing, with 2 or more of the members being elected officials. After a short discussion, a vote was taken and the proposed change carried.

#### 2. ARTICLE V Officers and Methods of Election

Elected officers will receive a one-year paid subscription to their choice of either *American Bee Journal* or *Bee Culture* magazines and free use of the club extractor for personal use for up to four days per year. After a short discussion a vote was taken and the proposal carried.

The new officers will take office at the January meeting. A vote was taken on this proposal and was carried.

#### ARTICLE IV Meetings and Guidelines

The Association does not supply or pay for alcohol at meetings or events. A vote was taken on this proposal and was carried.

Monthly expenditures by any officers are allowed up to \$100 without approval. For expenditures between \$100-\$250 must be pre-approved by the majority of the officers. Expenditures exceeding \$250 in a month requires prior approval by a majority of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. A vote was taken on this proposal and was carried.

The president and treasurer will present an annual plan of events, activities and associated expenses in the first quarter of the year. After a brief discussion a vote was taken on this proposal and was carried.

An annual financial audit will be performed by a committee of three association members in good standing or a pre-approved outside source, established by the president at the January meeting. After a brief discussion a vote was taken on this proposal and was carried.

ARTICLE IV Meetings & Guidelines: A proposal to add "Guidelines" to Article IV to read "Meetings & Guidelines" A vote was taken on this proposal and was carried.

**NOTE : PLEASE SEE PROPOSED CHANGES TO ARTICLE IV: How members may be Expelled—page 3 newsletter**



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## MEMBER PRESENTATION:

Dave Elsen and Carl Fisher: Honey bee absconding and swarming.

*Absconding* is when all of the bees suddenly leave their hive and don't return. An explanation for this was that environmental factors and things in the hive can cause absconding. It was advised that we shouldn't paint inside the hives. Doing so might cause the bees to leave. *Swarming*— why do bees swarm? 1) reproduction 2) crowding. The bees build queen cells at the bottom of brood combs and many of the bees leave the hive with the old queen. A newly hatched queen will kill the other queens that hatch out. Dave E. talked about his experiences in catching swarms. He said you might need a ladder, a saw, duct tape and a screen. Ventilation is needed. You should make a plan and be prepared. He also said you will need to know what you will do after you capture the swarm. Catching swarms in trees was also discussed. After the presentation, several questions were asked by the membership about absconding vs swarming. *Thank You Dave and Carl!*

## CLOSING BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION:

On overwintering of bees, Steve H. reminds us to reduce the number of varroa mites to a very small amount before winter. If you have too many mites, your bees will die.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Green Bay Botanical Garden. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

**WHAT TO DO IN SEPTEMBER :** Bees are busy gathering the last of the nectar and pollen. Take time to thoroughly inspect before cool temperatures. What is done now will impact the success or failure for coming winter.

- ⇒ remove supers—they are no longer needed.
- ⇒ Evaluate your queen—is she laying well ?? if not consider requeening.
- ⇒ Check for Varroa mite infestation and take action to reduce the load.
- ⇒ Consider applying brood medications by feeding 2 gallons of 2:1 sugar syrup with Fumidil-B to control Nosema (no honey supers on)
- ⇒ Estimate hive strength and combine weak hives with strong ones (assure disease free before combining)

⇒ Weigh your hives for honey stores; 85-100 pounds honey and 3-5 frames pollen to get them through the winter. If not have enough honey stores, begin feeding 2:1 sugar syrup.

⇒ Reduce entrances to help prevent robbing and keep mice out.

### Newbee Bee Keeper – Roy Lindeman

My story as a new bee keeper started about 30 years ago when I purchased a 120 acre farm and began the process of making it a wildlife preserve. Over the years the property has seen a growth in wildlife: songbirds, native grasses and much enjoyment. Our family has been able to produce and consume much of what the land offers in venison, turkey, ducks, farm produce, maple syrup and timber.

Recently I gave thought to what can I do next to continue this development, raising bees seemed to be a very good idea. Besides the honey, pollination was a real added benefit to the growth of the varied plant life.

Upon reading and using youtube “how to raise bees” videos, I felt it was doable. The entry price was high to gather the right items together to do the hobby but I jumped ahead anyway.

The people at Honeybee Ware were very helpful and after numerous visits I was set up with everything including BEES to start.

In hindsight, the only thing I was missing and probably very crucial part was a mentor to help with the process. The process terminology, equipment and the bees themselves is overwhelming and reading about it just doesn't do it for a new bee keeper.

In joining the BCBA I was able to find a mentor who was kind enough to offer to make sight visits and guide me along. Her time and knowledge was critical to keeping me going along the right path. After a while we discussed that my queen was not producing and I had to “requeen” the hive. I don't know if enough honey will be made to get the through the winter but I am hopeful.

So far, I've enjoyed the experience and I'm committed to keep going as I learn more about the amazing insect.

My advice to anyone thinking about this hobby is to read and study and then find a mentor. The mentor needs to stand by your hive and show you what to do and what to look for. It simply can't be done talking about it at the coffee table. The mentor field experience is one of the main keys to success of the experience of being a “bee keeper”.

**Next BCBA meeting—Botanical Gardens**

**Wednesday September 19th**

**5:30— Honey extraction—Carl Fisher**

**6:30—Meeting start**



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Please review changes submitted by the by-laws committee before our next meeting (Wednesday Sept. 19th)

### ARTICLE IV How Members May be Expelled:

~~A member may be expelled upon two-thirds vote of the membership of the association.~~

Section I: Officers, members, and guests are required to conduct and participate in Association affairs with dignity and respect. Any officer shall ensure that meeting decorum is maintained. Individuals not adhering to these expectations may be asked to leave the meeting and referred to the Board of Directors for consideration of discipline and/or expulsion.

Any member misrepresenting the Association or causing actions inconsistent with the Associations objectives may have their membership revoked by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section II: In the event any officer is considered for expulsion, membership will be notified prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting through the membership newsletter. Officers not considered for expulsion will take comments by the membership during the meeting for consideration before making a final decision. The officer considered for expulsion will be given ten minutes to give account in the public meeting prior to a vote by the officers. The officer in question does not have a vote in the matter. If a majority vote is not reached by the Board of Directors, all officers will remain in current positions until the next annual election.

**Reminder:** if you have capped honey, we would like to use it for the honey extraction demonstration Sept. 19th at 5:30

### FOR SALE

Honey Extractor—20 frame, Cowen Uncapping Machine, Honey tank, Wax Melters, Mixing Tank, Pollen Traps, 4 Wheel Carts, 50 lb beeswax.  
\$3000.00 for everything or best offer. Contact Randy Younger - 920-784-8101  
youngerrandy@gmail.com

**THANK YOU** to all who participated in the Definitely De Pere Farmers Market ! It was a beautiful day to be spending outside—and a lot of very nice people all around.

Special thanks the TOM CASHMAN—for making sure we had what was needed and well prepared. Don't know what we would have done without you Tom.... !!!

