



Est: 1918

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

July 2021

Website
BCBA

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Facebook

Northeast WI

Beekeepers

Join Today

Coffee and Bees!

July 6th, 8:00 AM
Starbucks Coffee,
Lineville Road
Howard

BCBA Mission Statement:

We are dedicated to promoting sustainable, responsible, and healthy beekeeping practices in Northeast Wisconsin for both experienced and first-time beekeepers. We strive to create a fun environment where learning opportunities exist for association members and the general public.

President's Message:

Our beekeeping season is in full swing. Bees are busy filling up honey supers as the honey flow is on. Make sure to check your hives and add boxes as needed.

It is great to see so many beekeepers at the meetings and also participating in the Mite Check and Hive Management sessions before the meetings. We are also getting questions and quick responses on our clubs Northeast WI Beekeepers Facebook group (Thanks all for participating).

It seems too early to start to think about winter; however one thing you will soon find out with beekeeping is that actions taken now will greatly impact your bees ability to over winter. To that end we will be teaching Winter Management at the August meeting. It should be a good and informational session for all members.

Just a quick reminder about the club picnic on July 21st, 5:30 at Ashwaubomay park. Please RSVP by July 17th to csturm91010@gmail.com. Hope to see you there.

Dave Elsen

President Brown County Beekeepers

Interesting Fact(s):

- Honey is the only foodstuff that contains all of the necessary nutrients to sustain life.
- Bee venom is used as a treatment for several ailments, including arthritis and high blood pressure.

Upcoming Meetings

Coffee and Bees

Tuesday, July 6th, 8:00 AM - Starbucks, Lineville Road, Howard

BCBA July Meeting

Club Picnic – Wednesday, July 21st

5:30 – 8:00 at Ashwaubomay park.

Dick and Carol Sturm are organizing and Jim Arvey is Grill master!

Please RSVP by July 17th to csturm91010@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!

Don't miss our fantastic lineup of education and topics for this year! Make note and put them on your calendar! Some local experts and nationally renowned beekeeping speakers are part of this lineup!!

Dates	Topic	Edu Type	Presenter
Jan 19 '21		Special	Dr. Kirsten Traynor
Jan 20 '21	First Year Beekeeping	Reg	Jenny Renfro, Bob Michiels
Feb 17 '21	Splits	Reg	Craig Spindler , Let it Bee
Mar 17 '21	What are you Missing: Advances in Hive Monitoring	Reg	Bridget Mendel Lee , Minnesota Bee Squad
Apr 20 '21	Special Event	Special	Dr. Jamie Ellis
Apr 21 '21	Installing Bees Spring Management	MBM Reg	Rich Schneider , Capital Bee Supply
May 19 '21	Mite Test - Sugar Roll Oxalic Acid	MBM Reg	Matt Hoepfinger , Bee Informed Partnership
Jun 16 '21	Hive Inspections (At Hive) Hive Management	MBM Reg	(Julie Mazzoleni)
Aug 18 '21	Honey Extraction Winter Management	MBM Reg	5:30 pm Charlotte Hubbard , President Kalamazoo Bee Club
Sep 15 '21	Special Guest:		Randy Oliver – Scientific Beekeeping
Oct 20 '21	Queen Rearing	Reg	Augie Linskens
Nov 17 '21	Products of the Hive	Reg	

Always in need of volunteers! Please send to Dave at DaveElsenBK@gmail.com if interested.

- Botanical Gardens Adult Pollinator Program on July 28, 4:00-7:00. We will teach 8-12 adults about bees and spend some time at the hive. Looking for 1-2 members to help.

June Meeting Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss them!

June was a very busy month. A great Monthly meeting, celebrated a great anniversary. An Educational Event and a Honey Themed dinner!

We celebrated Tom Cashman's 50 years with the club!!
Congrats Tom!



Children's Pollinator Program at the Botanical Gardens!



Honey Themed Dinner at Ledgeview Winery!



JULY - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average low temperature - 63

Average high - 74

Average Precipitation – 3.8 inches

Average Snow – 0 inches

In the hive

- The major swarm season winds down in mid-July, even though the population is still high. Left untreated, the Varroa mite population continues to build. The summer heat requires the bees to ventilate and perhaps beard outside the hive on the hottest evenings.

Inspection

- Colony inspections should take place at least once a month and include evaluating the brood pattern, confirming the presence of the queen and/or eggs, evaluating colony growth and available room, monitoring for pests and diseases, and other metrics.
- If you cannot inspect every one of your colonies, inspect those that are not showing as much activity on the outside.

Nutrition

- If there is a dearth of forage and if you have taken off spring honey, monitor honey stores.
- If the weather is dry and there is no good water source near to the hive, consider providing one. They may need it to cool the hive.

Pests, parasites, and diseases

- Monitor Varroa mite levels. At this point in the year, if you find two or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash, you will want to treat. Treatment methods will depend on your management goals the condition of the colony, and external conditions.
- Drone comb can continue to be used as a cultural method at this time of year, but fewer drones are produced. This may be a good time to break the brood cycle (and therefore the Varroa reproduction cycle) by caging the queen.

Population management

- Swarm control: see the guidelines for [May](#).
- If you want to split colonies this season, this month may be your last chance, unless there are unusually favorable conditions in August.

Equipment

- Consider adding a queen excluder to manage the honey supers more easily.

Hive products and services

- The nectar flow may require you to put more supers on the hive. If you are producing varietal (mono-floral) honey, remove the capped honey once the nectar flow is over.
- Depending on how you choose to treat, you may need to remove the supers to avoid chemical residue in the honey.
- As propolis collection increases, you may consider harvesting it.
- You may be able to trap pollen.

Yard maintenance

- Mow the yard as necessary.



A Carl Fisher Bee Trap Out! 1st attempt and unsuccessful! ;o)

Club Discounts

Club Sponsor – Hansen Honey Farm, Rhinelander, WI

- 15% Discount for all first time purchases
- 5% discount for all BCBA members for ongoing purchase
 - Note: You must use specific code for these discounts.
- Contact BCBA Secretary for this code! (secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com)

Club Sponsor – Let It Bee, Inc., Greenville, WI

- 15% Discount for all first time purchases
- 5% discount for all BCBA members for ongoing purchase
- When purchasing *in-store only*, let them know you are a member of the BCBA.

Bee Culture and American Bee Journal Subscriptions



ABJ Association
Member Subscriptio



Bee Culture
Subscription.pdf

BCBA Leadership

President: Dave Elsen
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

Vice President:
Julie Mazzoleni
vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

Secretary:
Bob Michiels
secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

Treasurer:
Tom Cashman
Tcash99930@aol.com

Social Media Chair:
Carl Fisher
info@browncountybeekeepers.com

Membership Chair:
OPEN

Education Chair:
OPEN

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WHPA Youth Program Mentors: Contact Julie Mazzoleni
 Botanical Gardens Adult Pollinator Program (2): Contact Julie Mazzoleni

OPEN POSITIONS

Education Chair AND Membership Chair: Contact Dave Elsen

Free Education Opportunity

Capitol Bee Supply

Check out the link below for some **FREE** e-learning topics by
<https://www.facebook.com/CapitolBeeSupply/posts/2890729754299781>



Club Education Reimbursement Opportunity

Club members are eligible for up to \$25/ calendar year for continuing education

Eligibility Guidelines:

- Must be a **current member** for at least **12 consecutive months**.
- Member must submit their request to the Leadership Team prior to the event including details on how it aligns to the Club's Mission.

Note: *BCBA sponsored events, books or magazines not eligible for reimbursements.*

Club Expectations of Members Receiving Education Reimbursement

- Overview of the education to the club or an education session.
- Write-up with photos and/or video for club publication.

Club & Bee Keeping History

Honey Bee History (Gardenvarietybees.com)

100 Million-ish BC, Burma

A bee fossilized in Amber (like in Jurassic Park) was found in a mine.

3,000-ish BC, Spain

A cave painting depicting a person climbing a cliff to harvest honey shows that people were definitely into honey and willing to risk life and limb to get it. Not to mention they found it important enough to paint it on a wall.

7,000-ish BC, Turkey

Residues of beeswax have been found all up and down Europe from Denmark to Africa during the Neolithic Age (10,000-4,500 BC). The oldest has been found in Turkey.

3,000-ish BC, Egypt

Gotta love those Egyptians for their hieroglyphs if nothing else. They have some great pictures of harvesting honey from clay hives as well as beautiful images of bees carved and painted throughout their structures and tombs. They also left us a gift of actual honey, unspoiled and preserved in a clay pot.

900-ish BC, Tel Rehov

The oldest apiary to be discovered was found in an archaeological dig of the city of Tel Rehov. Nearly 200 clay cylinder hives, like ones seen in Egyptian paintings, were excavated in Israel in 2017. The bee DNA they found there indicated that the bees were brought there from Turkey.

401 BC, Greece

According to ancient writings, the Greek General Xenophon encountered some toxic honey from wild bees near the Black Sea as they were traveling home from the Persian war. His soldiers found the honey and ate it, but became very sick. The source of the sickness was honey was from rhododendron nectar, which has been found to have toxic compounds. Interestingly, Pliny later wrote about mead made from this honey being highly sought after. There have always been druggies.

300-ish BC, Greece

Aristotle observed honeybees from his own hives and wrote about their behavior. In fact, he is the first to write scientifically about bees. Other lesser-known Greeks have volumes on bees and beekeeping. It seems that ever since humans have been able to write, they have written about bees and their honey. One funny note is that many writers thought the queen was a king bee...figures!

900-ish AD, Byzantine (Turkey)

The Geoponika, a collection of farm-related writings talks extensively about beekeeping practices with some on-point advice. One particularly good piece of info described best practices for moving bee hives: cover the hive up at night and gently move it to its new location, then remove the cover by dawn. That's pretty much how I do it.

Middle Ages-ish

Beeswax and honey were commodities in Europe during the Middle Ages. People kept bees in hollowed out trees, carved wood containers, stone house, and woven baskets called skeps. Monks often kept bees for the church, and I think those images are what romanticized beekeeping for me. Also Friar Tuck made ale and I bet he also made mead, which is the main reason I got into beekeeping. The Middle Ages are so cool.

Oh! A few other Medieval facts.

We all know about taxation issues during the Middle Ages because of Robin Hood, so it should come as no surprise that beehives were taxed. So if a landowner found bees foraging on his property, he could follow the bee back to its hive and tax the beekeeper.

1622, America

Most people don't even realize that honeybees didn't exist in the entire Western Hemisphere until the pilgrims brought them over on ships when they came to America. I can't imagine how they would have survived without them, honestly. How would they make candles or corn bread with honey butter, or peanut butter and honey sandwiches? We are ever so thankful that bees were brought here.

1850-ish, Langstroth Hive

Beekeepers in Europe and America were developing better ways of keeping bees in order to make harvesting honey easier. In the United States, one beekeeper, named Lorenzo Langstroth, developed a hive that caused him to be named the Father of Modern Beekeeping. By discovering what he called "bee space," Langstroth was able to create moveable frames that the bees wouldn't glue together. What this did was to allow beekeepers to manage hives and colonies without having to rip them apart to harvest honey. The frames could be moved in and out to inspect hives and to collect honey. It created a more harmonious method of beekeeping. Langstroth wrote about his method in the famous book, *The Hive and The Honeybee*.

1955-ish, Africanized Honeybees

In the late 1950's, Brazilian scientist, Warwick Kerr sought to increase honey production in Brazil. European honeybees do not do as well in hot climates as they do in more temperate climates, so Kerr's solution to that problem was to seek honeybees that do. Africa, whose *Apis mellifera scutellata* bees have excellent production seemed the perfect place to go for an answer. He brought queen bees back from Africa to Brazil to begin breeding and hybridizing them with European Honeybees with the hope of creating the perfect honeybee for Brazil. However, the African colonies swarmed during the experiments and left the quarantine area and began taking over the continent by breeding and reproducing their colonies. Finally in the 90's Africanized bees were found in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico, and have since taken over the entire southern part of the United States. Only the colder temperatures of latitudes above 34 degrees keep them from migrating further north.

I have so much to say about Africanized bees because it is the honeybee that I deal with the most, but I will save that for another post. Suffice it to say that they have made a huge impact in beekeeping in the locations they have infiltrated.

1987-ish to Now-ish, Varroa Destructor, Colony Collapse Disorder, & Pesticides Oh My!

Varroa Destructor, or Varroa Mites evolved around the Asian honeybee, *Apis cerana*, and seems to be easily thwarted by that species. However, the Varroa Mite found its way to *Apis Mellifera* in the mid to late 1900's. The scientific world warned of its spread in the 70's, but it was an unheeded warning, and through lack of treatment and importation of unquarantined honeybees to various parts of the world, Varroa was rapidly spread. It was first discovered in the United States in 1987 with large numbers of colony loss. It is thought that bees imported into Brazil and then to Florida were the carriers. Today Varroa mites are the number one enemy of honeybees and have been spread throughout the United States as honeybees are trucked around the country to pollinate. Universities and bee labs everywhere are focused on finding a way to deal with these mites. Breeding programs, chemical treatments, and finding natural predators are a few ways they are looking for answers. Until they do, beekeepers will continue to lose colonies unless they stay on top of their inspections and treatments.