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# Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

## September 2021

Website  
BCBA

[www.browncountybeekeepers.com](http://www.browncountybeekeepers.com)

Facebook (2)

**Northeast WI  
Beekeepers**

Join Today

**Northeast WI  
Beekeepers**

(beekeepers

helping

beekeepers site)

**Coffee and  
Bees!**

**No September  
meeting**

### 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:

One of the club goals for 2021 was to bring in some nationally recognized speakers. We are pleased to have Randy Oliver as our guest speaker at the September 15th meeting. We have referenced him and his website [ScientificBeekeeping.com](http://ScientificBeekeeping.com) many times at club meetings. He has been a beekeeper since 1966 and has managed between 1000-1500 hives. See more about Randy Oliver on the next ("Other Notes") page.

Not too early to renew your membership. We again will be running an early renewal raffle for members who renew before January 1. Renew at a meeting or online at

<https://browncountybeekeepers.com/about/join/>

Dave Elsen

President Brown County Beekeepers

### Interesting Honey Bee Fact(s):

1. The perfect hexagons that form honeycomb hold the most amount of honey with the smallest amount of material (wax).
2. Honey bees are the only insect that produces food consumed by humans.
3. During a single collection trip, a honey bee will visit anywhere from 50 to 100 flowers.

## Other Notes

### Info from Randy's Oliver's site,

In 1993, the varroa mite arrived in California, and after it wiped out my operation for the second time in 1999, I decided to "hit the books" and use my scientific background to learn to fight back. I started writing for the American Bee Journal in 2006, and have submitted articles nearly every month since then ."

My writing for the Journal brought me requests to speak at beekeeping conventions, which has also allowed me the chance to visit beekeepers from all over North America and several other continents. I read most every scientific study relating to beekeeping, and regularly correspond with beekeepers and researchers worldwide.

He will share with us some of his learnings related to Varroa Management as well as some of his research.

I've visited beekeepers in many countries, and realize that there are as many ways to keep bees as there are beekeepers. The bees don't care whether you are a commercial or hobby beekeeper, "natural" or conventional beekeeping—the same biology applies to all. My goal is to provide any and all beekeepers with a resource of readable and straightforward information on how to practice good bee husbandry, and to exercise environmental and community responsibility.

We will start the meeting with Randy Oliver at 6:30 and keep the business for the end. Hope you can join us for this truly special event.

### Other Activities:

- Botanical Gardens Family Fun Event on September 25th. If anyone else is interested in representing the club to educate the public about honeybees and selling your product, please reach out to a Leadership Team member
- Still looking for a few volunteers as club election Nominating Committee Members. Main accountability is to run the election in October and work with the current Leadership Team and members on finding members interested in running for club positions. Reach out to a Leadership Team member if interested.

We are working on the **club education calendar** and speaking topics for 2022. If there are any topics you would like to see, please reach out.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Coffee and Bees

No September meeting.

### BCBA August Meeting

**Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**  
6:30 – 8:00 at Green Bay Botanical Gardens

**Education** – Randy Oliver of Scientific Beekeeping

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81630743076?pwd=NDIYZHR1ZU83b2drR0NwVFFrK09SZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 3074 3076

Passcode: 673277

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

# August Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss them!

## August Meeting



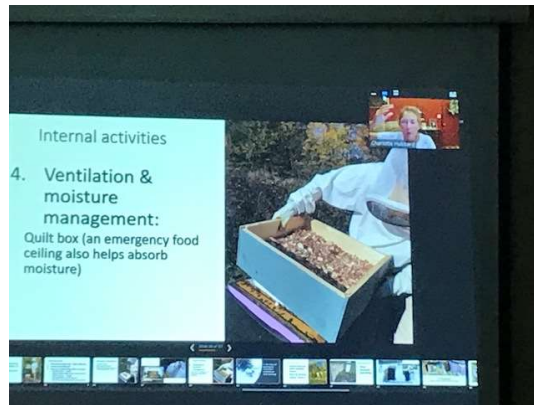
## MBM HONEY EXTRACTION



## AUGUST EDUCATION

Charlotte Hubbard

Winter Management



## **SEPTEMBER - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES**

### **Seasonal conditions**

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average low temperature - 56

Average high - 67

Average Precipitation – 2.6 inches

Average Snow – 0 inches

### **In the hive**

- The queen's rate of egg laying slows and the brood area continues to contract. Little drone brood is laid. This is the end of a second, smaller swarm season. Nectar sources continue to diminish, although resin/propolis collection continues. Left untreated, the Varroa mite population usually peaks in August or September. The bees may be more defensive, protecting their hive and robbing other colonies.

### **Inspection**

- This is the last month when a beekeeper can expect to perform thorough colony inspections. Roger Morse once wrote, "I often think of September as the month when one corrects errors made in August".
- The queen's egg laying slows dramatically by the end of the month, so the brood pattern may be difficult to accurately evaluate.
- You should have been keeping records the entire active season, but it is especially important now as your hive is readied for winter. Take note of the number of the bees/size of the cluster, the amount (weight) and position of honey stores they have, etc., so that if the colony fails, you can make a more accurate deadout diagnosis in the spring.
- Bees may rob hives left open during a long inspection. Be thorough but efficient.

### **Nutrition**

- A full-sized colony should have at least 70-90 pounds of honey to eat by the beginning of October, or more than one full deep. (Nucs of course need less.) Estimate the eight by slightly tipping and hefting the hive, or use a hive scale. If you extract honey, leave enough for the bees or feed them heavy sugar syrup to make up for the difference.
- If you feed the bees sugar syrup, it should be a 2:1 ratio, thicker than the spring feed; the bees can evaporate the excess moisture from the hive faster from this thicker syrup. The bees will need at least two double-sided frames of pollen/bee bread by late winter/early spring. September is the last month it is recommended to feed pollen or pollen substitute for the remainder of autumn, as bees use the reduction in pollen flow as a cue to begin rearing winter bees.
- If the weather is dry and there is no water source near the hive, consider providing one.
- If you plan to raise rear queens next year, begin to prepare cell finishers this fall: feed it lavishly now (carbohydrates and protein).

### **Pests, parasites, and diseases**

- Monitor for Varroa mites. At this point in the year, if you find three or more mites (per 100 bees) from a sugar shake, ether roll, or alcohol wash, you will want to treat. If you have extracted your honey harvest, this is a good time to use treatments that cannot be used when supers are present.



- Remove drone comb foundation for the remainder of the year.
- Monitor for Nosema. It is present all year round, but regular monitoring will help you understand your normal levels and when/if they peak, particularly if you are seeking to understand why a colony is struggling.

### Population management

- Consider combining weak colonies with strong ones or culling them: if a colony can accurately be judged as doomed, it will probably be a waste of resources to try to overwinter it individually.
- If you are considering re-queening, this is a good month to do it. An overwintered young queen should start laying a good pattern in the spring.
- Do not interrupt the brood pattern in September as it may disrupt the production of winter bees.

### Equipment

- Removing bees from honey supers may require a fume board, bee brush, bee escape, or other tools; they each have advantages and disadvantages for different beekeepers and in different environmental conditions.

### Hive products and services

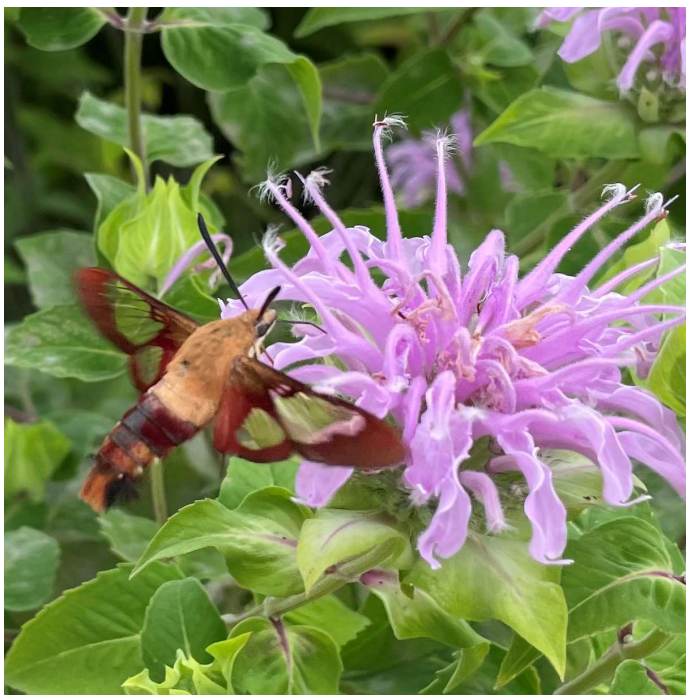
- If you remove fall honey, it should be extracted immediately afterward to prevent a small hive beetle infestation. Fall honeys usually granulate more quickly than spring honeys and may need to be warmed a bit to flow through filters or other equipment.

### Yard maintenance

- Mow the yard as necessary.

**Odd Pollinator! I saw this critter by my hives in early August! Never saw one before.**

It's a Hummingbird moth – Clear Wing. On Bee balm.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:president@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Vice President:**  
**Julie Mazzoleni**  
[vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Secretary:**  
**Bob Michiels**  
[secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Treasurer:**  
**Tom Cashman**  
[Tcash99930@aol.com](mailto:Tcash99930@aol.com)

**Social Media Chair:**  
**Carl Fisher**  
[info@browncountybeekeepers.com](mailto:info@browncountybeekeepers.com)

**Membership Chair:**  
**OPEN**

**Education Chair:**  
**OPEN**

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WHPA Youth Program Mentors: Contact Julie Mazzoleni

## OPEN POSITIONS

Education Chair AND Membership Chair: Contact Dave Elsen

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## 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

## Club History (Captured by Sarah Mueller, club member)

### The BCBA Candle Fund Story started in 1980 by club president Bruce Rumage

The goal of the Candle Fund was to collect 1000lbs of bees wax for the world record bees wax candle and additional wax to go toward 500 souvenir miniature candles which Wicks and Sticks in Port Plaza Mall agreed to buy. Things started with a bang and 200lbs was donated initially. Rumage got Green Bay Trophy to make T shirts and buttons featuring the candle on them to sell to help the fund. He envisioned taking the candle on the road showing it off around the state and began looking for trailer donation. The club members had questions on where candle would be made and how to keep it in a stable environment to hold it's form when traveling around the state.

In order to encourage wax donations Rumage came up with the idea to create a plaque and anyone who donated 20lbs would have their name inscribed on it. He sent out a letter to beekeepers statewide for donations, wax or cash, to the candle fund and by July of 1980 the club was up to 500lbs of wax in donations or pledged – half way there already. Rumage, getting impatient, wanted to borrow balance of wax needed to make the candle. He has secured Honey Acres to assist in making it. This is where the idea stalled.

By mid 1981 no additional wax donations had been made. Unexpectedly, Rumage resigned presidency due to health issues and abruptly moved out of area leaving no forwarding address or contact information. He did maintain his club membership and prepaid for 1982 and 1983, but left the club high and dry leaving NO documentation of the candle fund donations for wax or cash. No one was willing to continue Rumage's dream of the world record candle. This defunct project plagued the club for years. A special saving account was set up for candle fund where the money will stay until there is a decision to move forward. In January 1982 the club began trying to reconstruct the club account activity (State Bank of De Pere) while under custody of Rumage – who donated and what amount Club working to get documentation of deposits and withdrawals to the candle fund account. This was a painstaking process. A suggestion made to write an article in the American Bee Journal explaining the situation asking for people who donated to come forward with evidence of what they donated to attempt to make refunds. The club members wanted to sell wax and use the proceeds to refund the donations, ultimately scrap the candle fund.

The club continued to try to track down Rumage, but no one can get a hold of him – he truly left town without a trace. In 1982 club leaders spoke with an attorney regarding dropping candle project not dissolving association. Wax prices \$1.75/lb in trade and \$1.55 cash (Dadant) with prices so low club continued to hold onto the wax. In 1983 the candle project was officially cancelled and a notice was sent to Badger Bee and WHPA to be announced in July. Amazingly 8 years after the project began, finally the club was able to transfer \$ from the candle fund and close the account.

As Tom Cashman recalls:

That giant beeswax candle project was quite a story. The idea to build this huge candle came from Bruce Ramage who moved to De Pere from Arkansas a few years earlier in the mid 1970's. The project started around 1979 or 1980 when Bruce became President of the club. The idea was to build a candle in the shape of an old-fashioned bee skep. It was to be the largest candle built in the history of the world. It was to weigh at least 1,000 lbs. or more. The candle when built was to be mounted on an air-conditioned trailer and taken around town for people to look at. There were beekeepers around the state who were donating beeswax to the project. We were receiving much wax for the project. I don't know what record they were trying to beat but around 1981 or 82, Bruce and his family packed up and left to go back to Arkansas and then the project ground to a halt. The club sold the wax to a bee supply dealer to be made into foundation. Bruce was quite a character. He drove around town in a Cadillac called the Ghetto cruiser and was painted so that it sparkled. He often told people that he has been called the Honey Godfather and often times he would say good morning to people late at night when the moon and stars were out. People looked at him like he was crazy or something. Yes, that candle project and Bruce Ramage was quite a story.