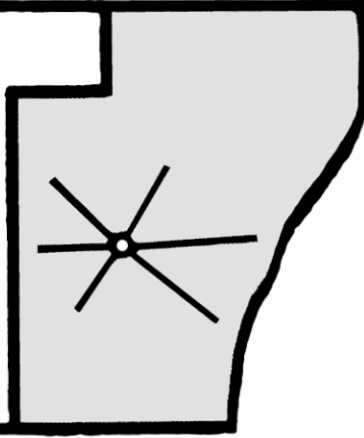


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Power fails briefly in Valders

An electrical equipment problem west of Valders caused a power outage for longer than an hour and half for 85 Wisconsin Public Service Corp. customers early Monday morning. Matt Cullen, utility spokesman, said at 4:22 a.m. a problem with equipment on a power pole, at Washington Street and Marken Road, caused the outage to customers in Valders. A crew restored power at 6:04 a.m. The cause of the failure was not known.

Busy Bees



Hobby adds just a touch of sweetness

By Mary Thomsen

Honeybees visited Dave Pozorski's yard eight years ago, and he hasn't let them leave yet, while Garry Sydow of Whitelaw has devoted much of his life to the insects and their sweet gift to the world.

Pozorski started working with bees at his home in rural Manitowoc after a swarm of bees showed up on his property, while Sydow has been a beekeeper for 45 years and was Pozorski's first mentor in the hobby.

They both belong to the Manitowoc County Beekeepers Association, which has 60 members who in total maintain 1,000 or more hives, each holding tens of thousands of bees, depending on size.

Members of the association order bees that are shipped by weight in simply designed boxes from places like California, Florida or Georgia, with a queen kept in a separate small container. Pozorski said the bees are marked by variety, either Italian, Carnolian or Buckfast.

He currently has about 15 hives, from small hives with a couple frames of bees to four or five production hives that are much bigger with up to about 60,000 bees.

Sydow operates 21 hives that "keep expanding," and always brings an observation hive to the Manitowoc County Fair.

Both men sell their honey out of their homes to customers who find them by word of mouth. Sydow, the group's treasurer, said his operation is capable of producing 90 to 100 gallons a year. Pozorski's four medium-sized production hives yield

Busy in the Hive

Honeybees cover a frame from a hive during a demonstration by Mani-

about 10 gallons, or 100 pounds of the sweet substance.

Pozorski, outgoing president of the beekeepers association, is switching direction a bit, moving from solely producing honey to selling bees, while working toward getting them acclimated to get through Wisconsin winters.

"Winterized Wisconsin bees can be sold at a premium," he said. "...They've got to be hardy and they've got to be good producers. I keep breaking my hives up."

Another member of the association, Bryan Schmidt, is also focused on selling winterized bees at his operation south of Whitelaw. He also has some bees in Calumet County near Sherwood.

While he sells some honey, he has bigger plans.

"My goal is just to be self-sustaining and keep my own bees and propagate from them so I don't have to buy from other states or other areas," Schmidt said.

He is using his own queens and trying to raise more bees that are acclimated to this climate to breed for better genetics so the honeybees can survive a harsh winter and resist pests.

Sydow said mites that attack honeybee colonies are the biggest enemy.

"It's getting tough to get them through the winter," he said. "A lot of it is the

mites. If you're not paying attention, they can just go into the hive before the winter and just wipe them out."

Last year, many hives didn't raise winter brood—young bees—and died out, he said.

Pozorski said the hobby sort of fell into his lap, laughing with Sydow about how his interest has grown since he found that wild swarm in his yard.

"It starts out as fun, doesn't it, Garry?" he said. "It starts out as all of a sudden a swarm shows up one day, X number of years ago, and the next year you acquire a bunch of boxes and then all of a sudden 10 years later you've got 15 hives."

Swarming is a natural behavior of bees that keepers can use to their advantage and get more hives. Pozorski, for example, has two hives ready for when he wants to break up his bigger hives.

"Sometimes, there gets to be too many bees in a hive and they say, 'Oh, OK, it's time for us to move,'" he explained.

"So they put the queen on a diet and they quit feeding her. They start chasing her around the hive. They bump her, they irritate her. They do everything they possibly can, but before they do that, they create queen cells.

"And she lays eggs in those queen cells. Sometimes a lot of them. Then they send out scouts. Sometimes the scouts are lucky

and they find a home about the size of a beehive."

—Journal Photo

and they find a home about the size of a beehive."

It gets more complicated. A couple days before the new queen cells hatch, a third of the adult bees gorge themselves on honey the hive has stored and then leave with the original queen to form a swarm and find a new home.

Pozorski advises anyone who finds a honeybee swarm to leave it alone or contact a beekeeper to move it safely. The county association has a website and Facebook page.

"If the beekeeper is lucky, he finds those queen cells," Pozorski said, showing how he looks for the telltale signs of a larger cell the bees have built with their wax.

If one is found, the keeper could pull the queen out and put her in a five-frame bee box known as a nuc, which will stop the swarming, or take the developing queen cells out to start another hive.

As the new queens develop, the bees give them rich food called royal jelly, and then the action steps up when hatching gets close, because each hive can only have one queen. Pozorski explained the process as he found two new cells in one of his hives.

"What we are going to have is a battle royale," he said. "The first queen that

See Bees p. 9

Primary sets up Michels, Evers race for governor

Millionaire businessman Tim Michels defeated former lieutenant governor Rebecca Kleefisch Tuesday for the right to go head to head with Gov. Tony Evers in November.

Michels, who garnered the endorsement of former President Donald Trump, emerged from the Republican primary for governor, getting 47% of the vote to Kleefisch's 42%. The two had risen to the top of the field in the GOP race, and nobody else got close to 10% of Republican votes.

Evers ran unopposed in the Democratic

side of the ballot.

Michels carried Manitowoc County, getting 5,120 votes to 4,744 for Kleefisch. He won in all of this area's municipalities, except in the Town of Cato, where Kleefisch held a slight edge.

Turnout across the county averaged 26%. In this area, turnout ranged from 35% in the Town of Manitowoc Rapids to 22% in St. Nazianz.

In other marquee races Tuesday, Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes easily won the Democratic

nod for U.S. Senate and will face Republican Sen. Ron Johnson in what is expected to be a bloody, partisan fight. Johnson has become a lightning rod for Democrats, after his staunch support of Trump and outspoken opinions on the COVID-19 pandemic and other issues.

Barnes rose quickly to the top of the ballot after three main Democratic opponents dropped out of the running in the final weeks.

Johnson easily overtook his nearly unknown GOP opponent.

Voters also trimmed the fields for other state offices, including attorney general, secretary of state, lieutenant governor and treasurer, as well as congressional and legislative offices.

Attorney General Josh Kaul ran unopposed in the Democratic primary and will apparently face Eric Toney, who narrowly won a three-way race for the GOP nomination. Toney and Adam Jarchow both had 37% of the Republican vote, with Toney winning by less

See Election p. 11