

UNCAPPED

The Buzz on Bees

Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association

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September 9, 2017

Bring honey to Sept. 12 meeting

Summer is quickly turning to fall and we have several seasonal topics for our next meeting, Tuesday, September 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Richland Church of Christ on 933 Thayer Dr.

Make sure you bring a sample of your recent honey extraction efforts, and we'll have a honey tasting.

Hope to see you Tuesday.

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Save some honey for the bees

While you may be tempted to harvest all that honey your busy bees have been collecting all summer, remember to save enough for your bees to sustain them through the winter.

How much do your bees need? And by the way, how do you prepare your hives for the coming dearth of forage and cold weather?

Our MCBA presenters will help answer these questions as they cover the following topics at the September 12 meeting:

- Fall hive maintenance-preparing hives for the winter
- Mite control
- Wasp control for next year
- Timing of honey extraction

Fair update and volunteer thanks

From our Benton Franklin Fair Booth Coordinator, Dart Helgeson

Another Benton Franklin Fair is behind us, and I wanted to say THANK YOU to every one of you for making it such a great success!

A special thank you goes out to Jacob Vooge and Huston Osborn for providing the bees for the observation hive. As always, the live bees are vital to bringing the public in and getting them engaged in conversation. Bravo to you both!!

MCBA made over \$1,000 in honey and book sales, and this money will go toward equipment, books, and paid speaker fees. We could not have done this without our volunteers who set up the booth, staffed the booth during fair hours, engaged the fair visitors in conversation, found the queen in the observation hive for the kids, helped disassemble the booth, and trucked the disassembled booth back into storage until the next event.

MCBA will start planning for the 2018 Fair earlier next year to plan displays and recruit volunteers. The Fair is one of the best outreach opportunities MCBA has. This year, volunteers got a pass to the fair, free parking, and a chance to share their passion for bees. Won't you join us for the 2018 Fair?

Dart Helgeson

Tying up Apprentice Class loose ends

MCBA members who did not complete the course work and tests for the Apprentice Beekeeping Class in spring will have a chance to finish up the tests during our October 10 meeting. Tests are open-book.

Once tests are graded, and you pass with 80 percent on all tests, you will receive the certificate of completion for the Apprentice Beekeeping course from the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

Contact [Sandi Clay](#) at our September 12 meeting to make arrangements for completing the tests.

Needed: Hive products speaker for October

We plan a "Products of the Hive" presentation/demonstration in October but need a presenter. If you would like to be a part of this presentation, or know someone who would, contact [Todd Nelson](#) or [Dennis McQuerry](#).

Seeking nominations for 2018

Our revised [bylaws](#) call for election of officers in November. The intent was to provide some overlap to exchange information and provide a greater level of comfort to incoming officers before they take office in January.

Elections will take place during the November 14 meeting. All MCBA members are eligible to vote. Please submit your nominations for candidates for the following offices:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer

- Records Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Three Executive Vice Presidents

Our organization is fully functioning when it is fully staffed, including committee chairs. We will also be seeking nominations for the positions/committees listed below:

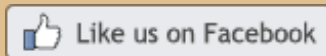
- Education Coordinator
- Equipment Coordinator
- Honey Princess Coordinator
- Newsletter Editor
- Outreach/Public Relations Coordinator
- Swarm Coordinator
- Webmaster

You may nominate yourself, or other MCBA members with their permission. Officer and committee chair duties are described on the MCBA website under the Club Bylaws tab above or the Downloads section under the General tab at www.tricitybees.org.

As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work." So give serious consideration to volunteering to help lead MCBA, and help make our club what you want it to be. Send in your nominations to info@tricitybees.org.

Future meeting education topics wanted

Have any topics you would like covered in a future meeting? Would you like to present a topic at a future meeting? Let an MCBA officer know and we'll schedule you.



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