

UNCAPPED

The Buzz on Bees

Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association

[Website](#) [News](#) [Photo Gallery](#) [Swarm Info](#) [Club Bylaws](#) [Contact Us](#)

January 2, 2017

Monthly meeting on January 10

The next meeting of the MCBA is Tuesday, January 10. Educational topics for the meeting are listed below, along with meeting topics through December.

Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Meetings are held at the Richland Church of Christ, 933 Thayer Drive. All meetings are open to the public.

Save the dates for classes and workshops

Mead-making workshop - January 21

Hear ye, Hear ye! You are invited to a mead-making workshop covering ingredients, equipment and the basic mead-making process. Mead is an alcoholic beverage made from honey, water and yeast. People have brewed mead throughout the ages and have added other ingredients, such as fruit, herbs and spices.

The workshop is an overview including some science, but mostly kitchen countertop techniques. Once the basics are covered, we'll make a batch of mead with honey, apples, raisins and dates. After the demonstration we will sample various meads and answer questions. Please consider bringing a snack to share.

This workshop is limited to 25 people over the age of 21. Please contact Dart Helgeson at clan.helgeson@gmail.com to register. You will be sent an attendance confirmation and location details after registering. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and closes at noon Friday, January 20.

Beekeeping Apprentice class - February 25 and March 4

The Beekeeping Apprentice class will be held a bit earlier this year. The two-part class will be held on two successive Saturdays, February 25 and March 4.

Part of the Washington State Association of Beekeepers certification program, the Apprentice Class will teach the basics of beekeeping. The Apprentice Class is for new or beginning-level beekeepers. It's also a good refresher for more experienced beekeepers.

Covered during the class will be equipment, bee anatomy, how to get started, spring

management, swarming, pest and disease control and more.

The class will be held at Ranch & Home in Kennewick. Additional details, including how to register and pricing, will be available in mid-January.

Monthly meeting topics

We've set educational topics for monthly meetings for the coming year. We still have a few topics to add, and the list is subject to change, based on the availability of presenters.

Monthly meetings are, of course, open to everyone and are held the second Tuesday of the month. If you have topics you want to see presented or are willing to be a presenter, contact Education Committee Chairman Dennis McQuerry at dennis.mcquerry@gmail.com.

Below is a list of topics by month.

January

- Electronic hive monitoring
- Queen rearing
- Queen marking

February

- Swarm management and capture
- Spring hive management and inspection
- Installing packages and nucs

March

- Bee gardening
- Organic pest management
- Protecting bees from pesticides

April

- Bee stings
- Hive inspection planning

May

- Honey Princess
- Summer hive management

June

- Honey extraction
- Wax processing

July

- Disease and pest management

August

- AZ, Top Bar and flow hives

September

- Products from the hive

October

- Bumble bees and other native bees

November

- Reasons for colony collapse

December

- Annual potluck

Seeking nominations for MCBA officers for the January elections

Elections will take place during the January 10 meeting. All MCBA members are eligible to vote. Please submit your nominations for the candidates for the following offices.

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Three Executive Vice Presidents

You may nominate yourself, or another MCBA member with his or her permission. Officer duties are described on the MCBA website under the Downloads section under the General tab at www.tricitybees.org. Send in your nominations to info@tricitybees.org.

Join MCBA or renew your membership for 2017

Membership in MCBA runs from January 1-December 31. You can join or renew at the January 10 meeting. The cost is \$25. You must be a member to vote in the election of officers in January. Your dues help pay for the operation of the MCBA, educational outreach and event support, such as the observational hive at the Benton Franklin County Fair.

MCBA outreach at Coyote Ridge

Providing prison inmates with training that encourages thoughtful and responsible decision-making has been shown to reduce recidivism and improve the odds of a successful return to society. Hopefully, that will be one of several positive outcomes resulting from the apprentice beekeeping class being taught at Coyote Ridge Medium Security Prison.

Three of our members, David White, Dave Selph and Dennis McQuerry, have begun a beekeeping program at the prison as part of the Washington State Department of Corrections Sustainability in Prisons Project.

Nine inmates and three staff members attend the classes, including Dorothy Trainer, sustainability manager for Coyote Ridge. The long-term goal is to establish a cadre of skilled beekeepers at the prison, along with hives for them to manage. Once these men are released from prison, they will have one more useful skill that they will be able to use on the outside.

MCBA members voted at a recent meeting to grant free MCBA membership to Coyote Ridge attendees who take the course.

Speak up for beekeeping

Each year, we receive a number of requests for speakers, and we would like to grant as many of those requests as possible. To do that we need a pool of MCBA members who are comfortable talking about bees and beekeeping in front of an audience.

We are looking for people interested in speaking to schools and other organizations about beekeeping and becoming a member of the newly created MCBA Speakers Bureau. We are working to get the tools in place to support interested members.

First, we are creating a checklist to make sure we have complete information about the organization requesting a speaker.

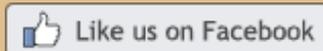
Second, we are working to compile previous presentations given by our members so that we have some resources and extra information for speakers.

Now, we would like to know who among our members are interested in sharing their beekeeping knowledge and experience. Would you like to be an MCBA speaker? Contact [Todd Nelson](#) at (509-430-6188).

Volunteer to become a mentor

Having a mentor to guide new beekeepers through the process is invaluable. Many MCBA members have expressed interested in being able to work with a more experienced beekeeper to understand how it's done.

We'd like to be able to offer that service, but first we need people to volunteer to be mentors. If you'd like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Todd Nelson at 509-430-6188 or info@tricitybees.org.



SUBSCRIBE TO LIST

FORWARD EMAIL

Copyright © 2015. All Rights Reserved.