

# UNCAPPED

## *The Buzz on Bees*

Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association

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April 9, 2017

### Spring is here, finally...

With the trees and plants beginning to bloom, the honey bees are out in force gathering nectar and pollen. If you've ordered bees, you will likely receive them in the next month or so.

The Mid-Columbia Beekeepers Association is also gearing up to provide information for you this spring. Please mark your calendars for our meetings April 11 and 25, 6:30 p.m. at the Richland Church of Christ, 933 Thayer Drive. Yes, this month we have two meetings.

On April 11, will be a regular MCBA meeting featuring the topics on swarm control, and bee stings and allergies, and being prepared to enter your hives for inspections and maintenance.

On April 25, we will welcome this year's Honey Princess, Hope Pettibon. Princess Hope travels across the country to teach students, 4-H groups, and fair-goers about the importance of honey bees and pollination in our everyday lives, and she will be presenting her educational material to MCBA and community members during a special meeting.

Join us for both meetings. We will resume our regular schedule of once-monthly meetings on May 9.

### Volunteers needed for upcoming events

Saturday, May 6, we will be providing hive demonstrations and answering questions about bees and beekeeping at the Northwest Preparedness Expo, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., 22202 N. Hinzerling Road, Prosser.

It's a few months away, but mark your calendar for the Benton Franklin Fair and Rodeo, August 22-26. MCBA will be staffing a booth, answering questions about bees and beekeeping, and showing fairgoers our observation hive.

If you're interested in volunteering at either event, contact an office at one of the meetings or email [info@tricitybees.org](mailto:info@tricitybees.org).

### Beekeeping mentorships available

MCBA is introducing its beekeeping mentorship program this spring. New beekeepers and experienced beekeepers can formalize an education-sharing experience through the MCBA

mentorship agreement.

We will discuss the agreement during our meeting April 11, along with the responsibilities of the mentor and the protege. Download the [Mentor Agreement](#) from our website, fill it out and email to [info@tricitybees.org](mailto:info@tricitybees.org).

## Join MCBA or renew your membership for 2017

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Not a member or haven't renewed, yet? Membership in MCBA runs from January 1-December 31. You can join or renew at any meeting. The cost is \$25. You must be a member to vote on any matters before the club, be on the Swarm Response Team, be a mentor or protege, and borrow club equipment, such as the honey extractor.

Your dues help pay for educational outreach activities and event support, and equipment, such as the extractor and observation hives used at the Benton Franklin Fair and Rodeo and other events.

Download the [membership application](#) from our website, fill out, return it and dues to any membership meeting or follow the directions to mail in your application and dues.

## Experienced beekeepers wanted for swarm response team

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Along with the information on swarm control at our April 11 meeting, MCBA also will be looking for experienced beekeepers to be a part of its Swarm Response Team. Experienced beekeepers interested in helping capture swarms in our area, may complete the [2017 Swarm Response Team form](#) (link to form) and bring it to the April 11 meeting, or email it to [info@tricitybees.org](mailto:info@tricitybees.org).

To be a member of the Swarm Response Team, you must be an MCBA member in good standing; be available to respond swiftly to swarm calls; have the proper equipment and protective clothing; be willing to use ladders and do some climbing; all while keeping homeowners, bystanders, and yourself safe in the process.

Retrieving swarms is a community service provided by MCBA in the Tri-Cities area. We want to ensure bee swarms are safely and humanely captured and relocated instead of sprayed with insecticides and killed.

One person's swarm is another person's bee colony. So let your friends and neighbors know that we offer this service.

## Speak up for beekeeping

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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.

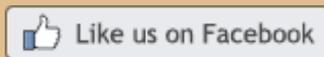
First, we have created a [checklist](#) to make sure we have complete information about the organization requesting a speaker.

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).

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