LCBA Honey Judging at the Southwest Washington Fair
2012: 1st LCBA Honey Contest

Winner: Bob Harris
Rose of Sharon Farm
2013: 9 entries
Judge: Roy Schaafsma
2013

1st Prize Dark Amber: Sharette & Alisha Geise
2013:
1st Prize Amber: Kevin Reichert & Grant Inmon

tied with several others
2014: 16 entries

Winner: Dan Maughan
Judge: Roy Schaafsma
Training Peter Glover for 2015
2015: 34 entries!

Winner: Steve Howard
How the Judging Works
Judging Tools: The Refractometer
Judging Tools: Jack’s Scale
Judging Tools: Polariscoppe
(a.k.a. “The Light Box”)

GET TO KNOW HONEY

Processed honey is highly filtered, sometimes heated, to remove “impurities” – but those impurities include pollen, which has nutrition benefits & can help trace the honey’s source. Raw honey has a slightly cloudy look when backlit. Try holding each jar up to our “light board” and see the difference….

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE!

Saturday, come to our “People’s Choice Honey Judging”!
What Polarisopes Let You See: 
Crystallization

Image: Wyatt E. Mangum, 200 Top Bar Hives: The Low-Cost Sustainable Way
What Polarisopes Let You See: *Bubbles*

Fermentation Bubbles in Crystallized Honey

Image: Wyatt E. Mangum, 200 Top Bar Hives: The Low-Cost Sustainable Way
SW WA Fair Entry Categories

For Dates & Times to Enter, See August LCBA Newsletter

• Division G01 – GRAIN – FORAGE – FARM PRODUCTS
• CLASS 1 – BEE PRODUCTS
• LOT:
  1. Comb Honey w/Sample
  2. Raw Honey Light w/Sample in 1 lb. Queenline Jar
  3. Raw Honey Amber w/Sample in 1 lb. Queenline Jar
  4. Raw Honey Dark w/sample in 1 lb. Queenline Jar
  5. Wax
  6. Other
Honey Judging:
the Standard Reference

HONEY SHOWS
Guidelines for exhibitors, superintendents, and judges

Roger A. and Mary Lou Morse
Honey Scoring Criteria

HONEY JUDGING SCORE CARD: Southwest Washington Fair, 2016

Entry #: ____________________

Point Scoring Items: Judge’s Remarks

___ / 20 Maximum Density (measured by refractometer: over 18.6% moisture is disqualified)

- 15.5 – 17.0: 20 pts
- 17.1 – 18.0: 15 pts
- 18.1 – 18.6: 10 pts

___ / 10 Absence of Crystals

___ / 40 Cleanliness (no wax chunks, bee body parts, foam, lint, dirt, etc.)

___ / 10 Flavor: points reduced for honey affected by processing/scorching

___ / 10 Container appearance (cleanliness, neatness)

___ / 10 Accuracy of filling (precise jar filling: head room between 3/8” & ½” w/no visible gap between honey level & cap)

___ / 100 TOTAL
Let Honey Settle Before Bottling

Filtering Is Optional:
400 microns maximum
Bottling Honey

~ Helper Kitten Optional ~
Bubbles in Just-Bottled Honey

*Let It Settle For At Least a Few Days*
Common Mistakes: Foam
Common Mistakes: Not Filling Jar
Required to Enter:
Glass Queenline Jars
Free to LCBA members
Cut Comb Honey
Judged by Completeness of Capping & Neatness of Presentation

2015 Cut Comb Winner
Jennifer Reiman

Closeup – note the complete capping:
Not Into Rules? Enter Your Honey in the People’s Choice Honey Tasting Contest
Kevin Reichert
Winner, People’s Choice Tasting Contest