

BOOK Discussions

Join your community in conversation!

2/8 • 10:00 am • Ada Community Library, Star Branch
2/11 • 5:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Victory Branch
Book Club at Black Bear Diner • 1731 S
Entertainment Ave, Boise

3/3 • 7:00 pm • Library! at Collister
3/12 • 6:30 pm • Eagle Public Library
3/18 • 10:15 am • Nampa Public Library
3/19 • 6:00 pm • Garden City Public Library

For a list of children's books that complement our featured title, visit your local library or treasurevalleyreads.org.

Community RESOURCES

NATURE CONSERVANCY IN IDAHO

nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/idaho

IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE

idahoconservation.org

IDAHO BOTANICAL GARDEN

idahobotanicalgarden.org

TREASURE VALLEY BEEKEEPERS

idabees.org

IDAHO HONEY COMMISSION

idahohoney.org/links--resources.html

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

wcaboise.org

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

jannus.org/program/foster-grandparent-program-of-the-treasure-valley

IDAHO CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

idahochildrenstrustfund.org

Questions for DISCUSSION

1. *The Honey Bus* begins with a swarm-catching expedition gone wrong, and Grandpa has to rescue Meredith from stinging honeybees. Why do you think the book begins with this scene? How are the themes it sets up explored later in the story?

2. A major thread in *The Honey Bus* is the notion of biological versus chosen family. What kind of role do Grandpa and the bees play in Meredith's life, and how do they shape the person she becomes? Is there someone in your own life who had a similar impact on you?

3. Meredith's mother rarely leaves the bedroom and her mood sways between fragile and frantic. Grandpa, by contrast, is a soft-spoken Big Sur mountain man who loves the outdoors. How do these different personalities affect the way Meredith sees the world? How do they dictate family dynamics?

4. One way Meredith clings to the memory of her father is by listening to The Beatles, even though the music makes her cry. Does this resonate with your sense of music and visceral memory? Do you have songs that transport you back in time or make you feel strong emotions?

5. Reflecting on her childhood, Meredith writes: *I gravitated toward bees because I sensed that the hive held ancient wisdom to teach me the things that my parents could not. It is from the honeybee, a species that has been surviving for the last 100 million years, that I learned how to persevere.*

What honeybee behavior does Meredith witness that informs her understanding of human nature and her own relationships? Has nature ever taught you something about yourself?

6. In the epilogue, Meredith relocates Grandpa's last remaining beehive to San Francisco to start an apiary of her own in a community garden. A little boy visiting on a school trip tells her with pride that his grandfather keeps bees. Meredith tells him that he's "the luckiest boy in the world." What do you make of this final scene?

ABOUT THE

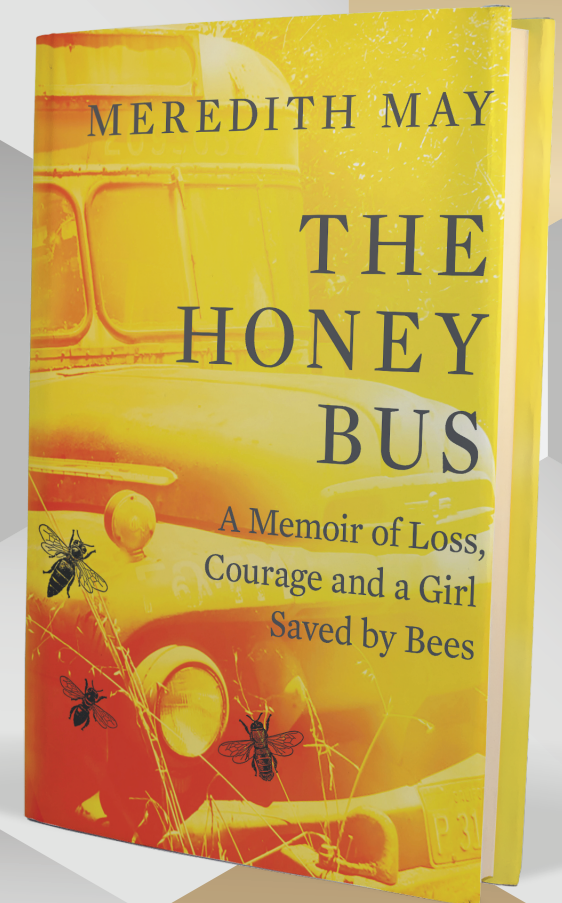
Author



MEREDITH MAY is an award-winning journalist and fifth-generation beekeeper. She spent sixteen years at the San Francisco Chronicle,

where her narrative reporting won the PEN USA Literary Award for Journalism and was short-listed for the Pulitzer Prize. She is co-author of *I, Who Did Not Die*, about a child soldier who risked his life to rescue a wounded enemy fighter during the Iran-Iraq War. Her new memoir, *The Honey Bus* (Harper Collins / Park Row Books, 2019), reveals the life lessons she learned in her grandfather's Big Sur bee yard that rescued her from a difficult childhood. The book has been published in eighteen countries and translated into eleven languages. She lives in Carmel Valley with her wife, golden retriever Edith, and hundreds of thousands of honeybees.

Treasure Valley READS



The Treasure Valley has participated in a community-wide reading project since 2001. This year our featured title is *The Honey Bus* by Meredith May. We encourage everyone in the community to read this engaging memoir and come together at events to learn and experience something new, be creative, and share ideas about themes in the book. As usual, we offer an extraordinary slate of events and activities for a range of ages and interests. Reads 2020 is sure to be both enlightening and entertaining, bringing the community together and building a community of readers.

PROJECT PARTNERS



WITH SUPPORT FROM:



Programming made possible by funding from the Idaho Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit treasurevalleyreads.org for more details.

Events

3/9 • 6:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Victory Branch

3/11 • 9:00 am • Meridian Library District

Through *The Honey Bus*, Meredith May elucidates the critical role grandparents can play in a child's life. Children with no available biological grandparents benefit greatly from foster grandparent volunteers. Foster Grandparents are senior citizens who serve in local schools as mentors and tutors. Hear from Lisa Underwood, with Jannus, and current foster grandparents, about how serving in this special role can make a huge difference to a child in need.

THE MAGIC OF THE HIVE

2/25 • 6:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Victory Branch

3/11 • 6:00 pm • Meridian Library District

3/12 • 6:30 pm • Nampa Public Library

Despite the fact that humans have kept bees since the earliest civilizations, there is still a great deal we don't understand about honey bees. Many of their actions and accomplishments are so far beyond our understanding as to reach the realm of magic. This talk will cover the basic aspects of beekeeping and then delve into the inner workings of the hive. You'll learn about the many fascinating details that are normally reserved for people lucky enough to work around bees. There will be time for questions and answers at the end of the talk, so bring your curiosity. Presented in partnership with Treasure Valley Beekeepers.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

3/2 • 10:30 am • Caldwell Public Library

3/3 • 10:30 am • Caldwell Public Library

Grandparents are GRAND. For ages 2 - 5.

SEED PLANTING 101: POLLINATOR PLANTS

3/2 • 4:30 pm • Caldwell Public Library

Learn how to start a garden of pollinator plants from seed.

DROP-IN WRITING WORKSHOP

3/3 • 6:30 pm • The Cabin • 801 S Capitol Blvd, Boise

3/17 • 6:30 pm • The Cabin • 801 S Capitol Blvd, Boise

Do you feel inspired by *The Honey Bus* and want to try your hand at writing? Join us at The Cabin where our teaching writers will use unique prompts designed to challenge and engage writers of all levels.

THE BUZZ ON NATIVES

3/3 • 6:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Victory Branch

Did you know that there are over 4,000 species of bees in North America? Their beauty and sheer diversity is astounding. Native bees are critical for ecosystem health... but they are in trouble! Learn why the plight of native bees is different from the collapse of honey bees and gain some tools to help you identify who is pollinating your yard! Join certified Bug Nerd and Idaho Botanical Garden's Assistant Horticulture Director Sierra Laverty on a safari-like, bug-eyed view of the magical world of bees.

BEEES, PEOPLE, AND SOCIETY: WHAT SOCIOLOGY CAN TEACH US

3/5 • 6:30 pm • Idaho Black History Museum • 508 Julia Davis Dr, Boise

In her book, May takes the organization of bees as a model for what human society should look like, and the community and cohesion of bees is in many ways enviable. This conversation, led

by Boise State University Sociology Professor Martin Orr, will focus on how sociological theories might help us better compare and contrast the social lives and the behavior of people and of bees, and to address the common threats that we face.

ARE HONEYBEES REALLY IN TROUBLE?

3/10 • 6:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Victory Branch

3/26 • 7:00 pm • Boise Public Library, Main Library

You might have heard recently the honeybee is facing some challenges. This pollinator, as well as several others, are critical to our food supply and ecosystem. Join The Treasure Valley Beekeepers Club President, Mark Nagel, as he takes you on an hour long journey covering all the facts about the current state of the honeybee as well as other pollinators.

BEEKEEPING

3/14 • 2:00 pm • Ada Community Library, Lake Hazel Branch

Come hear our community expert talk about the hows and whys of beekeeping.

INTRODUCTION TO MEAD MAKING WITH WEATHERED ROCK MEADERY

3/17 • 6:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Victory Branch

3/24 • 6:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Victory Branch

3/31 • 6:30 pm • Weathered Rock Meadery • 518 N Curtis Rd, Boise

Come join Weathered Rock Meadery's Chris Szabo as he discusses mead. Chris will discuss the history of mead, the common styles that are crafted, and he will then take us through the basic steps of how mead is made. This lecture includes an option to taste several amazing varieties of honey and also an opportunity to see and handle commonly used home mead making equipment.

GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS

3/19 • 6:30 pm • Library! at Bown Crossing

Did you know that there are nearly 20,000 species of bees in the world, with 4,000 in North America and 400 in Idaho alone? They are essential to pollination and healthy ecosystems, and the honeybee is only one of the species that you will find in your garden. Join David Thompson, the Urban Agriculture Specialist with the Boise Urban Garden School, to learn how you can create beautiful habitats for native bees and honeybees by growing certain flowers in your pollinator garden.

AN UP-CLOSE LOOK AT BEES

3/24 • 4:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Lake Hazel Branch

Did you know there are about 4,000 species of bees in North America? Meet Judy Snow from Bee City USA and learn about the different species of bees and how we can help them survive. Plant some seeds that you can take home with you to feed the bees in your own backyard.

BEEES!

3/24 • 4:00 pm • Library! at Cole and Ustick

Families with children aged 3.5-12 are invited to join Kalli Proffitt, an AmeriCorps service member and environmental educator with the Boise Urban Garden School (BUGS) in a fun bee-themed activity. Learn how bees communicate to gather pollen and create delicious honey, and taste some of the honey from the BUGS hives!

ABOVE THE FOLD, OVER THE AIRWAVES, ON THE WEB: MEDIA LITERACY TODAY

3/27 • 3:00 pm • The Owyhee First Floor Cafe

American democracy thrives when people are informed, but that principle has been threatened. Public trust in news media has dropped with the rise of propaganda, partisanship and the internet, but the need for reliable, fact-based storytelling and news coverage is as important as ever. Join Boise State University Associate Professor Seth Ashley, Boise Weekly Managing Editor Harrison Berry, Idaho Press reporter Margaret Carmel, award-winning journalist and memoirist Meredith May (*The Honey Bus*) and Boise State Public Radio News Director Sáša Woodruff for a panel discussion about hot-button issues, the state of media literacy and the future of the news.

MEREDITH MAY RECEPTION

3/28 • 5:30 - 6:30 pm • Ming Studio • 420 S 6th St, Boise

A special opportunity to meet and greet the author prior to her public presentation. Space is limited, first come, first served. Cash bar and refreshments.

MEREDITH MAY PRESENTATION

3/28 • 7:00 pm • The Egyptian Theater • 700 W Main St, Boise

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Meredith May speak and field questions from the community. Free tickets available on Eventbrite or visit your local library for assistance in obtaining a ticket (limit two per order). As space allows, tickets also available at the door. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, a State-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

HARVESTING HONEY

4/6 • 6:30 pm • Eagle Public Library

Learn about harvesting honey with Melinda Stafford of Treasure Valley Beekeepers.

HONEY AND BEES 101

4/7 • 6:00 pm • Garden City Public Library

How exactly do honey bees make honey? Learn the extraordinary life of honey bees, what it takes to make that spoonful of honey for your toast, and tips to improve the health of bees visiting our yards. Includes question/answer time with local beekeepers. Speaker: Judy Snow, Chairman, Bee City USA - Garden City Pollenteers. Check out local honey and our new book, *100 Treasure Valley Pollinator Plants*.

THE BEES IN YOUR BACKYARD

5/5 • 6:00 pm • Garden City Public Library

When was the last time you looked closely at a bee visiting a flower? Can you recognize any bee species other than a honey bee or perhaps a bumble bee? With over 4,000 species of bees living in the United States and Canada, why can't most of us recognize them? Learn a surprising answer to that question and join the fun of discovering who may live in your backyard with energetic speaker and author of *The Bees in Your Backyard*, Joseph S. Wilson. Refreshments will be served.

READS KICK-OFF

1/31 • 6:00 pm • Ming Studio • 420 S 6th St, Boise

Join area dignitaries as we officially announce this year's Treasure Valley Reads selection, Meredith May's wonderful memoir, *The Honey Bus: A Memoir of Loss, Courage, and a Girl Saved By Bees*. Hear selections from *The Honey Bus*, taste some mead and honey bakery, and learn a little about pollinators and about our great slate of Reads programs.

BEEWAX CRAFTING CLASS

2/18 • 6:00 pm • Kuna Library District

2/26 • 6:30 pm • Nampa Public Library

3/12 • 6:30 pm • Caldwell Public Library

3/17 • 6:30 pm • Ada Community Library, Star Branch

3/23 • 6:30 pm • Eagle Public Library

Beeswax can be used in a variety of fun and inexpensive DIY projects. Learn the basics of utilizing beeswax for crafting and watch a live demonstration of making homemade hand salve or lip balm using local beeswax. Sponsored by D&B Supply.

THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES

2/19 • 6:00 pm • Boise State University, Simplot Ballroom • 1700 W University Dr, Boise

We are pleased to partner with Boise State University's Idea of Nature series to provide the community an opportunity to hear biologist and author, Thor Hanson, speak about his book *Buzz: the Nature and Necessity of Bees*. In *Buzz*, Hanson expertly illustrates why all bees are wonders to celebrate and protect. Free parking information at ideaofnature@boisestate.edu. This presentation is made possible with support from the Idaho Honey Association and the Idaho STEM Action Center.



THE VITAL ROLE OF FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

2/21 • 11:00 am • Garden City Public Library

3/6 • 11:00 am • Caldwell Public Library

3/9 • 11:00 am • Nampa Public Library

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. FOR MORE DETAILS AND OTHER RELATED EVENTS VISIT TREASUREVALLEYREADS.ORG