



## **PRESS RELEASE**

April 16, 2020

Honeybee Festival Cancelled

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

In compliance with CDC guidelines as recommended by the Mesa County Health Department that any meetings or gatherings of over 50 persons be suspended, the Organizing Committee of the Palisade International Honeybee Festival is cancelling the popular festival on April 18, 2020.

The committee will begin refunding any vendor fees that have been submitted by USPS and will send email notifications to them to confirm that the checks are on the way.

“We’re disappointed that we have to cancel, but it is absolutely the right thing to do,” Confirms Jean Tally, a volunteer coordinator for the event.” We are doing this not only because of the recommendation, but also because we are very much aware of how many residents here are in the extreme risk category. We don’t want to do anything that would endanger our neighbors.”

Tally expressed gratitude to the vendors who participate and to the community and sponsors who support the Festival and lend a helping hand every year.

The Committee is unanimous in its determination to be back in full force in April 2021. The Festival will be rescheduled as soon as the group can regroup and pick a date.

The Palisade International Honeybee Festival is a non-profit organization. The festival was created by a group of business owners in Palisade, Colorado wanting to gather the community in celebration of its agricultural roots and to bring attention to the threatened honeybee population. The event was the brain child of former resident and beekeeper, Tina Darrah, and Marla Wood, original owner of The Blue Pig Gallery.

The PIHF is a community driven festival created in 2008 to educate the public about the world-wide crisis on colony collapse and to support of a healthy honeybee population worldwide and its impact on agriculture in the Grand Valley, Colorado and the world.

The PIHF brings awareness to the honeybee crisis through education and the arts. Its goal is to increase public awareness of the impact of bees on our food sources and the wide range of benefits of bee products.

Sponsors are KREX TV 5, MBC Grand Radio, The Blue Pig Gallery, Z's Orchard, Meadery of the Rockies, Palisade Insectary, Underwood Wood Turning, Western Colorado Beekeepers Assn., Wine Country Inn, Suzi Productions, Town of Palisade and Palisade Chamber of Commerce,

Organizing Committee members include Carol Zadrozny, Z's Orchard; Tom Underwood, Underwood Wood Turning; Kay Crane, the Blue Pig Gallery; Howard Martsolf, beekeeper; Dan Bean, Insectary of the Rockies; Jack Moore, Western Colorado Beekeepers Assn.; Troy Ward, Town of Palisade; Julia Durmaj, Palisade Chamber of Commerce; Dixie Burmeister, Dixie B Food for Thought; Bridget Guterrez, Ryan Sawyer Marketing; Chris Christensen and Jean Tally, Wine Country Inn.

For information, call contact Jean Tally