

Methow Conservancy Cider Squeeze is still an old-fashioned community event

The Methow Conservancy's 2025 Cider Squeeze will be held Sunday, Sept. 28, at the home of longtime valley residents Dave and Marilyn Sabold, 17 Bean Road, Winthrop, from 2-4 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to bring their own containers and lids for the fresh-squeezed cider from an antique press, although some bottles will be available. Mason jars, juice jars, growlers, and water bottles are all great options.

Live music will be provided by Gobbler's Knob, a Winthrop-based quartet that includes Randy Thordarson (guitar, harmonica, mandolin), Stan Wentzel (mandolin, banjo), Michael Kennedy (bass), and Jerome Bowler (guitar). And kids will, as usual, be able to canoe on the pond.

New this year to the Squeeze will be a drawing for several free giving cards to use during Give Methow, an online fundraising campaign that supports Methow Valley nonprofits. The winners of the raffle will each be given a \$100 gift card to donate to the nonprofit(s) of their choosing during the month of October. The Cider Squeeze is not a fundraiser.

Long history

When the Sabolds moved to

the Methow Valley in 1972, the Squeeze was already well-established as an event at the home of residents Marjory and Ken White near Winthrop, according to a press release from the Conservancy.

"The Whites had created this community event years before we arrived," Dave Sabold said. "Everyone would go out in the morning to shake the trees and collect apples, then go back to Marge and Ken's for the pressing. Marge would make crispy apple doughnuts."

"For us, being new to the community, it was just such a good introduction to the Methow Valley community," Marilyn Sabold said.

When the Sabolds took up residence in the Whites' former home in the mid-1990s, they inherited a cider press from the 1850s and the opportunity to carry on the Whites' tradition. "We've tried to keep the event feeling the same as it did back in the Whites' day," Dave said.

"The Cider Squeeze is always made up of a whole cross-section of the community," Marilyn Sabold said. "All of it — the music, the pond, the pressing — brings people together."

The cider press itself has stood the test of time. The heavy iron flywheel and other forged com-



Photo courtesy of Methow Conservancy

Marilyn and Dave Sabold will once again host the Methow Conservancy's Cider Squeeze at their Winthrop home.

ponents of the press are original, although most of the wooden parts of the press have been rebuilt and replaced in recent years. "Only the hopper is original wood," Dave Sabold said in the press release.

At the Sabolds' invitation, the Methow Conservancy began to coordinate the Cider Squeeze in 2004. For many years, Conservancy staff and volunteers collected apples around the valley, but due to unpredictable crops and competing demands on time, apples have been sourced

in recent years from regional orchardists.

In 2025, Smallwood Farms will provide three bins of apples, with varieties like Honeycrisp, Jonagold, Gravenstein, Golden, and Fuji. Additionally, community members are invited to add to the mix from their own orchards or from "wild" trees that they have permission to harvest.

For more information, email ashley@methowconservancy.org, call (509) 996-2870 or visit methowconservancy.org.