

Swarm List

News Release
For immediate release
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for more information contact:
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HONEYBEE SWARMS

Assistance Available from Beekeepers

A honeybee cannot live alone but depends on the colony for survival. To propagate the species, a swarm (about half the colony and the queen) moves to a new home. The other half of the colony remains in the hive and raises a new queen. In southeastern Pennsylvania, most swarms emerge in April, May, and June.

After exiting from their former home (hive), the swarm may settle on a tree branch, a bush, or the side of a building. The swarm normally forms a football-shaped cluster of bees that may be up to three feet long. The swarm sends out scout bees to look for a new home in a hollow tree or in the eaves of a building. When a suitable spot is found, the scout bees direct the swarm to it. The bees then construct a new honeycomb nest with wax they produce themselves, begin to gather nectar and pollen for food, and raise young.

If you find a swarm of honeybees on your turf and don't want it there, members of the Chester County Beekeepers Association (CCBA) listed at the end of this article are willing to remove the swarm. Time is of the essence. Once the swarm has entered its new home, removal of the honeybees is much more difficult and may involve opening the wall of a house to get to the bee colony. This is generally beyond the capability of most beekeepers, so contact one of them while the bees are still clustered in a swarm.

Honeybees are a valuable part of nature because they pollinate crops, produce honey, beeswax, and pollen, and their stings are widely accepted as an aid in the treatment of arthritis. So, as you observe them swarming, contemplate this marvelous phenomenon and call a beekeeper to remove the swarm and put it to beneficial use. The listed members of CCBA will remove honeybee swarms, usually at no cost.

The Chester County Beekeepers Association takes no responsibility for the services provided by its members. This information is provided only as a public service.

2009 Swarm Capture list

The Chester County Beekeepers Association

The following individuals will capture swarms of honeybees

(See Press Release on other side for an explanation of swarming.)

SOUTHERN and WESTERN CHESTER COUNTY:

Charlie Karat (610) 998-1407

Samuel Fisher (610) 593-6904

Susan Corkran (610) 388-6323

Ray Champ (610) 692-6408 <champre@hotmail.com>

Stephan Waechter (610) 255-4544

Walt Broughton (610) 384-2384 <swarmbuster@ccis.net>

NORTHEASTERN CHESTER COUNTY:

Howard Frysinger (610) 942-4261 <hafrysinger@yahoo.com>

Jim Bobb (Avail 7 days/week) (610) 584-6778 <JimBobb@GCT21.net>

Jan Cauffman (610) 408-9124

Richard Huey (484) 645-7192 during school hours or (610) 933-9373

CENTRAL CHESTER COUNTY

Warren Graham, Jr. (610) 876-2007

Jeff Bryer (484) 888-6546

Ray Champ (610) 692-6408 <champre@hotmail.com>

Carmen Battavio (610) 331-6279

MAIN LINE and DELAWARE COUNTY:

Kevin J. Doerr (610) 358-1947 <kjd1700@verizon.net>

Jim Bobb (Avail 7 days/week) (610) 584-6778 <JimBobb@GCT21.net>

Warren Graham, Jr. (610) 876-2007

Joseph Kurman (610) 447-0786

Ray Champ (610) 692-6408 <champre@hotmail.com>

Brent Lunger (610) 251-0530

Richard Huey (484) 645-7192 during school hours or (610) 933-9373

Jan Cauffman (610) 408-9124

James Castellan (610) 565-9845 <james.castellan@gmail.com>

Frank Ruthkosky (610) 725-1122 ext. 204 <fruthkosky@taylorgifts.com>

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

Jim Bobb (Avail 7 days/week) (610) 584-6778 <JimBobb@GCT21.net>

Ray Champ (610) 692-6408 <champre@hotmail.com>

Will Do Yellowjackets, Wasps, Hornets, Bumble Bees:

Walt Broughton (610) 384-2384 <swarmbuster@ccis.net>

Warren Graham, Jr. (610) 876-2007

Ray Champ (610) 692-6408 <champre@hotmail.com>