



Prescott Beekeeping Club News

Adventures of a New Beekeeper

By Georgene Lockwood

First there was Master Gardener training. Then I started keeping chickens. Now, glory bee, it's BEES!

I guess it was inevitable. When you grow herbs, veggies and fruits, sooner or later you're going to want to bring bees into the picture. [continued on page 2]



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NEXT MEETING

May 21st

6 p.m.

Glassford Hills Terrace, 5700 E. Market, Prescott Valley. Just past the Liberty Kia car dealership.



MAY MEETING

The Topic for this month's meeting will be Grafting Queens. Meeting begins at 6 p.m. on May 21st at the Glassford Hills Terrace Apartments on Market Street, just past the Kia dealership across from Sam's Club Mall.

The meeting is held in the community center on the right as you enter the apartments. Parking is on the street.

If you need further directions e-mail John Michaluk at jml4onov@bullerinetnetworks.net or call 928-308-0887

“The keeping of bees is like the direction of sunbeams.”
— Henry David Thoreau

SWARMS

As you may have read in the Prescott Daily Courier, there have been lots of swarms this season.

Please encourage people NOT to eradicate bees but to contact the club for bee removal.

Here is a list of volunteers from the web site:

Peggy Mackey - 928-713-7931

Susan Anderson - 928-710-5600
- Located in Prescott

Lloyd Sizemore - 602-692-1243
- Located in Chino Valley

Ken Miller - 928-300-1260 -
Located in Rimrock

Mark Gregory - Active in areas
south of Prescott - 928-830-
8770

Steve Read - 928-899-5091 -
Active in the Prescott area

Tom Veatch - 928 925 2096 -
Active in areas south of Prescott

ADVENTURES OF A NEW BEEKEEPER

[CONT.]

Enter the Prescott Beekeeping Club and a workshop conducted by president Jason Heartisan for the Northern Arizona Preppers Meetup group in 2014.

He invited us to his home and did a thorough and passionate show-and-tell introduction for a group of about six of us. Somehow I went home with some well-used beehive boxes, which sat until this year, when member Lloyd Sizemore decided to use them as a model to build his own supers and the two of us jumped in with both feet.

Fast-forward to May 2015. After several failed attempts to work with a New Mexico bee supplier, member Lloyd Sizemore found two hives in Chino Valley that needed a new home. They came complete with lots of honey and brood and so far seem to be doing famously.

The cold snap last week was a little unsettling, but we made sugar water feeders and that seemed to do the trick.

So, I guess now I can officially say “I is a beekeeper!”



Some beginning beekeeping supplies from an online supplier.

TOOLS OF A BEEKEEPER BY JACK JOHNSON

While beekeeping is as varied as the person doing the work, some basic tools are common to keeping bees. If we think of keeping bees as the management of an animal group, similar to cattle ranching or chicken farming, certain tools can and will help the person doing the management.

The suit,

Many varieties of suits exist, but what I have learned in selecting a suit is to make sure it is two to three times as large as a person's normal clothing, and make sure it is able to be completely zipped up so no aggressive bees can enter the veil or suit while working the hive. Suits are not sting proof but the oversized fit makes it difficult for the bee to get her stinger all the way in to the person's skin, and therefore limiting the sting potential. Elastic bands at the legs, and or straps that help keep the suit down over the boots are a good touch.

Gloves,

As you work and learn the bees you are managing you will find yourself at times removing your gloves or using gloves that have no fingers on them or perhaps latex type gloves that will allow more mobility for finer work. Either way using gloves can be optional, based on how workable the bees are at the time you are in the hive.

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PRESCOTT BEEKEEPING CLUB MISSION

"We gather in support of honey bees and each other in the tending and managing of honey bees. We strive to educate the public on the wonders and necessity of local prospering bees, and the ease of helping them. Long Live the Bees!"



INTIMATE PORTRAITS OF BEES

If you haven't seen these beautiful close up pictures of bees from National Geographic, you are in for a treat.

Go to:

[http://
www.nationalgeographic.
com/features/140114-bee
-native-macro-
photography-insects-
science/#.VVJlZP-XNg](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/140114-bee-native-macro-photography-insects-science/#.VVJlZP-XNg)

And enjoy!

TOOLS OF A BEEKEEPER

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Hive tool

Bright red or yellow a hive tool is a must to pry the various parts of the hive apart as you need to separate them, and do your work and or examination of the hive. They are brightly colored to aid you in finding them for the next time you need them.

Smoker

A must for entering the hive, the smoke seems to clear and calm the bees so you can move things around or pull frames up to look at them. Fuel for the smoker needs to be any nontoxic material that burns long and smokes well. I keep a garbage can full of Ponderosa Pine needles and use them as my primary fuel.

Boots

Tall boots that the bee suit extends over or tall rubber boots that engulf the suit and help keep the bees from getting to your ankles.