



# Prescott Beekeeping Club News

## SWARM!!!

By Steven Read

Recently I vacuumed some bees off a gentleman's fascia out Coyote Springs way in PV and he was so interested in the process he invested \$500 with Mann Lake to get himself set up to keep bees, primarily to harvest the honey in the hopes of getting a grip on his allergies to whatever is blooming in the area. These bees (see pic below) had [continued on page 2]



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## NEXT MEETING

July 16

6 p.m.

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



## JULY MEETING

We would like everyone to bring a sample of their honey as we will be talking about flavors, color, texture and different varieties of floral sources from which the bees gather their nectar.

For new beekeepers who have not been able to harvest this year, please bring your taste buds as we would like to get everyone's view on what they see and taste. We will also discuss the medicinal uses of honey and how that relates to the floral source of the nectar.

There will be handouts for the honey wheel and other pertinent information.

The meeting is on July 16 at 6 p.m. the Glassford Hills Terrace Apartments on Market Street in the clubhouse, just past the Kia dealership across from Sam's Club Mall.

*“Everything takes time. Bees have to move very fast to stay still.”*  
 — David Foster Wallace

### 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

## SWARM!!! [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

been hanging out for over two weeks and other than sending out scouts hadn't moved much except under the eve for protection from the elements and onto the face of it to warm themselves. I suspect their size had prevented them from moving on because they could not find a suitably large enough home in which to set up house in.

Well the removal went well and the bees were very docile so I thought he was off to a roaring start with a friendly feral colony. We moved the bees to a corner of his property with a full compliment of mostly new frames in an eight frame box, actually the vac back I had used serves as a nice temporary hive box, until his equipment could arrive. I gave him a jar of honey from a previous removal that wasn't good for eating due to a bad after taste it had but his bees could use it to build up their depleted internal stores. We soon made plans to transfer the bees to his equipment and on the appointed day, in the early evening, we started in. We were both shocked to see that the colony had built out close to 70 percent of all the foundation and they were at 80% of capacity of bees and were in need of a super immediately. These girls had gone to work in full force!

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## A LIST OF SOME BEE FORAGE PLANTS

For a great list of Bee Forage Plants (and lots of other great resources) thanks to Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary go to <http://spikenardfarm.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/BeeForagePlants.pdf>

These include Biannual or Perennials, Annuals and Trees, plus some information on space considerations.

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Unfortunately they had developed a nasty temperament in the meantime and were nothing like they had been when we first encountered them. The new owner of these productive bees asked me what he should do and considering he had a small child and pets I advised him it was best to seal up the hive and to let them die. It really broke my heart but even he, a total newbie to beekeeping could tell these were at a minimum Africanized to some extent.

The takeaway here is several fold;

- 1) You can't tell the true genetic make up of a colony when they have swarmed until they are in a proper home and are back to a normal routine.
- 2) Given the right environment a new colony can set up house-keeping VERY quickly.
- 2) Warn homeowners that they should be careful around any swarms that seem to have set up shop on their property because at first they may be uninterested in you because they haven't got a vested interest in their colony build yet, but as they grow in number they can and will become more protective and will have more resources to throw at any threats they perceive.
- 3) Let people know that want to jump into beekeeping that it might be wiser to wait or at a minimum advise them up front things can go horribly wrong at any point in the process.

[Editorial Note: And advise them to join the Prescott Beekeeping Club so they can learn and get solid advice along the way.]

## 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!"

