

## **News Release: Spring 2010**

Chester County Beekeepers Association ([www.chescobees.org](http://www.chescobees.org))

For more information contact: Jan Cauffman, (610) 408-9124

## **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. From this location, the swarm continues to send 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 and easy to capture. Honeybees are a valuable part of nature because they pollinate one third of our food supply, as well as producing honey and beeswax. So, if 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.

### **The following individuals will capture swarms of honeybees:**

#### **Central and Southern Chester County:**

Jarl Mork 610-793-2564

Norm Lincoln 717-529-1151

Warren Graham 610-565-2032

Susan Corkran 610-388-6323

Jeff Bryer 484-888-6546

Web Edwards 484-643-3951

**Northeast Chester County:**

Jonathan Hemley 484-678-2978

Jan Cauffman 610-408-9124

Howard Frysinger 610-578-5014

Jim Bobb 610-584-6778

**Main Line and Delaware County:**

Warren Graham 610-565-2032

Jan Cauffman 610-408-9124

Joseph Kurman 610-447-0786

Paul Niemczura 610-761-9748

James Castellan 610-565-9845

Jim Bobb 610-584-6778

**Montgomery County:**

Jim Bobb 610-584-6778

**Removals of Honeybees from House Walls, Etc:**

Warren Graham 610-565-2032

Samuel B. Fisher 610-593-6904

**Removals of Yellow Jackets and Hornets:**

Warren Graham 610-565-2032