



It's Swarm Season for Honeybees - Help Them Find New Homes

It is a privilege to witness swarming honeybees. Every spring, this wondrous event happens many times, as a growing beehive divides and sends half of its colony with the old queen to seek a new home. Before leaving the hive, worker bees fill their honey stomachs for the journey. With their full abdomens, swarming bees are unlikely to sting - their focus is on finding a new home and protecting their queen.

Unprotected, a bee swarm is exposed to rain, cold, and predators, and may not survive more than three days. Even if scouts do find a location for the new hive, survival rates can be quite low.

Beekeepers dream of catching swarms. If you see a swarm or a colony that needs a new home, please report it immediately by calling one of the numbers listed below.

You will be helping to sustain one of the world's most fascinating and beneficial creatures.

1. Ashland Police Department Dispatch 541-776-7206
2. Southern Oregon Beekeepers Association at www.southernoregonbeekeepers.org/report-a-swarm 541-862-1604
3. Southern Oregon University Beekeeping Club 541-244-0391 or 708-205-0049