



Welcome to the HIVE!

MARCH 2022

The Beekeepers Association of Central Arizona
(azbeekeepers.org)

**The meeting on March 17th
has been
CANCELED
due to a scheduling error**

However, we have something much more exciting to offer in it's place!

We call this "Alive in the Hive"!

This special event happens Saturday March 19th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am (weather permitting) at a small backyard apiary at 5533 N Central Avenue. This event is mostly geared toward the new or aspiring beekeeper, but all are welcome. We will discuss the basics of lighting a smoker, review basic equipment for starting beekeeping, and an actual hive inspection. All participants must bring their own protective equipment. Participants may be asked to sign a waiver. Bottled water and snacks will be provided. Parking is available on Marshall Avenue on the east side of Central Avenue. We will also collect membership dues for those wishing to become members of BACA. Email joc@bridlepathbeeyard.com if you have any questions."

Next month, Our regular meeting will resume on Thursday April 21st with a presentation on "Controlling Varroa Mites Within Hives" by Joc Rawls.

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You just gotta HIVE this!!



Dave and I, as beekeepers, are as amateur as they come. Dave had done this in his youth many years ago and had all the appropriate equipment for working with bees. Knowing what to do when things went AWOL, though, was not a second thought. It should have been. But then again, years ago, bees were a whole lot friendlier.

One day we both found out the hard way what we should have known before going into a hive. Dave got all his gear in order and stepped into his multi-layer hi-tech anti-bee suit. He took all his stuff to the back of our one acre lot and started fussing with the first hive. I stood up by the house where I thought it was safe. (Rule number one- there IS NO SAFE distance when bees have it out for you!) A very short time later, here comes Dave making a bee-line for the house with a handful of bees after him. I can see he is under attack but have no idea what to do. So I pick up a broom. (DUMB idea! Don't do this at home.) I run out to meet him with the broom (No one really talks about what you're supposed to do when under attack and at this point, it's too late to think about it. But hey, brooms work well on loose dogs!)

Soon both Dave and I are covered with bees. This is not the FUN I signed up for as assistant beekeeper- and I'm NOT wearing a bee suit. The broom isn't working- it seems bees are too small a target to hit accurately and they're FAST. They have the home field advantage since we are so big and slow!

So I ditch the broom and dive for the HOSE turning the water on full. Like a warrior with a machine gun, I blast the daylights out of all those attackers. This seems to work. All the bees drop to the ground or cling for dear life to our clothing. It seems it's really HARD to fly with wet wings! Soaking wet, we both run for the house.

Safe inside I ask what happened. Dave replies that he forgot to take his SMOKER out with him. He remembered it AFTER he opened the hive lid. He also found out his "bee-proof suit" wasn't. There was a small opening where he didn't pull the veil down over his collar completely, allowing one bee, then another, inside his veil and onto his face. Soon they all got the word and it was GAME OVER.

Luckily, we only got about 30 stings each and no one ended up in the hospital with an allergic reaction. Things could have been worse.

Just so stuff like this doesn't happen to you, here are some ideas on how to deal with bees that don't like you...

***If you encounter bees buzzing around your head,** (Or you forget your smoker) place your hands over your face and look through gaps between your fingers. Look around for signs a colony is close by (If you happen to walk into a wild hive,) and walk briskly away from the area.

Do not flap or swat at the bees, this is the worst thing to do!

- **If bees bump or sting you, take the hint!** cover your head and face with clothing or your hands and run to the nearest building, car or any kind of shelter. Go inside and close the doors. If you are not close to a shelter, run or walk briskly for at least 240 yards (the length of two football fields) or as long as you can go until the bees have abandoned you. (And they don't give up easily.)
- **Do not dive into a swimming pool;** the bees will wait for you for far longer than you can hold your breath, and they can see you below the surface of the water, so you're not fooling anyone.
- **If stung,** and once you are in a safe place promptly remove stings from your skin using any available means (e.g., tweezers, your fingernail, a pocketknife, or credit card). Scraping them off quickly will greatly reduce the severity of the sting reaction. Don't squeeze!

Most healthy adults can withstand several hundred bee stings, so fatalities due to toxic levels of venom are extremely rare. Bee stings are painful, and the discomfort and swelling can last 2-3 days. Prolonged or severe reactions may occur in sensitive people, and this is the most significant problem. Communicate with those you work with if you have severe sensitivities and carry an EpiPen.

(Thanks to the University of Arizona)

Oh-! BROOMS DON'T WORK- BUT SPRAYING WATER if you have nothing else DOES. AND-! Don't forget to check your equipment and the fit of your suit and especially your veil BEFORE venturing into the wild.

Happy Beekeeping and don't forget your SMOKER.



"The swarm of bees you ordered is ready. Would you like us to send them to Google or the hot-dog vender who made you wait in line behind a woman in 1986?"

