

By: Randy Bobo Longview Beekeeper's Club

Catching Swarms

1. Put swarm boxes out- plenty of room
 - Standard hive box - best
 - 5 frame Nuc Box – good
 - Styro 5 frame Nuc on shelf bracket 8'-10' off ground
 - Make it smell good small piece of cone, 1" strips of foundation in empty frame and or scent of lemongrass
 - Check boxes frequently
 - Move boxes at night, keeping them cool
 - Use 1" strips of foundation in empty wood frames (feels empty)
2. Swarm call hanging in bush, tree, etc.
 - Knock them into a good size box with foundation
 - Set a box with scent in front of swarm let them move in
 - Vacuum swarm into screen canister then
 - ✓ Let them settle down in cool spot for about 30 minutes to an hour
 - ✓ Shake them into a hive (I prefer at night)
 - ✓ If up high don't use long PVC pipe for suction (too fast will damage bees)
 - ✓ Don't drown them with water or sugar syrup

"Hive-ing" a Swarm

1. Use box big enough for swarm- single or double deep
2. Make it smell good- scent, foundation strips, cone or lemongrass oil with wood frames and foundation
3. Make it dark – no screen, bottom boards to start
4. Small entrance 1"-1 ½" (no queen excluder)
5. Keep swarm in screen canister cool
6. Wait till dusk (if you can) They will acclimate to hive
7. Feed them 1 to 1 sugar water
8. Don't put them with large hives
9. Direct sun or shade in afternoon
10. Kill any hive beetles after swarm has settled for 2 weeks