

## 2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #19a

I have gone back to an earlier issue I published several years ago, but my thought is new readers may be interested in this topic. Those beekeepers who live in residential areas often find issue caused by their bees.

For example, I know of a few beekeepers that live near public swimming pools, and they have learned that their bees are often blamed on bee stings. If people can see your hives, any bee problem they have will often be blamed on your bees. This often happens when swarms issue from hives, bees visit bird feeders, and let's say just last year, my neighbors came to me with a problem of a lot of bees flying around their garage. I went over to inspect the problem, and a lot of bees turned out to be a few bees visiting their Rose of Sharon bush. They were just afraid of honeybees.

I shared why the bees were there and it might not be my bees. They understood bees needed to be saved -- they just didn't appreciate them in their yard. Fortunately, I explained that when the Rose of Sharon had no blooms, the bees would not return. No one was stung and I explained the bees were not aggressive. All they were doing was looking for food and not interested in attacking anyone.

I gave them a jar of honey for contacting me and listen to my little talk about the value of having honeybees in the neighborhood. Not sure I overcame their fear of bees, but they have not had any bee issues I am aware of since.

Dana