

## Beekeeping Notes Issue #35a

When Dana sends out his article, there is always a note in the email. I believe it is very informative and deserves a look also. You will find it copied here. Since some of you will be reading these article and may not be receiving them directly, with Dana's permission we will go back and add some of this content to the previously posted articles. This information is just to good to pass up.

Ken Hoover

This is really the Dog Days of Summer! I did get to my bees this week and the difference 20 miles between bee yards reminds me of how important it is to keep bees in good foraging locations. I started to feed a hive here in Raleigh this morning -- I know I should wait until later in the evening -- but it was out of food! As I opened the hive and started to fill the division board feeder (this is an inside feeder taking up the room of two frame spaces) I could not believe the robbing situation I was facing. I took a 5 gal bucket with about a gal of syrup out to the hive and before I could begin to pour syrup into the feeder, I had a swarm of bees around me. Believe me that I closed up the hive and the robbing bees were attacking it full bore! This hive already had an entrance reducer on it -- about an inch for an opening. I grabbed clumps of grass to close the entrance off -- and still the robbing bees were not giving up.

My mistake was having the hive open for about 5 minutes while I was checking for eggs and brood. It had a queen but I did not see her! Several ideas have popped into my head! These were not my bees. I put a robbing screen on my other hive. Robbing here has been going on for the past month. Bees are starving! The bee blogs are filled with something like a post I read yesterday. A beekeeper had two hives die with a lot of bees -- They thought at first that it was a chemical kill. They arranged for an inspection by a member of our club. The club member found that five other hives were starving. It was not a chemical kill for the two hives that died! It was simply -- they had no food. Hopefully the other 5 hives will survive as the beekeeper has started feeding them. I saw first hand the same thing with a bee buddy of mine who had indicated he could not find a queen in his hive. His hive had no eggs or larva. I checked his hive and found the same situation -- not a single cell with nectar/food in it. I believe the bees were eating eggs and larva to survive. I advised feeding the bees. He did and a week later I revisited his hive. What a difference (I was expecting to have to help him requeen the hive but we found eggs and young larva that were not present when the hive was examined. Food made the difference. I have a bee yard located 25 miles from my home yard. A visit to that yard yesterday was a different experience. Bee flight from all hives was strong. It was a hot day and I expected to see some bearding but instead saw bees leaving and returning in numbers. These bees had stored some honey in supers and were getting more. I observed some goldenrod in bloom along the road near the bee yard. The farm is organic and grows a number of crops. The farmer gets second crops from the land - he grows for a pickle producers in the area as well as produces a multitude of crops which include pumpkin, watermelon, tobacco, sweet potatoes, sweet corn, peppers, and even hemp. Its not like what I saw in New York state a month ago, but it does point out that bees located where crops are produced are surviving much better than bees in my neighborhood of nice yards, lots of trees, and some hives of bees with limited resources to share.

I will wait until later tonight to feed my hive here at my home yard.

I usually do not post items with my notes but Barb Bloetscher, the State Apiarist/Entomologist with the Ohio Department of Agriculture notified me of a October Bee Culture Seminar. She has been a friend of mine for well over 30 years. I know four of the speakers for that event and most likely will try to travel to Ohio to attend. The speakers are all Distinguished Women "BEEing Diverse: Inspiring Leaders in Beekeeping. Many of these speakers are involved in raising queen bees and honey bee research. The event is scheduled for October 1 - 3 in Medina, Ohio -- The home of the A.I. Root Company publishers of Bee Culture Magazine.

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Also, if any of you want to post these notes to your web pages, you have my permission to do it.  
Any beekeeper desiring to be added to the mailing list, can be added by emailing me at [stahlmanapiaries@aol.com](mailto:stahlmanapiaries@aol.com).