

Beekeeping Notes Issue #36 E-mail notes

August has been the hottest month on record! A trip to the bee yard this past week indicate the bees are finding goldenrod and some other pollen sources. No bearding this week. Honey is going into supers. I have started 'sizin' up my hives. Weak hives are going to be combined with stronger hives in September. I could spend a lot of time trying to help a weak hive thru the winter but that has not been a practice of mine. If I consolidate weak hives, I have less work to do and can plan on buying queens to make splits next spring to make up hive numbers. This might not work for some of you. I am an old time management beekeeper. I live by the adage "Take your losses in the fall, make your increases in the spring!"

When I discuss winter management, I will talk about cleaning up equipment, building equipment, ordering queens etc. I am making plans for next year right now. Next year for me is in the planning stage ! I am sure that I will lose a few hives of bees. I am not interested in increasing hive numbers -- all I want is good equipment, new frames to be drawn out in the spring, and make splits when necessary. That means I need to take inventory of what equipment I have and start ordering supplies soon!

I have written about my solar wax melter. With (90 F. +) temperatures the solar wax melter is doing a great job of rendering old comb. Thus, I have culled old comb from my brood chambers and replaced the old frames with new drawn comb frames. I am getting a lot of new wax -- bright yellow wax without doing much work! (The sun is doing so much for me right now -- even if I don't like working in this heat).

For the new readers of these beekeeping notes -- back copies are available at www.ccbee.org.