

Beekeeping Insights Issue #39 notes

With Issue 39, I am looking at Thanksgiving coming up. I took a trip this week to Virginia -- I learn something each time I get into a region that is foreign to my beekeeping experience. I like to get off the interstate highway system and drive the roads less traveled. I am not sure if you have ever heard of a place called Henry, Virginia. Both Judi and I will never forget Henry. People in that country call the road into town -- Henry Road. I did a check on locating the town -- It is on the map. No need to find out what the traffic report is or look for a motel -- This place can be found on Mapquest but forget Wikipedia.org. No population figures are listed that I could find. No stop signs and before you know it, it is in the rearview mirror. But this is sourwood country. Roads are narrow and finding a level place to park a car is a problem. The close cities are Rocky Mount and Martinsville and a good three hour drive from Raleigh. If you really want to see what driving in that area is like take State route 860. Even before you turn onto the road, there is a warning sign for trucks -- steep climbs and sharp turns. Also warning about use of cell phone not working. I am sorry I didn't take a picture of that sign. But there are bees in this country back in the hollows. If you ever tell anyone that beekeeping is easy -- think again! This is bear country. It is also a region where it possible to have a frost when Tulip Poplar is in bloom. There are many varieties of trees -- I was told one could find 40 different species of trees on a single parcel. By the way land is sold in this area by the hundreds of acres. Most of it vertical. When it rains, one better not be near the little stream running along the road. And that is where I was checking out sourwood possibilities. There are a lot of places like Pipers gap, Fancy gap, and Charity. The people are friendly. Life is hard and some of them are beekeepers. A drive to a small country diner might be 45 minutes away. To fix a tire -- check out your neighbor who has the skill to fix almost anything.

I am getting ready to head for the farm this morning to apply my fall Formic Pro mite treatment. Fall begins the next week and because of the hot weather, I have delayed just about as long as I could! I have checked and had low mite counts but I believe in insurance. Fall begins this coming week and time passing so fast.