

Beekeeping Insights #41 email notes

Sorry for the delay in sending this message. I was back to the mountains this week. This time checking out Ashe County. Goldenrod and aster were in full bloom and we found honey bees working on Mount Jefferson. It is surprising the number of bumble bees we saw. Even at over 5,000 feet European honey bees were working hard. We saw this at Grandfather Mountain as well. Sourwood honey is selling for about \$12.00 a pound in the area stores -- it is also available as chunk honey. The population in Ashe County is 26,863 and property values are very reasonable. This area is very forested but the valleys where one will find Jefferson and West Jefferson -- the land is gentle and rolling. I mention this because Judi and I are looking for land to buy. It is a four hour drive from Raleigh. The area is covered in sumac. I collected several grocery bags of red sumac heads for smoker fuel just outside our hotel in West Jefferson. But it grows along road sides everywhere we went. I am not very familiar with the honey from sumac but I was given to understand that it blooms in July and the bloom last for about two weeks. The elevation is high and sourwood is located at lower altitudes. Many cleared hill sides are covered in Christmas trees.

If any of you reading this can share some more information about bees and honey in Ashe County, North Carolina, please share it with me.