

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #22a

This has been a stormy week here in Raleigh. Too much moisture here to take off honey but next week looks good. Even with this weather pattern I did find time to visit some of the new beekeepers I am mentoring. I have one new beekeeper with a really - I mean really - aggressive hive. I have seen some really aggressive hives but this one is for the books. Those that know me, know I like to work bees without a veil and gloves. I must have got 20 stings when I visited this hive before I put on my bee veil and gloves. I must consider who owns the bees before I can do anything drastic. In this case, I talked the situation over with the beekeeper. This also reminds me of several contacts from several readers about situations they experienced. One in fact killed the hive of bees because a person was stung and had to go to the hospital. Sometimes that is the best way to handle this situation.

On the other hand, I choose to find the queen and mark her. We are in the process of planning how we can correct this situation and still keep the hive. Most would say, kill the queen and replace her with a queen of good gentle stock. That still leaves about 6 weeks of pure hell trying to work with this hive. I will share more on decisions we make to make beekeeping fun.

It is honey getting time here in North Carolina!