

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #28a

It is hot here in Raleigh. Working bees in the mornings only. I am finding a cool place to hang out rest of the day. This article shares my concerns with Varroa mites. We have tried so much to control them but they have adapted to what ever we have done.

Maybe the only thing that could control them is to find resistant bees. I have raised queen for many years and always looked for hygienic bees that cleaned up dead brood. I was around when Walter Rothenbuhler was at The Ohio State developing a line of bees resistant to American foulbrood and had a great opportunity to work with Victor Thompson his right hand man. Vic shared some of his research papers with me on how they charted frames inoculated with FB spores to determine how effectively the bees could clean up the disease.

For over 30 years research has been going on in this direction to find a line of bees that could control Varroa mites. I am hopeful that at some point in time, researchers and breeders will find such a super bee. So far, I am pleased that North Carolina State is carrying out research in that direction. I have followed Steve Tabor with collecting super bees from feral hive (wild bees) living in woods to work done at Purdue University on Ankle Biter bees.

I am still looking for that "Super Bee"!