

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue 2b

I really appreciate feedback on my notes. I indicated in yesterday's posting that I would provide a plan for the Warre hive.

I would also let all my readers know that I am interested in buying old complete year editions of either Bee Culture Magazine or American Beekeepers Journals (from the years 1210 to current issues). I have giving a lot of copies from these years away to other beekeeper and find my collection of some of these years missing. If any of you have and want to sell what you have, I would appreciate an email sharing what you have and how much you want for them. I usually give these as door prizes and something for new beekeepers to look at. (Sometimes I forget who and what I give (loan) to friends.

The Warre hive was discussed because some individuals claim it is a better hive for the bees. New beekeepers need to learn both the advantages and disadvantages to any hive they consider buying.

I received a message this morning from Ken Hoover a very good friend and a retired bee inspector from Pennsylvania. His comments are right on for anyone thinking about building this hive. He clearly points out the drawbacks this hive presents to those who keep bees in them.

Hi Dana,

I was reading your latest article and wanted to comment on the Warre hive. Technically the frames are moveable and can be removed for inspection, but in reality that is a bit of a challenge. cutting between boxes with piano wire etc. I am pasting in a section of the Bee Law in Pennsylvania below. We have never pushed this, but a couple years ago we had a bad outbreak of American Foulbrood in the Pittsburg area, and had to inspect every hive we could find, in a 2 1/2 mile radius of all infected hives. I ran into a couple of these and it was a nightmare. When you did get the boxes apart or did get a frame loose it was basically impossible to get a good look at the brood. Not to mention getting it out in one piece and putting it back in some kind of non detrimental fashion. If the colony's brood nest never needed to be inspected by you or an inspector and the bees can be left to their own devices, this style has benefits. but there are major drawbacks also. As an inspector (now retired) I really disliked working the "alternative" style hives. Especially the Warre and Flow hives or neglected top bar hives. Once you are established and have a better idea what you are looking at, then experimenting with other ideas if fine, but I do not promote these to newbies.

I am not trying to be critical. My respect for you is beyond measure. I have learned so much from you over the years we have known each other. I just wanted to share my opinion with you. Hopefully you will not be offended in any way with this email.

Hope you are all well. We finally got a little snow here, but is going back to rain and ice today.

Ken

Excerpt from Pa Bee Law:

2109. Prohibitions

(a) Infected colonies, hives or appliances.-- No person shall knowingly keep in his possession without proper treatment any colony of bees affected with any bee disease or expose any diseased colony or infected hive or appliance so that flying bees may have access to them.

(b) Infected bees.-- No person shall sell, barter or give away, accept, receive or transport any bees affected with any bee disease.

(c) Hives.-- No person shall keep or maintain honeybees in any hive other than a modern movable frame hive which permits thorough examination of every comb to determine the presence of bee disease. All other types of hives or receptacles for bees which are in use are hereby declared to be a public nuisance and a menace to the community, and the secretary, the chief apiary inspector or any apiary inspector may seize and destroy the hive or receptacle without remuneration to the owner.

Each state has laws regarding the inspection of honeybees. You might check with your own state bee inspectors to see what you can do keeping top bar hives, skeps, (almost anything not kept in moveable frames.