

## 2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #39a

I have been giving talks about the Stress Factors Affecting Honey Bees. Well I can now add the stress factors of flying overseas! Judi and I took a long over due trip to Scotland this past week.

It was a great country to visit and we have a lot of pictures. We arrived in Edinburgh the same day Queen Elizabeth was flown back to London. We have no King or Queen but shared their loss which was evident everywhere. All Government functions were put on hold and many shops were closed. Our American dollars were not accepted, and we adjusted to using the pound as currency. Those pound notes are beautiful and easily spent.

We spent four days in Edinburgh and walked the ancient streets and visited buildings built before our country was founded. It gave us an appreciation for what history really looks like. Castles everywhere. A few days were spent in the countryside -- the highlands. Again we were greeted by very friendly people and great scenery.

I saw fields -- thousands of acres of heather. Scotland beekeeping is a bit unusual. I saw no Langstroth hives -- not a one! Hives in Scotland are more along the lines of the British National Hive. When I went looking for honey to buy, I found stores just like in the U.S. selling honey clearly marked **Not from the U.K. on the label**. Rather than wildflower honey, they use the term Blossom honey. The time we were there was during the late heather honey flow and the heather flowering period was ending. I did not get to sample heather honey which I wanted to do but did get to sample blossom honey which tasted very much like the honey we have called wildflower - a light mild honey.

One other observation is that much of the honey sold in Scotland is creamed honey in 12 oz. Jars.

I am too old to enjoy an overnight trip in a narrow seat with little leg room with a full load of people. These planes are big! Our return trip involved two transfers. It's a long story but we were 23 hours getting home. But it left us with some really good memories.

Best of all --- It was not hot like the weather in Raleigh. It was good walking weather the week we spent there -- no rain -- temperatures ranging from the mid 40's to mid 60's.