

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #40a

Sorry I am a bit late in getting this issue out. Seems like Hurricane IAN seemed to think Raleigh was a good place to visit. We lost power for a short period, but it has been clean up time. I can not imagine what beekeepers in Florida are faced with. As I write this message, I can hear chain saws in the background.

My bees fortunately made it thru the storm and were flying when it wasn't raining. We have had several days since of cold weather and a lot of rain.

The fact is that anyone keeping honeybees in those locations shown on TV most likely have no bees or hives. When I see a big boat resting above a car, one can only imagine the force of water that placed that boat in that location.

Beehive will float a distance when the hive is flooded -- killing the bees for the most part. I have experienced flooding of three bee yard in my past. Little could be saved and most equipment was never found. I did find some super/boxes caught in the crotch of trees. I have a pictures someplace but those days were not digital. Frames and comb are almost always never usable after exposed to dirty flood waters even if found. All brood is lost -- most bees in the hive are killed as well.

When considering where to keep bees most of us can find land that is out of a flood plain. About the only protection in a hurricane is to tie the hive or hives down with straps fastened to ground anchors. A concrete block on a hive cover is no challenge to a 60 to 130 mile wind. Falling trees, high winds, and tropical rain of 3 to 8 inches will undo almost anything we as humans can do to save a hive of bees.

Give some prayers and thoughts to anyone who lost bees due to Ian.