

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #5

With bee schools beginning, activity certainly has picked up around here. I am moving into the building stage of the season. I have an old wax melter that has seen its better days. The hinges holding the glass frame are shot. Last year I added wheels so I could move it during the day to get direct sunlight into it. I have always felt I could improve it somewhat. Thus, that new design and discussion about wax melters is on the table. Why now? I want it ready when I get the sun high in the sky -- almost the same time I am spending time working in the bee yard.

A second issue "swarming season" is not far off. We have quite a few beekeepers in my neighborhood. I am sure they have come up with some of my swarms. So I am building a few swarm traps to put in my bee yards. There are many designs for them. But I have been reading some of Tom Seeley's books and I will share some of that information about getting swarms and later before swarm season cover the topic of Swarming -- Preventing it.

I hesitate to recommend bee books -- there are so many of them out there, but there are a few that should be in a beekeeper's personal library. I am going to recommend a short list (take it or forget it)! I am not being paid to promote them.

In the current issue I have referred to a book by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile called "The Beekeeper's Handbook" 5th edition. It includes a forward by Dewey Caron. This book has been updated and if I were teaching a bee school it would be the book I would use. I have great respect for Diana. I had to good fortune to know her when she was doing work on her phd at Ohio State University. The paper-book price is reasonable. I often refer to it as I gather information for my articles. I just want to get what I write -- RIGHT!. I would recommend any book by Tom Seeley of Cornell University. One must read is "Honeybee Democracy." My short list would include books by Dewey Caron, Larry Connor, and Kim Flottum.

I have a small library of beekeeping books written many years ago. One book from that collection is: "Fifty Years Among the Bees" by C.C. Miller. It is an original 1911 first edition. It is my most favorite book. It is going to be cold here in Raleigh tonight. I think I will pick up an old book on Honey Plants by Frank Pellet. It is far out of date -- it was published in 1947 but I am looking for some background information for a future article. If any of you have some comments to make regarding honey plants where you keep bees, I would appreciate anything -- pictures, comment on taste -- granulation -- special comments on where it grows and blooms. I will give you credit for anything to you can pass along.

My thoughts are with all of you.

Dana