

2022 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #6

This has been an interesting year. Snow blizzards from Texas to Maine. Typical February weather. Today 65 degrees and building hive equipment outside. Saturday back to freezing temperatures and rain and maybe snow. I want to thank Cary Orange for giving me permission to share his swarm trap story. He has indicated he is working on an improvement. He is going into his second year of beekeeping with four hives.

My friend, Keith invited me to go to his bee yard located Northwest of Raleigh yesterday. I enjoy going on visits to bee yards. I get to see some other beekeepers hives & bees. I asked for permission to take some pictures of Keith feeding his bees with granulated sugar. Now is the time to feed bees -- especially ones like Keith has. Large clusters had used up sugar bricks he put on them about two weeks ago. I will let my photos tell the story!

Keith uses one 4 pound bag of sugar per hive. The sugar is placed over newspaper above a cluster or on the inner covers as shown -- about every two to three weeks. These hives are ready to be split just as soon as he can get some queens. I also visited a bee buddy, Sharon today. She had two hives but lost one. But the surviving hive is a strong double deep. We did not pull any frames from any of the hives today but bees in the top super were wall to wall bees. Rather than buying package bees this year, these two at least will have the ability to split hives just as soon as warmer weather and queen availability arrive. I still have some bee buddies to visit as this new season begins. All I can say, this has been an excellent spring for North Carolina. Swarm season is going to be early this year.

Dana

