

2023 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #13a

Wow -- April 1 and issue #13 on the same day. A lot has been happening. Bees swarming, new beekeepers getting packages or nucs, and weather conditions across the country causing much damage.

Introduction to April 1 Bee Notes for 2023 [This is not an April fool's joke!]

Beekeepers need to inspect hives for a number of reasons. We may never see some of the many diseases that affect our bees, but we must be aware of signs that indicate a hive may be in trouble.

All of us face mite problems! They are here and they infest almost every hive of bees at some level and if they are not present, they will be in short order.

With some knowledge one can spot other diseases of the honey bee. The term AFB might be new to you, but it is something every beekeeper should know about. It is a brood disease that can be spread to other near-by hives. The signs in the late stage of the disease are easy to spot. Beekeepers are often responsible for spreading the disease, but the problem can be that your own bees might find a hive to rob. The Boy Scouts have a saying, "Be prepared!"

I am not trying to scare anyone – I just think one should know what one is looking at when a frame is removed from the brood nest.

I have provided a power point pdf file about bee diseases. It is designed to help a beekeeper with pictures of various bee diseases. Almost any of these diseases are better covered by doing research about them. The very best source is your state bee inspector! If you were to take a sample yourself and send it in for analysis, it could cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300.00 per sample. State bee inspectors are paid by the state to help control bee diseases. They are the reason bad diseases like AFB have been controlled to the point that you most likely have never seen the disease. If you suspect your bees have that one particular disease, get a second opinion and a sample tested.