

2023 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #16a

The beekeeping notes are a bit late. I spent a week in Ohio and just returned to Raleigh. I had an opportunity to speak to ECOBA (East Central Ohio Beekeepers Association) members on Thursday night. The rest of the week I was visiting with family and friends. As many of you know, I lived 75 years in Ohio and still Judi and I had to consider what clothing we would take with us on the trip north. It really isn't far for us -- an 8 hour drive.

We looked at the weather reports and knew we had to take some warmer clothing due to the expected cold weather they were expecting.

Not only was it predicted to be colder than we hoped, it was a reminder that when I compose my notes, I must think also of beekeepers living north of Raleigh. This article is about honey extraction! Ohio has some time to go before honey extraction is in the picture. Their concerns are now about swarming, making splits, and getting bees ready for a honey flow.

25 years ago I was asked to speak to a group of beekeepers forming a new club. 25 years go by fast. I have lost a number of bee friends and when I arrived to speak to an overflow group of beekeepers -- I only recognized four. I had made a point to visit Dick McKinley now 96 years old. Dick was a friend and fellow beekeeper who contributed greatly to beekeepers in the state of Ohio. There are many beekeepers who have had a direct impact on my life. One came up to me after the meeting and said something that made this trip so worthwhile:

"I remember you when my grandfather took me to a meeting when I was 14." He now is keeping bees and owns a Meadery in Hebron, Ohio. And on top of all of this was the chance to visit with old beekeeping friends. Each and everyone of them had something to do with the success I have had in life. And that picture on the first page - that was a lady sitting on a bench in a roadside rest area I took yesterday on our way home. I thought it might be good to share spring with you.

I will be sharing some stories later this year about some of the people I have known over the years. They have interesting stories and if they agree, you just might see why I was so lucky to know and still be friends with them.

Dana