

2023 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #6a

I really appreciate feedback from readers. Last week I mentioned that bees are adapting well to the changing climate patterns. This year Raleigh trees are blooming at least two weeks earlier than in past years. I have never added supers this early in the year to make room for the rapid population growth I am seeing in my bees. I am seeing comb drawn, white wax cappings, and drones. All this points to -- my spring bee season starting early. Think: swarming, splits, and honey flows have all moved up on my calendar for this year. And there is still more winter to come!

Fred, a reader of the notes, reminded me of the issues faced with climate change. Raleigh has not been affected with the floods, hurricanes, fires, etc. seen in other parts of the country. Those are events that have a huge impact on bees.

I asked him for permission to quote the following comment. He reminds us that no matter where you live honey bees are at risk. "Ask beekeepers in Florida if climate change is impacting their bees. Some will say no. But if you ask about hurricanes Ian and Nicole, many will say, "Oh, but that wasn't climate change ... that was a hurricane." How many apiaries need to be destroyed before beekeepers recognize that maybe, just maybe, there is a link to the climate change and the weather disasters that have long been predicted?

Houston is my home town. I sat through hurricane Carla in 1961. Not many storms until 2005 when Rita hit followed by Ike, Harvey and Nicholas in less than 20 years. The very character of hurricanes is changing along with the frequency. I won't debate the cause. But something is going on and it is not helping our bees!"

I agree with Fred! Something is happening.