

2024 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #15a

So many new beekeepers are just finishing bee school. Those individuals will have missed this honey flow because it takes time for package bees and nucs to build up the strength to store surplus honey. We have tulip trees just about to bloom in my front yard and North Carolina beekeepers usually get good Tulip Poplar honey flows. It arrives a bit earlier in the eastern coastal areas but we are having some warm weather here in Raleigh and the flow will be greeted with warm temperatures and little rain.

My hives are waiting for that flow. I have at least two honey supers on each hive right now and will extract the honey made so far. Additional supers will be added so my Tulip Poplar flow will be separated from other sources I call wildflower honey. I try as much as possible to separate my honey sources.

When I give bee talks, I try to share different sources of honey with those who attend. At this time, I have 17 different sources to share. I gave a talk in Lincoln County on Thursday night and the tasting event kept some attending the meeting well after my talk was over. This is the next series of topic. It fits in well with this topic: Getting ready for the honey flow. I will be writing a series on honey starting with this issue.

One area of beekeeping management that has also changed is land use in the United States. As land is used for human development, less and less bee foraging areas exist. Land values in the Raleigh area are out of reach for anyone wanting to grow farm crops. I am reminded of this as a beekeeper friend of mine is looking for a new place to put his bees. He has kept bees on a farm selling blueberries, strawberries, and other vegetable crops that just sold to a real estate company planning to build 30 apartment units. The bees have to go! The farm was the farmers retirement. It was a family farm for at least three generations.