

2023 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #40a

I am asking myself, where “did this year go?” In reality, we still have winter ahead of us. I was taught that getting ready for the winter season starts when I take off my honey crop. Without honey supers on hives, the beekeeper can inspect and take action to help a colony so it can have a chance to survive this winter.

I am heading to Boone, N.C. today. If there are any beekeepers in that area who would like to share any stories about keeping bees in the mountains of N.C., please contact me. I will be making more visits to Boone in the upcoming months and years.

Beekeepers are now facing typical problems facing a hive of bees: approaching cold weather, lack of food, short days and long nights, and fixing anything that can be repaired.

My notes are written weekly based on what I am experiencing with my own bees, or the hives I get a chance to see when I visit other beekeepers. I am also asked to give bee talks that require me to put together Power point presentations. All of this requires me to take into account what may be important. I don't have the answers for all I see. I am adding to my own learning experience each and every week.

This week I had the opportunity to visit Lynn Murray. Lynn is a 2nd year beekeeper. You will see pictures next week that were taken of her hives. She is an example of how to do things right. She has faced buying a nuc with an attitude. She has faced small hive beetles head on! She harvested her first honey crop and purchased an extractor. But what impresses me so much about her -- she has a desire to learn more. She attended a queen rearing class taught by the North Carolina State Apiculture Department. She participated in a club bee yard project. She is wanting to do things right. She bought a copy of **The Beekeeper's Handbook** and studies various chapters as to what she should do. She doesn't rely on me to visit and take care of her hives! She has four strong hives ready to go into winter.