

## 2024 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #24a

It has been hot and we hit 102 degrees F. around noon today. I am catching up on my reading and thinking about the past. I am really looking forward to this year and beyond. You may want to follow me on the pages of *the American Bee Journal* for the next 11 months, I am working on articles that will appear under the Basic Beekeeping Column. It has been a number of years since I wrote free-lance articles for Bee Culture and the Speedy Bee. The editor of ABJ offered me a chance to write articles for new beekeeper and those keeping bees up to 5 years. The first article appeared in the July 2024 issue.

I don't see anything new about the way honeybees act or look in the past 80 years. I do however see a lot that has changed to the way we live. I just made a drive to Auburn, N.Y. using I 95 and I 81 up and back. I started thinking about how honeybees handle traffic at the entrance to a hive. I see drivers using the highway as a speedway or give hand salutes to let you know you are holding them up. And the traffic is stop and go for a good portion of time as one gets close to Washington, D.C. I drove a truck from Ohio to Georgia and back to Ohio once each week during spring when I kept bees. I learned to find a "rabbit." I also joined the truckers on a cb radio and they took care of me. **"Bee Guy" where you goin!"** I knew where traffic was tied up with four wheelers passing on the right. I learned you don't mess with trucker because they just might push you into the guard rail. I learned if you keep a steady pace, you used less gas and got where you were going just as fast. And they communicate on that radio, "A SOB just braked in front of me. Watch out for him -- he's coming your way!" Have you ever seen that kind of behavior in the bees returning or leaving a hive entrance? I find a rabbit (a truck making steady progress down the road) get behind him, and I set my speed control. When he slows, my car slows. When he speeds up my car speeds up. And there is room between me and the rabbit giving me plenty of room to stop. Most drivers don't like to get behind a truck. Have you noticed that returning bees fly directly into the hive entrance and bees leaving usually move out on the landing board to take-off. Those bees hanging on the front of a hive do not block the entrance. They have this traffic thing figured out!