

## 2024 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #28a

Time is moving too fast for me. We have had a lot of rain here in Raleigh. On top of record hot weather this seemed good. But too much rain is not so good. We are setting record high records in both this year.

This week's article is a follow up to other summer issues. Robbing is something I write about every summer. It has been especially bad this year. We had a long dry hot spell, and the bees seem more aggressive than I have seen them in past years.

I had a question several weeks ago about protecting a hive that was being robbed. The person had only one hive in the back yard of the property. It was reported to me that a swarm was moving into the hive. A quick check proved otherwise. When I visited the beekeeper, the hive had no bees in it. It in fact was cleaned out. Wax chips on the bottom board told me all that was needed. The hive is lost to this season and the beekeeper is required to protect the comb and equipment from those other problems discussed such as wax moth and ants.

It is my hope that this beekeeper looks upon this situation as a learning experience. In looking at the situation realistically, the hive could have been saved had problems been recognized. I am not one of those who blames the beekeeper. When I was young, I learned to ride a bike without training wheels. I fell over a lot and did some really stupid things like Evel Knievel. I survived. I had a few scrapes and bruises, but I did not blame the bike. You get back on it and give it another try.

Dana