

## 2024 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #33a

This weather has been up and down. This past week was a good week but a bit hot. I have been spending a lot of time reading old bee books this week. The art of beekeeping is really interesting. The skills of so many beekeepers of the past have been passed over for the modern approach to keeping bees.

Many of my friends remember the days when I sold bee books and wrote articles for Bee Culture Magazine. Most of those articles were book reviews. I still manage to pick up a book I have read just to remind myself that I overlooked something that I still has interest to me.

There are so many books written about honeybees. This issue shares some thoughts and encourages beekeepers to seek out something related to keeping bees. I know beekeepers who collect old smokers for example. If one is into that, I can say that a quick check on eBay offer a new collector a great place to begin. I noticed that smoker prices are priced much lower than books. But in 20 years, those old rusty smokers with hole in the bellows will be rare. The smoker I used to illustrate this issue is an old A.I. Root smoker. Where in the world, would someone today find information about the history of the smoker. All I need to do is open up one of my old books such as the *ABC of Bee Culture* published in the late 1800's I the information is there. Material about "cold blast, warm blast, how to make your own" were important topics. Quinby, Bingham, Clark, Danzenbaker and Root were involved in the era of early smokers.