

2024 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #3a

Well winter is still here! I have turned to old bee books to share information about the winter season and management of bees in the past.

I had two objectives for this weeks newsletter:

- 1) Share that the past was not perfect -- they had bee losses as well.
- 2) Some old ideas may be valid and beekeeping is always in transition.

Winter is a good time to read and catch up on making plans for this year. When April gets here there will be little time to start what can be done now!

I have included a pdf of Charles Butler's book written in 1623. In the long past I spent a winter typing every word from the 1623 edition that I owned. I had a beekeeping library of many old books from the 1700's, and 1800's. I collected them. At one time I attended many conferences to sell bee books.

Books take up a lot of room. When I moved to Raleigh I had to solve the book issue. I made sure some of the really valuable old books would not be sold and selected a person who would value them well into the future. But the ones I really thought had information I could use, I retained. At one time 30 years ago, many of these old books could be found in book stores -- rare books on Ebay can still be found but most are now available as digitized copies. I did digitize over 50 of the rare books in my collection.

Winter has been a time that I can look back to the early days of beekeeping and there is nothing like picking up one of those old books -- I have to be very careful because they are fragile. If you are into reading old books, I suggest you begin with the most important bee book ever written. I tried to attach the Butler book to this email but failed. I will try to send it as a separate document to follow this edition.

Dana