

STAHLMAN BEEKEEPING

NOTES

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best in his poem **Stopping by Woods.**

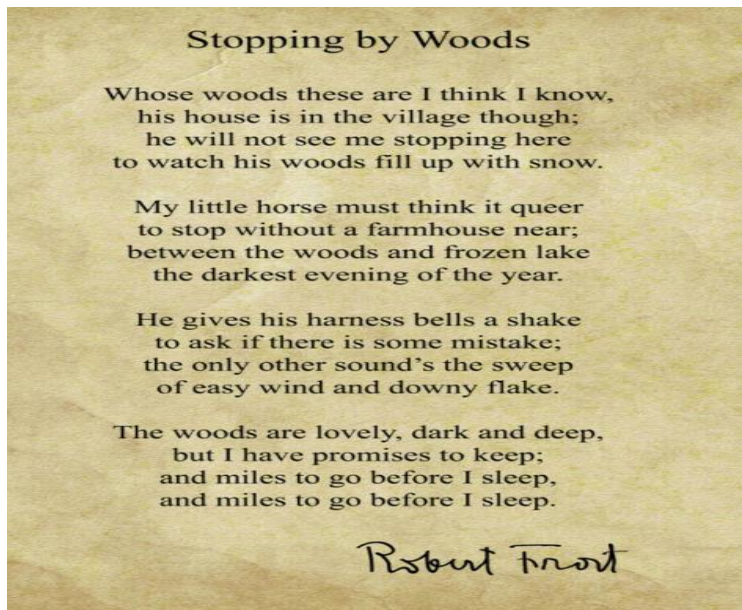
Now is a period to rest like the bees. Hopefully, you have prepared for the winter ahead. The year 2024 was a good year for me. So far my bees are alive and well.

I am wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Today is totally unlike the past when beekeepers had no bee supply stores, no standard hive, and a lot of bad information to guide them. The honeybee as we know it did not exist until brought to the colonies by Europeans.

Slip Sliding Away Looking forward to 2025
Winter is here. Hope the bees are snug and warm in their winter cluster.

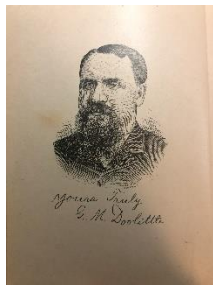
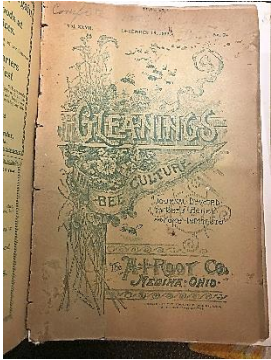
I have so much to be thankful for and Robert Frost said it



Thousands of books have been written about bees. New books just for this year are too numerous for me to list titles. ABJ listed 10 in its December 2024 issue and Ebay list **51,000+ results for bee books.**

Add articles in bee journals and the amount of information is just overwhelming. This article concludes 6 years of beekeeping information (some of it relevant) on a weekly basis. As I begin the 7th year of Stahlman Bee Notes, I realize that many topics will need to be repeated for new beekeepers. You keep me going with the kind remarks I receive and I would hope that topics for 2025 will have some “meat” in them.

Searching for words to go into a newsletter goes beyond what is in my mind. For example, I woke this morning to thoughts about bees. How lucky I am to have a warm bed and plenty of food. The first draft of this newsletter went into the trash. It was just too wordy. I needed something that represented substance. Thus, I pulled out my collection of old bee journals to find something that might fit this final issue of 2024.



1899 was ending and 1900 was just a few days away. *Gleanings in Bee Culture* carried a column called *Answers to Seasonable Questions*.

This was the question: As I consider it, my bees are all fixed for winter, my 20 colonies being all nicely tucked away in the their chaff hives, each having from 25 to 30 pounds of sealed stores. Can I do anything further along the "bee line" till Spring?

G.M. Doolittle answered this way:

Now that we are in the midst of long winter evenings, it becomes the duty of all to spend these evenings in such a way that they may be gaining in knowledge along the line of the pursuit they have chosen in life. In no business engagement is this more imperative than where the culture of bees is the chosen occupation, and in no way can this be done to any better advantage than by reading the bee-literature of the day, from which the mind is to be stored with useful knowledge which can be put into practical use as soon as the season of 1900 opens. When I first commenced bee-keeping I was greatly benefited by the writings of Elisha Gallup, L. L. Langstroth, Moses Quinby, A.I. Root, Adam Grimm, and many other of those early writers. By their writings I learned my A B C in bee culture.

Thus, let me say that I would recommend reading books by current authors. Those that have helped me are: C.C. Miller, Dewey Caron, Jim Tew, Larry Connor, Diana Sammataro, Dorothy Hodges, Kim Flottum, Eva Crane, Tammy Horn, Tom Seeley, Roger Morse, Malcolm T. Sanford, Richard Taylor, Richard Bonney, Elert Jaycox, Frank Pellett, Carl Killion, and a host of others.

I have been a "sponger" collecting information from the best of the best. I have applied information learned from others to my own beekeeping practices. From my grandfather, my father and uncle, the Stoller brothers - Wayne and Darrel, Billy Engle, David Heilman, B.J. Weeks, Vick Thompson and so many others I learned what I know today. Experience counts but by applying information I could learn to keep at one time 600 colonies of bees and 400 mating nucs profitably. When I go into the bee yard, I am on auto-pilot.

Winter is a great time to attend bee meetings. Take advantage by imparting something as well as receiving something. My Year In Review

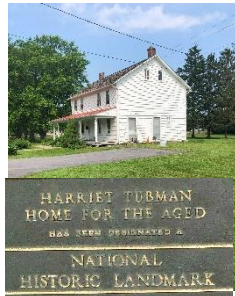


January – Nina Bagley
Hive Blanket

February David Heilman
Ohio Honey Farms

March Shane Woodruff
New Jersey Commercial
Beekeeper

April Sharon Schwinger
Caught Swarm



I'M AT THAT AGE
THAT THE NEXT DAY
MY BODY WHISPERS
TO ME
PLEASE DON'T DO
THAT AGAIN.

May H.S. Greene
Western N.C.

June Harriet Tubman
Auburn, New York

July Cary Garden Center
Raleigh, N.C.

August Some of my bee stuff
Too hot to work bees – time to reduce
hive numbers



Sept. My bee yard
From 9 to 2 bee hives

September Bee Vet Lab
Volunteer to help lab

October Arun from India.
My Ireland bee trip

Reunion at Ohio State
So many memories of 2024