

2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #15a

I am continuing to write about things going on in hives at this time of the year. However, I have been very busy giving bee talks which this week could be described as "From Cloud 9 to Moore County." Even though the weather was cold and rainy, I was able to make stops in Winston-Salem, Asheville, Boone, and Whispering Pines. I saw the real damage done by Hellene first-hand. I was invited to help work bees in two bee yards in Buncombe County and see the damage between Asheville and Boone – an eye-opening drive thru the mountains.

Judi and I were invited to stay at the **Cloud 9 Farm** run by Janet Peterson that has animals and a rooster to wake you up in the morning and yes, bees. Janet is a North Carolina Master Beekeeper and provided us with tours and a cabin to stay in on her farm.

Our cabin was called "Cloud 9" - really a full-sized house with a hot-tub and a great view down into the valley with mountains in the distance. We used our time (three days) to get around the mountains and bee yards. Not much time to really enjoy all the farm had to offer but we had the opportunity to get a close up look at what a hurricane can do.

I helped Janet make up splits to make up for losses she encountered. I want to go back and spend some time at her farm to just relax and see more of the trails and enjoy the air, smells, that rooster and her blueberry fields ... and check the results of building hive increases using a version of the Miller method. A future article will share Western North Carolina beekeeping -- they have the best tasting honey on the planet. I really mean it. As I was told -- a honey flow spring to fall.

Our trip ended after an outstanding visit with Moore County beekeepers - the first time I had visited that beautiful area of the state. I am still finding so much about North Carolina and beekeeping with so many regional differences.

Dana