

2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #34a

I was shopping yesterday and noticed that Christmas decorations were up and that always reminds me of cold weather. Getting my bees ready for the winter season has been on my mind for some time. Now it really is on my mind. This article is a lead in to why certain things will be occurring with bees as days get shorter and temperatures decline.

I am not sure if you are thinking swarming? I spent some time on the phone with a friend who shared with me that he was getting some swarm calls. Another contacted me about queen cells (swarm cells) in a hive he had examined. Why are bees swarming? Quite frankly, I don't know. I look at fall swarming (it by the way is not rare and I have seen it a time or two) as a suicide event for a fall swarm. Remember that old adage "not worth a fly" to describe a late swarm. One possibility could be late season feeding. I am looking into that possibility for an upcoming issue.

An article on fall feeding is in the works, and all this points out the things we do as humans to manage bees -- may actually work against the nature of bees. Too much warmth and too much food may actually harm a colony of bees when the weather turns cold. I remember a quote by A.I. Root in his autobiography about providing bees a warm building with heat to help them survive a winter. ***It was the biggest mistake he ever made!***

I have also been working on the zip drives for the older past issues. I have decided that the notes will be published two issue per month in the future. I want to have this year's issues complete before I make the entire set available by mid-December.

Time is of great importance right now! Do no procrastinate on the beekeeping things that must be done and can be done now for your bees.

Dana