

## 2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #3a

Cold and then warm and cold again now warm again. That is typical winter weather. The bees are handling it well -- better than some of us.

Bee schools are under way. Many new soon to be beekeepers will be finding out what it is like to be a beekeeper. The process of learning comes with many failures, and I want any of you reading these notes to realize that you are not a bad beekeeper if your bees die. Any time I hear someone say, "If you follow all the directions, your bees will survive," I don't think that person has been keeping bees for very long. Keeping bees alive is a challenge and anyone keeping bees going far back in the history of beekeeping can share the challenges faced. Everyone who has kept bees has a story to tell. Beekeeping is unique because so many things are happening to our environment. Even with all the experience I have, I can share my thought that I hope my bees make it to April and beyond. There is some luck involved in beekeeping such as buying bees that are going to be gentle, hygienic, and productive. When you buy bees, it is not like a current TV advertisement indicating that if you don't like the car you bought, bring it back in 3 days and get your money back or exchange it for another car. There is no such thing as a return policy with businesses selling bees that I am aware of. You might for fun to ask of anyone selling bees, the question "If these bees become troublesome, can I return them and get my money back?"

Dana