

2026 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #11a

I have spent this last week inside fighting the heat. N.C. is getting record hot climate temperatures. Several records were broken in many areas of the state. My yard has turned brown and the bees are bringing in very little pollen -- Only one or two bees returning to the hive entrance with pollen -- out of a hundred returning bees. They really are at the water fountain and the noise the bees are making can be heard from some distance. That roar-hum from the entrance is rather steady. I just wonder if the bees take shifts to keep it up during the day at the hive entrance

I am now closing up some weak splits with stronger colonies and treating for mites. I am also moving some queens to small nucs for a 30-day brood break. The bees have consumed a good portion of the early spring honey I left on the hives; thus, I am going to be feeding them with about 4 pounds of sugar weekly to keep them alive. With no brood to feed, that should take them thru the long dry period coming up. I have also added a oz. or so of Clorox and a little salt to the water in my foundation. The bees really like the water in the fountain, and I am also noting mulch in my garden which I water every day is being visited by my bees.

I am so thankful for my bees. As most of you know, I am among that old group of beekeepers -- kind of missing the bee meetings, giving less talks, and just getting up each morning to look in on what is happening in the bee yard. I have mentored a number of individuals in my lifetime, and I often see some of them from time to time. They have a lot of stories to share.

The problem of getting old is making a decision to quit and sell the bees. I am not there but at some point, that time will come. I know a former beekeeper that I worked with, and she has over the years called upon me to look in on her bees when she couldn't. She has medical issues. In fact, she is a dear friend, and she contacted me about selling her bees. I don't like to advertise on my bee note pages, but in this case, I would like to support her effort to find good homes for the bees. She has had very good winter survival over the last five years or so, helped me with information on mite treatments which I have used, and the equipment is in good painted condition. 8 frame equipment.

She has everything for sale. She just had surgery and I would like to share my answer to her question about feeling guilty about not being able keep up with the bees. By the way, I am not in a position to add more bees to my current collection of hives -- all 10-frame equipment.

I look often at Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 I am not sure if you are aware of the lines in this Bible book, but it starts with this: To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted -- and there is more.

I reached that point where I see many of my friends passing and some facing medical issues. And I remind myself there is nothing wrong with it is time to pluck up that which is planted (My bee hives or yours). The problem is many of us just hang on for a time much longer than we should. Thus, the bees need someone or need some kind help to survive. I suggested that she list her bees for sale -- she is doing this through her local bee club but not giving them away. In my way of thinking, those who get something free often do not value it as much as someone who makes an investment.

She has 4 colonies of bees all with a deep brood chamber and mediums above, including feeders for each and queen excluders. She also has other equipment she would sell as well. She would like to sell all the bees to a local beekeeper, get them inspected so one would know they are getting good bees and equipment, and maybe help someone out. These bees still have honey on them -- I haven't seen the bees in the last month or so, but that is something that adds value to these bees.

If you are interested, check with me at: stahlmanapiaries.com and I can put you in touch with her. She is not able to help load the bees, but I would volunteer to help if needed.

Dana