

2026 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #7a

I wrote this article a week ago and the weather was cold. Things have changed a bit -- temperature for today (March 31) is going to be in the 80's. A friend, Ed who I have known for about 10 years stopped by yesterday, and we had a walk out to my bees. He had 100% survival and was glad he didn't have to buy replacement bees this year. Like many of you, if we had bees survive the winter season, bee management is in the picture. We talked a bit about making splits and raising queens.

My wife, Judi, keeps me based in the reality of keeping bees. She reminded me that this area of North Carolina had a snowstorm she remembers that came on April 11th in early 1990's. I saw the same thing happen in Ohio in April -- often.

I need to mow grass (an acre about every 6 days), I have a small greenhouse with a lot of plants to put out into my garden, and I spent the last few weeks putting foundation in frames, painting hive bodies, and looking for evidence that I have a drone population in my hives. Everything is coming at me like a freight train and my car is stuck on the tracks.

If you have "bee fever" like I always seem to come down with when spring arrives, you will understand my situation.

Dana