

2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #16a

This past week has been a busy one for me. Tulip Popular is in full bloom and bees have really built up with a strong honeyflow from what I have seen.

Strong colonies are at risk of swarming and a word of warning is in order if you have not checked your bees. A big topic right now is how to stop bees from swarming. Let me say it is in their DNA. Maybe it is time to start making increases. Reducing congestion in the brood nest is one of the management tools used by most beekeepers. I have not yet found a sure - fire method to stop a colony from swarming except remove bad comb from the brood chamber, and remove frames of brood to be replaced with drawn comb frames in the brood chamber such as used in the Demaree System of swarm control system.

April is my busy month -- working with bees as well as visiting beekeeping clubs to give talks and coming up next week - a full week of volunteer work at N.C. State College of Veterinary Medicine. Getting colonies off to good starts is important especially for new beekeepers.

We are entering the summer with the thoughts of getting honey crops. Don't forget to treat mites before you start adding honey supers. Read the labels on any product you use.

Dana