

## 2025 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #32a

Summer is quickly passing us by and cooler weather this past week made working in the bee yard manageable. I am in the process of evaluating every queen in my 9 colonies of bees. I know that some weak colonies need to be combined with stronger colonies. I plan on taking only four colonies thru the winter and have started the process of deciding which colonies have the best queens and bee populations. Being a hobby beekeeper allows me to do some experimenting. Thus, as I combine colonies, I have a few queens that have had all summer to show me how well they have performed. I have a few queens in my freezer to show anyone interested in what a queen looks like. But when reducing a colony being added to a stronger hive, I have a few queens on hand.

My wife feels a bit sorry for the queens that I pinch -- I have always done that during my beekeeping career. I found a new way of dealing with a failing queen this past week. I have a young neighbor boy who is my friend. I mean real young neighbor. Not long ago I was working my bees when he approached me, and I asked him if he wanted a hive of bees. His answer -- "no, but if you have a queen, I would like to have one." He is interested in bugs. He and his brother study them under a microscope.

I believe in sharing my bees and honey with neighbors. I like to start them young.