

## **2026 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #2a**

Mid-January seems like spring. I have had a chance to check my colonies this week, and I find them flying and bringing in pollen.

Cold weather is promised by the weather man. This newsletter deals with the subject matter regarding bees that are surviving in our winter colonies. I check the front of each hive to see if there are many dead bees below the bottom board. I do see a few but nothing to get alarmed about.

I appreciate the feed-back many of you have sent to me. Bee schools are underway, and I had the privilege to talk with the Lincoln County Beekeeper this past week. New beekeepers bring a lot of energy to a bee club.

It is now a good time to prepare a log of your visits to your hives. I have a Daybook which allows me to record short entries. Right now, I am recording bees flying from my hives, temperate ranges, and bees returning to hives with pollen. Check for dandelion and maple in bloom. I am also looking for blooming plants -- most likely the bees are finding early blooming cherry trees, some hellebores, and camellias here in the Raleigh area.

Bee populations are necessary for good hive survival and many of the old bees are dying. New brood is essential. As soon as possible check for evidence that egg laying has started.

Dana