

## 2026 Stahlman Beekeeping E-mail Notes Issue #9a

The weather has been the issue this year. Raleigh had the 3rd highest temperatures on record for April. With good weather for a few weeks, I was taken aback this past week with cooler temperatures. For myself, it was refreshing to check bees without working in a boiling sun beating down on me. However, the bees just plugging along at the hive entrance on those hot days are also getting a break with this cooler weather.

I like to stay positive when I talk bees. However, the number of individuals quitting beekeeping has caught my attention. I can only relate to those I know that I have mentored over the years, but it seems that once a person keeping bees reaches 5 years working with them, they are pretty much hooked. The trouble begins usually after about 2 or 3 years.

I have begun thinking about my bees as pets. Somewhat like a dog or cat! However, they don't require a walk in the morning or evening, and guess what? I look at the breaks I get by not having to check on them "day in and day out." In fact, they do cost money to keep, but if I manage them, hopefully I will be rewarded with some honey!

Dana