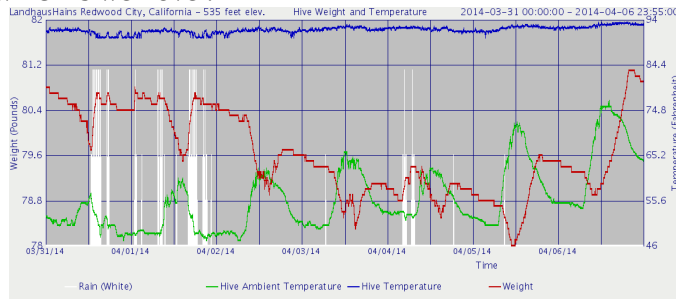
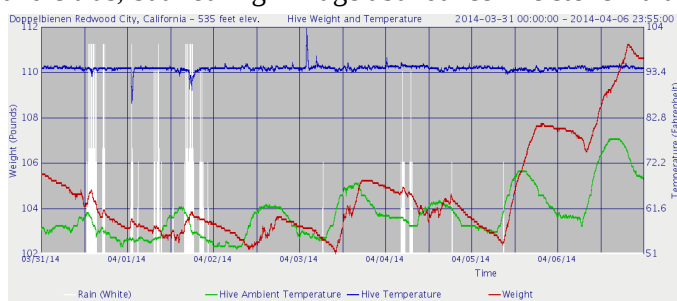


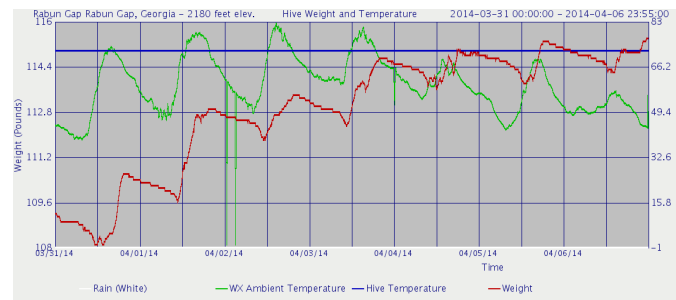
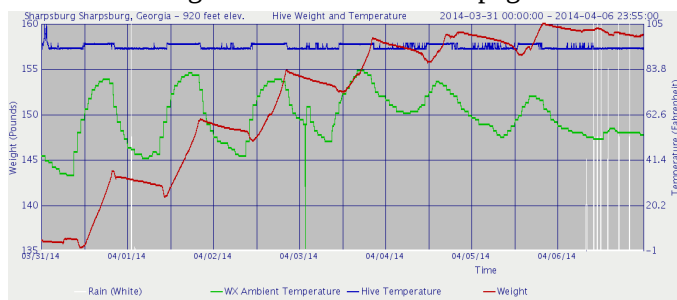
Three Very Different Springs A Comparison of 2012 - 2014

But first the roundup from around the nation.

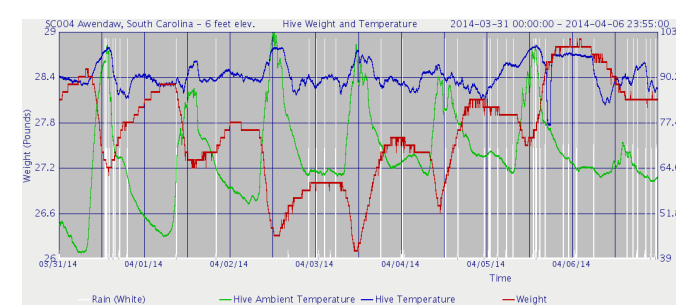
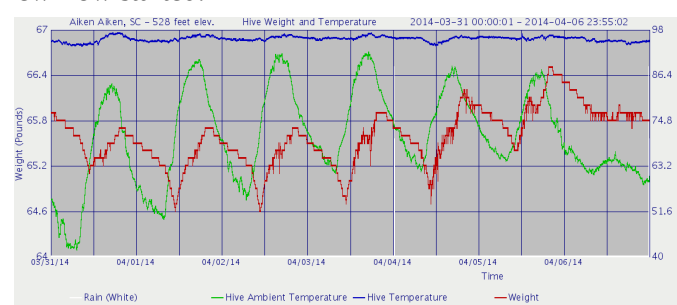
California Both hives in Redwood City had strong gains at the end of the week after the rain stopped and the temperature rose. Bryan reports “there is lots of Pride of Madeira http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Echium_candicans and citrus, but nothing in huge abundance like stone fruit which is well over. “



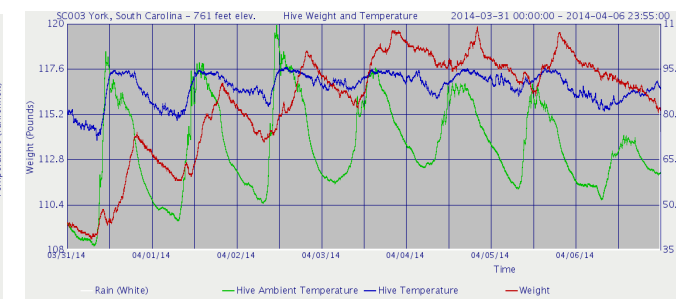
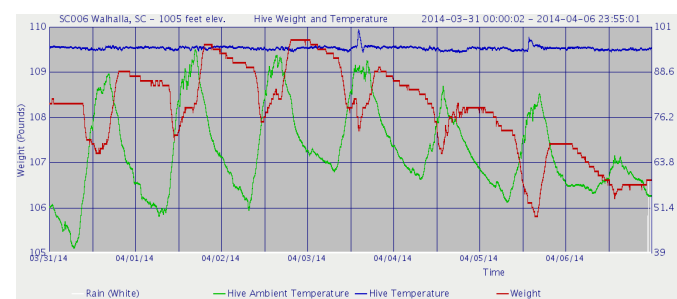
Georgia Heavy flows were recorded south of Atlanta in Newnan and Sharpsburg and in the northeast corner of the state in Rabun Gap. Interestingly, in Athens (where the February 12th ice storm left about an inch of sleet) flows were meager or non existent. See page 2 for details.



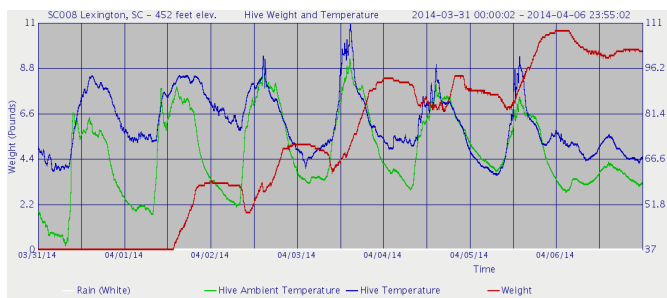
South Carolina Finally, in Akin, where the ice storm hit hardest, a flow started. Although Akin looks flat for the first half of the week, nectar was coming in as the hive stopped losing weight. Near Charleston, it appears a new flow started.



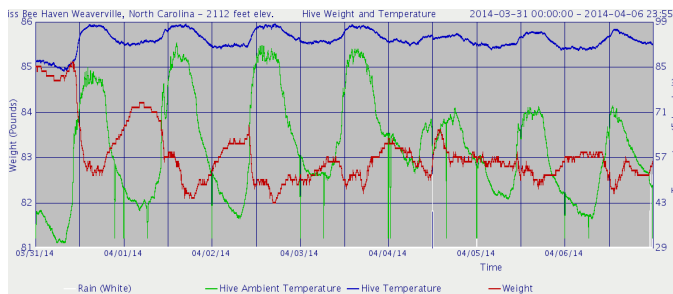
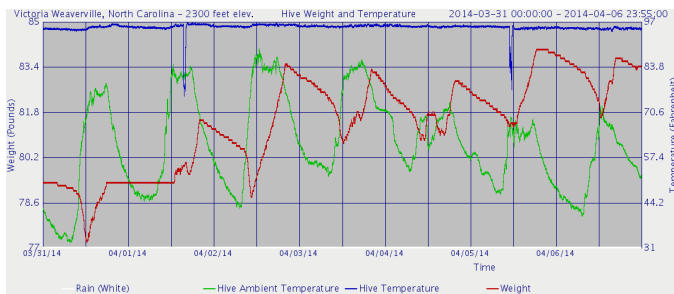
However, in Walhalla and York, the first flow may be over.



But Lexington recorded strong gains.



North Carolina Strangely, one of the hives near Asheville had strong gains while this nectar flow at the other hive appeared to be over.



Three Very Different Springs

This week we will compare the nectar flows during the month of March for the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 in Athens, GA.

In 2012, GA003 gained 85 lbs in the last three weeks in March, the weight going from 125 to 209 lbs.

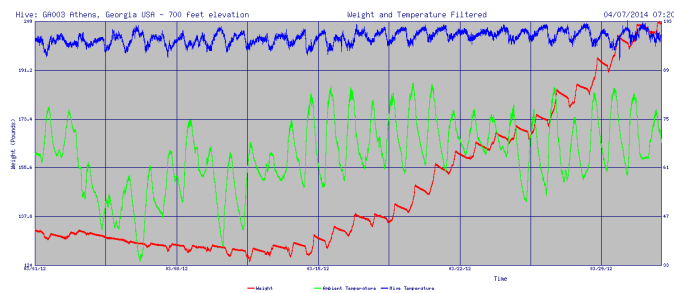
Last year, 2013, the same hive only gained 15 lbs, going from 98 to 103 lbs.

This year, 2014, the hive lost 20 lbs! The weight dropped from 165 lbs to 145, although this is a little misleading. Because no nectar flow was detected, the hive was fed several gallons of syrup to stimulate brood production to ready the hive for splits.

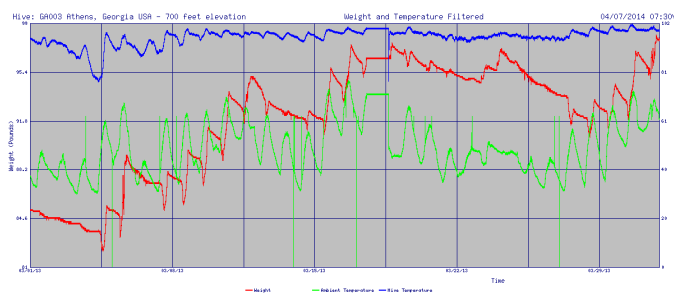
When a scale hive is fed with internal or hive top feeders, the sudden increase in weight when the syrup is added is removed by the NASA weight filter. As the syrup is consumed the hive weight drops due to evaporation of water, respiration (metabolic activity) and cleansing flights.

The difference in the three spring is quite dramatic. Is the early spring flow delayed or is it over in Athens?

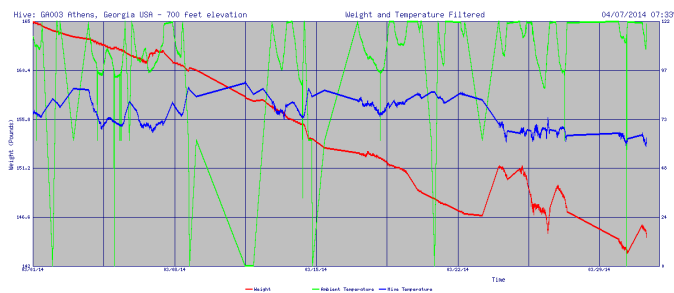
Stay tuned . . .



Graph 1. March 2012 in Athens, GA



Graph 2. March 2013 in Athens, GA



Graph 3: March 2014 in Athens, GA