

Spring nectar flow over in some areas.

Rain and cooler weather on May 15th marked the end of spring nectar flows around Lexington, SC. SC008 gained over 130 lbs. in the last 8 weeks, much of it during the 24 days between April 22nd and May 15th. Interestingly, to the south along the coast in South Carolina, nectar flows are underway in Awendaw and Beaufort/Jasper, SC. The flow started about 2 weeks ago, about the same time the flow started in Portland, Michigan! See Illustrations 2, 3 and 4. This was surprising as I thought the nectar flows would start on the coast and move inland. In NE Georgia, western NC, most of SC, and Michigan, nectar flows are underway.

What have we learned so far?

1. Nectar flows don't always move from the south to the north.
2. Lots of light hives out there.
3. Need better swarm management.

There are a lot of light hives out there.

It is difficult to compare hives in different areas. Hives in different climates require different amounts of reserves, were started at different times and are in different states of nectar flows.

It will be interesting to compare the gain after nectar flows are over and see the correlation between hive size (weight) and amount of honey it produced.

Need better swarm management.

Numerous swarms were recorded this year. Some hives swarmed three times. Most of the swarms would have been undetected without scales.

It will be interesting to compare the gains from hives that swarmed to gains from hives that didn't swarm. How much does that swarm really cost?

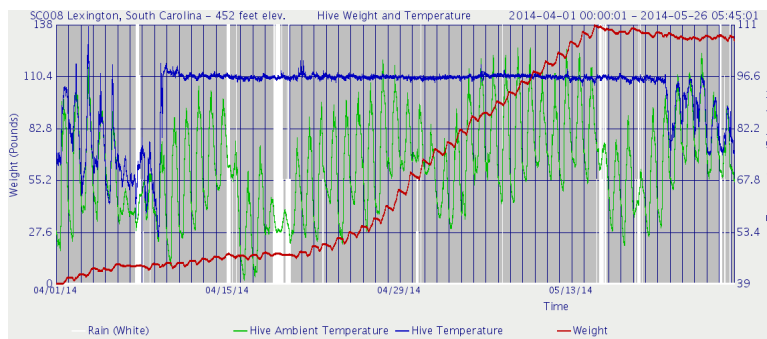


Illustration 1: Last 8 weeks in Lexington, SC

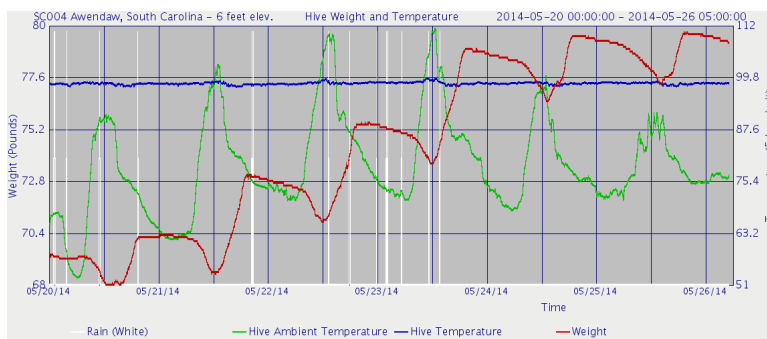


Illustration 2: Nectar flows are underway in Awendaw, SC

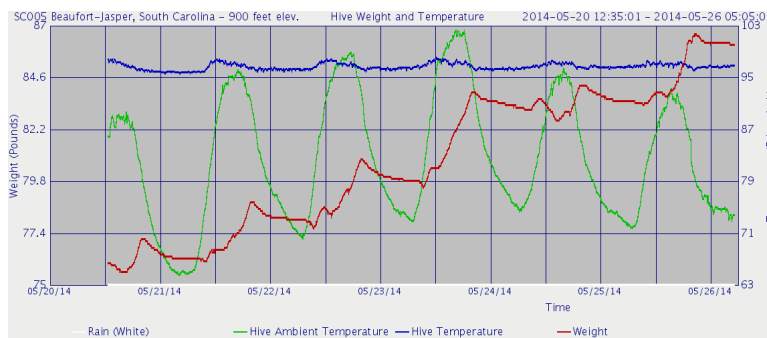


Illustration 3: Nectar is also flowing near Beaufort, SC.

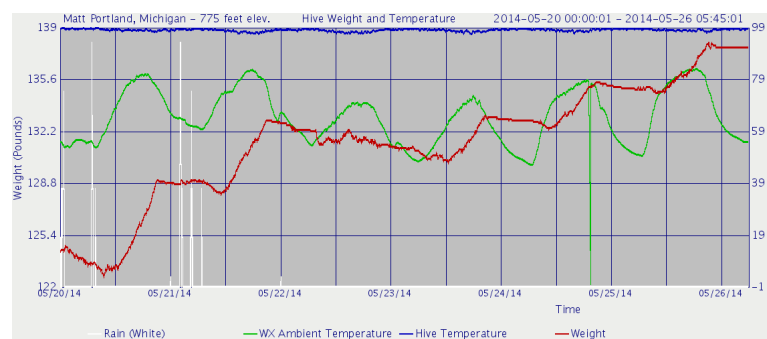


Illustration 4: In Pella, MI, a flow is underway.

What are they bringing in?

Bryan in Redwood City, CA has two hives, both on scales. One hive, Illustration 5, shows little loss at night and a steady day to day loss in hive weight.

The other hive, Illustration 6, gains 3 to 5 lbs during the day and loses it at night. The weight swings seem highly correlated to temperature. Are the bees bringing in very thin nectar or water or is this a bad scale?

Bryan has written an interesting Power Point presentation comparing the two hives and analyzing the audio:

[**Monitoring Hive Weight, Temperature, and Sound: The Inside Info and What it Might Mean April 2, 2014**](#)

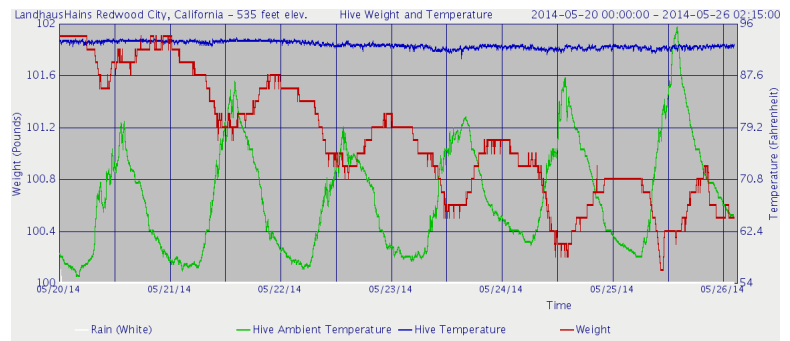


Illustration 5: LandhausHains in Redwood City, CA.

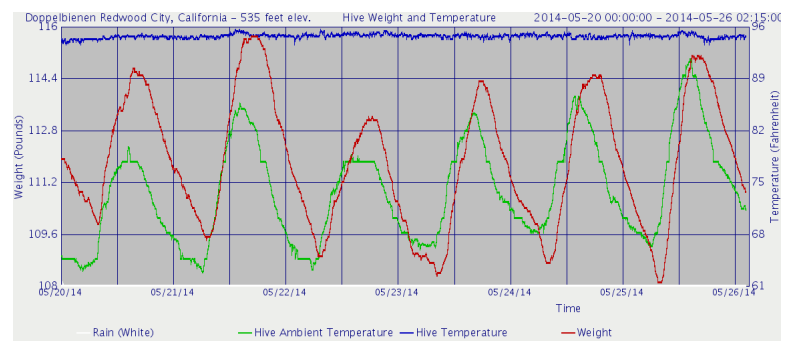


Illustration 6: Doppelbienen in Redwood City, CA.