

Strong Nectar flows in SE. Swarm Alert Software.

GA005, in Sharpsburg, Georgia USA gained 7 lbs in one day. See Graph 1. The nectar flow appears to end after rain and cooler temperatures. This nectar has a slow evaporation rate which might indicate low moisture content.

Steve reports that the main nectar flow is beginning with red bud and hollies starting to bloom. He expects a heavier nectar flow than normal in early April because the late blossoms from some species will augment the normal blossoms from others.

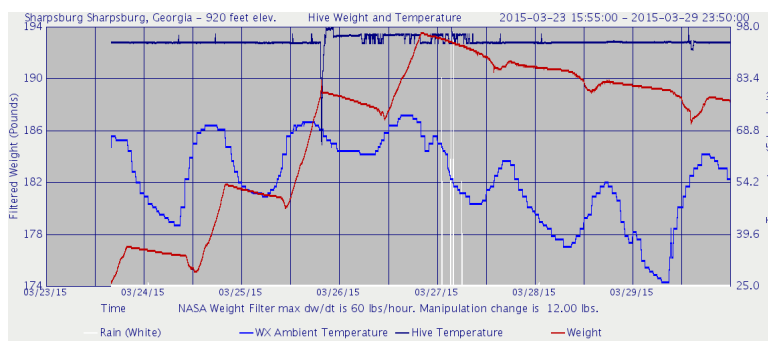
In middle to north Georgia and South Carolina, the hives are still losing weight (see Graph 2).

In northern California, the nectar flow is continuing (see Graph 3). Over the last 45 days, hive Bernice in Sonoma, California gained 30 lbs.

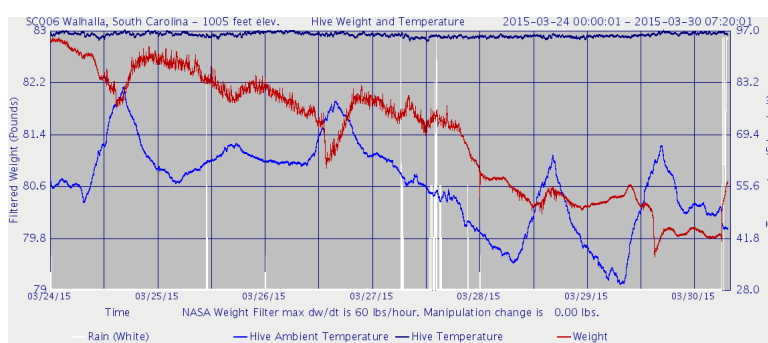
Rob, who has Raspberry Hive in Pella, Iowa, wrote a program that continuously monitors the hive weight (instead of just sampling every five minutes) and sends an alert via email if it detects a sudden weight loss. Bryan installed the software on his hive, Doppelbienen, and reports:

“Thanks again to hivetool I spotted a swarm in real time (it nicely kicked off Rob's swarm script!) and was able to grab up all the bees and rehive into a nuc with the queen caged. You can see the characteristic 1 degree C temp spike [dark blue line on Graph 4] for the main swarm, then a secondary swarm a little later.”

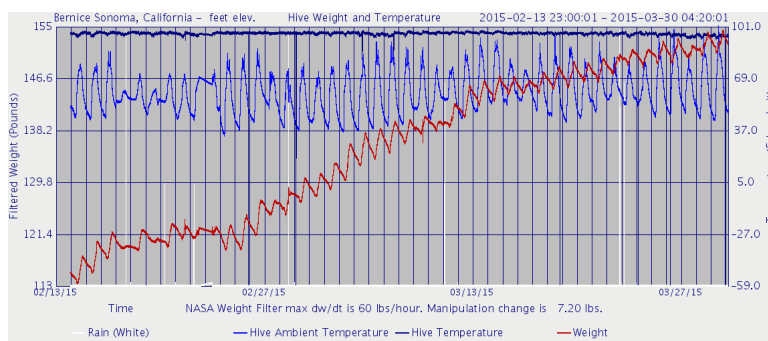
I don't know if Rob and Bryan can claim to be the first to capture a swarm based on email notification, but this proves the feasibility of Rob's technique and it will be included in future hivetool releases.



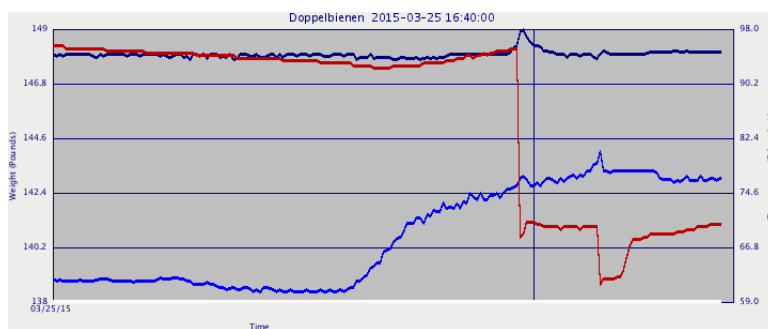
Graph 1: GA005, Sharpsburg, GA



Graph 2: SC006, Walhalla, SC, USA



Graph 3: Bernice, Sonoma, CA, USA



Graph 4: Swarm detected by software