Spring comes to the Lower Piedmont

Flows reported from Charleston and York

Cool temperatures and wet weather for the first half of the week meant more lost early spring nectar. Finally, on Thursday, conditions improved and nectar started flowing – except in Aiken.

Table 1. shows weight gains for hives for the last two days, March 22nd and 23rd, when temperatures and conditions were good:

Hive Location	Gain (lbs)
Peachtree City, GA	2.4, 3.5
Athens, GA	3
Clover, SC	3.6
Charleston, SC	1.2
Aiken, SC	0

Table 1: Weight gains on March 22 and 23

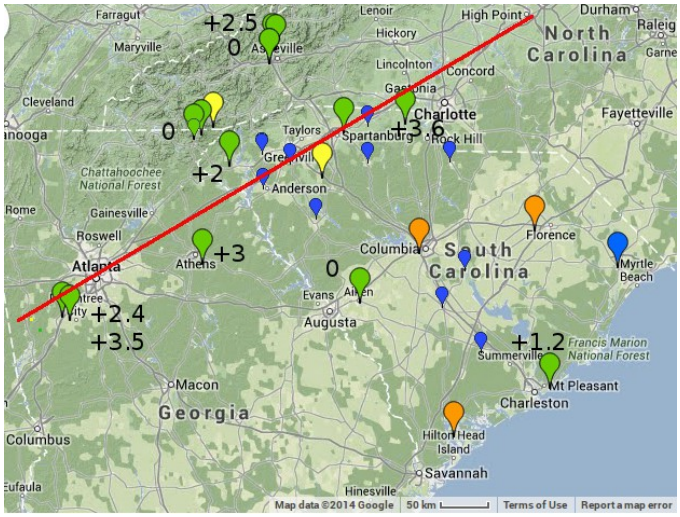
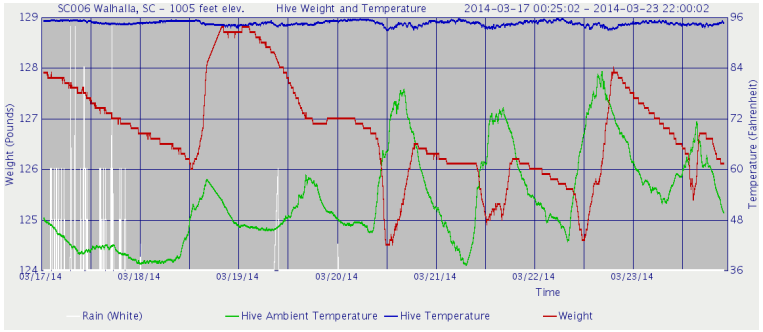


Illustration 1: Weight gains showing nectar flow occurring below red line.

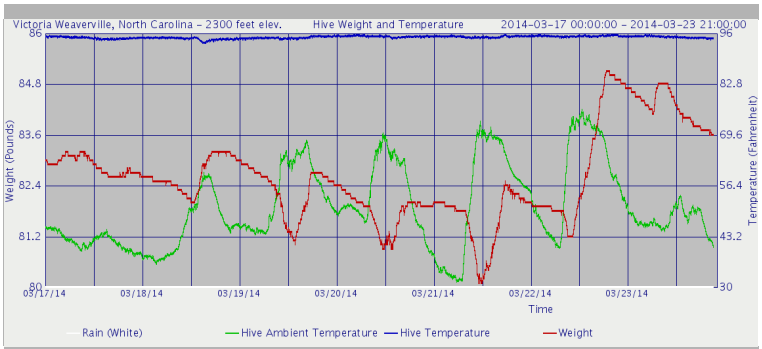
Illustration 1 is a map of the same hives with a red line, below which occurred the gain due to nectar. The area below the red line is the Lower Piedmont.

Water or Nectar?

The gains in Walhalla (see Graph 1) and Asheville (see Graph 2) are possibly due to water, not nectar. Note that they occur erratically or only on one day.



Graph 1: Walhalla's weight gain may be water. The hive gained weigh on the 18th and 22nd but not on the 19th-21st, even though temperatures were warm and bees flying.



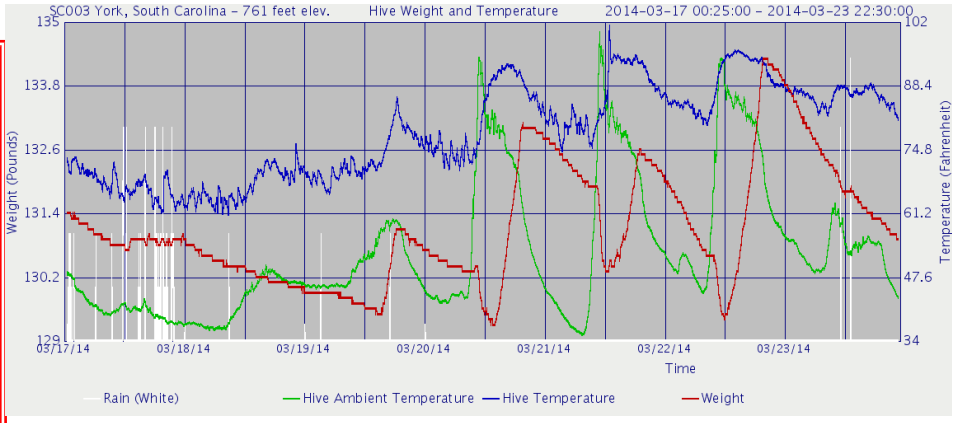
Graph 2: Gain in Asheville was probably water.

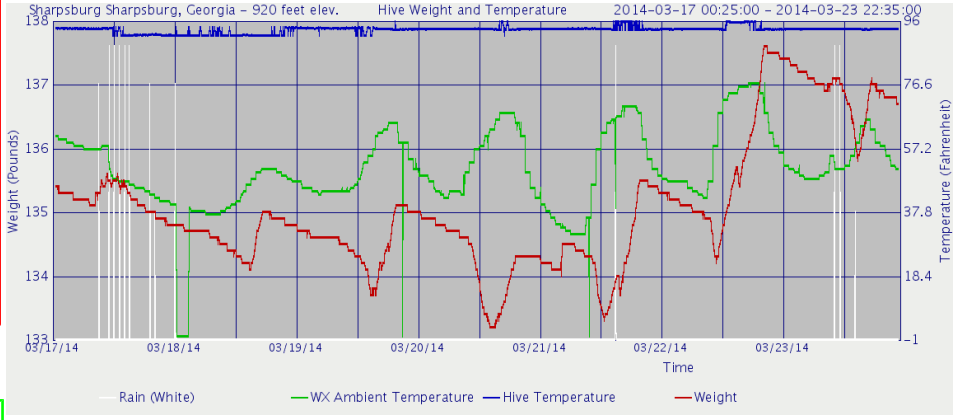
Q, Why not Aiken?

Hives near Clover, SC (York),
Peachtree City, GA (Sharpsburg), and Charleston, SC (Awendaw) all gained wieght.

The hive in Aiken lost about 3 pounds.

Why was there no gain in Aiken? Hives to the west, northeast and southeast all had gains – why not Aiken?





A. Too Early/Different Forage/Severe Ice Storm

From Richard, the maintainer of the hive in Aiken:
"I believe it is still early. My first significant flows are usually the pear trees and blueberries. These appear to be almost ready to bloom so I expect a flow in the coming days if it warms up some. The ice storm was severe here and retarded the blooms. Another beekeeper in the area has a flow started last week from the apple trees."