



Elm Fork

Beekeepers Association

General Meeting Agenda, July 19, 2018

Mission: To share information and provide education to our members and community about bees and beekeeping. To promote responsible beekeeping practices, through training and education, resulting in effective management of diseases, pests, and other environmental issues.

- **Welcome and Introduction to meeting**
 - Jan Hodson – President
 - Pat C de Baca – Vice President
 - Secretary – Barbara Henderson
 - Treasurer – Julie Haza
 - Webmaster – Byron Compton
- **Need other board members and committees**
 - Hospitality
 - Communications
- **Business**
 - TBA conference
 - We have a Bank Account and are now taking dues \$25
 - New members get a free year TBA Membership
 - Training classes, Mentor program after first training class
 - Monthly Speakers (your suggestions needed)
 - Extraction party next year
 - Xmas party this year
- **July Monthly Tips**
 - Check for full supers. You can harvest when the honey is at least 80% capped and passes a shake test. Leave honey in the brood boxes for the bees.
 - Allow bees to clean up your supers but remove them quickly if the nectar flow has stopped.
 - Use a fume board, bee brush, or bee blower instead of smoke to remove bees to keep the honey from tasting like smoke.
 - Bottle in a clean environment. If selling, must have labels with beekeepers contact info, weight, and state small beekeepers uninspected facility statement.
 - Freeze empty frames of comb for several days to kill any wax moth larva before storing.
 - Put frames in plastic bags with paradichlorobenzene (PDB) to store. *Caution! Be sure to only use PDB crystals and not moth balls (naphthalene). Moth ball will contaminate the wax and kill your bees when supers are returned to the hive.*
 - Check for swarm and supersedure cells
 - Check honey, pollen and brood pattern on frames. My girls are short on pollen and have been hitting the pollen feeders hard.
 - Keep your girls cool! Provide a close clean water source and ventilation.
 - Robber flies are bad this year. Swat them!
- **A few currently blooming nectar plants:**

- Crapemyrtle Tree (Non-Native, China, Species: Lagerstroemia Indica)
- Cucumber, cantaloupe, and watermelon
- Basil
- Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to janrhodson@gmail.com
- Handy Tips and Tools:
 - Check the pH of your syrup. Honey average pH is 3.9 (range 3.4-6.1) My water tested at 8.4!
Use pool water test strips, add lemon juice to lower pH. Tip from: Walker Honey Farm
 - Make a pollen feeder
 - Basic harvest tools
- Door prize drawing (need donations)
- Program: Pat Tickle, Oklahoma beekeeper
- Meeting Close

Next meeting August 16th, 6 pm social, 6:30 meeting, Landmark Bank

Training Classes: September 15th Basic Beekeeping, Oct 20 – Hive Management and Increases, Nov 17 – Advanced Beekeeping.

The third Saturday, Sept 15, 2018 - Basic Beekeeping, held at NCTC Gainesville. The class will be from 9am-3pm. The price includes lunch and First Lessons in Beekeeping book. The fee per class is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple (with one book). You can register for the September class and pay at the meeting or mail the fee with your name, address, phone, and email address to Elm Fork Beekeepers Association, 301 S. Chestnut, Gainesville, TX 76240. There is limited space! So sign up early!

Byron has been working hard on getting a facebook page going for us. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/Elm-Fork-Beekeepers-Association-1036465603178946/>

People who use FB can search for Elm Fork Beekeepers Association and should be able to find and start following us.

Websites:

Articles by Dr Jamie Ellis

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/h0xfamw26tbsz32/AADa6ntEDyQlxHMX4OeTnXHDa?dl=0>

Advocacy Prohibition: The EFBA mission is to be an educational association. No part of the activities of EFBA shall be devoted to advocacy, lobbying, politically or privately promoting issues, agendas, or businesses or personal endeavors, by propaganda or otherwise, using the EFBA name or themselves as a EFBA member.