



Elm Fork

Beekeepers Association

General Meeting Agenda, Aug 16, 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 Officer reports**
 - Jan Hodson – President
 - Pat C de Baca – Vice President
 - Secretary – Louann Barfknecht
 - Treasurer – Julie Haza
 - Webmaster – Byron Compton
 - Hospitality – Michael Barber
- **Need other board members and committees**
 - Communications committee
 - Mentors
- **Business**
 - The website is up! elmforkbeekeepers.org
 - Check out the members' only forum. A great way to ask and discuss hive issues.
 - Dues and class fees can now be paid online (PayPal fees apply)
 - Training classes: Please promote our classes. Mentor program after first training class
 - Monthly Speakers (your suggestions needed)
 - Xmas party this year, activity suggestions: (Chinese gift exchange, Hive painting contest?)
 - Bylaws - we will vote on approval next meeting.
 - TBA conference Nov 7-10, Temple, TX
 - TX State Fair – honey booth contact John Talbert: john@sabinecreekhoney.com
- **Aug Monthly Tips**
 - Finish any harvesting. 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. You should have at least 6-7 frames of honey for the winter. If not, then feed.
 - Allow bees to clean up your supers but remove them quickly if the nectar flow has stopped.
 - Freeze empty frames of comb for several days to kill any wax moth larva before storing.
 - You can also freeze frames of honey.
 - Kills any pests that may be on the frame.
 - Keeps the honey fresh until you are ready to extract.
 - Store empty wax comb frame with paradichorobenzene (PDB). *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 crystals and add new if vaporized.*
 - Check honey, pollen and brood pattern on frames. My girls are short on pollen and have been hitting the pollen feeders hard. The drought may have depleted honey stores.
 - Very strong hives can be split in August.

- It's still hot! Keep your girls cool! Provide a close clean water source and ventilation.
- Test for varroa and treat
- If you're into contests the TX State Fair is coming up and the TBA convention in November
- A few currently blooming nectar plants:
 - Nightshade family
 - Cotton
 - Snow on the prairie
 - Bitterweed/sneezeweed
 - Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to janrhodson@gmail.com
- Handy Tips and Tools: how to clean your smoker
- Door prize drawing (need donations)
- Program: Janet Rowe
- Meeting Close

Next meeting September 20 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, Building 1300, 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!

You can register and pay online! There is a fee for using PayPal so the online cost is \$42 per person, \$57 per couple. Dues is \$25 if paid by cash or check, \$27 if paid online.

Websites:

<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>

Articles by Dr Jamie Ellis

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

elmforkbeekeepers.org

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.