



# Elm Fork Beekeepers Association

General Meeting, August 19, 2021

President: Jan Hodson

**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 Officers Reports

- August 21 is National Honey Bee Day!
- Texas State Fair Sept 24-Oct 17
- TBA Convention Nov 6-7, Moody Gardens – Galveston, TX
  - Nov 5, Master Beekeeper testing, registration opens Sept 1st
  - Nov 5, Honey, art, mead, and gadget show registration
  - Are you an artist? Club center piece contest
- Dues are due! \$25 per year, mail or drop off at the Agrilife extension office:
  - Elm Fork Beekeepers Association
  - 301 S. Chestnut Street
  - Gainesville, TX 76240
- Or you can pay online using PayPal \$2 fee
  - [elmforkbeekeepers.org](http://elmforkbeekeepers.org)

This wonderful article was in the  
Jul/Aug TBA Journal

A **Big Thank You** to  
Tara and Keldyn Lehner for writing and  
submitting the article!

Our scholarship form for 2022 is available  
on our website. Please forward this article  
and the form to any youngster you feel  
could benefit from this program.

## THE HIDDEN TREASURE OF GAINESVILLE TEXAS

*from Elm Fork Beekeepers Association*

In North Texas at the heart of Cooke County, a group of dedicated beekeepers had an idea to form a small club which would not only promote apiculture to those new to the term, but would also give a younger generation and local citizens the tools and support needed to learn and develop their own hives. In 2018 EFBA (Elm Fork Beekeepers Association) was formed along with scholarship and mentorship programs that bloomed with the support of members and donations. Over the last few years the club has grown to over 60 members with numbers climbing. The outreach of this education has now stretched several counties as members travel far and wide to glean wisdom from the success of the successful beekeepers in the area, including the 2020 recipient.



Keldyn Lehner is this year's scholarship winner. At the age of 15 and a strong desire to learn, he's starting out with 2 thriving hives and the search for more. Candidates of the program are awarded all the basic necessary supplies to get started and the help of a personal mentor that not only visits the recipient hives several times a year, but provides hands on instruction. These young Honey Farmers are immersed in the membership circle each month where they greet members and visitors, learn names, hand out door prizes and help with organization and cleanup. Aside from the involvement in the local meetings they attend three intensive and information-packed bee schools and will have the opportunity to share their journey through public speaking, offering a final report of their 18 month involvement, shaking hands and growing with successful leaders in the industry.

With out the E.F.B.A. scholarship Keldyn wouldn't have been able to start beekeeping so early. This program is open

to youngsters between the ages of 11-18 and a part of the scholarship is the award of the necessary beginner tools. These include wooden ware, hives, supers, equipment to take care of the bees, the honey bees with queen, a suit, hive tools and a smoker. At each monthly meeting there are also several door prizes of handy hive tools and equipment which help make attendance fun. Keldyn started out with two Italian and hybrid nukes in April. Four months later his hives are thriving and successful. He has goals to add additional hives to provide enough honey for his family and add pollinators for the area farming. He has an interest in catching wild hives, learning to make honey products and eventually selling some of those creations. Above all, his greatest goal is to become a mentor himself. With a heart for people he wants to share his journey, knowledge and encourage others in many areas.

EFBA is, and has been, an invaluable gem for Northern Texas cultivators and surrounding young farmers as they seek to keep the interest in and roots of agriculture alive. The once small group is growing and reaching far beyond the county and continues to spread through it's scholarship and mentor programs, community involvement, study groups, exam opportunities, educator resources, monthly tips and hours of lessons available. For more information visit <https://www.elmforkbeekeepers.org/> where you can learn, apply for the 2021 scholarship, contact mentors, ask questions and/or share your knowledge.



*Elm Fork Beekeepers Association was the recipient of a \$1,000 grant from  
Texas Honey Bee Education Association*



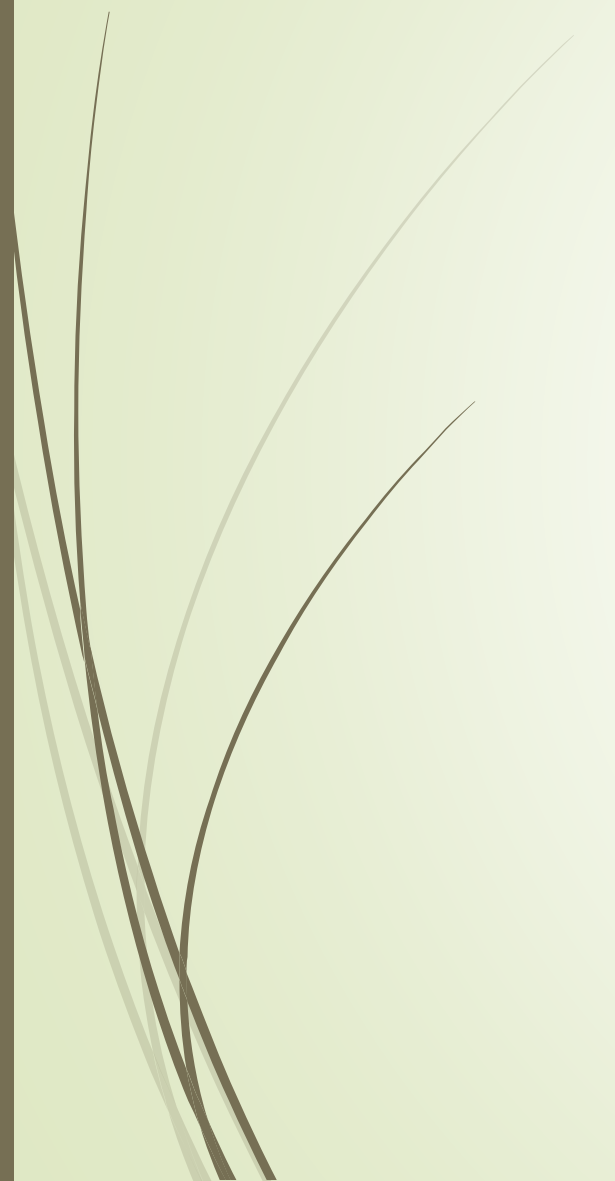
# ➔ Extraction Party 3pm, August 28<sup>th</sup>

- **Location: Mountain Springs Community Center**
- **Members and immediate family are welcome**
- **You do not have to bring honey frames to attend!**
- **A list of extraction supplies needed will be provided prior to the party**
- **Extraction team needed**
- **Food – TexMex build your own fajitas provided by the association, potluck for sides and deserts**

- 
- 
- **Vice President - Stan Brandon**
  - **Secretary – Connie Hutchins**
  - **Treasurer – Julie Haza**
  - **Communications – Gavin Hutchins**
  - **Education Coordinator -Byron Compton**
  - **Webmaster – Stacy Branam**
  - **Director at Large – Tim Branam**
  - **Hospitality: Melanie Clinton**



# A few blooming nectar plants:

- ▶ Yellow Neptunia
  - ▶ Moss rose
  - ▶ Gaura
  - ▶ Frostweed
  - ▶ Snow on the prairie
  - ▶ Bitterweed/sneezeweed
  - ▶ Autumn Joy Sedum
  - ▶ Grass
  - ▶ Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to [janrhodson@gmail.com](mailto:janrhodson@gmail.com) or text to 214-417-9071
- 

# Yellow Neptunia, Yellow Puff, Yellow Sensitive Plant

*Neptunia lutea*, Fabaceae  
(legume) family

Perennial, native, The leaflets are sensitive to the touch and will fold when disturbed.

Forage value is good for livestock and deer. The seeds remain intact for several months and are eaten by dove, quail, and turkey.



# Moss Rose

*Portulaca grandiflora*

Annual

Native to South America

Nursey plant or you can buy seed.

New flowers every day. Low water plant well drained soil or pots.

Photos: Michael Barber





# Gaura, Bee Blossoms, Wand Flower

*Onagraceae*  
(evening primrose) family (17 species in TX)

Native, annual or perennial most under 3 ft, sun loving, white, pink or red flowers, 4 petals bending forward, 4 sepals bending backwards, 8 stamens, style with cross-shaped stigma, leaves alternate.

Great honey plants. Plants have long tap roots so they are hard to transplant, sow seed in the fall.

You maybe able to find some species available in pots.

Do a search on gaura for seed sources and planting advise for different species.

Photo: Michael Barber



# Gaura, Bee Blossoms, Wand

**Flower** *Onagraceae* (evening primrose) family (17 species in TX)



# Frostweed, Indian Tobacco, Squaw-weed

*Verbesina Virginica*

Family: Asteraceae

Native perennial

Bloom period: August to November

Shade to partial shade, likes moist areas

Exudes ribbons of frozen sap at first freeze.

Dried leaves were used as a smoking product. Dried boiled roots used to relieve cramps, chills, and fever.



Photo by: Mary Curry



Photos by: Ricky Linex

# Snow on the Prairie – *Euphorbia bicolor*

Euphorbiaceae (Spurge) family – Blooms July-November

The plant is poisonous to livestock. The seeds are eaten by dove, quail and songbirds.



Range plants of North Central Texas – Ricky Linex

# Bitterweed, Sneezeweed– *Helenium amarum*

Family – Asteraceae (sunflower family)

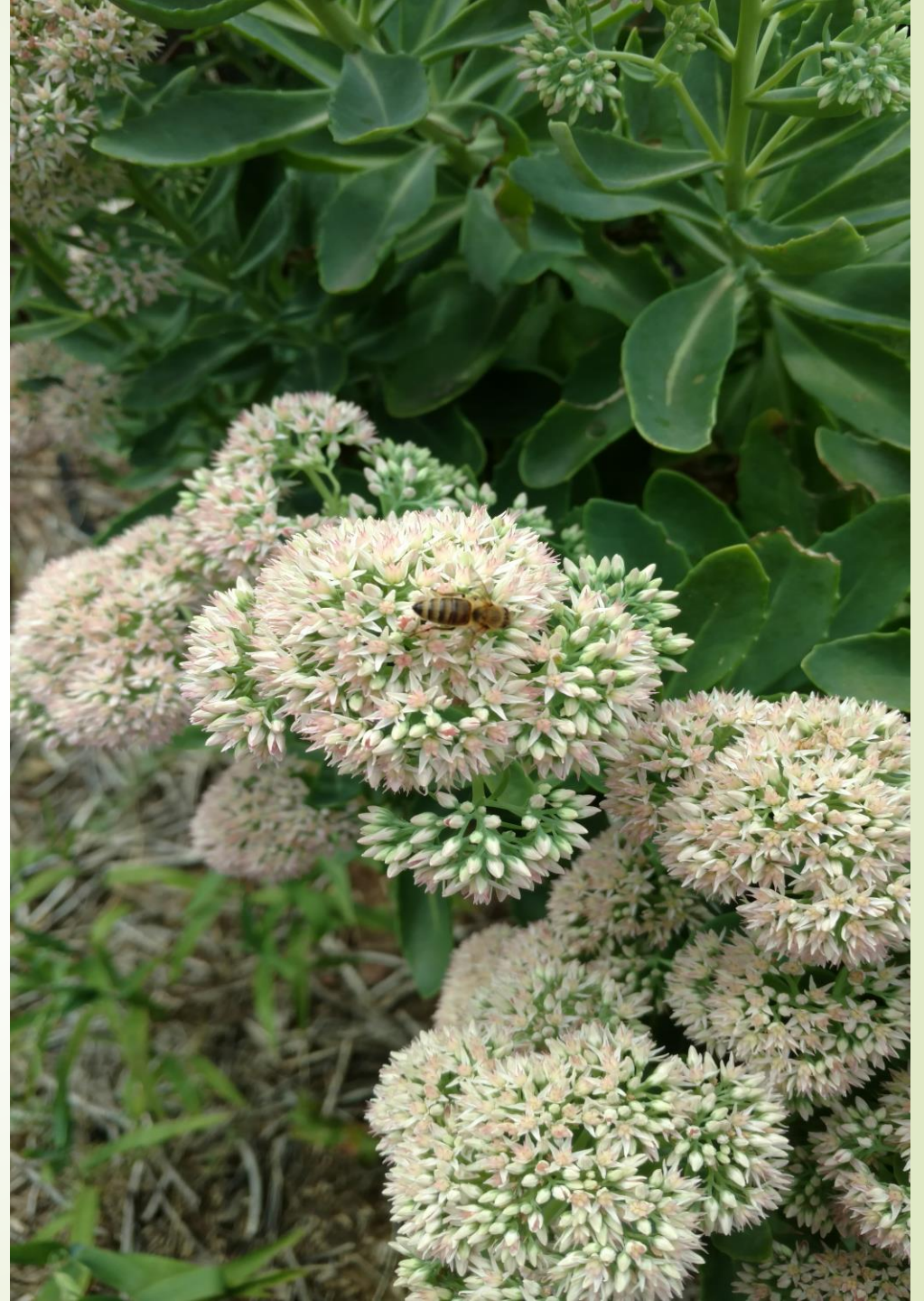
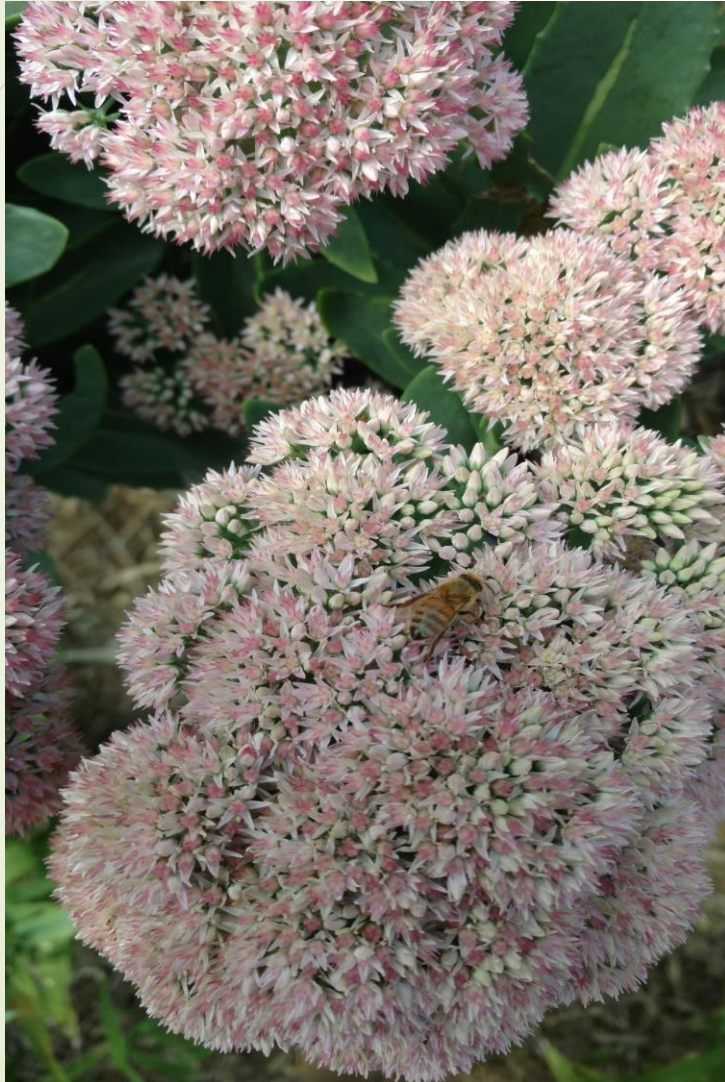


Please send pictures to  
[janhodson@gmail.com](mailto:janhodson@gmail.com)

# Autumn Joy Sedum

*hybrid, origin China*

Perennial, all parts poisonous



# Warm Season Grasses



Photo: Michael Barber



## August Monthly Tips:

- ▶ Over the next two months make sure your bees have a combined total of 5-6 deep frames of honey stored for winter. If not, start feeding!
- ▶ Very strong hives can be split in late August.
- ▶ Weak hives?
  - ▶ Why do you think it is weak?
  - ▶ Check your records.
  - ▶ Test for varroa and treat if needed.
  - ▶ Consider whether to requeen or combine weak colonies.
- ▶ <https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>
- ▶ Do not hesitate to call your mentor, another club member, or me (940-637-2702) if you have a question!





## Tips and Tools:

- The following link is for a cover crop seed supplier they carry several seed mixes that would be good for bees and pollinators in general. You can even order custom blends. Check it out!
- <https://greencover.com>



For more detailed information refer to:  
**<https://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/varroa/>**





## **Door Prize Drawing**


### **Board Meeting:**

Members are always welcome at our board meetings. Next board meeting Sept 2nd, 6pm-8pm at the Wolf Den in 1901 W. California, Gainesville. Meeting starts at 6:30 pm

Contact Jan if you would like to attend. [janrhodson@gmail.com](mailto:janrhodson@gmail.com)

### **Next Meeting:**

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm



**Speaker: Byron Compton - Harvesting  
your Honey**

