



Announcements

- ▶ **Our meeting has been moved back one week to July 28th!**
 - ▶ This is due to a scheduling mistake made by a bartender. She scheduled a Charity Auction for Friday the 22nd without knowing that they would need the space Wednesday and Thursday to setup all the items for the auction.
- ▶ **My apologies for the late blooms and tips.**

My laptop died and trying to recover files and learn new laptop and software is a major PAIN in the *%\$.

Our Topic this Month: Queens!



Stan Brandon will be talking about the training he went to on rearing queens and artificial insemination.

August: Byron will be talking about products from the hive.



July Monthly Tips:

- ▶ **Stay hydrated!** Passing out with a smoker on top of you is Not Cool!
- ▶ Have you seen the neck fans? Get one, they work great!
- ▶ The flow is over! We are in a drought unless it is in a moist area, shade, or watered it is dead or dormant.
- ▶ 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 can freeze your frames until you are ready to extract.
- ▶ Allow bees to clean up your extracted super frames but remove them quickly.
- ▶ Watch out for robbing
- ▶ 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 greater wax moth and hive beetle larva before storing.
- ▶ Put frames in plastic bags with para-Dichlorobenzene (PDB) to store. *Caution! Be sure to only use PDB crystals and not moth balls (naphthalene). Moth balls will contaminate the wax and kill your bees when supers are returned to the hive.*



July Monthly Tips:

- ▶ **Keep your girls cool, provide a close water source and ventilation.**
 - ▶ **After harvest it will be time to test and treat for Varroa mites. Have your test and treatment supplies ready.**
 - ▶ **Are you doing Fall splits? Get equipment ready! And, you might want to feed to build wax and store some resources for the splits.**
 - ▶ **Do not hesitate to call your mentor, another club member, or me (940-637-2702) if you have a question!**
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A few blooming nectar plants:

- ▶ Garden plants like Basil, Squash, Cucumber, cantaloupe, and watermelon are still blooming along with Vitex and crepemytles if they are watered.
 - ▶ Button Bush
 - ▶ Common Annual Sunflower
 - ▶ Nightshades
 - ▶ Pigeon berry
 - ▶ Cotton
 - ▶ Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to janrhodson@gmail.com or text to 214-417-9071
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Button Bush

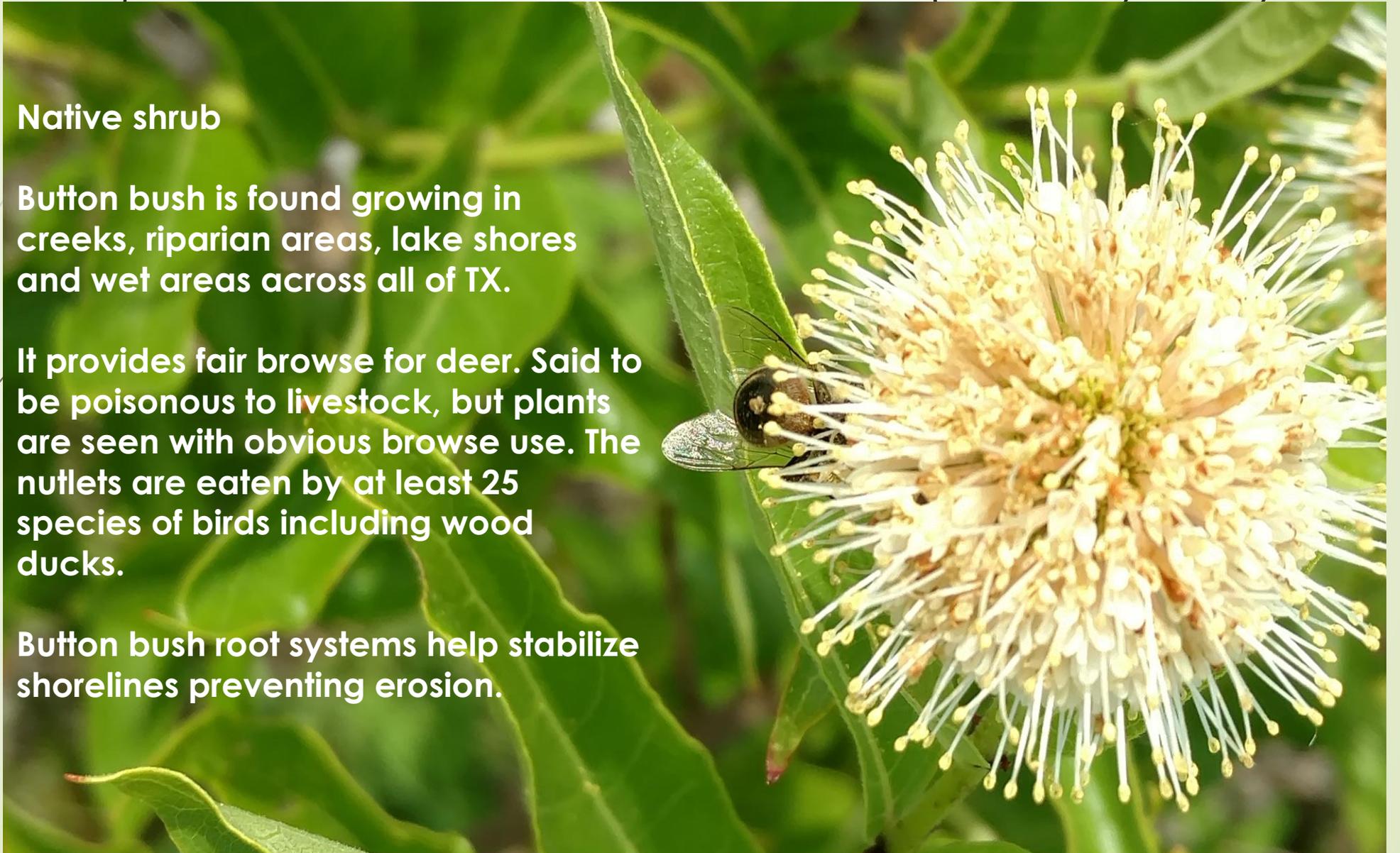
Cephalanthus occidentalis, Rubiaceae (Madder) family

Native shrub

Button bush is found growing in creeks, riparian areas, lake shores and wet areas across all of TX.

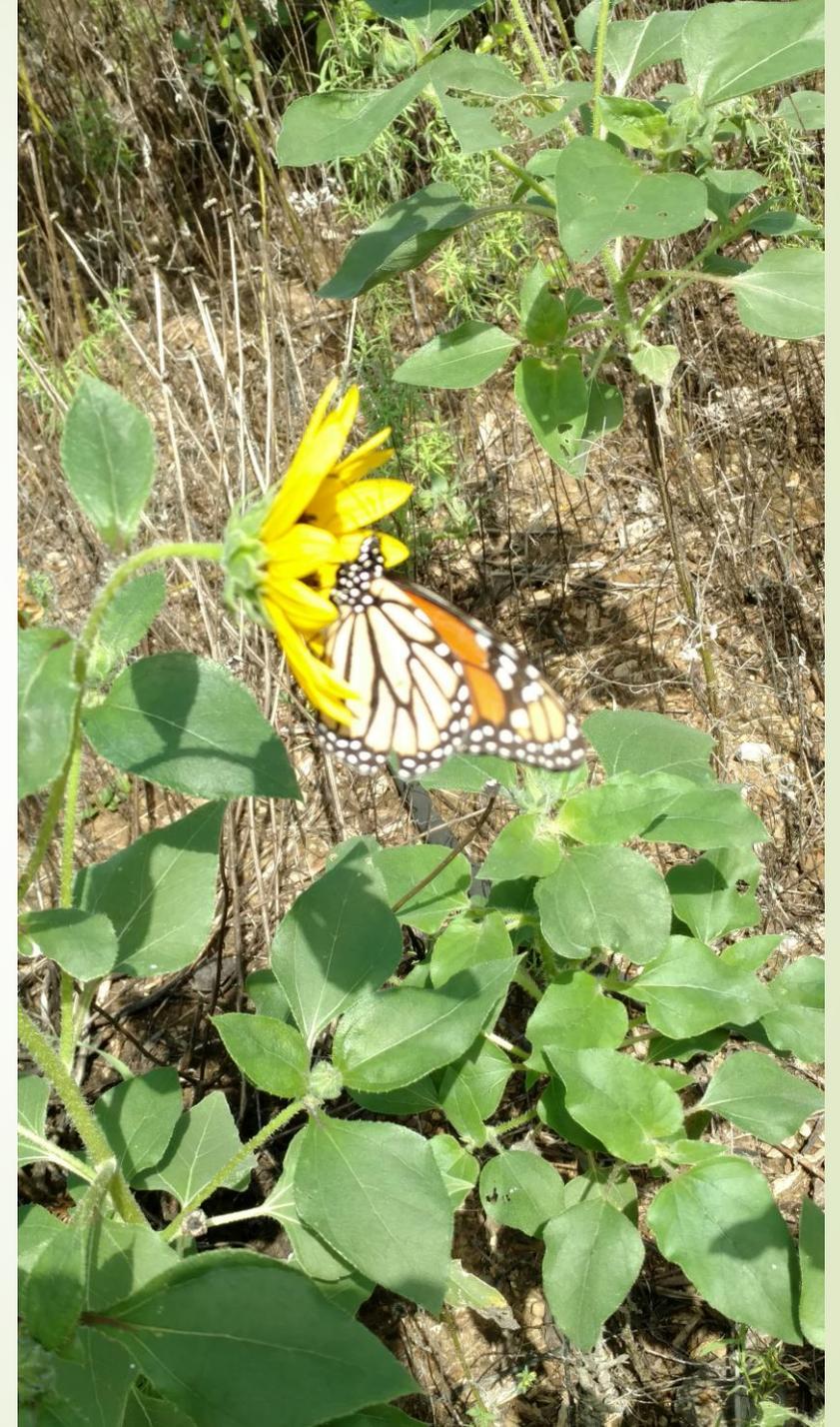
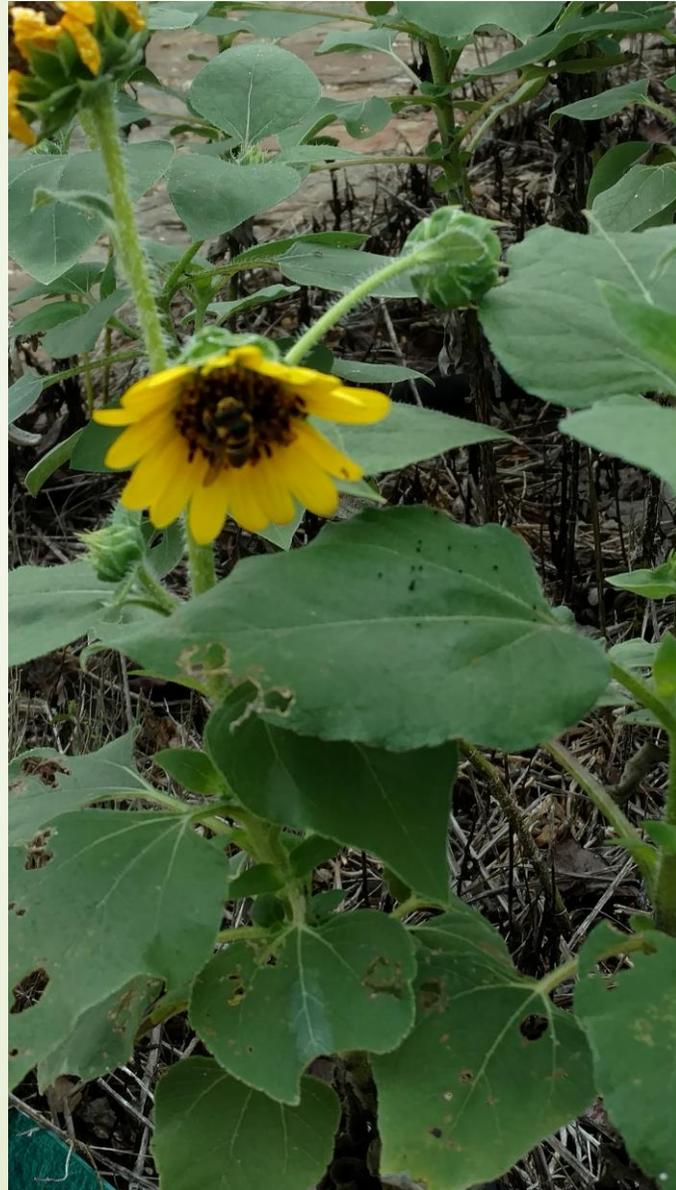
It provides fair browse for deer. Said to be poisonous to livestock, but plants are seen with obvious browse use. The nutlets are eaten by at least 25 species of birds including wood ducks.

Button bush root systems help stabilize shorelines preventing erosion.



Common Annual Sunflower

Asteraceae Helianthus species, Native





Silver Leaf Nightshade

Photo by:
Michael Barber



Pigeon Berry

Rivina humilllis

**Family: *Phytolaccaceae*
(pokeweed)**

Native perennial

Bloom period: May to September

Shade to partial shade

Fruit: Red berries eaten by birds

height: 1-3 foot

**Forgage for deer, sheep and
goats**

Fruit and leaves toxic to humans

Photo by: Michael Barber



Cotton

across the road from
Texas Bee Supply



Natural cotton blooms from mid June till the first hard freeze.

However most growers spray the plants with growth inhibitors that causes the plants to fruit simultaneously. Then it is defoliated long before frost to make it easy to harvest by machine.

Native cotton has nectaries in the blossom, like most plants. It also possesses extra-floral nectaries underneath the leaves. The plants would produce so much nectar the bees, butterflies and hummingbirds could not keep up. Seed breeders succeeded in breeding nearly nectar free plants, thinking all bugs are bad!



Little Stingers:

You have to be crazy...

A penny saved is a government oversight.

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs...'

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

He who hesitates is probably right.

**Lord, Keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth
AMEN!**