Elm Fork Beekeepers Association

General Meeting, June 17, 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.

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Welcome and Officers Reports

- New board members:
  - Gavin Hutchins – Communications
  - Susan Pritchard - Publicity
- Extraction Party scheduled for August 28.
  - Mountain Springs Community Center

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

June Monthly Tips:

- New hives: Check honey and pollen stores. Feed syrup and pollen if needed for colony buildup. When 75-80 percent of the frames are full, add a box.
- Check for pests (SHB, moths, roaches, ants), strong hives will keep pests in check.
- Nectar flow is extended this year, due to all the rain.
- During good honey flow minimize brood box inspections.
- Do not medicate during honey flow.
- You can harvest when the honey is at least ¾ capped and passes a shake test.
- Capped honey may be harvested and the empty frames returned to the hive for the bees to cleanup residual honey.
- Watch out for robbing!
- Freeze empty frames of comb for several days to kill any pest eggs/larva before storing. You can also freeze frames of honey and extract them later.
- Keep your girls cool! Provide a close clean water source and ventilation.
- Do not hesitate to call your mentor, another club member, or me (940-637-2702) if you have a question!

Handy Tips and Tools:
Making Comb or Chunk Honey

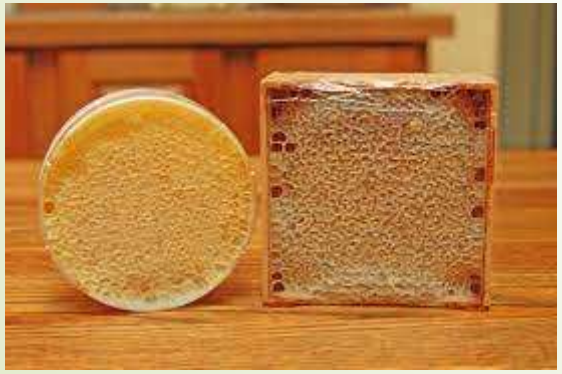
- Use shallow frames and boxes
- Use wedge style frames for cut comb.
- Recommend only using 2-3 comb frames in a super and only using strongest hives
  - Wax frames not fully capped are wasted effort for the bees
- After pulling from the hive, freeze overnight to kill any SHB eggs or larvae on the frames
- Freezing also makes it easier to cut the comb
- Comb honey sells at a premium – as much as double what you charge for liquid honey

Making Comb or Chunk Honey

Ross Rounds

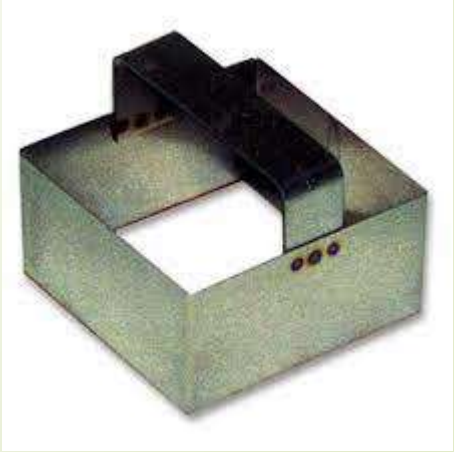
Wired Wax

Thin Surplus Wax



Wedge Top Bar

Comb Cutter



A few blooming nectar plants:

- Vitex/Chaste Tree (Non-Native, Europe & Asia , Species: Viteks Agnus Castus)
- Zexmenia (Asteraceae Wedelia Hispida) Native to southern Texas, Perennial
- Basil
- Purple Prairie Clover (Native Perennial, Species: Dalea Purpurea Family: Fabaceae, Legume Family)
- Monardia: Horse Mint/Spotted Bee Balm/Bee Balm
- Watermelon
- Squash
- Cantaloupe
- Death Camas
- Illinois Bundle Flower
- Soapberry
- Salvia
- Persimmon
- Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to janrhodson@gmail.com or text to 214-417-9071

Vitex Tree, Caste Tree, (TX Lilac ?)

Viteks Agnus Castus

Non native,
Europe & Asia

Zexmenia

Asteraceae Wedelia Hispida

Native to southern Texas, Perennial

Basil

Purple Prairie Clover

(Native Perennial, Species: Dalea Purpurea Family: Fabaceae, Legume Family)

Monarda species: Horsemint, Spotted Beebalm, Beebalm, Lemon mint

Labiatae (Mint) family

Has square stems

Spotted Beebalm
Monarda Punctata
Has yellow flowers with brown dots

Watermelon Blooms

Photo by:
Michael Barber

Squash

Photo by: Michael Barber

Cantaloupe

Photo by: Michael Barber

Nutthall's Death Camas (poison onion)

Photo by: Justin Hartman

Zigadenus nuttallii, liliaceae (lily) family
Native, perennial

All parts of the plant are poisonous, even when dry. The plant has a large black coated bulb. Other species are found in east and west TX all are poisonous

Illinois Bundleflower

Desmanthus illinoensis, fabaceae (legume) family

Native, perennial

Premier forb that is highly palatable to all classes of livestock and deer. Seeds are eaten by quail, dove, turkey, and songbirds

Seed bundle

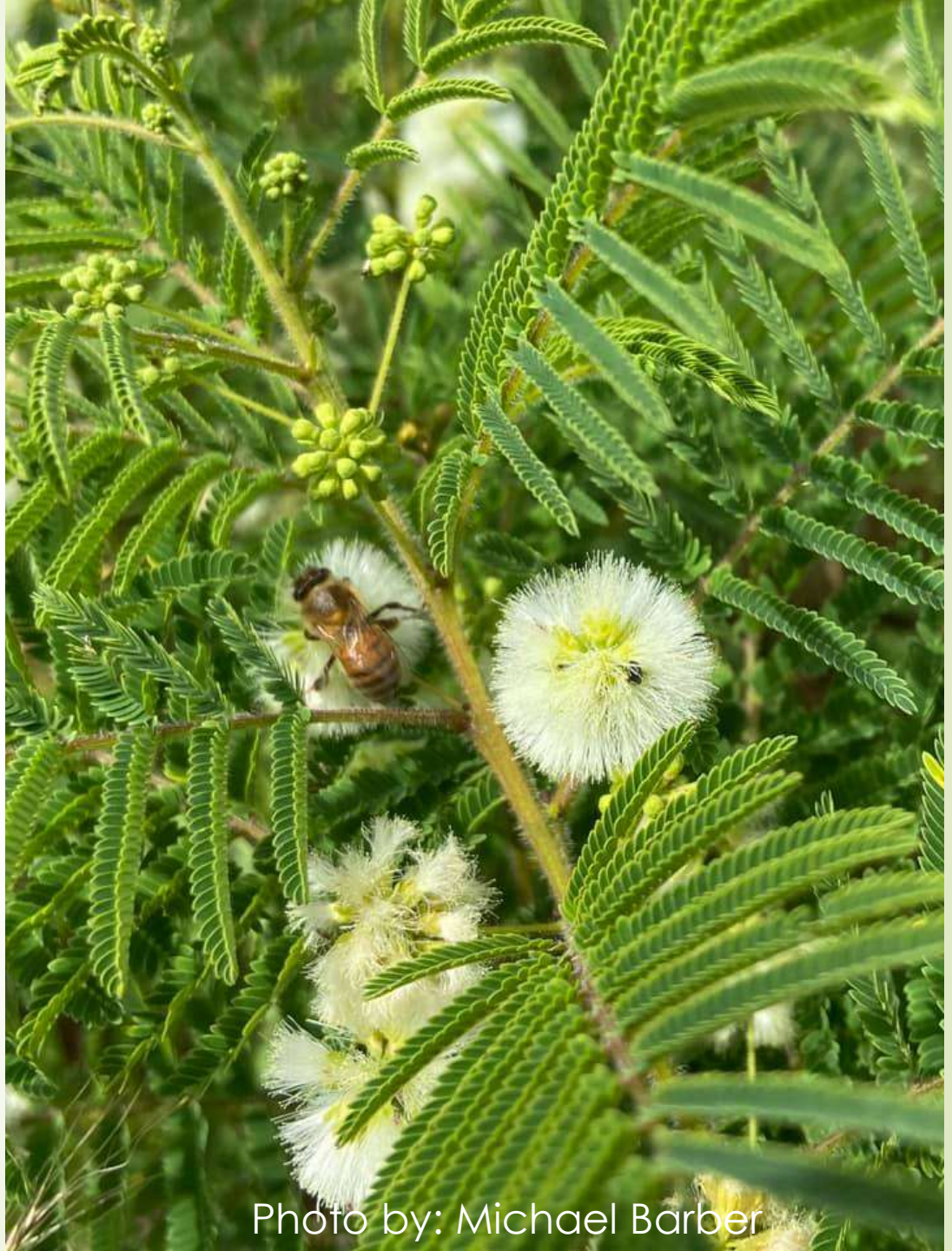


Photo by: Michael Barber

Soapberry, Western

Sapindus saponaria var. drummondii, Sapindaceae family

Native, deciduous tree
Produces yellowish translucent fleshy fruit with a single seed, contains saponins, and can be used as a soap substitute. Fruits are toxic and can cause contact dermatitis in some individuals.

Photos by: Michael Barber

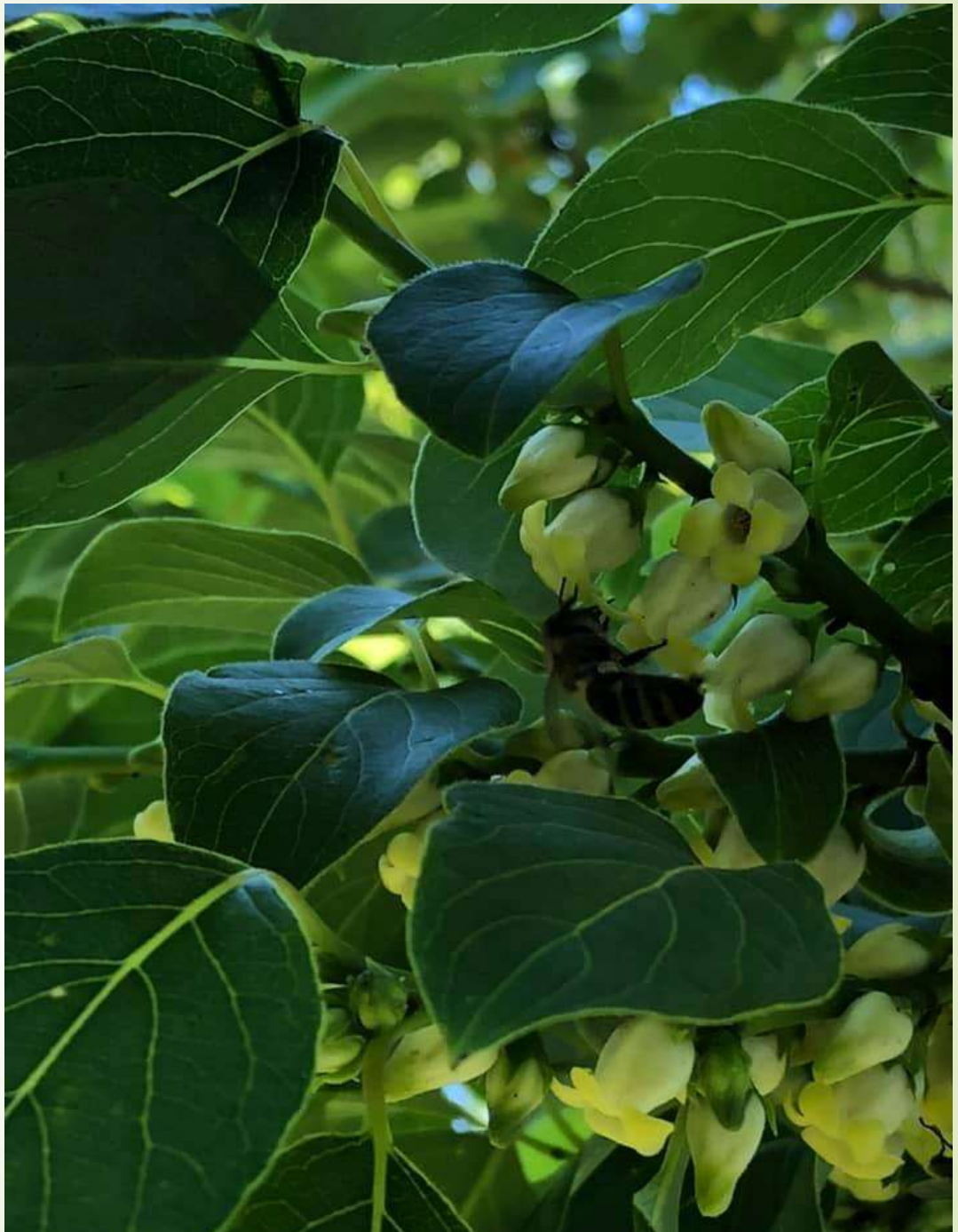
Photo by: Michael Barber

Saliva

There are many cultivars along with native salivas. Bees prefer the blue and white, over red species. They sometimes cross pollinate. I have had white ones produce blue flowered plants from seed.

Common Persimmon Native

Photo by: Justin Hartman



Door Prize Drawing

Board Meeting:

Members are always welcome at our board meetings.
Next zoom board meeting June 3, 6:30 pm. Check the website calendar for the link.

Or you can join the meeting in person contact Jan Hodson for more information.

Tonight's Speaker:Joe Lewis

Joe Lewis is the former owner of Harford Honey and for eleven years was a sideliner beekeeper in Bel Air Maryland. Joe is still a partner in Harford Honey as well as retaining an interest in Deer Creek Apiaries. Both are pollination contractors, bee sellers, and providers of premium, unfiltered, all natural, local and regional honey. Joe has relocated to Wise County, Texas, but continues the pursuit of bee knowledge.

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.