



# Elm Fork Beekeepers Association

## General Meeting Agenda: May 21, 2020

**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.

- **Announcements**

- **Tim and Stacy Branam will be taking charge of our website. The website will be moving to a new hosting site and new program software to make it easier to manage. I'm looking forward to the changes. After Byron has helped with the move to the new website. Byron will have time to work on his new task of being Education Coordinator. He will be coordinating future classes and looking into teleconferencing and educational videos.**
- **Justin Hartman has taken the lead on handling our Facebook accounts. I'm seeing some nice posts and lots of likes!**
- **The TBA conference for June is cancelled. Will they have the conference in November? We will have to wait and see...**
- **We have scheduled the final beekeeping class for June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Mountain Springs Community Center. We will be sending out a notice to the students.**
- **Mark your calendars for the extraction party at the Mountain Springs Community Center, Saturday, August 22.**
- **I'm hoping that the bank will decide to open up again soon so we can continue our regular meetings. If you happen to know of another location where we can have our meetings that will hold 100 people with parking, please let us know.**

- **May 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.**
- **Use entrance reducers or robbing screens when your yard has both new and established hives**
- **Check hives for:**
  - **Swarm and supercedure cells**
  - **Crowding**
  - **Egg laying room**
  - **Brood box has 3 frames of honey/nectar**
  - **Room for more honey**
  - **Add super if box is 75% full.**
- **Check for pests (starting to see SHB, moths, roaches, ants), strong hives will keep pests in check.**
- **Honey flow is on! Have at least one empty super per hive ready during honey flow. Air out any wax that was stored with PDB before using.**
- **Do not medicate during honey flow.**
- **Put comb honey supers only on strong hives.**

- During good honey flow minimize brood box inspections.
  - Plan ahead to be sure and have supplies and containers for your honey crop.
  - Don't install queen excluder until the bees begin to draw out comb in the super. On a ten frame: you can use an 8 frame queen excluder or turn the excluder sideways, to allow easier access for the worker bees. If you have plastic excluders you can cut some of the bars out along the front or sides to make passage easier for workers (The queen usually stays in the center of the hive on brood frames). Having an upper entrance makes it easier for forager bees to offload nectar close to the supers. Cut a notch in the front of the inner cover if there isn't one.
  - If the brood frames have a nice bar of honey across the top you might not need an excluder. Queens don't like crossing the honey barrier.
  - 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!
- A few blooming nectar plants:
    - Prairie Parsley
    - Honey Mesquite
    - Green Milkweed
    - Thistles
    - Bachelor button
    - Button Bush
    - Privet
    - Texas Dandelion
    - Cilantro
    - Thyme
    - Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to [janrhodson@gmail.com](mailto:janrhodson@gmail.com) or text to 214-417-9071
  - Tips and Tools
    - Purchase or save nuc boxes to take advantage of extra queen cells.
  - Recipes: cinnamon honey butter

Next meeting: June 18, 6:30 pm, Simmons (Landmark) Bank (Maybe!)

Website: [elmforkbeekeepers.org](http://elmforkbeekeepers.org)

Amazon Smile: EFBA charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-1883488>

**Board Meetings:** Members are always welcome at our board meetings. The extension office is still closed for meetings. So, we are going to have our next board meeting in the back room at the Wolf Den Restaurant Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3-5pm, 1901 W California St, Gainesville, TX 76240

**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.