



Elm Fork Beekeepers Association

General Meeting, July 15, 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

- There will not be a Zoom connection for tonight's program.
- Joe's PowerPoint program on trap outs is on the members side of the website.
- 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



➔ Extraction Party 3pm, August 28th

- **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**

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- **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:

- ▶ Garden plants like Basil, Squash, Cucumber, cantaloupe, and watermelon are still blooming along with Vitex and crepemytles. I see a lot of things blooming but I'm not seeing bees on them.
- ▶ 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

Button Bush

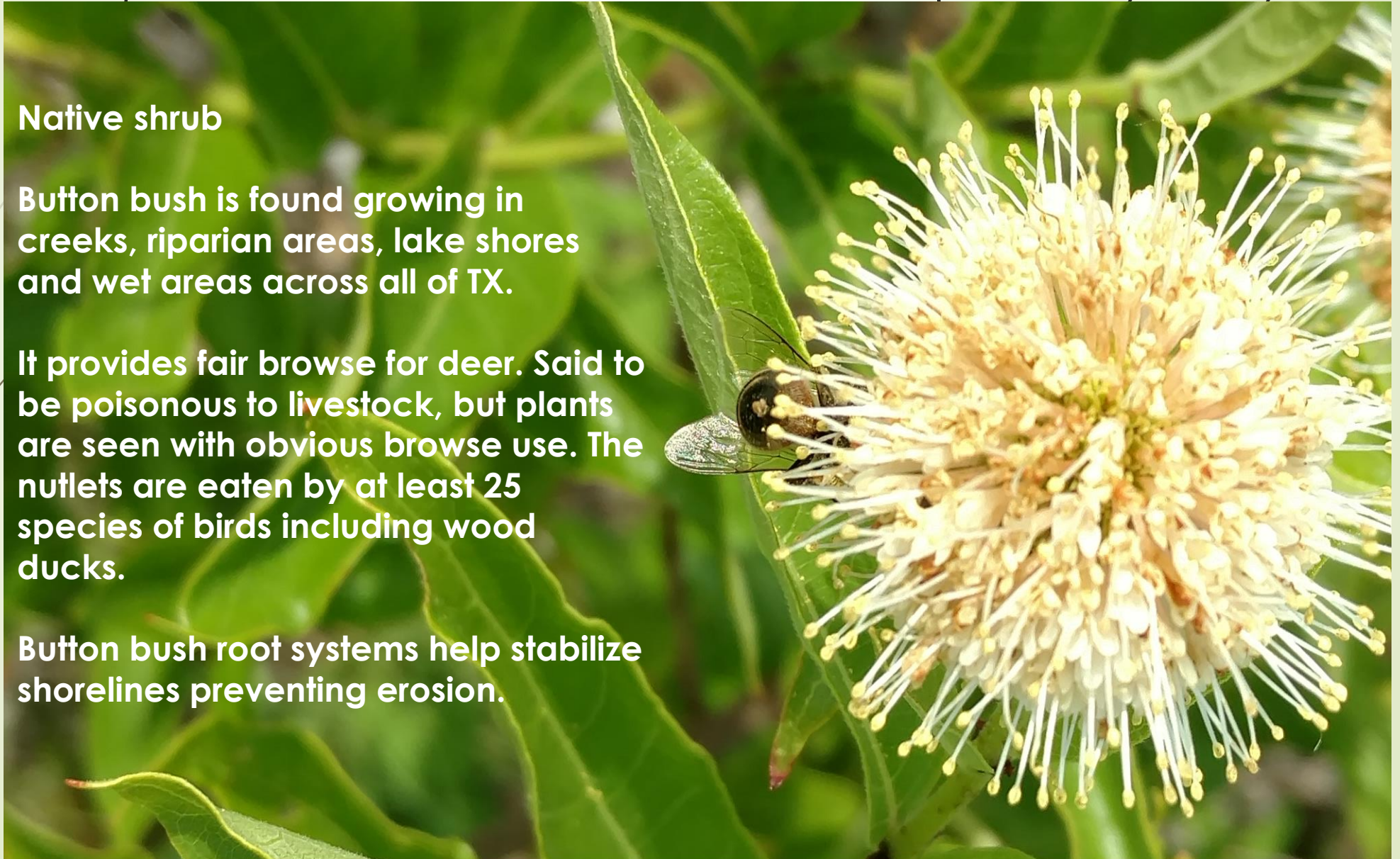
Cephalanthus occidentalis, Rubiaceae (Madder) family

Native shrub

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

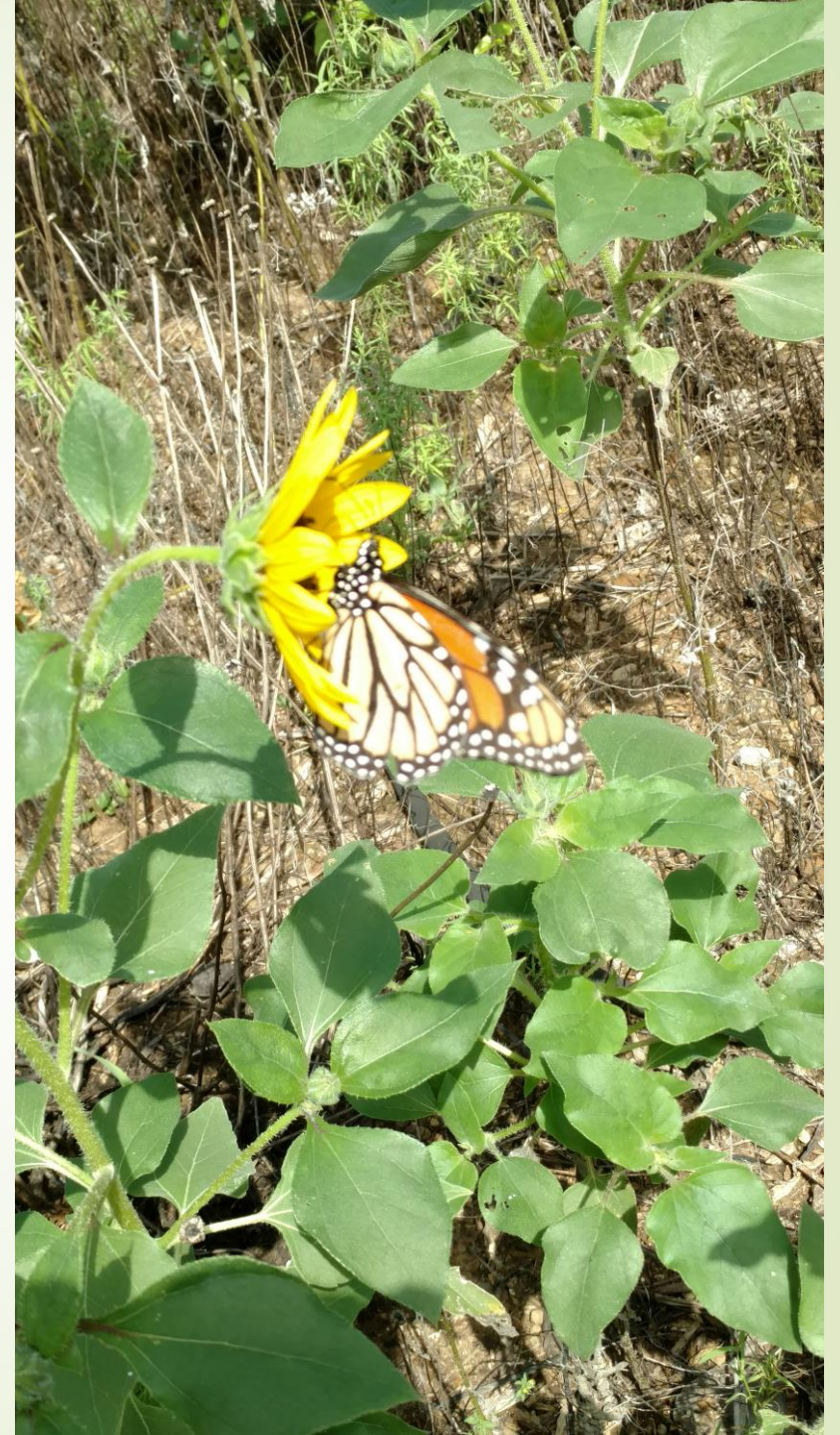
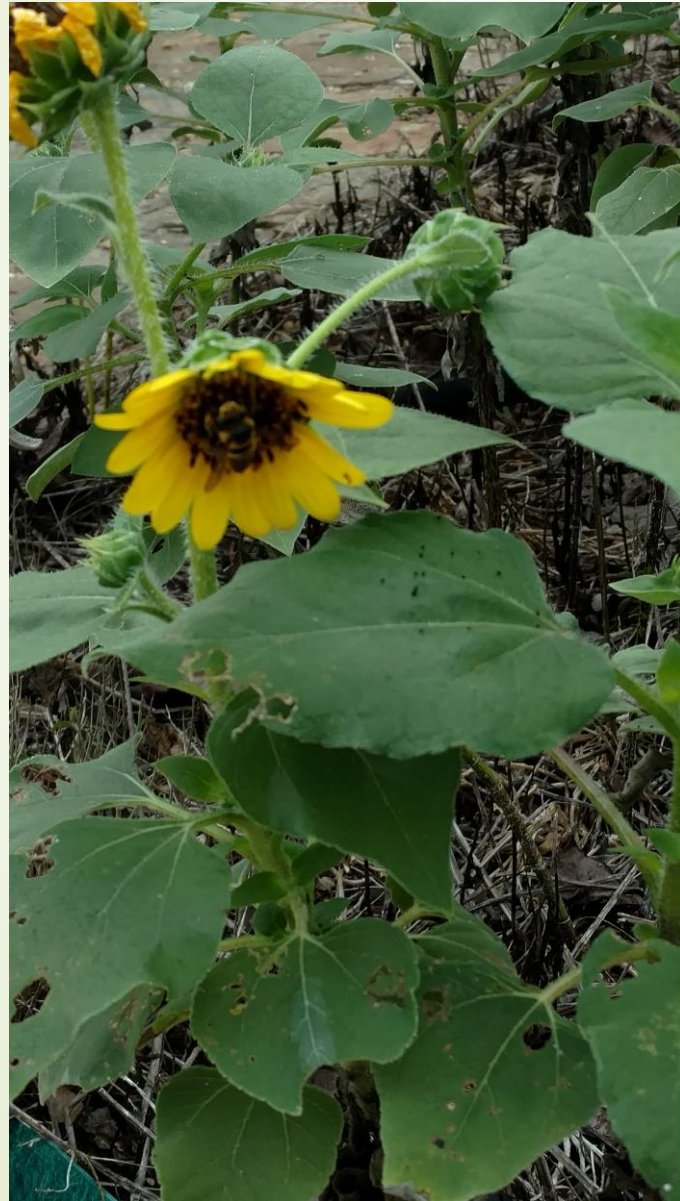
It provides fair browse for deer. Said to be poisonous to livestock, but plants are seen with obvious browse use. The nutlets are eaten by at least 25 species of birds including wood ducks.

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 humillis

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

Native perennial

Bloom period: May to September

Shade to partial shade

Fruit: Red berries eaten by birds

height: 1-3 foot

**Forage 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.

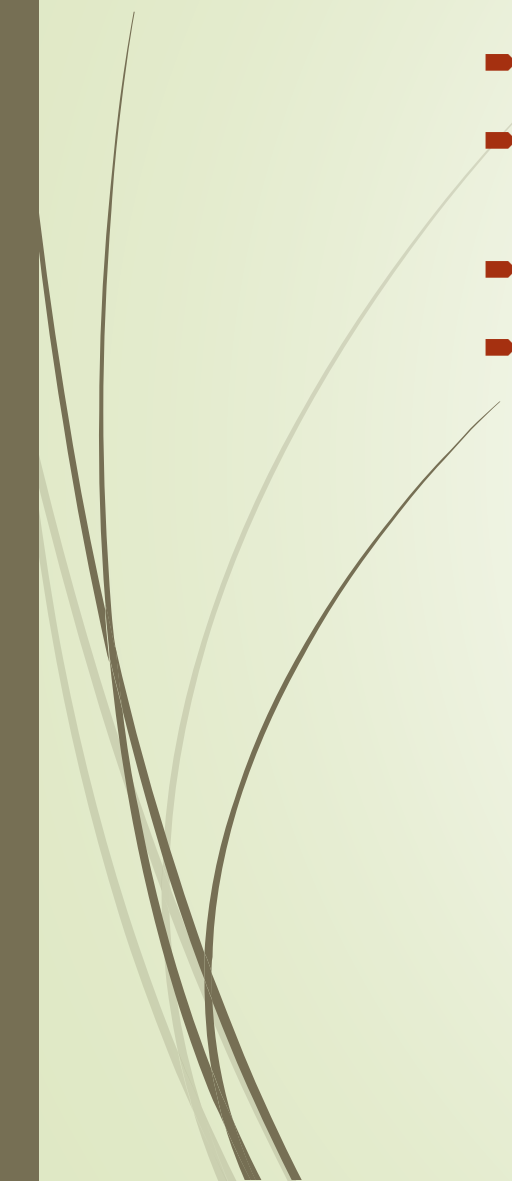
Native cotton has nectaries in the blossom, like most plants. It also possesses extra-floral nectaries underneath the leaves. The plants would produce so much nectar the bees, butterflies and hummingbirds could not keep up. Seed breeders succeeded in breeding nearly nectar free plants, thinking all bugs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

July Monthly Tips:

- **Stay hydrated!** Passing out with a super on top of you is Not Cool!
- Check for full supers. 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.
- Allow bees to clean up your super frames but remove them quickly if the nectar flow has stopped.
- 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.*
- Check for swarm and supersedure cells
- Check honey, pollen and brood pattern on frames. Some of my girls are short on pollen I'm feeding them pollen patties.



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!**
 - ▶ **Do not hesitate to call your mentor, another club member, or me (940-637-2702) if you have a question!**
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Board Meeting:

Members are always welcome at our board meetings.

Next board meeting August 5th, 6:30 pm

Contact Jan if you would like to attend.

Next Meeting:

August 19th, 6:30 pm



Speakers: Jan and Stan - Varroa Mites

