



# ➤ Announcement

## ➤ Contact lists for the public (ie swarms, bee wranglers, bee placement, etc)

We are placing notices on our **website** for contacts for swarms, cutouts, and out yard services.

- This time of the year I get lots of calls from people interested in having bees placed on their land (mainly for Ag). If you are interested in having out yards or doing bee wrangling me know.
- Also, at this time of the year I get calls from people that have swarms and cutouts. If you are interested in doing either let me know.
- Email me if you want to be listed on our website for any of the above.
- [JanRHodson@gmail.com](mailto:JanRHodson@gmail.com) or [president.elmfork@gmail.com](mailto:president.elmfork@gmail.com)

# March Monthly Tips:

- ▶ **First comprehensive inspection of the year. Clean up any dead colonies. You can use bleach water to disinfect boxes and frames.**
- ▶ **Replace old or damaged frames. Frames over 3-4 years should be replaced.**
- ▶ **Order bees/queens if you haven't already, time is running out!**
- ▶ **Check honey and pollen stores. Feed syrup and pollen if needed for colony buildup. Just because we are starting to see some blooms doesn't mean we should stop feeding. This is a critical buildup time.**
- ▶ **Nectar and pollen flow will start soon. Check quantity of brood and brood pattern. Add a super if brood is congested. March brood becomes April forage bees.**
- ▶ **Strong colonies should be starting to have full frames of brood and drone cells.**
- ▶ **Plan for splits to avoid swarms. Start making splits using new queens in April.**
- ▶ **If you are using queen cells or virgin queens wait until you are seeing drones in your hives.**
- ▶ **With spring rains, check for water/moisture in the hive. Too much humidity can cause chalk brood. You may need to add ventilation.**
- ▶ **Test for Varroa and look for other disease and pest problems, treat if needed before adding honey supers. The girls often have drone cells between hive bodies. You can't prevent tearing them open so... Check any open drone brood for varroa.**
- ▶ **Prepare equipment for new hives and supers for existing hives. Air out any wax that was stored with PDB before using.**



# A few blooming nectar plants:

Some of these have started blooming and the others will burst open soon.

- ▶ Flowering Quince
  - ▶ Bradford (Callery) Pear
  - ▶ Chickasaw Plums
  - ▶ Mexican Plum
  - ▶ Redbud
  - ▶ Peach
  - ▶ Field Madder
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- ▶ Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to [janrhodson@gmail.com](mailto:janrhodson@gmail.com) or text to 214-417-9071

# Flowering Quince

**Chaenomeles japonica**  
**(key-NOM-me-lees ja-PON-eh-cah)**

**First shrub to bloom each year.**

**Deciduous - Full sun to part shade**

**Drought tolerant but not very attractive  
in the summer- Native to China**



# Bradford (Callery) Pear

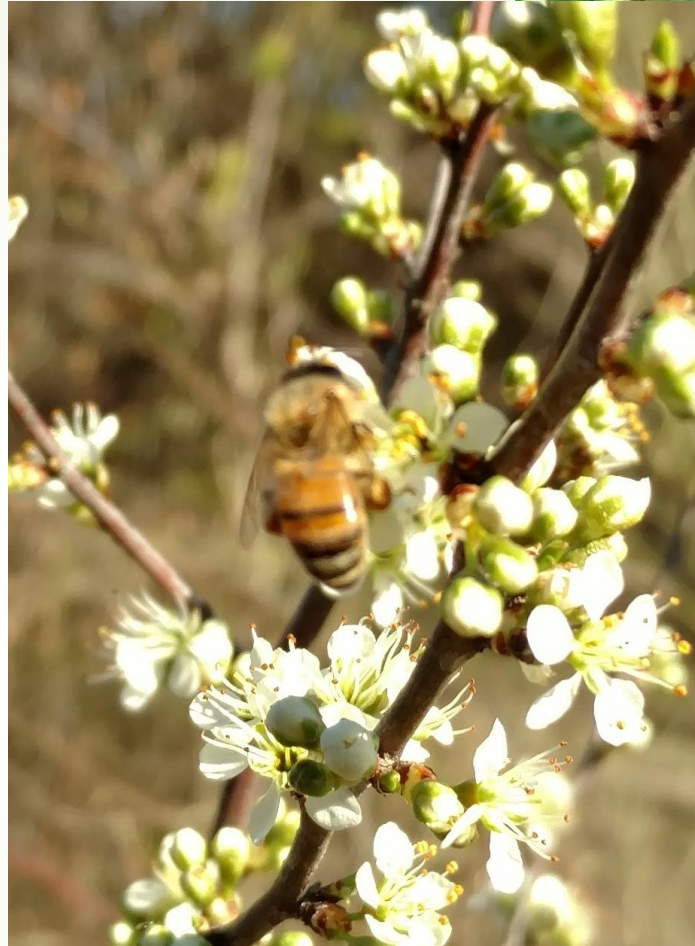
*Pyrus calleryana*, or the Callery pear, is a species of pear tree native to China and Vietnam, in the family Rosaceae. It is most commonly known for its cultivar 'Bradford', widely planted throughout the United States and increasingly regarded as an invasive species. [Wikipedia](#)

Scientific name: *Pyrus calleryana*



# Chickasaw Plums

*Prunus angustifolia*, member of the : rosaceae (rose) family  
Also known as thicket plum, hog plum, sand plum, or sandhill plum likes sandy soils. Blooms early before the leaves appear. The bark is a dark maroon. Branches often end in sharp thorny points. The shrub's roots sucker out causing a thicket or colony. The 1/2-1 inch red fruits are edible and ripen in May-June. The fruits are eaten by birds and wildlife. The tart fruit makes great jelly. Native



# Mexican Plum

*Prunus mexicana*, member of the : rosaceae (rose) family. Small tree with non suckering roots  
Blooms early before the leaves appear. The 1 inch red-dark purple fruits are edible and ripen in fall.  
The fruits are eaten by birds and wildlife. The fruit is very tart. Native



# Redbud

Scientific name: Cercis Canadensis

Family: Fabaceae (legume)

Deciduous shrub to 40 foot tree.

Texas (east and central Texas) and Mexican Redbuds (west Texas) are native. However, redbuds hybridize, so many on the market are crosses.

Which produces a variety of bloom colors ranging from dark red to white.

Photo: Michael Barber





# Peach

The peach is a deciduous tree native to the region of Northwest China, where it was first domesticated and cultivated. It bears an edible juicy fruit called a peach or a nectarine.

Scientific name: *Prunus persica*



# Field Madder

*Sherardia arvensis*, member of the : Rubiaceae family (one species) Native to Europe and N Africa has spread world wide. Annual, propagated by seed. Roots sometimes used for red dye.





# Little Stingers:

Check out Justin Hartman's humorous video on our Facebook about how to clean your smoker. (If you really want to clean your smoker, login and view the instructions on the members side of our website.)

I love old jokes and humor and decided to include a few things.

This is from a book called Grave Humor by Hall, the marker is in Wetumpka, Ala.

Solomon Pease

Here lies the body of Solomon Pease  
Under the daisies and the trees;  
Pease not here, only the pod,  
Pease shelled out and gone to God.

And, for all you opossum club members who watched the Red Green show...

Quando Omni Flunkus Moritati  
(When All Else Fails Play Dead) – Red Green