Elm Fork Beekeepers Association

General Meeting, May 20, 2021

President: Jan Hodson

Mission Statement

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.

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.

Welcome and Officers Reports

- The connections between
  - TBA
  - THBEA
  - EFBA
- Our Funding
  - Mostly through membership dues 2020= $1,600
  - Classes $1,500 - $1,100 costs = $400 (some materials donated)
  - Pollen Feeders $300-$200=$100 (some materials donated, still have stock)
  - Vetch 2020-2021 $146 (some materials donated)
  - Amazon Smile 2020 = $43

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

What do we spend it on?

- Meeting locations VFW and MSCC $50 per use, $700 yr
- Speakers (non members only) Average $50
- Door prizes average $45 per month
- Hospitality (monthly meetings, holiday and extraction parties)
  - Average $600 per year
- Website and Zoom (2020=$260)
- TBA Membership $50
- Printing, postage, and office supplies. Varies

Welcome and Officers Reports

- **Classes for 2021 are complete.**
  - **Main Complaints**
    - **Hands on in bee hive**
    - **Building**
- **Interesting:**

Pollen's unbe-leaf-able usefulness
One of the ways Krupnick and his colleague Lew Ziska, a plant physiologist at the University of Columbia, gather information about plants' responses to climate change is through the plant's leaves and pollen. Pollinators, like bees, use pollen as a nutritious source of food filled with protein made from nitrogen. But nitrogen also plays an important role in photosynthesis. Plants use it to break down carbon dioxide, which when combined with sunlight and water, creates sugars and carbohydrates. So, as carbon dioxide increases, the plant must use more nitrogen for photosynthesis. That means less nitrogen is available for plant parts like leaves and pollen.

Pollinators, like bees, eat pollen for its nitrogen-rich protein. But as nitrogen concentrations decrease in pollen, pollinators are not receiving the same level of nutrients as they may have a century ago. (Rosa Pineda, Smithsonian)

"Lew's research found that there's a lot less nitrogen in the herbarium's pollen grains today than there were 100 years ago. Bees that feed on pollen grains with lesser amounts of nitrogen, or protein, are getting a lot less nutritious food than their ancestors," said Krupnick.

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

May Monthly Tips:

- 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 he 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 made 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!

Handy Tips and Tools:

Purchase or build 5 frame nuc boxes and have them on hand. Save EZ nucs or the new plastic nuc boxes for opportunities like swarm cells or extra supercedure cells.

Queen cells are often on several frames. You can split the colony by putting a frame with brood and queen cells in a nuc box. Add a frame with honey, a pollen frame, and if you have it a frame with open comb. Add a feeder and if all goes well you will have a laying queen in a month.

You can pull your existing queen if she hasn't swarmed yet and put her in a nuc with the same resources. This will simulate her swarming and leave the original hive with a queen cell or two. If for some reason the queen cell doesn't produce a new laying queen, you can use a newspaper combine to return the old queen to the hive.

If all goes well you will have expanded your apiary.

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 or text to 214-417-9071

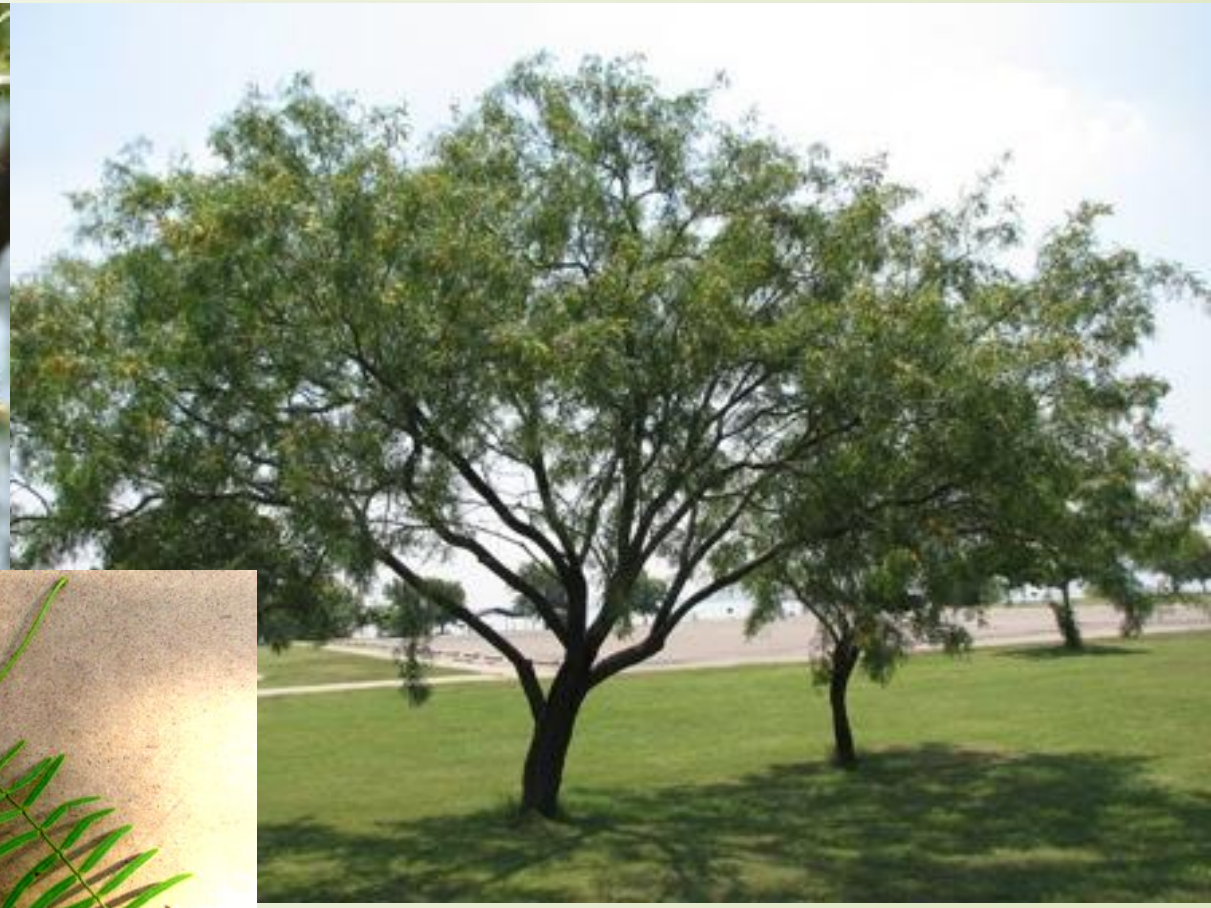
Prairie Parsley

Native

Host Plant for the Black Swallowtail Butterfly

Photos: Michael Barber

Honey Mesquite (native)



Green Milkweed native
Host plant for the Monarch and Queen Butterflies

Thistles

Photo: Stan Brandon

Bachelor Button/ Cornflower *Centaurea cyanus* Family: Asterceae (sunflower family) Tender perennial/annual in this area.

Introduced European wildflower

Flowers can be added to salads, remove pistals and stamens from flowers before eating.

Photo by: S. Richburg

Button Bush

Cephalanthus occidentalis

Family: Rubiaceae (madder family)

Native riparian shrub

The nutlets are eaten by at least 25 species of birds including wood ducks.

Privet
Ligustrum family
Non-native
Extremely Invasive

Texas Dandelion

Pyrrhopappus carolinianus

Family: Asteraceae (sunflower family)

Native annual (pot herb, leaves usually parboiled to remove bitter taste.) Photo by: Louann Barfknecht

Cilantro

Thyme

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:

Tonight we have: Dr Lisa Bellows