



Our Topic this Month: Gavin Hutchins - Cover Crops for Bees

Please join us on Oct 20th, doors open at 6pm meeting
starts at 6:30pm

VFW Hall

Announcements

We approved a new Scholarship Application!

Lilly Mask, age 12

Lilly lives in the Whitesboro area, plays volleyball on the Red River Rattlers Team, and attends Denton Bible Church.

We are still looking for additional scholarship kids. If you know anyone that would be a good candidate please point them to the application on our website.

Announcements

- Elections are coming up in November and we need volunteers for an elections committee and people willing to step up into a board position. Some board members have served multiple years and are ready to move on. Please consider serving, most positions only require a few hours a month.
 - Currently we have one nomination for President: Tim Branam
 - Julie is wanting to step down as Treasurer.
 - We will need a new director at large.
 - Please contact a board member if you are interested in serving.
- Dues are Due! Our renewal for dues was in July. If you have not renewed please drop a \$25 check in the mail to:

Elm Fork Beekeepers Assn.
301 S. Chestnut
Gainesville, TX 76240

Or, pay online through our website.



Mark your Calendar: 2023 Beekeeping Classes

This course consists of 3 sessions.

Saturday, January 28, 2023 Basic Beekeeping

This class covers: bee biology, standard equipment, choosing the best hive location, installation of a package or nucleus of bees.

Saturday, February 25, 2023 Hive Management

This class will focus on honey bee colony management. First year management and second year/ongoing seasonal hive management, pest and disease management.

Saturday, March 25, 2023 Advanced Hive Management

This class will cover re-queening, increases, simple queen rearing, laws, extractions and preparing to market hive products.

Location: North Central Texas College, building 500, Gainesville TX.

Times: 9am-4pm

Fee: \$100 for all three classes. The price includes lunch and course books.



October Monthly Tips:

- Check honey, pollen and brood pattern on frames. The girls need 30-50 lbs of honey stored for the winter.
- Fall pollen and nectar should be available until first frost.
- Due to cooler nights queen may have moved her laying to the top hive box. Brood needs to be kept around 93° F
- Brood laying will start tapering off as it gets colder.
- Remove Queen Excluders so bees can cluster
- Remove screened inner covers.
- Install entrance reducers.
- You may need a mouse guard, if not on a tall hive stand.
- Consider facing hives to the south. Tilt hives so rain will not run into the hive.
- Treat for varroa if needed. Use oxalic acid when there is no capped brood left.
- Check to make sure that paradichlorobenzene (PDB) crystals in stored supers haven't evaporated.



A few blooming nectar plants:

- ▶ Pigeon-berry (*Rivina humilis*)
 - ▶ Narrow-leaf gayfeather (*Liatris mucronata*)
 - ▶ Asters (several species)
 - ▶ Rooseveltweed (*Baccharis neglecta*)
 - ▶ Amaranth (several species) common names: pigweed, red-root pigweed, quelite
 - ▶ Common Broomweed (*Xanthocephalum dracuncunculoides*)
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- ▶ Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to janrhodson@gmail.com or text to 214-417-9071

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



Liatris/Narrow Leaf Gayfeather

Liatris mucronata
Asteraceae (*sunflower family*),
Native Perennial, with onion like corm

Bloom: August-October

**Other Species in TX: *Aspera*, *elegans*,
pycnstachya, *squarrosa***



Annual Aster

Also called salt marsh aster

Aster subulatus or *Symphotrichum subulatum*

Asteraceae (Sunflower family)

Native annual

Bloom: Sept-November

Photos by: Michael Barber



Heath Aster

Aster ericoides

Asteraceae (*sunflower family*),

Native Perennial

Bloom: October-December



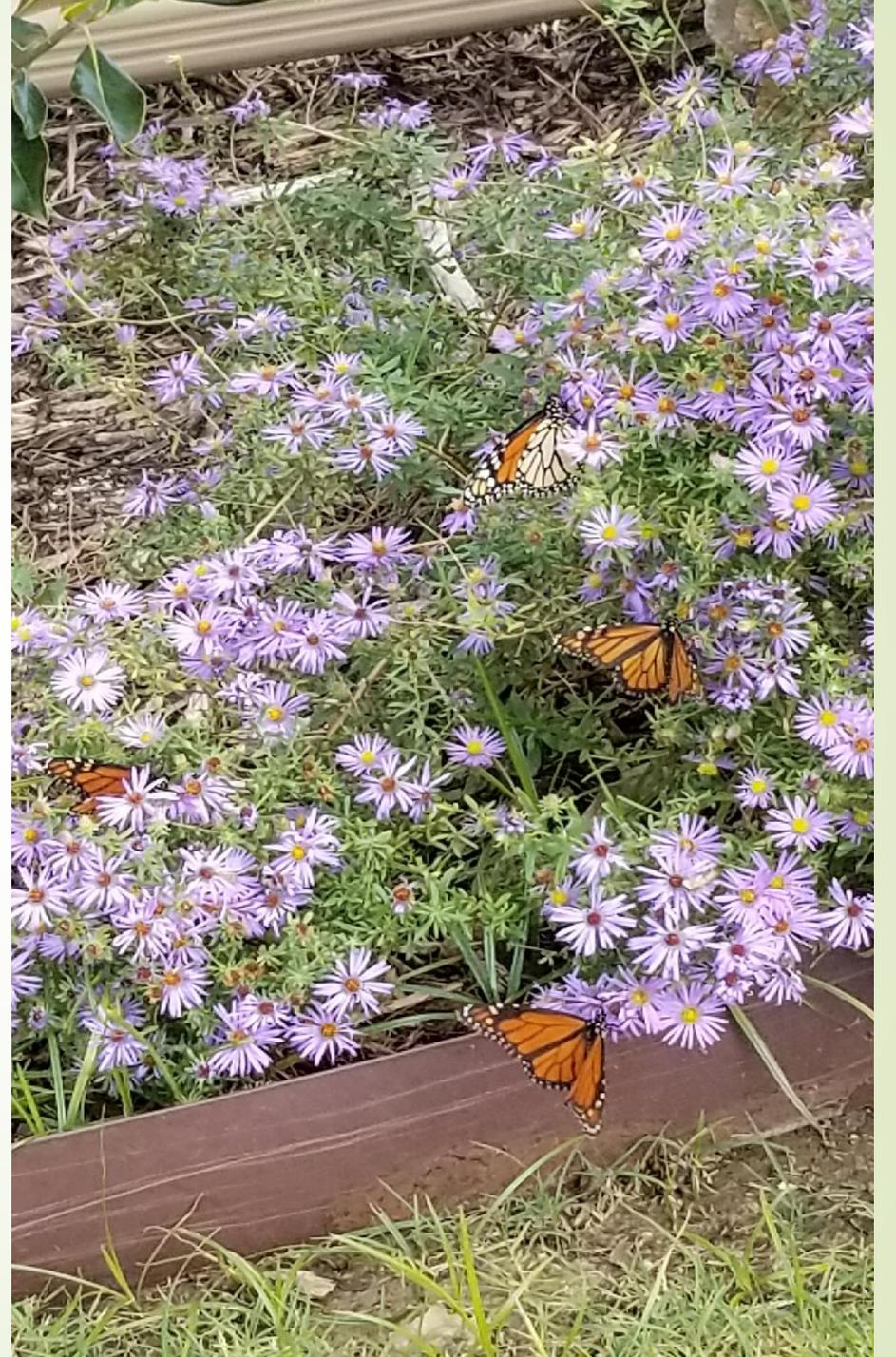
Aster Cultivar

Asteraceae (Sunflower family)

Perennial

Bloom: Sept-November

Photo: Robby Ayers

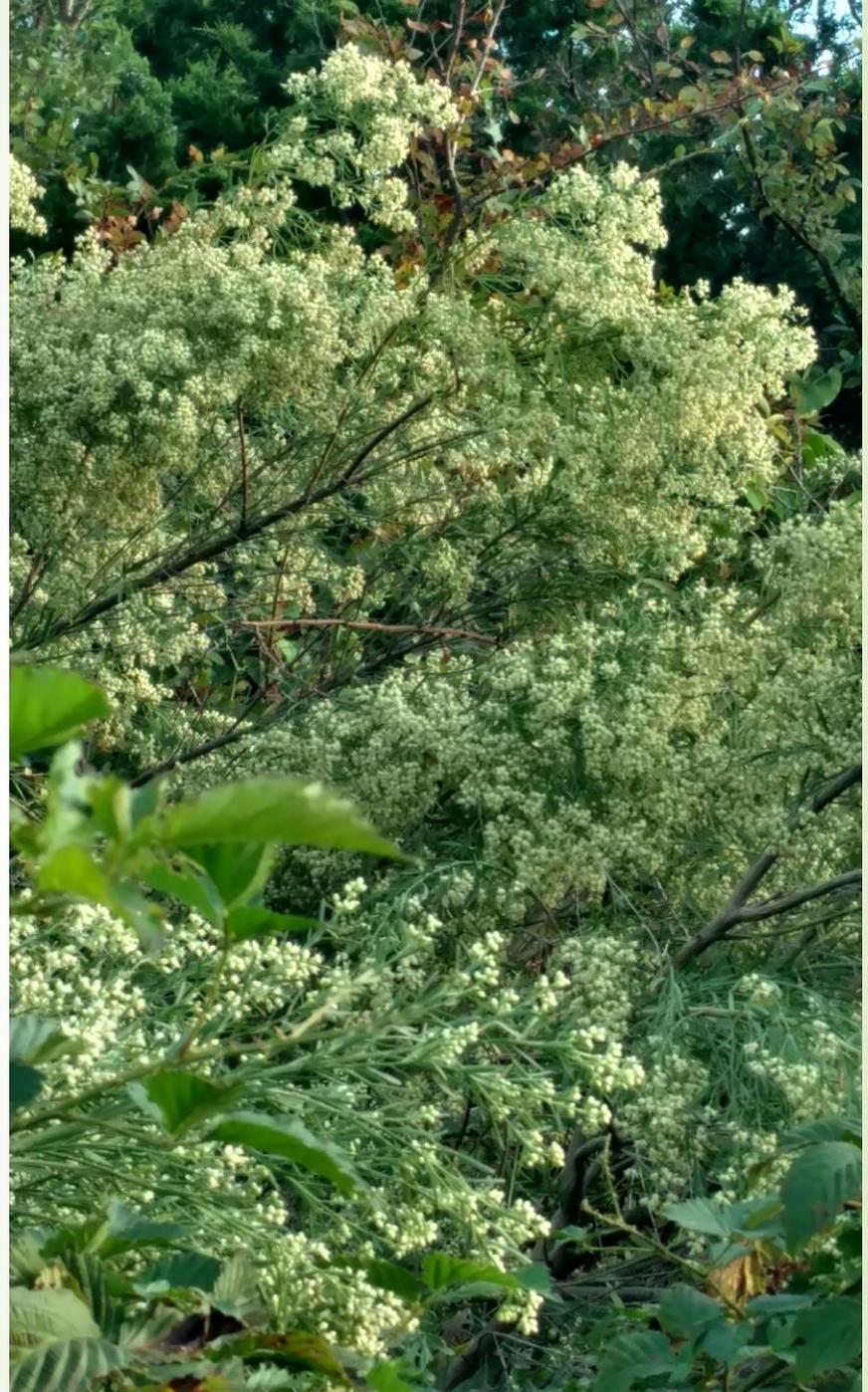


Rooseveltweed

Baccharis neglecta
Asteraceae (sunflower family)
Shrub, grows 3-9ft

Bloom: Sept-November

Grows best in moist ditches and riparian areas. Good for holding soils along creeks.



Amaranth, Pigweed, Red Root

Amaranthaceae (Spp: *retroflexus*, *albus*,
bitoides, *palmeri*, 23 species in TX spread
worldwide from South America and southern
TX)

Native, annual

Bloom: June-October



Amaranth

An ancient grain which is making a come back in the USA as part of grain mixes used in organic foods. It was a trade good and had religious importance to the Aztecs. The Native Americans used the young tender plant as greens and the seeds as a grain. The plant is high in nutritional value. **Photos thanks to: Michael Barber**



Common Broomweed

Xanthocephalum dracuncunculoides

Family: Asteraceae (sunflower)

Native annual

Bloom period: Sept – Dec

Most of the leaves have dropped by the time they bloom.

Settlers gathered the plants and tied them to sticks to make brooms.

Toxic to livestock and may cause inflammation of the eyes in people and livestock.

Note: There is a similar perennial plant called Broom Snakeweed *Xanthocephalum sarothrae*, it retains its leaves. Also called Matchweed due to it being highly flammable when dried.



Photo by: Lorrie Skwarek



Little Stingers:

You have to be crazy...

Confidence, never comes from having all the answers; it comes from being open to all the questions.

Books had instant replay long before televised sports.

Heredity is what sets the parents of a teen wondering about each other.

The history of liberty is a history of the limitation of government power.
– Woodrow Wilson

Life is made up of marble and mud. – Nathaniel Hawthorne

Some of the worlds greatest feats were accomplished by people not smart enough to know they were impossible – Doug Larson