



Elm Fork Beekeepers Association



General Meeting, April 15, 2021

President: Jan Hodson




➡ Welcome and Officers Reports

- ➡ Rebecca Vaughan, director TBA
- ➡ THBEA has awarded us a \$1,000 grant for our youth scholarship program
 - ➡ Michael Barber of Honey Bees Unlimited is donating a Nuc
 - ➡ We decided to provide Keldyn with equipment and bees for 2 hives
- ➡ Amazon Smile charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/61-1883488>
- ➡ Check out our facebook posts!



➤ Announcements

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

- 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 let us 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 us know.
 - Email me if you want to be contacted for any of the above.
 - JanRHodson@gmail.com or president.elmfork@gmail.com
- 

- 
- 
- **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**

April Monthly Tips:

- Don't let the green out there fool you! Any rain washes away nectar and pollen. Check honey and pollen stores. Feed syrup and pollen if needed for colony buildup. Check hives for:
 - Swarm and supercedure cells
 - Crowding
 - Egg laying room
 - Brood box has 3 frames of honey/nectar
 - Room for more honey
- Nectar flow should be ramping up. 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. Test for varroa and treat before installing honey supers.
- Don't install queen excluder until the bees begin to draw out comb in the super. You can use an 8 frame queen excluder or turn the excluder sideways, to allow easier access for the worker bees.
- April is an ideal time to make splits using new queens.
- You can strengthen a weak hive by taking capped brood frames from a strong hive shaking off the bees and adding them to a weak hive. First ask, **Why is the hive weak?**
- Consider whether the hive maybe in a bad location, aging queen, mites, etc.



A few blooming nectar plants:

- Take pictures of bees on nectar plants and email to ianrhodson@gmail.com or text to 214-417-9071
- Arugula
- Little Blue Eyes
- Showy Primrose
- Bastard Cabbage
- Gulf Coast Penstemon
- Vetch (Common and Hairy)
- Dewberry and Blackberry
- Sage (common culinary)
- Sedge Grass

Arugula

Also called Rocket, Corn Salad, Rocket Salad

Scientific name: *Eruca vesicaria*

Family: Brassicaceae (cruciferae/mustard)

Annual-perennial

Garden Herb, green salad ingredient having a peppery taste



Blue-Eyed Grass

Sisyrinchium Pruinosum, member of the : Iridaceae (Iris) family. Native



Showy Primrose/ Pink Lady

Scientific name: *Oenothera speciosa*

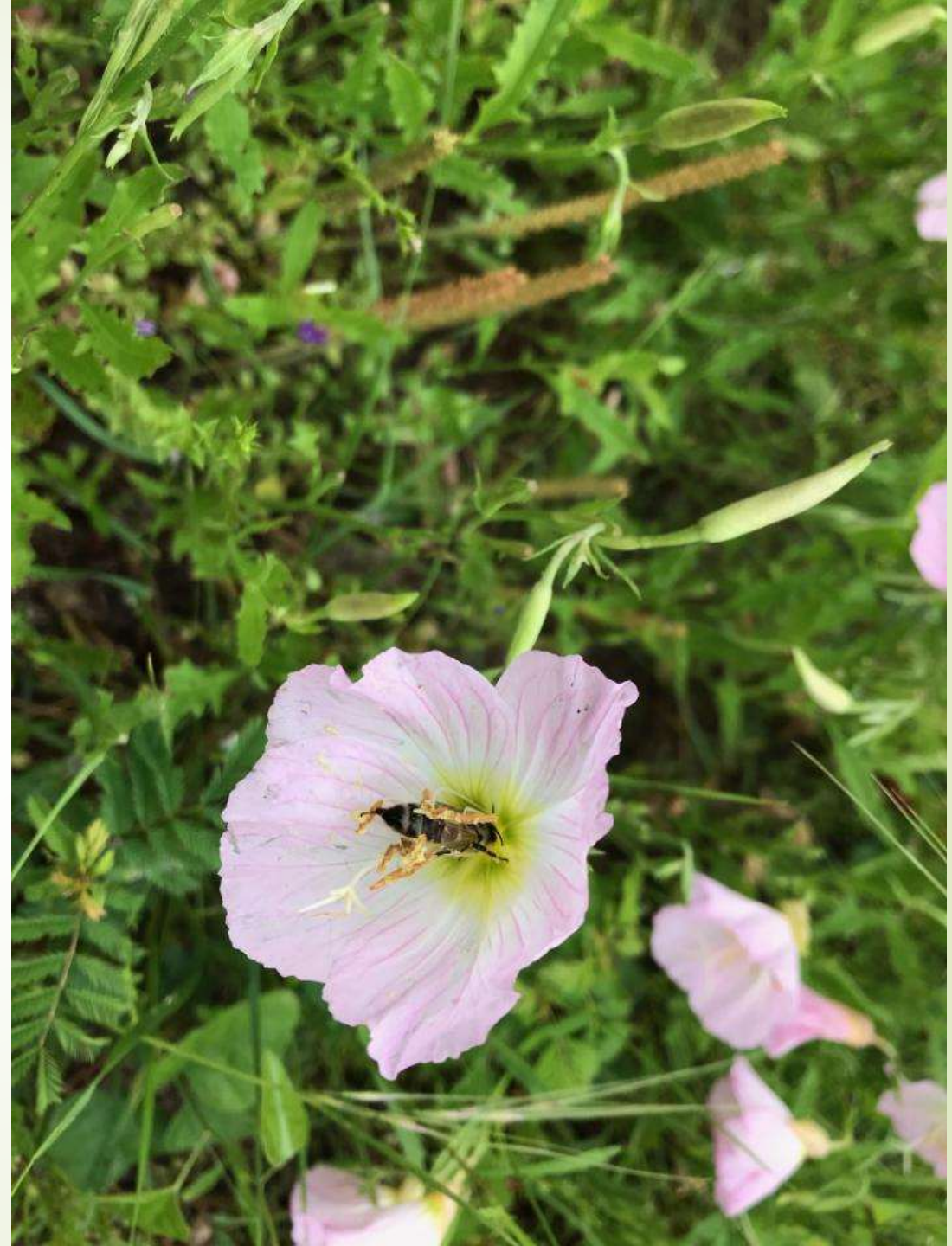
Family: Onagraceae

Texas native

It is a herbaceous perennial wildflower. It frequently escapes from gardens. The specific name, *speciosa*, means "showy".

The plant's wild habitat includes rocky prairies, open woodlands, slopes, roadsides, meadows and disturbed areas. While it makes an attractive garden plant, care should be taken with it as it can become invasive, spreading by runners and seeds. This drought-resistant plant prefers loose, fast-draining soil and full sun. But, can tolerate clay and part shade.

Note: The leaves can be used for salad or greens, best before blooms appear.



Bastard Cabbage

Rapistum Rugosum (*Mustard family*)
Introduced invasive, native to Eurasia and
parts of Africa, annual
Bloom: All year if conditions are right.

Photos by: Michael Barber



Gulf Coast Penstemon

Scientific name: Penstemon tenuis

Family: Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family)

I started my penstemon with 3 plants several years ago. Those plants are gone. But, during the winter I weed wack them down. It throws seeds everywhere now they popup in strange places. Bees crawl down in the blooms. Most penstemons like well drained soil, these guys are not real picky, sand, loam, clay or gumbo. They will grow in part shade or full sun.

Perennial, reseeds



Common Vetch

Scientific name: Vicia

Sativa

Family: Fabaceae
(legume)

Many species,
introduced annual
Cover crop



Hairy Vetch

Vicia villosa, known as the **hairy vetch**, **fodder vetch** or **winter vetch**, is a plant native to some of Europe and western Asia. It is a legume, grown as a forage crop, fodder crop, cover crop, and green manure. Although non-native, it occurs in all US states and is considered invasive by some states, such as Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington state — as well as in Japan and some parts of Europe where it is not native. It is also found in most Canadian provinces.



Black Berry

Scientific name: *Rubis Fruticosis*

Member of the rose family

Native, perennial

Common Blackberry is also called brambles or briars. This member of the rose family has a love/hate relationship with Texans. Folks love the fruit but hate the rose like thorns and invasive habits of this hardy thicket shrub.

The delicious fruit is consumed by humans, birds, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, skunks, armadillos, opossums, and rodents. The leaves are used in herbal teas. The thickets provide cover and protection to small animals from predators.

Dewberries (*rubis aboriginium*) are very similar. They small trailing brambles growing closer to the ground and have hairy fine pickles instead of rose like thorns.



Common Sage

Scientific name: *Salvia Officinalis*

Member of the Lamiaceae (mint) family

Mediterranean, perennial

Culinary and medicinal uses



Sedge Grass

One of the many Sedges You can tell them by the shape of the stems.

Didn't really have time to look this one up!

The flowers are tiny but the bees find them.

There used to be lots of bluebonnets in the spring on Lone Oak Road right of way. They were planted by TXDOT. My neighbors have mowed them down so many times that they are gone. I got some new neighbors last year, he spent 3 days mowing their 10 acres to look like a golf course. Then he put Longhorns on the land. I wonder what he thinks they eat?



Instead of shirts that say "Save The Bees!" we need ones that say "Save The Weeds!"

Handy Tips and Tools:

- Laundry soap bottles make great syrup dispensers. With a little work you can remove the pour spout, fill them with syrup, install the pour spout and fill the feeders. The lids keep the bees out between hives. Of course, clean them of all traces of soap before use.





Door Prize Drawing

Board Meeting:

Members are always welcome at our board meetings.

Next zoom board meeting May 20, 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 Speakers:

Tonight we have TBA Director Rebecca Vaughan

Rebecca was born in Tyler, TX and grew up in Carrollton. She owns Eastside Honey Bee Management in Wills Point and works extensively with the local community, making school presentations, leading beginner bee classes as well as classes on pollination and rescuing honey bee swarms. She is the Event Organizer for Texas Beekeepers Association and will always welcome suggestions for conference locations. She is an Advanced Beekeeper in the Texas Master Beekeeping Program and will always welcome you to come by and see her bees.

Followed by Justin Hartman talking about queens



Texas Beekeepers Association

Focused on the honey bee



















TEXAS BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

TBA is a member-based organization that represents all Texas beekeepers and local beekeeping associations. We work with scientists, educators, beekeepers, honey packers, vendors, and others interested in the promotion of Texas beekeeping and REAL TEXAS HONEY.

Club Membership Benefits

-  Permission to share the TBA Journal (6) issues with all members
-  TBA hosted club website
-  Access to a speaker list
-  Information on club creation including drafts of bylaws
-  Club listing on TBA locator map
-  Club listing in TBA Journal
-  Complimentary 1 year memberships to all new club members that have yet to become a member with the TBA

Individual Membership Benefits

-  Latest Beekeeping News
-  Current Beekeeping Laws and Regulations
-  Teaching tools
-  Latest Honey labeling requirements
-  Video archive
-  Discounted tickets for yearly events
-  Your copy of the TBA Journal (6 issues yearly)

Latest News



THBEA offers grant money to clubs to facilitate youth programs



Information on how to comment on the APHIS plans to eradicate the Tallow tree

How to support THBEA and show off a LOVE HONEY BEES License Plate

BEE 123

Legislative Committee



TBA provides representation at the state level in regards to proposed and existing legislation for the purpose of protecting beekeepers from internal issues within the beekeeping industry as well as external policies that might have an affect on beekeeping

Legislative Committee

Past Legislation:

Beekeeper Honey Production Frequently Asked Questions - Added July 16, 2020

Did anything change for beekeepers selling honey in Texas with the adoption of the updated 25 TAC 229.210-225 Subchapter N, Current GMP and GWP in Manufacturing, Packing or Holding Human Food that became effective August 2, 2017?

Yes, beekeepers that sell raw honey produced from their own bees/hives are “farms” and are exempt from licensing as food manufacturers when engaged in allowable farm activities. Examples of allowable farm activities include extracting and bottling raw honey whether for retail or wholesale. DSHS adopts the clarification provided by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in its Questions and Answers Regarding Food Facility Registration (Seventh Edition): Guidance for Industry in Question B.1.19.

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/foods/faqs.aspx>

2021 Legislative Focus

01

Vandalism Bill

TBA is working on getting hives and apiaries added to the law protecting chicken processing plants

02

Permits

TBA is continuing to work to remove the intrastate permit requirement

03

Agricultural Valuation

Working to level the requirements to match the landscape of each county



The Texas Beekeepers
Association
supports
Texas Beekeepers
through the
Real Texas
Honey Program



Texas Honey Bee Education Association is a charitable research and education organization with a mission to further knowledge in the process of protecting honey bees and establishing more informed beekeepers.

TBA 2021 Annual Events

The TBA also hosts 2 events annually that bring in nationally recognized leaders in research, development, and husbandry in the beekeeping industry.

For 2021:

June - Virtual Summer Clinic

**November – In-Person Annual Convention
and Honey Show**

