

# Diggin' In The Dirt: Beetles in the News, Termites on the Wing

By Chip Bubl

## OSU Extension presence at Vernonia's First Friday event

For those of you who haven't been, the First Friday Art event (next one is September 2nd from 5-8:00 PM) is a great place to be. Lots of talented people are there with interesting things to sell and many wonderful stories. The OSU/Columbia County Extension office has had table there for the past two years. We sell nothing but hopefully provide good information and conversation. Local Master Gardener volunteers are often there along with myself. If you have a plant question, weed sample, or anything else garden or farm related, stop by.

## Food preservation information

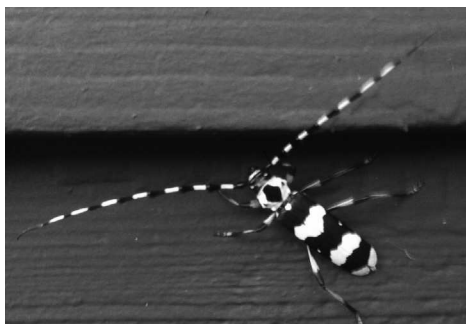
The OSU Food Preservation Hotline will be available Mondays through Thursdays from 9am until 4pm at 1-800-354-7319. Additionally, you can call our local office at 503 397-3462 with food preservation questions and to get your pressure canner tested.

## Beetles in the news

There are several beetles that are

real attention grabbers. The first (with a picture courtesy of Vernonia's own Erika Paleck) is the banded alder borer. This insect is quite spectacular and is the centerpiece of many a 4-H entomology collection. Banded alder borers have bodies that are 1.5-3 inches long. The female (since she carries and deposits the eggs) is a little stouter the male. Both have long antennae and wing covers that are banded black and white.

As the name indicates, this insect lays its eggs in dead or dying



hardwoods, mainly maple and alder. The larva are medium sized, fleshy wood borers. There is no evidence that they are a threat to healthy living trees or wood constructed buildings. They like firewood and often adults can be found near wood piles or sheds.

Since they can fly, they show up in many places, generally singly but rarely in groups. There is anecdotal evidence that they are attracted to freshly painted buildings, which may have been the case at the Paleck residence.

I have never heard of any reason to spray these beetles. They are gentle dead wood consumers, part of our natural decay cycle in the wonderful temperate rain forest we live in.

The ten-lined June beetle is another striking insect commonly found this time of year (it's all about mating, really). This beetle is stouter than the alder borer and has distinct stripes adorning its wing covers. They make a striking whirring noise when approached, but are harmless. The male, in particular, has wonderful antennae that divided and



and look for a suitable home. Suitable is the key. A dampwood termite requires continuously wet wood. If there is no dirt piled up against your house or leaking pipes in the walls, you don't have to worry about the dampwood termite. They can't live there. The subterranean termite is more devious. It must have moisture. But it can conduct moisture up mud tubes from the earth into your house structure. Crawl under your house once a year to look for these tubes and survey outside along the foundation. The picture shows the winged female and various worker castes. Don't get sold a tent job since it shouldn't be necessary in Western Oregon. On the other hand, our most serious structural pest, the carpenter ant, will become more visible as the weather warms. These pests need to be taken seriously if they have taken up residence in your house. More on this topic in the next column.

The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

## Free newsletter

The Oregon State University Extension office in Columbia County publishes a monthly newsletter on gardening and farming topics (called County Living) written/edited by yours truly. All you need to do is ask for it and it will be mailed to you. Call 503 397-3462 to be put on the list. Alternatively, you can find it on the web at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/> and click on newsletters.

Contact information for the Extension office:

Oregon State University Extension Service - Columbia County  
505 N. Columbia River Highway (across from the Legacy clinic)  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
503 397-3462  
Email: [chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu](mailto:chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu)

subdivided into a fan-like structure. One author compared them to elk antlers. The antennae help the male test the air in the hopes of finding the perfume of the perfect female. They mate, the male apparently dies fairly soon, and the female looks to lay eggs around the roots of young conifer trees. While there is no reason to be concerned in our area, some tree nurseries, especially on sandy soils, have had to manage the larva to keep the seedlings alive. The larval life cycle can last up to four years.

## Termites on the wing

Flying termites don't require sprays or exterminators. The reproductive forms of our two termites fly this time of year to mate. Fertilized queens drop to earth, shed their wings

## Local Properties For Rent

**406 A Street**  
5 bedroom, 3 bath,  
family room,  
laundry room.  
Updated vinyl  
windows through-  
out. Formerly a  
3-plex converted  
into a home. For  
faster reply contact  
Ted at 503-799-0999  
\$895/mo.



For more info contact Danielle 503-784-9560 or leave message at 503-255-2959

**VIP Property Management, Inc.**

## Classified Ad Rates

\$5/month

Rideshare/Carpool Ads FREE

# CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an ad call: 503-367-0098  
email: [scott@vernoniasvoice.com](mailto:scott@vernoniasvoice.com)

## FOR RENT

**3 bedroom** - 2 bath, washer/dryer and dishwasher included. \$850/mo. Call 503-241-8020

**Townhouse for Rent**, Vernonia. 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, gas fireplace, garage, deck. \$825/mo. First, last, deposit. Convenient location. 503-803-7511

**Apartments for Rent** - 409 Rose Ave. 3 studios avail. \$450 rent, \$400 dep. Call Tim 503-396-3371

**2 Bdrm Townhouse** - now available. \$579/mo. Blue Heron Hollow. Water, sewer, garbage paid. Tax credit. Drop in for a tour and a cup of coffee. 503-429-6052 Equal Housing Opportunity

**Self Storage** - Fine, insulated storage units in Clatskanie. 20 sizes, on site managers - John & Kris Lillich. Visa/MC/AmEx accepted. 503-728-2051

**House for Sale or Rent** with references. Newly renovated 2 bd, 1.5 bath, large kitchen, with all appliances & breakfast nook. Washer/dryer, covered back porch area, lots of storage space in back of house, new carpet allowance for buyers. Make appt. w/ Steve Calhoun, Oregon Realty, 503-429-4300

**1 Bedroom Apartment** - 1 bath, 2nd floor apt. Includes water, sewer, garbage & garage space. \$500/mo. 1st, last & security dep. Call Jeff 503-780-8884 for info.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Need Food Assistance?** We're willing to help. Vernonia Cares Food Bank, 627 Adams Avenue. Open Tues and Thurs, 10am - 2pm. Call 503-429-1414.

## GARAGE SALE

**Aug 26-27 Garage Sale** - 987 2nd Ave, Vernonia. 9am-4pm Kitchen chairs, bathroom sink/faucet, craft supplies, computer desk... eclectic mix.

## FOR SALE

**Weekly Auction**--New auction hours. Weekly auctions every Thurs, preview 5:30 PM, auction 6:30 PM. We buy gold, silver, coins, household items, estates. 114 S. 17th Street, St. Helens. 503-396-5898 or [www.EstateAuctionsNW.com](http://www.EstateAuctionsNW.com)

**Trehanne Firewood Service**-- Fir cut, split and delivered - \$150/ cord local. Jerry Budge 503-429-1811

## SERVICES

**Photo Restoration** and enlargements. Save your family photos before they're gone forever! Have your pics digitally repaired, enlarged or copied. I will pick up & deliver. Call 503-980-3289

**Safety Course Classes** - Required for the Oregon Concealed Handgun License-fulfills application requirements. Also personalized firearms proficiency training classes available. Small classes ensure individual attention. Local and flexible scheduling. Please call 503-429-7342 for details.

## VACATION RENTAL

**Rockaway Beach House** - Two/2 bedroom units. \$95/\$115 or both \$200. Stay 5 nights and the next 2 are free. Pets allowed with fee. Check our website for more info [www.pcez.com/~flyby](http://www.pcez.com/~flyby) or call 503-556-5850

## HELP WANTED

**Assistant Teacher openings** in our Vernonia and St. Helens Head Start centers. Must have a CDA or a one year ECE certificate from an accredited college and one year experience working in an early childhood classroom. The position is 30-35 hours per week, \$9.76 an hour with benefits. Position is open until filled. Visit our website [www.nworheadstart.org](http://www.nworheadstart.org) for a full job description and application.

**9-1-1 Communications Specialist** - Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District (C911CD) is conducting a hiring process for full-time Communications Specialists. Log on to [www.columbia911.com](http://www.columbia911.com) and click on Hiring or information will be mailed by calling 503-397-7255 ext 2221 and leaving name and mailing address. Deadline to request information is Thurs, Sept. 8, 2011 at 3:00 pm. Deadline to schedule attendance at the informational meeting is Thurs, Sept. 15, 2011 at 3:00 pm.

**Free Horse Stall**-- Board your horse, self care in exchange for farm work/cleaning stalls for small livestock. Approx. 10 hrs total labor per week. Great riding trails close by. Near Vernonia Airport. Contact Heather 503-502-6703

**Part-time Bookkeeper** - 8-12 hrs per week, in Vernonia. Must be experienced in using Quickbooks & organizing financial records. Please request full job description by emailing: [maggie@nehalem.org](mailto:maggie@nehalem.org). Wage rate commensurate with experience/education. Send resume & 2 references to Maggie Peyton, UNWC, 825 Bridge St, Vernonia, OR 97064