

# Spiders earn keep as pest control

In corners and along baseboards, on ceilings and spun between shrubs, spiders crawl through our lives this time of year.

"Spiders are on the move right now because they're looking for a mate," according to Gail Langellotto, an entomologist with Oregon State University's Extension Service.

"The domestic house spider is one that regularly makes its way into houses in fall and if you haven't seen one in the past, it can be a startling sight," she said. "If you include their legs, they're about as big as a silver dollar."

OSU Extension Master Gardeners have been getting questions about whether there are more spiders this year and if they're bigger, Langellotto said.

"There aren't more spiders than usual and they aren't larger," she said. "Most likely, you're just seeing a species you haven't seen in the past."

Langellotto recognizes the fear some people have toward spiders but points out they have attributes, including their fascinating process of spinning beautiful webs and their predatory nature, which are important tools in the garden.

"Plus, they're just cool and awesome," she said. "They don't feed on plants; they catch and kill things. They are natural pest controls. I hope people will learn you don't have to be afraid of them. If you have room in your heart and garden, don't try to kill them with pesticides."

Even if you can't bring yourself to like spiders, keep in mind they aren't easily killed by pesticides. The amount and concentration



**KYM POKORNY**  
Your Garden

needed is often higher than what's necessary to kill insects, which poses greater risk to humans, Langellotto said. If they're inside, sweep them up and escort them outside. In the garden, just leave them be and they'll eventually make supper of each other or get eaten by reptiles and birds.

For people who want to encourage spiders — and Langellotto acknowledges that doesn't apply to everyone — she recommends adding more trees, shrubs and perennials to provide anchor points for web-building spiders to spin their webs.

Spiders spin different types of webs, she said. Some build funnel webs, while others make sheet webs. Some have combs on their hind legs that they use to "back comb" silk and make a messy-looking tangle web.

But it's the classic orb weavers that people associate with spiders. They dispense strands of silk, which fly through the air, hit something and stick. Then the spider starts to fill in the middle, creating the intricate, lacelike webs that trap prey so efficiently. Although the silk is stronger than steel in terms of mass, and more flexible than a rubber band, it's not difficult to swipe webs away as you walk through the garden.

Of the 700 to 800 species of spiders in Oregon, only the black widow has the potential to cause serious



OSU EXTENSION/for the Itemizer-Observer  
**The garden spider is a common sight in the outdoors.**

harm to humans. This spider is found in the drier areas of southern Oregon and east of the Cascades more commonly than in the Willamette Valley. Hobo spiders, research shows, are not poisonous to humans, but their bite may cause pain, redness and itching. Poisonous brown recluse spiders do not live in Oregon, according to Langellotto.

Hobo spiders and house spiders (both in the genus *Eratigena*) look so similar that experts need a microscope to tell them apart. Both are medium brown with a lighter chevron on their upper abdomens. They are usually found in dimly lit areas like boxes, closets, storage areas and woodpiles.

Another common spider, the yellow and black garden spider (*Argiope aurantia*) can be seen outside where it often sits conspicuously in its orb web in open spaces waiting for prey.

In contrast to the garden spider, black widows (*Latrodectus* spp.) build messy, mesh-type webs in out-of-the-way spots. Females have

a glossy black body with a distinctive red hourglass on the bottom of their rotund abdomens. Male widows are more drab, slender and smaller.

If you're interested in having a spider identified, bring it into your local OSU Extension office. Make sure the spider is dead; kill them by placing in a container and putting it in the freezer.

"Spiders are not going to seek you out to bite you," Langellotto said. "They tend to be shy and not aggressive. If you don't bother them, they won't bother you."

If you want to avoid bothering them, here are Langellotto's recommendations for keeping spiders at bay:

Wear gloves, pants and a long-sleeved shirt when handling firewood or stored boxes where spiders may have built funnel-shaped nests.

Seal holes around doors, windows and outlets for plumbing and wiring where spiders can find entry into the house.

Sweep webs from corners, rock walls and under eaves. Repeat as necessary.

Keep porch lights switched off as much as possible to keep from attracting flying insects that make good prey for spiders. Or switch to yellow bulbs, which attract fewer night-flying insects.

Place simple cardboard sticky traps (without the use of insecticide spray) along baseboards and bed frames where wandering spiders tend to move.

Keep vegetation near house mowed or trimmed.

## BIRTHS

### Gonzalez

Cristian Lucas Gonzalez was born to Eduardo Gonzalez and Irene Rodriguez, of Monmouth, at 7:53 a.m. on Sept. 10 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

Cristian joins Sophia, 8, Eduardo, 5, and Abraham, 3. Grandparents are Felipe and Norma Rodriguez, of Independence; and Sabas Arenas-Gonzalez and Leticia Rios, of Independence.

Great-grandfather is Joseph Delgado, of Monmouth.

### Loewen

Tucker William Loewen was born to Michael and Elise Loewen, of Dallas, at 4:42 a.m. on Sept. 19 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 7 pounds, and was 20 inches long.

Tucker joins Cooper, 3. Grandparents are Denny and Leslie Hogstrom, of Salem; Keith and Colleen Houghton, of Puyallup, Wash.; and David and Sandy Loewen, of Dallas.



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Friday - Saturday October 2 - 3		
MAZE RUNNER SCORCH TRIALS (Digital) (PG13)	(12:50-3:50)	6:50 9:40
EVEREST (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(1:35-4:20)	7:05 9:35
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(12:20-4:50)	7:05 9:05
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (NEC Dolby 3D) (PG)	(2:35)	7:05 9:05
THE MARTIAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20-3:25)	6:30 9:50
THE MARTIAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20-3:25)	6:10
THE MARTIAN (NEC Dolby 3D) (PG13)	(12:20-3:25)	9:30
SICARIO (Digital) (R)	(1:30-4:15)	7:20 9:55
WAR ROOM (Digital) (PG)	(1:15)	6:45
BLACK MASS (Digital) (R)	(4:00)	9:15
THE INTERN (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45-4:30)	7:20 9:55
Sunday October 4		
MAZE RUNNER SCORCH TRIALS (Digital) (PG13)	(12:50-3:50)	6:50 9:40
EVEREST (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(1:35-4:20)	7:05 9:35
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(12:20-4:50)	7:05 9:05
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (NEC Dolby 3D) (PG)	(2:35)	7:05 9:05
THE MARTIAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20-3:25)	6:30 9:50
THE MARTIAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(12:20-3:25)	6:10
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WAR ROOM (Digital) (PG)	(1:15)	6:45
BLACK MASS (Digital) (R)	(4:00)	9:15
THE INTERN (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45-4:30)	7:20 9:55
Monday - Thursday October 5 - 8		
MAZE RUNNER SCORCH TRIALS (Digital) (PG13)	(3:50)	6:50
EVEREST (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(1:35-4:20)	7:05
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(4:50)	7:05
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA (NEC Dolby 3D) (PG)	(2:35)	7:05
THE MARTIAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(3:25)	6:30
THE MARTIAN (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(3:25)	6:10
THE MARTIAN (NEC Dolby 3D) (PG13)	(3:05)	9:30
SICARIO (Digital) (R)	(1:30-4:15)	7:20
WAR ROOM (Digital) (PG)	(1:15)	6:45
BLACK MASS (Digital) (R)	(4:00)	9:15
THE INTERN (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45-4:30)	7:20 9:55

## MI TOWN

With a simple turn of the calendar page tomorrow, it's a new month and — let's face it — a new season. No matter how much we want to cling to summer's last remnants, Miss Autumn is here in all her glory, and we'll have to depend upon the photographs, memories and souvenirs to remind us of those endless days of warmth and sunshine as we welcome cool mornings and crisp evenings to MI Town.

Our gardens are in need of clearing and cleaning up at this time of year, and it's with mixed emotions that we dug out the squash plants the other day and added them to the compost area. There are only so many ways to cook zucchini, and I'm sure they were all tried



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

during the last several weeks. The tomatoes are still looking good, though, and if Jack Frost will stay away for a little while, we can enjoy them fresh from the vine. I've found that putting green tomatoes in sunny windowsills helps them ripen, and with any luck we'll enjoy them for some time to come.

Thanks to Jolene Guzman's article on preparing for emergency conditions — specifically the 9.0 Cascadia subduction earthquake that

is inevitable — it gives us all a kick-start reminder to get back to preparing supplies, foods, clothing and all those necessary items to keep our households going when all the city, county and state services won't be available. It's pretty easy to put together a container of Band-Aids, a wind-up radio and a couple jugs of water and call it "good," but we need to be ready for more than a couple bumps and bruises, or water to drink for a day or two.

When we're clearing out an area for our emergency supplies, it gives us the opportunity and perhaps the incentive to pack up all those items that we are never going to use again and donate them to organiza-

tions that can give them to people in need. You'll get a tax donation, and it will feel good to discover and use that extra space in your garage or storage area.

Mark your calendars for this Saturday for the monthly community breakfast from 8:30 until 10:30 a.m. at the Monmouth Senior Center. Friendly faces and happy cooks will serve a hearty breakfast consisting of sausage, eggs, pancakes, biscuits and gravy on the first Saturday of every month. The price is right: \$6 for adults and children older than 12, \$3 for children younger than 12. It's a great way to begin a Saturday for busy people of all ages and a chance to visit with old and new acquaintances.

## PEDEE NEWS

Marge Robertson's grandson, Josh Robertson, of Pedee, recently got engaged to Sarah Fast, of Dallas. Josh works for the city of Corvallis, and Sarah teaches ceramics at Dallas High School. They plan to get married on Dec. 19 in Dallas and then live there.

Dorothy McBeth celebrated her 94th birthday on Sept. 20 with a birthday party at the clubhouse. The place was full as friends and relatives came from near and far to wish her a happy birthday. Some people she hadn't seen in years, so it was a happy event for her. This was her second birthday party last week.

Since the weather for the second weekend in September looked pretty good, June



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

Clark took off on her motorcycle-sidecar rig to pick up motorcycle club checkpoints. Down to Toledo for checkpoint, Newport for fabric, Yachats for checkpoint, Florence for fabric, Coos Bay for the evening and breakfast at her favorite place. Then off for the last checkpoint at a meat market and cafe in Cave Junction and a quick return up Interstate 5. Can you tell she's a quilter as well as a motorcyclist?

Judy Guida and a friend

took an Alaskan cruise from Sept. 12 to 19. The weather was beautiful up there, too, so they were able to take side trips to see glaciers and other unique Alaskan sights. They went to a salmon barbecue one day, and as they were eating (inside), a good-sized bear was cleaning the grill, and not with a wire brush, either.

Juaneane and Skid Skidmore's daughter Teresa Furutani came up from Los Angeles to spend four days with them. Among other things, Jeaneane and Teresa tried out a new recipe for truffles, which will possibly be included in the Pedee Women's Club candy inventory for their Holiday Fair the second Saturday in November. Club members started making their candy

this week for the event.

This Saturday, Pedee Church is sponsoring a community cider-making party at the church at 2 p.m. Bring clean apples (if you've got them), minus the worms, and some containers for cider. We'll have a potluck meal to share and press apples until we run out.

Norm and Donna Baldwin's missionary daughter, Suzy Balwin-Noutehou, and her husband, Fidel, have been home on furlough since May and returned to Benin, Africa, last week. This was Fidel's first trip to the U.S., and he got the grand tour since they spoke at churches in several states. They are missionaries to the Pendjari region of Benin.

**LUCKIAMUTE DOMESTIC WATER COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING**  
Monday 7:00 p.m.  
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7	6	3	5	2	9	8	4	1
2	9	8	1	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	1	7	8	6	2	9	3
3	8	2	9	5	7	6	1	4
5	4	6	3	1	2	7	8	9
9	1	7	4	6	8	3	2	5
1	2	9	6	7	3	4	5	8
8	7	5	2	4	1	9	3	6
6	3	4	8	9	5	1	7	2

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**WHAT TO BRING:**

- Aerosol Cans
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- Brake Fluid
- Degreasers
- Engine Cleaners
- Fluorescent Tubes
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- Herbicides
- Household Batteries
- Kerosene Gas
- Lab Sets
- Latex paint
- Lighter Fluid
- Mercury
- Oil based paint
- Paint Thinner
- Pesticides
- Pool Chemicals
- Rose Dust
- Rust Remover
- Slug Bait
- Solvents
- Spot Remover
- Thermometers
- Thermostats
- Transmission Fluid
- Turpentine
- Weed Killers
- Wood Preservatives

**DATE: Saturday, October 10th, 2015**  
**TIME: From 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
**LOCATION: Independence Riverview Park (100 Main Street)**  
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