

Home sweet home bugged by uninvited winter guests

Cooler temperatures drive many insects indoors, including some exotic species

The welcome mat outside your home's front door probably isn't intended for all species of life, especially those with lots of legs. Nonetheless, many insects jump at the chance — or more likely crawl — to find a cozy shelter as winter approaches. Oregon homeowners and apartment dwellers may notice the usual increased indoor activity of insects associated with this time of year.

"During fall and winter, several insect species — both introduced and native — can enter homes in large numbers," says Oregon Department of Agriculture entomologist Jim LaBonte. "They may be a nuisance, but homeowners should not be overly concerned with these bugs. They are not a threat to humans, pets, or structures in any way, manner, or form."

Because these pests are relatively small — some species are very tiny — they can easily enter through gaps under and around doors leading outside, poorly fitting windows, dryer vents, and other points of access into a residence. While almost all species of these pests feed on plants, they do not feed while overwintering and should not harm house plants. These insects do not reproduce while inside homes.

Keeping these bugs out in the first place is probably the best choice for residents.

"The best thing to do is to seal up points of access," says LaBonte. "For bugs

**BRUCE
POKARNEY**
Agnews

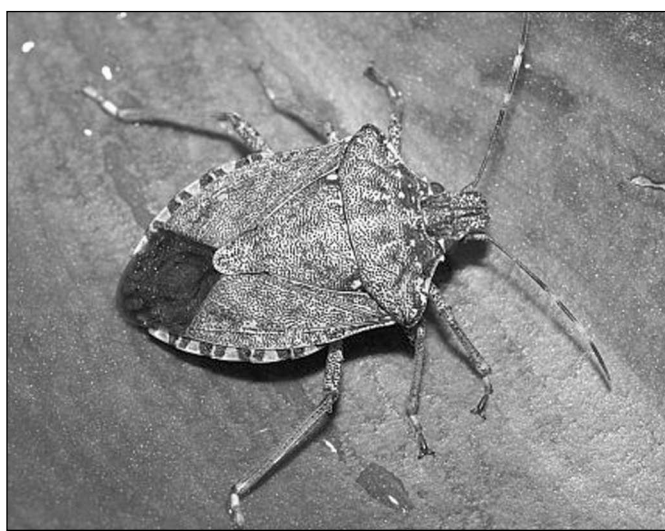
that have already entered the home, it depends on how many you have and your tolerance for them. You can escort them outside, flush them down the toilet, or dispose of them as you see fit."

After a few hard frosts, the outdoor bugs will likely become very inactive or will have already found shelter for the winter. In either case, they aren't likely to come indoors.

Several native species find their way into the home during winter, most commonly the box elder bug, *Boisea rubrolineata*, which normally feeds on maple leaves. ODA has received calls about the native western conifer seed bug, *Leptoglossus occidentalis*, a leaf-footed bug sometimes mistaken for the "conenose" or "kissing" bug. That bug is a species of assassin bug, which bites people, sucks their blood, and can transmit Chaga's disease. However, "conenose/kissing" bugs are not found in Oregon.

Over the past dozen years, a handful of exotic species have burst onto the local scene in high numbers.

One insect pest with an unsavory name and an unappealing scent first showed up in Portland in 2004. At the time, it was the first appearance of the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys* west of the Mississippi. Since then, the bug has be-



The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) an insect pest with an unsavory name and an unappealing scent first showed up in Portland in 2004.

come established throughout Oregon, with large populations in the Willamette Valley area.

BMSB — native to Asia — is similar in looks to some Oregon's native stink bugs, but is not affected by the natural predators, parasites, or diseases that help control native stink bugs. Where established, it can enter homes by the thousands, which can be stressful and disturbing to residents.

BMSBs can release an unpleasant odor when disturbed but are otherwise harmless to people.

House or ground spiders often enter homes this time of year, especially while seeking mates. These spiders are nothing to be concerned about, according to LaBonte. The only truly poisonous Oregon spider is the black widow, which is rarely common in residences except perhaps in eastern or southern Oregon.

It appears to be a normal year of indoor bug activity in Oregon. ODA is receiving fewer reports of brown

marmorated stink bugs in homes, but that may be a sign of Oregonians just getting used to having them around. No matter the species, it's normal for you to share your home this winter with insects whether you like it or not.

1. Rough stink bug, *Brochymena affinis*
2. Arhyssus sp.
3. Box elder bug, *Boisea rubrolineata*
4. Various color morphs of multicolored asian ladybird beetle, *Harmonia axyridis*
5. Xanthochilus saturnius
6. Tuxedo bug, *Raglius albocuminatus*
7. Elm seed bug, *Arocatus melanocephalus*
8. Western conifer seed bug, *Leptoglossus occidentalis*
9. Brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys*
10. Big nose bug, *Metopoplex ditmoides* (with a silhouette to scale, as they are ~4mm in length.)

MI TOWN

We're smack dab in the middle of November and around our house, we seem to comment frequently that the days are going by much too quickly. We're just getting used to the time change and fallout from the recent elections, and now Thanksgiving is just around the corner. All the big department stores are being decked out for Christmas already, and we still have leftover Halloween candy in the pantry. Call me the village spoil sport, but I just can't understand why the rush is on to begin the shopping season this early. Thanksgiving is such a wonderful holiday, with friends and families gathering to share good and happy times together, and for us to all give thanks for our many blessings. It would be good to take the time to



**PATTY
TAYLOR
DUTCHER**
Columnist

enjoy this special time of year and not be inundated by Christmas carols and decorations so soon.

Members of our community are invited to attend and participate in a town hall forum this evening (Wednesday) from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Richard Woodcock Education Center, Pastega Conference Room (Room 101). Western Oregon University is actively engaged in a strategic planning process and welcomes suggestions, ideas and ques-

tions from residents who wish to share in the discussion. For more information, visit the website at wou.edu/planning. Light refreshments will be served.

The Friends of the Monmouth Library are looking for books for their upcoming sale from Dec. 1-22, and are especially needing children's books in good condition. This sale is a wonderful opportunity to find nearly new books for gift giving as well as excellent books from all categories for everyone in your family. Proceeds from the sale are used to pay for items for the library that are not included in the regular budget. Please bring your gently used books to the library by Nov. 30.

These dark and rainy days

keep us indoors much of the time, and both the Independence and Monmouth libraries have many good programs available for readers of all ages. There's nothing more comfy on a dark and rainy day than a good book and a cozy nook — and they are in plentiful supply at our public libraries.

If you're running out of places to recycle all those leaves and yard debris, be sure to bring it to Riverview Park in Independence Saturday from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., and Brandt's will take it all away. You can even include any old pumpkins, grass, twigs and tree limbs. Please don't bring ashes, dirt, sod, rocks or gravel, stumps, animal waste, or painted or finished wood. Any questions, please call 503-838-0464.

PEDEE NEWS

James and Jenny Mellein and kids, Tom and Amy Gilson and kids, and Daniel and Heidi Russell and kids spent the Halloween weekend at Newport. The Melleins and Russells shared a house with a view of the ocean. The children were excited about playing on the beach, and with 12 children between the families, it made for a lot of fun and a big pile of sandy wet shoes. The trip was rounded out with visits from grandparents and a walk along the Newport bay front where people dressed up for Halloween were passing out candy (The little ones weren't sure what to think of receiving candy from a person in a strange costume).



**ARLENE
KOVASH**
Columnist

Pam Burbank is happy to report that her house is now licensed as an adult foster care home. She got her personal license last spring. So she will now be accepting clients, plus is still looking for additional employees.

Joy Overlie has two alpacas she'd like to get to new homes. One has papers and one is a cute white one. She says, "Make an offer!"

Pedee Church will again be participating in Operation Christmas Child, which is a project where people pack shoeboxes with gifts for children. Please consider making your own box(es) with your family, or take items to fill boxes with to the church. They can also use donations of shoe boxes — quality plastic ones are a great "reusable" option, or sturdy cardboard. Another option is to give money to cover the postage cost. The deadline is Monday, and the kids at church will be packing the boxes on Sunday, so please donate soon. Contact Diana Barnhart: tdbarhart@aol.com for more information, or go to the Operation Christmas Child website for info on packing,

age ranges, etc. They also have gift suggestions.

The women at the Pedee Women's Club were so thankful to the guys in the Pedee Fire Department who helped set up the clubhouse and fire hall for the holiday fair. Ethan McKinney, Jimmy Libke, Mickenzy Tootle, Nic Heller, Brian Yost, and Daniel Russell did the heavy lifting for the women, so all was done in a jiffy.

This fair is very special — surely almost everyone from the community comes, plus lots of other people, and even a biker group that comes every year for the soup and pie. Barb Max, of Corvallis, was the winner of the patriotic quilt raffle that benefits the soldier fund.

ENGAGEMENTS

Ivey - Dunmire



Cody Ivey and Amber Dunmire, both of Dallas, announced their engagement. The couple is planning a November 2017 wedding.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Steve Dunmire and Shelly Boatwright, both of Dallas, and granddaughter of Willard Lynn and Janice Dunmire, also of Dallas.

The groom-to-be is the son of Tim and Heather Ivey, of Dallas, and Lisa Weajley, of Scio and grandson of Gary and Kathy Ivey, also of Dallas.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email IONews@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide — 503-930-7636
- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- Arc of Polk County — 541-223-3261
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department — 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 503-581-2451
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-838-1276
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks — 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy) — 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Public Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Luckiamute Valley Charter School — 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom — 503-566-2132
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- SALT (Senior and law enforcement together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney's Office 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600

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