

THE BULLETIN

Belterra Community News

November 2016 Volume 10, Issue 11

News for the Residents of Belterra



PLEASE BE OUR GUEST TO CELEBRATE THE CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE WHO ARE
WAITING FOR FOREVER FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS THEM.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
6:30 - 9:00 PM

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART, SMITH BUILDING
COMPLIMENTARY COCKTAIL RECEPTION • BUSINESS ATTIRE

Please be our guest to celebrate the children in foster care who are waiting for forever families and the community that supports them. A program of Partnerships for Children, The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a portrait exhibit and community education/ outreach initiative featuring children in Central Texas who are waiting for adoption.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH AT 6:30PM - 9:00PM
at the Blanton Museum of Art - Smith Building

More details and to RSVP to this free event here: <http://bit.ly/YTOhc9>

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911
Ambulance / Fire..... 911

SCHOOLS

Dripping Springs ISD 512-858-3000
Dripping Springs Elementary 512-858-3700
Walnut Springs Elementary 512-858-3800
Rooster Springs Elementary..... 512-465-6200
Dripping Springs Middle School..... 512-858-3400
Dripping Springs High School 512-858-3100

UTILITIES

Water – WCID # 1 & 2 512-246-0498
Trash – Texas Disposal..... 512-246-0498
Gas – Texas Community Propane..... 512-272-5503
Electricity – Pedernales Electric 512-858-5611

OTHER

Oak Hill Post Office 512-892-2794
Animal Control..... 512-393-7896

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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**NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPASSION WATCH!

#CompassionUp Challenge

For this month let's see how many acts of kindness we can share via social media. Use Twitter, Facebook, Google+, or Instagram.

Discover kindness in yourself, your family, your community, and your world!

When you post to social media:

1. Provide a short description of the act of kindness
2. Be sure to add #compassionup to your post; and,
3. Include the name of your neighborhood.

We'll let you know how we do!



SKILLS, CHARACTER, TEAMWORK

At the Springs Family YMCA, kids develop all of their skills, from catching and dribbling to teamwork and sportsmanship. Just as important, they learn firsthand the benefits of being healthy & active and that virtual games just can't compare to the real thing.

WINTER YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!
COED BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL



SPRINGS FAMILY YMCA
27216 RR 12 • 512.894.3309
AustinYMCA.org

Austin Business Journal
Top 3 Producing Agent 2014 – 2015

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**Based on 2015 ABOR data*

LARGE SCALE LEAF DROP

Though this is slightly after the fact, I want to address the dual events this year that initiated the highest call rates I've had in a long time. Both last March and this August, we had an inordinate amount of rain. Within two weeks to over a month after the rain had ended, I received calls from the entire central Texas area about Live Oaks dropping the vast majority of their leaves. Often the trees could be right next to some others that did not drop any leaves, causing the property owners to be very concerned about the possibility that they had oak wilt. My standard practice when receiving calls about leaf drop when it occurs after rain, is to ask what the leaves look like and if possible request a photo of five or so "suspicious-looking" leaves. Live Oak leaves that drop on account of heavy rainfall have certain characteristics: mottling, speckling, blotching all of brown or yellow and occasionally black dots. Symptomatic oak wilt leaves on the other hand are very different (www.texasoakwilt.org/gallery/oak-wilt-in-live-oaks/).

This phenomenon is caused by an extended period of "field saturation". All soil has macro and micro pores/spaces in it, whether it is sand or clay or silt. When all these pores fill up it with water – there

is no air left in the soil. Tree roots actually need to breath – even the Bald Cypress trees in the swamp send up little breathing "apparatuses", which we call "knees". So a combination of not enough air in the soil, an excessive engorgement of water by the tree which causes swelling in stem - leaf attachment, and the general toxicity of excessive water in the system all play a part in the discoloring and abscission of the leaves by the tree which is an attempt to help itself. Excessive rain, though it may cause some of your Live Oaks to drop their leaves temporarily, rarely kills them unless it is standing water over entire root zone for two weeks or more. Generally, excessive Spring rains that cause leaf drop – new leaves will form within a couple of weeks after the leaf drop. Late Summer or fall rains – the tree may just go into a premature fall dormancy and wait for next Spring to fully leaf out. It is more of a curiosity than a health threat – be reassured.



Next month we will look into the largest tree pest most of us deal with - deer.

Questions or comments this article or previous articles have generated, may be directed to me at: kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com

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NATURE WATCH

Hardy Brushfoots

by Jim and Lynne Weber



Fall and winter are hardly a notable time for watching butterflies, except for those in the Nymphalidae family known as the brush-footed or brushfoots. Most of these species are medium-sized to fairly large butterflies that hold their wings flat when resting and have a reduced pair of forelegs. This group

is also commonly called four-footed butterflies, because they are known to stand on only four legs while the reduced pair are held up against their mid-section or thorax.

In some species, these shorter forelegs also have a brush-like set of soft hairs called setae, and it is unclear why these forelegs have become vestigial, or appearing to lose most of their ancestral function. One theory is that these forelegs may be used to amplify the sense of smell (yes, many butterflies 'taste' with their feet), while others believe they are used to improve signaling and communication between individuals of the same species, while standing on the other four. The latter seems to be the leading theory so far, as that ability would prove most useful in terms of reproduction and the continuing overall health of the species.

More remarkably, brushfoots are experts at overwintering, or the process by which they pass through or wait out the winter season. While many insects overwinter as eggs or pupae, brushfoots overwinter as adult butterflies. They take cover in places such as building crevices, under loose bark, or beneath fallen leaves or other plant matter. These places shield the brushfoots from the adverse

conditions of winter, and their activity ceases until conditions become more favorable. On the occasional warm winter day in Central Texas, these butterflies often emerge to bask in the sun and feed on various nutritional sources such as tree sap, rotting fruit, or animal scat. While many brushfoots are brightly colored on their uppersides, their undersides are largely dull and cryptic, mimicking dead leaves and bark, offering them additional protection in their chosen overwintering sites.

Examples of the most frequently encountered and easily recognizable brushfoots in our area include the Question Mark (*Polytonia interrogationis*), Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), and Common Buckeye (*Junonia coenia*). The Question Mark is fairly common in woodland openings, and is recognized by its deep orange wings spotted with brown and angled sharply at the edges. Its cryptic underside is textured brown, resembling a dead leaf, and its hind wing is 'punctuated' by a curved silver line and dot, which gives it its common name. Red Admirals are almost unmistakable, dark above with bright orange-red slashes and white dots on the outer part of the forewings, but exquisitely colored in mostly browns and blues below. The Common Buckeye prefers open habitats, and can be identified by its overall golden brown color above, interrupted by large and striking multicolored eyespots.

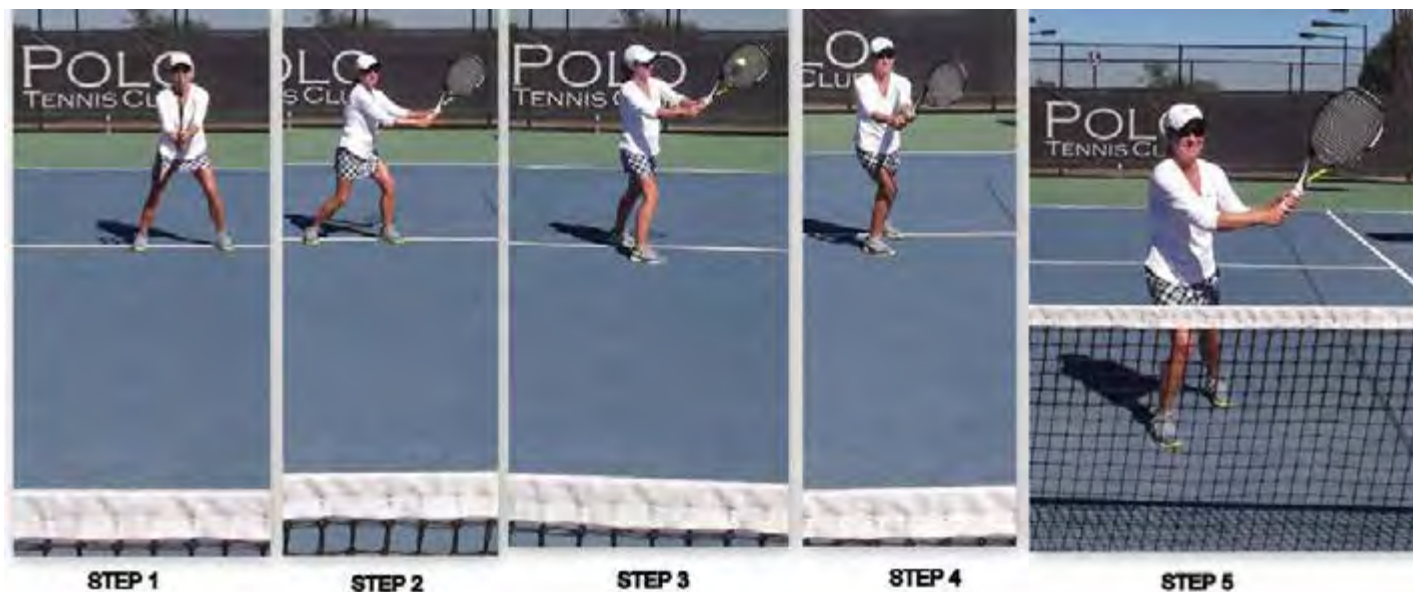
The next time the weather is sunny and warmer, make a point to go outside and take a walk in the woods, a field or your garden, and see if you can find some of these hardy brushfoots!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.

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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Polo Tennis and Fitness Club, Austin, TX



How to execute The Two-Handed High Backhanded Volley Approach Shot

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand, forehand volley, the two handed backhand volley, the serve, the forehand half-volley, the one-handed backhand volley, the overhead “smash”, the forehand service return, the backhand service return, and the forehand high volley approach shot.

In this issue, I will offer you instructions on how to execute the two-handed backhand high approach shot. This shot is used when a player is caught in “no-person’s land” (around the service line area) and receives a high ball to volley. The important part of this shot is to be able to hit a deep volley to the feet of the opponents and/or to hit a deep volley close to the baseline, so the opponent is put in a defensive mode and hits a softer ball so the player can now move closer to the net for the “killer or placement volley”. In the illustrations, “Pancho” Edwards, a player at The Polo Tennis and Fitness Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke.

Step 1: The Ready Position and Split Step: When she realizes that she is caught in “no-person’s land”, she takes the split step by bending the knees and staying on her toes. Her racket is in the volley position and her feet are angled toward the path of the incoming ball.

Step 2: The Back Swing: Once she realizes that the ball has been directed to her backhand, she will turn her upper body and will take the racket slightly back. Notice that the left hand next to the right hand to allow her to keep her center of gravity in the center.

She has loaded her weight on her left foot and will be ready to step forward to meet the ball. She will make a slight change toward the continental grip on both hands.

Step 3: The Point of Contact: She now is ready to step into the ball. She has kept her eye on the ball and her center of gravity now is shifted toward the point of contact. Notice the right toe pointing to the ball meeting the racket. The face of the racket is open to allow her to hit behind the ball and allow maximum net height and allow her to hit the ball deep. The control of the ball will be made with the left hand, which is holding the racket tighter. The right hand is more relaxed and helps keep the face of the racket in a 45-degree angle at the point of contact.

Step 4: The Follow Through: Once she has made contact with the ball, she finishes the follow through with her wrist laid back. Her right arm is next to her body and her eyes have shifted toward her target.

Step 5: The Move for the Kill Volley: As the ball is headed toward her opponent and she realizes that her shot is deep, now she moves close to the net for the put away volley. If her shot was not deep, she will decide to stay close to the service line to protect the lob over her head. By the look in her eyes and her smile, she is ready to go for the “kill volley”.

Look in the next Newsletter for:
The One-Handed Backhand Volley Approach Shot

Cigarette & Drugstore Beetles

Cigarette and drugstore beetles are pests of stored products and can become a pest in the home. These beetles are small, around 1/8" long, reddish-brown with an oval shape. If you disturb the beetles, they often will tuck in their legs and lay motionless.

Adults enjoy dark cracks and crevices, but will fly in brightly lit areas to locate a place to hide. The beetles are most active at dusk and continue activity through the night. Adults do not eat solid food, but will drink liquids. Larvae are small, grub-like and creamy white.

Cigarette and drugstore beetle larvae infest a variety of products such as tobacco, flour, dried fruit, herbs and spices, nuts, rice and pet food. These pests may also infest non-food items such as potpourri, dried flower arrangements, papier-mâché, prescription drugs, cosmetics and bookbinding paste.

The life cycle is dependent upon temperature and availability of resources- with warmer temperatures and adequate resources the life cycle will be faster. Mated females lay eggs in food sources. After hatching from the egg, larvae begin to feed on the food and grow. Eventually, larvae pupate and form a protective cocoon in the food item. Adults live from 1-4 weeks.

To manage these beetles, you must find the source, double bag it and throw it away. All stored food items should be inspected, even those that have not been previously opened. If you do not want to throw away infested food items it can either be heated or cooled to kill any insects and then sifted to remove any insects. To freeze, put the items in a sealed plastic bag and place in the freezer for about a week. To heat the items, spread on a large cookie sheet and place in a 200 oF oven for 1-2 hours.

To prevent infestations, inspect all food items before buying; do not buy damaged food products. Dried goods can be stored in sealed, air-tight containers. If leaving the home for extended periods store items in the freezer or refrigerator. While inspecting stored food items for infestation, clean the pantry as you go. Vacuum or sweep up any spilled food items. Wipe down shelving with a cleaning product and use caulk to seal any shelf areas where small bits of food may collect.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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