



An organization of Women welcoming
Women for Fun and Friendship

Join us for Our 2016-2017 Season

Whether you are a newcomer or have lived here for years WE WELCOME YOU! We are of all ages!! Ideal for empty nesters or women who have left the work place and are looking to get back to a social life. We enjoy monthly luncheons with a speaker or program of interest.

We will be returning to our regular meeting venue at Fern Bluff Community Center, 7320 Wyoming Springs Drive, and Round Rock. Doors open at 10:30 am, meeting at 11:10 am, luncheon at 11:40 am and program at 12:15 pm.

We have many groups: Card and game groups, gardening, Wine Tasting, Foodies, Antiquing, Hiking, Movie, Photo, Potluck, Safari, Walking and Caring Hands. There is something for everyone. Many activities take place during the day and some activities include couples. Please visit our website at www.rrnewneighbors.org for more information and to see our newsletter. Or call Jan Percy, 512-810-3214, Membership Chair for information.

The Forum

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER

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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/YT0hc9>

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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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 (*Polygonia 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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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 breathe – 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

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