



GUESTS IN YOUR ATTIC

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Who doesn't enjoy seeing squirrels scamper from tree to tree? Everyone loves seeing birds at their feeders. Who doesn't love seeing the does with their fawns? We live side by side with wildlife. Is it any wonder that conflicts arise between humans and the animals?

This is baby season for raccoons. You may find that a mama raccoon has taken up residence in your attic or garage. The best advice we can offer you is to leave her alone. Within a couple of weeks, she will lead her babies out of your attic or garage to live in the wild. If you just can't wait, here are a couple of things you can try. Put a bright light in the area at night and play some LOUD music. Some say talk radio is best. You can throw some moth balls in the area or ammonia-soaked cotton balls. She will probably choose to move the babies to a darker, quieter place outside. When she moves out, it's your responsibility to find out how she got in and block the entrance or your attic will always look like an apartment for rent to wildlife.

We often receive calls from homeowners asking for advice on how to stop raccoons that are getting into trash cans. Solution: try using some bungee cords to secure the top. Another issue we

hear about is that raccoons are eating food that is being put out for feral cats. Since raccoons are nocturnal, simply removing the cat food at night will fix the problem except in the spring when mama raccoons can be seen looking for food during the day. No, they are not rabid! They are just hungry. Some homeowners ask about trapping and relocating. While removal may seem like a solution, it usually only creates an enticing vacancy for another animal in search of a meal. Remove raccoons from an area and it's only a matter of time before others move in to take their place. Additionally, the survival rate of relocated raccoons is very low. Raccoons are territorial and putting a lone raccoon into an area already populated with other raccoons can often result in death as the other raccoons will consider him/her as an intruder.

There are products available that may help not only with raccoons but other animals as well. One such product is the motion-activated sprinkler. When an animal gets close to the food source, the sprinkler goes off and scares them away. Just do an internet search and I'm certain you'll find other products that may work as well.

With urban sprawl and loss of habitats, we need to learn to live in harmony with wildlife. TWRC Wildlife Center can often help you find solutions to your issues. Check our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org or call us at 713-468-8972.

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ARTICLE INFO

The Silverlake News is mailed monthly to all Silverlake HOA residents. Residents, community groups, schools, etc., are welcome to submit information. Personal news is also welcome. All submissions will be reviewed for content and approved by the Board of Directors and Newsletter Committee Chair. The deadline for submission is the 8th of the month before publication.

Moisture Meters



online at Amazon or most likely at Home Depot of Lowes.

One of the quickest and simplest ways to determine how much water to give your garden and/or potted plants is to purchase a moisture meter! It will prevent overwatering and help you monitor the length of time to run each zone in your irrigation system. There are many different types, but the one pictured is easy to use and can be purchased

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Gardening To Do List

July

Plant: Succulents | Container plants

Prune: Dead head flowering plants

Last chance to cut back fall blooming perennials
(like aster) that are setting buds

Fertilize: Bougainvillea with high nitrogen | Container annuals

Insects: Watch for aphids and spider mites. It's easy to spray them off with a hard blast of water. Be sure to get the undersides of the leaves.

Aphids and other insects can plague crape myrtles and other trees in summer ("raining trees" are due to the honeydew secretions). Blast with water hose on regular basis.

Lawn: Keep the lawn mower setting up to high. Keep the roots cool by leaving the grass long. Don't remove more than 1/3 of the top at a time. Leave clippings on the lawn to naturally fertilize.

Other tasks: Deeply water new plants. Even if rain comes, check the soil to 3" deep to make sure their roots have water. A brief shower doesn't mean it penetrated to the roots.

Tips: Prune herbs often to encourage new growth

Avoid over-watering perennials and annuals in hot, humid conditions. To avoid root rot, check soil moisture. Water deeply and then let dry out.

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WATERPROOF SUNBLOCK FOR YOUR CHILD How Safe Is It?

Those of us with small children are very familiar with waterproof sunblock - after all, the day at the beach or in the pool requires some serious protection from the sun for our youngsters. However, if your child gets waterproof sunblock in their eyes how are you going to get it out? You can't flush it out with water - it's waterproof!

It has been reported that 1 out of every 100 children using waterproof sunblock is temporarily blinded when they get the sunblock in their eyes by rubbing their eyes with sunblock coated hands or the sunblock being wiped into their eyes from other parts of their face.

Remember: Check the ingredients and choose sunblocks that are water-based NOT oil-based; don't apply waterproof sunblock to the child's hands and try to use another sunblock on their faces. Also, ask your pediatrician if they can recommend an eye wash solution that can counter the waterproof sunblock if it gets in your child's eyes.

LIME SHERBIES

(TO BEAT THE HEAT!)

INGREDIENTS

½ glass of crushed ice

2 scoops of lime sherbet

¼ cup of undiluted canned frozen limeade

Fill remainder of glass with club soda

Squeeze of lime

STIR AND ENJOY!

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THE HISTORY OF FIREWORKS

I can't imagine the Fourth of July without fireworks! Fireworks displays actually have a history. According to scholars, war rockets and explosives were first made in China during the 6th century. The first fireworks were probably firecrackers, also known as Chinese crackers. Firecrackers are still used in China - and elsewhere - to celebrate weddings, births and Chinese New Year.

In the 14th century, Europeans began using gunpowder for weapons, as well as for pyrotechnics shows for entertainment; Italians and Germans were recognized as the masters of the fireworks game. Some medieval fireworks featured living people holding sky rockets and other fireworks. They were called "green men" because they placed leaves and greenery all over their bodies to ward off burns.

In England, a fireworks display helped celebrate the 1486 wedding of Henry VII, and by 1749 fireworks were such the rage that composer George Friedrich Handel created a symphony called Music for the Royal Fireworks. Fireworks finally made a big bang in the U.S. before the Revolutionary War and fireworks displays have been synonymous with the Fourth of July since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The biggest U.S. fireworks display ever was staged for the centenary of the Statue of Liberty in 1986, which brought together Zambelli, Grucci and Souza, the biggest names in modern-day American pyrotechnics.



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