

HOTWGPS Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 3

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March Meeting

The March meeting was held at Bonnies Greenhouse. It was well attended by members and guests. Thank you all for participating. Sandra Kellough presented a very informative talk on Fairy Gardening after which interested members created their own Fairy Gardens. Doris Coffee & Pam Thomason are pictured below with their creations.



Welcome to our newest members **Ron & Rose Haft** who joined at the meeting and are planning to be on the pond tour.

Speaking of the pond tour, if you haven't already signed up to show your pride & joy, please give it serious consideration and join the rest of us showcasing our backyard oasis featuring our aquatic habitats.

Pond Vac

As a reminder, this is a "Members Only" benefit. You can rent this super-duper pond cleaning machine very reasonably! John Enders is the "official pond Vac keeper". Call him 254-848-9596 or send him an email at jenders@aol.com to schedule your time with the machine. One note of caution when using the pond Vac, watch how much water you are removing from your pond!! It works so well sucking up the yuk that one can easily forget how much water is also being removed! That is the voice of experience talking!!

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The following articles are from the March 2017 issue of the *Texas Invasives.org* newsletter

Invasive Spotlight: Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys*)

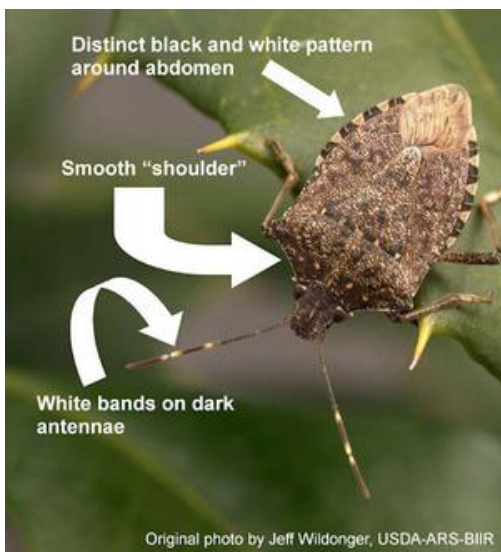


Photo credit: Jeff Wildonger, USDA-ARS-BIIR, IDtools.org

The brown marmorated stink bug, which came to the United States from Asia, is not only threatening to destroy vegetable crops and orchards where established, but is also causing homeowners to walk around holding their noses.

Though the majority of its lifecycle is spent outdoors, the insects become a smelly indoor nuisance when they invade homes seeking shelter. As temperatures drop in Texas, pests will begin to search for shelter from the winter elements and often end up in homes and other structures.

Brown marmorated stink bug feeds on *Eucommia elmoides*, a small tree threatened in the wild in China, which is commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine. Here however, this pest also attacks a variety of fruit and ornamental trees, including peach, pear, apple, plum and mulberry.

The invasive pest was accidentally imported from Asia into North America in the late 1990s and was first identified in 2001. By 2004, the stink bug was widely identified on farms and forests throughout the mid-Atlantic states, with some growers of sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, apples, and peach reporting total losses that year.

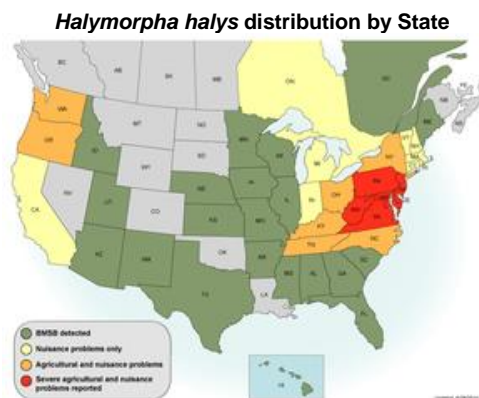


Image credit: Stop BMSB, www.stopbmsb.org

Since introduction, this pest has rapidly spread across the United States. It has been detected in Texas on multiple occasions.

Follow the link to [learn more](#) about the brown marmorated stink bug. If you believe you have identified a suspected BMSB, please [REPORT IT](#)

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Mighty American Chestnut Poised for Return to America's Forests

Scores of American chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, seedlings growing in upstate New York are the vanguard in the restoration of what was once the most dominant tree in the eastern forests. The trees carry one gene, added by scientists, that makes them capable of withstanding the invasive blight that wiped out billions of their ancestors a century ago. [Learn more at sciencedaily.com](http://sciencedaily.com)

Country Words of Wisdom

He who begins too much accomplishes little

Don't be afraid to leap. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.

Anger is strong, but forgiveness is stronger

Forgiveness won't fix the past, but it might fix the future

"If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month."

-Theodore Roosevelt

HUMOR

Lena was making a breakfast of fried eggs for Ole. Suddenly, Ole burst into the kitchen yelling, "Careful. CAREFUL! Put in sum more vater! Yur cooking too many at once! TOO MANY! Turn dem! TURN DEM NOW! Dey're going to STICK! Don't burn dem!" Lena stared hard at Ole and said, "Vhat da heck is wrong vit you? You tink I don't know how to fry a couple eggs?" Ole calmy replied, "I yust wanted to show you vhat it's like when I'm driving and yur in da car!"

Ole told his doctor that he wasn't able to do all the things around the house that he used to do. When his exam was complete, he said, "Doc, tell me da truth in plain English. Vhat is wrong wit me?" "Well, Ole," the doctor said, "the truth is that you're just lazy." "Okay, I got dat," said Ole. "Now, yust give me da medical term so I can tell my vife."

Lena went to her doctor for her annual checkup. After checking her over and running some tests, the doctor said, "Lena, I guess you just have to realize you're not getting any younger." "I don't vant to get any younger," retorted Lena. "I yust vant you to fix me up so I get older!"

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"You know, I got a real good reference from de boss at my las yob," said Ole. "Oh yeah?" said Sven, surprised. "Ya," said Ole. "Da letter said, 'If you can get Ole to verk for you, you will be lucky!'"

The following is great story that can apply to MANY different situations in our lives.

A Very Bad Hair Day

By Mary Hunt on 04/14/17

Apparently, my hair is my life. Believe me, I am as surprised by this fact of vanity as anyone. Had you checked with me about my philosophy of life a mere ten days prior, I can assure you that my hair would not have made the cut for my Top Ten Important Things.



Sure, I've had the typical number of issues with my hair over the years, but since I've

always had plenty of it, I had options. That is until that day when I got a bad haircut.

I could go into long and agonizing detail, but suffice it to say I went in with a full head of hair and came out five pounds lighter. Let's just say that Mr. Salon Owner (not exactly your Edward Scissorhands) thinned me out—a technique only fitness trainers should attempt.

To say I was beside myself is to make a gross understatement. I cried. No, I wailed. I shampooed, conditioned, blow-dried and styled. But to no avail. What hair remained was thin and stringy—a situation without possibility of repair. I didn't need extensions, I needed a miracle. Only time could heal my broken heart. Not even my husband's choice words of compassion ("It doesn't look any different to me ...") could console me.

A year. That's how long it would take for all the short layers to grow out to a respectable length. In fact, I told my dearest friends to mark the date on their calendars. I would not be fully happy again until a year from that Friday.

Over the following few days, something remarkable took place. Being jerked from my haircare rut forced me to learn some new techniques. I tried a new hair product (can you say "volumizing?"), I perfected a new styling technique. I chose to see this situation through new eyes. I got a new

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attitude. I decided I could choose to be miserable, or I could grow up. Believe me, the words shallow and self-absorbed crossed my mind and not in a welcoming way.

Everything is going to be okay, became my new mantra. In fact, ten days does make quite a difference not only in hair but in all kinds of life surprises. Time does heal, and attitude changes can make all the difference.

What I was sure would take a year to placate required less than a month. Perhaps even a couple of weeks. I have to admit that the new feeling of "lightness" was not all bad. I didn't have a single headache for days on end; my hair dried in half the time and I saved a fortune in shampoo.

I'm determined to not forget the lesson of my bad haircut. Any initial jolt in life whether financial, physical, relational or spiritual—can hit us in such a way as to completely skew our vision. It's difficult to see the big picture because we are too close to the event. But choosing to step back to see the situation in a better light and from a different perspective can do wonders. What appears to be hopeless one day isn't quite so bad the next and can even help us to grow and be better after a little time has passed.

Of course a great can of hairspray can't hurt.

Please support these businesses who have agreed to give our members a discount at their stores.



Bonnie's Greenhouse
Sandra & Johnny Killough

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Fax 512-260-5060
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Making outdoors awesome

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628 North Robinson Dr.
Robinson, TX 76706
254.662.0311

MATT BARRERA
MANAGER

robinsongreenhouse@gmail.com

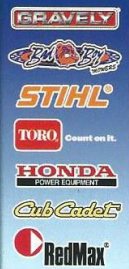
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