

What's new in your neighborhood?

Countryside Villas

1999

NOVEMBER

BOARD MEMBERS

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The Villas Mailbox

4879 W. Doria Drive



BOARD MEETING NOTICE

It's that time again...

When: Monday, *November 15th*
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Countryside Community Center

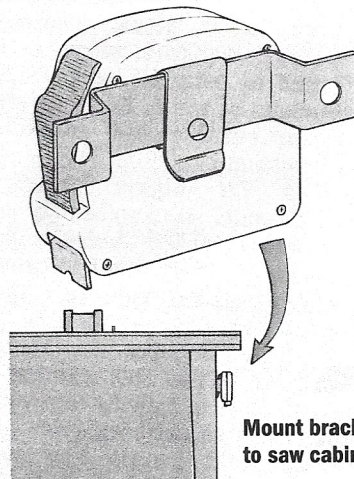
Handyman Tip of the Month

Tape Measure Where You Need It

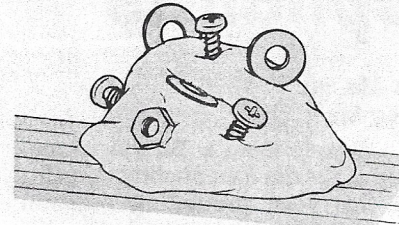
One of the unwritten rules of a woodworking shop is 'you can never find a tape measure when you need one, no matter how many you have.'

To help keep one handy at my table saw, I installed a simple metal bracket to the saw's cabinet. The belt clip on the tape hooks over the bracket. After a while, I got used to putting the tape back on the bracket when I'm done measuring, so it will be close at hand when I need to use it again.

*R.B. Himes
Vienna, OH*



Mount bracket to saw cabinet.



Putty Holds Parts

Juggling small parts while standing on a ladder may work for some folks, but I'm not that handy. I usually have to make several trips up and down the ladder to retrieve items I've dropped.

To keep screws, nails, or other small parts within reach, I press a blob of putty — the tacky kind used to hang posters — to the ladder. When I remove a fastener, I stick it in the putty so I can find it easily when it's time to put things back together.

*Carol Edwards
Westchester, PA*

LANDSCAPING UPDATE

We are having some problems with our irrigation system, which we are working on. In the meantime, please water any plantings at your front gate if you notice they are looking stressed. It shouldn't be too much of a concern while we are having our monsoon rains. Hopefully, we can locate and resolve the situation soon.

Do you have an interesting article to share with your neighbors? Please let us know!

Mosquitos

Continued from Page One

against getting bitten — and, especially, to check their yards for common mosquito breeding sites.

A watering can or a set of old tires left out in the rain can provide a home for hundreds or thousands of mosquito larvae, Fink says.

"We need the public's help. We need people to get outside and inspect their own back yards. We've been saying this for years now, but I wonder if the public is taking it seriously," Fink says.

Henry Hagedorn, a UA professor who studies mosquito breeding, is in charge of the team that collected the recent positive test sample.

The preliminary result still needs to be confirmed by the state Department of Health Services. That should happen next week, he says.

Hagedorn says field collectors have noticed that mosquitoes seem more prevalent around Tucson in this summer of heavy rain, though it's "practically impossible" to accurately measure how much the insect population has increased.

He says he's "alarmed" at the public's seeming unwillingness to participate in mosquito control measures at home.

"I'm afraid people don't understand that this is largely their problem to control. Maybe people don't want to hear that," Hagedorn says.

Encephalitis isn't the only potential health problem caused by mosquito bites, he says.

The insects that carry the encephalitis virus, known as Culex mosquitoes, will sometimes breed in peoples' back yards in buckets of water, but they prefer more rural marsh areas like Sweetwater.

A far bigger threat to Tucsonans is another type of mosquito called Aedes aegypti, which especially likes to breed in water left in backyard flower pots, beer cans or kiddie pools.

This mosquito, which is widespread in the city, can carry a viral disease called dengue fever, also known as "breakbone fever" because it causes excruciating joint pain along with high fever and other symptoms.

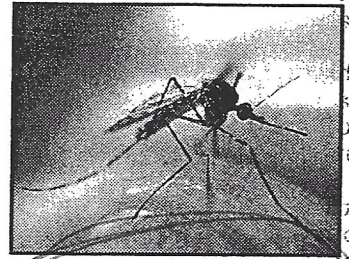
Outbreaks of dengue fever erupted not far from Tucson in Hermosillo, Mexico, a few years ago, with thousands of cases reported there.

Public health officials believe it's only a matter of time until the disease spreads north into Southern Arizona.

"When it does arrive, we've got a real problem on our hands," says Hagedorn, because so many of the Aedes aegypti carrier mosquitoes live right around people's homes and yards.

State, federal, county, municipal and tribal governments routinely collect samples of live mosquitoes between May and October to monitor them for disease.

Hagedorn says at Sweetwater wetlands, where the encephalitis sample turned up, county workers recently sprayed the area with chemical pesticides to control the mosquito population.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Health officials recommend these measures to limit exposure to mosquito-borne disease:

- Be on the lookout for any containers that hold standing water. Flower pots, buckets, old tires, rain gutters jammed with leaves or a soda can full of water can be home to hundreds or thousands of larvae.

- Dump them out, or better yet, throw them out, since mosquito eggs can survive dry on such surfaces and then hatch the next time it rains.

- Water that can't be dumped, such as pond areas in a ravine, can be treated with a natural substance called BTI, available at some home improvement and pest control stores. The tablets contain a bacteria that kills mosquito larvae but won't harm other animals.

- Change water in bird baths and animal dishes twice weekly.

- Check inside the house anywhere water might collect and stand for more than a few days.

Mosquito larvae have been found in obscure places like the bottom channel of sliding shower doors, in jars holding plant cuttings or the saucers under flower pots. Change the water twice a week and scrub surfaces to remove eggs.

- Avoid bites when going outside by wearing lightweight clothing that covers the arms and legs and using mosquito repellent.

Mosquitoes in city swamp found to carry encephalitis

By Carol Ann Alaimo
The Arizona Daily Star

A mosquito sample from a Tucson swamp has tested positive for the encephalitis virus for the first time this year, prompting renewed warnings about the risk of mosquito-borne disease.

The sample, taken Aug. 21 from the Sweetwater wetland area near West Prince Road and Interstate 10, contained the Western equine encephalitis virus, according to preliminary testing at the University of Arizona.

The virus can infect humans and horses, causing inflammation of the brain and central nervous system.

There are no known cases so far this year of a human getting the disease, but public health officials say the Tucson test result is the latest evidence suggesting people may be at higher risk this year of getting sick from mosquito bites.

"The level of activity we've been seeing is quite unusual this year," says Michael Fink, an epidemiology specialist with the Arizona Department of Health Services in Phoenix.

While this is Pima County's first positive test, Maricopa and Pinal counties had 11 positive tests in July

and August, more than double the normal level.

Pinal County had one positive test for St. Louis encephalitis, a more virulent form of the disease.

Public health officials had predicted positive tests might start to show up in the Tucson area's mosquito population by September.

They're urging citizens to take precautions

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ENCEPHALITIS

The encephalitis virus affects the brain and central nervous system.

Two different, similar strains of the virus have been detected in Southern Arizona mosquitoes this year: Western equine encephalitis which can infect horses and humans, and the more potent St. Louis encephalitis.

Many people exposed to an encephalitis virus have mild flulike symptoms such as fever, tiredness, headache and dizziness lasting up to a week.

Only a small number get full-blown encephalitis, which can lead to convulsions and cause long-term neurological damage and, occasionally, death.

Since it's caused by a virus, encephalitis cannot be cured with antibiotics.

Treatment mainly involves treating symptoms, trying to limit the complications, and helping the body as much as possible use its own immune system to fight off the disease.