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Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

5:30 p.m. **Granny Shaffar's, N. Range Line, Joplin**

Gary McVey, Pest Control on Bed Bugs

Our next meeting will be this coming Tuesday, July 23, 2013. Dinner buffet is at 5:30 p.m. with our program to start at approximately 6:15 p.m. Cost of the meal is \$10 per person. Reservations are not required and guests are always welcome.

Bed Bugs Facts, Identification & Control

Latin Name—*Cimex lectularius* L.

Appearance

Bed bugs are flat, reddish-brown, oval insects up to 4 to 5 mm long or the size of an apple seed. Swollen and reddish after a blood meal.

Behavior, Diet & Habits

Bed bugs only feed on blood. Under cool conditions, bed bugs have been able to survive up to a year without a meal. They prefer to be more active at night when the host is asleep.

Found in cracks and crevices, including [mattress seams](#), sheets, furniture, behind baseboards, electrical outlet plates and picture frames. Often found in hotels, where they can travel from room to room and in visitors' luggage or other personal belongings such as purses and briefcases.

Reproduction

Females can deposit one to five eggs a day, and may lay 200 to 500 eggs in a [lifetime](#). Under normal room temperatures and with an adequate food supply, they can live for more than 300 days.

Signs of a Bed Bug Infestation

There are many possible signs of bed bug activity. The first would be seeing the bugs. Adult bed bugs are about the shape and size of an apple seed. A second sign would be case skins. As the juvenile bugs grow, they shed their skins, discovery of which can indicate their presence.

After feeding, bed bugs return to their harborage to hide. They eventually defecate in these areas, which appears as black to brown stains on porous surfaces or black to brown mounds on nonporous surfaces.

Bites also may indicate bed bug activity, but further signs will need to be found, since other sources can cause red welts on the skin.

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1st Quarter Stats

Properties Listed

14 Jan

5 Feb

9 Mar

Units Listed

138 Jan

121 Feb

127 Mar

RentLinx

List your properties

Here for on-line

Search of available

Housing units

www.RentLinx.comProspects may
search by:

Bedrooms

School District

County

City

**Association
Coverage Area**

According to MAA, our Association covers a large area of southwest Missouri, southeast Kansas, northeast Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas. These are the counties which are in our Association's area:

Missouri: Barton, Jasper,
Newton, McDonald
Kansas: Linn, Bourbon,
Crawford, Cherokee
Oklahoma: Craig, Mayes,
Cherokee, Ottawa, Delaware,
Adair
Arkansas: Benton, Carroll

If you know someone who is a rental owner or manager or who is considering becoming an owner/manager, tell them about us and all we can do for them!

More Information

Bed bugs (often misspelled as bedbugs) are small, nocturnal, wingless insects that belong to the family of Cimicidae. They feed on human blood and other warm-blooded hosts. They are oval in shape and grow up to 4 to 5 mm long when fully grown. Their skin color is rust brown to a deeper red brown. Bed bugs are also known as "mahogany flats," "red coats" and "chinchies." The adult bed bug does not have wings and has a flattened body.

**Bed Bugs Petri Dish**

Bed bugs are both dorsoventrally flattened and thin, which creates a great advantage for them. They can hide in unusual places such as behind baseboards, floor cracks, and under carpets or behind loose wallpaper, which can make them difficult to detect. Not only can they be hard to detect, but bed bugs also tend to stay close together and have a distinctively sweet, yet unpleasant smell.

Fecal smears on mattresses and nearby furnishings are also [signs](#) of a [bed bug infestation](#).

Their [bites](#) can leave itchy welts on the skin and can cause allergic reactions, such as severe itching, though not everyone reacts to their bite.

Bed bugs have existed since the ancient times and are found throughout the world. There are different species of bed bugs, but the common bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*) is particularly adaptable to human environments.

Other species are known to prefer birds and bats but also will feed on humans if necessary. Since they can survive in birds' nests, they can be seen in houses and buildings that have several bird nests, particularly on rooftops.

Bed bugs have a great worldwide distribution, due to human [travelers](#) who transport them in luggage, clothing, [bedding](#) and furniture. Though they may reside in unusual places, they are also likely to be found in small cracks near a bed or in [comforters](#) and bed sheets.

How To Get Rid of Bed Bugs

It's possible to pick up bed bugs almost any place—they've infested offices, stores, hotels, gyms and countless other places. They can hide in your luggage, personal belongings, or even on you, and hitchhike a ride back to your home, condo, townhouse or apartment. Once indoors, they can be extremely difficult to control without the help of an experienced pest specialist.

A bed bug infestation has nothing to do with cleanliness — you can pick them up in

Associate/Preferred Vendor List**Haskin's American Family Insurance****Mid-Missouri Bank****Keller-Williams Realty****Absolute Best Carpet Cleaning**

the finest hotels, and they can hitchhike into the cleanest homes at any time. But, you can help reduce your chances of a costly bed bug infestation by catching them early.

Traveling

When traveling, think of the acronym S.L.E.E.P. to remember the following action steps to help avoid bringing bed bugs home with you.

- Survey surfaces for signs of an infestation, such as tiny rust-colored spots on bed sheets, mattress tags and seams, and bed skirts.
- Lift and look for all bed bug hiding spots, including underneath the mattress, bed frame, headboard and furniture. Typically, they come out at night to feed, but during the day they are most likely found within a 1.5 meter radius of the bed.
- Elevate your luggage on a luggage rack away from the bed and wall, since bed bugs can often hide behind headboards, artwork, picture frames and electrical outlet panels.
- Examine your luggage carefully while repacking and when you return home. Always keep luggage off the bed and store it in a closet or other area, far away from your bedroom.

Place all your clothing from your luggage immediately in the dryer for at least 15 minutes at the highest setting upon returning home from travel.

In the House

When at home, follow these handy tips to help keep bed bugs at bay.

- Remove all clutter from your home, which makes finding bed bugs easier.
- Wash and dry your bed linens often using the hottest temperature allowed for the fabric.
- Closely inspect any second-hand furniture for bed bugs before you bring it into your residence.

Inspect your residence regularly—after a move-in, a trip, when a service worker comes in or guests stay overnight.

Think You Might Have a Bed Bug Infestation?

Notify your [local pest management provider](#) immediately, or tell your property manager if you are renting so they can begin to devise a customized treatment for your bed bugs. Bed bugs can multiply quickly, so early detection is critical to help prevent an even larger infestation.

[Www.bedbugsguide.com](http://www.bedbugsguide.com)

This publication is designed to provide informative material of interest to its readers. It is distributed with the understanding that it does not constitute legal, accounting, or other professional advertising. Although the published material is intended to be accurate, neither we nor any other party will assume liability for loss or damage as a result of reliance on this material. Appropriate legal or accounting advice or other expert assistance should be sought from a competent professional.

Any advice you may receive from any Director or Officer of the Association is simply our experience or willingness to help and is not to be construed as legal advice. Our intent is to network and to share our experiences with other members. We are not responsible for the legal content of any forms we provide our membership.

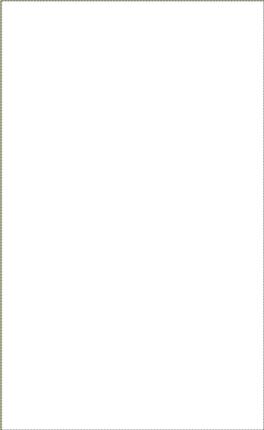
**SOUTHWEST
MISSOURI RENTAL
HOUSING
ASSOCIATION**

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'NO CALL' LIST
You may sign up for the Missouri Attorney General's "No Call" List. Call toll-free 1-866-NOCALL1 or log on to:
www.moago.org.



- Each member of this Association shall:**
- Strive continually to promote the education and fraternity of the membership and to promote the progress and dignity of the apartment/rental housing industry.
 - Maintain and operate our apartment/rental housing projects in accordance with fair practices and in compliance with the By-Laws of the Association.
 - Promote and maintain a high standard of integrity in the performance of all rental obligations and services in the operation of our apartment/rental housing projects.
 - Establish high ethical standard of conduct with suppliers and other doing business with the apartment/rental housing industry.
 - Endeavor to expose all schemes to misleads or defraud the apartment/rental housing residing public and to aid in the exposure of those responsible.
 - Seek to provide better values in apartment/rental housing.

Purpose

- The purpose of this Association shall be:
- To advance the general welfare of the rental housing industry.
- To participate for the purpose of mutual benefit in an interchange of information and experience with all state and local affiliated associations of the National Apartment Association.
- To encourage within the apartment/rental housing industry a high appreciation of the objectives and responsibilities of apartment/rental housing owners and operators in providing adequate privately owned housing.
- To promote the enactment and enforcement of local, state and federal laws beneficial to the apartment/rental housing industry and free enterprise.
- To disseminate useful information to all members and inspire them to further educate themselves in the practical features of their apartment/rental housing operations.
- To advocate a code of ethics to maintain high professional standards and sound business methods among its members for the best interests of the industry and the public.

Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

July 16—regular membership meeting.
5:30 pm Granny Shaffer's, Joplin. Speaker,
Gary McVey, Pest Control.

August 20—regular membership
meeting. 5:30 pm Granny Shaffer's,
Joplin. Speaker Chuck Brown.

August 6—BOD meeting 6:00 Keller/
Williams Realty.

September 3—BOD meeting 6:00 pm
Keller/Williams Realty.