

Do you have Drosophila melanogaster in your house?

You're very familiar with *Drosophila melanogaster*. They usually show up in your kitchen at the most inopportune time.

They are called fruit flies, also known as vinegar flies, those pesky little bugs that annoy the dickens out of you. But actually, they are very beneficial to humans.

This species is one of the most commonly used model organisms in biology, including studies in genetics, physiology, microbial pathogenesis, and life history evolution because they are easy to take care of, breed quickly, and lay many eggs.

About 75 percent of known human disease genes have a recognizable match in the genetic code of fruit flies, and 50 percent of fly protein sequences have mammal tendencies. These flies are being used as a genetic model for several human diseases including Parkinson's, Huntington's, spinocerebella

defense, even though there are various traps and sprays that are used to kill fruit flies, it is necessary to eliminate the source in order to eliminate them.

Look first in areas where vegetables and fruits are stored outside refrigeration. Also look for fruit fly sources in garbage cans, under appliances and recycling bins. Remember that the larvae can only survive in decaying organic matter that is moist. Also, fruit fly larvae may feed on the sides of the drain and in the drain trap if there is an accumulation of organic debris there.

A space spray such as CB80 Pyrethrin can be used as a quick kill, reducing populations of flying insects.

Gentrol aerosol is an insect growth regulator to use to kill fruit fly eggs and discourage immature fruit by development.

Automatic dispensers can be used with the V Tech Mist Flying Insect Killer. One of these will last 30 days.

So, if you can eliminate the source, don't allow them to get established, you won't have to worry about eradicating them.

Roland's trivia question of the week:

What is the historical significance of the number 12 for the Boston Red Sox?
Answer on page 15.



by Roland D. Hallee

SCORES & OUTDOORS



ataxia and Alzheimer's disease. The fly is also being used to study mechanisms underlying aging and oxidative stress, immunity, diabetes, and cancer, as well as drug abuse.

As important as they are in the laboratory, I don't need them in my kitchen. So, first, how to identify the source of the fruit flies, and what you can do to get rid of them.

The developmental period of the fruit flies varies with temperature. The shortest development time (egg to adult), seven days, is achieved at 82°F. Development times increase at higher temperatures due to heat stress. Females lay up to 400 eggs into rotting fruit or other suitable material such as decaying mushrooms. They hatch after 12-15 hours. The resulting larvae grow for about four days while molting twice, at about 24 and 48 hours after hatching. During this time, they feed on the microorganisms that decompose the fruit, as well as on the sugar of the fruit itself. Then the larvae undergo a four-day-long metamorphosis after which the adults emerge.

Fruit flies can be spotted around fresh fruits/vegetables, rotting fruits and vegetables, drains, garbage and damp organic materials.

Populations tend to be greatest in late summer and early fall as they infest fruits during the harvest season. With the end of summer season, many homeowners often encounter fruit flies in and about their kitchens and near garbage storage areas.

Occasionally, pomace flies, similar in appearance to fruit flies, may infest the home from standing water, like a forgotten mop pail or an open sewer drain. Newly-emerged fruit fly adults are attracted to lights, but egg laying females will not leave fermenting materials.

How to get rid of them? Sanitation is the first measure of

Nomination papers for China boards due September 18

by Mary Grow

As of September 7, five incumbents are unchallenged for reelection to China boards – and four positions have no candidates at all. Town Clerk Rebecca Hapgood reported that Peter Foote, Paul MacDonald and Joann Austin are all circulating nomination papers for reelection as selectmen.

Milton Dudley and Ronald Breton want to serve another three years on the planning board. Planning Board Chairman Michael Martin is not running again.

There are no candidates for three budget committee seats.

Signed nomination papers must be returned to the town office by 11 a.m., Saturday, September 18, for candidates' names to be on the November 2 ballot.

Alumni reunion to dedicate bell

On Saturday, September 11, the Oak Grove Alumnae reunion will take place on the campus of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, on Rte. 201, in Vassalboro. Prior to the alumnae luncheon at 12:30 p.m., there will be a brief ceremony to commemorate the re-dedication of the historic Bailey Hall Bell. The oldest Oak Grove graduate in attendance will ring the bell at that time.

Maine Criminal Justice Academy director John Rogers, and assistant director Eric Parker, have worked with the Oak Grove and the Oak Grove Foundation, and the Vassalboro Historical Society of Friends to return (and restore) the Bailey Hall Bell to its original location. Cadets at the MCJA gave many hours of work to accomplish this goal.

Vassalboro groups to hold special events

The Vassalboro Historical Society will sponsor a rummage sale on Saturday, September 11, from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Taylor property, 360 Main Street, East Vassalboro, across from the Grange Hall. Proceeds from the sale will be used for the fuel fund.

The Vassalboro Historical Society and the Vassalboro Grange will hold a joint potluck supper meeting on Thursday, September 16, at the Vassalboro Grange on Rte 32 in East Vassalboro at 6 p.m. The program will be "Vassalboro Tidbits." Everyone is invited to attend. The grange is celebrating 100 years in

its fine building, and the historical society is celebrating its 50th year of existence this year. 2010 is a memorable year for both organizations.

Voyages in Recorded Music series to be offered

Peter Cates, author of "Platter Perspectives" in *The Town Line*, will be offering his lecture series "Voyages in Recorded Music," in two venues this fall.

Through a series of six enlightening and entertaining talks at the China Village Baptist Church and at Palermo Public Library, Peter will shine a new light on older recordings of a variety of music from classical and spiritual to jazz and blues. Each lecture is one hour and covers topics ranging from Beethoven and Brahms to the Big Bands and folk/country.

The series in Palermo begins Monday, September 13, at 7 p.m. The concurrent series at China Baptist Church begins Tuesday, September 21, also at 7 p.m. The lectures are free with donations gratefully accepted.

THE TOWN OF CHINA
is seeking candidates for the position of **Transfer Station Attendant**. This is a part-time 20+ hours per week position. A complete job description can be picked up at the town office or transfer station or at www.china.govoffice.com
Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to the **TOWN OFFICE at 571 Lakeview Drive, China ME 04358 no later than September 22nd.**
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