

# AROUND THE BACK COUNTRY

## Sudden Oak Death

SUBMITTED BY LONNIE SOLE

I have been under the assumption that what I was seeing on some of the trees I have treated were signs of beetle infestation. I was WRONG. Some of the trees I have treated had what I called "weeping" or "bleeding." This is a sign of Sudden Oak Death [explained below]. I have been able to save several of these infected trees. This means that our product is effective on not only

the "Bark Beetle" but on a pathogenetic disease as well. I believe our product fights "Sudden Oak Death" by introducing healthy bacteria and removing the bad bacteria. Just a hunch and will need much more research to confirm. I will research this further but in the meantime, put this in your data banks--BIG BUD WORKS ON BARK BEETLES AND SUDDEN OAK DEATH !!!

Sudden Oak Death is

the common name of a disease caused by the oomycete plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*. The disease kills oak and other species of tree and has had devastating effects on the oak populations in California and Oregon as well as also being present in Europe. Symptoms include bleeding cankers on the tree's trunk and dieback of the foliage, in many cases eventually leading to the death of the tree.

## Celebrate the Start of Spring

Sacred Rocks Reserve and RV Park Offers Green Tour and Family Planting Event - March 20, 2009

What: Sacred Rocks Reserve's "Green Tour and Spring Planting Event."

Celebrate the first day of spring with your family by planting a flower, shrub or tree, and by learning other earth friendly green tips. Materials and plants provided.

When: Weekend event kicks off on the first day of spring, Friday, March 20, 2009 and runs through Sunday, March 22, 2009.

Green Tours at 9:00 am, 11:00 am and 1:00 pm on Saturday. Planting will start at 10:00 am Saturday and continue throughout day. Day Visitors are welcome. Includes a community campfire and hot dog roast Saturday night after the Planting Event.

Where: Sacred Rocks Reserve and RV Park, 1331 Shasta Way, Boulevard,

CA

Who: Open to the public, family friendly activities available to celebrate the beginning of spring. RV, tent campers and day visitors are welcome.

Cost: Green Tour and Planting Event are free! \$5 per person for hotdog roast Saturday night, plus site fees for tent and RV campers. Special discount on site fees - two nights for the price of one this weekend only.

RSVP: RSVP with the number of people in your group to: [sacredrocks@gmail.com](mailto:sacredrocks@gmail.com) or call: 619-766-4480.

Details: Boulevard, CA - Sacred Rocks Reserve and RV Park, a 163-acre wilderness reserve with RV and tent camping sites (formerly Outdoor World RV Park), is offering a Green Tour and Family Planting Event to celebrate the start of spring. Green Tours of the park with green tips on eco-friendly

practices will be offered as well as an opportunity to plant a tree, flower or shrub. Day visitors and RV and tent campers are welcome. Labyrinth walk and stargazing on Friday night and community campfire with hot dog roast Saturday night. Additional spring activities on Sacred Rocks' event calendar include a GeoCaching Easter Egg Treasure Hunt on April 4, 2009 and Spring Bloom Walks, April 1 - June 30, 2009. Call for details.

Sacred Rocks is located near Boulevard, California, approximately 65 miles East of San Diego along Highway 94 at: 1331 Shasta Way in Boulevard, California. Reservations are required. For information, call: 619-766-4480 or visit: [www.sacredrocksreserve.com](http://www.sacredrocksreserve.com).

Christen Brown Assistant for Sharon Courmoussis Sacred Rocks Reserve <http://www.sacredrocksreserve.com/> (619) 295 6591

## M.E. Women's Club Forming

We are inviting all women of the Mountain Empire to come together and create an organization FOR WOMEN, for FUN, LEARNING, and SHARING wisdom of generations.

What: A call to women of the Mountain Empire

Please come for your

second cup of coffee/tea, morning munchies and fun conversation with the women of Mountain Empire in order to share ideas to create a fun club for women. We want you to help design a group you would admire and enjoy.

When: March 10 at 10am  
Where: Sacred Rocks Reserve in the Clubhouse

Who: Women of all ages and interests  
Cost: Free  
RSVP not necessary but hoped for: (619) 766-4480  
For More Details Contact: [EllenInloch@945-294-2302](mailto:EllenInloch@945-294-2302)  
Address: (formerly Outdoor World Park) entry is 1 mile East of Church Road on 1331 Shasta Way, Boulevard, CA 95109

## Southern California Oaks Under Attack

BY MAJOR DENNIS COPSON, USMC (RET)

Oak trees in the back country of eastern San Diego County are under attack by a beetle presumed to be relatively new to California and not previously connected to the deaths of these types of trees in this area. Only very recently has the correlation to the dying trees and the rare shiny green oak borer been made. It is difficult to determine at this time the exact number of trees infested and killed by this pest, but it is thought to be a spreading problem affecting perhaps hundreds of square miles.

The connection was discovered somewhat inadvertently by United States Forest Service entomologist Tom Coleman while investigating widespread damage to oaks in the Cleveland National Forest where many trees were dying from what was assumed to be the drought conditions of recent years in Southern California. Coleman instead noticed that the trees were under some sort of aggressive insect attack and subsequently discovered the culprit - which may be named the Gold-spotted Oak Borer (*Agrilus coxalis*). Oaks were infested with the beetle - drought was most likely not the primary cause of tree deaths although it may have been a contributor.

In a press release dated August 15, 2008 the Forest Service formally announced the discovery and the nature of the widespread problem citing the cause officially as the wood boring beetle. According to the press release: "Evidence of insect attacks on oak trees can be seen by the presence of the insect under the bark, D-shaped exit holes in the bark, woodpecker foraging, and bark staining on the trunk of the tree and larger branches."

The infestation seems to be confined to the eastern part of the county although now spreading over what appears to be a widening area. It is estimated as many as 70% of the trees in the locale may be bug-ridden with mortality rates nearing 10%. The oaks are the primary trees of many landowners and are, in some cases, over a hundred years

old, some even older. Local residents are concerned that they will lose their trees to the beetle and are looking for ways to treat them.

The Forestry Service is

THE GOLD-SPOTTED OAK BORER (*AGRILUS COXALIS*)  
PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE AUTHOR



and "almost looked like four years ago" - before he noticed any problems. He further states "If your trees look like they are dying, I highly recommend Nature's Big Bud (Worm Castings) Premium (100% Organic Liquid) Plant Food." Apparently the treatment made a believer out of him.

Nature's Big Bud Worm Castings Field Tech, Richard Buck, has been spraying trees at Legacy Ranch and surrounding areas. He has had great results with the liquid blend. (He also has tested it on trees affected by Sudden Oak Death, a pathenogenic disease involving a fungus-like bacterial infection and claims good results in treating it.)

As an aside and a warning to unsuspecting residents of the area, a so-called tree 'expert' from out of area has been wandering the back country in the vicinity of Cuyamaca (and probably other rural places) offering to spray trees with a spectricide chemical - at an outrageous price. The U.S. Forest Service has not recognized this nor any chemicals as an effective treatment at this point to kill this particular beetle. Residents are warned not to be taken in by any opportunists as of now. When a treatment method is approved, I'm certain the Forest Service will let people know. And, it would be wise to only deal with known and reputable local businesses vice traveling 'flimflammers'!

The loss of these trees is far more than an esthetics matter. Large scale deaths of the oaks will contribute to soil erosion problems, increased fuel for wildfires, and loss of habitat for varied wildlife. The infestation is a growing threat over a large area with potentially devastating results. Let's hope the Forest Service and other related agencies will find a solution to the problem soon. Perhaps they should contact Mr. Lonnie M. Sole of Campo, California to confirm his 'Go Green' organic treatment method has merit rather than resort to the customary use of harsh and polluting chemicals which will contribute to toxic runoff into our waterways and underground water supplies.

### WANTED: VENDORS FOR A FARMER'S MARKET AND STREET FAIR AT GOLDEN ACORN CASINO

Golden Acorn Casino and Travel Center, located on I-8 and the Crestwood Exit in Campo, CA is planning for a future Farmer's Market and Street Fair. And, the Casino is looking for growers and vendors for this event. We want to have food, frolic and friendship at the Farmer's Market and give our good neighbors a chance to sell their wares. All vendors will be welcome. But, we need your input to help us get started and are asking you to call us with your good advice.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, whether hay or hardware, please give us a call. If you have advice to share or an opinion to express, please use our no cost number, 866-794-6244 and ask for either Diana Shea or Adriana Rosales. They will be delighted to hear from you. Everybody looks forward to a fun event.



### Boulevard Coins & Collectibles

Ed & Susan Wood Owners

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PO Box 1499  
Boulevard, CA 91905

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Fax: (619) 766-9223  
Email: [gvtstue@aol.com](mailto:gvtstue@aol.com)

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