

Stay Hydrated with Kinetico!
FREE 30 day trial! *Some restrictions may apply*
We'll even waive installation on pre-plumbed homes; full-line fees apply.



Call today about interest free options, trials, rentals and trade-in allowances.
602-910-6588
www.kineticoaz.com



92°
FEW CLOUDS



Advanced Search

GO

News Opinion Sports Business Life Get Out Jobs Classifieds Obits

FREE & LOCAL East Valley | Mesa | Gilbert | Chandler | Tempe | ABC 15 Weather | Discover Mesa | Best of Gilbert 2016 | Best of Mesa 2016 | Discover Gilbert | Discover Chandler




- 600+ Online Classes
- Classes Start Monday
- \$84/credit*

[Learn More](#)

*For Maricopa County residents. Important information about the educational debt, savings, and completion rates of students who attend this program is available at www.riosalido.edu/ajep/programs. The Maricopa Community Colleges are EEO/AA Institutions.



Welcome to the site!
Login or Signup below.

.....

[Login](#) | [Signup](#)

Best of Gilbert 2016

Home Arizona

Desert is home to scary creatures looking for cool spaces

Story Comments

Share Print Font Size:

Tweet Like 3



Will Powers/Tribune Staff Photographer

Monsters attack in the East Valley

Homeowners who xeriscape and use desert plants are less likely to run into scorpions.

[Buy this photo](#)

And that's why scorpions, spiders and other venomous monsters of the East Valley are as ornery as you are right now. They're not fond of 115-degree days, either. They want to cool off. And, unfortunately, they might do that on your patch of lawn in the backyard, in your garage or — God forbid — in the dark corners of your child's bedroom closet.

Here's a refresher course on how to survive the coming arachnid and insect apocalypse.

Scorpions

Ancient desert peoples looked up to the night sky and were awed by the constellation Scorpius.

Scorpio is the astrological sign for those born from Oct. 23 to Nov. 21.

It's safe to say that we've been alternately fascinated and terrified by the creature with the nasty

Posted: Monday, June 13, 2016 6:00 am | Updated: 10:05 am, Mon Jun 13, 2016.

By Mike Butler Tribune Staff Writer

Remember those perfect East Valley weekend afternoons back in April? T-shirt and sandals weather. Everybody up north was getting pelted by hail and doused by torrential rains. You were giggling on the patio.

This was why you moved here.

Over the eons, this was also why all of our many beautiful palo verde trees, yuccas and cactuses made their homes here. Alas, our abundant and diverse plant life naturally led to a spectacular universe of creepy-crawly life.



ENROLL NOW!

Ombudsman
An Alternate Route

Earn your high school diploma with Ombudsman Charter Schools

Do More. Earn More. Be More.

tempediploma.com
602-217-0837

venomous tail for a long time.

Arizona's landscape and climate is a paradise for more than 50 species of scorpions, but the only one East Valley residents really need to worry about is the bark scorpion, according to Andy Baldwin, who chairs the Life Science department at Mesa Community College.

Yellowish in color, bark scorpions are small, about 2-3 inches in length, and very slender. They are predators who use their highly toxic venom to paralyze insects, and sometimes other scorpions.

By contrast, the Arizona hairy scorpion, which you also might see lurking in your garage or around your swimming pool, is 5-7 inches long and much bulkier. The hairy scorpion can crush beetles, roaches, crickets and other insects and tear them into pieces, so its venom doesn't need to be as strong as the bark scorpion's.

Female bark scorpions give birth during summer months to a brood of 25-35 live youngsters, who ride around on mom's back until they molt and can forage on their own.

The main reason humans have so many encounters with bark scorpions is because of the creatures' ability to climb. They scamper up and over concrete block walls and scale up and down palm trees with ease. They can slip through a crack just 1/16th-inch wide under a door or around a window and, once inside, scurry up textured walls and across ceilings. They can't get traction on glass or clean, hard surfaces such as plastic. That's why you often see them helpless in a bathtub or shower. (They don't come up through drains.)

If you're a healthy adult not plagued by any serious respiratory or allergy issues, a bark scorpion bite will cause great pain for a couple of days, but usually no swelling. A scorpion-related death hasn't occurred in Arizona for more than 40 years.

"I've been stung by bark scorpions a half-dozen times," Baldwin says. "It hurts like hell – but that's it. I'm more afraid of prickly pears."

Baldwin says that homeowners who xeriscape and use native desert plants are less likely to experience scorpion problems than residents who create tropical oases with irrigated lawns and swimming pools. Keeping your yard tidy – free from wood and brush piles and overgrown shrubs – also helps.

However, if you live in a scorpion-prone EastValley neighborhood and have children under the age of 10 – or if you are elderly or an allergy-prone adult – you'll want to take more aggressive action against bark scorpions.

A bark scorpion bite that causes severe swelling, jittery eye movements, muscle twitching or difficulty swallowing and breathing requires immediate medical attention. It's always a good idea to call the 24-hour Banner Poison & Drug Information Center at 800-222-1222 after any venomous bite for advice.

Only about 100 bark scorpion bites per year in the Valley are serious enough to require life-saving – and very expensive – anti-venom, according to the ASU School of Life Sciences.

Most East Valley residents have pest control companies regularly spray for scorpions, which controls them to a certain extent, but more importantly eliminates their insect food source. If you're lucky, bark scorpions will move on to greener pastures.

It's prudent to seal your home up tight with caulk and weather-stripping. If you have kids and pets, you probably don't want to blast rooms with strong pesticides. To protect infants, drop the legs of a crib in glass jars and keep the crib well away from walls. You also might want to suspend a large foam-board shield above the crib to prevent scorpions from dropping down.

At night, when scorpions leave their shaded daytime hidey-holes to hunt, adventurous homeowners can go out with a blacklight and stomp them with a heavy boot or squish them with a long-handled grabber tool. It takes diligence and time to get them under control.



SPECIAL REPORTS



SB 1070: A Year Later



'Celebrating Arizona's Centennial -- 2012'



'Rigged Privilege'



'Snaketown'

'Reasonable Doubt'

Or residents can call the Scorpion Equalizer, aka Dean Andrews of Ahwatukee.

When his young daughter was frightened out of her wits by a scorpion some years ago, he hunted them down like a vengeful Liam Neeson. Neighbors asked him to rid their yards of scorpions. He learned by trial and error and built up a robust business as a pesticide-free scorpion executioner.

Andrews says when you see a scorpion in your home, kill it with a shoe, a book, a golf club – whatever’s at hand. “Don’t blow it by going to look for the perfect killing tool. The scorpion will be gone.”

His other cardinal rule is never assume a scorpion is dead unless you’ve flattened it. He says he’s seen scorpions start twitching after dredging them up from the bottom of a pool and after being drenched in bug spray.

Killer bees

Scientists prefer the term Africanized honeybees. But a recent vicious attack in Mesa’s Usery Mountain Park that killed a young man is still fresh in many East Valley residents’ minds. It also provides a grim reminder of how unpredictable, aggressive and relentless these insects can be. The hiker was stung more than a thousand times, and the swarm turned on park employees and firefighters who tried to help the victim.

When Africanized bees arrived here in the summer of 1993, they quickly mated with and overwhelmed the gentle European bee population. Assume that any bee you see in a park, in your garden or on a trail is an Africanized honeybee, says research technologist Osman Kaftanoglu, of the ASU Bee Lab in Mesa.

When outdoors, you’ll be less noticeable to bees if you wear light-colored clothing. Avoid using scented soaps and lotions, as many odors can attract or provoke bees. The smell of a banana, Kaftanoglu says, can trigger an alarm in bees to start stinging.

This time of year, bees seek water as much as pollen, Kaftanoglu notes. Large numbers of them can gather around ponds and might become attracted to your lawn sprinklers. Bees that are busy gathering water and pollen far from the hive, however, usually aren’t a threat.

Trouble begins when people accidentally get too close to a nest. Africanized honeybees aren’t particular about where they establish a colony. It could be an irrigation box, a cavity in a saguaro, or a hole in the ground.

Be alert to an intensification of bee activity close to a hive and the steady buzz that emanates from a colony. Once stinging begins, your only recourse is to run. Pull your shirt up over your ears to protect your face and eyes. Get inside a car, house or other building as quickly as possible. Don’t dive into a pool, Kaftanoglu advised. They’ll wait for you to surface and resume stinging.

Spiders

Although the tarantula wins the award for scariest-looking spider, its bite is about as harmful as a single bee sting.

A bite from a black widow or desert (brown) recluse, on the other hand, is very serious and requires medical attention. The trouble with many spider bites is they often go unnoticed until swelling, pain and other symptoms appear hours later.

Baldwin of Mesa Community College says black widows like to hide under park benches and other outdoor furniture. They’ll also weave their irregular white webs inside of barbecue grills and around pool pumps and storage areas. The spider itself is large and black, with a distinctive red hourglass marking on the abdomen.

The desert recluse is small and brown and has three pairs of eyes (most spiders have eight eyes). Markings on its back may resemble a violin shape. It’s more of a hunter and can turn up almost anywhere a scorpion would. Baldwin says whenever he needs a recluse for a demonstration, he



Monsoon

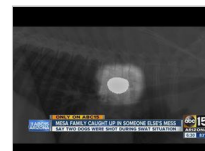
PHOTOS & VIDEO



Police investigating deadly hit-and-run in Gilbert



Two people dead after Mesa freeway crash



Mesa family caught up in police situation



Postal worker indicted for mail theft



Valley hero thanks mystery man who saved his life



Tempe homeowner watches burglary

VALLEY, STATE AND NATION



In Case You Missed It

Spotlight Popular Updated

Updated: 11:57 am



1000 Degrees Neapolitan Pizza to open second location in Gilbert

Spotlight

posted: June 13



Desert is home to scary creatures looking for cool spaces

Top Story

Updated: 10:05 am

goes into the garage and opens up a box of Christmas ornaments.

Its bite is dangerous.

"It's the only thing I ever kill," says Kaftanoglu. "Everything else I just pick up and throw outside."

- Reach Mike Butler at 480-898-6581 or at mbutler@timespublications.com.

- Check us out and like the East Valley Tribune on Facebook and follow EVTNow on Twitter.

More about **Scorpion**



Scorpion walks

- ARTICLE: Spend summer solstice at scorpion hunt, concert
- ARTICLE: Go on a night hunt for glowing scorpions with Mesa ranger
- ARTICLE: Chandler Regional agrees to adjust \$83,000 scorpion sting bill

More about **Snake**

- ARTICLE: Right at Home: decor inspired by creepy crawlies
- ARTICLE: Warmer weather brings out snakes
- ARTICLE: Live snake a bonus at art museum family day
- ARTICLE: Easter eggsssssss ... and snakes

More about **Bee**

- ARTICLE: Some common questions about killer bees menacing Arizona
- ARTICLE: Honeybees generate \$7B annually for Ariz. agriculture
- ARTICLE: Bee-friendly garden can help struggling species
- ARTICLE: State spelling bee scheduled for March 29

Tweet Like 3

Discuss Share Print

Posted in Arizona, East Valley Local News, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Tempe on Monday, June 13, 2016 6:00 am. Updated: 10:05 am. | Tags: Scorpion, Snake, Bee, Gila Monster, Spider

Stories You Might Like



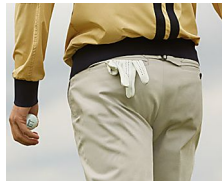
Ever Googled Yourself? Try This Instead. New Site is Background Checks



Two jaw-dropping 10% cash back cards have hit the market LendingTree



Obama to Arizona Homeowners - "Get Free Solar Panels" Stay Informed



Exploring the game-changing tailored attire worn by Dunhill

Recommended by

Promoted Stories

- BREAKING: 1 Reason To Do This Every Time You Use Your Computer Smarter Web Life
- Pay Off Your Credit Card Balance Faster Using This One Trick LendingTree
- Bizarre Family Photos That Will Make Your Skin Crawl Your Daily Dish

Trending Now

- Equipped with tools and attitude to match Girls Rule organization helps build confidence
- All-Tribune Baseball: Hamilton's Brueser doubles up on top honor
- 7 Phoenix Summer Survival Tips
- 1000 Degrees Neapolitan Pizza to open second location in Gilbert
- "LET JOE KNOW": Don't fall for new scam involving gift cards



Proposition 123 will not be blocked

Top Story

posted: June 12



Am I my brother's keeper? Only if we care about people

Spotlight

posted: June 12



Longtime Ahwatukee resident, volunteer Jolkovski passes away

Spotlight

posted: June 12



Arizona prepares for wildfire season with new aircraft

Top Story

posted: June 11



Your Business Briefs

Top Story

posted: June 11



Socialism has gained popularity because we have forgotten the past

Spotlight

posted: June 11



Order a coffee from a person and you'll see why robots are the future

Spotlight

posted: June 10

- Shark Myths You Need to Know About Sharks
Pottery Barn
- Have a Burning Business Question? Ask Our Security Expert: Gary Davis.
Entrepreneur
- The Fastest Way To Pay Off \$10,000 In Credit Card Debt
LendingTree
- Socialism has gained popularity because we have forgotten the past

Recommended by

0 Comments

Sort by **Oldest**



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



Your Week Ahead



New Tempe autism preschool open to all



In Your Community



New program helping small business



Entrepreneur hopes to make air conditioning



9th Circuit allows Arizona Students'

Gardens at Ocotillo SENIOR LIVING
A SPECTRUM RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

FREE care for 30 days in assisted living! Move-in by 6/30/16.

GardensAtOcotilloSeniorLiving.com

Sections

- News
- Opinion
- Sports
- Business
- Life
- Get Out
- Nerdvana
- Specials
- Marketplace
- Jobs
- Obits

Services

- About
- Advertise
- Career Opportunities
- Contact
- Find a Rack
- Local Businesses
- Public Notices
- Privacy Policy
- Site Map
- User Agreement

Affiliates

- Ahwatukee Foothills News
- Arizona Interactive
- Daily News Sun (Sun City)
- Explorer (Tucson)
- Glendale Today
- Nerdvana
- Peoria Today
- Surprise Today

Contact us

East Valley Tribune
Phone number: 480-TRIBUNE
Address: 1620 W. Fountainhead Parkway, Ste. 219
 Tempe, AZ 85282

[More Contact Information...](#)