



Volume 10, Issue 2
June 2022

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The Party Animal News

Fellowship of the Ring

My sons Patrick and Tyler grew up during the heyday of the blockbusters “Lord of the Rings” and the “Harry Potter” series. They and their mom (not me) read and loved the books and there was a guarantee with the release of each new movie that tickets would be purchased as soon as possible to view the next installment. I should point out this also included the ongoing prequel/postquel Star Wars movies, which I had a little more of an interest in because of the influence of seeing the first movie premier in the theaters in 1977. I remember my sons and some of their friends attempting to watch all of the previous films in order, right before going to watch the new movie of the series that was opening at the theater. They were zombies by then, but they felt prepared for the new segment.

Now typically, with the Lord of the Rings (2001-2003) or Harry Potter (2001-2011), I fell asleep in the movie at some point in time. That meant I always had something new to pick up when they were re-watched multiple times on DVD.

Of course, when I was growing up there were no DVDs or video recorders. My brother and I would only get to watch a movie again if a TV station decided to replay it. Our favorite movies were Bridge Over the River Kwai (1957) and silly movies like The Great Race(1966) with Jack Lemmon as Professor Fate and Tony Curtis as the Great Leslie. We even got inventive and recorded the sound from TV movies with a tape recorder and took the cassette along in the car to amuse ourselves during long drives. I remember listening to The Ghost and Mr. Chicken (1966) to pass the time on a one day adventure when my baseball coaches took our team from Duncanville, TX to see the Astros play in Houston at The Astrodome. I don’t know who the vendors were at the Astrodome at the time, but that was the best hamburger I have ever eaten.

Pest of the Quarter: June Bugs



- ◄ They damage lawns.
- ◄ Check yard by digging 3 to 4 inch sections of grass, 4 inches deep. If more than 5 grubs per section you need to treat.
- ◄ We do not provide this service but can make a recommendation for who you can call for help

So, my wife was surprised when I started to read the Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring. I even watched the move again (and most likely I still took a nap at some point in time during the viewing). I was interested in the part when Gandalf was trying to hold back the Balrog, the demon of the deep, with his wizard powers.

Our company has worked through the pandemic, and you realize the risks involved and assume at some point you will get Covid. Just like Gandalf, at the last second, the demon swung it’s whip and got hold of me and pulled me down into the depths during the last ice storm we had this past February. Two years I had avoided Covid, but it got to me and then I gave it to Ann. When we traveled to Yellowstone this May, I think Americans had finally had it with Covid, as very few people wore masks in the Denver Airport. I will write about Yellowstone in my next newsletter. But let’s get back to the Fellowship.

Many of A-All’s customers are accustomed to the services of Russ Smith. After a couple of on the job injuries and recoveries in the last year, Russ has decided to retire. He will be seventy in a couple months and after this early heat wave, I don’t blame him. He was dedicated to his customers and a loyal employee. My employees all worked through the pandemic. Russ has been with us for twenty five years. Just like Sam in the Fellowship of the Ring, I could trust his judgment and allegiance when times were tough. In the pest control business, you are also fighting evil (various pests) and it takes dedication to manage these pests. It was comforting knowing I had someone knowledgeable working to help his/our customers every day. Russ will be greatly missed by us all. I hope those who were devoted Russ clients will give Tony or me a chance to prove ourselves. - David



We VALUE our customers!

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Russ Smith retires



“(A) flaw in the human character is that everybody wants to build and nobody wants to do maintenance.” - Kurt Vonnegut

Russ doing regular pest control treatments in a dedicated fashion kept a lot of A-All customers happy for decades. Russ first worked for some fellow Purdue grads in Austin. Dan Traeger, his previous boss, stated, *“Russ was a dedicated employee and devoted his time to solving and preventing pests at his accounts.”* I would say the exact same thing. Russ became an Associate Certified Entomologist when he was qualified to take this difficult test. He always tried to give his customer’s the best service. Russ deserves to enjoy his retirement and any well wishing will be passed on to Russ.

We VALUE our customers!