

NATURE

Bagworm moths holding interest



TIM NOWICKI

A cohort of mine at the Independence Oaks Nature Center brought in some interesting insects that a friend had inquired about. There was a small worm/caterpillar inside a bag constructed of plant material. They were only about 1/4-inch long and were found attached to the

side of a house. We identified them as the bagworm moth *Euryctonus confederata*. Shortly after I was given these specimens to identify, I found some attached to the north side of our house. They were on the bricks and windowills. Perhaps this is a good year for bagworms, since I don't recall seeing them before.

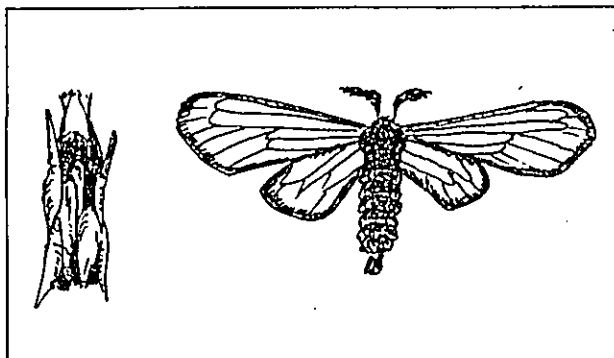
Bagworm moth bags remind me of the cases made by the caddisfly. In both cases, notice the pun here, the larvae collect material from the surrounding

area and attaches it to a silken material. As the larvae grows it continually enlarges the bag or case.

Caddisflies and bagworms come in different species and each species constructs a different enclosure. One bagworm orients plant material perpendicular to the long axis of the larvae, another orients the material parallel with the long axis. The same can be said for different species of caddisflies.

The small bags on the front of my house had their material oriented parallel with the axis of the larvae. Through they were conspicuous on the bricks, they would be very well camouflaged among the branches and leaves of plants. As the larvae feeds on a variety of plants it carries its bag and protection with it. When it has reached full size, the larvae will attach itself to a site and then pupate inside the bag.

Pupation may last several weeks, after which the adult males emerge and fly around in search of a female. Females don't emerge from their bag.



Bagworm moth: This drawing shows the cocoon (left) and adult of the bagworm moth.

They remain inside and mate with the males. She lays her eggs inside the bag and then she leaves. Her eggs will remain all winter inside the bag and will hatch the following spring.

Adult bagworm moths aren't much to look at. Males appear to have clear wings because the scales are so loosely attached they fall off easily. Females

are wingless and look like maggots. But the bags are interesting architectural structures.

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IT'S A CLASSIC

Welles' 'Citizen Kane' deserves high esteem



HUGH GALLAGHER

A recent gathering of film critics from around the world conferred the title of greatest film of all time on "Citizen Kane."

Even Orson Welles with his outlandish large ego would blanch at such a pronouncement. He was, no doubt, pleased with his first film. What 25-year-old wouldn't be happy to be called a "boy genius." But he knew that "Kane" was the result of years of experimentation. It borrowed liberally from American, German and Russian films that came before it.

Other films make strong claim to being ranked with the greatest of all time including "Potemkin," "Grand Illusion," "Rules of the Game," "Gold Rush," "La Strada," "Lawrence of Arabia" (the best use of wide screen ever),

"Stagecoach," "The Seventh Seal," "Rashomon," and scores of others over films 100 year history.

If "Citizen Kane" were only to be honored for its technical accomplishments, it would be one of several films from that era that developed camera, lighting and editing to a new level. Cinematographer Gregg Toland had worked with director John Ford on developing several of the techniques used in "Kane." He was also a student of German films which had been experimenting in this way since the '20s. Neophyte Welles was willing to try new things, to risk going against the brilliant formality of Hollywood studio productions. Similar experiments in sound were also being developed in the industry, and Welles was a radio veteran who had the talent to bring them to fruition.

What sets "Kane" apart as a classic, though, is the use of these techniques to tell a story that has the depth of a novel. It also has an adult, quirky, darkly

humorous tone that was a sharp turn from the sentimentality of "serious" Hollywood movies.

Screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz and Welles created in Kane, modeled closely on newspaper mogul William Randolph Hearst, a character that was neither all evil or all good. This was the quintessential American story, a tragedy with more nuances than many great novels and plays. And it was told in a new, vigorous language.

As a newspaperman, the film has a special appeal to me. Kane starts out as a young heir to a fortune who takes over a dying newspaper and promises to use it to crusade for the downtrodden, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. In short order he uses his now nationwide media to further his own greedy interests and corrupts the principles of journalism for power and profit. He ends smothered by his own wealth, surrounded by everything mon-

ey could buy or power could command and bitterly alone.

Welles, Toland and Mankiewicz all contributed to creating a work that still entertains and enlightens, especially when seen in the new printings that bring out the rich shadows and modeling that made the movie so unusual in its time. Welles, at 25, scored a triple triumph here as brilliant and innovative director, insightful, literate co-writer and as larger than life actor (a broad and theatrical performance that ranks with the best ever given on screen).

"Citizen Kane" is more fairly numbered as one of the greatest movies of all time, but it surely is a classic because it showed conclusively that movies could take their place with the great works of art.

Hugh Gallagher is the Observer & Eccentric assistant managing editor for feature sections. He welcomes your comments and suggestions for "classics." He can be reached at 313-953-2118.

Garden visitors invited to go bats July 8

It is unlikely that bats live in your belly, but bats do live at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Saturday, July 8, visitors will have the opportunity to learn about bats, build a bat house and enjoy a fascinat-

ing look at these often misunderstood creatures.

Kim Williams and Rob Miles of Borealis Unlimited will present three separate workshops and lectures for individuals of all ages. They have been studying bats for more than five years,

and have netted bats in Alaska, Costa Rica as well as the Midwest. As biologists and conservationists, they have taught at Eastern Michigan University for the past three years.

During each activity or lecture, chil-

dren must be accompanied by an adult. Advance tickets for each event are required; call the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Friends of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens will receive a 10-percent discount. For more information, call Jacquol Austin at (313) 958-7061.