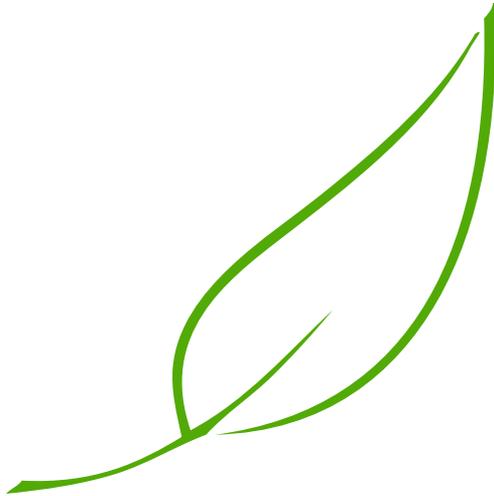


THIS FAMILY IS BUGGED

by Ken Bradbury



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Some people are accident-prone; some are born lucky ... but me? I have this knack of getting skeeter-bit where I either can't scratch it or shouldn't in mixed company. Mosquitoes seem to know when I'm headed for church the next day and commence to gnaw on me in the most uncomfortable and irritating places. It reminds me a lot of family reunions.

Uncle Harris used to say that the definition of a "relative" was "an acquaintance of the non-optional sort." He allowed as how they were something on the order of warts and digestive problems: You were either born with them or developed them as you went along ... but in either case they were impossible to avoid if you lived long enough.

I've been required to attend a number of these Sunday outings in the Midwest undergrowth. I have sorted and classified the various types of in-laws, outlaws and there-oughta-be-a-laws. If your tastes run toward the insect kingdom or if you've just attended a family reunion of your own then you might recognize a few.

The first species is **BORUS KODACHROMAS**. The Kodachromas is a bug who has pouches all over its body. Each of these pouches contains about a hundred snapshots of the bug's offspring. This is in spite of the fact that all of the bug's children are right there on the picnic grounds in the flesh. The Kodochromas is easy to detect since his appearance is nearly always preceded by a strong odor of developing fluid.

The **ADOLESCENTUS IMPATIENTUS**. The Impatientus is a bug of any species somewhere between the larva and adult stages. They tend to hang around the edges of family reunions jangling the keys to their cars and mumbling such enlightened phrases as "Mom can I go now!" and "You told that story last year, Uncle Harvey." The Impatientus is



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