

## December 2011 Newsletter



*“Frosty days and ice-still nights,  
Fir trees trimmed with tiny lights,  
Sound of sleigh bells in the snow,  
That was Christmas long ago.*

*Tykes on sleds and shouts of glee,  
Icy-window filigree,  
Sugarplums and candle glow,  
Part of Christmas long ago.*

*Footsteps stealthy on the stair,  
Sweet-voiced carols in the air,  
Stocking hanging in a row,  
Tell of Christmas long ago.*

*Starry nights so still and blue,  
Good friends calling out to you,  
Life, so fact, will always slow...  
For dreams of Christmas long ago.”*

*- Jo Geis, Christmas Long Ago*

## What is Good About Mold?



One of the most commonly asked questions in the home inspection business is about mold. Is it bad? Can you tell by looking at it? Is there a health risk? Most questions come from what we hear and not what we know. So as a change of pace, I thought I might put a little positive spin on mold.

Let's Talk about Stachybotrys: The most well known mold with the worst reputation for being a health risk. Stachybotrys is a Cellulose –decaying fungi (mold) that can be found everywhere there is dead organic materials (grass trimmings, leaves ect). In fact you can find it in your back yard. Look for clumps of old dead grass, leaves or other plants. Then look for black dots (not dark brown). If you see any, it is a good chance you just found Stachybotrys. The reason this mold is not a concern is that, for the most part, it is not airborne. It sticks with its own colony. Its purpose is the #1 cellulose recycler in nature. Just think what our world would be like if nothing decayed (talk about a hoarding problem). So mold is good and a very valuable product.

\*See below for more!





## Christmas Card Wreath

It's easy to transform a simple wreath into a Christmas card display. Wrap a straw wreath with upholstery webbing (available at fabrics stores), using small sewing pins to secure. Tie a bow at the top and loop a length through the back to hang. If you or the recipient love vintage collectibles, attach antique Christmas cards to the wreath with binder clips. Or include a small tin of clips with the wreath so the recipient can add their own cards as desired.



## What is Good About Mold?

*What does mold do that we cannot see?* Equally important are the invisible activates of fungi (mold). Nearly all of our forests are sustained by mycorrhizae, whipeout these fungi and the trees may not thrive. Fungi is even used to make antibiotics, immunosuppressants, and food sources. So without a reasonable amount of mold we might not exist.

*How do we put this info to work for us?* Nature tells us the path. First, mold is not our problem! What is causing the mold is the problem. Second, the mold comes from the natural environment around us. If it is in your home take it out (in a bag just like the grass and leaves).

So the concept of clean air and mold free living are easy. The solution to pollution is dilution!

For more clean air tips and answers to your mold concerns please email us at [inspectionplus@bellsouth.net](mailto:inspectionplus@bellsouth.net) or visit our web site at [www.thealabamahomepro.com](http://www.thealabamahomepro.com)!

Credits: Many thanks to Emlab and Dr. Harriet Burge

## **REFERRAL COUPON**

Refer a Friend for a Home Inspection and Receive a \$10 Firehouse Subs Coupon and Your Friend gets \$25 off their Inspection!



Expires December 31, 2011  
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**A HOME INSPECTION**