

Aliens invading your backyard?

Have you seen these odd looking growths on plants in your backyard or along the bike path?



Fall is leaf peeping season in New England and you may start noticing some unusual looking growths on some of the leaves. These unusual structures are called 'galls'. The galls are home to clever insects that have figured out a way to trick the plants into forming a safe shelter around them. While the insects are living inside the gall they can feed off the plants like an all-you-can-eat buffet and stay safe from harsh weather conditions and most predators. Once the insect is matured it burrows out of the gall and continues into the next phase of its lifecycle.

Many of the students will get to see these galls as they head out for their fall BBY walks. Next time you are out for a walk, take a closer look at the leaves on the trees or even the ground. Any unusual tumour like growth on the plant is usually a gall.

If you are interested in getting more involved with the BBY Committee at BBY@bowmanpta.org. We'd love to hear your thoughts and have more help.

- Happy leaf peeping.