



CLOSE TO HOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>What Makes a Pest?</i>	1
<i>La Cucaracha!</i>	1
<i>Pests and Home Inspections</i>	2
<i>Wood Foundations</i>	2



**Snow on Snow
Had fallen.**

**Snow on snow on snow.
In the bleak mid winter;
Long Ago.
(February, 2007)**

**"To Grandmother's
House We Go!"
Winter's Travelers**



Pennsylvania Wood Roach

Why they are Called:



PESTS!

They Hurt People

Whether we talk about the hornets nest in the back yard, the fleas in the bedroom carpet, or the rat that snuck in the back door, pests of all sorts hurt people. Professional pest management protects human life.

They Eat Our Food

Many pests have the same taste for foods as we do. Mice, rats, cockroaches, ants, moths, and beetles eat the same foods you had for dinner last night. It is a rare thing to be the first to dine on any food item. The USDA allows a certain parts per million of insect parts in flour and grains. It is impossible to keep them completely out.

They Destroy Our Homes

There is an insect that doesn't eat your food. It eats your house. Termites' only food source is cellulose based products. Wood, paper, cardboard, etc. Though carpenter ants do not eat wood for food, they nest inside it and their

excavation in the end looks much like termite damage. Powder Post Beetles and carpenter bees both dig wood out for nesting and cause considerable damage to structures.

They Start Fires

Mice, rats and squirrels are all rodents that require gnawing to keep their teeth sharp. When electrical wiring is near a nest site or in a runway, it will be chewed. Many fires start from rodent activity in buildings.

They Carry Disease

Cockroaches are well known for carrying food borne diseases. Salmonella can be carried on insect feet as they travel over food and food prep surfaces. Consider the house fly and the varied places it feeds. Droppings from cockroaches cause asthma in children. Rodent droppings also carry diseases and bacteria that can be life threatening. Certainly we all know the concern for rabies with vec-

tors like the raccoon and bat.

They Damage Fabrics

Clothing moths and silverfish both damage fabrics in the home like woolen suits, carpeting, and upholstery. The first evidence of a mouse or rat infestation may be gnaw marks on furniture, or a nest in the linen drawer.

They Are Dirty

Insects and rodents are not particular about where they walk. Where they eat, what they eat, and their general lack of hygiene all spell trouble when they enter our homes.

We call them PESTS!

They can eat your lunch.



THE PEST INSPECTOR'S JOURNAL!

THE ODD - THE SCARY - THE HUMOROUS

In late December I did an inspection on a newer home in the Bristol hills. As I was in the garage, I noticed some dead insects on the floor. Once in the basement I found more dead ones and a live one scurry across the floor. What is this winter pest?

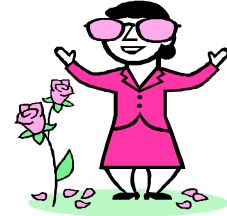
These insects turned out to be the Pennsylvania wood roach (See picture at left). It is the only cockroach in upstate NY that lives outside. Unlike the German roach that lives in kitchens, the wood roach lives outdoors under tree bark and leaves. Often

they will come into a house with fire wood. Their presence is unrelated to sanitation, and are common in the hills of the southern tier. Despite their innocence, still an unwelcome guest at a dinner party!



Pests in the Home Inspection

“If I Only Knew”



Gnawed Wires



Cluster Flies



Daycare Center!



Termite Damage; Basement Framing



Fraysier Home Inspections

CastleGuard Pest Management



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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE!

Q: We are considering purchasing a house in the Bristol Hills that is constructed with a wood foundation. Should I have any pest concerns?

A: Wood foundations are uncommon in our area. Some builders have used them in the finger lakes region. The proponents of wood foundations say they are as strong and durable as a concrete block foundation, makes a dryer basement, much easier to finish, and less expensive. From a pest standpoint, I would have some concerns.

Whenever any kind of wood is in contact with soil it has a much higher possibility of termite attack. Despite a plastic vapor barrier and gravel back-fill, termites can find their way to the wood. Though termites can travel through a concrete foundation, they cannot eat it. A wood foundation they can.

I have seen both termite and carpenter ant damage in pressure treated wood. With the old arsenic based pressure treatments, one could expect an 8-10 year protection at best.

Q: We receive the quarterly pest management service from Castleguard. How important is the winter service? Isn't everything sleeping?

A: This is a question I get asked a lot. First of all, there are several pests that are active year round in the house. Mice are the obvious pest that usually increase through the winter months. Spiders are the next ones that continue spinning their webs in out of way places. Carpenter ants can start appearing in mid-January and the pantry pests (moths and beetles) are active through the year in heated places.



ASK JOHN!

I take advantage of winter services to check on places in the house I usually don't have time for in the warmer months. I'll check the pantry areas for signs of Indian meal moths, flour beetles, etc. These pests can start to show up in the leftovers from Thanksgiving! Attic spaces are checked for signs of mice, bats, or other insects. And finally, I like to get a head

start on carpenter ants with special applications in the kitchen.

CastleGuard customers have the added benefit of having a licensed home inspector as their exterminator! You have the option of having me do a partial home inspection as part of your service. Perhaps you would like recommendations on your attic insulation/ventilation, or maybe you have concerns about exterior drainage and grading. Quarterly customers can substitute a CastleGuard service for a Fraysier Home Inspection partial inspection for the same cost! Or it can be an add on service.



NOW THAT'S A DEAL! This is the time of year to be **pro-active** in dealing with pests, and faulty systems that can damage the home.