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Did You See?

- Black ants today?
- The latest news on Bedbugs?
- That e-mail about mulch?

Read the stories to find out more!

Home Inspector Licensing

New York State is requiring home inspectors to be licensed as of January 1, 2006!

John Fraysier's license:

#16000009230

Through 1/16/2008

INVASION!

As a homeowner, it is a very unsettling thing to have your kitchen overrun with black ants. Despite all your best cleaning efforts and precautions, these ants seem to flourish. They also seem to show up at the worst times—with evening dinner guests!

Carpenter ants will come into very clean homes, so don't necessarily blame your housekeeping. When dozens appear in sink areas, kitchen counters, and dishwashers, they have found tiny food particles or spillage that has attracted them. No matter how clean the surface appears, they often find something of interest.

You might solve your problem by keeping all empty beverage cans rinsed and in the garage. This is a favorite spot for hungry ants.

But carpenter ants are much more than a nuisance in the home. They also can do substantial structural damage, and present a health



Of The Carpenter Ants

risk.

Consider what ants will walk across. Good and bad, it will end up on food products you eat, and on surfaces you prepare your food. Ants are like walking flies in their ability to transmit disease and bacteria.

When carpenter ants nest in a structure, they can do considerable damage. Repairs may be necessary when nesting occurs in sill plates, joists, wall studs, and window and door frames.

Usually, carpenter ants will make themselves known before large scale damage occurs. Beyond the obvious sightings of ants, there are symptoms you can watch for.

- **Sawdust:** A telltale sign of active nesting.
- **Wet Wood:** Ant's first choice for nest site.
- **Noises:** Nests can sometimes be heard at night.
- **Outside Indications:** Keep trees and shrubs trimmed back from house. Also watch power lines and fences to the house. They can be ant trails.

Professional carpenter ant treatments by **CastleGuard** utilize gel baits that safely and effectively eliminate nests.

Take Back Your Home!

585-381-0395



THE PEST INSPECTOR'S JOURNAL!

THE ODD - THE SCARY - THE HUMOROUS

I was recently asked to do a pest inspection on a vacant, foreclosed home. I was warned at the outset that an animal had died in the basement and was very smelly. I agreed to remove the problem.

Upon entering the basement I followed my nose to the source of the odor. Before the owners left, they emptied the contents of their basement freezer and took the freezer. What remained was a box of wrapped venison—about twenty pounds

worth!

Into large plastic bags it all went, and then a faster than normal trip to the dump. It took 3 solid weeks plus professional cleaning to clear the van of the odor.

Our first deer removal!



IN THE NEWS



Bee Swarm Kills Dogs

From: Palm Springs Desert Sun

Brenda and Jeff Miller and two of the couple's dogs, a Rottweiler and a mixed breed, were attacked outside the family's Ski Valley home by a swarm of Africanized honey bees.

The dogs died from the attack, and Brenda suffered numerous stings to her head when the bees got tangled in her hair. Africanized bees arrived in the Coachella Valley in 1998.



"Bug Bombs" Cause Blast

From: Burlington County Times, NJ

There was a minor explosion at a home in Burlington City, NJ, caused by "bug bombs". The occupants of the home set off more than a dozen total release foggers to fumigate an area. The bug bombs likely reached an ignition source and blew out a few of the home's windows, police said. Two police were hospitalized with minor injuries, but the occupants of the home were not injured.



Bed Bugs Bite

By: Samuel Maull

A Chicago booking agent and her husband sued a Catskill resort Tuesday for \$20 million, saying her body and mind were scarred after she suffered 500 bedbug bites while staying at the hotel last summer.



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94 Jefferson Ave., Fairport, NY 14450 P:585-381-0395 phi3@frontiernet.net www.fraysierhome.com

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE!

Q: There has been an e-mail circulating about Formosan termites infesting mulch from hurricane ravaged areas of the gulf coast. Do we need to worry about mulch purchases in western New York?

A: I received the e-mail you are speaking of. This is the logic of the argument: Many downed trees in Louisiana are being used for mulch, and are infested with Formosan termites. The termites travel with the mulch all over the country to populate new areas. Currently, the Formosan termite is only in a handful of southern port cities. Because it is the most destructive of termites, it is feared they will spread to other areas.

I have been told Formosan termites are more sensitive to colder temperatures than other subterranean termites, and cannot survive this far north. So this exact problem

probably will not affect us at all.

However, the lesson in this is a good one. Termites do travel in commodities like mulch and topsoil, though it is more of an issue on a local level. Topsoil can be moved from a termite neighborhood and transferred to a new neighborhood. The same with mulch—If it sits around a long time, termites can enter it and be moved to your garden.

This is the best explanation for why some streets in our area have small pockets of termites. They were likely brought in from infested areas of Irondequoit or Greece.



ASK JOHN!

Q: Is it true that FHA is no longer requiring the pest inspection on it's mortgages?

A: A letter was issued by HUD in January, 2006, realigning what inspections were required prior to closing. It states that the termite inspection is no longer required except in areas where inspections are "customary". I am told that HUD meant to keep the inspections going if they

were done prior to 2006 ("customary"). Most banks locally have interpreted the letter to say the inspection is no longer needed. I have been in contact with HUD through the National Pest Management Association to have the letter clarified, as there is confusion. We are hoping the regional Home Ownership Office of HUD in Philadelphia will soon do this.

Regardless of HUD's decision, the need for the dedicated pest inspection by a trained professional remains. Stories in this newsletter alone attest to that. Wood destroying insects account for thousands of dollars in damages every year in Monroe county.

It rests with bankers, attorneys, and realtors to urge their clients to protect themselves by having this inspection with their home inspection.