

CLOSE TO HOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fading Glory 1

Pest Inspector's Journal 1

Termites and Castles 2

Clover Mites 2

Did You Know?

- Robert Frost addresses home-buyers?
- How to solve a mystery fly problem?
- A plumber's shortcut could mean an explosion?
- Those tiny red dots are arachnids?

Read the stories to find out more!



WWW.FRAYSIERHOME.COM

Visit our newly designed
Web-site including both
Fraysier Home Inspections
—-and—-

CastleGuard Pest Management

A SNAPSHOT ON DECAY A HOME INSPECTOR PERSPECTIVE

"Nature's first green is gold;
Her hardest hue to hold;
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf,
So Eden sank to grief.
So dawn goes down to day,
Nothing gold can stay."
Robert Frost

Robert Frost's beautiful poem not only describes what we've just seen in our yards this Spring. It lends an insight on the transient nature of all we possess, including our homes.

I like to describe home inspections as a snapshot on the decay process. It is much like a physical our Doctors give us to investigate health problems. How far along are we in the aging process? Home inspections help to answer this questions for houses.

Consider these facts:

A man recently called saying he just closed on his house and noticed hundreds of flies in the windows, and maggots crawling on the living room carpet. The house had been vacant for over three months. What's causing the flies?

As soon as a house is built, rain and snow fall wearing away roofing shingles. Sun bakes, weakens, and discolors siding. Wind from storms will damage property.

In a damp basement, rust starts to form on metal surfaces of the furnace, electrical panel, and water heater. Over time, rust falls off and leaves a weakened metal. Replacements are needed.

Foundations begin to seep water as the waterproofing breaks down and the settling cracks allow it in. Tree roots and water pressure can grow to brings sides of houses down.

Termites and carpenter ants, a direct link to the decay process, invade houses and given time, can weaken structures to the point of collapse.

The point is this. Everything we know in this physical world is moving in one direction—down, back to the earth from which it came. Things can be done to prolong the



process, but there is no stopping it!

The picture of the house above was once someone's dream when it was built 90 years ago. And it will likely be another one's dream in years to come. But we do well to remember Frost's line: "Nothing gold can stay".

The home and pest inspection help to find each house's gold—and rust. They give a realistic view of where the house is in the decay process, and what to expect over the next five years.



THE PEST INSPECTOR'S JOURNAL!

THE ODD - THE SCARY - THE HUMOROUS

I suspected an animal had died in the fireplace chimney. I inspected the chimney from above and discovered a raccoon had climbed in and died on the fireplace damper. A common occurrence with uncapped chimneys in the Spring.

The problem was solved with a good chimney sweep, some bleach and water cleaning, and a good vacuuming of the carpets. A chimney cap was then installed.

Raccoons will often nest and raise young in open chimneys. Keep them capped!

Fraysier Home Inspections

CastleGuard Pest Management

94 Jefferson Ave.
Fairport, NY 14450

*"Your First Defense Against
Pest Invasion!"*

We're on the Web!

www.fraysierhome.com

Phone: 585-216-1085
Fax: 585-872-2447

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE!

Q: We live in Va. and found some debris on the basement floor we assumed was from our cat. But as we cleaned it up, we found it was sandy and alive with insects. Could these be termites?

A: Subterranean termites in VA and NY will crawl through cracks in concrete and build "swarm castles", sandy structures where swarming termites emerge in Spring. The insects you saw were likely termites. Though it sounds like no food supply was close by (wood, cardboard), you need to be vigilant in inspecting for damage. It would be a good time to begin a preventative treatment program to protect the house.



Q: Recently, our furnace technician pointed out a natural gas line that went through a cold air return near the furnace. He said this was against code and should be fixed. Why is this a problem?

A: The practice of running a gas line through a cold air return was a common practice back in the earlier days of gas use. It was the most direct, straight route for a pipe to go from point a to b. However, if a gas leak ever occurred in this section, the gas would be drawn into the furnace causing an explosion. Thus the code.

Your HVAC specialist will re-route the pipe around the duct work.



ASK JOHN!

Q: Every Spring we get these tiny red insects crawling on our back deck and around the doors and windows of the house. What are they, and do they bite?

A: These are not actually insects (6 legs) but arachnids (8 legs). Clover Mites are very common during the early Spring months, and are harmless. They do not

bite, and feed strictly on plant matter in your yard, especially saps and liquids found on well fertilized lawns. They usually congregate on sunny exposures of the house and deck. Their biggest annoyance is to painters who inadvertently paint over them, causing a red streak in the paint.

Exterior treatments can be done around the foundation to keep these pests from entering the house.

Below is an enlarged picture of a Clover Mite. You will need a good lens to catch this detail on a live specimen.

