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## The Pest Bulletin

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# Joe Mason Celebrates 40 Years of Service

July 19, 1965, began the career of service for Joseph A. Mason when he started as a newly employed service technician for our pest control company. Following a few weeks of hands-on training Joe was able to strike out on his own to serve our customers, some of whom he continues to do work for.

He has observed many changes in what we do and how we do it. Those changes have required continued training and learning. Joe began that accumulation of knowledge by being the first one of our employees to complete the Purdue University Correspondence Course in Pest Control. He has continued to participate in training seminars over the years and now holds State Certification as a Certified Pesticide Applicator in two categories, general pests and termites.

While we were affiliated with another multi-state company during the 1960's and 70's, Joe often was the recipient of the Service Technician Salesman of the Month award and once was given the Salesperson of the Year Award. He received the most endorsement letters during one of our Outstanding Serviceperson Contests.

Joe always is willing to help out his fellow technicians by sharing his knowledge and expertise in helping them to solve problems. He always goes the "extra mile" to be sure his customer's pest problems are taken care of in a safe and effective manner. "We always wanted a new employee to accompany Joe for a significant part of their training to learn how to do it right", Vern McKinzie retired owner of the company said. Steve McKinzie, CEO of McKinzie Pest Control, said, "I never have to worry about dealing with an unhappy customer if they are on Joe's route. He takes care of them in the right way".

"If we do a little arithmetic, 40 years of 50 weeks a year and 5 days a week and 10 service stops a day, Joe has made about a hundred thousand service calls. I usually try to assign Joe any new customer that will need special expertise, experience and knowledge in getting the job done right", said Bryon Estes, Emporia Manager. "His paperwork is always turned in on time and with the correct cash and checks, and he always follows his service schedule appropriately", said Glenda Williams, Emporia Office Manager.

Joe's dedication and service to people has also been demonstrated in his long time commitment and membership in the Masonic Lodge Service organization in Emporia.

We are excited to recognize Joe for his commitment to our customers. His high level of service has resulted in continued customer satisfaction to the extent that in many cases he now provides service to the children and grandchildren of his original customers.

CONGRATULATIONS JOE!

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## The Abundant Pests of Summer

It's summertime...and the pests are plentiful—multiplying like crazy in the warm weather. Here are some of the many summer pests to look for.



**Pests around food:** *Stored food moths* and *beetles* find their way into many foods we keep for ourselves or our pets. *Cockroaches*, *ants*, *flies*, *rats* and *mice* can be problems anywhere food is stored, cooked or served—and often throughout our homes. Watch your pet food to make sure you aren't feeding bugs or other animals.

**Fabric pests:** *Clothes moths* and *carpet beetles* favor wool, but also eat other fabrics. *Silverfish*, *crickets* and other pests occasionally damage fabrics and papers.

**Pests that sting or bite:** *Bees*, *wasps*, *hornets*, *yellowjackets*,

*scorpions*, and certain *spiders* and *ants* pack stings that can be quite painful. Some pests suck our blood, often without us knowing it. These include *fleas*, *ticks*, *mosquitoes*, *biting gnats* and *flies*, and many others. *Bed bugs*, those nasty blood suckers that hadn't been a serious problem in decades, are becoming more common again.

**Pests in damp areas:** *Millipedes*, *springtails*, and *bark lice* are some of the pests that multiply in damp areas indoors and outdoors.

**Wood-destroying pests:** *Termites*, *carpenter ants*, *carpenter bees*, *powderpost beetles*, and *decay fungi* all either eat wood for food or tunnel into it to create nests. Either way, they cause serious damage.

Hope you have a great, *pest-free* summer!

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Thank you for your business and referrals!



## Surprising West Nile Virus Discovery

When West Nile Virus spread across the country in just four years, it caught everyone by surprise. Experts believed it would take many years to travel that far, or wouldn't survive at all. Up until now, scientists have not been able to explain how it could spread so rapidly.

But a recent discovery may explain what happened. It was always thought that mosquitoes became infected when they fed on infected birds. The surprising results of new research shows mosquitoes somehow can pass the virus directly to other mosquitoes, without feeding on an infected bird. This kind of transmission has never been seen in mosquitoes before, and it is still not understood how they pass the virus to each other.

While our knowledge of West Nile virus is improving, it hasn't changed a basic fact—the best defense against contracting West Nile virus is still simply to avoid mosquito bites.



## The Mouse That Soared

You've heard it said that we need a new mousetrap. Well, have you heard about the one that sends rodents flying—literally? A rat or mouse that triggers the sensor on the *Ratapult Trap* is catapulted into the air, right into a waiting bucket or cage.

The trap can be set to catapult the rodent anywhere from 1 to 50 feet, depending on how far you want it flung. The trap resets itself after each toss. No report so far on how accurate the flight is, or how large a bucket you need on the receiving end!

The inventor claims the rodent lands unharmed, but a little dazed from its unexpected flight.

*Most democratic is the bedbug chappie  
Who prefers red blood to blue  
And nothing makes him quite so happy  
As sharing—your blood with you!*

*Arnold Mallis*

## Myths Exposed!

**Q. I have heard that wearing strong perfumes and bright colored clothing increases my chances of getting stung. Is this true?**

**A.** Although it may sound logical, and it is common advice, there is no evidence that what you wear has any impact on your chance of being stung by bees or wasps.



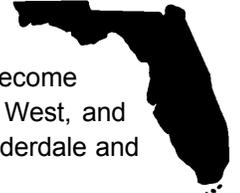
Most stings occur when you disturb a nest, walk barefoot on a bee or wasp, accidentally press against one with

your body, or are outdoors and drink from a glass where an insect is drinking the same liquid. In all these cases, the clothes you wear or the aroma you exude will not affect the outcome of the encounter!

Bees and wasps sting only when defending their colony or their own life. They are not going to sting you because you look and smell like a giant flower, and they are not even going to besiege you, mistaking you for a pretty petunia. Bees and wasps aren't so easily confused.

## An Aggressive New Termite

The Asian subterranean termite, first discovered at a pawn shop near the Port of Miami in 1996, has been rapidly expanding its territory. It has become firmly entrenched in Miami-Dade County and Key West, and has just been discovered moving north into Ft. Lauderdale and Riviera Beach.



This termite is closely related to the destructive Formosan subterranean termite. They both eat wood at a fast rate, have large colonies, and can cause severe damage to a structure in a relatively short time. They also can infest and damage live trees.

### Did You Know?

● **The 15th annual Bug Bowl** at Purdue University took place April 16-17. Among the many events was the popular spitting contest, where contestants try spitting a frozen cricket as far as they can. The winner this year spit a cricket an amazing 31 feet, 8½ inches! Another event was cockroach harness racing, in which large Madagascar hissing cockroaches are equipped with harnesses and pull matchbox-type cars.

● **Chainsaws** owe their existence to a logger and inventor named Buford Cox who was sitting on a wood pile one day watching a timber beetle larva bore through wood. The insect swiped at the wood with its large jaws, pulling out small wood chunks while making a neat oval-shaped hole. From this observation, Cox got the idea to curl the teeth on his prototype chainsaw to grab the wood and pull it out, and the rest is history!

