

MEMBER
NATIONAL
PEST CONTROL
ASSOCIATION
HEADED BY AN ENTOMOLOGIST

MARCH/APRIL 2007
Vol. 19 No.2

The Pest Bulletin

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
PERMIT NO 496
Berkeley, CA

PEST CONTROL
A MCKINZIE INC. COMPANY

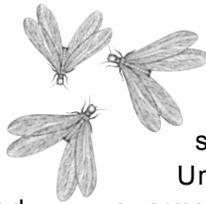
www.pest-free.net

209 Commercial • Emporia, KS 66801 • (620) 342-4222

1129 Hayes Dr • Manhattan, KS 66502 • (785) 776-6063

Termite Swarmers Coming

If you've ever seen termite swarmers pouring out of the ground or holes in wood, you've witnessed the most significant annual event of a termite colony. A single colony may send out hundreds of winged termites—the future kings and queens of new colonies—and there can be many colonies in an area, resulting in thousands of swarmers within one block. Any one colony may send out all its swarmers at once, or they may come out in pulses over several weeks.



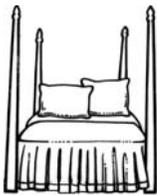
Most swarming occurs in the spring (often on a warm day after a rain),

although some can occur at other times of the year as well. Colonies in heated buildings often are the earliest to send out swarmers.

Unfortunately, if you find many swarmers indoors or coming out of areas next to your foundation, it is usually a sign that the structure is infested with damaging termites. Not only that, but the winged termites are coming from a larger, more mature colony, because a termite colony is generally four to five years old before it begins producing its first swarmers. As colonies age, they generally start sending out more

swarmers.

If you find swarmers inside or near your home, call McKinzie Pest Control right away so we can schedule a professional inspection. We'll determine if the pests are termites or swarming ants (which can easily be mistaken for termites) and we'll perform a thorough inspection. If there is an infestation of termites or other wood-damaging pests, we'll help you select the best and most cost effective control strategy for your particular pest situation.



Watch for Bed Bugs!

Bed bugs are on the rise—and the problem is only going to get worse. But lest you think bed bugs are mostly a problem in hotels and motels, a recent survey showed that more single-family residences are being treated for these blood-sucking pests than any other type of building. The survey showed that **30%** of treatments are for single-family residences, **26%** for hotels, **22%** for apartments, and **12%** for motels. The remainder included a broad range of accounts, such as correctional facilities, care units, dormitories, and cruise ships. Even places like fire stations have been reporting serious problems.

Bed bugs can crawl up to 20 feet a night from their hiding place to feed on a person, but their main mode of transportation to a new site is not

crawling—it's hitchhiking. Bed bugs can crawl into your clothes or belongings anytime you sit or lie where there is an infestation. So you can pick up bed bugs not only from an infested bed somewhere, but when you sit in an infested bus, taxi—anywhere. Children can bring them home on their toys and in backpacks. Or you may actually bring bed bugs into your home on used furniture, carpets, or blankets, if they came from infested sites.

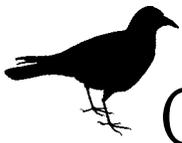
Therefore, never bring in used furniture unless it is from a reputable source. And remember, more and more people will be trying to get rid of infested items, so unfortunately, you need to think twice about that great deal at the garage sale. Thinking about picking up that free beautiful plush sofa sitting beside the street? **Think twice!**

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Prune vines, shrubs, and trees away from walls and roofs. Plants growing within a foot of a wall keep it damper, which leads to more problems with pests. Foliage or branches allowed to touch a building also act as "highways" for pests.



Thank you for your business and referrals!



Endangered Birds Saved

Canna, a small island off the coast of Scotland, is just 5 square miles, but it has always been an important breeding ground for herrings, razorbills, gulls, and many other birds. Unfortunately, the Norway rat, which is also the most widespread rat here in the States, invaded the island a number of years ago, and bird populations gradually began to disappear. The rats were routinely eating the bird eggs and chicks, so that by 2005 some kinds of nesting birds were almost completely wiped out. Rats were also wreaking havoc on the properties of the 13 people who lived and farmed on the island.



A decision was made by an environmental trust to try to "de-rat" the island with a massive baiting campaign. Baiting started in August 2005 and ended in January 2006. Through 10 rounds of re-baiting of the traps, an estimated 5,000 rats were killed! The good news is that the massive program appears to be a complete success—since then NO rats have been found on the island, and last summer (2006) bird populations had already started to make a strong comeback.



The World's Biggest Bug

If you go by the ever-popular *Guinness World Records*, and many other sources, the largest insect in the world by weight is the Goliath beetle. But a recent article in the *American Entomologist* shows that the biggest recorded bug is not an adult insect at all, but the larva or grub of a Hercules beetle. At 144 grams, or about 5 ounces, it's about the weight of an obese bluejay—that's big! The largest Goliath beetle larva has been 'only' around 80 grams. As a rule, adult beetles live their lives at about ¼ the weight of the grubs.

The largest adult insect is the weta, a kind of a cricket that lives only in New Zealand. The biggest weta, a female filled with eggs, was weighed at 71 grams—about three times heavier than a mouse!

Ultrasonic Mosquito Repellers Don't Work



Mosquito repellers that work on the principal of ultrasonics or high frequencies are being sold everywhere, from mail order catalogs to department stores, despite the fact that tests in the past repeatedly have shown they have no effect on mosquitoes. New tests just completed in Brazil compared seven new-to-the-market electronic mosquito repellers that emit various frequencies of sound.

The verdict? None work! And in some cases, mosquitoes were slightly more attracted when the device was turned on!

It's true; a few of these devices have a sophisticated look to them. You can place one on your wrist or hang it from your neck, and you'd look smart. We suggest you buy an *iPod* instead—and enjoy the sounds.

Going Out? Don a New Outfit!



Wouldn't it be great to have clothing that repels pests like mosquitoes, ticks, and other biting pests? Now you can! A new line of clothing called *Mumz* (Mumzgarden.com) can be purchased over the internet and in an increasing number of stores. Bound to the fibers is the insecticide Permethrin, which continues to be effective through 25 washings. The special BUZZ OFF Insect Shield application doesn't rub off onto your skin, and is EPA approved. You can buy everything from hats and socks to pants, shirts, coats, and scarves, and garden or hike without being pestered!

Did You Know?

WEST NILE VIRUS DEATHS INCREASING

The threat from West Nile Virus is increasing and spreading. During 2006, there were 4219 cases of mosquito-borne West Nile Virus and 161 people died. This is a 35% increase in deaths compared with the previous year; during 2005 there were only 119 deaths from West Nile Virus.

For 2006, documented human illnesses occurred in 43 states, with the most cases in Idaho, California, Colorado, Texas, Nebraska, and Illinois.

GREAT LIGHTING SETS THE MOOD

Recently it has been shown that for certain kinds of spiders the right light is key to setting the mood for sex. Some spiders have markings on their faces and legs that glow in ultraviolet (UV) light. When these spiders are in full spectrum light that includes UV, the markings glow. The opposite sex, catching sight of them, begins the typical spider courtship rituals, including bending their legs and hunching or flexing their abdomens. (If you're a spider, that must be considered sexy!) But if UV light is blocked so the markings don't glow, most other spiders have no interest in that spider, even if they themselves are in UV light.

