

Pest Connection

Tips For a Pest-Free Home

VOL 17 ISSUE 5



Are Those Bees in Your Backyard? A Guide to Understanding the Different Stinging Insects

By Danielle Slack, Marketing Coordinator

We all remember the first time we got stung by a bee. Where you were, who you were with and most importantly, how it felt.

Mine was when I was walking barefoot in my backyard to turn on the water pump for the pool. I stepped over a hole in the ground and suddenly there was a small swarm of bees surrounding me. I froze as I felt a soft tickle on my hand. As I lifted my hand, I saw a bee resting on my palm. Afraid of getting stung, I quickly shook my hand in hope the bee would fly away. The bee had other plans. It latched onto my hand and painfully stung me.

So what if I told you that the bee sting you remember may not have been from a bee at all? Stinging insects are often times misidentified. I had misidentified the stinging insect in my story as a bee when it was actually a Yellowjacket. Yellowjackets are black and yellow like bees, but are narrower in shape and can sting multiple times.

That first bee sting you got while gardening your yard may have actually been a Yellowjacket sting. That time you were climbing trees in your backyard? Probably a Bald-Faced Hornet

that got you. It is also noteworthy that with most stinging insects only the females sting. This is because a male's sole purpose is to breed.

Every person reacts to stings differently, so it is important to be prepared if you have been diagnosed as allergic. Please note that each reaction may vary depending on the person and sting. Just because you react to a wasp sting once, doesn't necessarily mean you will react to future stings in the same way.

IDENTIFICATION OF STINGING INSECTS

With summer just around the corner, it is important to understand the different types of stinging insects you may encounter on a hot summer day. Refer to the table inside as a helpful guide in comparing the different stinging insects you may encounter over the next few months!

LET BATZNER HELP

If you encounter any of these stinging insects, be sure to contact your Batzner service professional to determine the proper treatment method needed. Self-treating is not recommended as it can disturb aggressive hornets and wasps.

[Read full story inside]

Batzner Recognizes *Three New Certified Entomologists*



Dan Stawicki

- Service Manager with over 15 years of pest control experience
- Certified in IL & WI
- Specialties: integrated pest management, urban rat control & management, cockroach expert
- Wisconsin Pest Control Association (WPCA) master technician
- Advanced Purdue course graduate



Jason Ganas

- Service Manager with over 10 years of pest control experience
- Specialties: integrated pest management, bird management and wildlife removal
- Wisconsin Pest Control Association (WPCA) master technician
- Advanced Purdue course graduate
- American Institute of Baking (AIB) Food Processing Sanitation and Hygiene graduate



Greg McMillon

- Lead Service Professional with over 16 years of pest control experience
- Specialties: integrated pest management, pest management in third-party inspected food processing facilities
- American Institute of Baking (AIB) Food Processing Sanitation and Hygiene graduate

Congratulations to Dan Stawicki, Greg McMillon and Jason Ganas for becoming our newest Associate Certified Entomologists (ACE)! In order to become certified, individuals must:

- Successfully pass a rigorous and challenging exam
- Have a minimum of five years of pest control experience to be approved by the ESA prior to exam consideration

Visit www.entsoc.org for more information. ♦

Featured Pest

Bite Back with Our Mosquito Program

According to Wikipedia, mosquitoes are small, midge-like flies, whose tube-like mouthparts pierce the hosts' skin to consume blood. Not exactly the guest you want at your summer barbeque. Along with the sting and itching their bites impart, mosquitoes bring disease to humans and pets. Lyme, West Nile, and Zika are well-known viruses, and the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) at mosquito.org lists several more.

DIY or Professional Application?

You may be tempted to try a fogger product from a DIY big box store. This can be somewhat effective, but will not match the long-term coverage a professionally applied product will have. Mosquito service professionals are required to hold a state aquatic license in order to provide mosquito control, so in addition to using a commercial-grade product, they understand application techniques, providing maximum effectiveness. Explains Karl Rowell, Batzner QA and Safety Manager, "We use professional misters that release tiny droplets, so product blankets the foliage surface area more thoroughly than the



- 1. Gutters** - Remove leaves and other debris from gutters
- 2. Flower Pots** - Pour out stagnant water from flowerpots and planters
- 3. Grill Cover** - Make sure water isn't gathering on top of the grill cover
- 4. Baby Pool** - Don't let water sit on baby pools for long periods of time
- 5. Bird Bath** - Frequently change out the water in birdbaths
- 6. Leaky Pipes** - Repair any leaky pipes or faucets
- 7. Tires** - Drill holes in the bottom of tire swings and wheel barrels to allow water to drain
- 8. Trash Cans** - Ensure trash cans are tightly sealed and lids aren't flipped upside down
- 9. Buckets** - Remove water collecting in buckets and toys
- 10. Ponds** - Keep swimming pools and ponds adequately treated.

application from a DIY spray. This limits chemical exposure to people and pets.

Best Value - Three Month Program

Batzner offers a three-month program that provides continuous coverage during the height of mosquito season. Typically starting in June to coincide with mosquito breeding habits, the once-a-month service targets mosquito resting areas to eliminate the existing population, and applies an insect growth regulator that prevents them from reproducing in your yard.

Service starts in June - Schedule Now

This approach is designed to start coverage before a population can take hold in your yard. The program can be extended for additional months. Just need a one-time service for a big event? Service can be customized to the venue and time. Call or use the form online for more information. Happy bug-free summer! ♦

Ask the Experts

Featuring advice from our Associate Certified Entomologists

Have a question? Reach out to us on Facebook, Twitter, or via our website!



Dave Kusnierek
Associate Certified Entomologist,
District Manager

Q: I get bees in my basement every year. They show up in early spring and I sometimes notice them in the fall and winter. How do they get in and how can you help?

A: The bees you are noticing in the fall and winter are the overwintering queens from a wasp family. During the two seasons, the worker bees within a nest die off. The inseminated queens then search for an indoor home to escape the cold weather and store their eggs. These new bees then become active in the early spring when the weather is warmer. These wasps are brown to blackish brown with yellow markings on the abdomen.

These queens will attempt to sneak into any crack and crevice they can find on the exterior of your home to find a place to nest for the winter. If there were no houses, these bees would crawl under trees in search for a safe home.

A simple way to help prevent these bees from entering your home is to schedule a pesticide application with Batzner. One of our experienced service professionals will apply a thorough treatment to all cracks and crevices outside the home, but this must occur before fall. This complete exterior treatment will be applied to all areas where an overwintering queen could possibly sneak in, including doorframes and seams.

Something to note; no matter how smartly product is applied, treatment alone cannot prevent bees from entering the home 100%. It is imperative that any openings identified by the Service Professional be sealed immediately. The area needs to be continually monitored for new openings, sealing them as soon as they appear, to attain 100% exclusion.

Sincerely,

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Today, social media and online reviews are taken into consideration just as much as word of mouth to make buying decisions. On average, 88% of consumers trust online reviews as much as personal recommendations.

With more and more people turning to online resources to make purchasing decisions, we are focusing on growing our online presence in this area. Reviews help us get hired by other customers, so if you have a few minutes, please let us know what you most enjoyed about your services or how hiring Batzner Pest Control made your life easier on one of the sites below.

Our mission is to provide you with legendary service every time. We look forward to your comments.



WHAT BEES ARE IN YOUR BACKYARD? [Continued from cover]

	Appearance	Hive	Food Source	Temperament
Bald Faced Hornet		Paper mache globe	Carnivorous - other insects	Extremely aggressive & volatile
Bumble Bee		Hole in ground or structure	Pollen-carb, nectar-protein	Very easy going
Honey Bee		Honey combs	Pollen-carb, nectar-protein	Very easy going
Paper Wasp		Comb-like appearance	Nectar, other insects such as caterpillars, flies and beetle larvae	Mild-mannered
Yellow Jacket Wasp		Hole in ground or structure	Items rich in sugars- fruit, nectar- larvae feed on meats	Aggressive

SAVE THE HONEY BEES

If you encounter any honey bees or a hive, please contact Batzner Pest Control immediately. The honey bee population has been at a decrease since the late 1990s. According to Greenpeace (sos-bees.org), the cause is linked to bee-killing pesticides in industrial agriculture, parasites/pathogens and climate change. In order to protect the population, Batzner does not treat if possible. We will call a beekeeper to assess the situation once it is identified that you do have honey bees.



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Write a **Review**

If you have been completely satisfied with Batzner's service, tell us about it! Write a review on Yelp or Google and help other people discover the leading pest control company.



Refer Your **Friends and Family**

Simply refer your friends or family to Batzner and you will receive a \$25 gift card as a thank you from us! Visit batzner.com or call for more information.



Join Our **Fast Growing Team!**

If you're interested in a career where you can make a difference in the lives of others, consider Batzner! See our current career opportunities at batzner.com/careers.

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