

## **Spring Isn't the Only Thing That's Back!**

Spring is the alarm clock of nature. The trees and plants are all starting to bud, bloom, and generally show off their foliage. This is also the time for year when homeowners will be seeing ants, bees, wasps and many other "bugs" that have been missing from their lives all winter long.

Bees and wasps of varying types have been over-wintering and are now starting to move around. At times, that can be an annoying, and for some individuals, a hazardous situation.

According to the Ohio Pest Control Association, the wasps seen flying around in the spring are pregnant females looking for places to start new nests. In Ohio and other northern states, wasp colonies must be started new each year. Yellow jackets (which are wasps) have been known to enter homes by flying down the flue pipe of a hot water tank. This doesn't happen often, but when it does, it can create quite a stir in the household! Pest control companies offer a number of preventative programs for this problem.

Carpenter bees are notorious spring pests. They are often mistaken for bumblebees, but they are quite different in appearance and habits. Queens bore long tunnels--up to as much as 18 inches the first year--along the grain of the wood, building individual larva cells from the back out. People with cedar-sided homes should be especially alert to signs of carpenter bee infestation. Bees don't care if the bare wood is in the woods or in a house. Signs include round holes and a coarse sawdust-like substance underneath the holes. The holes are perfectly round and are about 3/8 inch in diameter. If woodpeckers are seen beating at the side of a house, the odds are good that the house is harboring a carpenter bee colony.

Carpenter bee damage may not be apparent during the first year or two, but in later years, the galleries will be opened by the bees boring or by woodpeckers trying to get at them. Homeowners who notice signs of possible carpenter bee infestation, or who see large yellow and black bees flying around the home, should determine if a problem exists.

The safest and most effective solution to a serious pest problem is the services of an experienced, licensed pest management professional. To locate a qualified pest control operator in your area contact the Ohio Pest Control Association at 937-222-1024, visit the OPCA web site at [www.ohiopca.com](http://www.ohiopca.com), or send e-mail to [info@ohiopca.com](mailto:info@ohiopca.com)

The Ohio Pest Control Association is the only trade association dedicated solely to the pest control industry in the state of Ohio. With approximately 200 member companies in communities throughout the state, OPCA is The Voice of the Pest Control Industry in Ohio.