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State Fair Time Again!

Usually when State Fair time comes we see a lower number of calls at the office as everyone shifts their attention to the fair, football games and many fall activities. So a few years ago I started submitting some of my collections I have displayed at our offices. If you go to the fair you can see entries from all sorts of hobbies displayed in the Creative Arts building. When you need a break from the heat go have a look and see if you can find mine.

This year I submitted entries into four hobby collection categories: apothecary items, advertising, tools items, entertainment. All items must be at least 50 years old. You might think my apothecary item would not be related to pest control, but of course it is. In the last century boric acid was used in many eye washes. It is interesting to read the labels on these products because it covers both medical uses as well as pest control uses for the product! For another category I had some old rodent control traps—they were multiple catch traps. We have these traps today, so this is not new, but it's interesting to me that over 50 years ago somebody also thought it was better to catch more than one rat at a time.



I also had a bee smoker from the Root Company of Medina Ohio. I have written about this before. Mr. A.I. Root was sending railcar loads of beehive supplies throughout America. He was very wealthy and he was the first to write about the Wright brother's flight in his bee magazine "Gleanings in Bee Culture". Ann gave me a 1905 magazine article describing some of their products in an advertisement. This magazine article and an actual bee smoker won a first place ribbon. Many people are interested in bee hives today and techniques have really not changed.

What is amazing about these collections is the entrepreneurship of our country. Everyone is always figuring a better way to make a mouse trap, bee product, pesticide and so forth. Since I have been in this industry so long and have talked to the old timers and new comers, I have heard the new guys act like they came up with the next big idea only to talk to someone involved in the industry in the 1950s who had already used the same bait because he was trained to observe what the ants were feeding on in the wild and develop products from those notes that would be the best bait to control that particular species. It takes a brain to figure out how to solve pest problems. Many companies have poorly trained technicians and I am seeing jobs where I am having to solve problems because these technicians do not have a clue.

Like many aspects of our society, the past is being forgotten. We are going to be relegated to repeating the past. In the fifties we decided to solve mosquito breeding and the diseases they caused. Today we have to worry about those diseases again because radical groups were more scared of the pesticides than the ramifications of insect borne diseases. I listened to a lecture by a public New Orleans employee who was glorifying the closure program for rats in an old school. When I reminded them about the importance of outside rodent control to lessen pressure from rats to enter the school, it was clear they did not want to control rats outside the structure. My deduction was that this public employee did not want to deal with PETA groups so there would be no exterior rodent control outside the building. All tools need to be available to the industry. No one should take away our ability to protect people's health and property. - David

Pest of the Quarter:

Wasps

We have several clients who end up with wasps trying to overwinter in their attics. If you are beginning to see wasps inside the home coming from pot lights you might want to consider having your attic fogged to remove these insects from your home. It is also very important to make sure no current nests are around the eaves of the home.



Ticks

When we work around raccoon or opossum holes there is the chance we get near fleas since it makes sense that parasites would be close to the animals. Fleas hop to the host and the ticks crawl. This past weekend Ann and I were helping close off hog and/or coyote access holes dug around a deer fence. Of course, I was moving the crew along and at the last hole I found a deer tick crawling on my shirt. Thankfully, I did have repellent on. After hearing about all the celebrities contracting lyme disease, I do not want to be a poster boy for not wearing repellent. Be careful when you are near wildlife and always wear your repellent!



We VALUE our customers!

If you ever have a possible bug or part of a bug PLEASE save it! That will help us to identify the problem more quickly, target the correct pest and begin treatment sooner.

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Rats



We have had an increase of calls for rodents in the last 30 days, so a migration of some type is occurring with the rodent population. This also happened last year. Plenty of water and food can increase the population, so the question is what will happen when these rats decide that they want to share your warm home with you during the cold winter? No one likes a squatter. We can take care of the problem for you. Just give us a call!



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