

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

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## Don't Let Bug Bites Ruin Your Fun

Summers are nice in Orange County. We love our warm weather and so do mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and spiders. This is when these pests come alive and they can almost make you shun the summer and stay indoors.

The good news is that you don't have to let the bugs ruin your fun. In this article, we're going to discuss why you should be concerned about these pests and you'll learn ways to help protect yourself this summer.

### Why Should Anyone Worry About These Biting Pests?

Diseases transmitted by insects are a major source of illness and death worldwide. Mosquitoes alone transmit disease to over 700 million people annually. Did you know that Malaria kills over 3 million people each year, including one child every 30 seconds?

We're fortunate here in the U.S. because insect-borne diseases aren't nearly as big of a problem as they are in tropical and sub-tropical climates. But, we still have to deal with sporadic outbreaks of encephalitis and other diseases.

In California, we are currently dealing with a serious outbreak of a mosquito-borne disease called the West Nile Virus. More species of mosquitoes are now invading California. These non-native pests are potential carriers of Yellow fever, Dengue and Chikungunya. All of these diseases can be deadly and must be taken seriously.

Protection from insect bites is best achieved by avoiding infested habitats, wearing protective clothing and using insect repellants. In many circumstances, you'll find that insect repellents may be the only feasible way to deal with insect bites.

When you consider that even a single insect bite from an infected insect could result in transmission of disease, it is really important for you to know which products can be relied on for protection.

There are a lot of insect repellent products available and they can be divided into two categories – synthetic chemicals and plant-derived essential oils.

The best known product is called DEET. This is a synthetic product that was originally developed by the U.S. Army. DEET can be applied to the skin or on clothing and is primarily used to repel mosquitoes. It is also very effective against tick bites. Ticks spread Lyme disease, rickettsioses and meningoencephalitis. Tests, reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed that products containing DEET provide the longest lasting protection.

When you're shopping, it is very important you read the product labels and check the concentration rates. In their test, products with 23.8% DEET lasted up to 6 hours. Products with 4.75% DEET only lasted 1 ½ hours. Great examples of this would be when you compare S.C.

(turn the page)

### 100 Years Ago . . .

Les Paul was born on June 9, 1915. He was an influential American jazz, country and blues artist who designed one of the first solid-body guitars. He also pioneered many recording innovations during his lifetime.

### Celebrating A Four-Time Super Bowl Champ

*"Winners, I am convinced, imagine their dreams first. They want it with all their heart and expect it to come true. There is, I believe, no other way to live."*

Joe Montana, born June 11, 1956

## Rave Review!

*“After fumigating our house for termites, we hired Termite Terry Pest Control to fix and replace the wood damage. Before the fumigation, Skip came out and conducted a thorough inspection in our presence, showed us how termites cause damage, and explained the process they would take to fix the damage. They even came by to pick up the paint we provided to have the wood primed and painted before the work.*

*On the work day, Saul and Jose came promptly and worked hard throughout the entire day to replace the wood. They found a way NOT to step on the roof to prevent any potential damage, which we appreciated. The wood repairs look great, and it was hard to tell where the new wood meets the old. They also cleaned up very thoroughly after the work was done and ensured that we were completely satisfied.*

*A few days after the work, when we contacted Skip about a minor concern, he responded quickly and addressed the issue without any hesitation. Skip was always prompt, courteous and very helpful.*

*We’d definitely hire Termite Terry and already recommended them to our neighbor and friends. Their professionalism and customer service were very refreshing in the current market where quality service is hard to find.”*

Dan Eun  
La Mirada

Johnson’s “Off Deep Woods” (contains 23.8% DEET) with their “Off Skintastic” (contains only 6.7% DEET). The “Deep Woods” product lasted 6 hours, but their “Skintastic” product lasted only 2 hours.

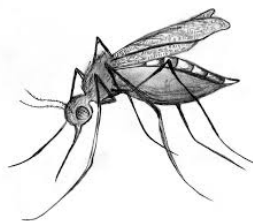
None of the non-DEET products tested were able to offer protection for more than 90 minutes. Only the soybean-based repellent (HOMS Bite Blocker) was able to come close to matching the products containing the lowest levels of DEET.

Citronella oil was found to offer protection for 20 minutes. Another product you hear being touted a lot is “Skin So Soft”, by Avon. Test showed that Avon’s product only offered an average of 10 - 20 minutes protection.

Most alternatives to topically applied products, such as wrist bands, devices that emit sounds and products you swallow (garlic & thiamine), have all been proven to be ineffective.

DEET has a remarkable safety record after 40 years of use and nearly 8 billion human applications. If you’re still concerned and would like to use a more natural product, then “HOMS Bug Bite” with soybean oil might be your next best choice. Just keep in mind that it only offers about 90 minutes of protection.

Are you having a problem with bugs biting you at your own home and you don’t want to have to walk around wearing insect repellent everyday? You may have conditions around your home which are attracting these insects. If these pests are “bugging” you, **call us at (949) 631-7348** and we’ll schedule a complimentary **57 Point Pest Control Audit** for you. You’ll receive a lot of valuable information, you’ll learn what you can do to help yourself live pest-free and there’s absolutely no obligation to use our services!



## Mother Nature Knows Best

In last month’s newsletter, we shared the story of how goldfish were destroying Boulder Lake. The lake was swimming with thousands of goldfish that threatened to destroy the entire aquatic ecosystem of the lake.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials believe that someone dumped four or five pet goldfish in the lake about two years ago. Two solutions were being considered to rectify the problem – electro shocking the goldfish or draining the lake.

When officials went back to the lake a short time later to conduct another fish survey, their trap nets bought up 26 green sunfish, two largemouth bass, 10 painted turtles and 18 tiger salamanders, but no goldfish.

The officials then inspected the lake further and found three or four goldfish in the shallows. But, just as they were watching these goldfish, a pelican swooped down and swallowed them up!

What they saw was an American white pelican. During the summer, these pelicans are found in most of the western and Rocky Mountain states. They have a wingspan of up to 108-inches and a length of up to 50-70 inches. These large birds are able to eat more than four pounds of food per day. Apparently, these pelicans like the taste and they were eating like kings and queens at a feast. It’s no wonder the lake was cleaned of goldfish!

Isn’t this an unbelievable story? It appears that Mother Nature took care of this unnatural problem very effectively. No shocking of fish was needed, the lake didn’t have to be drained and the citizens of Colorado saved a bundle of money. Let’s hope our officials remember this environmentally-sound solution if a problem like this ever comes up again.

## Police K-9 Injured By An Attack Of Bees

A three-year-old police K-9 is now recovering from injuries after being stung by bees at least 60 times while on duty.

The K-9 and her handler were helping patrol officers locate two people who were suspected of committing a residential burglary. (The first suspect was found and apprehended.)

While searching for the second suspect in steep terrain, the K-9 and her handler were attacked by a swarm of bees. The handler got stung about 20 times but was able to recover from his injuries. However, the K-9 was much less fortunate and she went into anaphylactic shock after being stung at least 60 times.

The K-9 was transported to a pet clinic where she was given an emergency blood transfusion. After performing a series of tests, her doctors discovered that she had severe liver and lung damage.

The dog is now in stable but guarded condition, according to the police.

"She's doing a lot better in some regards and some other aspects she's not doing as well as she was when she first came in," said Dr. Eugenia Nieto of the Inland Valley Emergency Pet Clinic. "Overall her demeanor is better, she's up and walking, brighter; but she still has issues with her lungs and her platelet count is quite low."

Her Doctors are optimistic about her recovery and hope that she may be able to return to police work.

Treatment of the K-9 may need to continue for another few weeks. The police officer's association started a fund raising drive and their goal was to raise \$10,000 to cover her medical expenses. As of today, they have exceeded that goal by raising over \$19,500.

## Spiders Falling From The Sky Like Rain In Australia

Residents of Albury in New South Wales, Australia were alarmed last month when millions of tiny spiders fell from the sky like rain. The aftermath of this "spider rain" was an eerie sight: all of their land and buildings were coated with silky webs and countless spiders were crawling everywhere you could see.

"Ballooning is a not-uncommon behavior of many spiders. They climb some high area and stick their butts up in the air and release silk. Then they just take off," said retired Arachnologist at University of California, Riverside. "This is going on all around us all the time. We just don't notice it."

Most people have never seen "spider rain" because it isn't that common for millions of spiders to do this at the same time, and then land in the same place.

"In these kinds of events (spider rains), what's thought to be going on is that there's a whole cohort of spiders that's ready to do this ballooning dispersal behavior, but for whatever reason, the weather conditions haven't been optimal and allowed them to do that. But then the weather changes, and they have the proper conditions to balloon, and they all start to do it," said Todd Blackledge, a biology professor at the University of Akron in Ohio.

Doesn't this story have the makings of a blockbuster horror movie? I'd love to see our Hollywood stars with their spray guns, trying to save a city from millions of spiders. It would put the old movie, "Arachnophobia", to shame!

## Father' Day Fun Facts

Father's Day will be celebrated on June 21<sup>st</sup> this year. Here are some fun facts about this special day for dads:

- The first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane Washington on June 19, 1910. Sonora Smart Dodd spearheaded the efforts for fathers to be recognized.
- Father's Day became a national holiday in 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed it into law.
- About 87 million cards are given each year, making Father's Day the fourth-largest greeting card occasion of the year.
- 13-year-old Alfie Patten became the world's youngest father in February of 2009 when he fathered a child with his 15-year-old girlfriend.
- Father's Day is the busiest day of the year for collect phone calls.
- In 1967, Frank & Nancy Sinatra became the only father-daughter duo to top the Billboard pop music charts. Their hit single was titled "Something Stupid".
- If show creator/producer Sherwood Schwartz had gotten his way, Gene Hackman would have portrayed the role of father Mike Brady on the Brady Bunch.
- The world's oldest father is Ramjit Raghav of India. In 2010, he fathered a child at the age of 94. In 2012, he fathered another child at the age of 96!
- Female shoppers spend 50 percent more than men on gifts for their dad.
- In Portugal and Spain, Father's Day is celebrated on March 19<sup>th</sup>, which is Saint Joseph's Day. Australia celebrates Father's Day on the first Sunday in September.
- Red or white roses are the official flower of Father's Day. Mrs. Dodd suggested wearing a red rose for a father who was living and wearing a white rose to honor a father who was deceased.

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## The Worst Bird Flu Outbreak On Record

Government officials are working closely with the nation's poultry industry to contain the worst outbreak of bird flu on record. Over 33 million birds have died in 16 states because of the bird flu or preemptive euthanasia.

Multiple food inspection agencies believe the current die-off was triggered in early December when poultry farms in British Columbia reported incidents of the H5N2 flu strain. By December 19, the virus, though it was a different strain, made its first reported appearance in the United States.

Indiana reported its first case of the virus this month. Investigators found that this particular and unique strain of the virus was first reported in California. This shows the tremendous ability for the virus to travel.

The bird flu is believed to be spread by droppings left on farms by migratory birds, such as ducks and geese. It may then be spread by farmers who unknowingly transport bird flu. The virus can also be spread on dust or bird feathers blown by the wind.

Experts say that the current strains of bird flu pose a low risk to human health. No cases of infected humans have been reported so far.

The outbreak has caused the prices of poultry and eggs to soar. The price of eggs purchased in the Midwest has jumped 17 percent in the last month. Farmers have already warned that there may be a shortage of turkeys for this Thanksgiving due to the loss of about 5.6 million turkeys nationwide.

"The big message is to increase and enhance biosecurity measures," Maryland Department of Agriculture public information officer Vanessa Orlando said. "The best we can try is to do is keep it out of houses – washing hands, tires, trucks, feet and shoes."



"Termite" Terry Singleton