

CAHI MONTHLY NEWS



Presidents Corner

I hope you are all enjoying this busy spring season. A steady flow of work always makes a soul feel good. It has also delayed our newsletter, for which I apologize. I was kind of caught with my pants down regarding subject matter for my Presidents corner, so I thought I would give a State of the Organization run down.

CAHI has picked up a few new members, but we also lost a few so we are hovering around the 100 mark. We continue to strive to support our membership by make our organization visible to the public as well as to Realtors.

We are financially in good shape and will continue to budget resources for education. Scott as always works hard to line up fresh and relevant speakers which I can assure you IS NOT AN EASY TASK. If anyone has leads on good speakers please let us know.

The CAHI board has been busy with a few legislative matters. Woody Dawson and Scott Monforte met with State Representative Al Adinolfi regarding the proposal to add that home inspectors were to inspect foundations and concrete septic tanks for AAR to the homeowners disclosure. Representative Adinolfi fought hard at the recent legislative session to have all mention of that struck from the bill. He was eventually successful. Thank you Woody, Scott and Representative Adinolfi.

We have now turned our attention to correcting the long incorrect Standards of Practice regarding environmental issues. Bill Stanley and the state licensing board have again formally requested that the standards be amended to read the way they were originally intended to read. We as an organization will be turning up the heat as well. Maybe after 15 years we can get this resolved.

I want to take this time to thank the board members for carving out time for CAHI while knee deep in earning a living. As we all know, this is not a 9 to 5 job. I encourage you all to thank them when you see them at our meetings. They give their precious time to make sure our organization and ultimately our profession stays on track.

Happy inspecting!
Stan

May 2016 Volume 9, Issue 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Presidents Corner	1
Back By Popular Demand.....	2
Crumbling Foundations.....	3
Your House is in Trouble	5
Web Find of the Month.....	9
How Much Would it Cost.....	10
Emerging Tick-Borne Virus	13
Dept of Public Health - Ticks.....	16

MONTHLY MEETINGS – Details & Info

CAHI's regular monthly meetings are held at the Best Western located at 201 Washington Ave (RT 5), North Haven. Meetings are free to members. Most meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 7-9pm. Guests are always welcome! Guests may attend 2 free monthly meetings to experience our presentations, meet our members, and receive a CE attendance certificate.

Joining CAHI may be done at anytime of the year through our Membership Page

Meeting Dates!

May 25th

June 22nd

Please check the
CAHI Website
for
Meeting Agenda's

Back by Popular Demand

Tim Mikloiche

Tim Mikloiche aka Mr Electric was our presenter in April and he gave us another informative but fun presentation. He tailored his presentation for home inspectors and had everyone completely engaged. Nobody wanted a break and we all got two great hours of continuing education. If you were not there ... it was your loss. Join us next month.





GEORGE JEPSEN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



JONATHAN HARRIS
COMMISSIONER

**STATE REACHES AGREEMENT TAKING CONCRETE PRODUCTS FROM
TWO EASTERN CONN. COMPANIES OFF RESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION MARKET**

For immediate release

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016

HARTFORD – Attorney General George Jepsen and state Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) Commissioner Jonathan A. Harris announced today that the Joseph J. Mottes Company and the Becker Construction Company have voluntarily agreed to stop selling material or product containing aggregate from Becker's Quarry in Willington for use in residential concrete foundations in Connecticut until June 2017. The state investigation into deteriorating foundations in eastern Connecticut continues.

Becker will provide its customers with notice stating that it has agreed not to sell aggregate from Becker's Quarry for use in the installation of residential concrete foundations and will post notice at its business locations and provide notice to customers that purchase stone aggregate.

Concrete aggregate is essentially crushed stone, sand and/or gravel that is combined with cement, water and sometimes other additives to produce concrete.

"My office and DCP have dedicated significant resources to this investigation, and we are moving as quickly as we responsibly can to complete our work," said Attorney General Jepsen. "Although that investigation will continue into the fall, we believe there is now sufficient evidence to conclude that significant levels of the mineral pyrrhotite in stone aggregate used in the production of concrete is a substantial contributing factor to the crumbling foundations experienced by some homeowners in eastern Connecticut. This conclusion is based on the analysis and input of our consulting scientific expert as well as other information obtained in the investigation. Further efforts are necessary to understand the full range of contributing factors and the manner that all factors interact to produce concrete deterioration."

The Attorney General continued, "Nevertheless, because the aggregate produced by Becker's Quarry and the concrete made from it may contain pyrrhotite in significant levels, caution dictates that concrete products and ingredients from these companies be removed from the residential construction market until our investigation is complete. At that time, we anticipate being better able to assess any legal remedies that the state may have to address this problem and that lawmakers will have additional information on which to determine if public policy changes are warranted in the next legislative session. We commend these companies for agreeing to this voluntary step in the interest of public confidence in the safety of building materials and in allowing a full investigation to be completed."

"At DCP, we're pleased that our investigation has moved forward so thoroughly. Our findings have confirmed that pyrrhotite is a factor in failing foundations, and that has opened up the door for us to take some preliminary action that can help consumers," said Commissioner Harris. "We know the urgency of this issue for so many homeowners in eastern Connecticut, and are confident that the investigation will continue to produce the results we need to get the outcomes homeowners are looking

for. This agreement with Joseph J. Mottes and Becker Construction Company will be just one of many steps forward we hope to make."

While this agreement only applies to use of products in residential construction, the Attorney General and Commissioner Harris urge commercial and public project managers to continue to exercise strict control and scrutiny over the quality of concrete products used in their projects. To date, the state's investigation has documented concrete deterioration of a comparable nature in a number of residential foundations but has not revealed similar evidence of failures of commercial or public building foundations.

No finding of any legal violation by any party has been made at this stage. Under the agreement, the state reserves its right to assert any legal claims it may have against the companies after the expiration of the period covered by the agreement, and the companies reserve any defenses they may have to any such claims.

To date, the DCP has received 220 complaints of deteriorating concrete foundations in eastern Connecticut. Homeowners experiencing severe foundation cracking or crumbling are strongly encouraged to file a complaint with the department. [Click here for more information and for the department's complaint form.](#)

Assistant Attorneys General Jeremy Pearlman and Jonathan Blake and Associate Attorney General Kimberly Massicotte are assisting the Attorney General with this matter. Special Investigator, Caylee Yerkes-Ribeiro and Attorney Julianne Avallone are advising Commissioner Harris on this investigation.

###

Media Contacts:

Office of the Attorney General:

Jaclyn M. Falkowski
Jaclyn.falkowski@ct.gov
860-808-5324 (office)
860-655-3903 (cell)

Department of Consumer Protection:

Lora Rae Anderson
lorarae.anderson@ct.gov
860-713-6019 (office)
860-247-8711 (cell)

Content Last Modified on 5/9/2016 3:50:55 PM

A Home Inspector Reveals the 6 Signs Your House is in Trouble

<http://www.familyhandyman.com/>

We don't mean to scare you ... well, actually we do. Recently, we sat down with a longtime home inspector, and he told us some tales and shared some photos that were downright frightening. Much of the damage he's encountered could have been prevented if the homeowners had just heeded the silent signs that their house was in trouble.

1 Bulge in Washing Machine Hose?

What it means: *The hose is ready to burst.*

A bulging washing machine hose is an emergency. It may burst next year, next week or right now. But it will fail and it won't just leak—it will gush. In just a few minutes, it can do thousands of dollars in damage.

Replace Rubber Hoses with Braided Stainless Steel

What to do: Immediately turn off the valves connected to the hoses. Before your next load of laundry, you'll need to replace the hoses. Buy new braided steel hoses and while you're at the home center, invest in a pressure gauge that hooks onto a spigot or laundry room faucet. Your rubber hoses may have bulged because your water pressure was too high. It shouldn't be more than 80 psi. If it is, install a pressure-reducing valve (PRV) before you damage other appliances and fixtures in your house. If you already have a PRV, it may be set too high or due for replacement.



Handyman

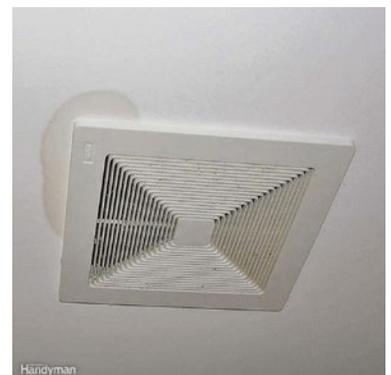
2 Stains Around a Bath Fan?

What it means: *Condensation is forming inside the duct.*

The stain could be caused by a roof leak, but condensation inside the duct is the most likely cause. If you live in a cold climate, there's a good chance that the warm, moist air from the bathroom is condensing inside the duct and the water is seeping back down into the fan housing. It's soaking the drywall around the fan and may be ruining your fan motor or even the framing components in your attic.

Investigate, Insulate and Run the Fan Longer

What to do: Start by checking the damper inside the fan housing and the one on the vent outside. Vents are usually on walls or roofs, but sometimes they're in the soffits. A stuck damper can lead to heavy condensation.



Handyman

A bath fan duct that's not insulated (or poorly insulated) gets really cold in the attic. A cold duct filled with warm moist air is a recipe for condensation. On exceptionally cold days, that condensed water freezes and then drips back down when the temperature rises.

Even insulated ducts get cold enough for condensation to form when the fan first starts up. If a fan is run long enough, the duct will warm up and dry out. Consider replacing the wall switch with a timer switch, which will run the fan for a set period of time.

Condensation forms in ducts (left). Warm air condenses on the inside of a cold duct and the water runs back down into the house.

Insulate the duct (right). You could wrap the existing duct in insulation, but it's usually easier to replace it with a duct prewrapped in an insulated jacket.



3 Efflorescence on Chimney Brick?

What it means: *Too much moisture inside the chimney.*

Efflorescence is the white material that appears on brick. It occurs when moisture moves through masonry. That moisture picks up minerals and leaves them behind in the form of tiny crystals. The minerals themselves do no harm, and a small amount of efflorescence is common. But heavy efflorescence on your chimney is a cause for concern. It's a sign of moisture inside the chimney—and when that moisture freezes, it can slowly wreck the chimney from the inside out. Even more alarming, your flue liner could be cracked or broken, and deadly combustion gases from your furnace, fireplace or water heater may be leaking into your home.

Fix the Crown or Call an Expert

What to do: Immediately have your chimney inspected by a licensed chimney sweep certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA). Learn more about chimney maintenance for your home.

Cracks in the crown allow water in (top left). Water that gets inside the chimney through cracks in the crown can cause efflorescence and damage the bricks.

Seal the crown (bottom). Small cracks in the crown can be sealed with an elastomeric masonry sealer, but a crumbling crown will have to be replaced. Smear on the sealant by hand, then smooth it with a brush.



Getty Images/Irina88W



4 Melted Grommets on Water Heater?

What it means: *Deadly gases may be entering your home.*

Exhaust from a gas water heater is supposed to flow through a duct and out of the house. But sometimes, exhaust doesn't flow up and out. Instead, it "backdrafts," spilling deadly carbon monoxide into the air you breathe. One sign of backdrafting is damaged plastic grommets on top of the water heater, melted by the hot exhaust. This shows that your water heater has backdrafted badly on at least one occasion—and you must take action.



Get Carbon Monoxide Alarms

What to do: Sometimes, the cause of backdrafting is obvious: A vent pipe may be disconnected from a vent hood, for example, or a vent may slope downward. But even a properly installed vent might occasionally backdraft because of high winds or other unusual circumstances. So the surest way to protect your family is to install carbon monoxide alarms. If you don't have CO alarms in your house, go get them today.

Install one on every level, outside sleeping areas, and within 5 ft. to 20 ft. of any sources of CO, such as water heaters, furnaces and fireplaces. If an alarm ever goes off, get out of the house immediately and call the HVAC repair service to correct the problem. The symptoms of CO poisoning are dizziness, headaches and vomiting. If anyone in the house is experiencing these symptoms, leave the house and call the fire department.

Test for proper drafting (top left). Close all the windows and doors and turn on all the bath and kitchen fans. That creates a worst-case scenario for backdrafting. Run some hot water and light an incense stick and see if the smoke is drawn up the vent.

Bad vents cause backdrafting (top right). Water heater vents need to slope upward at least 1/4 in. per foot. The installer responsible for this down-sloping vent apparently didn't know that hot gases rise.

Carbon monoxide alarms save lives (bottom). Every home with an attached garage, fireplace or gas appliances should have carbon monoxide alarms. If you already have them, be sure to test and maintain them according to the manufacturer's instructions.



5 Decking Directly Under the Door?

What it means: *Rot could be wrecking your house.*

Decks that are built right up to the bottom of a door often mean trouble. Rainwater splashes off the deck up onto the door. That much water is hard to keep out. Even if the flashing holds up, water may eventually find its way through the door components. This can ruin the siding, door and interior flooring, or worse, destroy the rim joist and other framing components both inside and outside your home.

Divert the Water Away

What to do: Diverting the water with gutters will help. However, the bottom line is that as long as the deck boards are up tight under the door, there's a chance of water infiltration. If you plan to build a deck, install it about 4 in. below the door threshold. And never let snow pile up against the door.

Interior damage (top left). Splashing rainwater can work its way through the door and leak into the house, damaging the rim joist below.

Installing gutters will help (top right). If there's an overhang above the door, install gutters to divert the water that pours off the roof. Read more about, [installing gutters](#) on your home.



Exterior damage (bottom). Splashing rainwater can work its way through the door and leak into the house, damaging the rim joist below.

6 The Water Meter Never Stops?

What it means: *You've got a leak.*

If all the faucets and plumbing fixtures in your house are turned off and the low-flow indicator on your water meter continues to measure running water, you're wasting water and money.

Look for the Leak

What to do: Indoor leaks usually create obvious signs. Look for water stains on walls or ceilings or a puddle on the floor. Also listen to toilets—a worn-out flapper on the flush valve creates a hiss and is a common cause of slow, constant water flow.



Outdoor leaks usually seep into the ground and can go on for years without being noticed. If your water meter is outside the house (warm climates only), the first step is to check the water line between the house and the meter. Shut off the main water valve at the house and check the meter. If it's still registering water flow, you know there's a leak between the meter and the house. Fixing this problem will likely require some excavation.

A leaking water spigot may go unnoticed if a hose is attached that runs out into the yard or garden. If you find one that keeps dribbling water, a new valve seat washer is probably the solution. If the spigot leaks at the top near the handle, replace the packing nut washer.

Irrigation systems are another cause of hidden leaks. Check for irrigation leaks by shutting off the valve in the house that feeds the irrigation system. If the meter stops spinning, you've found the problem. Narrow the search even more by looking for wet spots in the yard or areas of grass that are especially green. A malfunctioning zone valve is usually the cause.

Inspect the spigots (top left). Disconnect all the hoses and make sure the spigots aren't leaking.

Check your sprinkler system (top right). A malfunctioning irrigation valve will allow water to continue to dribble out into the yard.

Check the line between the meter and the house (bottom). If the main valve at the house is turned off and the meter is still spinning, you know the leak is between the meter and the house.



Web Find of the Month

I get a lot of information on the internet and most of it is crap. Somebody trying to get my money for something I do not want and did not ask for. But once in a while I find something of value to me or that will help me provide more value to my clients. A lot of the good stuff comes from educational organizations or government funded projects.

When inspecting a home I try to keep it visual and simple. There are enough findings in most homes that make it easy for home inspectors to justify our \$500 fee and prove our vast depth of experience and knowledge. I can steer my clients to various locations (main panel, attic entrance, water heater, etc.) and lecture on concrete topics I deal with every day. From there I can discuss any other topic they come up with.

Private well water is different. We can take water samples to a lab for water quality analysis. I can also look at visible equipment where found. But I cannot see what is below ground. Most of my inspections do not have wells. I am a city kid who learned English as a second language and never had a well in my home. In the Army I had a canteen or a Lister Bag. My depth of knowledge is lacking. So ... I like to give clients a visual handout or for the younger "techies" a web site. This is a great site/organization for your clients who are becoming first time home private well water owners.



Below are links to some of the webinars offered on [The Private Well Class](#) website, the site also hosts 16 training video's related to private well information and instruction.

[Is My Water Safe to Drink? - Common Questions about Private Wells](#)

[What Realtors Need to Know about Homes with Well Water](#)

[Well Care 101 - What You Need to Know to Protect Your Family](#)

[What Environmental Health Professionals Need to Know about Wells](#)

How Much Would it Cost to Do? Or Could I do That?

As a home inspector we are constantly asked how much it would cost for a new roof, to replace a fence, or make repairs to an outdated HVAC system. The list is unending. We are also asked “Can I or my trusted and thought to be knowledgeable friend of a deceased or possibly living in exile friend be able to do this home improvement”? I want to answer, “How the hell should I know”. I do not. As a civilian, I am kinder and gentler than in my previous life. We are home inspectors and we report and explain what we see and do not see. We recommend some other type of professional to remedy the negative findings. We cannot give the name of a specific plumber, electrician and so on. If they want a specific service provider; I tell them to check the CT BBB, use someone that a friend or relative speaks highly of or check with the Lowe’s/Home Depot list of contractors. Always defer responsibility away from me the home inspector. Well here are a couple new ones that make big use of our internet world; Home Advisor and DIY or Not. Do you guys have others? Send me an email and I will publish next month.



How Much Does it Cost to Build a Gazebo?

If you want to create a beautiful addition to your property, a gazebo adds shelter, elegance and a lovely place to sit and enjoy the outdoors. You may wonder what it costs to build a gazebo. There are a number of factors that will affect the price of building a new gazebo.

Gazebo Materials

Gazebos can be made from many different types of materials. Each one will have a different price point so which material you choose will be one of the single most important factors in determining the price of your gazebos.

Gazebos can be made out of wood, metal or synthetic materials like vinyl. Wooden gazebos are often made from redwood, cedar or bamboo: materials that hold up well in wet conditions. Metal gazebos can be made from lightweight, affordable aluminum, or heavy, durable steel. Long-lasting, low-maintenance vinyl gazebos can be made to resemble wood and metal.

Open versus Screened

An open gazebo provides overhead shelter but a light and airy look and feel. Screened or glass enclosed gazebos can offer protection from the elements and from insects.

A closed gazebo structure will cost more than an open one due to the additional materials and labor

Shape and Size

There are common and standard Gazebo shapes and sizes or you can choose a custom size. Standard octagonal, hexagonal, square or oval shapes can come in kits or pre-made forms that will allow for a lower price, A custom sized or shaped gazebo will cost more. And, of course, the larger the gazebo, the higher the price tag.

Gazebo Roofing

A gazebo can be covered with asphalt shingles, architectural shingles, wood shakes, slate, or tile. Each roofing material will have a different price point associated with it, so ask your carpenter about the differences in price. You may be able to save money with the type of roofing you choose if that part of the structure doesn't matter as much to you. Similarly, if you enjoy looking at the stars you may opt to spend more money and get a glass-enclosed roof.

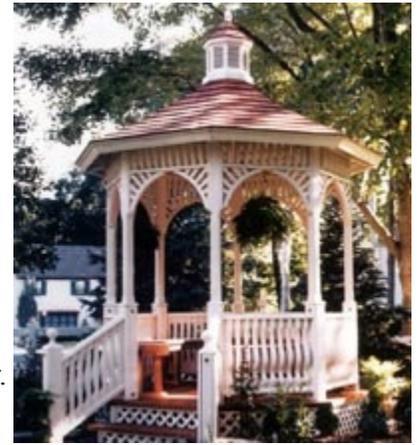
Gazebo Extras

Make your gazebo as luxurious or as simple as you'd like. Create your own seating with lawn or patio chairs, or have benches and a swing installed. High end options include electrical wiring, plumbing, cable, and a bar.



Click on this link [GAZEBO](#), to find this interactive cost chart on the HomeAdvisor website. The chart can be adjusted to show regional and local average costs for projects by changing location information

Click [HERE](#) for a link to the HomeAdvisor website "True Cost Guide".



Cost to Build a Gazebo

By Gene and Katie Hamilton

Compare the [Cost](#) to build a gazebo by doing it yourself with hiring a contractor. To adjust the home improvement and repair cost, enter your ZIP Code.

Improvement and Repair Cost for Fairfield, Connecticut					Change Zip Code.
Hours	Pro 32.0	Diy 47.5	Money	Pro \$6395	

The dictionary defines a gazebo as a small roofed building affording shade and rest. In our opinion, that doesn't begin to describe what it adds to a landscape. Many designers use a gazebo as the focal point of the yard because its open and intricate lines bring an old fashioned charm and design element that enhances its surroundings. And when you build a gazebo in your yard, it usually becomes a favorite place for kids as well as adults.

You can build a gazebo yourself or have it custom built by a carpenter. Or you can buy one ready-built or pre-assembled and delivered to your property for construction. Prices vary widely because not all gazebos are created equal. They come in a wide range of sizes and materials, including cedar, pressure-treated wood and vinyl. Most are designed to be built on top of a concrete slab, brick floor or wooden deck. When shopping for a gazebo, consider those designed with built-in seating and optional screens, accessories that make it pricier, but will extend its use and creature comforts.

You'll find them sold locally at home, lawn and garden centers, and on several Web sites, such as www.gazebos.com.

If you're buying a ready-built gazebo, its location must be open and accessible to a good-sized delivery truck hauling a flatbed. If you have your gazebo custom built or build it yourself, truck access is not necessary.

It will cost \$5,720 to buy a ready-built 9-foot octagonal cedar gazebo with a cupola, cedar shingles, and pressure-treated foundation and floor. If you have carpentry skills and tools, you can buy a pre-cut gazebo kit of similar size and material for \$4,675 and built it yourself, saving 19 percent. Figure an additional cost for delivery.

If you're planning to build a gazebo in your yard, check your property survey to make sure you build the structure on your property and not on your neighbor's. And be sure to ask your local building department if a permit is required for the addition of a gazebo before you begin.

That sums it up. Knowing the average cost to build a gazebo lets you compare doing it yourself with what you can expect to pay a contractor. To customize the cost to where you live add your ZIP Code in the [cost box](#).

Improvement and Repair Cost Updated 2016

Click [DIY or NOT](#) to go to the website for other project costs.

Ticks

Here is the latest breaking news on ticks and just how big a threat they are perceived to be.

Perception is reality amongst home buyers.



Emerging' Tick-Borne Virus Found In Connecticut

by David Moran

A tick-borne virus that is untreatable, contractible in as little as 15 minutes and potentially fatal was recently found in Connecticut. But medical experts say there is no reason for the public to worry yet.

The Powassan virus is a strain related to West Nile that can be transmitted to humans by infected ticks, according to the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention.

The virus, which causes symptoms that include fever, headache, vomiting and lethargy, can potentially infect the central nervous system, causing meningitis, encephalitis and long-term neurological problems, according to Theodore Andreadis, director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

In an August 2014 report, the Connecticut Department of Public Health classified the Powassan virus as an “emerging tick-borne illness.” Tick-borne viruses are most commonly contracted in Connecticut between May and July, when nymphal ticks are searching for food.

Since 2004, there have been 50 cases detected of the virus in humans in the U.S., with 12 cases reported in 2013, according to the CDC.

Andreadis said the virus, which was recently detected in ticks in Branford and Bridgeport, stands in “stark contrast” to Lyme disease because it can be transmitted from a tick to a human in as little as 15 minutes, whereas Lyme disease can take as long as 24 to 48 hours to pass on. It can also be potentially fatal, Andreadis said.

“It does produce a serious disease which can, in some cases, prove to be fatal, and that’s not the case in Lyme disease,” Andreadis said. “The ticks that are infected with the virus can transmit it very rapidly when they feed.”

The Powassan virus was detected in about 3 percent of ticks in sampling areas in Bridgeport and Branford from 2008 to 2012, Andreadis said. He said those were the only two areas of the state sampled in the survey, but that the agricultural experiment station now plans to expand its sampling to other areas of Connecticut to determine how widespread ticks that carry the virus are.

There has never been a reported case of the virus in humans in Connecticut, but there have been 17 reported cases in New York and one in Massachusetts, according to the CDC.

Andreadis said that of the 75 or so cases of the virus in humans that he was familiar with since the disease was first discovered in Powassan, Ontario, in 1958, he thinks only about 10 percent proved fatal. But he cautioned that the potential neurological symptoms caused by an infection could be severe and long-lasting.

“If you survive an infection, you could have long-term neurological problems,” Andreadis said. “There’s not a whole lot known about that.”

Durland Fish, an epidemiology professor at Yale University, said he is concerned that there is little information or research on the virus. Fish said he thought there needed to be a greater public health emphasis placed on research, education and potentially developing a vaccine to combat the Powassan virus and other tick-borne illnesses.

“I don’t think there’s a whole lot that people can do about it other than not be bitten by ticks, which I think they already know,” Fish said. “But we don’t know what happens to all the people that have been bitten by ticks that may be potentially infected.”

To avoid tick-borne illnesses, the department of public health suggests that anyone who might be in wooded areas wear long pants, avoid overgrown areas, apply insect repellent and thoroughly examine themselves or others for ticks once indoors.

After reading this I did some research on a Sunday afternoon, I found the state’s agricultural gurus have really done their homework on ticks. That is the same organization that has led the fight on nasty bed bugs. Thank you [Connecticut Agricultural Experimentation Station](#). Here is the directory on Tick Related Information. I found their [Tick Management Handbook](#) a great primer; the following is the introduction to the handbook.

Tick Management Handbook - Introduction

Ticks have become an increasing problem to people and animals in the United States. Ticks are obligate blood-feeders that require an animal host to survive and reproduce. They feed on a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and even amphibians. While most ticks feed on specific host animals and are not considered to be of medical or veterinary importance, several ticks have a wide host range and attack people, pets, or livestock. Ticks can be a nuisance; their bites can cause irritation and, in the case of some ticks, paralysis. Severe infestations on animals can cause anemia, weight loss, and even death from the consumption of large quantities of blood. Ticks can also transmit many human and animal disease pathogens, which include viruses, bacteria, rickettsiae, and protozoa.

The association between ticks and disease was first demonstrated when Theobald Smith and Fred Kilbourne proved in 1893 that Texas cattle fever (cattle babesiosis) was caused by a protozoan transmitted by an infected tick. In the late 1800s, Rocky Mountain spotted fever was the first human tick-borne disease identified in the United States, and for many years, was the major tick-associated disease in this country. Although first recognized from the virulent cases in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana, it eventually became evident that most cases were distributed through the eastern United States. Lyme disease was first recognized as a distinct clinical entity from a group of patients with arthritis in the area of Lyme, Connecticut, in 1975, although it became evident that this disease had an extensive history in



Europe throughout the twentieth century. Today, Lyme disease is the leading arthropod associated disease in the United States with nearly 24,000 human cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2005. This may represent only about 10% of physician diagnosed cases. Surveys have found that up to a quarter of residents in Lyme disease endemic areas have been diagnosed with the disease and that many residents perceive the disease as a serious or very serious problem. Without an effective intervention strategy, the steadily increasing trend in Lyme disease case reports is likely to continue.



In the northeastern United States, the emergence of Lyme disease can be linked to changing landscape patterns. A Swedish naturalist named Pehr Kalm recorded in his journal of his travels in the United States in 1748-1750 that ticks were abundant and annoying. Over a century later in 1872, entomologist Asa Fitch noted that ticks were nearly or quite extinct along the route that Pehr Kalm had traveled. During this time, the land had been cleared for agriculture and white-tailed deer in many areas were drastically reduced or virtually eliminated due to habitat loss and unregulated hunting. With the reestablishment of forested habitat and animal hosts through the latter half of the twentieth century, ticks that may have survived on islands off the southern New England coast were able to increase and spread. The blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*, which is commonly known as the “deer” tick, and the principal vector for Lyme disease or Lyme borreliosis, was present on Naushon Island, Massachusetts, in the 1920s and 1930s. Some *I. scapularis* from Montauk Point, Long Island, New York, that were collected in the late 1940s and early 1950s were found infected with Lyme disease bacteria. The risk of human infection increased through the 1960s and 1970s until the recognition of the disease from the cluster of cases in Lyme, Connecticut, in 1975. Indeed, the disease was not new and cases had occurred in Europe through the 20th century under different names.



The rising incidence of Lyme disease is due to a number of factors including:



- Increased tick abundance
- Overabundant deer population
- Increased recognition of the disease
- Establishment of more residences in wooded areas
- Increased potential for contact with ticks.

With the steady increase in the incidence and geographic spread of Lyme disease, there is a need for homeowners, public health officials, and the pest control industry to learn how to manage or control the tick problem. The purpose of this handbook is to provide basic information on ticks and their biology, basic information on the diseases they carry, methods to reduce the risk of exposure to these parasites, and most importantly, information on how to reduce or manage tick populations, and therefore risk of disease, in the residential landscape.

To view the entire [Tick Management Handbook](#) click here [“Handbook”](#).

As I finished up I had to see what the Department of Public Health had. I liked this. It mentions Dr. Stafford who wrote the handbook I pointed to above. Collaboration is a good use of resources like knowledge.

Department of Public Health - Ticks

Tick Species

Many tick species can be found in Connecticut; the tick that transmits Lyme disease is called *Ixodes scapularis*, or deer tick. For detailed information concerning this and other tick species, please visit the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station or the University of Rhode Island's TickEncounter Resource Center.



Tick Removal

Quickly finding and removing ticks from the body is an important step in preventing infection with tick-borne diseases. Tweezers are the best method to remove ticks. Contrary to popular belief, smothering ticks with petroleum jelly is not effective. Never use a hot match, gasoline or any other chemical to remove a tick.

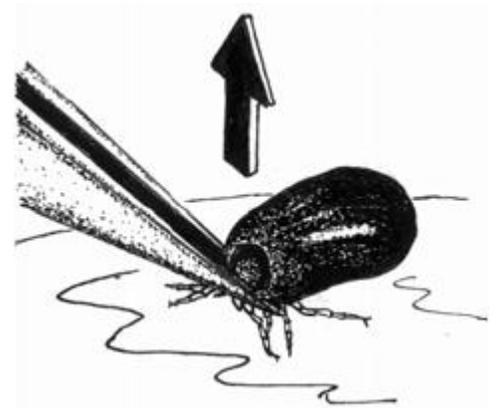
The best way to remove a tick:

- Grasp it close to the mouth parts near the skin surface.
- With gentle, steady pressure, pull the tick upward away from the skin until it releases.

Once the tick is removed, wash the area of the bite with an antiseptic or rubbing alcohol.

Symptoms of tick-borne diseases found in Connecticut may all include a fever and general muscle aches that can occur within 35 days from the time of the bite.

If you get any symptoms of Lyme disease, or symptoms of other tick-borne diseases, contact your doctor right away.

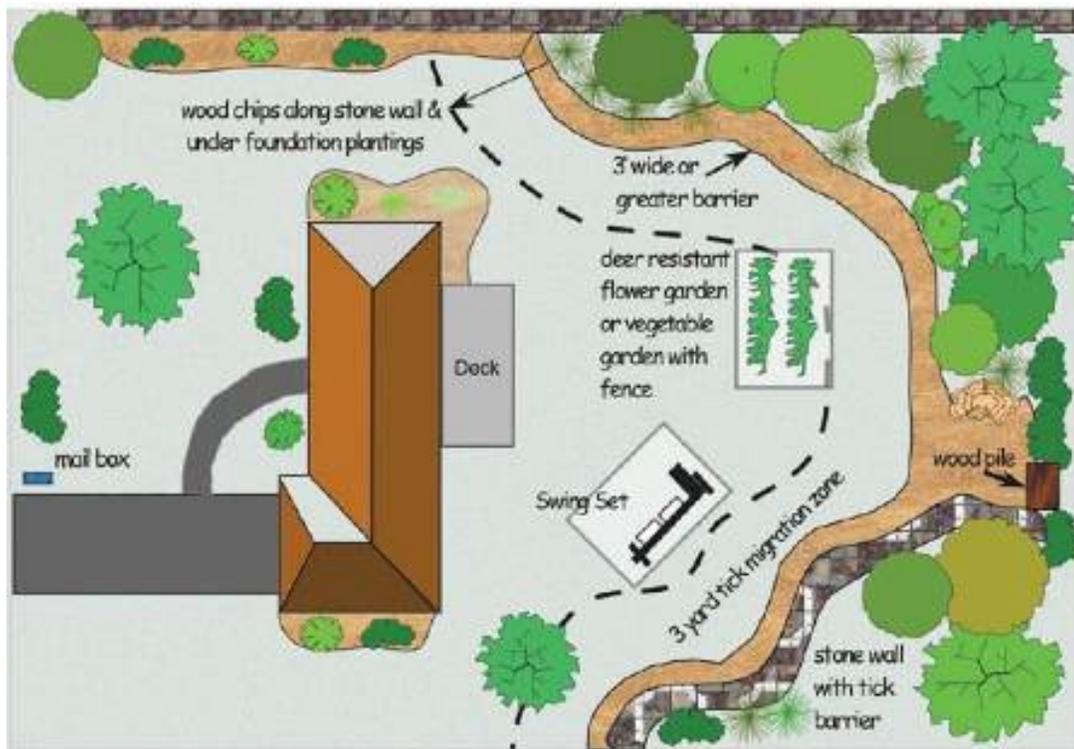


Tick Management

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is the Nation's first state agricultural experiment station and was founded in 1875 to promote agriculture using scientific investigation and experiment. Their motto is "Putting Science to Work for Society", and is as relevant today as it was at their founding. The CAES conducts research on arthropod pests of food crops, ornamental and fruit trees, shrubs, turf, forests, and pests of public health importance. They enjoy many key accomplishments that include:

- Made the first isolations of Lyme disease agents from Connecticut wildlife. (1983)
- Developed antibody tests for laboratory diagnosis of Lyme disease. (1984)

Dr. Kirby Stafford is a medical-veterinary entomologist whose research focuses on the ecology and control of the blacklegged tick. He joined the CAES in 1987. Dr. Stafford is currently Vice Director, Chief Entomologist and State Entomologist of the CAES. His publication, entitled Tick Management Handbook, is an integrated guide for homeowners, pest control operators, and public health officials for tick management and the prevention of tick-associated disease.



Tick free zone. Illustrated by Kirby Stafford, III PhD. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

The handbook includes information on the following topics:

- Ticks of the Northeastern United States
- Tick-Associated Diseases
- Personal Protection
- Integrated Tick Management (including creating a Tick Free Zone)
- Area-wide Chemical Control of Ticks
- Biological Control of Ticks

The Tick Office has information concerning tick submission, identification and testing; tick submission form; tick testing summaries; guidelines for local health departments.

CAES Tick Office & Tick Testing

- [Information on Submitting Ticks for Identification and Testing](#)
- [Tick Test Summaries](#)

National Tickborne Diseases Provider Reference Manual

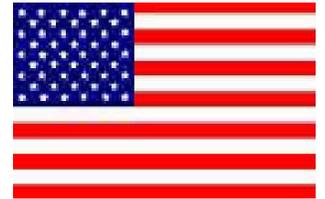
[Tickborne diseases of the United States: A reference manual for health care providers.](#)

Contact CAHI c/o
 Scott Monforte
 39 Baker St.
 Milford, CT. 06461

Email: info@ctinspectors.com

Web: www.ctinspectors.com

Articles published in CAHI Monthly are the sole opinion of the author. CAHI does not endorse or state a position for or against the content of said articles.



CAHI Executive Board		CAHI Presidents	CT Home Inspection Licensing Board	
President	Stanley Bajerski 203-257-1694	Bernie Caliendo	William Stanley, Chairman	Inspector
		Robert Dattilo	Rich Kobylenski	Inspector
Vice President	Scott Monforte 203-877-4774	Woody Dawson	Larry Willette	Inspector
		Michael DeLugan	Bruce Schaefer	Inspector
Treasurer	Dan Kristiansen 203-257-0912	David Hetzel	David Sherwood	Inspector
		Richard Kobylenski	Eric Curtis	Public Member
Secretary	Dean Aliberti 202-414-8336	Scott Monforte	James J. O'Neill	Public Member
		Joseph Pelliccio	Daniel Scott	Public Member
Director	William Kievit 860-919-4960	Pete Petrino	<p>The Licensing Board meetings are held at 9:30 am Dept of Consumer Protection 165 Capitol Avenue. Hartford The public is always welcome.</p>	
Director	Kevin Morey 203-375-5997	Dwight Uffer		
Director	Woody Dawson 203-272-7400	They have served as our primary leaders and in other capacities since 1992.		
Director	Al Dingfelder 203-376-8452	Please thank them for their service when you have a chance.		

Published by: Larry Ruddy
 Larryhp@cox.net