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VETERAN-OWNED PATRIOT PEST SOLUTIONS



JAMES AND DENICE HARRISON

ELIMINATING PESTS IS OUR PATRIOTIC DUTY!



PHOTOS BY STYLISH IMAGES

By Kathy Hunt

Spring brings such wondrous things. Longer days and warmer nights. Delicate flowers and budding trees. It also marks the return of less welcome creatures, including ants, mosquitoes and spotted lanternflies. Whether they take over your kitchen counters or feed on you or your trees, these pests can wreak havoc on your household and put a damper on the season. Yet, insects aren't the only headaches. In the springtime groundhogs re-emerge to munch on outdoor plants and gardens and raccoons resume their rummaging in garbage cans. When wildlife runs amuck and causes damage to your home or business, you can turn to the licensed and insured professionals of Patriot Pest Solutions LLC. Locally owned and headquartered at 414 West Main Street in Trappe, Patriot Pest possesses the experience and expertise needed to resolve any type of pest control nightmare.



**Veteran-owned. Locally based.
Nationally licensed.**

James and Denice Harrison started Patriot Pest Solutions ten years ago from their home in Royersford. They chose the name "Patriot" as an homage to the Harrison family's military service. Both James and his brother served in the United States Army while James' father was a member of the U.S. Navy.

“The name isn't just a marketing tool. It's a belief system. We make eliminating pests our patriotic duty.”

– Denice Harrison

The veteran-owned business quickly grew to support residential and commercial customers in Montgomery, Berks, Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia counties. It now has 11 employees working out of its Trappe location. They consist of co-owners James, who is an associate certified entomologist (ACE), and Denice as well as five licensed service technicians, three customer service representatives, and a business developer.

In pest control, as in the military, understanding one's enemy is key. To prepare for his civilian role as an associate certified entomologist and the battle against pests, James had to gain a minimum of seven years of experience in the field, hold a current U.S. pesticide applicator's license, pass a 150-question exam and sign the ACE code of ethics. He annually maintains the minimum required continuing education credits.



Patriot Pest proudly serves the Berks, Chester, Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties.



James is an associate certified entomologist and a member of the National Pest Management Association.

In addition to James' role as an ACE, Patriot Pest is a member of the National Pest Management Association (NPMA). This nonprofit organization supports the industry's commitment to the protection of public health, food and property, provides continuing education, and addresses the technical, governmental, educational, business, and networking needs of its members.

Undoubtedly, Patriot Pest values pest management education and believes that training benefits both its employees and clients. "Incorrectly identifying a pest can cost a customer thousands of dollars and a company its reputation. That's why it's so important to have trained and licensed technicians," Denice said.

To stay on top of the latest pest management require-

ments and up-to-date with certifications, technicians participate in weekly, in-house training sessions. They attend conventions, conferences, and meetings of the Pennsylvania Pest Management Association. Through the National Wildlife Control Operators Association (NWCOA), they maintain the techniques and practices of safe and humane wildlife management. They are licensed through the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

The company itself is listed as a NWCOA certified wildlife professional and is part of the Pennsylvania Trapper's Association, which promotes the humane trapping of wildlife. When you contact Patriot Pest Solutions for assistance, you can be assured that you will work with experts in the field of pest control.

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Patriot Pest Solutions' technicians are state-licensed and specially trained in humane squirrel trapping, removal and exclusion services.



The Harrison family.

COVER STORY

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Pests of all sizes and seasons

As you might expect from wildlife certified professionals, Patriot Pest humanely removes an assortment of wildlife. Find a family of bats nestled in your attic or birds nesting in a vent? Hear squirrels rolling nuts across your crawl space? The company will send a licensed technician to assess the problem, suggest remediation efforts, and outline steps to prevent future wildlife invasions. Along with squirrels, bats, raccoons and ground-hogs, Patriot Pest technicians will take care of issues with birds, foxes, opossums, skunks, moles, voles, rats, and snakes.

What about house and field mice? "Mice are considered 'normal' pest control," Denice said. "Every pest control company takes care of them. What most don't do are wildlife, like snakes, ground-hogs and skunks. A lot of pest control companies will refer their wildlife calls to us. We work hand-in-hand very nicely with locally owned companies and take care of their wildlife. That's something that makes us unique in the pest control," she said.

She noted that many pest problems are seasonal. "With ants, its usually spring showers that helps push them up out of the ground along with warmer ambient ground temperatures. With spotted lanternflies, we come out in the spring and do a systemic treatment that is harmless to the trees but not to the spotted lantern flies. In the fall we make

applications to the bark of the bark. Our goal is to save the trees and we have a method to do this, to stop the spotted lantern flies from killing trees. Everyone's gripe the past few years has been lantern-flies. Before that, it was stink bugs, which have now dissipated. Everything has ebbs and flows," she said.

As for the billions of cicadas destined to hatch after 17 years underground, she advised readers not to worry. The two-inch-long, red-eyed, orange-veined and translucent winged insects may appear frightening, but they are quite harmless. "They don't kill anything, they're good for the environment, they're not destroying anything, and they're outside. They're not something that we'd consider a target insect and want to get rid of," she said.

Patriot Pest's technicians do resolve a wide range of insect issues, including fleas, termites, ticks, cockroaches and the aforementioned ants, lanternflies and stink bugs. They also tackle the toughest of all infestations, that of bed bugs.



PATRIOT PEST SOLUTIONS' SERVICE FOCUS

Customers can choose between conventional chemical or heat treatment to eliminate these invasive and prolific blood suckers. Denice observed that bed bug calls have dipped a bit over the past year and credited this decline to the drastic reduction in travel caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

While the pandemic may have thwarted travel, it didn't stop the efforts of Patriot Pest. "We're essential workers and, as a result, we never shut down," she said. "Nursing homes and restaurants can't have rodents and roaches in their kitchens. We can't have homes and businesses unsafe and uninhabitable because of pests."

Patriot Pest recognizes that not everyone feels comfortable having a stranger indoors during this time. For both safety and peace of mind, customers are asked whether they want technicians to treat their homes or businesses from the inside or outside.

"Over the past year, fear has been the biggest thing that we've seen," Denice explains. "Knowing that people are scared, we have additional protocols for our technicians. They are trained, tested and certified in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). They have to wear masks and gloves and get their temperatures checked at the sites. We have to be sure that they're safe to go into buildings, and into nursing homes especially, and we have to be sure that people feel comfortable with them there," she said.

Keeping everyone safe

Patriot Pest's dedication to customer safety extends beyond its two-legged clients. The company also looks out for those four-legged household members.

"Our family is really big into rescuing dogs. I have a rotation of rescue dogs, mostly mutts, and right now have three. We design our services to be as safe as possible for humans and pets. I am too much of an animal lover to ever let that happen," she said.

Even in the case of rodent bait, Denice pointed out that the amount of bait used for rodents is minuscule. Plus, the bait is placed in tamper-proof containers far from the reach of pets.

To ensure that customers, and pets, keep troublesome wildlife and insects at bay, Patriot Pest offers maintenance plans. These reduce the likelihood that whatever has infiltrated the premises will do so again. It also offers customized approaches that suit each customer's unique needs.

**For additional information,
to schedule service or to
receive a free quote, contact
Patriot Pest Solutions
at 610.489.5136 or
info@patriotpestsolutions.net.**

Patriot Pest Solutions' service focus has evolved over the years. It has always been their goal to keep up to date with the industry's most recent innovations and new pest invaders. Below are some recent shifts they have seen in the industry. Please visit www.PatriotPestSolutions.net for a comprehensive list.

SPOTTED LANTERN FLY

Back in 2011 no one heard of the Spotted Lantern Fly and pest control companies were not treating trees. However, these destructive pests began killing trees in Berks county and have made their way across the state. Addressing this problem requires two treatments per year, in the Spring and in the Fall. The Spring treatment involves a systemic application treatment lasting three months. The treatment absorbs into plant, will not wash off, and is highly effective against Lanternflies on first application. Fall is a repellent treatment.

MOSQUITO

The demand for Mosquito treatments has grown over the years as concerns over West Nile Virus, Zika Virus and Dengue Fever continue to grow. Patriot Pest Solutions urges Pennsylvania residents to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Mosquitoes only need about half an inch of water to breed. Eliminating standing water around your property will remove mosquito harborage. Patriot Pest Solutions also recommends making sure all screens on windows and doors are in good condition to block mosquito access.

Effective mosquito treatment starts with targeting populations where they originate. Patriot Pest Solutions' mosquito treatments are focused to shady areas in shrubbery and under decks where mosquitoes live and breed. All of the materials they use are registered by the EPA and are completely safe when applied according to the label by a licensed pest professional.

Patriot Pest Solutions offers a six-month 100 percent organic mosquito control plan that ensures the safety of you, your pets and your children. Organic mosquito control service plans begin in May and keeps your yard mosquito-free through October. Mosquito services will eliminate the number of mosquitoes that swarm your yard in those warm summer months. Patriot Pest Solutions treats foliage, vegetation, shrubbery areas, patios, eaves, covered porches, and other resting areas.

TICKS

Ticks are second only to mosquitoes as vectors of disease. Ticks can transmit Lyme disease, Meningoencephalitis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia, babesiosis, Colorado tick fever, Q fever, tick paralysis, and several forms of ehrlichiosis. Tick-borne diseases correspond to a specific tick-host combination and are limited in their geographical extent. Nearly 95 percent of all Lyme disease cases have been reported in the Northeastern part of the United States.

It is just as important to treat your lawn to



Chris Gentile – Bed Bug and Spotted Lantern Fly Specialist

prevent ticks as it is to mow and maintain a green and healthy lawn. Pets can easily bring ticks into your home. After feeding, ticks will drop off and lay eggs in protected cracks and crevices. Getting rid of an indoor tick infestation takes time because eggs can hatch months later, long after you think you have the situation under control.

Service begins with a licensed technician providing a full inspection of your property. During the inspection, your tick control technician will identify potential problem areas around your home or office. After the source of your problem areas have been identified, your technician will create a customized tick treatment plan for year-round protection, using the most effective and environmentally conscious tick control solutions.

BED BUGS

Bed bugs have made a comeback over the last ten years. Bed bugs have developed resistance to traditional pesticide applications. This resistance has made establishing control more difficult.

Bed bugs are apple seed-sized, reddish-brown bugs that feed on human blood at night. Bed bugs are frequently brought home from airports, clothing stores, hotels, movie theaters and used furniture. Once inside, bed bugs are typically found close to where you sleep. These blood-sucking pests can hide in cracks the thickness of a credit card. PPS technicians frequently find bed

bugs in baseboards, bed frames, box springs, cabinets, furniture, headboards, mattresses, nightstands, picture frames — even behind electrical plate covers! Bed bugs do not spread diseases, but they do cause discomfort and many sleepless nights.

Bed bug heat remediation treatments are an efficient and cost-effective way to eradicate bed bug infestations without the use of pesticides. Heat treatments take only one day and leave no odor or toxic residues behind, making heat the ideal choice for the extermination of bed bugs in both residential and commercial settings. Bed bug heat treatments penetrate walls and permeate every square inch of an infested room, ensuring that it is clean and clear of bed bugs.

The newest bed bug treatment is a bio-pesticide. Bed bugs build up a resistance to chemicals, and certain chemicals won't work. A couple of years ago scientists from Penn State developed a bio-pesticide that bed bugs have no resistance to. "We are seeing excellent results with it," James Harrison explains.

All of Patriot Pest Solutions' Quality Pro certified state-licensed technicians have been trained by James, an Associate Certified Entomologist, in bed bug detection. Don't wonder if you have bed bugs, find out for sure by contacting Patriot Pest Solutions for a FREE inspection and estimate on proven solutions to exterminate your bed bug infestation.