

SAND WASPS

Aka BICYRTES QUADRIFASCIATUS

The sand wasps at the beach are beneficial insects and are benign if you leave them alone. They help reduce this year's explosion of nasty stink bugs. There is no safe way to eliminate sand wasps.

What's their real name? Actually this mouthful is a "four-tooth" species of sand wasp. Their speciality is paralyzing and killing stink bugs for their young. A generous number of them call Chippewa Lake beach, home.

Here is a list of interesting facts that you may not know about "bicyrtes quadrifasciatus".

1. Their preferred prey is a little bug that smells bad when it gets squished, otherwise known to us as a stink bug.
Did you also know that our area has recently experienced an explosion in the number of the "Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs". The little critters are seemingly everywhere. Have you seen one at your house?
2. Unlike other species of wasps, sand wasps do not live together in colonies and they are not "aggressive" or "protective" of their hive. A sand wasp typically will not sting anyone unless they are extremely provoked, stepped on, etc.
3. Sand wasps don't live together like other wasps. Each sand wasp has their own home or burrow in the sand. If you watch them closely you will notice them digging into their burrows. There will be a small hole and a little pile of sand around the hole. So see if you can find one at the beach.
4. Sand wasps also dart about in "straight" lines unlike regular wasps. You would think they would crash into one another as they zing around but that does not seem to happen.
5. Another good thing for us humans is that a sand wasp does not like people's food. Your Kool Aid, Coke, Gatorade, ice cream bars, sandwiches and other food does not interest a sand wasp at all.
6. The Village has talked with a variety of bug experts and none of them can recommend a safe insecticide or other reasonable measures we could apply to the beach.
Diatomaceous earth is also not recommended by the experts because it could irritate the eyes, ears, and throats of humans or pets who might use the beach.

So the conclusion, the best practice, or solution for Chippewa Lake Village is to marvel at one of God's amazing creations. Treat the little guys with respect and they will not bother you. Enjoy summer, the beach and have fun.