

MAN VS. MOLE

Jeff Holper,
Champion Mole
Hunter and Hero

By Lynette Bleed

Moles mess with your mind. That's part of what makes Jeff Holper, *The Mole Hunter*, a popular home show speaker. Holper — a pest control business owner, past president of the Missouri Pest Management Association and a speaker at Purdue's recent Entomology conference — is scheduled to deliver the presentation "I Want To Be a Mole Killer" at the Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show.

"Moles are pests that affect people emotionally," Holper said. Case in point: "Nice little old lady is sitting out on her porch at 6 a.m. waiting for the ground to move, so she can dig behind the mole, flip it up in the air and beat the thing to death," he said. "It takes 'nice little old lady' and makes a murderer out of her."

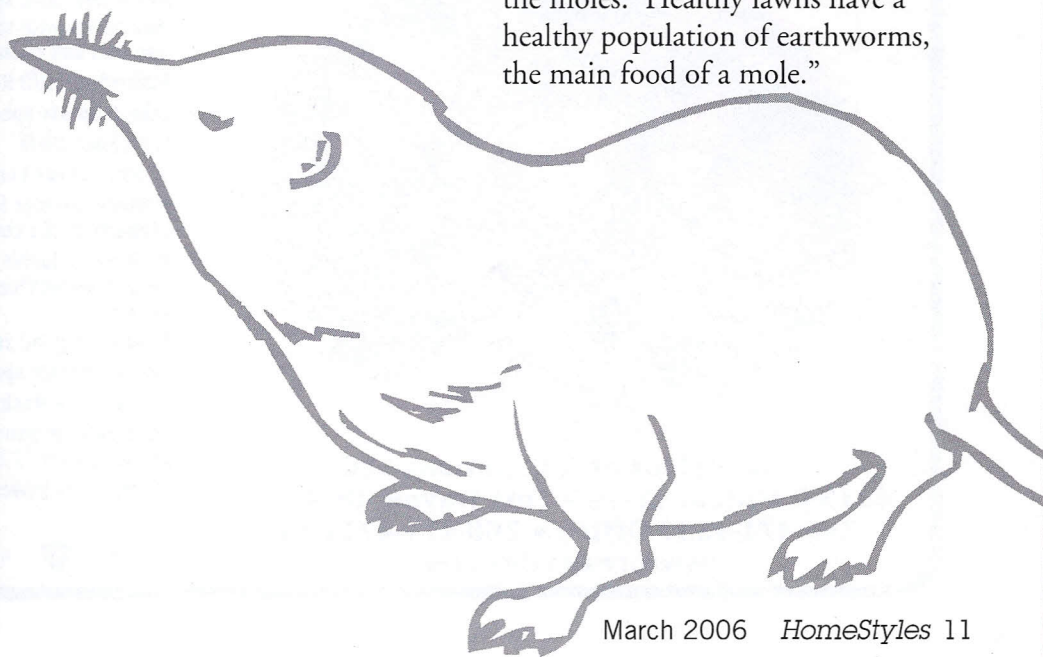
Apparently 'nice little old lady' isn't alone. Holper's past mole killer presentations have drawn audiences in the hundreds. "People attend the mole killer seminar because they feel defeated. They are admitting that they've failed and they want help."

Part of the reason there's such emotion involved with moles is that so many things fail. In his presentation, Holper discusses the "tools of a frustrated victim of moles" — poison peanuts, sonic devices and Juicy Fruit gum to name a few — and explains how to really kill or trap a mole.

"Primarily I teach people how to use a group of traps," Holper said. "You can have the right trap, but if you only have one, it usually still equals failure. If you have a group of traps, and you know how to set them, your success rate goes up tremendously."

Holper's "mole killer combo pack," which will be available at the show, explains how. It contains Holper's self-published book, "The Joy and Celebration of Mole Control," the DVD "The Mole Hunter" and six mole traps.

But what do you do if you spend your time and money to get rid of the pests and your lazy neighbor doesn't do a thing? Holper said that if you have a sprinkler system and rich, fertile soil, it's usually your lawn that's drawing the moles. "You're actually creating a resort for the moles. Healthy lawns have a healthy population of earthworms, the main food of a mole."



Not to fear. In fact, consider yourself lucky. "If they're on your property, you should be able to kill them," says Holper. "I try to get you to view having a mole as fun, because now you can go kill it. Whereas before you were defeated by it, my goal is to make you a champion in the battle of man versus mole."

Voles and mice are also covered in the seminar. Holper said "voles" are actually the worst lawn rodent to have. A vole is a heavy vegetation eating rodent that looks like a blunt-nosed, short-tailed mouse, usually charcoal gray in color. "Moles basically do aeration to a lawn, but a vole does far more dollar damage because it also eats bulbs and hostas."

While rodents comprise a large part of Jeff's pest control business, Holper's Pest and Animal Solutions located in St. Louis, he also helps customers get rid of ants, bees, termites, fleas, bed bugs, deer and geese. By attending specialty conferences offered by the National Pest Management Association, Holper stays "cutting edge" on how to deal with all pests.

"In pest control there are lots of different ways to solve a problem. If I find a better way or a better tool then that's what I switch to. I am constantly growing and learning," he said.

Constant change is one of the things Holper loves about his job. Challenges include changes in pesticide regulations and "new" pests — or outbreaks of old ones.

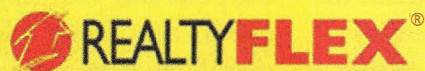
"Three years ago it was the Asian lady beetle. For a while it was mosquitoes due to West Nile. Recently, bed bugs have become an issue."

Another reason Holper loves what he does is that he is the "hero that rescues."

"When someone calls me, they don't want me to hold their hand and say, 'It's going to be OK. We'll just work through this.' They have a problem and they want it dealt with," he said. "Hunters have that extra intuition to be inquisitive enough to solve things that other people can't. I'm a hunter. I love to hunt."

Have a pest question for the Mole Hunter? You can e-mail him at jeff@holperspest.com

We've Got the Perfect Home for You



RealtyFlex of NE Indiana, LLC
"Where Value Exceeds Your Expectations"



Booth #270

- Over 70 Agents Serving NE Indiana
- Residential Sales Specialists & Buyer and/or Seller Representation.
- Commercial Sales & Leasing Specialists and we subscribe to Loopnet.com (National Commercial MLS)
- New Home Sales Specialists: RealtyFlex has aligned themselves with the top builders in Fort Wayne and NE Indiana who own and control the majority of lots in Fort Wayne.
- Authorized HUD Repo Sales Office.
- Lake property specialists
- Farm Specialists
- Member of the Fort Wayne Board Of Realtors.
- Multiple Listings Service and we can look up any listed property in the country.
- We have exclusive right in NE Indiana to International Relocation Services enabling us to relocate any homeowner anywhere.
- Member in good standing of the Better Business Bureau.
- First corporate sponsor of a Metro Football Team
- Sponsor of a Washington Twp Little League Team.
- Corporate sponsor of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Indiana, donating over \$2,000 in 2005.
- Realtyflex is looking for Agents to join the company.

RealtyFlex of N.E. Indiana LLC
 6315-C Mutual Drive • Fort Wayne, IN 46825
 260-471-3539 Office • 260-471-4711 Fax
www.realtyflex.com

