

February 2012

## COUNTRY HAZARDS

Just as we would automatically tell our own children (or nieces, nephews, and grandchildren for that matter) what to watch out for on their holiday, we feel the same obligation toward our guests. We want you and your family to have a great vacation at The Tyler Place, and so you won't be caught off guard, we'd like to point out some of the risks that we rural types take for granted.

- There are bees and wasps that sting – no fun if you run into a ground nest – and dangerous if you have a reaction to them.
- There is poison ivy in places – if you get off the path. And sumac.
- Rabies exists in wild animals and one should avoid contact with them (or with any animal that is exhibiting strange behavior).
- Among our native species of turtles, we have *Chelydra serpentina* (snapping turtles). At certain times of year a female turtle or two may come onto a lawn to dig a nest at night. Interesting to watch, but stay away from those jaws!
- We don't have any poisonous snakes or spiders – or black flies, either (well, maybe a few in the spring). Mosquitoes are another matter and while the risk of being infected with West Nile virus (or suffering serious consequences if that were to occur) is remote, use of repellent is a good idea.
- One other matter we'd like to bring to your attention. The Vermont Department of Health has reported that Lyme Disease is no longer a rarity, but is endemic in our state. It's probably a good idea to check your children (and yourselves) on a daily basis for deer ticks if any of you have been in the woods, bushes or grassy areas. We understand it takes a certain amount of time attached to the body for a tick to convey Lyme Disease, apparently the critical time factor being if the tick has been attached in excess of 36 hours. It is recommended that if a tick may have been attached for more than a full day that prophylactic antibiotics be commenced within a few days thereafter.
- Increasingly over the years blue-green algae blooms have become worldwide phenomena, and Lake Champlain has not been exempt. Our water supply comes from our own 500-foot deep, completely pure, Artesian well, so drinking water is not an issue. Depending on wind direction, water temperature, etc., after the lake warms up in the summer, blooms may be anticipated. If an algae bloom should occur on the lake, it is visible, and you are probably not going to be tempted to swim in it. The Tyler Place has an extensive array of activities and sports and fun of all kinds that keeps vacations both weather proof and algae proof.