

WASP -Not a Honey Bee

The Wasp family like many has thousands of members -about 4,000 in the U.S.

Yellow Jacket (western, common, aerial, German), Bald-faced Hornet, Paper Wasp (skinny one, nice)

- Can be a whole hive of 100 – 10,000 or a single
- All are single season. New Queens hibernate.

ID



- No hair – smooth, shiny, waxy
- Body has two parts (skinny in middle) with skinny (pedicel) connection
- Yellowjacket (yellow/black) Bald-faced Hornet (black/yellow)
- Legs hang down when flying

- No pollen baskets
- Dark wings

Can sting repeatedly (no barbs on stinger) or bite

Long skinny ones are often solitary dwellers and not aggressive

Food (varies a bit with type of wasp)

- Protein, meat, scavenger, bugs (yellow Jacket – our picnic)
- nectar, fruit, (Bald-faced Hornet)
- Protects food
- Feed usually not more than 1,000 feet away

Nesting

- Plant fiber – wood, mud, tree resin, secretions (spit)
- Ground or hanging from tree, bush, building
- Very protective of nest area
- Yellowjacket (linear), Bald-face Hornet (scalloped), paper wasp small open type

Traps & protection

- Queens in spring and fall
- Spring food nectar (apple juice), Fall protein (meat, cat food)
- Single entrance trap
- Avoid attracting food (garbage, meat and sweets (lunch), bright colors),
- Remain calm (waving arms and such calls them over)

