

NATURE'S REVENGE!?![©]

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – August 1, 2018

To date, I have written a variety of nature-related articles, all of which I have enjoyed sharing with family members and friends; although I don't feel that I have ever truly intruded on or abused any of God's creations in nature by simply photographing them and writing a few descriptive words, today I met another of God's creations, first hand; and, for whatever reason, this creature did not view me in a favorable light! So, let me explain.



A GREAT BLACK WASP COMMONLY SEEN IN FLORIDA

(photo from a web site)

The above photo in part actually typifies what I see in my front yard at this time of year; that is, my myrtle tree is in its full glory with its fuchsia-colored blossoms. However, until an extraordinary experience today, I was totally unaware that a Great Black Wasp was lurking about just waiting to expel his aggression on me! So, here is the saga!

Today as I was doing my very last pass in cutting the grass on the side of my yard, out of nowhere some insect dived first directly into my face and then settled in underneath the sleeve of my shirt. Immediately after, I felt a somewhat jolting first sting; then this intruder continued to sting me time after time! I finally stopped my mowing activity, “tore off my shirt” and left it laying on the garage floor; then the stinging activity ceased. After I went inside and explained all this to my wife, we noted 6-8 “stings” on arm, shoulder and back. After changing my shirt, I went back into the garage, shook out my previously-discarded shirt, and guess what? Yes, a Great Black Wasp was still there! We bagged him up for future ID purposes in the event I would have any serious reactions, but none occurred. So, what did I learn from this encounter with nature? **Unlike bees, Wasps can sting multiple times, and they often will if they're stirred up or scared.** But, why me? Does anybody know?