

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

March 18, 2025

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:05 a.m. on Microsoft Teams. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, Kim Bragg, Greg Holley, and Dr. Thuy-Vi Nguyen.
- B. Also in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA, CPCO, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. A motion was made by Mrs. Bragg to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update, he commended the GDA for their news releases on the Yellow-legged Hornet and the active engagement of the pest management community. The last termite workshop for the Griffin 2025 workshop series is taking place this week. Dr. Forschler also discussed the Quantitative Ecologist interview that was conducted this morning, noting that UGA is moving forward with filling some vacant positions. With the arrival of spring comes the emergence of many seasonal insects. A bulletin featuring recent undergraduate research on carpenter bees is being developed which may affect how pest management approaches the control of these insects. He also encouraged being proactive about early season mosquito ground treatments and exterior ant baiting treatments. Dr. Forschler also stated that the new Entomology Department Head, Dr. Sonia Altizer, will start sometime this summer, overlapping with current department head Dr. Kristine Braman.
- E. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He noted that last month, SPD provided an overview for Commissioner Tyler J. Harper, and the leadership team which included hands-on experience in the field and a demonstration at the UGA Griffin Training Center. Photos from this event were also posted to GDA's social media pages. New USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins recently visited the Capitol and met with Commissioner Tyler J. Harper. The department has also received more information on the FY26 budget, which will begin on July 1st and is expected to be tight. The Georgia Center for Rural Prosperity and the Georgia Center of Innovation are expected to transition under the GDA. Mr. Lastinger also noted that the GDA leaf logo is being phased out in favor of the logo of the seal of the GDA.
- F. Mr. Tim Taylor gave the Compliance and Enforcement update. A statewide inspector training meeting was recently conducted, which emphasized inspection documentation. The GDA also welcomed new inspector Bailie Graham to the team. Mr. Taylor also spoke to bring awareness to the importance of correctly, and fully completing pesticide use records. PURs must have both the full name and license number of applicators. He also noted that currently the most common violation is the method of application being incorrectly completed. The method of application is the technique used to apply the pesticide, not the device used. For a better understanding of methods of application, pest management professionals may refer to [Notice 11-01 Pesticide Methods of Application](#) on the SPCC's guidance policies webpage.

- G. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the Certification and Training update. As a reminder, the Registered Employee training deadline was on February 28th. Ms. Ikner noted that CEU submissions have slowed down, and that CEUs from the GPCA Winter Conference and the highly attended webinar with Dr. Suiter have now all been entered. Staff have now mostly cleared the backlog of submissions so individuals who do not see records that were submitted in February should reach out to the SPD. Ms. Ikner also urged anyone who is retesting or testing for certification or employee registration to remember to submit your updated exam scores to the SPD. These scores do not automatically transfer from the testing system. The renewal portal is expected to go live in about 2 months. Licensees are encouraged to visit the [renewal webpage](#) for a checklist of things they can do before the renewal portal is available to ensure they are prepared.
- H. Ms. Bradshaw provided the Outreach report. She discussed the email that went out to the pest management industry focusing on identifying Yellow-legged Hornet embryo nests, noting that there have also been several updates to the [Yellow-legged Hornet webpage](#) including new graphics and photos. SPD has many outreach events planned for this spring, the second termite workshop is being held at the UGA Griffin Structural Pest Training Center this week on March 20th-21st, and LeAnna Merritt is speaking at the Savannah Spring Seminar on March 21st. She also highlighted the School IPM Workshop for School Pest Management Coordinators, the deadline to apply for this workshop is March 24th, with the workshop itself scheduled for April 3rd. SPD is also scheduling school visits for the School IPM Program, which provides a pest lesson to educate kids about the importance of being safe around pests and pesticides. Schools or teachers who are interested in scheduling a pest lesson with the SPD should reach out to the division.
- I. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- J. Mr. Lastinger discussed the proposed revisions to SPCC Policy 13-01 Recertification. These revisions are to address an issue with CBT instructors resubmitting previously unapproved course applications without edits. A waiting period will be enacted for course applications that are resubmitted without making revisions to meet the standards for GDA course requirements. The revisions also move to strike the limit on credits per category for conferences and workshops. A motion was made by Mrs. Bragg to approve the changes to SPCC Policy 13-01. Dr. Forscherler seconded the motion, and the motion passed. This policy will be updated on the [SPCC Guidance Policies page](#).
- K. Mr. Lastinger discussed a change in how licensing fees are paid and processed. He emphasized there are no plans currently to increase licensing fees. As per guidance from the GDA Legal Services division, please note that anyone acquiring a license prior to July 1st will still be required to pay the renewal fee. Renewal fees cannot be waived, prorated, or otherwise altered. Further outreach will be provided to help provide clarification. The division will also be offering the option to hold company and certified operator applications until July for processing for those who wish to avoid paying both fees in 2025.
- L. Mr. Gorecki led the discussion on rulemaking. As a reminder no rule changes are being formally proposed at this time. These discussions are to aid in the initial drafting of the revisions to be proposed. Once the draft is complete there will be a public comment period before rule changes are finalized. Updates to Rules 620-3-.01(8), 620-3-.01(3), 620-3-.02(1)(e)3, 620-2-.01(j), 620-2-.01, and 620-3-.02 (g) involved clerical updates, adding clarifying language, and/or converting current policy into rule and did not result in extended

discussion or comments. The recommendation to update Rule 620-3-.02(1) to remove language that required an outdated pest control practice was favorably received. The suggested update to rule 620-3-.03 would modify the training hour requirements for Certified Operators who add additional categories to their existing license, with the aim of preventing operators from needing to quickly accumulate hours in a reduced amount of time when a new category is added. The discussion was positive, and it was recommended that the division collaborate with the web development team to explore ways to effectively communicate these changes to affected individuals, should this rule change become final. The recommended changes to Rule 620-3-.02 (1) (m) involved adding language to clarify the need to comply with label requirements. Mr. Gorecki also suggested adding additional language to further clarify that service containers by their definition do not include the application device. The SPD will continue to update the draft with suggestions as these discussions continue.

- M. Mr. Lastinger spoke about the upcoming IRC Building Code subcommittee meeting which will be discussing the revisions to R305.1 and R305.2 that were proposed by Brian Stults. This meeting will be held at 10:00am on March 27th, SPCC members Chris Gorecki and Greg Holley will be in attendance.
- N. Mr. Gorecki discussed rescheduling the May SPCC meeting being held in Augusta to May 20th. Details on the location will be announced once confirmed.
- O. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He spoke about the success of the NPMA legislative day which took place March 9-11, with over 30 pest management professionals from Georgia attending. Meetings were held with staff from Senators Ossoff and Loudermilk, Representatives Buddy Carter and others, with informational packets sent to additional legislators. He also discussed a petition led by 11 state Attorney Generals which aims to prevent state and local entities from imposing additional conditions on pesticide labels beyond what is determined by the EPA and federal government. This ties into ongoing discussions about preemption and tort reform. Mr. Bell also discussed the Farm Bill, which is expected to be considered later this year, though its timeline may be affected by administrative changes. Mr. Bell also spoke about ongoing changes at the EPA, noting that reports indicate that over 1,000 employees have voluntarily resigned, with a reduction of 7,000 more employees being considered by EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. Mr. Bell also noted that House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson attended an NPMA meeting, and that additional discussions were held with the Senate Agriculture Chair from Arkansas.
- P. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:42am.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	Company Applications

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Tyler Harper, Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission

Chris Gorecki, Chairman
Derrick Lastinger, Vice-chairman
Dr. "Tiffany" Thuy-Vi Nguyen, Georgia Department of Public Health
Dr. Brian Forschler, University of Georgia
Bodine Sinyard, Adams Exterminators
Greg Holley, Zone Pest Solutions
Kim Bragg, Consumer Affairs & Protection Representative

Agenda

March 18, 2025

Open – Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- b. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Derrick Lastinger
 - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
 - Certification & Training – Ali Ikner
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- c. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- d. SPCC Policy 13-01 Recertification – proposed revisions
- e. Licensing Fees
- f. Rulemaking
- g. IRC Building Code Meeting
- h. May Meeting
- i. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- j. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- k. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Roots Home Solutions – Houston County
- Critter Cowboys Wildlife, LLC – Gwinnett County – Name change/acquisition
- Arrow Exterminators – Douglas County – New Location
- TMA Coastal, Inc. dba Mosquito and Pest Authority of Savannah – Chatham County – New Location
- Hexom Farm – Lumpkin County – HBR Company
- Tarradam Inc. dba Pestmaster of Marietta – Alpharetta – Butts County – Acquisition
- Mosquito Shield – Muscogee County

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Bugged' Up Pest Services – Gwinnett County – Pending Insurance
- Elevated Pest Control – Cherokee County – Pending clarification of the DCO certification, pending new company name
- Ingles Pest Control, LLC – Grady County – Pending Insurance
- McGeachy Wildlife Removal and Pest Control – Coweta County – Pending Insurance
- Jacobs Pest Services – Spalding County – Pending insurance
- Partner Pest Control – Pickens County – Pending Insurance