

**MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

January 10, 2023

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:05AM, on January 10, 2023, at the University of Georgia Tate Center in Athens. The following Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Kim Bragg, Greg Holley, and Dr. Brian Forschler.
- B. Also in attendance were representatives with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, GPCA and CPCO representatives, registrants, and other members of the pest management industry.
- C. Dr. Nick Place, Dean and Director of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, offered greetings. He expressed that UGA is a critical partner for the structural pest control industry and that the research work done at UGA, and other land grant universities is critical for controlling and understanding pests and diseases.
- D. Mr. Gorecki thanked Dr. Place for his support and partnership.
- E. Motion was made by Ms. Bragg to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- F. The Commission approved company license applications (see Attachment 2)
- G. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA entomology update and research update report (see Attachment 3). Dr. Forschler explained that he provides an annual research update because of the research fees his program receives from the Department. Dr. Forschler said that graduate students are the backbone of the research program and three attended the meeting to report on their urban entomology research. Ashley McCormick spoke about her research with kissing bugs, which are a primary vector of chagas disease. Kissing bugs are a household pest in Central and South America but are also in the southern United States, especially in the southwest. She worked with the Department of Defense to control the kissing bug risk. Karen Kiseti spoke about her research on bait control of the Asian Needle Ant. This is an invasive ant first found in Georgia in the 1930s that is a threat to native ant populations and to people because of its venomous sting. She is looking at different types of commercial baits for control of the ant. Jacob Winkles spoke about his project determining the economic contribution of the structural pest control industry to Georgia's economy. The industry is currently hidden within the "administrative and support and waste management and remediation services sector" in federal statistics regarding the economy. To estimate the economic contribution, Mr. Winkles is conducting in person and online surveys. Dr. Forschler said that five species of termites were identified in Georgia thanks to the research from Dr. Allison Jones and Jim Chase. There is evidence that four of the five termite species can hybridize.
- H. Mr. Lastinger provided department updates. He introduced the SPD team members in attendance; Eric Robinson, Jennifer Pate, Jessica Gay, Teunde Alexander, Kevin Hancock, Ryan Lewis, Sadiyyah Hollins, and Yancey Barton. The field team is now fully staffed, Yancey Barton started as an inspector in January, though he previously worked with the Department

as a summer intern. Applications are open for summer internships with the GDA. Mr. Lastinger also introduced Michelle Diaz-Laboy from Region 4 EPA. She's the project officer for Georgia, meaning she oversees the cooperative grant with EPA. She's interested in learning more about our Georgia program and plans to go in the field with the compliance team. Mr. Lastinger also shared that Commissioner Elect Tyler Harper will be sworn in on the 12th, so the GDA has been prepping for the new administration.

- I. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the compliance and enforcement updates. Mr. Taylor said that the 2023 priorities are unlicensed operators, for-cause cases when complaints are received, then companies with the longest interval since their last inspection. In the last year, the SPD provided 674 tech assists, provided outreach 58 times, gave 48 presentations, and wrote 4 articles. The SPD conducted 1,159 inspections and of those inspections, 1,022 had violations. 7 settlement conferences were held, 5 consent orders were worked out, and there were 12 administrative orders. Out of the 12 administrative orders, there were \$234,500 worth of monetary penalties, \$41,500 of which was suspended. There were five self-reports. The most frequent violation seen at for-cause inspectors was wood-to-ground contact and at routine inspections it was concentration of pesticide applied. Mr. Taylor stated that the SPD is continuing to work on the Honeybee Control and Removal inspection program.
- J. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the certification and training update. Ms. Ikner provided updated licensing numbers; there are 1,305 companies, 2,341 certified operators, and 9,583 registered employees. This year saw the implementation of the Honeybee Control and Removal (HBR) license category, which included development of the manual and the certification exam and two pre-exam trainings. There are now 14 operators certified in HBR and 7 companies licensed in HBR. The compliance deadline for the new HBR category was January 1st, 2023. Ms. Ikner also provided some reminders for renewal. Companies cannot renew unless they have current insurance on file. Please ensure contact information is up to date for receipt of renewal notices. Registered Employees have until February 28th, 2023, to earn their CEUs for this renewal period. The GDA website was recently updated, and some resources have moved. Please reach out to the SPD if you have issues locating anything on the new website.
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided further department updates. The next pre-exam training for HBR has not yet been scheduled but will occur in 2023. The first HBR recertification courses will be offered at the GPCA conference. At outreach events in 2022, the SPD reached 9,000 people from the structural pest control industry and about 2,000 consumers. The GDA website has a new, more modern look but the SPD is working to get a few things added that were not transitioned from the previous site.
- L. Mr. Lastinger provided updates on the 2023 SPCC meetings. The goal is to have quarterly in-person meetings this year. The first in-person meeting was the January meeting in Athens. The next will be the April meeting in Savannah. There are plans to have a meeting in South Georgia, though the location has not yet been determined, and there will be a meeting in Atlanta.
- M. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation for the SPD and the partnership they have with the structural pest control industry.
- N. Ms. Faye Golden provided an update on the EPA proposed mitigation measures for rodenticides. In March of 2022, Bell Labs sent out notices that the EPA may be considering

making rodenticides RUPs. In November, the proposed measures were published on the federal register. There is a 75-day comment period. First- and second-generation rodenticides would become RUPs. If using any loose formulations, 14-mil gloves and respirators may be required. EPA is also advising carcass removal. If using zinc phosphide, carcass removal would be required. Applicators would also have to refer to Bulletins Live prior to making any applications to check for endangered species in the area. The deadline for comments is February 13th.

- O. Mr. Rick Bell delivered Mr. Trip Martin's legislative updates. House and senate members were sworn in on the 9th. John Burns is the new Speaker of the House and was previously chairman of the Agriculture Committee in the house. Still awaiting announcement of chairs and committee membership in the house and the senate. One special election left in the senate and there are three open seats in the house due to runoffs. Mr. Bell is working to identify some potential dates for a legislative barbecue at the capitol.
- P. Mr. Bell provided NPMA updates. NPMA is working diligently on comments on the proposed rodenticide measures. Mr. Bell announced that a petition has been received by the California Air and Resources Board to ban sulfuryl fluoride, which is a critical fumigant involved nationwide in termite control, food production, and pharmaceutical production. NPMA has legislative day scheduled in D.C. in late March. This is the year that the Farm Bill will be put together, want to ensure preemption remains in.
- Q. Mr. Gorecki thanked Dr. Forschler for his efforts arranging the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	January 10 th Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission
Attachment 2	Approved Company License Applications
Attachment 3	Commission Report 2023

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Tyler Harper, Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission

Chris Gorecki, Chairman
Derrick Lastinger, Vice-chairman
Christy Kuriatnyk, 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

January 10, 2023

Open - Chairman Gorecki

Welcome Remarks -Dr. Nick Place, UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update & Research Reports - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Derrick Lastinger
 - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
 - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
 - Outreach – Derrick Lastinger
- d. EPA Proposed New Mitigation Measures for Rodenticides
- e. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- f. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- g. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

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Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Robins Pest Control – Warner Robins

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Dan's Mosquito Control, LLC – Gwinnett County (name change and email address)
- Brent's Honey Bee Rescue – Dougherty County (insurance)

ATTACHMENT 3

**URBAN PEST CONTROL PROGRAM
HOUSEHOLD AND STRUCTURAL ENTOMOLOGY RESEARCH PROGRAM
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, ATHENS, GEORGIA**

DATE OF REPORT TO COMMISSION: January 10, 2023

PROGRESS REPORT:

The research programs' graduate students continue working on projects relevant to urban pest management through conducting experiments, data analysis, and writing publications. The enormous data set involving subterranean termites collected from all 159 counties in Georgia continues to demonstrate extraordinary insights. The examination of mtDNA sequence hint that 2 of the 5 described species might actually be what are called 'complexes' that will eventually be divided into additional species. A comparison of the aforementioned genetic data and physical characters of the soldier class also provides strong evidence that 4 of the described species have produced hybrids which complicates understanding these important, pestiferous ecosystem engineers. Fieldwork on ants, subterranean and drywood termites continues through collaborations with industry partners. The program is also involved in an economic survey of the industry in Georgia and collating data from available Department of Labor and Census sources to provide estimates of the Professional Pest Management industry's economic contribution to the Georgia economy.

EXPENDITURES:

Graduate student stipend expenditures were approximately \$60,000 in addition to \$5,000 for undergraduate student workers and \$10,000 for supplies and equipment. The State Structural Pest Control Commission research fee was used for all of the undergraduate student salaries, a portion of the graduate student stipends, as well as, equipment and supplies.

PLANNED RESEARCH:

We plan to address the following research areas over the next year: (1) the identification and distribution of termites in the state of Georgia (2) subterranean termite evolution and role of species in structural infestations (3) continuation of industry-sponsored examination of product efficacy and new application technologies (4) estimate the financial contribution the pest management professional industry makes to the Georgia state economy.