

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

January 12, 2021

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 AM on January 12, 2021, online via Zoom. All Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger, Vice-Chair; Greg Holley, Dr. Brian Forschler, Christy Kuriatnyk, Bodine Sinyard and Kim Bragg.
- 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. Motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and motion passed.
- D. The Commission approved company license applications (see Attachment 2).
- E. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update. He announced UGA's new Dean, Dr. Nick Place. Termite research activities were stopped in 2020 due to the pandemic. Dr. Forschler spoke about termite flight times by month and species. He provided the Urban Pest Control Program & Research Report (see Attachment 3).
- F. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He introduced Mr. Bo Warren, GDA's Director of Policy. Commissioner Black will hold the GDA State of Address to the Department on Friday. Mr. Lastinger recognized some of the challenges and accomplishments that GDA and SPCC had in 2020 with little to no impact to the industry and Georgia consumers.
- G. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the certification and training update. February 28, 2021 is the training deadline for Registered Employees. Registration exams passed on or after October 1, 2020 are exempt from the training requirement. Computer-based training (CBT) limits have been waived for Registered Employees for the current renewal period. All renewal fees are due by June 30, 2021. Mr. Taylor asked the Commission to review the 90-day extension guidance for certified operators that was put in place at the beginning of the pandemic and expired December 31, 2020. After a brief discussion, the Commission decided that there wasn't a need to continue the extension. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to GDA and SPD for all the work in 2020 to assist the industry and provide support during the pandemic.
- H. Mr. Alex Conti provided the compliance update. Ali Ikner has accepted a second internship with GDA and will focus on field work. SPD is moving forward with filling vacancies. Top priority will be responding to for-cause inspections such as complaints and unlicensed operators. FY21 Phase 1 focused on companies that have not been inspected in two or more years. FY21 Phase 2 focuses on inspecting companies that have not been inspected in two or more years as well as new companies that have been operating for over one year and have not yet been inspected. The next phase will focus on companies with the longest interval since their last inspection. Mr. Conti shared the FY20 Program Compliance Report. Mr. Lastinger mentioned that the 2nd edition of *The Inside Buzz* was sent out last week and shared some of the content and how to access the SPD newsletter online.

- I. The Commission discussed a response letter to Xtech regarding the application of termiticides applied sub-slab using a reticulation system. Mr. Lastinger spoke about a letter and email sent to GDA from Xtech containing information on their system and processes. The Commission wants pest management professionals that are interested in this system to reach out to the SPCC or GDA. They tabled the discussion.
- J. Mr. Gorecki provided an update on the proposed spray foam insulation code amendment that was submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). DCA's next meeting is January 27, 2021.
- K. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the proposed Honeybee Control and Removal rulemaking process. The written and oral comments have been compiled into 10 discussion topics. The first topic of discussion will be Minimum Certification Requirements. Discussions will start at the next SPCC meeting.
- L. The Commission discussed the draft Authorized Submitter Policy. This policy will allow sponsors of training the option to enter training attendance records directly into GDA's training tracking program. Beta testing for this program has already begun. Motion was made by Mrs. Bragg to approve the policy. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and motion passed. The required training will be set up for sponsor applicants.
- M. Mrs. Lauren Fralick provided the Legislative Update. The 2021 Legislative Session started yesterday. The focus this year is voting and COVID-19 related legislation. Several committees will have new chairmen. Budget hearings will start next week. No group events will be allowed in the state capitol, capacity will be limited, masks and social distancing will be required.
- N. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. Pre-emption bills have been proposed in 44 states and pending legislation in 6 states. Neonicotinoid bans have been proposed in several states. Congressman David Scott is the new U.S. House Ag Committee Chairman.
- O. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	New Company Licenses
Attachment 3	UGA Urban Pest Control Program & Research Report

Chris Gorecki, Chairman

Commissioner Gary W. Black, 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 12, 2021

Open - Chairman Gorecki

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. New Company Applications – Tim Taylor
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Derrick Lastinger
 - Compliance – Alex Conti
 - Certification & Training – Tim Taylor
- d. Xtech response letter 2
- e. Spray Foam Insulation and proposed building code amendment
- f. Proposed Rule 620-9
- g. Draft CEU Submitter Policy
- h. Legislative update – Lauren Fralick
- i. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- j. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following applications:

- Bubba Joes Pest Control – Commerce, GA
- Antelligence Pest Control LLC – Roswell, GA
- Overwatch Pest Management – Newnan, GA
- MrsMosquito LLC DBA Squash A Bug – Woodstock, GA

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 12, 2021

PROGRESS REPORT:

The research program was impacted by the pandemic shutdown and consequent restrictions which reduced the amount of field work as well as participation at meetings intended for dissemination of results. Graduate students continue working on projects relevant to urban pest management through laboratory work, data analysis, and writing publications. The research program is still working on a project involving visualization and quantification of wood removed by WDI insects that includes a collaboration with the Georgia Museum of Art to identify WDI infestation of artwork in their holdings. An archived collection of adult termites (alates, swarmers) has been examined which illuminated flight seasons for the 5 species of subterranean termites described in Georgia. The data shows that termites swarm every month of the year in Georgia with 70% occurring in the months March-May. There were 4 of the 5 species collected during the month of April. There were two species that had distinct flight periods with the eastern subterranean termite having the longest flight season - 7 months – and the only species collected from November-January. The light southeastern subterranean termite was the only species collected during July-October. The information obtained from this collection indicates the potential for hybridization and included determination of gender proportions, by species, indicating that two species, the dark southeastern subterranean termite and *R. nelsonae*, can undergo parthenogenic reproduction because both had female-biased gender proportions. Examination of subterranean termites from all 159 counties in Georgia continues with a comparison of species distributions and correlation with geologic features and land-use patterns. Formosan termites are being identified with an increased frequency from across the State and those infesting structures and living trees on Cumberland Island are being monitored with cooperation of the National Park Service in addition to testing eradication methods. Fieldwork on ants, drywood and subterranean termites continues with demonstration projects on University property as well as examinations in laboratory trials.

EXPENDITURES:

Graduate student stipend expenditures were approximately \$55,000 in addition to \$7,000 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 inspection technology (3) continuation of industry-sponsored examination of product efficacy and new application technologies.

The flight times, by month and species, of *Reticulitermes* subterranean termites in Georgia.

species	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	june	july	aug	sept	oct	nov	dec
R.flavipes	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX						XXX	XXX	XXX
R.nelsonae		XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX							
R.virginicus				XXX	XXX	XXX						
R. mallei		XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX						
R.hageni							XXX	XXX	XXX			

The collection includes samples dating back to 1991 and were obtained by pest management professionals, research collaborators, and our own research program. The collection included 341 colonies and over 20,000 alates.