

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

January 14, 2025

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:03 a.m. at the UGA Chapel in Athens on January 14th, 2024. Commission members present were Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, Greg Holley, Dr. Thuy-Vi Nguyen, and Bodine Sinyard.
- 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 Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion, and the motion passed.
- D. Mr. Gorecki introduced Dr. Nguyen as the Structural Pest Control Commission's newest member. Dr. Nguyen took the oath of office and was welcomed by the commission.
- E. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology Update and introduced students Allison Brown and AJ Stevenson that would be giving research reports during today's meeting. He also thanked the Structural Pest Control Commission for the research fee that supports these students' important work. AJ Stevenson discussed his studies on carpenter bees, highlighting the data that suggests how their nests are used by other species and contributes to biodiversity. Allison Brown spoke about her research on termite swarm data collected over the past 30 years. Her research has approached this data from many different angles, analyzing species, gender proportions, flight times, and weather patterns to look for conclusions. Dr. Forschler emphasized the importance of this research to the industry and how our understanding of these insects is evolving. He provided further details and copies of the report on the Urban Pest Control program and the Household and Structural Entomology Research program, including an update on Jacob Winkles' work, the Economic Impact Study. This study has prompted several other states to implement the techniques described in Winkles' publication to draw conclusions about the impact of pest control on their own state's economies. Dr. Forschler also discussed the training video filmed on Sapelo Island in conjunction with NPD Products and the GDA that detailed a specialized drywood termite treatment, and its role as part of a long-term study.
- F. Dr. Dan Suiter provided an update on the UGA Structural & Urban Pest Management Training Center. He discussed Karen Corsetti's research on the Asian Needle ant, emphasizing this new and significant medical pest. He discussed how the sting of this ant can cause anaphylactic shock, and they become more active in July. He encouraged everyone to attend her presentation at the GPCA Winter conference where Ms. Corsetti will go into further detail on her results regarding this pest and bait acceptance. Dr. Suiter also announced that the schedule for upcoming termite training programs that will be held at the UGA Structural & Urban Pest Management Training Center for 2025 has been released. He also reminded everyone that veterans and current military may attend the webinars free of charge.
- G. Mr. Lastinger provided the department updates. He thanked Dr. Forschler for speaking about the drywood termite project on Sapelo Island, highlighting the value of the training GDA staff received from participating. Mr. Lastinger reported that the Structural Pest

Division is celebrating the 70-year anniversary of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act. Be sure to follow the Georgia Department of Agriculture on social media to learn more about what our staff does every day to help protect Georgians. Mr. Lastinger also spoke about the recent registration of several new pesticides by the EPA, including a new structural pesticide called Veratrine which was approved last week. He also noted that the 2025 Legislative Session has begun. Please be sure to reach out to the GDA if you have any questions or policy concerns. He concluded by introducing Mrs. Bailey Whiten and Mr. Nick Sumner from the GDA's Agricultural Inputs Division, who were also present at the meeting.

- H. Mrs. Bailey Whiten provided an update on the Georgia Pesticide Clean Day. The Clean Day event took place in November at the UGA Griffin Campus, where over 20,000 pounds of chemicals were successfully collected. Another Clean Day event is being planned for 2025, with the date and location yet to be announced.
- I. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the Compliance and Enforcement update. He reiterated priorities for 2025 with for-cause inspections being the number one priority, followed closely by unlicensed operator cases and then routine company inspections. Looking back over 2024, the Structural Pest Division completed 1080 inspections, investigated 25 unlicensed operator cases, and 120 for-cause inspections. The SPD's commitment to building strong cases also resulted in 4 completed injunctions from the Attorney General, and 2 signed court judgements. Mr. Taylor noted that there have been many unusual cases over the past year and thanked the compliance team for their skill and flexibility in handling these unorthodox cases.
- J. Mrs. LeAnna Merritt gave the update on field operations. The Division currently has 10 inspector positions, with one position open that is now in the late stages of hiring. Mrs. Merritt also discussed the compliance booth the division is hosting at the nearby GPCA Winter Conference, encouraging everyone to stop by and get to know your region's inspector.
- K. Mrs. Sadiyyah Hollins provided an overview of staff training completed in 2024. SPD Staff attended national, regional and statewide trainings throughout the year, participated in the workshop trainings at the UGA Structural & Urban Training Center, Train the Trainer with GPCA and CPCO, and took advantage of many other training opportunities throughout the year. The SPD is also helping host a national structural inspector workshop this coming February hosted by NASDA.
- L. Ms. Ali Ikner gave the Certification and Training update. The Structural Pest Division has been working to make significant updates to the website and forms, many of which are now fillable and more user friendly. Several applications are also able to be accepted online through the pest application email. The SPD continues to work with the IT Division to accept online payments in the future to expand digital accessibility. Ms. Ikner also reported the 2024 licensing figures with more than 2,000 Certified Operators, over 9,000 registered employees, and 1,200 company licenses currently active in the state. She also reminded everyone that the training deadline for registered employees is at the end of February. Please be aware that CEUs being updated in the system may be delayed due to the current influx of submissions. To help prevent any issues, instructors should ensure they are using

the 2025 course numbers. Ms. Ikner also discussed the newly published SPD Renewal webpage, which features checklist items to help licensees prep for the upcoming renewal season. This page will be updated with more information, guides, and tips regarding renewals as we get closer to renewal season. Ms. Ikner also emphasized that everyone should be sure to sign up for the Inside Buzz to ensure you receive the special renewal edition. Mr. Lastinger added that due to the GDA's temporary relocation while Capitol Hill undergoes major construction, there have been some issues with the mail. The Structural Pest Division encourages everyone to submit applications online when available and submit mailed applications early when possible.

- M. Mrs. Nan Collier provided the Outreach Report. She recapped many of the 2024 outreach events that SPD participated in, including the Butterfly Festival at the Chattahoochee Hills Nature Center, Ray Day in Senoia, and many School IPM visits. Additionally, through a cooperative effort with Dr. Suiter and UGA, SPD was able to provide two courses for school administrators and staff on IPM practices in schools. Through an extension of the School IPM Grant, SPD was able to have IPM coloring books developed and printed as well. She noted that at public events the SPD focuses on highlighting the importance of hiring a licensed company, citing the hard work and qualifications of Georgia PMPs and the excellent service they provide. This is affirmed by the low number of complaints statewide. Mrs. Collier also discussed the SPD's work on compliance outreach to help provide resources for PMPs. The Inside Buzz is published quarterly by the SPD, is free to receive, and provides compliance resources and updates. GDA is also speaking at the GPCA Winter Conference this week and has a booth with inspectors ready to answer questions. SPD inspectors will also be involved in helping teach several CEU courses at the UGA Structural & Urban Pest Management Training Center, as well as the School IPM Workshop later this year. Please be sure to recommend the School IPM workshop to those in your community that may be applying pest control in or around schools and learning facilities.
- N. The Commission approved company applications (see attachment 2)
- O. Mr. Lastinger discussed proposed amendments to the IRC Building Code. A State Codes Advisory Committee Meeting (SCAC) will be held on Thursday, February 6th, to assign a workgroup team to look at these proposed amendments before providing a recommendation to the SCAC. The proposed amendments involve subterranean termite treatment modifications to the building code. The SPCC has more questions on this topic and will be pursuing involvement in the process.
- P. Mr. Lastinger spoke about Rulemaking. This year the SPCC will be making updates to the Rules and Regulations. Rulemaking discussions will be broken into manageable pieces for consideration at each month's SPCC meeting to prepare the final submission and release for public comment.
- Q. Mr. Lastinger provided information about the 2025 SPCC meeting schedule. The March 11th meeting has moved to March 18th. The May meeting will be an in-person meeting in Augusta. The September meeting will be held in the North Georgia/Bartow County region and the

November meeting is currently scheduled to be held in Atlanta. Meeting locations and any future changes will be posted as public notices on the SPCC section of the SPD webpage.

- R. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. He discussed anticipated changes as new administration comes in on January 20th. Lee Zeldin has been appointed as the new Administrator of the EPA. There is speculation that some individuals may leave Farm Bill committees to try and gain higher positions on other committees, noting that there are many vacancies making it difficult to predict how things will change. NPMA will be working with their lobbyists to monitor the situation. Mr. Bell also spoke about NPMA's participation with the Rollins Training Center for the upcoming PIRT.
- S. Mrs. Faye Golden spoke about NPMA's upcoming spotlight series on rodenticides, to take place on Feb 4th, with more details being announced at the GPCA Winter Conference on Thursday of this week.
- T. Mr. Gorecki expressed appreciation to all the guests in attendance, and the meeting adjourned at 11:29pm.

ATTACHMENTS

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| Attachment 1 | January 14 th GSPCC Agenda |
| Attachment 2 | Company License Applications |
| Attachment 3 | UGA Urban Entomology Report |

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

January 14, 2025

Open –Chairman Gorecki

Introductions

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. Record of Official Oath
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Update & Research Reports - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. UGA Structural & Urban Training Center – Dr. Dan Suiter
- d. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Derrick Lastinger
 - Georgia Clean Day – Bailey Whiten
 - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
 - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
 - Outreach – Nan Collier
- e. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- f. IRC Building Code Amendments
- g. Rulemaking
- h. Spring 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:

- Buzzkill, LLC dba Mosquito Joe of Augusta – Richmond County – New Location

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Northwest Exterminating – Dekalb County – Pending Email
- RJ Pest Control – Charlton County – Pending Insurance
- Rolader Services – Morgan County – Pending Insurance
- Fairway Pest Solutions – Putnam County – Pending Insurance
- Tucker Pest Control LLC – Dekalb County – Name Change Only – Pending Insurance

The Commission did not approve the following applications:

- Brooks Pest Solutions – Gwinnett County – No DCO

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 14, 2025

PROGRESS REPORT:

The program continues working on projects relevant to urban pest management. The survey of the Professional Pest Management Industry's (PPMI) revenue and resulting economic contribution to the Georgia economy has expanded to involve collaborative work with other states to use publicly available NAICS data thereby providing comparable economic estimates on a national scale. Highlighting the economic clout of the professional pest management industry for stakeholders continues to be a priority. Long-term data, a collection accumulated over 30 years, on subterranean termite species distribution and incidence of infestation demonstrates that an invasive species, the eastern subterranean termite, is the most economically important pest species in Georgia while pointing out that the dark southeastern subterranean termite is the next most pestiferous of the 5 species found in our state. These data should eventually lead to pragmatic IPM programs for termite management. Work on carpenter bees has highlighted a role those insects have in creating habitat for other insects - including an additional bee species, 2 wasp species, a fly, roaches and spiders – in urban settings. The study also highlighted the relatively low amount of wood excavated by these insects illuminating their ability, or lack thereof, in producing structural damage. This point is exemplified by one 2X4 with 15 holes and 48 galleries that provided 18% of the volume of that board removed by carpenter bees while that same board harbored 18 adult and 45 immature bees. In contrast, another board had 10 holes, 25 galleries providing 12% reduction in volume had 1 adult and no immature carpenter bees but harbored the brood of 2 other wasps, 1 bee species, 1 moth and roaches. The program also conducted, as part of a long-term research project, a training session/demonstration project with GDA SPCD inspectors using battery-assist spray equipment to treat, with a glycol-borate formulation, all exposed lumber in an attic infested with the Western drywood termite. This study is part of a long-term study examining efficacy of a borate wood surface application as a preventative and remedial treatment for drywood termites.

EXPENDITURES:

Student expenditures were approximately \$15,000 in addition to \$12,000 for supplies and equipment. The State Structural Pest Control Commission research fee was used for all the undergraduate student salaries as well as equipment and supplies.

PLANNED RESEARCH:

We plan to address the following research topics over the next year: **(1)** the role of subterranean termite speciation for each of the 5 species and their involvement in structural infestations **(2)** continued examination of product efficacy and new application technologies **(3)** continue to highlight the financial contribution the pest management professional industry has on a national level.

Comparison, by board, showing number of holes, galleries, volume and percent volume excavated as well as number of nests (SHN; single hole nest & MHN; multiple hole nests) constructed by Carpenter Bees.

| BOARD# | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| # of Holes | 15 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 7 |
| # of Galleries | 48 | 13 | 20 | 19 | 25 | 10 | 23 |
| Volume Excavated (cm ³) | 1494.04 | 596.03 | 593.45 | 1015.57 | 971.17 | 406.25 | 1079.63 |
| % Excavated | 18% | 6% | 7% | 12% | 12% | 5% | 13% |
| # of SHN's | 12 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| # of MHN's | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Images from the drywood training session showing the volume of pellets swept from the attic floor prior to treatment and application of the treatment to exposed lumber.

