

MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

January 7, 2020

- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:02 AM in the Seney-Stovall Chapel of the Lucy Cobb Institute located at UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government in Athens on January 7, 2020. The following Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki, Chair; Derrick Lastinger, Vice-Chair; Greg Holley, Bodine Sinyard, Kim Bragg, Christy Kuriatnyk 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. Mr. Gorecki opened the meeting with an appreciation to Dr. Forschler and the UGA Department of Entomology for hosting the meeting and providing breakfast.
- D. Motion was made by Mr. Sinyard to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Mr. Holley seconded the motion and motion passed.
- E. Dr. Kris Braman, Chair of the Department of Entomology, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the SPCC and for selecting their campus as a location to hold the SPCC meeting. She also expressed appreciation for the internships, grants, and support that they receive from the industry. She mentioned several milestones that UGA made in 2019.
- F. Dr. Brian Forschler introduced the entomology students and each student provided a summary and report of their research projects. Dr. Forschler provided the UGA Urban Entomology update and presented the annual Urban Pest Control Program & Research Report (Attachment 3). Dr. Forschler also gave a summary of the UGA Spray Polyurethane Foam/Termite Detection Demonstration Project that occurred over the summer and encouraged attendees to read it. He also noted that anyone in the industry can be involved in UGA research and projects by reaching out to the UGA Department of Entomology.
- G. Mr. Lastinger provided the department and program updates. He discussed the impact of the budget cuts and the new hemp legislation and regulation on GDA. He provided a reminder that the recently revised polices have been posted to the website and a notification was sent to all licensees. Mr. Lastinger recognized the Structural Pest staff in attendance. He noted that in 2019 that the division responded to over 600 inquiries that required an official response. Most compliant related inquiries that required an inspection were related to subterranean termites, bed bugs or an unlicensed operator. The division provided 70 outreach opportunities including presentations, articles and events that reached over 25,000 people. He continued by saying GDA is here to assist the industry and to reach out to GDA for assistance. He finished by relaying a message to the Commission members from Commissioner Black recognizing their time and service on the Commission.
- H. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the certification and training update. He reported that online recertification course renewals are going well but to contact him directly for any issues. GDA will submit a draft state certification and training plan to U.S. EPA in March of 2020. Mr. Taylor discussed some of the areas for potential changes to the current rules and policy. Mr.

Lastinger commented on the extensive process to making the plan and getting it approved. Every state is required to submit a plan to U.S. EPA by March 4, 2020.

- I. Mr. Alex Conti provided the compliance update. He discussed the various inspection types and enforcement activities. He also shared and discussed the FY19 Administrative Cases Report (see attachment 4)
- J. Mr. Lastinger discussed rulemaking for 2020. He noted that the SPCC will need to begin discussion on the certification and training rule changes. The SPCC will also consider a draft rule that will reduce regulation for the removal of honeybee infestations in structures.
- K. Mr. Gorecki commented that the Mosquito Control Workgroup is still moving forward with discussions and drafting recommendations.
- L. Mr. Gorecki discussed spray foam insulation activities. He recapped the concerns with the current building code. He announced that the SPCC submitted a proposal to amend the building code to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The proposed code amendment will be discussed at DCA's Meeting of the State Codes Advisory Committee on January 30, 2020. Mr. Gorecki also highlighted the benefits of spray foam insulation when installed to allow for termite inspections. Ms. Bragg noted that a recent home sale was delayed due to the improper installation of spray foam insulation. The mortgage required an Official Wood Infestation Inspection Report and the pest control company would not issue the report due to the installation of spray foam insulation in the crawlspace. The homeowner did install the insulation and removed the insulation so that the pest control company could do the inspection and issue the report.
- M. Mr. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. State preemption laws will be a major discussion on NPMA legislative day at the Capitol. A tax on services will be introduced in several states. Governor Kemp has appointed Kelly Loeffler to the U.S Senate for Georgia and will serve on the Agriculture Committee.
- N. The Commission approved company license applications (see Attachment 2).
- O. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 AM.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	Agenda
Attachment 2	New Company Licenses
Attachment 3	Urban Pest Control Program Report
Attachment 4	FY19 Administrative Cases 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 7, 2020

Open - Chairman Gorecki

Welcome -Dr. Kris Braman, Department of Entomology

Minutes

Old Business

New Business

- a. UGA Urban Entomology Department & Research Updates - Dr. Brian Forschler
- b. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates - Derrick Lastinger
 - Compliance - Alex Conti
 - Certification & Training - Tim Taylor
- c. Rulemaking in 2020
- d. Mosquito Workgroup
- e. Spray Foam Insulation White Paper & Building Code Amendment
- f. Legislative update - Lauren Fralick
- g. NPMA update - Rick Bell
- h. Certification Examination Application Review

Adjournment

ATTACHMENT 2

Company License Applications & Company Name Change Requests

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Strength Pest Control – Fulton County (insurance and license payment)
- ACPC Services, Inc. – Toombs County (name change)
- 1st Choice Pest Solutions – Hamilton County (name change)
- Patriots Exterminating – Forsyth County (name change)

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 7, 2020

PROGRESS REPORT:

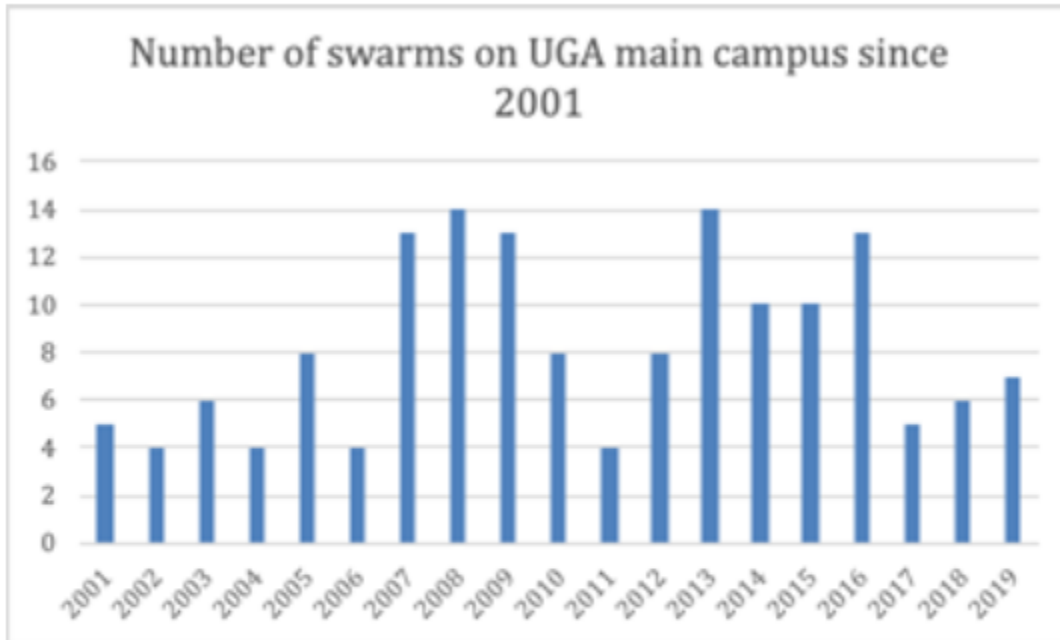
Graduate students continue working on projects relevant to the management of pests in and around structures and their accomplishments include interning at the NPMA annual meeting and providing industry training. The research program graduated one PhD student who worked on the ecology of subterranean termite degradation of wood. That work showed that half of the carbon in wood is released as CO₂ and the other half returned to the soil through construction activity and defecation. One other graduate student is working on a project involving visualization and quantification of wood removed by WDI insects. The data, to date, shows that within 2-y of placement subterranean termites remove between 5-10% of volume of a log and place soil in 10% of the excavated galleries. The examination of subterranean termites across all 159 counties in Georgia continues. Formosan termites were identified infesting structures on Cumberland Island. The discovery of this invasive termite in a remote location strongly indicates establishment by swarmer's from at least 5 miles distant. A demonstration project with Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) showed the tools available to the industry are inadequate for a pragmatic determination of the presence of termites under SPF. 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 \$75,000 in addition to \$10,000 for undergraduate student workers and \$8,000 for supplies and equipment. The State Structural Pest Control Commission research fee was used for all of the undergraduate student salary and a portion of the graduate student stipends, equipment and supplies was paid through extramural grants.

PLANNED RESEARCH:

We plan to address the following research areas over the next year: **(1)** the ecology of wood degradation in forests **(2)** the distribution of termites in the state of Georgia **(3)** subterranean termite inspection technology **(4)** continuation of industry sponsored examination of product efficacy and new application technologies.



We have recorded an average of 8 swarms per year over the past 19 years. The project shows an average of 11 infestations per year with ~12% of the infestations identified through physical plant employees conducting repairs or remodeling (active infestations that did not swarm). The infestation data from this 19-year demonstration project affords an annual infestation rate of the buildings on the main campus of less than 3% (from 390 bldgs. on 760 acres in Athens, GA).



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Gary W. Black, Commissioner

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**Compliance Program Report
October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019**

Inspections:

Company	725
Vehicle	521
Recertification Course Monitoring	13
Complaint Investigations	245
Re-Inspection	29
Unlicensed Operator	24

Enforcement Activities:

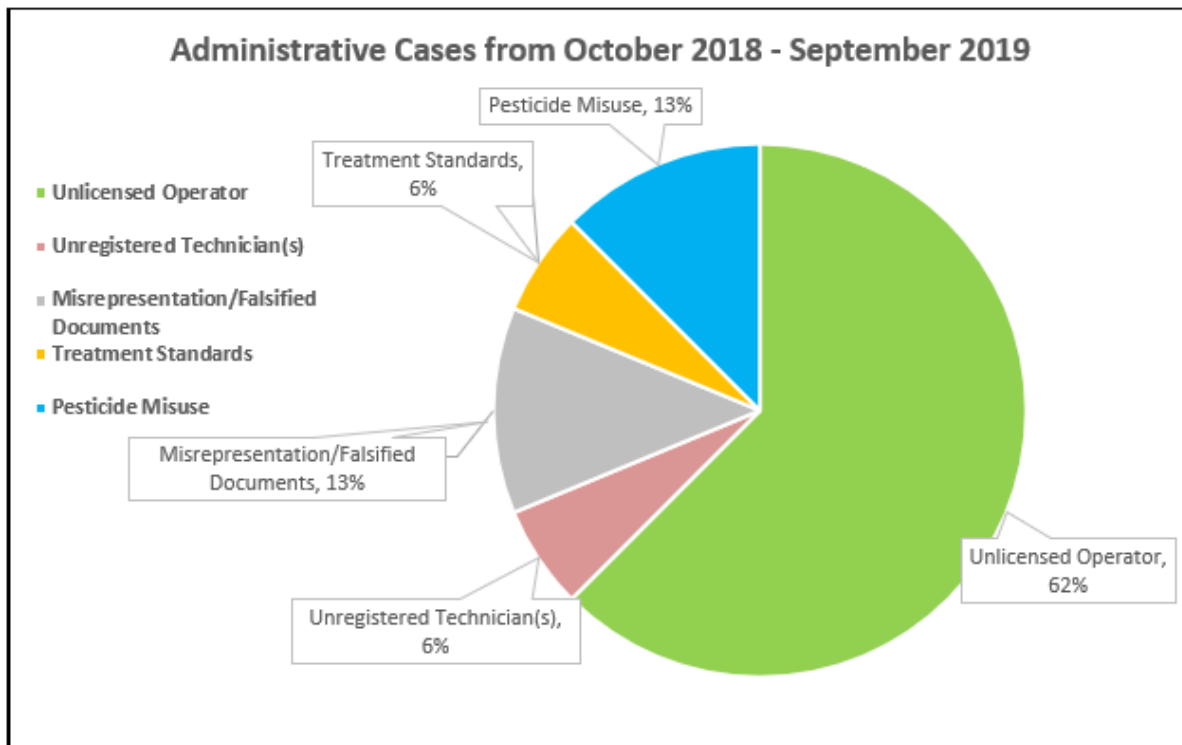
Self-Report	2
Notices of Compliance	288
Notices of Violation	450
Corrective Actions	70
Administrative Orders	11
Consent Orders	4
Monetary Penalties	15
Amount Imposed	\$357,400
Amount Suspended	\$84,250
Certification Suspended/Revoked	1
License Suspended/Revoked	1
Additional Training Required	4



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This chart shows the frequency of violations cited in administrative cases presented to Legal Services within the specified timeframe. Most of these cases involved multiple inspections with multiple violations, but this chart only includes those violations that lead to an administrative action.

Administrative actions are enforcement actions that may include a monetary penalty, additional training requirement(s), and/or license/certification/registration suspension or revocation.