

# MINUTES OF THE GEORGIA STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

January 11, 2022

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- A. The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission convened at 10:00 AM in the UGA Chapel in Athens on January 11, 2022. The following Commission members were present: Chris Gorecki; Chairman, Derrick Lastinger; Vice-Chair, Dr. Brian Forschler, and Greg Holley.
- 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. He congratulated the Georgia Bulldogs on their National Championship win.
- D. Motion was made by Mr. Holley to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Dr. Forschler seconded the motion and motion passed.
- E. The Commission approved company license applications (see Attachment 2). The Commission discussed an appeal regarding a company name that was previously denied.
- F. Dr. 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's article *Detection of Termites and Spray Polyurethane Foam* will be published in the *Journal of Entomological Science* this month. He encouraged attendance to Dr. Suiter's workshops and webinar sessions for 2022. They can be found on the Department of Entomology's website.
- G. Mr. Lastinger provided the department update. He expressed appreciation to the Department of Entomology for hosting the meeting. He introduced the SPD staff in attendance and the staff that will attend the conference. GDA's website will be redesigned and launched in 2022. GDA will host a Pesticide Clean Day in 2022, date and location are to be announced. SPD has applied for a federal IPM School grant with US EPA and waiting to hear back from them. Mr. Lastinger also spoke about GDA's current COVID policy and staff impacts.
- H. Mr. Tim Taylor provided the compliance and enforcement update. SPD has a vacancy in the northeast area of the state. Top inspection priorities include for-cause inspections, unlicensed operators, and companies with the longest interval since their last inspection. He provided the annual inspection report for 2021: 1,672 inspections; 1,107 inspections with violations; 6 settlement conferences; 2 consent orders; 4 administrative orders; 9 monetary penalties with \$15,000 in suspensions and 3 self-reports. The most frequent violation reported on for-cause inspections is wood-to-ground contact. The most frequent violation reported on routine cases is the concentration of pesticide. The 2022 Winter Issue of the *Inside Buzz* will go out later this week.
- I. Ms. Ali Ikner provided the certification and training update. The proposed new C&T plan is being reviewed by EPA. She spoke about what some of the impacts of the plan may look like.

She provided the annual license report for 2021: 27 Authorized Submitters; 2,232 Certified Operators; 1,247 Structural Pest Companies and 6,631 Registered Employees. QR codes have been added to license cards allowing the licensee easy access to their online license profile.

- J. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on outreach activities. He highlighted the 2021 events and trainings which included outreach booths, field trips, workshops, and industry association meetings. GDA speakers at this week's conference will include Tim Taylor and Commissioner Gary Black.
- K. Mr. Gorecki provided an update on the spray foam insulation code amendment. It went into effect on January 1, 2022. He spoke about the new change and how the insulation at the box seal area of a foundation must be insulated with a removable product to provide access for inspection.
- L. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on Rule 620-9 Honeybee Control and Removal. Work continues with drafting the manual and on the rule implementation process. The timeline, rule, and FAQs are on the Honeybee Control and Removal website. Mr. Gorecki recognized Mr. Lastinger for taking the lead on the project.
- M. Mr. Lastinger provided an update on the 3-day right to cancel disclosure for pest control contracts and how to raise awareness of the requirements to improve compliance. GDA provided a draft guidance document for the Commission to review. The Commission will review and discuss at the next meeting.
- N. The Commission discussed the Business Naming Policy and a possible revision to address some concerns with the currently policy. The conversation was tabled for a future meeting.
- O. Rick Bell provided the NPMA update. NPMA Public Policy is tracking 453 bills. Pre-emption is being introduced in federal legislation. EPA has extended the deadline for the C&T Plan.
- P. Mr. Gorecki wrapped up by expressing appreciation to the UGA students, GDA staff, and all attendees. Meeting adjourned at 11:28am.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

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

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Chris Gorecki, Chairman

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Commissioner Gary W. Black, Secretary

## ATTACHMENT 1

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### 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 11, 2022

**Open - Chairman Gorecki**

**Minutes**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- a. New Company Applications – Ali Ikner
- b. UGA Urban Entomology Department & Research Updates - Dr. Brian Forschler
- c. Georgia Department of Agriculture Updates – Derrick Lastinger
  - Compliance/Enforcement – Tim Taylor
  - Certification & Training –Ali Ikner
  - Outreach
- d. Spray Foam Insulation and new building code amendment
- e. Rule 620-9 Update
- f. Contract Rules & FBPA – draft guidance
- g. Notice 17-01 Business Naming Policy
- h. Legislative update – Trip Martin
- i. NPMA update – Rick Bell
- j. Certification Examination Application Review

**Adjournment**

## ATTACHMENT 2

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### Company License Applications

The Commission approved the following application:

- Guardian Pest Services, Inc. dba Knox Pest Control – Brunswick

The Commission approved the following applications pending additional information:

- Southern Pest and Wildlife Solutions LLC – Jackson County (insurance, name change)
- King Green IPM – Gwinnett County (DCO change)
- Sloan Pest Control & Wildlife Services – Wayne County (DCO change)

**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 11, 2022

**PROGRESS REPORT:**

The research program published results from projects in seven peer-reviewed manuscripts in the past year. Those publications discuss work mentioned in previous reports because we share many of our results with the Commission prior to submitting the work for dissemination in the scientific literature. This year's publications include work showing the impact of native and invasive ants on sea turtle nest hatching success along the Georgia coast, two papers modeling wood degradation in eastern forests, one outlining an IPM program for protecting artwork from drywood termite infestation, performance standards for acceptable efficacy tests for registration of products aimed at termite management including termiticides, baits and physical barriers, the impact of polyurethane spray foam on termite inspections and the fate of carbon from wood eaten by subterranean termites. Graduate students continue working on projects relevant to urban pest management through laboratory work, data analysis, and writing publications. Examination of subterranean termites from all 159 counties in Georgia continues and has demonstrated that the eastern and dark southeastern subterranean termites are distributed throughout the state. The light southeastern and *R. mallei* occur above the Fall Line while *R. nelsonae* dominates in the southern part of the state. An online survey of PMP's aimed at identifying subterranean termites using physical characters associated with soldier mandibles highlighted two groups, one good at and another that struggled with recognition of three character states; large, small, and curved right mandible. The survey work highlighted the importance of using an 'expert' to verify insect species but also illuminated how training can increase successful insect identification to >95% with implications for designing citizen science projects that use insect identification. Fieldwork on ants, drywood and subterranean termites continues with collaborations from industry partners.

**EXPENDITURES:**

Graduate student stipend expenditures were approximately \$65,000 in addition to \$3,000 for undergraduate student workers and \$18,000 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.

Summary of combined results from PMP's that took the online (ET) survey of subterranean termite soldier mandibles placing participants in two groups based on individual success rate (SR).

SMP Category / ITA Species Designation	>89% SR (n=15) # of samples and # in the same category	SR (%)
CRM/Ry	31/13	100.0%
L/Rf	48/31	100.0%
S/Rn	21/10	100.0%
TOTAL	100/54	100.0%
Category / ITA Species Designation	<80% SR (n=10) # of samples and # in the same category	SR (%)
CRM/Ry	31/2	100.0%
L/Rf	48/7	100.0%
S/Rn	21/3	100.0%
TOTAL	100/12	100.0%

