

# SYNOPSIS



## DECEMBER

# 2023

THE GEORGIA SPCC CONVENEED, AT THE COVERDELL LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, # 506, ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14th. THE COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: CHRIS GORECKI, CHAIR; DERRICK LASTINGER, V-CHAIR; GREG HOLLEY, CHRISTY KURIATNYK, DR. BRIAN FORSCHLER, BODINE SINYARD, AND KIM BRAGG.

Called to Order-10:00am | Adjourned-11:44pm

### New Company Applications

#### **ALI IKNER**

- (13) Applications *submitted*
- (6) *approved* Name rebranding
- (1) *approved* Name changes
- (3) *approved* New Companies
- (1) *approved* New Company *pending* New name
- (1) *approved* Sub office
- (1) *Reinstating* Company

### UGA Update-DR. BRIAN FORSCHLER

Graduation will be December 15 with one Entomology student graduating.

The January Commission meeting will be in Athens, GA at the Chapel on the North Campus.

The Dean of the Department of Entomology reviewed the Economic Impact study and will also be at the January Commission meeting.

### GDA Update-DERRICK LASTINGER

NATALIE ADAN is now the new Deputy of Operations for the GDA.



NATLIE ADAN

CRAIG NEILSEN is the Director for the Food & Safety Division.



2024 GDA Summer Internships are being advertised.

SPIREG held region meetings with USEPA. The EPA released a draft Biological Evaluation Report regarding rodenticides. **Included in this draft are restrictions to limit bait stations to 5 ft from a man-made structure, carcass search / disposal requirements, and RUP reclassification language.** Rick Bell was asked to put together a list to assist both state Associations in formulating comments within the 60 day comment period.

### Compliance / Enforcement-TIM TAYLOR

In the past year there have been 49 For Cause inspections related to Termite Baiting. There were 123 violations found on these inspections. The categories of violations:

- Failing to report activity or no activity
- Contract warranty statement incorrect
- Contract documentation

- Installation diagram not completed correctly
- Date missing on service ticket
- Homeowner signature missing
- Not monitoring per the label
- Not installing bait stations per the label
- Missing license # or name of technician on paperwork

**There will be a draft of a Guidance Document on Termite Baiting to be reviewed at the January 2024 Commission meeting.**

Leanna Merrit reported that all of the GDA Field Staff are having a state-wide meeting in Macon for two days. Activities will include team building and training on specific job topics.

### Certification/Training-ALI IKNER

The CEU portal is now open to renew courses for 2024. A submitter course is scheduled for December 20 at 1:45pm. Anyone interested in participating in this training will need to apply. Contact Ali to register.

**GPCA is asking if the Commission would allow a virtual HBR Pre-Exam Training if they put together such a program. The Commission agreed that this would be an acceptable format for HBR Pre-Exam training.**

There was a request made to the Commission to make an exception for a registered technician whose license was not renewed due to company merger. The Commission did not grant the exception as this is the responsibility of the company to make sure all registered employees' licenses are renewed.

### Outreach-NAN COLLIER

Nan stated that field inspectors continue to provide Compliance Assistance to companies during routine inspections which includes bait monitoring as one of the topics.

There will be a 2024 planning meeting to determine the vision and outreach goals.

The GDA will have a booth at the GPCA Athens conference in January and assist in the UGA Griffin workshops in February and March.

### Yellow Legged Hornet Update

A yellow legged hornet siting was confirmed in SC. Continued efforts in containment and education are still being done on the coast of GA.

### Notice 17-01 Business Naming

The updated notice is now posted on the GDA website. **Review the PCO Pro, v153, page 4 that explains the update.**

*(continued on next page)*

**Athens Technical College Meeting & MOA**

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was secured by GDA's, Commissioner Harper and Athens Technical College President, Dr. Andrea Daniel for continued service of the pest examinations. Dr. Daniel will give a brief presentation on Pest Exams at the January Commission meeting.

**Certification & Training Update**

Legal services have been secured to write the updated requirements that were accepted by this plan. The first batch is completed and more of the rule changes are being worked on by this department.

**Legislative Update – TRIP MARTIN**

Mapping of the state for voting districting was done this year. Judge Steve Jones turned back the maps to be reviewed by a special session appointed by Governor Kemp. New maps were returned to the Judge.



A study committee led by Burt Jones was initiated regarding occupational licenses. This bill will be watched to make sure the pest control industry which is already regulated and enforced by a government agency will not be considered as part of this legislation. The Bill will start in the Senate.

Another major bill centered on tort reform and liability issues is being discussed.

There will be a day designated in mid-February for Structural Pest Control Day to bring awareness of the industry.


**NPMA Update – RICK BELL**



EPA issued a draft biological evaluation on rodenticide. The industry will ask for a 60-day comment period. This draft does include language that says bait stations must be within 5 ft of manmade structures and the is a request for a small animal study to see what type of animal can get into rodent stations. Also, there is a carcass search and disposal requirement included.

The Farm Bill has a 1-year continuing resolution. When speaking with legislators it was found that language needs to be changed from using the word “preemption” to the term “state enforcement”. This will make it easier for staffers and legislators to understand this term more clearly. ☆☆☆☆☆

**Posted Public Notice 23-03**

JAN	ATHENS	09	MAY	14	SEPT	10
FEB		13	JUNE	11	OCT	08
MAR		12	July 	N/A	NOV	12
APR		09	AUG	13	December	10

**2024 Meetings in Accordance with the Statutory Provisions of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act (OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA [O.C.G.A.] 43-45-1)**

Note: The meetings will be held online via Zoom except for meetings to be held in-person. The in-person meetings and locations will be announced.