

Bug Bytes

By Valera Jessee

GEORGIA PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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GPCA.ORG

Issue 1 – January 29, 2009

Although we hoped for a fresh start when January 1, 2009 arrived, we started the New Year with lots of continuing issues:

1. The general economy
2. New politics – shift from Republican to Democratic policy
3. General Assembly budget woes and their affect on our industry
4. State regulatory enforcement, especially on service tickets
5. Technician training cycle ends April 30, 2009
6. GPCA and our family

In a snapshot:

1 - GENERAL ECONOMY –

If you haven't read the cover story in PCT magazine, [MELTDOWN](#), you need to. The story by Anne Nagro lays it on the line:

*Conventional wisdom says the pest management industry is "recession proof."
Given the current state of the economy, we're certainly going to find out.*

It's a no holes barred story – but it's not depressing. Our industry is solid, but you've got to work hard to keep your business tight during these economic times. Go to

<http://www.pctonline.com/articles/article.asp?MagID=1&ID=3381&IssueID=250> to read the full story.

2 – NEW POLITICS

Environmental, taxes, labor laws – these are the tip of the iceberg that's heading our way. We may all have different views, but I encourage you to stay connected and stay in touch with your Congressman and Senator.

A Federal Employee Free Choice Act - **OpenCongress Summary:**

This is the Democrats' chief labor bill (aka the Card-check bill). It would change the rules governing the formation of unions, the way first contracts between unions and employers are negotiated, and how employees' rights are enforced. Under the bill, unions could be certified once a majority of employees have signed union authorization cards. The bill also designates a time line for first contracts to be drawn up between unions and employees. Finally, it would increase the fines employers must pay if found guilty of violating their employees' right to unionize.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Employee_Free_Choice_Act

This legislation has been knocking around Washington for more than a year with Democratic support and Republican opposition. Now the tide has turned and Democrats are in the majority. The National Pest Management Association opposes this legislation as detrimental to our small business-type industry. Learn more at <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/110-h800/show>.

B Environmental issues – President Obama has appointed Lisa Jackson as head of EPA. Jackson was previously head of New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection. Right now the news on Jackson is that she is the first African-American EPA chief, and supporters have praised her work ethic, approachability and efforts to regulate greenhouse gases in New Jersey.

3 – GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Our own state government is solely focused on budget issues. Our lobbyist Skin Edge has been listening for issues that would affect our industry – but until Governor Perdue balances the budget, not much else is going on. GPCA will still have its’ annual Legislative Luncheon on February 10, but we are trimming this down. Instead of inviting the entire General Assembly, we have invited only the House and Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committees. Of course, if one of our members has a special friend they would like to include, we are delighted to invite them as well. Just let us know so we order enough barbecue!!!!

4 – STATE REGULATORY ISSUES

The focus hasn’t changed – service tickets, commercial kitchens, schools. Additionally, the Commission will be reviewing our current Regulations this year for any necessary changes. GPCA will be asking that ventilation requirements be removed from the Regulations and that the Form II change verbiage to allow that the form may be signed 30 days on or before the final closing date. We will continue to lobby for a standardized service ticket to help our industry provide required information.

5 – TECHNICAL TRAINING CYCLE

April 30 is coming at us like a freight train. All technicians must earn their CEU’s before this date. (*Hours do not have to be turned in by April 30 – but should be received by the Department of Ag within a few weeks after the deadline.*) To this end, GPCA is offering multiple opportunities around the state to conveniently earn your credit hours.

6 HOUR ROAD SHOWS - \$10 all day or any portion thereof

Dahlonega	February 11
Albany	March 10
Macon	March 25
Statesboro	March 26
Augusta	April 16
Rome	April 29
Gwinnett Tech	April 30 – this class offers 8 hours training and costs \$20!

GPCA will be sending out registration information on each of these programs or you can check the GPCA.org website.

6 – GPCA FAMILY

During the past few weeks, two GPCA families have lost loved ones: Bryan Bowman’s (Active Pest Control of Middle GA) sister, Kay LaGrand; and Kim Floyd’s (UNIVAR) mother, Vikki Hanks.

Shay Runion (Arrow Exterminators) announced that she and husband Jeff welcomed their 2nd little boy – David Eason Runion, born January 14. Eason joins his 18 month old brother Zeb.

The GPCA Building –

After 10+ years, the GPCA building needs to fix and/or replace some of its elements. We are grateful to Lee Tubbs (Daisy Pest Control) for our new front door and to Cook’s Pest Control/Moquin Construction for the challenging installation of the new door and repair on our back door!

Calendar of Events and Training

January 29, 2009

GPCA Office 770/417-1881 or 800/465-9827

Events in 2009

January 2009

January 29 – Rome – Region 3 Meeting from 4:30-6:30 pm, speaker Eunice Hall with Dow AgroSciences, 2 hrs PTX, at Cook's Pest Control Office, 203 Hwy. 411 In Rome, please RSVP to Thurmon Morris at 706-232-9605.

February 2009

February 9 – Villa Rica – Region 5 Meeting from 4:00-6:00 pm, Iron Horse BBQ Restaurant (1 mile east of Villa Rica on Hwy.78), Dan Hill with Ensyntex will be the speaker with 2 hrs PTX. Please RSVP to Mike Ely at 770-949-1342.

February 10 – Region 11 Meeting, speaker will be Mike D'Amico with Forshaw and Roger Tinker at the Board of Realtors Office, 2 hrs IPM, 2 hrs PTX, 1 HPC, and 1 WDO. For more information please call Region Director John Allen at 706-568-9008.

February 11 – Dahlonaga – Dahlonaga Road Show will be held at the North Georgia College and State University, 82 College Circle, Dahlonaga, GA 30597. The Road Show will offer 3 hours IPM and 1 hour PTX and 2 hrs WDO credit.

February 12 – Macon – Region 8 Meeting from 4:00-6:00 pm. at Macon Farmers Market, 2055 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon, GA. The speaker will be Mark Hunter, Termite Bait Pretreats, 1 hr PTX , & Staying Ahead of Lice 1 hr IPM. Please R.S.V.P. to Greg Vines 478-272-6271.

February 17 – Lawrenceville – Region 9 Meeting from 6:00-8:00 pm, Kayce's Home Cooking, 520 W. Pike Street, Lawrenceville, GA., speaker will be Tommy Denton with Forshaw Distribution, 2 hrs HPC. No R.S.V.P. is necessary.

February 19 – Valdosta – Region 18 Meeting from 12:00-2:00 pm, The Gold Plate Restaurant, 1104 South Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA. Bubba Nolan will be the speaker, 2 hrs HPC/IPM credit, Please RSVP to Manuel Snipes at 229-241-9372.

February 24 – Norcross – GPCA 4th Tuesday program, 9-11 am, speaker Craig Goodwin, 2 hrs WDO. Free. Call GPCA 770-417-1881 to register.

February 24 – Waycross – Region 16 Meeting from 7:00-9:00 pm at Captain Joe's in Brunswick. The speaker will be Joe Craft with Ensyntex, 1 hr HPC and 1 hr WDO credit. Free to all GPCA members, Please R.S.V.P. to Forester Scarboro at 912/634-2666.

March 2009

March 7 – Columbus – Region 11 Spring Seminar at Columbus State University with 4 hrs training given by Paul Joseph and Mike D'Amico with Forshaw Distribution. For more information please contact Region Director John Allen at 706-568-9008.

March 10 – Albany – Albany Road Show will be held at the American Legion, 2916 Gillionville Road, Albany, GA. The Road Show will offer 2 HPC programs, 2 WDO programs, 1 IPM program and 1 PTX program.

March 12 – Brunswick – Region 16 Meeting from 7:00-9:00 pm at Captain Joe's in Brunswick, GA. The speaker will be Tom Nay with BASF offering 1 hr WDO & 1 hr HPC credit. Free to all GPCA members, Please R.S.V.P. to Forester Scarboro at 912-634-2666.

March 18 – Waycross – Region 16 Meeting from 7:00-9:00 pm at Ryan's Steakhouse in Waycross, Charlie Pate with Central Life Sciences will be the speaker, 2 hrs credit. Free to all GPCA members. Please R.S.V.P. to Forester Scarboro at 912-634-2666.

March 19 – Valdosta – Region 18 Meeting from 12:00-2:00 pm, The Gold Plate Restaurant, 1104 South Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA. Charlie Pate with Central Life Sciences will be the speaker, 2 hrs HPC/IPM credit, Please RSVP to Manuel Snipes at 229-241-9372.

March 24 – Norcross – GPCA 4th Tuesday program, 9-11 am, speaker Ronald Smith, 2 hrs HPC-Wildlife Mgt. Free. Call GPCA 770-417-1881 to register.

March 25 – Macon – Macon Road Show will be held at the Macon Farmers Market, 2055 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon, GA. 31208. The Road Show will offer 2 WDO programs, 1 PTX, 1 HPC program, 2 IPM programs GPCA for more information.

March 26 – Statesboro – Statesboro Road Show will be held at the Georgia Department of Ag. Building, 151 Langston Chapel Rd., Statesboro, GA 30458. The Road Show will offer 2 hrs. IPM, 1 hr. HPC, 2 hrs. Wdo and 1 hr. PTX credit, call GPCA for more information.

April 2009

April 13 – Valdosta – Region 18 Meeting from 12:00-2:00 pm, The Gold Plate Restaurant, 1104 South Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA. Steve Sullivan with Bell Labs will be the speaker, 2 hrs HPC/IPM credit, Please RSVP to Manuel Snipes at 229-241-9372.

April 16 – Augusta – Augusta Road Show will be held at the Best Value Inn, 3023 Washington Road, Augusta, GA. 30907. The Road Show will offer 1 HPC program, 2 IPM programs, 1 PTX program, and 2 WDO programs. Call GPCA for more information.

April 16 – Brunswick – Region 16 Meeting from 7:00-9:00 pm at Captain Joe's in Brunswick. Dan Givens with Univar will be the speaker, 1 hr IPM & 1 hr PTX. Free to all GPCA members. Please R.S.V.P. to Forester Scarboro at 912-634-2666.

April 28 – Norcross – GPCA 4th Tuesday program, 9-11 am, speaker Craig Goodwin, 2 hrs WDO. Free . Call GPCA 770-417-1881 to register.

April 29 – Rome – Rome Road Show will be held at the Civic Center, 601 Broad Street, Rome, GA. 30161. The Road Show will offer 1 hour IPM, 2 hours HPC, 1hour PTX and 2 hours WDO, call GPCA for more information.

April 30 – Gwinnett – Gwinnett Road Show will be held at Gwinnett Technical College, 5150 Sugarloaf Pkwy, Building 600- Room 104, Lawrenceville, GA. 30043. The Gwinnett Road Show will offer 1 hour HPC, 3 hours IPM, 2 hours WDO, and 2 hours PTX credit. Call GPCA for more information

May 2009

May 21 – Valdosta – Region 18 Meeting from 12:00-2:00 pm, The Gold Plate Restaurant, 1104 South Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA.
Walt Weinwurm with Bayer will be the speaker, 2 hrs HPC/IPM credit, Please RSVP to Manuel Snipes at 229-241-9372.

Regularly Scheduled Region Meetings

Region 2 - 2nd Monday every month except November, December and January
Region 5 - 2nd Tuesday every other month
Region 11 - 4th Thursday every odd month
Region 13 - 3rd Thursday every month.
Region 17 - 2nd Tuesday as announced
Region 18 - 3rd Thursday as announced

TRAINING NOTES

- REMEMBER – YOU CAN NOT GET CREDIT FOR THE SAME COURSE TWICE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR – YOU WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO GET CREDIT ONE TIME.
- IF YOU ACCRUE MORE IPM HOURS THAN NEEDED, THEY WILL COUNT TOWARD YOUR HPC REQUIREMENTS.
- IF YOU ACCRUE MORE PRETREAT HOURS THAN NEEDED, THEY WILL COUNT TOWARD YOUR WDO REQUIREMENTS.
- CHECK YOUR HOURS ONLINE AT WWW.KELLYSOLUTIONS.COM.