

Bug Bytes

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GPCA.ORG

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COMMISSION NEWS

Today at the Commission meeting, so many things were discussed that we felt compelled to get the news out to you right away.

- 1 School update – The Department reports that they have discovered a company using the product – Catalyst – in school environments. The label specifically PROHIBITS the use of Catalyst in schools! That's bad.
- 2 The Department is revisiting some pest control companies who self-reported early on. The 'revisit' was planned to determine if the company has made changes to their methods, paperwork, etc. to bring them into compliance. Regrettably, the Department reports that they are finding problems and that some companies are still not in compliance. Fines likely.
- 3 Self-reporting = out of 1226 licensed companies, 438 have self-reported – GOOD JOB!!! However, the other 787 companies need to be sure that they are not missing an opportunity to remedy a problem by self-reporting. Remember, if the inspector finds the problem first, you're nailed – but if you self report and an error is discovered, you have an opportunity to correct the problem before regulatory action is required.
- 4 Exams – some technical schools may be merged later in the year which will slightly reduce the number of locations where you can take tests. Shouldn't be a big inconvenience, but budget issues are cutting some locations. Also, proctors are being retrained and increased security is being implemented.
- 5 Employees who don't get their hours – there's always the group of technicians who "retest" rather than earning the necessary CEU hours by April 30. Okay – it happens. But remember, if you have to retest, you have to redo all the initial requirements: 70 hours on the job training and 10 hours of classroom training. Basically, you're going to spend two weeks as a "trainee". Your employer will have to verify that you have received this training before you can take the Technician test again.
- 6 Insurance – When the Department learns that a company has not maintained its liability insurance, they will be suspending the company's license to operate with full revocation June 30. Some companies get the required insurance in order to obtain their license, but then do not maintain the coverage. This is against the law. (Legislation passed that requires us to maintain insurance – not just a regulation!)

Now here's something else to consider. If you are unfortunate and lose your company license, you could lose your COMPANY NAME. Another entrepreneur may be waiting in the wings to open a new company and pick up your popular company name.

- 7 Unlicensed companies – the Department is continuing to check on companies who advertise that they are a pest control company – but they don't have a license at the Department of Ag. Of course, it is hard to talk to these companies or get an address. So if you run across any type of paperwork (a service ticket, business card, etc) that will help the Department locate and follow through with unlicensed companies, be sure to send to Josh Wiley at the Department of Ag.
- 8 Enforcement action posted on the Department's website. A couple of years ago, the Commission was posting enforcement action but then there were some glitches which made this go away. Well, they are fixed and within the next few weeks you should see enforcement posted from July 2008 to the present.
- 9 Recertification forms. For many years GPCA has generously provided the 3 part forms as a service to the industry – but this is getting pretty costly. The Commission agreed that a sign in/sign-out sheet would be accepted by the Department of Agriculture in lieu of the individual recertification forms. GPCA will continue to provide the individual recert slips for GPCA Road Shows, Conferences and Region Meetings. We think our members like to have a copy of the training they have received – but if you go to a meeting that only has a sign-in sheet, the sponsor of that program will keep the master copy in file and submit the information to the state.

2 - TERMITE LETTER

In the next issue of the PROFILE you're going to get the full scoop of what's been done for the past 15 months to argue our case about the need for the WDO inspection. Many of our members have asked the Association why we haven't reversed the change in the Georgia Association of Realtors contract which eliminated the requirement for the "termite" letter at closing.

If you want to read the full story, go to the GPCA website and download the front page feature right now. There's been a lot of work taking place during the past year or so. We haven't been idle.

3 - GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GPCA held it's annual legislative day at the State Capitol today. We had many members of the Legislative Agriculture Committees and Regulated Industries at our lunch. We talked about our industry's concern over the need for consumers to get a WDO inspection as well as school treatment.

4 - ROAD SHOWS GOING STRONG

Not many places can you earn 6 hours of credit for only \$10! The Savannah Road Show had over 75 attendees. The Dahlongega show planned for February 11 has 80 pre-registered. The next event will be in Albany. Check out the full agenda and registration on the GPCA website.

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

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!

5 - GPCA FAMILY

We have recently learned of several losses to the pest control family:

Gary Johnson (What's Buggin You) reported his father - Nathaniel Johnson - passing on January 22, 2009.

Long time industry leader (UNIVAR), Norm Ehmann passed away Monday, February 2. Norm lived in Salinas California.

GPCA member Ken Holtzclaw, Rome, passed away February 9.

TRAINING CALENDAR

Events in 2009

February 2009

- 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 Ensysyex, 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 IPM - Rats & Schools. 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.