

Bug Bytes

By Valera Jesse

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GPCA.ORG

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SERVICE TICKETS

It doesn't appear that the Commission is going to approve the 'front' of any type service ticket in the near future. Despite great progress in the development of the 'specific sites' and post precautionary statements, the service ticket front seems to have hit a delay.

However, I still think we'll have a new service ticket for you within the next few weeks. And here's why.

After there was no progress at the last Commission meeting, GPCA assembled four of its heavy weights: Chuck Carney (Cooks PC), Scott Eubanks (Northwest), Dennis Judy (Allgood Pest Solutions) and Rick Bell (Arrow Exterminators) to work with the suggested ticket, add any other elements that would be beneficial and then offer it as a general ticket that could be used for residential, commercial and school accounts.

This committee has met, worked on the document and has a prototype. They want to run it by a few other people, but if all goes well, GPCA will be able to offer this new ticket within the next two weeks to our members. We will send out a BugBytes to announce its availability.

NURSING HOMES –

In the last BugBytes we reported that BioTech Systems of Georgia was under investigation by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. Below, please see the news release that the Department issued several weeks ago.

PRESS RELEASE

June 24, 2009

Contact: Arty Schronce, Jackie Sosby or Yao Seidu at 404-656-3689

Georgia seeks to revoke license of company for pesticide misuse

The Georgia Department of Agriculture will be seeking to revoke the structural pest control license of Biotech Systems of Georgia (Biotech) due to the misapplications of pesticides. Biotech is a Pelham, Alabama, company that treats nursing homes and other healthcare facilities in Georgia and several other states.

The Agriculture Department is alerting 154 facilities serviced by Biotech about possible pesticide misapplications. The Department has also notified the Environmental Protection Agency, the Georgia Department of Human Resources and appropriate regulatory agencies in other states.

The action follows an investigation that began last month. During a routine inspection on May 5, 2009, the Department of Agriculture found information that indicated pesticides were misapplied by Biotech at two Georgia nursing homes.

The Georgia Agriculture Department asked for records from Biotech and received an incomplete set of pesticide use records from the company on May 20. On June 9, at the request of the Agriculture Department, the Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission (GSPCC) ordered Biotech to produce a complete set of pesticide use records and have the records delivered to the Department by June 17. (GSPCC has authority under the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act to compel the production of documents.)

Records furnished by Biotech indicate that pesticides were misapplied to numerous facilities.

Some of the pesticide application records delivered to the Georgia Agriculture Department by Biotech on June 17 are different from the records obtained on May 20. "This concerns us greatly. At least some of the records appear to conflict with the records we obtained earlier and are therefore possibly suspect," said Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture Terry Coleman.

Of greatest concern are the misapplications of the pesticides Termidor and ZP Tracking Powder. The Georgia Agriculture Department tested eight nursing homes and found Termidor present in all eight. It appears that Termidor, an insecticide labeled for use outdoors, was used indoors, and ZP Tracking Powder, a rodenticide, was improperly used in a food storage area. The Department is sending clean-up recommendations to the facilities as provided by the manufacturers of these pesticides.

"We have also notified the Georgia Health Care Association. Its staff is working to make sure safety concerns are addressed," said Deputy Commissioner Coleman.

"We will seek to revoke the license of Biotech Systems of Georgia because the company appears to have disregarded rules governing pesticide application on numerous occasions. These rules are not arbitrary but are based on the effective use of these pesticides and, what is more important, on concerns of safety for people and the environment," said Coleman.

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CRAM DAY – SEPTEMBER 11 (FRIDAY)

If you are planning to take the state PCO exam, there isn't a better study system than to spend a day with Jim Chase and 'zone' in on nothing but test material. GPCA has the only official CRAM day in Georgia, offering 9 full hours of review on pest control, rules and regulations and wdo issues. It's a fast-paced day starting promptly at 8 AM. We move through lunch and continue to 5 PM. Come all day, or just for half. If you are serious about doing your best on the PCO exam, this is what you need.

Location: GPCA Office – 2034 Beaver Ruin Road, Norcross, Georgia, 770-417-1881

Time: times are approximate -
8 – 11 AM – HPC issues
11 – 1:30 PM – Rules and Regulations and in classroom lunch
1:30 – 5 PM – WDO issues

Cost: If you have taken the GPCA PCO course in the past 5 years, you may attend the program for \$10 (1/2 or full day.)
If you have NOT taken the GPCA PCO course, the fee is \$25 for ½ day, \$50 for full day (GPCA members).
Non members - \$50 ½ day; \$100 full day.

Credits: 3 HPC, 1 IPM, 3 WDO, 1 PTX



**SAVE THE DATE - SEPTEMBER 21
GPCA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
HAMPTON GOLF VILLAGE, CUMMING**

**All proceeds benefit Leukemia/Lymphoma
& the GPCA Burnett Scholarship
Lunch, dinner, & live auction featuring foursomes at East
Lake Country Club and other awesome courses as well as
entertainment, sporting events and other great items!**

*Price \$600 foursome, \$150 per person. For additional
information contact GPCA at 770-417-1881 or golf co-chairs:
Brantley Russell (brussell@arrowexterminators.com) or Kim
Floyd (kim.floyd@univarusa.com).*

FUTURE MEETINGS

GPCA Northwest Conference – September 9 – 10, 2009, NW GA Trade Center, Dalton. Two full days of training – Wednesday featuring HPC; Thursday featuring WDO.

GPCA South Georgia Conference – October 7 – 8, 2009, Rural Development Center, Tifton. Two full days of CONCURRENT training featuring HPC and WDO each day. Fumigation classes also offered.

Calendar of Events and Training

Thursday July 30, 2009

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

August 2009

- August 5 – Norcross** – Region 12 & 15 Meeting from 1:00-3:00 pm, Crisp Library, 115 E. 11th Avenue, Cordele, GA., 1 hr HPC & 1 hr IPM, Wes Hale with Forshaw will be the speaker. Please R.S.V.P. to Tommy Kimbrel at 229/239-1286.
- August 13 – Macon** – Region 8 Meeting from 4:00-6:00 pm, Macon Farmers Market, 2055 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon, GA., 2 hrs IPM/Public Health, Mark Hunter will be the speaker Please R.S.V.P. to Greg Vines at 478/272-6271.
- August 25 – Norcross** – GPCA's 4th Tuesday Training Meeting from 9:00-11:00 am at GPCA, 2034 Beaver Ruin Rd., Norcross, GA. Dan Givens will be the speaker. R.S.V.P. to GPCA's office at 770/417-1881.
- August 27 – Rome** – Region 3 Meeting from 4:30 – 6:30 pm, Cook's Pest Control Office, 203 Highway 411 East, Rome, 2 hours WDO, Ted Veitch will be the speaker. Please R.S.V.P. to Roger Lemaster at 706/234-2666.

September 2009

- September 9-10 – Dalton** – Northwest Conference, Dalton, GA (two days of training HPC- Wednesday & WDO- Thursday).
- September 10- Oct. 19 – Dalton** – GPCA PCO Course, Monday & Thursday evening from 6:00-9:00 pm, GPCA 's office, 2034 Beaver Ruin Rd., Norcross, GA. 30071. Call GPCA office at 770/417-1881.

October 2009

- October 7-8 – Tifton** – South Georgia Conference, two full days of training, HPC and WDO each day. Fumigation classes also offered., Tifton, GA. Call the GPCA office at 770/417-1881.
- October 12- Nov. 19** – GPCA PCO Course, Monday & Thursday evenings from 4:30-7:30 pm, Cook's Pest Control Office, 203 Highway 211 E., Rome, Ga. Call for more information GPCA office 770/417-1881.

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 Tuesday 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.