

Bug Bytes

By Valera Jesse

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Issue 9 – August 7, 2009

Many of you have probably already heard via the grapevine that a news story is brewing on Fox 5. It's true and here's the scoop.

A pest control company was fined relative to a school application. It was reported to Fox 5 that the company continued to provide service to the school. Fox 5 started to dig around and discovered that many pest control companies had been found in violation of application regulations. (Note – the consent order issued by the Department of Ag allows a company to complete contractual obligations – so the pest control company wasn't doing anything wrong by continuing to provide service.)

By the way, the report was from one of their technicians.

This is what we have learned –

Likely early next week, Fox 5 is going to do a story on pesticide applications in schools. They have interviewed Jim Harron at the Department of Agriculture. GPCA has talked with Fox 5. We hope to have the industry viewpoint and position aired as well.

We don't expect this to turn the industry on its ear like some past television reports. If you have any questions, however, don't hesitate to call the GPCA office.

Additional information will be sent via BugBytes as available.

MEMBERSHIP

If you haven't paid your GPCA dues, the deadline is quickly approaching. Several notices have been sent and now the membership committee and region directors will be calling those who have not yet renewed – as a courtesy reminder.

Remember as a GPCA member, you receive so very much – such as these BugBytes and attendance at local region meetings and the GPCA 4th Tuesday FREE. Nonmembers will start paying for these opportunities effective this month:

4th Tuesday, free to GPCA members, \$25 for nonmembers

Region meetings, free to GPCA members, \$10 per hour of training nonmembers

There has never been a more important time to be connected with information, education and your industry.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

GPCA will start sending letters to local schools asking if they would like a presentation on bugs. The great program – The Buggateers – put together by our GPCA PR committee is available on CD and is a snap to present. If you would like to participate in making a school presentation, please call the GPCA office and talk with Angela. She is co-ordinating the schools with available industry representatives.

GPCA FAMILY

Bill Blasingame turns 85 on Friday. His son Billy called to say his Mom and Dad were doing well, but it would mean the world to him to hear from folks in the industry. If you like, drop him a card. Here is the contact information: Bill Blasingame, 601 Kristen Court, McDonough, GA 30252, websr8@aol.com.

We are saddened to report the passing of George Harkness. George Franklin Harkness, 96, of McDonough died Friday, July 31st from complications of dementia at Westbury Health and Rehabilitation Center in McDonough, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported. The funeral was held on Monday, August 3 in the chapel of Cannon-Cleveland Funeral Directors, which was in charge of arrangements. In 1961, Harkness started his own business.