

Bug Bytes

By Valera Jesse

GEORGIA PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

2034 Beaver Ruin Road,

PO Box 2108

Norcross, GA 30071

770/417-1881—800/465-9827—FAX 770/417-1419

GPCA.ORG

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① Commission and Industry Issues.

If you fail to renew your company license with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, it looks like you went out of business. However, if you reapply for a company license – under the same name – several months later, it kinda appears that you are trying to manipulate the system to avoid the renewal cost with late penalties that would have been required. [If you miss the deadline to renew a license, you have 90 more days to renew, paying a double fee.]

Fact: The Commission ‘holds’ company names for two years after they expire. This is a courtesy to the industry because if Joe Blank Pest Control wants to go back into business for whatever reason a year later, all he has to do is pay the license fee and late penalties. His company name (and visibility) have not been impaired.

What happens if you agree to a settlement and administrative order, but don’t pay the fine? This recently happened when a pest control company agreed to a negotiated settlement for \$40,000 from a day care violation. The operator lost their license but has made no effort to pay the state fine. The case is now in the hands of the State Attorney General to seek collection.

The Department continues to focus on schools, restaurants and health care operations. Additionally, the unlicensed operator ‘stings’ will continue. BioTech (the Alabama based company servicing nursing homes in Georgia) did not contest the enforcement action relative to their violations so effective December 8, the company is no longer licensed in Georgia and their DCO is no longer certified in our State. Additionally, Georgia and some other affected states have referred this case to EPA for further action.

On the national scene – there is proposed legislation to require standard (meaning every state has the same rules) IPM school policy throughout the nation. Hard to believe that anyone would believe that the pest control issues were the same in Alaska as they are in Georgia. This will be argued at the national level when pest management professionals go to Washington for NPMA’s Legislative Day in late February. However, it is possible that the IPM in schools concern will filter to Georgia. Our state is one of few that does not have a state-mandated policy for IPM. We have succeeded in satisfying legislators up to now that all IPM issues are addressed through Structural Pest Control rules.

The Commission website – after January 1 the site will no longer be maintained by Kelly Solutions. This will be managed by the GDA and will provide more timely information about Commission minutes, guidance policies, etc. This does not affect the Kelly Registration System site – kellysolutions.com used to access your license CEU information. Note: Since the news story on Fox 5 about unlicensed operators, Kelly Solutions saw a large increase from consumers the site to determine if a company was state licensed.

2 Athens Heading Your Way -

Time's running out to register for the Athens Conference. The early deadline is 12/31/09 so don't wait any longer!!! There will be a program on service tickets, sensitive accounts, even a panel discussion about WDO issues that includes attorney Winston Briggs. This is the best way for you to stay plugged in on all the industry news. We have suppliers, regulators, Commission members, big and small companies at the Athens Conference. Go to the GPCA website (GPCA.org) for a full agenda or call 770-417-1881.

3 PCO Course – Saturdays!!!

For the first time, GPCA will offer the PCO course on Saturday. If your weekday evenings are too hectic, now you have the opportunity to prepare for the state PCO exam on six consecutive Saturdays, starting January 23. The class will be taught by Chuck Carney, at the Cook's Pest Control, in Marietta. Classes are from 8:30 to 3:30 PM and finish on February 20. Application on line at GPCA.org.

4 Road Shows – Dahlonega, Macon & Augusta

GPCA has all day classes planned in regions throughout the State:

Dahlonega – Tuesday, February 9

Macon – Tuesday, March 16

Augusta – Tuesday, April 13

Each of these programs offers 3 hours HPC and 3 hours WDO for only \$10 for the whole day!!!! Registration information as well as classes offered will be listed on the GPCA website and in the January/February issue of the PROFILE.

Additionally, on Tuesday, January 19, we will offer a FREE (for members) 2 hour class at the GPCA office in Norcross. Rob Pinion will teach an HPC program. Call 770-417-1881 to register.

5 New Universal Service Ticket Going Strong

The response to GPCA's new Universal Service Ticket has been very good. We're now receiving 2nd orders from companies who first ordered 250 and now are placing larger orders. If you would like to see a sample ticket, go to the GPCA website (GPCA.org) or call 770-417-1881. We'll fax you one.

GPCA is offering the two-part service tickets to its members. Price includes Company information – up to 4 lines. No logo insert available. The ticket is 8 ½ x 11, NCR paper, perforated in sets of two. (Price does not include tax and shipping. This depends on quantity ordered and shipping location.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Price</u>
250	\$80	1000	\$240
500	\$140	5000	\$960

For a complete listing of GPCA events, please go to the GPCA website – GPCA.org.

Happy New Year everyone!!!!