

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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JOB FAIR SUCCESS

I can't wait until the next PROFILE to tell you what a resounding success our Job Fair was last Friday. Ten pest control companies set up display tables, volunteers from the GPCA Public Relations Committee handled registration, parking, refreshments and promotion. And **149** job seekers came and learned about pest control as a career.

Why was this important?

- It was a great public relations endeavor. So many people with whom we visited said, "I never even considered working in this industry. You all are really nice folks."
- We made a difference in people's lives and helped them find a job
- For 10 pest control companies, they spent \$100. They said it was the best money they had ever spent – and the least expensive way ever to find potential employees.

We'll run a big story in the next magazine with pictures. But we can't wait to thank co-chairs Darrell Lee and Randy Wilhite for their leadership and commitment to making this project a huge success.

SO YOU WANT A MOSQUITO LICENSE?

Several things to remember –

Mosquito control has traditionally been licensed under category 31 (public health). Recently, the Department of Ag (different division than structural) decided to make a different category exclusively for mosquito control – category 41. This would keep potential license holders from learning all about everything relative to public health and only study mosquito related information.

So – where do you get the study materials. We've attached this information to this BugBytes, but if you lose it, go to Georgiapestexam.com and go to exam information. Scroll down to "Commercial Applicators License" and click on training materials. This will take you to a list of study guides developed by the Cooperative Extension Service.

HOW MUCH TO YOU WANT TO HELP

People have sent money, prayed for them, even adopted some of the children. But we all realize that helping Haiti is going to be a long process. Today I talked with Jay Wells, Atlanta Pest Control. He shared this project with me and asked that I tell you about it.

"The information will be more available toward the end of this week. But as of now what we have is that we will be working with a Christian group called "Operation Mobilization. [*Go to omusa.org to learn more about this group.*] They have asked Atlanta Pest control to put together a team of people to go to Haiti to help in the control of rats, to help prevent the spread of disease. If you can find out who might be interested to helping with this project that would be great. I will get back to you with more details as soon as I get them.

If anyone is interested please have them email us at infor@apccompainies.com."

In my conversation with Jay, he indicated that the team hopes to go to Haiti around February 22 for 7 to 10 days. They would be teaching people what to do – but also doing a yeoman’s job in this control effort. If you are interested (in going, providing product, or supporting) this effort, contact Jay Wells or his son Evan Wells at Atlanta Pest Control at the above email address. As we have additional information, we’ll report through the BugBytes.

GRIFFIN TRAINING CENTER

Dr. Dan Suiter asked us to send you information about his upcoming Termite training programs (February and March) and the new IPM workshop planned for April 1-2. Please see the attached information.

GPCA LEGISLATIVE DAY

On Wednesday, January 20, GPCA fed Sprayberry’s Barbecue to 155 guests and MOST OF THEM WERE LEGISLATORS! Unlike our luncheons in the past when we had lots of ‘guests’ we seemed to attract the voting members of the General Assembly this year. They were appreciative and grateful that we were still involved and wanted to be a vital part of the legislative process. (Perhaps other organizations have cut back their free luncheons, receptions, etc! Watch for pictures and more information in the next PROFILE!

GPCA Family –

UNIVAR has announced several changes. While we congratulate Bill Blalock on his retirement and Chris Wescott on his new position, we also will miss seeing them regularly at GPCA meetings and events.

Bill Blalock - After 7 ½ years at UNIVAR, Bill Blalock is retiring, but he plans to open a new company – Equipment Plus specializing in spray equipment, lawn maintenance and equipment.

Chris Wescott – recently named Director of International an Export Business. Chris will continue to manage the UNIVAR SE District until his successor is named.

CONGRATULATIONS to Allgood Pest Solutions, recently named as one of the Fastest Growing Bulldog Businesses. They were selected for the inaugural class of the Bulldog 100 as #54. The Bulldog 100 is a program that will determine and award the 100 fastest growing businesses owned or operated by UGA Alumni each year.

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