



The Alliance Quarterly

The official publication of GCPMA. Serving the needs of pest management professionals in the Chicago metropolitan area since December 2004.

GCPMA Presents "A Meeting of the MINDS II"

By Jim Anderson

Since the formation of the Greater Chicago Pest Management Alliance, our Education Committee has worked hard to present recertification seminars in this area that are accessible, affordable and provide the kind of information pest management professionals can use. Our goal was to provide at least 9 hours of recertification credits each year for certified applicators in Illinois and Indiana.

Last year we tried something a little different. We contacted some of the nation's most respected pest management educators and invited them to speak at a one-day, six-hour conference in Tinley Park, Illinois. Once the program took shape the quality of our speakers prompted us to call it "A Meeting of the Minds". We also added an exhibit hall for manufacturers and suppliers to provide attendees with information about their products and services. More than 200 people attended that conference and they all seemed to find it very worthwhile despite our lack of experience putting on such a large project.

Well, we're at it again. GCPMA is sponsoring a similar conference on October 30, 2008. Four more of the top pest management educators in the country have agreed to participate so we are calling this conference "A Meeting of the Minds II". We have expanded the exhibit hall to 24 exhibitors and have room to accommodate more than 300 attendees. Continental breakfast and lunch are also included in the price again this year.

Phil Nixon, Extension Entomologist from the University of Illinois will cover the emerging pests in our area. Michael Potter, from the University of Kentucky will cover bed bugs. Jerome Goddard, from Mississippi University Medical Center will cover safety and health issues, and Laurel Hansen, from Spokane Falls Community College will cover carpenter ants and other structure invading ant

species. Illinois, Indiana and Michigan recertification credits will be available again this year, but we are hoping that this quality program and accessibility to our exhibitors will make this a worthwhile day even if you don't need the credits.

We are starting registration and breakfast earlier this year and will have more staff members to handle the high volume at the registration tables. To insure your spot at this year's conference please see the brochure and registration form enclosed in this issue of The Alliance Quarterly. You can also obtain the brochure by visiting the GCPMA web site (www.gcpma.com) click on News and scroll down to the October 30th event. In any case, complete the registration form for each person attending from your organization and send your check as soon as possible.

We are prepared for a larger turnout this year but space is still limited so please don't put it off until the last minute. We look forward to seeing you at this event and thank you for the opportunity to help meet your training and educational needs.

Greater Chicago Pest Management Alliance

PO Box 7835
Westchester, IL 60154

Email: info@gcpma.com
Web site: www.gcpma.com

GCPMA Officers:

Gary Pietrucha, President (630) 675-7238
Bill Dyra, Vice President (312) 320-6612
Sheri Cunningham, Secretary (708) 308-0706
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newsletter fall 2008 ■ www.gcpma.com

We Are On Track!

By Gary Pietrucha, GCPMA President



Dear Valued Members:

After a long and hard fought effort, our bill for Structural Pest Control has been signed into law! It certainly allows us to take a deep breath know-

ing that we are back in business again. The Greater Chicago Pest Management Alliance has been on top of these proceedings since we found out in January that our bill had sunset, leaving us with only FIFRA to govern our activities as an industry. It could have compromised all of our seminars, our testing, and our very livelihoods had we not fought hard to stay the course and maintain our high standards despite the obvious difficulties. Now is not the time to sit back on our laurels. This bill is only good through December of 2009, when the whole process starts over again. So can we impact this situation so that it never happens again? You bet we can! And we are starting on the process NOW.

The process starts with the combined efforts of IPCA and GCPMA, whose membership covers virtually every PCO in the state. During an informal meeting this past summer, Bill Dyra, GCPMA Vice-President and I met with Chris Haggerty, IPCA President, in Bloomington, IL. Our discussions were enlightening and frank, but very constructive. We walked away with a greater appreciation for both organizations, and, above all, realized the need to be a part of both organizations. Bill certainly clarified the need for our

existence as an urban-based organization that had been neglected over the past 20 years, due to a lack of understanding of the challenges we all face in dealing with issues unique to the greater Chicago area. I feel Chris is now 100% supportive of our efforts, as we have always been of IPCA.

We have also discussed projects that will assist those most affected by the flooding this past May and June. We anticipate this to be in the form of a monetary donation from both IPCA and GCPMA, and the assistance of manufacturers that can impact the effects of the by-products of the flooding, mosquitoes and mold. We hope that these manufacturers donate their products in an effort to combat potentially harmful mosquito populations and mold. These efforts will once again illustrate our commitment as an industry to protecting the health and well being of our friends and neighbors, and present the pest control professional in a positive light.

This brings me to a recent piece that aired over local television. It was based on the efforts of our North Shore to step up mosquito abatement by increasing spraying in the area. Several residents were interviewed and asked how they felt about the applications being performed. One lady stated that she was very concerned about the "cancer causing effects" of the applications and that she would have to "keep her children inside and wash down her playset". But the most intriguing comment was made by a gentleman in his mid-thirties — educated, and apparently well-to-do judging by the residence — who boldly stated that "he would rather have his family take their chances with contracting West Nile Virus than the harm that our deadly pesticides would cause." Judging from these examples, we have a long way to go, despite the fact that we are so safe that virtually all our materials are labeled *Caution*. It is pathetic that such attitudes still exist. We are

still blamed for contamination of our natural resources, birth defects, and a number of other related issues by people who choose not to understand our industry, and do not want to admit that the mismanagement of pest control is done by the consumer, not the professional. The consumer does not choose to read the label and, driven by a phobia against insect activity, mixes 2, 3, even 4 times the label directions, under the mistaken notion that the "stronger mix" will work faster and longer. We need to address these misguided individuals and raise the level of our industry to be respected for the progress and safety record that it has earned and continues to earn.

Fall is coming soon. We have an outstanding conference set for October 30th. A Meeting of the Minds II is the result of the tireless efforts of Sheri Cunningham and Jim Anderson, along with Jim Parker and the other staff members of GCPMA. I encourage you to attend, even if you do not need the credit hours. For more information, see the conference brochure enclosed in this newsletter, or visit the GCPMA web site to download the brochure and registration form.

The GCPMA will be having a Board of Directors meeting on September 11, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., and I am looking forward to some great ideas that we will be exploring for our organization.

We have come a long way this year – our long awaited web site, a first class newsletter that will be expanding in size and information, a Structural Pest Control Bill in place, and expanded membership and allied members. Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see you at any of our events very soon.

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The GCPMA web site is live and online, and just waiting for you to make an appearance . Visit www.gcpma.com for Alliance updates, copies of The Alliance Quarterly newsletter, and information about upcoming GCPMA educational or recreational events.

The site also includes a membership roster, and a membership application form that can be quickly downloaded. A helpful Resources section on the site includes useful links for regional educational and informational agencies.

A web site is an evolving process, and the GCPMA site is no exception. Let us know what you think about the site, and any ideas you have about additional types of information or web-based services that would be valuable to you.

Solving Small Fly Public Health Problems in the Chicago Area

By Jerry O'Hara, Anstar Products

Small flies in your customers' health care or restaurant kitchen facilities can be a significant public health threat. Organic matter and moist environments that are present in those facilities are attractive breeding grounds for small flies, including fruit, drain, phorid, fungus, and vinegar flies. Other species of flies and gnats can also thrive there. To eliminate them, it's important to initiate an IPM program that includes a biodegradable product that removes the organic debris where larvae develop.

Here are some application tips and a breeding zone checklist that can help Chicagoarea PMPs in their small fly control efforts:

Application Tips

PMPs using a biodegradable product for small fly

control should:

- Thoroughly apply to walls, baseboards, and floor areas under food service equipment. There are more problems here than in drains.
- Apply in floor drains, cracks in floor tiles, and around legs of equipment.
- Apply to the stainless steel bottom leg frames and the wall behind dishwashers. When garbage is thrown into a nearby bucket it splashes food debris underneath dishwashers, where fruit flies feed, lay eggs, and where larva feed off of it.
- Apply to food carts at health care facilities because small flies can cling to the cart legs and bottom frames spreading infestations into residents' rooms.
- To avoid run-off, use a foamed product that sticks where it's sprayed.
- Regularly inspect for breeding sites.
- Be patient and stay with the program. You need more than one application to do the job properly.

Small Fly Breeding Zones Checklist

Kitchens (where organic debris collects)

- Vinyl or tile baseboard moldings – top & bottom gaps, open cracks.
- Wall surfaces under food service tables and counters.
- Floors and walls behind equipment legs, drain lines & other obstacles.
- Dishwasher disposals, support legs and cross frame, wall area.
- Dirty pots, pans, dishes etc. sitting for long periods of time.
- Plumbing leaks, broken connections, drip lines above floor drains.
- Irregular floor level, low spots with standing water.
- Plastic garbage cans, surface scratches and cracks with imbedded debris.
- Floor drains, grate cover, interior basket, interior wall surface above water line.
- Floor tiles: broken grout, open cracks, missing tiles, leaks into under floor base.
- Rubber floor mats.

Kitchen storage and utility area

- Improper storage conditions for fruits and vegetables.
- Rotten fruits or vegetables, in storage or on floor under equipment.
- Improper storage or spills of bakery fillings, puddings, jams.
- Storage shelving, support legs, wheel housings where food spills.
- Forgotten foods, covered or uncovered, anywhere in room.
- Un-rinsed cans or bottles in recycle or garbage bins.
- Mops or brooms soiled and/or improperly stored.

Bar area

- Beer and soda drain trays, connecting plastic drip line hose(s) to floor drain.
- Soda unit dispenser, supply tubes leading thru counter top to bulk containers underneath or floor below.
- Wall, baseboard, and floor area under bottle racks, sinks and refrigerators.
- Drain tube drip pipes above floor drains.
- Fruits: lemons, limes, pineapple, cherries, etc. are common sources of small flies.

Washrooms

- Baseboards moldings.
- Toilet base at floor.
- Floor and sink drain.
- Broken drain line.
- Soiled mop and/or broom storage.

(Jerry O'Hara is president of Anstar Products, www.anstarproducts.com.)

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If we somehow missed your company, let us know so may include you in the next issue. If you're not a member, sign up today using the application form in this newsletter, or visit our web site: www.gcpma.org. Membership in GCPMA is just \$25 annually for PMPs and \$75 for associate/vendor members. Join us today, add your voice to the chorus of PMPs who have chosen GCPMA to represent our interests in this urban market and in Springfield along with IPCA. Plus, you'll save money every time you attend a GCPMA education recertification seminar.

Exotic Invasive Pest Detection in Illinois

Greg Rentschler, Pest Survey Specialist - Illinois, USDA, APHIS PPQ

Exotic Invasive Pest Detection in Illinois Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is a program within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). PPQ safeguards agriculture and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of animal and plant pests and noxious weeds to ensure an abundant, high-quality, and varied food supply. PPQ has 4 office locations in Illinois that conduct pest detection activities: Des Plaines, Champaign, Peoria, and Swansea.

The introduction of exotic pests and plant pathogens can alter ecologies and negatively impact numerous industries as well as an array of environmental attributes. Economic costs from invasive pests can be separated into direct costs through production loss in agriculture and forestry, and management costs of invasive pests. Estimated damage and control cost of invasive pests in the U.S. alone amount to more than \$138 billion annually. In addition to these costs, economic losses can occur through loss of recreational and tourism revenues. Economic costs of pest invasions, when calculated as production loss and management costs, are low because they do not usually consider environmental damages. If monetary values could be assigned to the extinction of species, loss in biodiversity, and loss of ecosystems, costs from impacts of invasive pests would drastically increase. PPQ analyzes threats to U.S. agriculture and develops rules and regulations for importing commodities and their packaging materials based on the risks they present. Many exotic forest pests make their way to the U.S. by hitchhiking in or on Solid Wood Packing Material (SWPM), such as crates or pallets. The first line of defense against the entry of harmful

plant pests into the U.S. is through inspection of commodities (including their packaging), conveyances, and passenger baggage. These inspections are conducted by the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at sea ports, airports, and land border crossings. Many at risk commodities are simply prohibited and re-exported or destroyed, or they may require certain treatments, certificates, or permits upon entry to mitigate the risk of invasive pest introduction. U.S. trade has increased tremendously in the last 20 years, and as a result the volume of pallets, crates, and high-risk commodities passing through the ports of entry has grown exponentially.

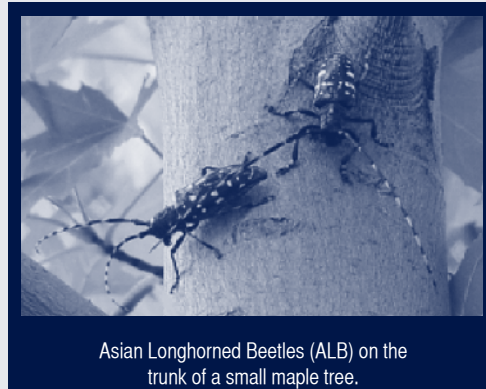
The second line of defense is through surveys targeted at specific pests, accomplished primarily under the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program in which USDA funding is provided through cooperative agreements with state departments of agriculture and universities.

We need your help! The key to success in eliminating exotic invasive pests is early detection, and early detection depends on the collaboration of State and local governments, as well

as the general public, landowners and private industries that have the day-to-day interaction with the environment.

After 4 months from Illinois declaring Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) eradication from the previously infested areas in Illinois, the ALB has been detected again in Illinois.

On August 1st, 2008, an observant citizen collected an exotic looking beetle in the parking lot of a mall in Deerfield, IL. PPQ later confirmed the beetle as being an ALB adult on August 5th, 2008. Since then, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA), along with PPQ and local governments has been conducting a rapid detection survey to detect any new ALB infestations in the area. Illinois officials need the help of citizens and private industry for early detection of ALB and other invasive pest



Asian Longhorned Beetles (ALB) on the trunk of a small maple tree.

infestations. If you see any signs or symptoms of ALB, please call our hotline number at 847-699-2424. More information about ALB and pictures of the beetle along with signs and symptoms is on the web at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/index.shtml

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first detected in Illinois in June of 2006. EAB is a devastating invader from Asia, killing tens of millions ash trees in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia costing municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries tens of millions of dollars. The IDA along with Illinois PPQ has an ongoing EAB program comprised of regulatory and detection activities aimed at preventing the spread of EAB. More information on EAB can be found on the web at: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info>

The Gypsy Moth, a leaf-feeding insect from Europe, is a serious threat to many forest and ornamental trees. It is known to be present in northeastern Illinois and the IDA has established quarantines for Gypsy Moth and conducts ongoing detection and control pro-

grams throughout the state. More information on Gypsy Moth can be found on the web at: <http://www.agr.state.il.us/Environment/Pest/gypsymoth.html>

The Pine Shoot Beetle (PSB) is a European native that attacks new shoots of pine trees, stunting the growth of the trees. The beetles can cause severe decline in the health of the trees, and in some cases, kill the trees when high populations exist. IDA and PPQ have an ongoing PSB program that includes detection activities and regulated areas. More information on the PSB including what to look for and the

quarantine regulations in Illinois can be found on the web at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/psb/index.shtml

The IDA, PPQ, and cooperators continue to conduct exotic pest detection activities throughout the State every year. For more information on the Illinois Cooperative Agriculture Survey (CAPS) including what we are surveying for and what the current Illinois Exotic Pest situation is, please visit the CAPS website at: <http://illinoiscapsprogram.blogspot.com/>



Gypsy moths are known threats to many forest and ornamental trees.



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