

The Standard



Volume 50, Number 4

The Voice of the Ohio Pest Control Industry

Fall 2010

Bed bugs are the #1 Issue in Our Industry Right Now Here's what our members are saying

by Michelle Crawley

You don't need to be a pest management professional (PMP) to know that bed bugs are the hot topic in the industry right now. The public is slowly becoming aware that they are a real problem, after seeing many stories in national and local newspapers, in *Time* magazine, on the nightly news, on national television shows like "The Doctors," "Doctor Oz" and "The Today Show" – all of them talking about how to identify and prevent these pests. And just a glance at this quarter's OPMA *Standard* newsletter shows we're all about bed bugs.



We know that the only way to rid your household or business of these pests is to call a licensed PMP, so we talked to some of our own member companies to get their take on their experience with the pest, including: Hank Althaus of Scherzinger Corporation in Cincinnati, Steve Kmetz of Certified Pest Control in Cleveland, Lonnie Alonso of Columbus Pest Control, and Andrew Christman of Ohio Exterminating Company in Columbus.

In this issue of *The Standard* you'll find the NPMA's summary of their industry bed bug survey (see page 19), but here, closer to home, is what our four members had to say.

Becoming "A Fact of Life"

One thing that is for certain – and was mentioned by all – is that the bed bug problem is growing, and we have to get control and kill this pest. Up until 2003-2005, many of our PMP's had never encountered a bed bug. They were common in the 1930s and '40s, but then largely forgotten. As Althaus said, "I have been in this business for 30 years and had never seen a bed bug until 2005, even having been in the navy and traveling around the world."

It's evident that bed bugs have taken most by surprise, especially the general public who thought that they were just part of a saying, "Don't let the bed bugs bite." No one actually thought there really were bed bugs to worry about. People had either forgotten or didn't realize they had been a

problem decades ago.

But the expansion of this pest has gotten out of control. The *Time* magazine article said that Ohio was ground zero for bed bugs. But is it really? Some think the publicity we've given on the subject has helped the state be perceived as #1. Many find it hard to believe that we could have more bed bugs than New York City, Chicago or Los Angeles. Christman says he

doesn't think we have more bed bugs than others – though we're definitely top on the list. We certainly have a resistant strand and that is hard to kill. In addition, there is increased travel, more immigration and lack of once-available/more effective insecticides contributing to the problem, both here and around the globe.

"Cincinnati is one of the top cities because it is so transient," says Kmetz. He and Althaus theorize that having an international airport, being on the river, having two major interstates going through town with lots of commerce, and a migrant worker population that can be found in the agriculture and horse farming industries also contributes to the growing problem. Cleveland is similar with the presence of the Cleveland clinic and its international visitors.

A lot of the recognition Ohio gets has to do with the public shock over the resurgence of the insect. And the work by the OPMA, OPARR, Ohio Department of Agriculture and others at the state and national level working on Ohio's Section 18 request to EPA for use of Propoxur has also triggered a lot of media attention - building Ohio's bed bug profile. "There are a host of things that have contributed to the public perception that Ohio is ground zero for bed bugs," says Althaus.

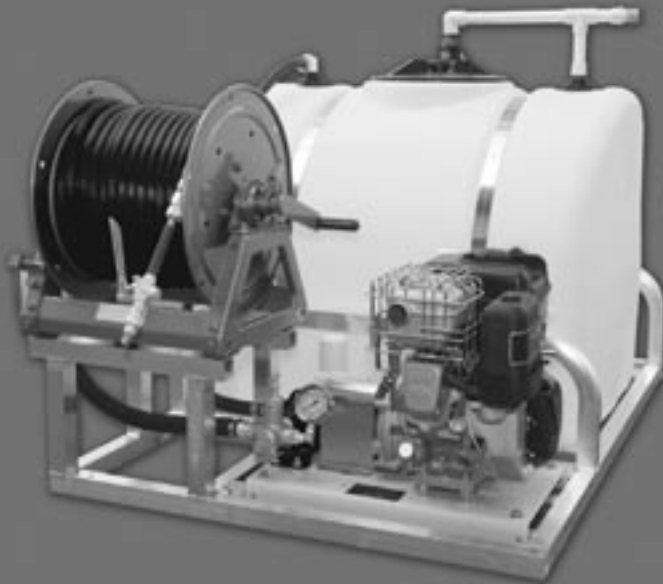
"I think that the bed bug population is spreading so quickly that even if we are #1, I don't think we will be for long," says Alonso. "The thin line about who has the most bed bugs is getting blurred right now as they move across the country."

The bottom line is that we live in a mobile society, and these

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Wrapping up a Busy 2010!



It is hard to fathom that almost a year has passed since I took oath to serve you as President of OPMA in December 2009. This has been a challenging and exciting year, to say the least. I have learned a tremendous amount about our association and how local, state and national legislation affects all of us. I have also realized the importance

of personal involvement and the true impact that we, as individuals and as an association, can have when we put in the time and effort. Believe me, your voice is heard when you choose to use it! It is encouraging to know that our representatives, officials, customers and/or friends alike view us as professional industry experts when it comes to protecting their home, health, family, pets and properties. Another great industry supporter is our state regulatory official, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). I have always known this, but it was more apparent then ever when I attended the annual meeting for the Association for Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) in August. ASPCRO is the national association for the 52 states' regulatory officials. I have never been more engaged during day-long meetings, and I was so pleasantly surprised to befriend industry officials from all over the country. I took over 20 pages of notes and would like to share a few of the topics that will be of interest to you:

- Gus R. Douglass – Commissioner West Virginia Department of Agriculture opened the meeting, as it was hosted in Charleston, West Virginia, Gus indicated that stink bugs are going to be a huge problem for crops in the near future. I inquired about stink bugs with Dr. Susan Jones at OSU-E, and we, too, believe that stink bugs have the potential to become a structural invader and nuisance pest that our industry will soon be challenged to control. My advice to you is to remember **STINK BUGS**, and do your research and develop methods to treat them.
- Bill Diamond – USEPA Acting Deputy Office Director - Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) mentioned that the USEPA has many positions available and there has been a lot of change and “turnover” within the organization.
- Administrator Jackson’s seven priorities at the EPA are: 1) Climate change; 2) Air quality; 3) **Safety of chemicals**; 4) Cleaning up our communities; 5) **Protecting America’s waters**; 6) Expanding conversation on environmentalism and working for environmental justice; 7) Building stronger state and tribal partnerships.
- New York City asked the USEPA to eliminate the use of total release foggers for bed bug control. The USEPA denied this request, and found the incidents to be “minimal.”
- Current challenges at the USEPA are: budget

constraints, efficiencies, risk based priorities, personnel retention and succession planning and performance accountability.

- IPM in Schools – Dr. Marc Lame with Indiana University spoke about his efforts to enforce IPM in Schools. Dr. Lame believes that the Health Departments should be the regulatory officials for IPM, because they are already mandated to inspect schools two times per year. Dr. Lame’s program quickly evolved into a debate over the use of pesticides and how certain pesticides are non-scientifically being classified as endocrine disruptors. **THIS WAS THE DEFINING MOMENT WHEN I REALIZED ASPCRO AND THE ODA ARE TRULY FRIENDS OF THE INDUSTRY EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE OUR REGULATORY OFFICIALS.**
- Liza Fleeson, (Virginia Department of Agriculture) representative and chairwomen of the ASPCRO Bed Bug Committee, indicated that there is currently a great deal of work going on behind the scenes looking at existing products where the label could be potentially changed to include bed bugs.
- Robert Alverous (New Mexico Department of Agriculture) has been studying all registered pesticides and has scrutinized all existing labels. I believe Mr. Alverous will soon possess the knowledge regarding what products of efficacy are going to be best utilized in the future.
- Susan Jennings – Public Health liaison with USEPA indicated that she is actively working within our industry to find new products and/or locate existing compounds that will work against bed bugs. Susan also reiterated that the USEPA would expedite registration of any new product.
- Gene Harrington (NPMA) – Released the results of NPMA’s extensive bed bug survey. (To review these results, please see the article on page 19 of this issue, and check out www.npmapestworld.org). Gene indicated that over 950 people/companies responded to the survey. There is a lot of good information within the survey, and I recommend that you read it. One interesting result was the answer to the question regarding what products are most commonly used by PMP’s to control bed bugs. The order was: Phantom, Gentrol, Suspend, Bedlam and Tempo.
- A recent New York law, A10356B/S8130, which took effect around September 1st, comes amid a rash of complaints about bed bugs in New York City and other major cities across the nation. The measure applies only to the city. Dubbed the Bed Bug Disclosure Act, the measure requires owners and lessors to notify new rental tenants of bed bug infestations that have plagued

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Pest Control Events Calendar

For registration and other information about these events or others, visit www.ohiopma.org, e-mail us at info@ohiopma.org, call OPMA at (937) 424-3300, or use the contact information given for the event. Event dates and locations are occasionally subject to change, and new events may be added to the schedule. Stay current on industry events by regularly viewing the calendars at www.ohiopma.org and www.npmapestworld.org.

November 17-19, 2010

NPMA Wildlife Symposium

Westin Indianapolis
50 South Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 43229

December 6-7, 2010

OPMA Winter Meeting & Training School

Crowne Plaza Columbus North
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February 17, 2011

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Holiday Inn I-275
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March 13-15, 2011

NPMA Legislative Day 2011

Holiday Inn Cleveland South
Washington, DC

March 24, 2011

OPMA Training School

Holiday Inn Cleveland South
6001 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131

September 15, 2011

OPMA Training School

Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Letter from the President

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the building and the tenant's individual unit during the previous year.

Lastly, I would like to talk to you about a pest that is consuming national and local media attention: Bed Bugs, Bed Bugs, Blood Suckers, Bed Bugs and Bed Bugs!!! Many of you have been called upon by a reporter or newscaster and asked to be involved in a televised story or answer questions for print. OPMA asks you to please be very careful while conducting these interviews. If you do not feel comfortable answering the media, please direct them to the OPMA. We are here to serve as the voice for our industry. Many interviews only publish and/or televise a fraction of what you state during an interview. Oftentimes after reading your interview or seeing yourself on television you ponder, "that is not what I said," or "my answer was totally taken out of context." Believe me, it has happened to me on more than one occasion. If you are going to conduct an interview: 1) Be confident in your speaking abilities; 2) Be knowledgeable of the subject matter; 3) Only use factual statements; 4) Ask the reporter for the questions in advance; and 5) Never bad mouth a competitor, registered products and/or approved methods used to eradicate a bed bug situation. We, as an industry, are going to be under the microscope for years to come. If we fail to control bed bugs, the finger is going to be pointed at us, regardless of our handicap with current product efficacy issues.

During this current evolution in our industry, you cannot afford to miss OPMA's Winter Meeting & Training School in Columbus on December 6th - 7th. There will be a wealth of knowledge distributed and absorbed during this upcoming meeting. I hope to see you there! For more details visit: www.ohiopma.org.

It has been my pleasure and distinct honor to represent such a passionate organization. It is very satisfying to know that OPMA is a special organization comprised of competitors which all work towards one goal. Our competitive business spirit towards one another has never detoured the relentless dedication and tireless pursuit our leaders endure, "to promote education and ethics for the pest control industry, to foster research and diffusion of knowledge of the industry among its members and to cooperate with the National Pest Management Association and with governmental and educational authorities for the good of the community and industry." - OPMA Mission Statement

It was great to see many of you at the annual National Pest Management Association meeting in October in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Aloha,

Andrew Christman
OPMA President

3 Billion and Counting!

by Rich Kozlovich, Ohio 2000 Pest Management, Chairman, OPMA Editorial Review Committee

Rachel Louise Carson (May 27, 1907 – April 14, 1964) lived her early years in Springdale, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh, and graduated from the Pittsburgh Pennsylvania College for Women (Chatham College) in 1929, later earning a master's degree in zoology from John Hopkins University. She is the author of "Silent Spring" (her 4th book), published in 1962 and considered by some to be one of the most damaging books of the 20th century.

Her claims in this book about decreases in mammal and avian wildlife as a result of DDT were simply wrong. One of the many claims by Carson was that robins were in danger of extinction as a result of continued use of DDT. The truth was that there were more robins in the DDT era than before. And according to Audubon bird charts, there may have been as many as 47 times more. World renowned Ornithologist Roger Tory Peterson stated that the robin was the most abundant bird in North America around the same time that "Silent Spring" came out.

None of the predictions regarding cancer made by Carson ever came true. She herself died of breast cancer on April 14, 1964, at the age of 56, two years after her book came out. She did not live long enough to see real scientists using real science to shred her claims. Unfortunately, this gave impetus to her unscientific statements.

Considered the mother of the modern environmental movement, her radical naturalism became the standard for the movement. She taught that the environment had done all of the shaping and directing on the Earth and it was an act of arrogance for man to attempt to control nature. She is still lauded in various encyclopedias as a thorough, meticulous, highly qualified scientist. Those that have attacked her are presented as self-serving, large chemical companies.

Although the chemical companies did attack her (rightly so), there were also sincere, dedicated scientists such as Dr. J. Gordon Edwards, who had no ax to grind, philosophically or financially, and was just as concerned as Carson about large corporations and their designs on nature. Dr. Edwards was initially thrilled when her book first appeared. As he read "Silent Spring," his enthusiasm waned when he realized that there was information in the book that simply wasn't true. He noted "she was playing fast and loose with the facts." Dr. Edwards, who considered himself to be an environmentalist, believed that "environmentalism didn't need fraud to justify itself."

Over the years, research on Carson's work has shown this to be so. In spite of all the evidence showing that her work should not have been taken seriously, Carson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980.

- Carson advocated and promoted ideas that simply are not true.

- She claimed that DDT was a serious carcinogenic agent that with continued use would eventually impact almost 100 percent of the population.
- She claimed that DDT was causing egg shell thinning and as a result the bird population was decreasing.
- She played fast and loose with the facts and made inappropriate citations.

I was born in 1946, and, like Carson, I grew up in southwest Pennsylvania. I can understand Carson's fears for the environment. The effects on the local environment from pollution emanating from coal mines, steel mills and coke ovens in those days would make anyone concerned. Believe me when I tell you that you haven't seen water pollution until you see a sulfur creek, or air pollution until you have seen an old time coke oven. Having seen and experienced all of this, however, is still no excuse for dishonesty.

Approximately five years ago I became aware of a web site, www.3BillionAndCounting.com, created by Dr. D. Rutledge Taylor, who was making a feature documentary film (this film was shot in the purest and most respected form of artistic film making called vérité style, meaning no script and with interaction between the filmmaker and subject). The film debunks the lies about DDT, and makes clear once and for all the devastation the America's ban on DDT caused worldwide. After posting comments on Doc's web site for a while, he sent me a personal e-mail asking; who are you? We have communicated and shared information ever since. As a result, I was invited to the world premiere of his documentary movie, "3 Billion and Counting," in New York City on September 17th, and I was pleased to find that I was listed separately in the credits as the Pest Control Consultant. I also finally got to meet the Doc and his producer Helene Udy, who lost a lifelong friend because of her stand regarding this film and its message.



Dr. D. Rutledge Taylor, Helen Udy and OPMA's Rich Kozlovich at the movie premiere.

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Welcome New Members!

Mike Reed is with **Absolute Pest Control Services**. He specializes in treating for all pests, except for wildlife (he can connect his clients with someone to help in that arena). The company is located just outside Mansfield, and has three employees. Reed has been working in the pest control industry for 11 years. He joined OPMA to participate in our training, networking, publications and benefits. Visit the company's web site at www.pestallgone.com.

Dwight Holloway is with **Champion Pest & Termite Control, LLC**. The company treats for all pests, including ants, bees, spiders, bed bugs, mice, carpenter ants, roaches, and other invaders. They are located in Pickerington – serving the Greater Columbus area. Dwight has been in the pest control industry for 13 years. He is eager to learn from other OPMA members and to network with industry peers. Visit them online at www.championpestandtermite.com.

Harold Sargent is with **Custodial Service Professionals LLC**. His company was founded as a custodial service in the field of commercial cleaning. This included restaurants, apartments and factories. Over the past couple years, they have become immersed in the eradication of bed bugs. They are located in Troy, and cover an area extending south to Cincinnati, to Columbus to the east, New Castle, Ind., to the west and Lima to the north. Their number of employees fluctuate depending on the project – from 2 to 25. Sargent has been in the cleaning industry for over 10 years and has been fighting bed bugs for two years. He is a retired police officer and former member of the military. He is excited to expand his knowledge through OPMA membership. The company can be visited online at www.professionalcustodians.com.

Scott Mulcahy owns **Defense Pest Control**. The company is located in Solon and serves the Cleveland and Akron areas, and Lorain County. Mulcahy has been in business for six years and works with many residences, corporations and schools. He is certified as a NPMA QualityPro and GreenPro company, and soon will be taking the test for Pro Schools. Mulcahy is excited to join the OPMA, especially because of all of the information we have to offer our members. Visit him at www.defensepestcontrolservice.com.

Amy Johnson is with **Pilot Termite and Pest Control, LLC**. The company does WDO inspections, carpenter ant and termite treatments and also treats for other pests (all but bed bugs). They are located in the Greater Toledo area and are licensed in Ohio and Michigan. They have five employees. The company has been in business since 2002. Amy is eager to network with other OPMA members. Visit them online at www.pilotpest.com.

Chris Andler with **Your Whole House, Inc.** is another new member. The company specializes in destroying pests, and is located in Cincinnati. They also serve parts of Indiana. Chris has been in business for 13 years and is looking forward to opportunities for continuing education, technical information and support, and the benefits that come with NPMA membership.

OPMA Winter Meeting & Training School

The Ohio Pest Management Association's Winter Meeting & Training School is just weeks away – taking place on December 6-7, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North. The Winter Meeting & Training School is designed to draw together suppliers and pest control companies alike, while bringing in industry legislators and regulators in the spirit of bettering the pest management industry as a whole. Meetings like this are your opportunity to forge new personal and business relationships that could last a lifetime.

Again this year the meeting will include a training school technical track with sessions approved for category 7, CORE, 10A, 10B/12, 10C, and 10D recertification credit. There will also be a business management track tackling industry topics from the management perspective. Some of the topics featured include: ownership thinking, an Ohio update, NPMA update with results of bed bug survey, moles and voles, mosquito control with a national perspective, bed bugs, termites, fumigation update, how to save your PCO time and money, and a regulatory update with the year in review and 2011 forecast.

The meeting will start at 3 p.m. on Monday, December 6th. The "Legislative, Regulatory & Political Summit," one of our first gatherings, is a fireside chat dealing with legislative issues facing our industry. This will be followed by dinner and Monday Night Football in the hospitality suite. The meeting will continue all day on Tuesday.

Attendees of the 2010 OPMA Winter Meeting & Training School can now pre-register for a Full Winter Meeting Pass and experience it all. This pass provides admission to every event on our schedule and is a great value. The cost for this is \$185 for OPMA members and includes all sessions, meals and activities. There is also an option for a Training School Only Pass, for those looking to simply get credits for their license recertification. Contact us for information on this.

Don't let this opportunity go to waste! You should have received a mailing on the meeting or an e-mail with detailed information. You can also go to our web site at www.ohiopma.org for more information and to register. Call us at (937) 424-3300, or e-mail questions to info@ohiopma.org. We encourage everyone to have their registrations sent to OPMA HQ by the close of business on December 3, 2010. We will take walk-ins on site! However, there will be no



refunds for cancellations received after December 3, 2010 or for "no shows."

The Crowne Plaza Columbus North is at 6500 Doubletree Avenue. The hotel is located in a business park adjacent to I-71, between I-270 and Ohio 161. It's accessible from Schrock Road and Busch Blvd. To reach the Crowne Plaza Hotel take exit 117 from I-71 and drive west on Dublin Granville Road to Busch Boulevard. Turn right and drive north to Kingsmill Pkwy, then right on Doubletree Avenue. The room rate for OPMA members attending the meeting is \$89 per night.

See you there!

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News from the National Pest Management Association

Minnesota's Peterson Introduces Bill to Protect Producers from Burdensome EPA Regulation

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota recently introduced a bill exempting pesticides applied in accordance with federal pesticide law from Clean Water Act permitting requirements. Below is the press release regarding this bill:

September 30, 2010 - WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin C. Peterson, D-Minn., yesterday introduced H.R. 6273 which amends the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA) to prohibit additional permits for pesticide application when pesticides are applied consistent with FIFRA.

“This legislation provides farmers and ranchers with the safe harbor they deserve in the application of pesticides. The bill relieves producers from a potentially costly regulatory burden that does little if anything to protect the environment,” Peterson said.

In the decades since Congress enacted the CWA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has never issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the application of a pesticide. Instead, EPA has regulated these types of applications through FIFRA, enacted by Congress to control all aspects of pesticide

registration, sales and use. The FIFRA registration process includes stringent requirements for a wide range of environmental, health and safety studies to establish the circumstances under which pesticides can be legally used in the United States.

In January 2009, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a 2006 EPA rule which specifically exempted permitting of certain pesticide applications from the CWA. In National Cotton Council of America, et al., v. United States Environmental Protection Agency the court ruled EPA did not have the authority under the CWA to exempt application of pesticides. The Court's decision marks a pre-emption of FIFRA by the CWA for the first time in the history of either statute.

Chairman Peterson's bill would make clear that producers who are in compliance with the requirements of FIFRA are not subject to Clean Water Act permits.

“The 6th Circuit decision overturned decades of policy and practice with regard to the sufficiency of FIFRA regulation,” Peterson said. “This legislation will make clear that Congress never intended for farmers and ranchers to meet additional permit requirements for pesticide applications under FIFRA.”

Twelve members of the House of Representatives joined Peterson as original co-sponsors of the bill.

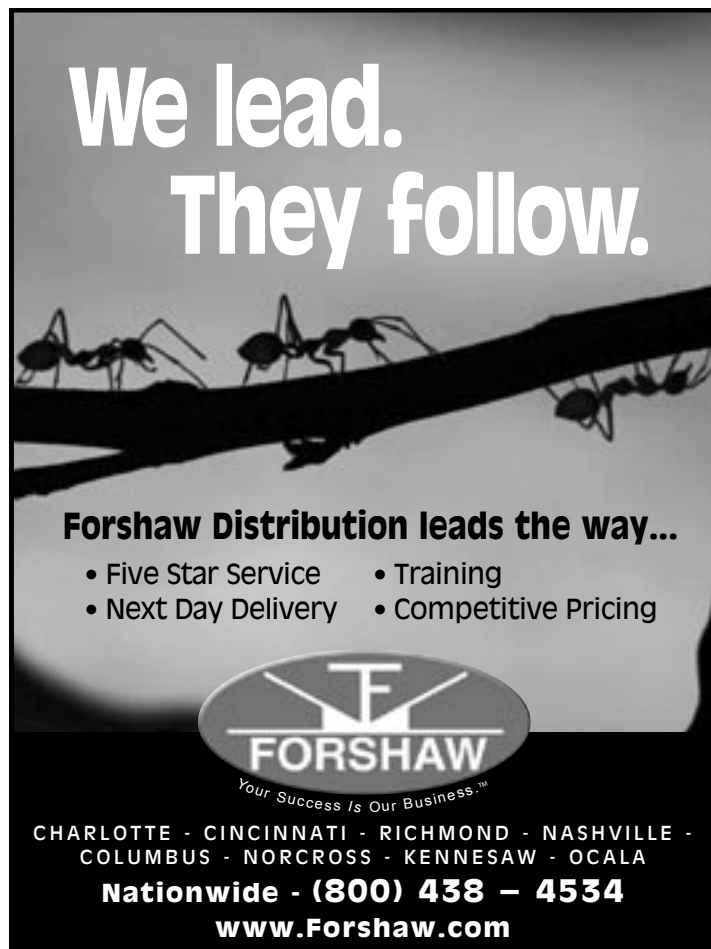
California Governor Schwarzenegger Vetoes School IPM Bill

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last week vetoed legislation requiring all school sites to adopt an integrated pest management (IPM) program as established, administered and enforced by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

Under Senate Bill 1157, the cost of reimbursing DPR for the cost of administering and enforcing the IPM program requirements and for reimbursing local agencies and school districts for the costs of implementing IPM programs at school sites would have been covered by increased pesticide registration fees. Governor Schwarzenegger opposed the manner in which the IPM requirement would have been financed. California presently has a voluntary school IPM law under which DPR promotes and facilitates the voluntary adoption of IPM programs at schools and child daycare facilities. Schwarzenegger's reasoning is as follows:

“This bill requires all school sites in California to adopt an IPM program and requires the DPR to reimburse all local agencies and school districts for the costs of this program.


While currently voluntary in state law, I support the policy of implementing integrated pest management programs at schools to the greatest extent possible. Unfortunately, I cannot support paying for this school program out of an alternative fund at DPR. To do so would start a dangerous precedent for finding unrelated revenue sources to fund, expand, or create K-12 programs outside of the Proposition 98 guarantee.”



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NPMA Launches Enhanced Web site

In September, NPMA introduced a redesigned web site to the industry - www.npmapestworld.org. And, while it has a new look, the real change is in its approach.

They have enhanced the architecture of the site, allowing for a clearer structure, simplified navigation and improved search functions-making finding information easier than before. On top of that, they've introduced several new features, including:

- A comprehensive Information Central, which provides:
 - PestPedia, an extensive database of news articles, fact sheets, Library Updates, and many more resources to help you identify and learn about a particular pest.
 - Direct links to NPMATesting.org.
 - A quick-link directory of technical resources. Please note, the direct link for NPMAforms.net is located in this section. Please replace any existing bookmarks with this link.



- An enhanced Find-a-Pro form that allows you to update your listing online, ensuring that your company is found by your potential customers.
- Archived recordings of the NPMA on Demand webinar series.
- Consolidated information on the legislative and regulatory issues impacting your business. This area is still in development, so please let them know if you have any suggestions!

- A mini-site for PestWorld 2010, where you can find all of the information you need for your upcoming trip.

Over the next few months, they will introduce new features and improved navigation on the site. Your comments and suggestions for strengthening their communications are encouraged and welcome. If you have any questions, please contact rickwalder@pestworld.org.

****Note that your member ID and password have not changed!**

NPMA Announces Bed Bug Pandemic Response Plan

On September 23rd, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) announced its Bed Bug Pandemic Response Plan that will lead the industry's actions toward addressing the growing global bed bug crisis. The initiatives, offered in response to the organization's findings from the recently released Bugs Without Borders global bed bug survey, provide action-steps for pest management professionals who are navigating uncharted territory with this re-emerging pest.

Among the actions listed in the Response Plan are 1) appointment of an industry Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force that will guide training, coordinate research, and encourage public policy initiatives; 2) sponsorship of the National Bed Bug Forum: A Solutions Conference, a January educational program that will provide the most complete educational offerings on bed bugs to date; 3) hosting of a spring Global Bed Bug Summit in Europe that will offer opportunities for sharing best practices; 4) adoption of a new, wide-ranging company bed bug accreditation program; and 5) support for the Congressional Bed Bug Summit in November sponsored by Representatives G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) and Don Young (R-AK) – see page 11 of this newsletter.

“Our industry has not seen a pest generate so many unanswered questions in decades,” noted NPMA

Executive Vice President, Rob Lederer, when unveiling the organization's new bed bug programs. “The recent survey we conducted with the University of Kentucky offered a glimpse of how pervasive the problems with bed bugs are across the world. Now that we have that data, it's time to digest it and use the best and brightest minds in our industry to formulate workable action plans that will enable our professionals to most effectively support society in managing this pest.”

Bob Rosenberg, NPMA's senior vice president, highlighted that appropriate responses for bed bug control need to be coordinated and properly orchestrated. “It will be essential that our industry Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force take a leadership role in all facets of the pest management industry's response, from public policy to education to training. Federal and state officials are all grappling for appropriate responses. Our industry must lead the way toward effective and appropriate guidelines for all those searching for answers.”

Additional information on NPMA's Bed Bug Pandemic Response Plan was available during Pestworld 2010 in Honolulu, HI and the Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force held its first meeting during the event as well.

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U.S. Rep. Schmidt Introduces Bill to Help Ohio Combat Bed Bug Problem

Washington D.C. – September 30, 2010 - Congresswoman Jean Schmidt introduced legislation to help Ohio combat the serious and growing problem of bed bug infestation. Schmidt's bill, which was introduced before the U.S. House of Representatives recessed, will create a pilot program within EPA to give a grant to the State of Ohio and local governments and housing authorities.

"Ohio is at the epicenter of a growing national bed bug problem." Congresswoman Schmidt said. "With this bill, Ohio communities will have more tools to fight this serious and growing health threat," Schmidt added.

The legislation will create a grant to be administered jointly by the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Health to assist housing authorities and local communities in dealing with persistent bed bug infestations. These funds would be targeted toward communities that lack the financial resources to deal with the problem without assistance. Funds from the grant are to be used for bedbug prevention and mitigation, disposal of bed bug infested material, and monitoring bed bug infestation activities.

Schmidt cited recent reports about Ohio and Cincinnati being ranked at or near the top of states and communities with growing bed bug problems, as well as her work with constituents all across the Second Congressional District as her reasons for moving this bill now.

Schmidt has been working on the bed bug issue with the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state and local officials for more than a year. This bill is another step in addressing the needs of Ohio residents in combating the growing bed bug crisis.

"Bed bugs are a serious and growing issue as well as a major health concern," Schmidt said. "We have a lot of work to do on getting a handle on this issue, but I am committed to assisting in whatever way I can to help regain control and mitigate the increase in bed bug infestation."

Congressmen Write to House Leadership about Upcoming Bed Bug Forum

On September 21, 2010, G.K. Butterfield, a Democrat representing the first congressional district of North Carolina, and Don Young, a Republican House Representative from Alaska wrote a joint letter to both House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader John Boehner about the bed bug problem. In the letter, which can be read in its entirety on www.ohiopma.org, the representatives announced that they will be holding a forum on Thursday, November 18, 2010, from 1:30 until 5 p.m. about the growing bed bug problem. The forum will explore the appropriate federal role in helping to more effectively respond to and manage this problem and whether it is necessary for Congress to intervene.

Advocating for our Industry's Future: Debug the Myths

By Aaron Hobbs, President Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE)

It is indeed a very special opportunity to become an advocate and spokesperson for an industry whose products are so vital to virtually all aspects of the health and well-being of our society and environment. As I write this column, I've been RISE president for six weeks. Prior to becoming president, I was the association's director of government affairs and grassroots. I'm pleased to report that during my time at RISE we have begun one of its most exciting and productive efforts, Debug the Myths. If the program is new to you, I urge you to visit our Web site, www.debugthemyths.com.

Debug the Myths has two goals: 1) increasing the positive reputation of our industry; and 2) increasing awareness of pesticide safety while decreasing support of products bans and prohibitions. How are we achieving these goals? We are sharing powerful messages, addressing human health concerns, communicating about the regulatory process and product safety, and describing health and economic benefits. All of these messages are being presented in a factual and transparent way.

Our Debug the Myths messages are built upon a solid foundation of public opinion research that showed

consumers are immediately receptive to messages about pest management from our industry. Even the few who said they prefer not to use pesticides have a threshold for their use - rats and cockroaches topped the list. Consumers also understand the need for products and their use - a pest-free, healthy and safe home - but they do have questions.

We have created a variety of ways for consumers to engage with us and receive our messages both on- and off-line. The www.debugthemyths.com site is the information portal for all of our activities and is where we address common misconceptions and concerns about products, using experts who are leaders in their field. The site also provides an opportunity for fun and collaboration through our blog, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. These digital resources support our proactive outreach activities, including engaging consumers and professionals in grassroots support for continued product availability.

Within our industry many dedicated people and associations are working hard to ensure legislation and regulation impacting our industry is appropriate and based on fact and science. Here at RISE we're continuing the
(continued on page 23)

OPMA PAC Fund

FAQ

What is a PAC (Political Action Committee)?

A PAC is a non-partisan, non-profit organization formed to raise voluntary contributions to use in supporting candidates for state elective offices who share the beliefs and concerns of the members of the PAC. PACs serve to raise and contribute money to the political campaigns of individuals whose platforms agree with the aims of the PAC.

Does the Ohio Pest Management Association (OPMA) have a PAC?

OPMA does have a PAC – the Ohio Pest Management Association Political Action Committee (PAC) is a separate entity established by OPMA. The PAC is formed in accordance with Ohio Law. It is a voluntary, non-profit political organization and is not affiliated with any political party.

How Do I Contribute to the OPMA PAC?

Voluntary contributions to the OPMA PAC must be made in the form of cash, credit cards (Visa or Mastercard) or personal checks. Cash, checks and credit cards from individuals, limited liability companies and partnerships are permitted. Ohio Law prohibits a Political Action Committee from accepting any donations from corporations.

Are Contributions to the PAC Tax Deductible?

No, donations made to OPMA PAC are not tax deductible.

Are there limits on the donations that can be given?

Contributors may donate up to \$10,670 annually to a PAC; however, the contribution must be made by a personal check or credit card. No more than \$100.00 in cash may be contributed to a PAC in a year.

How does OPMA know where to distribute donations?

The OPMA Board meets and decides which state legislators/candidates or statewide office holders/candidates the OPMA PAC should contribute to. When the OPMA PAC provides such individuals financial support, the OPMA PAC helps members have a voice in selecting legislators and statewide office holders who will listen to their concerns and issues.

Where does my donation go once I have submitted it to the OPMA PAC?

The OPMA donations remain in the PAC until the Board meets and decides who to contribute to.

How can I donate to the PAC?

Call the OPMA office at (937) 424-3300, or visit our web site at www.ohiopma.org/pac_fund_faq.php.

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Legislative and Regulatory Update

by Belinda Jones, Legislative Counsel - Capitol Consulting Group

With the legislature on election year recess, the state house has been relatively quiet. Still, given the fact that post-election, the period we call “lame duck,” things can “turn on a dime,” we thought it might be helpful to recap some of the issues we are following on your behalf.

BED BUGS

Every day, it seems, another news story is printed or recorded about the problem with bed bugs in Ohio. Among the myriad of county and city bed bug task forces in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) have teamed up for the Strickland Administration to study the bed bug problems and make recommendations via the Ohio Bed Bug Work Group. The Work Group is comprised of all types of stakeholders including representatives from OPMA and OPARR, as well as representatives from the university sector, state and local agencies, local health departments, low income housing agencies, hotel and lodging organizations and pest control operators. Having had numerous informational meetings, recent meetings have centered on Ohio request for a Section 18 exemption for emergency use of propoxur for bed bugs. Initial response from USEPA has been less than welcoming and, thankfully, the Strickland Administration has not “taken no for an answer.” While the final outcome cannot be predicted at this time, know that Governor Strickland, ODA and others are pressing USEPA to grant some relief to an issue that is fast approaching public health crises in Ohio.

In addition to the work of the Bed Bug Work Group, there are several bed bug bills pending in the Ohio Legislature:

SR 132 BEDBUG CONTROL (Kearney - D; Cincinnati) - To urge the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency to grant an emergency exemption for the use of the insecticide Propoxur to control bedbugs in Ohio.

- Introduced Senate 12/13/09
- Passed Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee 5/12/10
- Pending Senate Action
- OPARR Position: Support

SB 45 VERMIN INFESTATIONS (Kearney - D; Cincinnati) - Regarding vermin infestations in apartments.

- Introduced 2/10/09
- Pending Senate Health, Human Services & Aging Committee
- OPARR Position: Monitoring

HR 182 BEDBUGS (Mallory – D; Cincinnati) - To urge the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency to grant an emergency exemption for the use of the insecticide Propoxur to control bedbugs in Ohio.

- Introduced House 11/30/09



- Passed House Environment & Brownfield Development Committee 5/26/10
- Pending House Action
- OPARR Position: Support

HB 201 BED BUGS (Mallory – D; Cincinnati) - To establish the Bed Bug Awareness, Education, and Prevention Program, to require boards of health to adopt vermin control policies under which bedbug infestations are treated in the same manner as other infestations, and to make an appropriation.

- Introduced House 6/2/09
- Pending House Finance & Appropriations Committee
- OPARR Position: Monitoring

MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY

In addition to bed bug issues, we are also following a bill relative to multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS).

SB 117 CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY MONTH (Miller D – D; Cleveland, Coughlin – R; Cuyahoga Falls) - To designate the month of May as “Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month.”

- Introduced Senate 4/29/09
- Passed Senate Health, Human Services & Aging Committee(s) 10/27/09
- Pending Senate Action
- OPARR Position: Monitoring

CONCLUSION

In addition to the subjects discussed above, OPMA and OPARR are monitoring a variety of water quality issues relative to pesticide and nutrient loading in certain Ohio watersheds. If you would like more information on the issues listed above, please contact Belinda Jones at bjones@capitol-consulting.net.

Bed bugs are the #1 Issue in Our Industry Right Now *(continued from page 1)*

little hitch hikers have lots of opportunities to spread. So much so, that Christman says that as things stand now they are “going to become a fact of life,” much like they were in the ‘30s and ‘40s. “Even with product efficacy, the bed bug problem is not going away anytime soon.”

The New Termite

Everyone agrees that the bed bugs are found everywhere. “Bed bug service is the new termite,” says Althaus. “We are on pace to do well over 1,100 bed bug jobs this year, compared to 2005 when we did two. It has escalated dramatically.”

They are being found anywhere the public goes – schools, hotels, dormitories, health-care facilities, movie theatres, stores, libraries, multi-family and residential homes.

“I’ve been surprised at how many single family dwellings we’ve serviced, particularly this year,” says Althaus. “In past years, it was focused mostly on multi-family housing and university dorms. This year, probably 50 percent of our business or more has been in single family residential environments, across all socio-economic strata. We’re not just in one type of neighborhood. Bed bugs are getting more deeply penetrated into the residential community.”

Christman has also seen them everywhere. “We’re getting the commercial accounts now – we’re talking freestanding commercial buildings – in healthcare, general retail,

warehouses, doctor and dentist offices, etc. It seems like things have exponentially increased in the last three and a half years.”

Alonso says the pest has especially been a curse on the lower income areas where they have less means to treat them. Like the others we talked to, he, too, had not experienced calls for bed bugs until 2003. “Now the overwhelming majority of our work is bed bug related,” he says.

Kmetz agrees. “A few years ago we had zero cases of bed bugs. Over the last few months, 30 percent of our business is bed bug related.”

No magic wand

The methods of treating bed bugs are as diverse as the populations served. And everyone has an opinion about what works best. One thing is for sure, everyone agrees that bed bugs are tough to treat. And it’s labor intensive.

“A majority of the costs to treat bed bugs are from labor, not the product or method itself,” says Christman. “You have to send out two technicians to deal with the bulky furniture like sofas, hide-a-way beds, king size beds, etc.

“The fact is we need products that work faster. It’s tough to tell people that it’s going to take two to three treatments, over several weeks or months before they can get rid of the

(continued on page 15)



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problem. They want it gone today.”

Alonso says that, “until you kill the bed bug or physically remove it, it will feed or reproduce. Everything we do has to be guided by killing this pest.”

At Scherzinger, Althaus offers two programs for treating bed bugs: chemical and heat. “We use conventional pesticides and are very detailed and thorough. We’ll penetrate cracks and crevices including furniture. There is a lot prep work for that service. Our minimum program is four services over an eight week period (and that’s on a mild infestation). Many programs extend beyond that. But you don’t go into a one-bedroom apartment and walk out in five minutes like you do treating for other general pests. You need to plan on being there for a few hours or longer, depending on the infestation. You cannot afford to miss anything.”

In March, Scherzinger got their first heat trailer, and has since bought two more. “We keep those busy and that method is easiest on the consumer. The nice thing about heat is that it kills all life stages of bedbugs. It is a one-time service and has a lot less preparation than the chemical treatment – for example, you may have to open your drawers, but not empty them. The downside, however, is that there is no residual. So you need to be very sure you identify the source of the problem so they are not reintroduced. Heat is also expensive. The equipment is a high capital expense and it’s an all day, two-man job. It makes it difficult for lower income clients to avail themselves to this and for owners of multifamily buildings to build that kind of expense into their economies.”

At Certified Pest Control, Kmetz uses canines for inspection and he treats with strictly heat (120+ degrees Fahrenheit). He says that his customers like the fact that there is less aggravation and preparation for when using heat. While he is not convinced that we should bring back products used years ago, he concedes that, “right now there is no magic wand. We need to give everyone more effective tools in the toolbox. And we qualified professionals to apply and treat for this pest.”

“If a thorough treatment is done and the client cooperates with all of the necessary preparation that is needed, you are going to get control,” says Christman. “But it matters how thorough the treatment is and how well the occupant prepared. There are products on the market that are working well.”

Alonso uses traditional pesticides. “The reality is that the bed bug population has expanded, and we need to control it as quickly as we can, and we need a product with residual effect. One of the real problems is that the bed bug populations are being transferred. We can eliminate an initial infestation, but need to impact further infestation. So we always use products that provide residual control.”

Alonso points out that “while everyone has their own niche and beliefs as to what works, the bottom line is that it boils down to what the customer can afford and what they are

willing to accept. There is room for many treatments. The customer will choose the option, method/technology and pricing that is best for them.”

Kmetz agrees and points out that what the customer will choose will be based on success.

Althaus says that from what he hears, there is not a lot out there in the pipeline to treat these pests. “There is no magic wand in the works. There are a lot of economies involved in bringing a product to market these days and getting it through the regulatory process takes a lot of time and money.”

Do-It-Yourself-ers

Kmetz and Althaus point out that we need a chemical that can be sold to the general public that has desirable effect. Of course the big danger is that people try home remedies or products not labeled or produced for a residential setting. There have been many horror stories of people purchasing something at a lawn and garden or feed store that is intended for agricultural use and they’ve taken it inside and caused serious, unintended consequences. This is especially the case when people cannot afford the professional treatments.

“Many people say the public cannot control bedbugs on their own,” says Alonso. “My theory is different. I say, not only can they, but they better get involved. Many people cannot afford professional treatment, so as an industry we should realize that people will do things themselves, whether we or the EPA tells them they can or cannot. I think we can help them by getting them better products and explaining to them how to correctly do the treatment, rather than tell them they cannot. There’s a whole contingent of people who are DIYers with many things, let alone on an expensive procedure like bedbug control. At Columbus Pest Control we probably sell more product to the public than we perform services. And you have to realize our office is in a lower income area. Customers come in and we explain how to use the product and show them pictures, posters and pamphlets. I feel we’re doing a valuable service to our community by selling them product and giving them proper instruction. Rather than having them going somewhere else and buy something that will not control bed bugs, we think it’s better to point people in the right direction.”

Althaus says, “At the end of the day we need effective chemistry - something that is affordable across all socioeconomic strata to get ahead of the problem. If folks are not going to get services from a professional or have access to an effective product, they will use things that were not intended for bed bug control and end up causing more harm than good.”

Alonso says that there are many methods to try and, instead of shooting arrows at each other in the industry, we should realize that there are different options, and that ultimately

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Bed bugs are the #1 Issue in Our Industry Right Now *(continued from page 15)*

the client will choose what is right for them.

Kmetz points out that despite the options out there, there will always be a majority of the population that has bed bugs and doesn't care, or just lives with them. That may be due to where they come from and what they are used to, where they are living or the fact that they don't want to draw attention to themselves. "They won't be taking precautions to prevent the spread of bed bugs, and that in itself is a huge problem that is really taking a toll on apartment managers. And when you are in a condo or apartment there is no 'majority rules' way of dealing with them. One person can try heat, but someone else may use something that spreads them around to others again."

Althaus adds, "Sometimes people don't report them for fear of eviction or deportation." The fact is that many scenarios can play into how these bugs spread in a multifamily environment. We need to consider this in our approaches."

The EPA

We all know about Ohio's Section 18 request for the use of Propoxur and the fact that the emergency exemption has not been granted. This continues to cause uproar in our industry.

"I am sure that (USEPA) would like to see an alternative product made available that they can embrace," says Althaus. "While they have broadened the label on some products in the market, those products have not been as effective as Propoxur. It's frustrating that we have research, such as from Mike Potter in Lexington, which clearly demonstrates that Propoxur is the superior molecule available to kill all life stages of this target pest and this request is not being granted. The idea that we have products that can take care of this pest, which is growing exponentially year to year, and that we have the professionals with the know-how to go out and take care of this pest, but we're unwilling to give them the tool to do it strikes me as tragic."

Alonso was featured in a CBS national news story about the bed bug problem, and he mentioned Propoxur in the story and the difficulty finding it these days. "I don't know of any data anywhere that shows that the use of Propoxur is problematic. This is a product that has been used since the early '60s. Yet the EPA says it is dangerous. I've offered to let (USEPA) come to Columbus and set up their equipment where we are doing treatments so that they can get real-world data, but they refuse and keep claiming the product is dangerous. It's unbelievable that they are turning a blind eye on what people are doing to control bed bugs and are slamming a product like Propoxur."

"One of the problems we are having is trying to understand the EPA. They talk about integrated pest management procedures like vacuuming and encasing your mattresses – and all that is well and good, but it doesn't kill a bed bug. Bed bugs are breeding and we need to do something to reverse the trend. We need to kill them."

"We need a chemical that we can sell to the public that has effect," agrees Kmetz.

Education – does it help or hurt?

Because of the many stories out there about bed bugs, the general public is becoming aware that it's a problem. But does all of this awareness educate the public or cause panic?

"Both," says Christman. "At first, we desperately needed to educate the public. But now so much of the publicity has caused panic. A lot of the calls I receive are from people just wanting us to do an inspection to tell them if they have bed bugs or not. We're getting more and more of those types of calls."

"There's no doubt that the public needs to be educated," says Alonso. "But they are confused. They don't know a lot about bed bugs because it's a new phenomenon to many people. There's also a lot of bad information out there and people selling remedies that don't work. Unfortunately it takes time and money for the consumer to determine what tool is best."

"People don't care about this problem until it happens to them," says Kmetz. "You can educate all you want, but until people get bed bugs, they don't always pay attention."

Althaus acknowledges that educating the public is important in that they understand the nature of the beast to help them prevent infestation of their homes, but, as far as educating the public, he says, "The only way I've ever seen knowledge kill a bug is if someone used the book they were reading to kill it!"

"Still, I don't want to belittle education. And certainly we need to educate PMP's, but I think that, by and large, the industry does a good job nationally and at state levels in educating PMP's about controlling pests. Is there a place for education? Yes, without question. But it doesn't kill insects unless it's in the hands and minds of a pest management professional that is there to provide a control service. The general public knowing a lot about the insect isn't going to kill the bed bugs, and it doesn't matter what level of precaution you take, you always run the risk that you'll get a hitchhiker on you that gets introduced into your home and is the genesis of a problem at your property."

Emotional stress

Kmetz points out that one of the things people don't realize until they get bed bugs is the emotional toll that having them takes on a family. There is the embarrassment of having them, the stress and fear of having them bite their family, being afraid to sleep in one's bed, and the work that goes along with getting rid of them. Kmetz had one client call off the wedding with his fiancée after seeing how poorly she handled the situation of having bed bugs, which were found in their apartment just one week before their wedding.

Bridezilla aside, he says from the PMP perspective, "(Killing

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Industry Communications – OPMA & NPMA helps members stay on top of business and industry issues with regular member communications.

- www.npmapestworld.org – Access the Members Only areas of the NPMA Web site, featuring articles, networking opportunities, industry news, and more.
- *ePestWorld* – NPMA sends members the latest industry news through ePestWorld, a weekly e-newsletter.
- *PestWorld Newsletter* – A bi-monthly publication, offers in-depth analysis of the pest management industry, as well as business tips and techniques.
- *The Standard* – OPMA's quarterly publication containing news and information about the association and its members.
- www.ohiopma.org – This website connects OPMA members with consumers and with each other.

Training Resources at The Bug Store – Pest Posters, the Second Edition of the NPMA Field Guide to Structural Pests, the NPMA-33 forms and consumer-oriented brochures can be found at the NPMA The Bugstore.

Pest Gazette Consumer Newsletter – A quarterly, four-page newsletter that highlights seasonal pests and can be personalized to include your company's information to market your services.

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- **FREE Electronic Check Recovery Service - ChecXchange™** – Through NPMA's partnership with Kinetic Products Group/Money Transfer Systems, Inc (MTSI) you can have the FREE electronic check recovery service.
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Bed bugs...#1 Issue *(continued from page 16)*

bed bugs) is the most rewarding service I've ever provided to people. We take them from utter chaos back to reality. They are so happy to be able to sleep in their beds again."

How can the OPMA help?

"It's important to link people with good companies and to advise them to contact a professional. Right now, it's not a do-it-yourself kind of job," says Kmetz.

"The more voices that are raised – especially with the OPMA and OPARR members and leadership, the better," says Althaus. "Many members have been generous with their time in getting with legislators and regulators engaging in dialogues with a broad range of agencies, or serving on task forces and going to meetings with representatives from EPA. There is no lack of activity on this level. There are many voices asking for help and for solutions. But from a political perspective, at the state and federal level, we need to make our voices heard about what we're willing to accept and what we're NOT willing to accept. Start contributing to a PAC fund at the state level and support candidates that support our industry. Be engaged in the political process. Help to encourage those people that are supporting our efforts."

Christman points out that in the near future the OPMA will be putting on a lot of training geared toward bed bugs and bed bug control. "Our members can't be trained enough on the proper treatments, what to expect from your customers and what they expect from you. We will also have a separate training on how to prevent them."

Christman mentioned a web site that he and others have voluntarily put together with information on bed bugs – you can find it at www.centralohiobedbugs.org.

Bottom Line

Christman says the right combination of product efficacy, proper preparation and education is needed so that people can recognize the problem quickly and get it under control.

Althaus agrees, "We need to have a relatively safe, effective, economical product brought to market or made available to the market on a broad basis. And once the product is developed and delivered into the marketplace, there needs to be a concerted effort to educate the public on the proper way to use that product and to apply it in a manner that is going to be effective and to protect those that you want to protect from the bed bugs. It does no good to kill the people while trying to kill the bed bugs."

Says, Alonso, "We started seeing the bed bugs and attacking them in 2003 with all of these different methods, ideas and actions and guess what? – The bed bug population is outpacing us. We're not winning the war. It's getting worse by the week, month and year, and they are spreading quickly throughout the country. And we have the USEPA dragging their feet. On behalf of the public, we need to kill bed bugs and kill them quick. This has gotten way out of control. We HAVE to get control."



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Bugs Without Borders:

Bed Bug Survey - Executive Summary

Earlier this year, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) and the University of Kentucky surveyed nearly 1,000 pest control companies both in and outside the United States about a range of issues relating to bed bugs. The findings suggest a growing global pandemic that necessitates urgent action by stakeholders. The full study was released in the September issue of PestWorld, NPMA's bi-monthly magazine.

Among the findings, you will note:

- 95% of professional pest control companies have encountered bed bug infestations in the past year. Prior to 2000, only 25% of U.S. survey respondents encountered a bed bug infestation.
- 91% of professional pest control companies believe the incidence of bed bugs in the U.S. is increasing.
- 76% of pest professionals in the U.S. believe bed bugs are THE most difficult pest to treat.
- Respondents report 99% of clients who have had bed bugs were "upset and concerned" and 77% said such customers were "very upset and concerned."

We've included more of the results from the study below. . .

Many respondents had opinions as to why bed bugs are increasing – most often mentioned were increased travel, more immigration, changing pest control products and methods, and resistance to available insecticides. . . and the loss of once-available, more effective insecticides. Here are a few of the other reasons/factors mentioned in the study as contributing to the resurgence in bed bugs:

- Denial/lack of incident reporting by tenants, workers, landlords, hotel or business management, universities, etc.
- Economic expansion in developing countries, enabling more people (living with bed bugs) to travel
- Global health officials focusing their efforts on disease vectors rather than bed bugs
- Changes in indoor treatment for disease-carrying mosquitoes, including reliance on pyrethroids and short-lived ULV applications that are less effective against bed bugs

Because they can 'hitchhike' from one place to another, bed bugs can materialize almost anywhere. The greatest percentage of bed bugs being encountered in the U.S. are in apartments and condominiums (mentioned by 89%), single family homes (by 88%), and hotels/motels (67%). Several also said they've found bed bugs in college dormitories (mentioned by 35%), homeless shelters (31%), nursing homes (24%), office buildings (17%), hospitals (12%) and primary/secondary schools (10%). When U.S. firms were surveyed a few years ago, half as many respondents found them in hospitals and schools and less than 1% mentioned finding them in office buildings.

Other 'atypical' places where U.S. respondents reported finding bed bugs included public transportation (by 9%), laundries (5%) and movie theaters (4%) – as well as in churches, day cares, libraries, summer camps, hostels, furniture and retail stores, restaurants, locker rooms, dressing rooms, prisons, fire and police stations, moving vans, ambulances, funeral homes and doctor's offices.

Respondents were split regarding whether there was a correlation between bed bugs and poverty. In the U.S., for example, 55% of respondents said that "problems tend to be worse among the poor," while 45% said, "all citizens are equally affected." Historically, the poor have suffered the most from bed bugs and this shows signs of repeating – individuals from lower socio-economic groups often cannot afford to hire a professional to handle and infestation, nor are they as willing to discard infected items.

The emotional strain of living with bed bugs should not be taken lightly. . . Dismissing the gravity of bed bug resurgence on the basis that these pests are unproven disease vectors ignores the pain, suffering and emotional toll inflicted on their victims.

More than half (51%) of U.S. respondents estimated that 50% or more of their customers tried to treat the problem themselves before calling a professional, giving way to ineffective and dangerous measures.

In the U.S., 76% found bed bugs more difficult to control than ants, cockroaches and termites.

Bottom line – infestations are showing up in all the same places they did years ago – from poor house to penthouse, school to surgical suites, cubicles to clothing stores. Perhaps most unsettling about 21st century bed bugs from a societal standpoint is that we are in uncharted waters. There will be new challenges this time around, including unprecedented movement of people from across town and around the globe; more clutter and belongings in which bugs can hide; less potent insecticides for both household and professional use; and a mindset today that when someone is harmed they should sue.

Bed bugs are increasing across the globe and without bias for highly developed or currently developing nations. The crux of bed bug management, however, remains hard work, public education, and constant vigilance to prevent or detect infestations in the early stages.

For the full study, go to www.npmapestworld.org.

Michael F. Potter is a professor and urban entomologist at the University of Kentucky. Bob Rosenberg and Missy Henricksen are Senior Vice President and Vice President of Public Affairs, respectively, for the National Pest Management Association. Max McKenzie and Megan Potter were also instrumental in compiling and conveying the outcomes of the study.

Insights on the August 18th Ohio Bed Bug Task Force Meeting with Federal Agencies

By Lonnie Alonso, Chairman - Ohio Professional Applicators for Responsible Regulations (OPARR)

While there were some disappointments, there was one positive note, ALL of the comments made by participants of the Ohio Dept of Health Bed bug workgroup were very passionate about the fact that we have a severe problem with bed bugs and that we need an effective residual pesticide to begin to reduce the bed bug populations and gain control to stop the increasing trend.

I would like to offer a special thanks to Susan Jones for her comments stating the facts of the problems throughout Ohio and the need for effective, low cost product(s). Susan was great, and we applaud her efforts and support. All of the agencies reported having increased time and financial demands on their agencies due to the bed bug outbreak, and asked how and where they would get funding to provide additional agency services.

The meeting was relatively smooth, with few antagonistic arguments, but also without much being accomplished. I suppose in my opinion the major accomplishment was that the Federal representatives were able to hear from the local folks here in Ohio about the severity of the problem and its negative impact citizens in Ohio, especially the lower income and elderly, and its impact on the budgets

of social service agencies and health agencies. Another specific plus is the fact that our industry continues to be positively involved; and is respected as a player in trying to accomplish a resolution to this bed bug problem.

It was very disappointing when each Federal agency gave a report or overview of their function and role. The report presented by USEPA barely noted there was a bedbug issue and a Section 18 request from Ohio.

Another huge disappointment was the fact that the agenda promised that we would have 5-7 minutes. As the meeting went on and on, many of the state, county and local agencies got to make their statements, some took more time than others, and some took less. But when it came to our time, I was requested to take one minute, and one minute was given for Billy Kirchner. I went quickly to the front and used my prepared outline based on Gene Harrington's and Bob Rosenberg's recommendations. I took the highlights of my comments and was able to get through all of the major points, including six questions that I posed directly to the reps from USEPA. I sat down and Mike Potter made a comment in support of my statements and explained further his opinions based on his work and research with bed bugs. Thanks to Mike for his support! Of course, there

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Dr. William B. Jackson (1926 - 2010)



Dr. William B. Jackson of Chicago, Ill., formerly of Bowling Green, Ohio, passed away on July 15, 2010. He was a scientist, teacher, husband, father, and grandfather. Over the years he served as a mentor to many people, at home and abroad, who found their way into his circle of influence.

He was born in Milwaukee, Wisc., on September 10, 1926, and the hours he spent collecting insects and watching birds in his early years led to him being president of his high school nature club and earning the rank of Eagle Scout. He earned his BA and MA degrees from the University of Wisconsin, and his ScD in vertebrate ecology from the School of Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he was involved in groundbreaking research on the ecology of urban rats. Several years as a commissioned officer in the Public Health Service were followed by two years in Micronesia with wife Shirley studying rodent populations for the Pacific Science Board/National Research Council. This was just the start of his international life – he ultimately visited and worked on all continents, except Antarctica, as well as many islands - notably Bikini and Enewetak Atolls where he studied the effects of nuclear testing on rat and bird populations.

Upon returning from Micronesia in 1957, Bill found his home base at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He served in many roles at BGSU including Professor of Zoology, Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Director of the Environmental Studies Center, which he established. He trained over 100 graduate students – 60 international students – in basic and applied ecology, with many conducting their research at the National Wildlife Center in Colorado. Many went on to hold important

positions in industry and government at home and abroad. Before his retirement in 1985, he was named “Distinguished University Professor of Biological Sciences.”

Recognized as a world expert in rodents and birds, he was a very active consultant, assisting the US Department of Wildlife Services, the US Atomic Energy Commission, the US Agency for International Development, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Boston’s Central Artery (“Big Dig”) Project, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as many US and international foundations and companies. Over the course of his career he published over 200 technical and popular papers and book chapters, and lent his expertise to “60 Minutes,” the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, National Geographic, Time, and others. In 1995, he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for “superior efforts to enhance human-wildlife relationships” by the Jack Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage at Utah State University.

Bill was a member of Sigma Xi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. He was past chairman of the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the Executive Director for 20 years of Pi Chi Omega, the national honorary fraternity of pest control professionals supporting the science of pest control.

Bill shared his love of nature and travel with his family, and he will be missed very much. He is survived by his wife Shirley, his children Beth, Mark and Craig and their spouses, and his grandchildren Kathleen and Elizabeth. A celebration reception of his life took place this past August in Chicago. Condolences or thoughts may be shared at: www.wbj.last-memories.com.

Ohio Bed Bug Task Force Meeting *(continued from page 20)*

was the support and comments from Matt Beal (ODA). I know we all are thankful for ODA’s role in this matter.

There was an exchange about what the letter from USEPA Director Jackson (in reply to Gov. Strickland) really meant. EPA reps insisted that it was NOT a NO answer. Some in the room commented that based on their reading of the letter, they interpreted it to mean NO, and others shook their heads in agreement. EPA reps commented that it was still an open request; however they could not be pinned down to a time frame for acceptance or denial.

Regarding the Section 18 request and EPA label language, I commented that if the label is made such that it will not allow treatment in necessary areas to provide for effective results, then it was not a worthwhile option. Matt Beal has agreed to that in the past, and did so again at this meeting. As a matter of fact, that has been one of our major concerns all along. . . we can’t reduce or water down label directions so much that it won’t be effective, and therefore will not be of help to control bed bugs. Furthermore, doing so

would only add to ODAs problems of enforcement on use according to the label.

There was a lot of talk about education, websites brochures, 800 telephone numbers etc. In other words, everyone (agencies) is looking for help. Our point is this; if we started killing bed bugs and reducing populations, everything else will fall in line and pressures would be relieved.

I was startled at the number of agencies in Ohio present, and the number of people that they serve. . . and in my own mind I wonder how in the world are we as taxpayers going to continue to afford all of these social programs!

There was considerable talk and debate about the 25B products. This was good conversation to open the eyes of those in attendance about the process (or lack of testing and efficacy), and that folks are spending a lot of money and not getting results, and little to no info on exposure or potential for hazard from USEPA.

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Ohio Bed Bug Task Force Meeting *(continued from page 21)*

Matt Beal commented on pesticide misuse by Do-It-Yourselfers and concern for continued or increase in misuse by the public. Matt also stated the need to begin to collect data on exposure from the use and misuse of products not registered for bed bug control.

By William Kirchner, Chairman of the Board - Ohio Pest Management Association (OPMA)

Most state agencies and groups made a very good case to EPA in regards to the human suffering and pesticide misuse issues that are starting to pop up. I hope that EPA got more of a real-world taste of exactly how people are suffering from this. The state agencies again stated that they have had divert monies that were not budgeted to provide for bed bug control and mentioned the increased funding that will be needed in the future.

The US Agencies pretty much showed that they are on the IPM (with an emphasis on no/low pesticide use) train to provide healthy homes/apartments to federally subsidized properties (I wonder where all the fed money for steam and heat treating are going to come from). So it appears that any government housing agencies may be limiting chemical treatments in lieu of providing healthy facilities.

The EPA still seemed to have the same position as at NPMA legislative day and that the possible risk is way too high. They also have been waiting for new products in the

pipeline, but nothing major to report, still!

Since inception of the FQPA, it costs \$125 million to register a product that only has a ten year patent; business models do not support new registrations. We reiterated to them that the problem had been eliminated through older chemistry and they need to look at those compounds.

When asked, they are using FQPA guidelines for exposures which include a 100 fold safety factor for children. However, because they are missing a data set from the manufacturer (they would not elaborate on exactly what that data was) they have added an additional 10x factor taking it to 1000x. No wonder they say the possible exposure levels are too high! Lonnie had volunteered that the EPA come to Ohio, make some applications, and get actual data for evaluation. She said that they had (a) house that had been treated and she would be looking at those numbers in the future. EPA also wanted misuse data forwarded to also help them come up with a decision. (We reminded them about the Kilgore Superfund issue we had a few years back).

If they want data on Propoxur maybe they should look at Raid Ant & Roach which had Propoxur in it for how many years? Look at any old registrations and check states/national poison control agencies for complaints/possible exposures.

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3 Billion and Counting! *(continued from page 5)*

The research that went into this film was a massive undertaking. Oftentimes we will read that there were over 9,000 pages of testimony in the DDT hearing presided over by Judge Sweeney. The Doc managed to find the original documents that have been stored all of these years at the National Archives. He knows they were the originals because he cut the wrappings himself – they had never been opened. He will be posting many of these 9,000 pages online along with all of the comments made by Judge Sweeney. . . and I believe that there were 90 pages in that ruling. That testimony makes it very clear that the ban on DDT was not a scientific decision, but a political decision made by the first director of the Environmental Protection Agency, William Ruckelshaus, which he later admitted.

The “stars” in the film included: Doctors Elizabeth Whelan and Gill Ross of the American Council on Science and Health; Dr. Paul Driessen, author of, “Eco-Imperialism, Green Power, Black Death;” Richard Tren, a Director of Africa Fighting Malaria and co-author of, “The Excellent Powder: DDT’s Political and Scientific History;” Dr. Dennis Avery of the Hudson Institute; Roy Innes and a number of his associates from C.O.R.E. (some of whom have suffered from malaria themselves and lost family members to

malaria). All participants outline the real story about the devastation caused by the unscientific ban on DDT.

Dr. D. Rutledge Taylor dedicated this film to Dr. Edwards, who single-handedly kept hope alive for millions in the third world by having the courage to be the lone voice in the wilderness in favor of keeping DDT, and that it might not fall prey to the POPS treaty.

Dr. Edwards suffered personal attacks for years because of his unbending stand on DDT, lecturing on this subject for the rest of his life, helping prove that all the claims about DDT were lies. Without his efforts, the fate of so many innocent women and children would have been sealed. Dr. D. Rutledge Taylor states, “It is why I dedicated this film to him/his tireless efforts. . . He simply could/would not stop, as his wife says in the end of the film, “you just don’t give up on something you KNOW is right.” I have much gratitude for this man. To me, HE should get the Nobel Peace Prize.”

What I find ironic is that Dr. Edwards, who can be credited with saving an untold number of lives because of his stand on DDT, is mostly unknown. Yet Rachel Carson is lauded, praised, and even has schools named after her, in spite of the fact that hundreds of millions have suffered or died as a result of her book.

Dr. Edwards was among that group of scientists who drank DDT every day for a year to prove that there would be no detrimental effects. He finally died at the age of 84 from a heart attack while climbing his favorite mountain in Glacier National Park.

In this feature documentary film, Dr. D. Rutledge Taylor addresses all the claims, from cancer to bird shell thinning and more. Please see it when you get the chance. This is a film that should be seen by every regulator and legislator, along with their staffs. Her pseudo-science ideologies are still taught in high schools this very day! My hope is that this film will rectify that.

Ohio Bed Bug Task Force *(cont’d from pg 22)*

Mike Potter also made the comment that we would be delusional to think that at this time bed bugs can be eliminated without effective chemistry. We had also asked them to get some efficiency studies going on 25B products, because of the advertising the manufacturers are promoting.

I had mentioned to them that in the FQPA Subtitle C Public Health Insecticides (Section 230) (a), “The Administrator shall consider the risk and benefits of public health pesticides separate from the risks and benefits of other pesticides.” I am not a lawyer, but to me the risk cups should be thrown out and start at ground zero. I think formulators should look into this area. If EPA won’t budge on this then maybe we have to look at changing legislation or legislators to get something done.



Richard Tren and Rich Kozlovich at the movie premiere.

Debug the Myths *(continued from page 11)*

challenging, but necessary, work of engaging consumers and industry at the grassroots through our Debug the Myths effort. Your individual participation is also necessary! I urge you to reach out to your state and local elected officials and to your customers to let them know www.debugthemyths is a resource for answering their questions about pesticide benefits and safe use. Let us know what you think of the new web site and contact Karen Reardon, kreardon@pestfacts.org, for printed materials or to learn what’s next as we Debug the Myths.

Follow our Debug the Myths progress at www.debugthemyths.com, Facebook/[debugthemyths](https://www.facebook.com/debugthemyths), on Twitter [@debugthemyths](https://twitter.com/debugthemyths), and on YouTube at [debugthemyths](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

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