

THE GNOPCA NEWS

NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT



DAVID BILLIOT
PRESIDENT

BILLIOT PEST CONTROL

Greetings GNOPCA Members! As we approach midyear, I would like to challenge every member to get involved in some capacity. Our association is only as strong as its members, and it stays strong with greater member participation. If you have ideas or questions about ways to contribute, I encourage you to reach out to me. I can be contacted by email at david@billiotpest.com. I am looking forward to finishing the year strong!



It is the mission of the Greater New Orleans Pest Control Association (GNOPCA) to adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards of the pest control industry. This will be reflected in all aspects of the work performed by our member companies.

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PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT



ERNIE ESTEVE

BILLIOT PEST CONTROL

Recently, our very own Ernie Esteve was featured as PCT's Termite Technician of the Year. Below, we include an excerpt of this article, but to see the entire story, go to: <https://www.pctonline.com/article/celebrating-40-years-of-helping-others/> Ernie Esteve has spent the last 40 years in the pest control industry, always focused on helping people. He has also been a volunteer fire fighter at two fire departments. Through this training, he has become a safety expert and is often seen speaking at the GNOPCA/NOMTRCB Termite Academy and other recertifications.

Ernie answered a help wanted ad from Billiot Pest Control, New Orleans, and began working there in 1982. He immediately immersed himself as much as he could and read every available resource on pest control. He is always learning, and after 20 years with Billiot he became an Associate Certified Entomologist (ACE) through the ESA certification program. He initiated internal technician training classes at Billiot and continues to teach to this day.

In his spare time, you can find Ernie spreading Christmas cheer by playing Santa Claus. Around this time of the year, he begins growing out his beard to play the part. He and his wife of 42 years have three adult children, two boys and a girl. He also has four grandkids, two of whom live with him. He has been active in Boy Scouts where he instructed badges on insect study, firemanship, first aid, and emergency preparedness. Both on the job and with his family, Ernie is always helping people. Congratulations Ernie, the honor is well deserved.

NAME THAT BUG

For this specimen, please provide the common or scientific name of this insect.

Submit your guess by using the QR code or link provided below by 7/31/23 to be entered into a raffle. The winner will be announced at the next membership meeting.



forms.office.com/g/vz1t94tbJb



**Visit GNOPCA's website for recertification information
and to become a member: www.gnopca.com**

PEST FEATURE

LOVEBUGS

Lovebugs, *Plecia nearctica*, are members of the bibionid fly family and are sometimes referred to as March flies because of their appearance in the spring time around the month of March. Lovebugs get their name because they are often found in mating pairs. Despite rumors, these are native to the United States and were not an escaped laboratory experiment gone wrong.

The adult flies are small, black, and velvety with red on the top of the thorax. They lay their eggs on the soil surface under decaying vegetation. Larvae require adequate moisture, decayed vegetation for food, and warm soil temperatures. Pupation occurs on top of the soil and lasts seven to nine days.

The flies emerge often in large numbers and can be a significant nuisance. They are attracted to highways and will spatter on the hood and windshield of cars. This can reduce visibility causing unsafe driving conditions. Additionally, the body fluids are slightly acidic and are able to etch automobile paint. To prevent damage, do not allow them to remain on the vehicle more than several days. Wash them off by soaking for five minutes followed by scrubbing within 15-20 minutes.



If you would like to nominate someone for a PMP Spotlight, Employee of the Year or speaker for a meeting, use the QR code below to reach the nomination form.

PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT



SHAUN BROADLEY

NOMTRCB

Shaun Broadley has been with NOMTRCB for 7 years as a member of the termite division. In addition to his duties conducting annual termite inspections, he contributes his artistic talents in many projects. His large wood cutout insects were constructed for BugFest and were seen decorating the Tea Room at last year's Symposium. Additionally, he built the Tiny Termite House, an intricate to-scale house model that was destroyed by hundreds of thousands of termites which was featured by PPMA.



THE IMPORTANCE OF READING THE LABEL

A pesticide label is most important way a manufacturer communicates with the consumer. The pesticide label tells the consumer the active ingredients, how to use the pesticide safely and effectively, how to store the product, how to provide first aid, how to dispose of the product, and much more. Following the label's instructions **is the law**.

Before purchasing the pesticide, read the label to make sure your target pest is listed on the label. Find the product that will assist you in solving the pest problem. Each product is extensively tested to find the rate of use and target pests. The label tells the consumer at what rate and how to apply the pesticide. Off label use is illegal and is often ineffective.

Pay special attention to the warnings and personal protective clothing and equipment listed for use. Follow all directions in order to protect the user from exposure while applying the pesticide. The label lists the type of clothing and other protective gear that is mandated for use. It is the responsibility of the employer to provide the personal protective equipment listed on the label. The goal is to keep everyone safe from pesticide exposure and to use the pesticide in an effective manner. For more information about pesticide labels, visit the Environmental Protection Agency's pesticide label website at www.epa.gov/pesticide-labels.



NAME THAT BUG WINNER: DAMIAN MANUEL



Last newsletter, Damian Manuel from Absolute Defense Environmental Services wrote in and correctly identified the Name that Bug as a robber fly. Damian Manuel, Licensed Pest Control Operator of Absolute Defense Environmental Services of Louisiana, began his endeavor into the pest control industry in 2012 while working as the Product Development Chemist and later became the Director of Operations at a major insecticide manufacturer in Houston, TX. What started as a father/son conversation in the Fall of 2000 turned into a prayer and a plan that progressed to more of a passion and a desire to leave the company to pursue his dream of owning his own pest management business. It was in July of 2015 that Damian started Absolute Defense Environmental Services in Rosharon, Texas.

After several successful years of business, Damian decided that it was time to return to his home state to help serve the community that played a leading role in his personal and professional growth and expand his business. It was in March of 2022 that Damian formed Absolute Defense Environmental Services of Louisiana in Lutcher, Louisiana. During his short time in operation, Damian has secured contracts with local Parish entities as well as numerous residential customers.

Damian, native of Lutcher, Louisiana, has a thirst for knowledge and a commitment to service. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Xavier University of Louisiana and a Master of Engineering Management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Damian continues to attend as many conferences and training courses as he can to learn as much about the pest control industry and perfect his craft.

NOLA Bug Fest 2023

FREE ADMISSION * OCTOBER 14, 2023 * 2100 LEON C. SIMON, NOLA 70122

*10 am to 3 pm, Over 40 exhibits, live insects, crafts
and fun for all ages*



WWW.NOLA.GOV/MOSQUITO

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

President: David Billiot - Billiot Pest Control,
david@billiotpest.com

Vice President: Joe Martin - Terminix,
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Secretary: Lauren Addison - Pied Piper Pest Control,
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Past President: Chris Caire - DA Exterminating,
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Treasurer: Frank J. Fasone - Carrollton Pest Control,
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Sgt. At Arms: Don LeBlanc - Leblanc's Pest Control,
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layne@bugmanonline.com

Ira Sommers - DA Exterminating,
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GNOPCA
Suggestion
Box

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Due to a lack of participation, we are reassessing the events we host. If you have feedback, please email: gnopca@nola.gov

We are creating a survey to better assess interests and needs of the society. Stay tuned and please participate in this survey when it is released



Golf Tournament
Save the Date:
October 26



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 12, 2023: NOMTRCB Recertification (in-person)

July 31-August 3, 2023: National Environmental Health Association
National Meeting in New Orleans

September 14, 2023: NOMTRCB Special Topic with Dr. Mark
Janowiecki "Stick Insects of the US"

September 20-22, 2023: GNOPCA/NOMTRCB Rodent Academy

October 3-5, 2023: GNOPCA/NOMTRCB Termite Academy

October 14, 2023: New Orleans BugFest

October 17-20, 2023: Pest World (Honolulu, Hawaii)

October 25, 2023: GNOPCA Recertification (in-person)

November 5-8, 2023: Entomological Society of America
(National Harbor, Maryland)

December 12, 2023: NOMTRCB Recertification (in-person)

December 13, 2023: NOMTRCB Fumigation Recertification (in-person)

Join or renew your membership at
www.gnopca.com/2023dues
to obtain membership benefits.

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www.gnopca.com

