

THE GNOPCA NEWS

NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT



DAVID BILLIOT
PRESIDENT

BILLIOT PEST CONTROL

Hello GNOPCA Members! It has been my pleasure to serve as your president thus far as we move past the halfway point of 2023 and approach 2024. The association has several events scheduled in the coming weeks, which are listed below in the newsletter. I encourage you to take the time to read and stay informed about what's happening in our area. The newsletter is a result of a lot of hard work and time to ensure everyone is updated on news and events in our industry. I am excited to see all of you at our next membership meeting!

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.



**MANTIDFLY,
MANTISPIDAE**

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IN MEMORIAM JOHN DODGEN

John Dodgen passed away July 18, 2023 leaving behind his wife of 36 years and large family. A longtime resident of Marrero, John worked for Billiot Pest Control for the last 32 years. John had a passion for sports throughout his entire life with a special place in his heart for the LSU Tigers. John's love for playing sports continued into his mid 40's with playing in numerous men's softball leagues. His love for golf grew over the years as he would continue to play in golf tournaments with his friends and family until his last days. John's love for the game of baseball led him to start coaching his kids and many others through the years while being widely known as "Coach Squeek."

John always had a story to tell, so much so, he would even tell some multiple times and be just as excited to tell them. He never met a stranger and his smile and energy were infectious to everyone in his presence. John's biggest accomplishment was being a proud husband and father, a loving grandfather and an extremely loyal friend. He is deeply loved and will be missed by everyone who were fortunate enough to know him.



NAME THAT BUG

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

Submit your guess by using the QR code or link provided below by 10/31/23 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

IN MEMORIAM: DAN BURCHFIELD



It is with great sadness GNOPCA reports the passing of Dan Burchfield, retired owner of RPC Pest Control in Hammond LA (formerly Redd Pest Control Hammond LA) age 75 on July 15, 2023.

Dan worked more than 40 years in the industry. In 1985, Dan and his wife moved to Hammond to start his own business: Redd Pest Control. He was a member of the Louisiana Pest Management Association and served a term as its president. Dan was also active with the Hammond Kiwanis Club, playing a major role in the Tour de Tangipahoa Bike Ride. He also served as a Deacon at Westside Baptist Church in Ponchatoula. Dan was an avid golfer, and also enjoyed hiking and camping. He was a friend to all and everyone that knew him loved him. Dan had been fighting ALS for three years. He is survived by his wife, Nettie Lynn Ingram Burchfield, and his loving family.

PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Tony is the delivery driver for Vesperis and has been with Vesperis (and Univar) for more than 10 years. Tony's has a large area to cover; as he delivers orders to Vesperis customers from Zachary to Morgan City, Louisiana. To handle such a large area, delivery routes are laid out for each day. On Mondays and Thursdays, he makes deliveries in areas that are close to the Vesperis warehouse in Harahan. His "Greater New Orleans Route" includes Metairie, Kenner, New Orleans, Harvey, Gretna, Belle Chase, and other close cities. On Tuesdays, Tony goes to the "Cajun Route". This includes Raceland, Houma, Thibodeaux, and Morgan City. Wednesdays the "Northshore / St Bernard Route" includes Covington, Mandeville, Slidell, Chalmette, and Arabi. And on Fridays, it's the "Greater Baton Rouge Route" for Tony. This is the longest day, so he is out of the Vesperis warehouse by 7:30 AM and goes to Laplace, Gonzales, Prairieville, Zachary, Baton Rouge, Denham Springs, Holdan, Tickfaw and Hammond before heading home.

Tony is much more than a delivery driver for Vesperis. To make such an ambitious delivery schedule on time day after day, Tony assists in preparing his orders for the next day as soon as he returns to the Vesperis office. Customers on the delivery routes call in their orders the day before they are to be delivered. They know that with this system in place and Tony making the deliveries, the orders will be on time; they can be confident and plan on it. Tony is also known to Vesperis customers as someone who shows up at their office, is always friendly and respectful, and always has a smile on his face. Tony spends his off time with his family. He is the father of two sons who are recent graduates of the University of New Orleans.



TONY MENDOZA

VESPERIS

CELEBRATING MILTON SCHLEISMANN

After almost 40 years serving the pest control industry at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Milton Schleismann retired. Milton leaves behind very big shoes to fill and will be sorely missed. Here is a statement from Milton summarizing his career:

I began my career with the Louisianan Department of Agriculture and Forestry on Monday, February 25, 1985 as an Agricultural and Environmental Specialist (AES) I, in the New Orleans District Office. During the summer of that year, I attended the summer institute class at LSU being taught by the late Dr. Jeffery LaFage and I scored the highest grade in his class. During this time as well, I was assigned the task of giving presentations at all structural pest control recertification meetings in the New Orleans District. In April of 1987, I was promoted to Agricultural Environmental Specialist II.

In February of 1990, there was a termite treatment training class given for all the AES inspectors on LSU campus that was sponsored by Dow Chemical Company (now Corteva), the Louisiana Pest Control Association, and LSU Extension. I was selected by the Baton Rouge staff to assist with the training by presenting one of the hands-on demonstrations. Mrs. Lois Steven Caffey spearheaded everyone's interest in this training. She convinced the late Agriculture Commissioner, Bob Odom, that this training was important so the inspectors from all across the state of Louisiana could be trained on the proper treatment of structures for termite prevention. I do believe that this training also sparked an interest in her creating the LSU Lois Caffey Termite Training Center in Baton Rouge. Once she began having meetings with LDAF staff, including the late Agriculture Commissioner, Bob Odom, and especially the late John McPherson, she contacted me to see if I was interested in teaching at the Lois Caffey Termite Training Center. She had already received approval from the commissioner. I said yes, I would be honored to teach at her termite training center, and I have been doing so ever since for approximately 33 years.

In January of 2000. I was promoted to Agricultural Environmental Specialist District Manager. I have always taken pride in the work that my staff and I performed for the citizens of Louisiana and the pest control industry. Their best interest is always in the forefront of my beliefs and actions. Throughout my career, I have worked to improve my knowledge and experience. My philosophy is if the individuals and businesses that I regulate are required to know the information and obtain certifications, then so should the person that regulates them.

Throughout my 39.5 years career with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, I have always taken pride in the work that I have done by setting an example for all to follow by performing inspections in a positive and professional manner, and by working side by side with everyone. I believed in performing quality inspections and I took ownership and pride in the service provided to everyone that I met. I also believed that there is also the possibility that people can make mistakes and I would use every inspection as an opportunity to teach someone how to do their job correctly.



CELEBRATING MILTON SCHLEISMANN (CONT.)

Milton has received multiple awards demonstrating his dedication and selfless service to the pest control community. In September of 2005, Milton received an award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region VI in Dallas, Texas. The award was in recognition of his extraordinary teamwork and inspection coordination related to import inspections in the state of Louisiana. In December of 2013, he received an award from the Greater New Orleans Pest Control Association in recognition of his many years of service to the pest control industry and its customers in Louisiana. In January 2018, at the Fifty-Ninth Annual Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Service Award Ceremony, the Louisiana Civil Service League, awarded Milton the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Award in recognition of the unselfish service to the citizens of Louisiana through the merit system of public employment. Milton is also an avid bee keeper, assisting with many honey bee removal and relocations and selling local honey. Here are some testimonials from members of the pest control community:

Being in the Pest Control business over 45 years, I have known Milton his entire career. He had always acted in a fair and professional manner. His knowledge of the Agricultural and Structural Pest Control areas of the Department was superior. Milton was always ready to share that knowledge for the betterment the industry along with a concern for the safety and fair treatment of the public. He proved to be an asset to the Department and our industry. His favorite saying was "If you are going to do it, do it right." - Terry Bruno, Terminix

I think Milton's chief attribute, among many attributes, was fairness. It would have been easy to just be a tough, "these are the rules, follow them!" regulator, with no thought or care for those companies he interacted with. Instead, Milton knew how to be firm yet kind, polite, understanding...he was willing to entertain differences of opinion. We always knew we'd get a fair shake with Milton. I think I speak for my fellow PCOs in saying, "Milton, we miss you!" Enjoy your retirement, you've certainly earned a relaxing one! - Chris Caire, DA Exterminating

Milton was an immense resource for myself in the past 23 years I had the privilege of working with him. He served urban and agricultural pest control but also promoted school health and safety. I enjoyed during recertifications that we always knew the "sheriff" was in town. He would check every vehicle at the recertification for code violations and use these as positive teaching moments for all the participants. Working with Milton has been a great pleasure. He will be greatly missed and was truly one of a kind. We will certainly be keeping in touch during his retirement - Claudia Riegel, NOMTRCB



PEST FEATURE

FIRE ANTS

The red imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, was introduced into the US around 1940 from Brazil. The first colony in Mobile, Alabama was reported by the late renowned naturalist, entomologist, and myrmecologist, Dr. Edward O. Wilson. Since then, fire ants have become widespread in the southeastern US and parts of California. Fire ants are known for their aggressive sting which causes a range of symptoms in humans from burning and itching to large pustules to full anaphylaxis. They can also cause indirect damage to crops and gardens by tending aphids and other honeydew producing bugs.



A common treatment strategy for fire ants is the Two Step Method, named after the common country-western dance. For this, first baits are broadcasted when ants are foraging. It is important to consider seasonality, since many ant diets shift seasonally, and weather conditions when applying. The second



step is a follow up treatment of any problematic mounds that remain approximately seven to ten days later. When applying any insecticide, be sure to always read and follow the label, it is the law!



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



LARRY SMITH

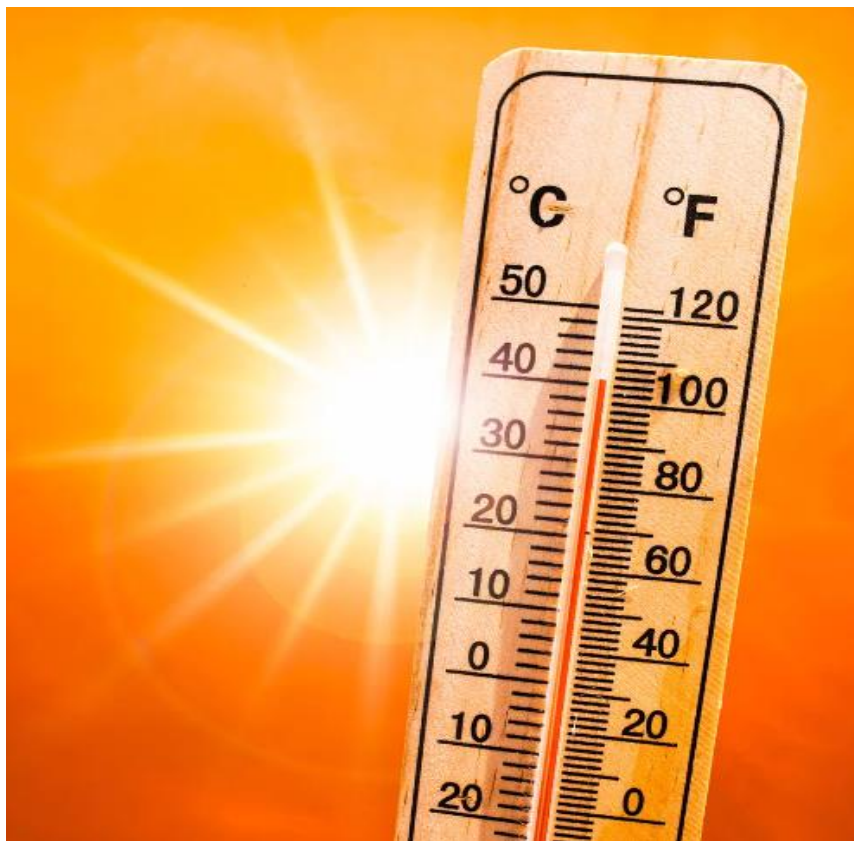
TERMINIX NOLA

Larry Smith is a remarkable team member at Terminix. Larry has been an integral part of the company for the past 20 years, gaining extensive experience in various departments related to termites. Larry's vast knowledge and expertise with termites makes him an invaluable asset to our team. As a supervisor, he brings a wealth of experience and leadership to the termite department. In his spare time, Larry even dedicates his efforts towards further enhancing their termite services.

When he's not busy with work, Larry enjoys watching the Saints and Pelicans, demonstrating his passion for local sports. Terminix is delighted to have someone like Larry, who not only excels professionally but also adds a positive and friendly energy to the workplace. Larry's dedication, commitment, and excellent interpersonal skills make him a truly great person and employee.

HEAT SAFETY

Summer in Louisiana is hot, but this summer has been particularly warm. Heat is one of the top weather-related killers and nationally accounts for hundreds of fatalities each year. While working, outside it is important to consider your safety. Drink plenty of water. Even if you are not thirsty, continue drinking water. Take breaks through out the day in air-conditioned areas. Schedule more strenuous tasks for earlier or later in the day to avoid midday heat. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing to help stay cool. Be aware of yourself and your coworkers to take enough breaks and work safely. Wear sunscreen. Sunburn affects your ability to cool down and can dehydrate you. Be sure to apply sunscreen before going out and reapply as needed throughout the day. Extreme heat is no excuse to not still abide by the required personal protective equipment outlined on the label. Remember, **the label is the law**, no matter how hot it is outside.



Be aware of heat-related illnesses. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke both include headache, dizziness, and fainting. However, heat stroke can be differentiated by a fast, strong pulse and hot, red skin whereas heat exhausting has a fast, weak pulse and cold, clammy skin. For either illness, the first line of defense is moving the person to a cooler place and trying to cool them down. For heat stroke, do not give them anything to drink and seek medical attention immediately. For heat exhaustion, seek medical help only if they are throwing up, symptoms get worse, or symptoms last longer than one hour. For more information, see: [cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/](https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/)



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UPDATES



KELLY MOORE
DIRECTOR,
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL

This session House Bill 33 passed and became effective August 1st. This law change removed the requirement for technicians to wait 30 days before retaking the technician exam if they failed. If a technician needs to retest, a technician application with the \$25 retest fee will still need to be sent in, but we can now schedule the test as soon as the application is processed. Any questions regarding testing, please email spc@ldaf.state.la.us

Following Milton Schleismann's retirement, the department recently promoted Alexander Sabo as the Manager for the New Orleans district. Alec has been with the department since 2015, working in the Alexandria district and most recently as the Supervisor in the Baton Rouge district. We're excited to have him on board in New Orleans!

The next Pesticide Disposal Pick-up Event will take place on November 2, 7:00am - 1:00pm at the LDAF Monroe District Office, located at 754 Hwy 80 East, Monroe, LA 71203. For additional information, contact Girvus Johnson at 225-925-3763 or your local LSU AgCenter office.

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

Generously sponsored by:



CORTEVA™





Thursday
October 26, 2023



25th Annual Greater New Orleans Pest Control Association Golf Classic

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 26, 2023

LOCATION

LAKWOOD GOLF CLUB

4801 General DeGaulle Drive
New Orleans, LA 70131



TIMES

8:00 am Registration
8:30 am Breakfast and range balls
9:00 am Shotgun start
1:30 pm Awards banquet

ENTRY FEES

TEE SPONSORS, \$100
FOUR-SOME & TEE SIGN, \$200
FOUR-SOME, \$100
NON-PLAYER, \$25
INDIVIDUAL PLAYER, \$25
MULLIGANS, \$5 (Maximum 2/players)

ENTRY FEE INCLUDES

- Green fee and golf cart
- Drink cart during play
- Golf towels
- Door prizes
- and more ...



For more information and registration details,
visit www.gnopca.com or call 504.373.5926

Sponsored by Vesperis and Oldham Chemical



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

President: David Billiot - Billiot Pest Control,
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Vice President: Joe Martin - Terminix,
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Layne Salvant - The Bug Man,
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Ira Sommers - DA Exterminating,
ira@daexterminating.com



GNOPCA
Suggestion
Box

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Our next general membership meeting will feature Andy McGinty giving a mini workshop on Loss Control. Please join us on September 14th at 11:30am at the Quarter View. Pre-registration is required, to RSVP please go to: gnopca.com/september-14thmembership-luncheon/



Golf Tournament
Save the Date:
October 26



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14, 2023: Membership Meeting with Andy McGinty

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

September 28, 2023: NOMTRCB Special Topic with Dr. Mark Janowiecki "Stick Insects of the US"

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, **FULL**)

October 26, 2023: 25th Annual GNOPCA Golf Classic (see page 8)

October 27, 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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