

THE GNOPCA NEWS

NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT



DAVID BILLIOT
PRESIDENT

BILLIOT PEST CONTROL

As the year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all active association members for their incredible support and hard work throughout the past year. Your dedication has been instrumental in making my term as president run smoothly. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead such a dedicated group of individuals. As we reflect on the year's achievements, let's also look forward to the exciting possibilities the future holds for our organization.

Thank you once again for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to the success of GNOPCA. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

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.



**SOLIFUGAE
SUN SPIDER**

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PEST FEATURE

CHRISTMAS TREE PESTS

We have all heard stories of bugs crawling out of newly obtained live Christmas trees. Overwintering insects may inadvertently be on the tree and emerge due to warmer temperatures inside the house. Things like praying mantises lay their egg cases, called ootheca, which are spherical and around an inch in diameter. From a single ootheca, over 100 mantids can emerge, but without a source of food (i.e. small live insects) they will die and not persist as a household pest. Other arthropods commonly found on live Christmas trees include adelgids, aphids, bark beetles, mites, psocids, scale insects, spiders, moths, sawflies, weevils, bark lice, and webworms. These are generally not household pests and are considered incidental occasional invaders.

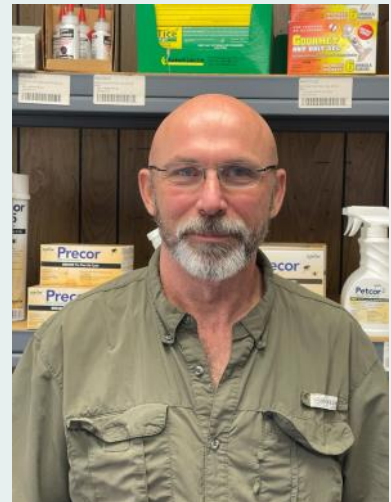
To reduce pest problems when bringing a tree in for the holiday season, be sure to inspect the tree well. Look at tree branches and trunk for signs of pests or any damage that may be present. Shake the tree over a sheet or surface where pests can be spotted to determine if insects are present. If possible, leave the tree in the garage or other area to look for insects crawling off the tree. If insects are found, control should include non-chemical means such as hand removal and vacuuming. Aerosol insecticides are often flammable and not labeled for indoor use

and should be avoided. None of the species commonly found entering a house on Christmas trees are dangerous to the home or its occupants.



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



TIMMY FONTENOT

OLDHAM CHEMICALS

Timmy has been with Oldham Chemicals for 14 years. He makes deliveries on Mondays to the Mandeville/Covington area, Tuesdays to Houma/Morgan City, and Wednesdays to Slidell and Gulf Port. On the days when he has no deliveries, he repairs pump units and B&G Sprayers. He also helps prepare orders that are going out for delivery and pick up. Prior to working with Oldham Chemicals, he was a technician with Terminix Pest Control in New Orleans for 7 years where he learned valuable information that he still uses to this day.

On his time off, he likes to go kayak fishing and makes his own fishing lures. Timmy also likes to cook and spend time with his family, especially his two grandsons, Ashton and Liam. He has been married to his wife, Holly, for 28 years.

TRAVEL TIPS FOR BED BUGS

Bed bugs have lived with people for more than 3,000 years but have recently had a resurgence in the last 25 years. This resurgence is likely caused by insecticide resistance and increased global travel. Even recently, reports of a large outbreak in Paris is complicating travel plans for the next Summer Olympic Games. During this upcoming holiday season, here are some tips to avoid transporting these unwanted holiday guests back to your house while traveling:

1. Before moving items into a hotel room, conduct a thorough bed bug inspection. Look at the common areas bed bugs hide: around beds and upholstered furniture. Bed bugs live in cracks and crevices and leave behind fecal spots, black dots of dried blood, they excrete that stain surfaces. Bed bugs hide in mattress seams, crevices in bed frames, behind pictures and wall mounted head boards, under electrical outlet covers, and many other cracks and crevices in a hotel room. Take time to thoroughly search before bringing in any items.
2. When staying in hotel room, keep coats, backpacks, purses, and other bags off of soft surfaces where bed bugs may be residing. Keep your belongings up on smooth surfaces away from potential areas with bed bugs. Bed bugs feed on humans and then return to their aggregations to digest and molt. They are unlikely to stay on a person, but may find their way into bags and other areas with suitable hiding places.
3. If you suspect bed bugs after traveling, treat all materials they may have been exposed with heat or cold treatments. Clothes, bedding, etc. can be treated by placing them in a dryer on high heat for more than 30 minutes. Items that cannot be put through the dryer can be placed in a freezer at 0° F but need to be left at this temperature for more than 4 days to kill all bed bugs and bed bug eggs. These treatments can help prevent establishing bed bugs in your home when you return.

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 1/31/24 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**

INDUSTRY LEADER SPOTLIGHT



DR. CARRIE COTTONE

NOMTRCB

Dr. Carrie Cottone has been employed at the New Orleans Mosquito, Termite, and Rodent Control Board for 18 years. During this time, she completed her PhD remotely at the University of Florida in 2011, which focused on the ability of termites to withstand flooding, particularly after Hurricane Katrina. She has managed the Termite Division since 2012 and received her LDAF licensee status in 2015. She organizes and speaks at the annual Termite Academy cohosted by GNOPCA and is currently the Conference Chair and Treasurer for the National Conference on Urban Entomology.

Carrie has a passion to help pest management professionals and the public and is able to do this in her role as a public servant. She teaches and promotes good product stewardship, ensuring pesticides are used safely according to the law is in the best interest of the public to protect health, safety, and property. Carrie's passion for teaching is evident in her yearly game show style competition to teach pesticide safety at the Termite Academy.

CDC GULF SOUTH V.E.C.T.O.R. COLLABORATIVE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has funded the **Gulf South V.E.C.T.O.R. Collaborative** to increase training opportunities for professionals and students to better prevent and respond to vector-borne diseases. Funding is provided by grant 1NU50CK000638-01-00.



Vector-borne diseases have increased in the past two decades at rates beyond what current infrastructure can manage. In order to protect public health, we must increase and strengthen our front-line defenses, which are mosquito abatement districts, public health workers and private industry. This is particularly important in the Gulf South because of its intersection of health and economic disparities with a climate that is susceptible to vectors and pathogens.

Specifically, this project will **TRAIN** and **EVALUATE** students and professionals. Members of this grant will create and test educational content that highlights procedural best practices. The core curriculum will be standardized and replicated across the region, and will be offered to students, working professionals, and trainees across audiences with diverse backgrounds. This project will break down silos and promote interdisciplinary training and create **PARTNERSHIPS** through regional and national cooperation that is desperately needed to build resiliency and protect people and animals from vector-borne disease.

For additional information, contact Dr. Claudia Riegel (City of New Orleans Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control Board) at CDCvector@nola.gov or (504)658-2408. To Learn more about the Gulf South V.E.C.T.O.R. program and learn more about future events, use link or QR code or URL (<https://forms.office.com/g/iD2UJZrtor>) to access the registration portal.



This year we celebrated our 25th annual GNOPCA golf tournament with a great turnout and excellent weather. With the support of many sponsors, we were able to lower the registration cost to \$25 in honor of our 25th year.

Sponsors included Vesperis, Oldham Chemicals, Hays Breard Financial Group, Target Specialty Products, Orkin, Liphatech, FMC Corporation, Envu, VM Products, Lipca Insurance Co, APG, Syngenta, and MGK. Tee Sponsors included Orkin, Liphatech, DA Exterminating Metairie, DA Exterminating Covington, Bell Labs, B&G Equipment, Nisus, Bug Man, CSI, BASF, VM Products Inc., MGK, and BWI.

Food was provided by Sammie's and included hamburgers, pulled pork, baked beans, salad, and bread pudding. Our winners were Frank Fasone, Richard Illg, Fred Hernandez, and Ivan Smith. Thank you to all participants and sponsors for making this a successful event. See you next year on October 10th, 2024!



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

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

Vice President: Joe Martin - Terminix,
jmartin@terminixno.com

Secretary: Lauren Addison - Pied Piper Pest Control,
lauren@piedpiperpestcontrolinc.com

Past President: Chris Caire - DA Exterminating,
chris@daexterminating.com

Treasurer: Frank J. Fasone - Carrollton Pest Control,
ffasone@cox.net

Sgt. At Arms: Don LeBlanc - Leblanc's Pest Control,
airdadone@charter.net

Jeff Addison - Pied Piper Pest Control,
jeff@piedpiperpestcontrolinc.com

Holly Fontenot - Oldham Chemical,
hollyfontenot@oldhamchem.com

Jamie Gilbert - Orkin,
jgilber2@orkin.com

Tony Gugliuzza - Terminix,
tony@terminixno.com

Mark Janowiecki, Ph.D. - NOMTRCB,
mark.janowiecki@nola.gov

Vincent Palumbo - Terminix,
vpalumbo@terminixno.com

Mark Pellittieri - Vesperis,
mark.pellittieri@veseris.com

Claudia Riegel, Ph.D. - NOMTRCB,
criegel@nola.gov

Layne Salvant - The Bug Man,
layne@bugmanonline.com

Ira Sommers - DA Exterminating,
ira@daexterminating.com



GNOPCA
Suggestion
Box

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 11, 2023: NOMTRCB Recertification (in-person)
- December 12, 2023: NOMTRCB Recertification (in-person) **FULL**
- December 14, 2023: NOMTRCB Fumigation Recertification (in-person)
- January 30-31, 2024: Louisiana Pest Management Association Winter Conference
- March 20, 2023: GNOPCA/NOMTRCB Recertification (in-person)
- April 9-11, 2024: Vesperis Customer Appreciation Vendor Night, Golf Tournament, and Crawfish Boil
- April 23-25, 2024: Mosquito Academy
- May 19-22, 2024: National Conference on Urban Entomology, Mobile, Alabama (paper submission due March 1st)
- September 10-12, 2024: Rodent and Wildlife Academy
- October 1-3, 2024: Termite Academy
- October 10th, 2024: Annual Golf Tournament
- October 12th, 2024: NOLA BugFest
- October 22-25, 2024: PestWord Denver, Colorado
- October 23-27, 2024: American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene National Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana
- November 10-13, 2024: Entomological Society of America National Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona
- December 2024: Louisiana Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana



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