Message from the OPCA President

Hello, I am very pleased to be addressing you for the first time! You may or may not know me, but I hope while I am president of the OPCA I will get a chance to meet with all of you.

I am Rob McMaster and my company’s name is Halt Pest Control, Inc. I started Halt in 1990—just me and my truck. Like a lot of people in our industry, I started with a dream and a lot of time on my hands. I still have the dream but as we have grown, time is becoming a more precious commodity.

One of the first things I did was join the PCOO (Pest Control Operators of Oregon), the predecessor to our OPCA. The organization at the time was run on a shoestring (I remember a treasurer’s report stating we had a balance of $145.00) and I recall a lot of dedicated people keeping the various committees and events running.

Fast forward and we are a well-funded, stable organization representing the interests of our industry in the state as well as having the advantages of joint membership with the NPMA. A lot has happened, and for the good! I have a

New OPCA Winter Seminar on January 11 in Wilsonville

OPCA Members in the Portland area have a new seminar to help provide continuing education credits on January 11 at the Holiday Inn, Wilsonville. The decision to hold the seminar in Portland was based on the large number of pest control companies in the area who may be in need of ODA, Washington Dept. of Ag and Oregon Wildlife Control Operator credits.

Speakers include: Paul Bello, IPM and one other topic TBD (2 hrs); Jon Paulson, Univar Solutions, wildlife topic (TBD); James Rodgriguez, J.T. Eaton, Rodents/rodenticide labeling; Ed Hernandez, Ensystex, Fumigation.

The seminar begins at 10:00 am and ends at 4:30 pm.

Register: opca.org.

Left: Paul Bello leads a hands on class at an OPCA event.
Treleven Appointed as SPAR for Oregon

OPCA members voted in Larry Treleven with Sprague Pest Solutions as the state’s “SPAR” during the member meeting at the Oregon Pest Control Association member meeting in Newport, Oregon.

The National Pest Management Association appoints State Public Affairs Representatives, or “SPARS” to states across the country. Treleven also represents California and Washington State.

SPARS interact with state association boards and lobbyists to report these activities and developments back to NPMA at the national level.

Treleven always provides an excellent report to the OPCA board at the board meetings and to members at our OPCA seminars. If you have any questions about what’s going on in government affairs in other states or nationally, contact Larry Treleven at LarryT@spraguepest.com; 253-272-4400.

OPCA Membership Report

OPCA member renewals:

Members have paid dues as of September 30, 2019
- Active members: 43 (+ 15 to renew)
- Allied members: 12 (+ 8 to renew)
- Associate (home inspectors): 4 (+ 4 to renew)
- Honorary members: 4

Membership Application: Know of any companies that should be members? www.opca.org/join.

Lapsed Membership Policy: OPCA’s policy is member companies that have lapsed for one full year must reapply for membership in OPCA. If you’re unsure of the status, contact our office.

Dues Paid by Corporate Offices: If your corporate office is in another state and pays your dues let us know!

OPCA’s Dues Year is July 1—June 30. At this time of year, anyone who is an Active member but has not renewed yet will be listed as lapsed at NPMA. Of course, once a member pays, we will notify the national association of your paid status!

Need Some Swag?

Show your pride! OPCA purchased a small batch of flex fit hats, uniform patches and truck decals. These items are available on OPCA’s website. We only wanted to get a small batch of hats for now, but if they are popular the cost will come down. We also have a limited number of OPCA hooded sweatshirts and T-shirts – mostly mediums and XXX large. But, they are only $5.00! Contact OPCA at 503-363-4345 or visit our website for more information at www.opca.org.

OPCA has a limited quantity of logo items: 40 hats, 100 uniform patches and 90 truck decals.
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Vince Romao
District Sales Manager West
(404) 788-0892
soft spot in my heart for this organization. I have over the years been encouraged by overwhelmingly generous people who were always ready to help me in any way they could. I have made many friends and look forward to seeing them at our events. I have had the opportunity to talk with leaders in the industry and benefit from their knowledge and experience. Thank you to the manufacturers’ and suppliers’ representatives who are willing to give their expertise about latest materials and techniques, and thanks to educators who always give me new things to think about and propose possible opportunities for the future.

Over the years I have taken advantage of all these things and only recently, in some small way, have I had the opportunity to give a little back. For companies who are not part of the OPCA, I encourage you to join. We are growing and are looking for great companies to be part of our organization. For members, please consider becoming part of the Board, we always need new people to help our organization grow.

As I mentioned earlier, I am excited about the future of the OPCA and the talented people who have given their time and expertise to create a strong well-rounded organization. We have some opportunities going forward, we will bring up to the membership, that will make us even stronger. I am looking forward to an exciting year and being able to meet with all of you at some time.

Sincerely;
Robert McMaster

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GREENSBORO, N.C., USA, September 25, 2019 – To better equip pest management professionals (PMPs) to efficiently control cockroaches, Syngenta has launched its new SecureChoice℠ Cockroach Assurance Program. This program gives PMPs a proven, integrated pest management (IPM) approach to tackling German and other prevailing cockroach species for guaranteed results.

The SecureChoice Cockroach Assurance Program guides PMPs through three phases of a cockroach treatment: an initial visit, follow-up visits, and continued maintenance and prevention. As part of the program, Syngenta also includes best practices for steps like inspection and monitoring, which are critical components of an IPM approach. By following the recommended SecureChoice Cockroach IPM Guide, Syngenta guarantees a reduction of at least 90% of the cockroach infestation during the first four visits over a 60-day period. If adequate reduction is not achieved, Syngenta will provide the needed Syngenta products for retreatment.

“Cockroaches are a notoriously difficult pest to eliminate,” says Marshall Gaster, market manager for Professional Pest Management (PPM) at Syngenta. “Our program pairs flexible and sustainable IPM strategies with effective products to give PMPs the level of control they need for their customers. Plus, PMPs have the peace of mind that their investment is assured by Syngenta.”

The SecureChoice Cockroach Assurance Program features multiple active ingredients and formulations to help manage insecticide resistance and bait aversion. It recommends using Advion® WDG insecticide with Optigard® Cockroach Gel Bait, and then rotating this combination with Optigard Flex liquid insecticide and Advion Evolution Cockroach Gel Bait every 90 days. The non-repellent liquid insecticides can be used with the gel baits for more thorough control, and all of the recommended products also qualify for yearlong savings through the PestPartners℠ 365 Program.

“Syngenta did the hard work of testing this protocol so PMPs don’t have to,” says Nicky Gallagher, technical manager for PPM at Syngenta. “By taking the guesswork out of cockroach control, we’re enabling PMPs to spend less time on trial and error and more time taking care of their customers.”

To learn more about the new program, including terms and conditions, visit SyngentaPMP.com/Cockroach. Join the Twitter® discussion using #SecureChoiceProgram.

Syngenta simplifies cockroach control with SecureChoice℠ Cockroach Assurance Program
Oregon Legislative Update

Lincoln County Aerial Spray Ban Court Decision Reached

Update from Katie Fast, Oregonians for Food and Shelter

At long, long last, the judge issued a decision on the case challenging the Lincoln County aerial herbicide ban. Although the judge didn’t accept all of our arguments, the bottom line is the judge ruled the county spraying ordinance is invalid.

Here is the quick assessment of her ruling:

The court ruled that the State Pesticide Control Act preempts the entire ordinance.

The court rejected the Community Rights activists' philosophical argument: that they, as members of the community, have the right to pass the laws they wanted free of interference by superior governments.

The court rejected our argument that the measure was not an issue of county concern and could not be put in front of voters. Greg Chaimov’s assessment was, "The court seems to have confused the overall subject matter of the measure with the individual provisions of the measure. We didn’t argue that aerial spraying wasn’t a matter of county concern; we argued that the inclusion of provisions that prescribed the activities of superior governments made the measure not a matter of county concern. A measure the subject matter of which the legislature has preempted—like pesticide control—can be put on the ballot." The measure, if adopted, just can’t be enforced. If the petitioners appeal, we will continue to argue this point. This was been a great week with some big wins. However, we will be preparing the petitioners to appeal.

Oregon Passes Paid Family Leave

This July, HB 2005, an Oregon bill creating a statewide insurance program for paid family medical leave passed both the Oregon House and Senate. The law will provide eligible employees with up to 12 weeks (with some exceptions) of partially or fully paid time away from work for family leave, medical leave or safe leave from harassment, sexual assault or stalking.

HB 2005 will apply to employers with one or more employees. Currently, Oregon allows eligible employees to take unpaid time off under the Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA – 25 or more employees) or the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA – 50 or more employees). This paid leave will run concurrently with OFLA and/or FMLA. Moreover, paid family and medical leave under HB 2005 is in addition to Oregon’s Paid Sick Leave law and any vacation or paid time off employees accrue in the course of their employment.

All eligible employers and employees will be required to make payroll contributions to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund. To be eligible, employees must have earned more than $1,000 in wages per year. Employers with fewer than 25 employees are exempt from the employer contributions. For employers with 25 or more employees, employees will contribute 60 percent and employers will contribute 40 percent.

The contribution rate will be determined by the Oregon Employment Department and the rate will not exceed one percent of an employee’s wages. The employee and employer contributions are pooled together and when an employee becomes eligible for paid leave, funds are available through the statewide insurance program.

Under HB 2005, if an eligible employee’s average weekly wage is equal to or less than 65 percent of Oregon’s average weekly wage, which is currently $1,044.40, the employee will receive 100 percent wage replacement during their leave. Employees who earn more than 65 percent of Oregon’s average weekly wage will receive wage replacements based on a tiered system.

The rules for HB 2005 will be established by September 1, 2021, with contribution collections starting on January 1, 2022 and benefits beginning on January 1, 2023.
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Membership Adds Up at OPCA!

OPCA Benefits:

- Reduced cost in registration for educational recertification seminars. Reduced rates MORE than make up for dues!
- Legislative representation through Oregonians for Food and Shelter, a lobbying organization for ag industries in Oregon.
- Four Crack & Crevice newsletters are sent each year.
- Insect identification is available through OSU Extension offices throughout Oregon.
- Your company is listed on a map of Oregon on the OPCA website for public contact access.

OPCA Membership Categories and Rates:

- ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: Pest control companies who also join the National Pest Management Association: $175 per year plus the cost of NPMA dues, which are on a sliding scale depending on sales volume.
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP: Home inspectors, allied industries: $175 per year.
- ALLIED MEMBERSHIP: Vendors: $150 per year.

WILIFE REPORT:

Oregon Bans Trapping of Humboldt Martens

Oregon officials have voted to ban the trapping of the rare Humboldt marten along the southern coast. The ODFW Commission set new rules that ban Humboldt marten trapping, hunting and roadkill salvaging west of Interstate 5 and in the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. It also prohibits traps and snares suspended in trees in the Siskiyou and Siuslaw National Forests. It is estimated that fewer than 200 Humboldt martens survive in the state’s coastal forests. The Humboldt martens were once common in the coastal mountains but logging of old-growth forest and fur trapping has drastically reduced their numbers. They are also threatened by vehicle mortalities on Highway 101 and severe wildfires. The Humboldt marten is about the size of a kitten and is related to the mink. The Coastal martens are currently under consideration for listing as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.
OPCA Fall Beach Seminar 2019 drew over 100 attendees. It was a great group and awesome speakers. Thanks for attending!
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