



****Attendees are encouraged to collect and bring in urban pest ant samples to stump the professor! A prize will be presented for the most unique ant submission. ****

Schedule & Speakers

7:30am-8:00am Registration

8:00am-9:00am Urban Ant Biology & Control

Presented by: Dr. Karen M. Vail, University of Tennessee

To successfully manage ants, you will need to know:

- (1) what ant you are dealing with,
- (2) why it's here and what you can do about these conducive conditions,
- (3) how to reduce sightings at the present moment, and
- (4) how to provide long-term solutions.

Ant identification is no longer an exercise for the experts. Smartphone zoom features and inexpensive clip-on macro lenses give magnified high-resolution images so important ant identification features can be easily seen. Take the time to find the conducive conditions and remove them to provide short-term and long-term population reductions. Top it off with monitoring and targeted pesticide applications, and you have a recipe for effectively managing ants.

Dr. Vail offers a finale where pest management professionals can submit ants to challenge her ability to identify the pest or “stump-the-chump.” A prize will be presented for the most unique submission.

Dr. Karen Vail received her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, her master's degree from Virginia Tech., and her Ph.D. from the University of Florida. While working towards her Ph.D. she was employed by USDA-ARS in the Imported Fire Ant and Household Insects Unit. Dr. Vail is a professor in the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department at the University of Tennessee and has 36 years of experience working with urban pests. Her extension/research programs have focused on managing common bed bugs, imported fire ants, needle ants, odorous house ants, pharaoh ants, other urban pests, and delusional infestations. As the Extension urban entomologist, she provides evidence-based pest management techniques and strategies to pest management professionals, county agents, housing managers and the public to manage pests with an integrated approach.

9:00am-10:00am Industrial and Urban Vertebrate Management

Presented by: Joey Hedgemon, Liphatech

Joey will discuss vertebrate biology and identification, proper use of rodenticides and techniques to manage vertebrate populations in industrial and urban environments in, around and away from structures. Control measures include utilization of all Integrated Pest Management tools to prevent harm to people, pets and the environment. The behavior and life cycle of rodents' discussion will include old and new technologies in rodent management to assist PMP's in effectively controlling pest vertebrate populations in their day-to-day operations. Joey will emphasize his expertise in the use of toxicants, mechanical measures, sanitation and exclusion for practical applications pertaining to vertebrate management.

Joey Hedgemon, who holds a bachelor's degree in business economics from Wofford College, brings several years of sales experience to Liphatech, including five years in the professional pest control industry spent at Orkin Pest Control. As Liphatech's sales and service expert in the Southeast, he is working with pest management professionals and distributors

in the region, building relationships with prospective pest management accounts, and is available for troubleshooting and rodent control assistance within complicated accounts.

10:00am-11:00am Back to the Basic with Pesticides

Presented by: Lavor (Jay) Dihonov, Terminix/Rentokil Technical Service Manager

Jay will discuss the different ways pesticides are formulated by the manufacturer, and advantages or disadvantages of each formulation when used for general pest control. This presentation will also have video clips to demonstrate the mixing and/or application of the various formulations.

11:00am-12:00pm Termite Baiting in the 21st Century

Presented by: Derrek Hardy, Corteva

Derrek will discuss new technologies in termite control, including termite baits, utilizing integrated pest management principles and use as a stand-alone system for termite control. He will discuss subterranean termite biology, colony behavior, proper inspection techniques (to include types of building construction monolithic slab, jointed slabs, crawl space and basement types) so termite applicators have a better understanding of treatment strategies for effective termite management. The topic will also cover advantages and disadvantages to a stand-alone baiting system particularly in situations where termite damage necessitates immediate control of termites and possible use of a liquid termiticide in conjunction with a baiting system.

Derrek Hardy currently serves as a Territory Manager for Corteva Agriscience. He resides in Nashville and the territory he covers is the entire state of Tennessee. Derrek graduated from the University of Missouri in 2021 with dual degrees in Agricultural Education and Hospitality Management before beginning his career with Corteva. He has been with the organization since June 2021 and has served in his current role in Tennessee since December 2021. He has a passion for educating others in the industry about the impact and problems that termites pose to homeowners and how The Sentricon System is the standalone solution with proven total colony elimination for termites

12:00pm-12:30pm Lunch

Sponsored by Oldham Chemicals

12:30pm-1:30pm Common questions homeowners ask a Pest Control Operator

Presented by: Drew Lockhart, Zoecon Products

We will spend an hour looking at some common questions asked by homeowners. These include how to tell termites from other insect species; damage to clothes and fabric and what might be the cause; proper identification of spiders such as brown recluse spiders; the chemicals a PCO uses and the training received to provide the proper treatments, etc. There will be time for a question-and-answer period at the end.

Drew Lockhart graduated from Auburn University in 1981 with a B.S. in Entomology. He has worked in the pest control industry for 30 years as a pest control operator, distributor sales manager, and as a manufacturer's technical representative. Drew works for Zoecon Professional Products, where he serves as the National Accounts Manager.

1:30pm-2:30pm Maintaining & Cleaning Your Pesticide Equipment

Presented by: Dennis Waldrop, Oldham Chemicals

Equipment snafus cost your company, and sometimes the technician, significant amounts of money and are usually preventable. A little attention to your equipment and proper maintenance can go a long way in preventing issues. In this session, learn how to properly clean and maintain pesticide equipment to fully understand how your equipment should work

Dennis Waldrop started in the Pest Management Profession in 1981 working for Walker-White Termite and Pest Control in Tennessee. He worked his way up from service technician to manager and then owner. After selling his business he joined

Dettelbach Pesticide Corporation a division of Rollins as Southeast Sales Representative with responsibility of sales and training of Pest Management Professionals. In 1998 he went to work for Oldham Chemicals, specialty products distributor for the pest management industry, as a Tennessee Sales Representative with the same responsibility of Sales, Service and Training.

2:30pm-3:30pm Recent Discoveries in Entomology Related to Pest Control

Presented by: Jen Sweeney-Ingram, All American Pest Control

In this talk, presented as multiple short stories, Jen discusses recent scientific findings that answer common questions in the field of Entomology. Listeners will learn about how the German cockroach became flightless, the newly understood reason why insects are attracted to light, how ticks actually end up on our pant legs, and more.

Jen is the Technical Director at All-American Pest Control based in Nashville. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a Master's in Entomology from Texas A&M. Jen has worked in the pest control industry since 2018 and earned her Board Certification in 2020. She currently serves as co-chair of the TPCA Education Committee and is a member of the Urban Pest Management Technical Committee (UPMTC) and Professional Women in Pest Management (PWIPM).