

Crack & Crevice

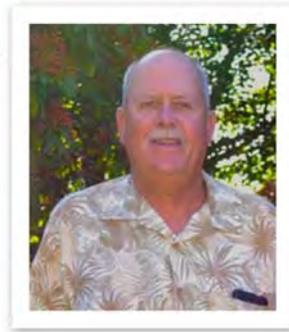


OREGON PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

December 2019 Edition

Message from the OPCA President

Hello, 2019 has gone by way too fast. A new year is shortly at our door step and we are currently planning for the next year. The board and committees of the OPCA have also been busy. We have introduced a Winter Seminar in January to be held in Wilsonville. We are excited to be able to provide ongoing education with top industry representatives and speakers. The venue was chosen to provide the area of the state with the most PCO's the opportunity to get a start on their continuing education. I look forward to seeing you there.



Rob McMaster, 2019-20 OPCA President

I am impressed with the depth and talent of the staff, committees, and board members, and their commitment. They were able to put together the seminar in short order, no easy feat.

Please consider joining a committee, be a member-at-large, or running for the board. I am lucky I got the chance. If you would like to join the OPCA I look forward to talking with you. I am sure 2020 will go by just as fast if not faster. The OPCA will be here looking out for your interests and the interest's of the industry at large going into the New Year.

Rob McMaster, OPCA President, 2019-20

Washington State Pest Management Association Publishes Event Calendar

Washington State Pest Management Association has announced its events for 2020. Details can be found on their new website, www.wspma.com

January 25: Ant ID Lab (Laurel Hansen), Pierce College

February 10: February Workshop (Daniel Baldwin), Univar, Kent, WA

March 7: Ant ID Lab (Laurel Hansen), Pierce College

March 9: March Workshop (Deanna Kjorlien), Univar, Kent, WA

August 20 to Saturday, August 22: Fall Business Meeting, Leavenworth, WA

November 5: Eastern WA Fall Seminar (Bello, Stuart, Black), Spokane, WA

November 7: Western WA Fall Seminar (Bello, Stuart, Black), Des Moines, WA

December 4: Credit Crunch, SeaTac, WA

December 4: Winter Business Meeting, SeaTac, WA

For more information contact Tim Baker, tbaker@wspma.com or Samantha Malone, smalone@wspma.com. Office: 360.709.9309.

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Quick Calendar

Winter Seminar (New Event)
January 11, 2020
Holiday Inn, Wilsonville, OR

ANT I.D. Workshop
February 8, 2020
Chemeketa Comm. College, Salem

Pacific Northwest Pest Management Conference
February 27-29, 2020
Best Western, Hood River, OR

High Desert Seminar
June 5-6, 2020
Mt. Bachelor Village, Bend, OR

Fall Beach Seminar
Sept 18-19, 2020
Best Western PLUS Agate Beach Inn,
Newport, OR

Government Affairs Update

Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Excerpts from OFS News...

In November, the Oregon Legislature was in Salem for Interim Legislative Days, which mainly consisted of informational committee hearings. In the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee, DEQ presented on their Integrated Water Report where the agency proposes to list hundreds of miles of new waterways on agriculture and forest lands as water quality impaired without any data showing those waterbodies are impaired. Senators Bentz, Olsen and Roblan were quick to recognize the holes in the agencies report and drilled down on the issue.

The Integrated Water Report is currently out for public comment. Due to a request filed by OFS and other organizations, the comment period has been extended to January 6th. Oregon Farm Bureau has an Action Alert out, and OFS encourages landowners to participate in the comment opportunity.



OFS Executive Director Katie Fast joined Willowa County Commission and rancher, Todd Nash, and

farmer Kathy Hadley on a panel discussing the recent changes to the Federal Endangered Species Act. They saw the new rules as an opportunity to decrease the negative impacts of listings on landowners and increase collaboration to recover species.

In other wildlife news, Oregon rancher Becky Hatfield Hyde was appointed and confirmed to the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission. This is the first farmer or rancher to sit on the Commission for almost five years. We are looking forward to the real-life perspective Becky will bring to wildlife management decisions.

While most of the work in Salem focused on policies issues, the bigger news in Salem focused on the 2020 elections. Both Senator Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay) and Representative Caddy McKeown (D-Coos Bay) announced they will not seek election next year. This opens the coast to be focused areas for both parties. Also, Senator Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) announced he will resign from his State Senate seat to focus on his Congressional District 2 campaign. Representative Lynn Findley (R-Vail) has announced interest in Bentz's Senate seat.

Following a tense and divisive legislative session, many are predicting a large turnover in the 2020 election. Already, ten House members and four Senate members have declared they will not seek reelection. Filing deadline for the 2020 election is not until March 10, and more are predicted to leave.

Finally, congratulations to Oregon's timber counties! A jury awarded \$1.1 billion in current and future damages to 13 counties and 151 taxing districts. The decision hinged around the fact that the State did not meet their contractual agreement to manage the State forests for the highest permanent value. Rural Oregon is grateful to these counties for standing up for their citizens and sustainable timber harvest.

Oregonians for Food and Shelter, Nov 22, 2019

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 got a small batch of hats for now, but if they are popular the cost will decrease. We also have a limited number of **OPCA hooded sweatshirts and T-shirts** – mostly mediums and XXX large. But, they are only \$5.00!



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OPCA Holds New Winter Seminar 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. OPCA anticipates between 75 and 100 attendees at the event. The seminar begins at 10:00 am and ends at 4:30 pm. Summary of speakers and topics:

Paul Bello - *Using IPM to Resolve Tough Pest Problems.* This session covers Integrated Pest Management techniques for control of German and American cockroaches, rodents and spider beetles

Also from Paul Bello, *Avoiding Flippers and Other Termite and WDO Problems.* This session covers the issues and problems in pest control caused by flippers, particularly, disclosure, inspections and documentation. The session also reviews real-life situations with termites.

Jon Paulson, Univar Solutions - *Wildlife and Rodent Exclusion.* This session covers rodents and other wildlife species and their behavior related to ways they gain access to dwellings. The agenda covers various ways to create barriers to common areas of entry.

James Rodriguez, J.T. Eaton - *Rodent and Bait Labeling.* This session reviews Integrated Pest Management for ro-

dents, including use of rodenticides, safety measures and biology of Norway rats. The session includes IMP solutions including habitat modification and use of devices including traps and bait stations.

Ed Hernandez, Ensystem - *Fumigation.* This session reviews when its appropriate to use fumigation techniques for pest control, particularly for cockroaches. The session provides a general overview of the common chemicals used as well as safety precautions and regulations. A review of techniques and tools is also covered.

CE credit being filed includes ODA CORE and regular credit; Washington Dept Ag Credit, Wildlife, and Oregon Certified Home Inspector.

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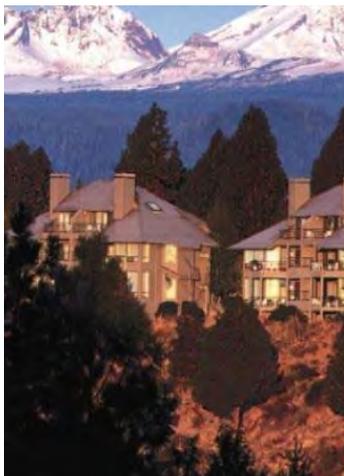
Below: Paul Bello leads a hands-on class at a recent OPCA seminar.



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Save the Date:

OPCA High Desert Seminar

June 5-6, 2020

Mount Bachelor Village, Bend, OR

Aerial Attack: Pest Control Finds New Tool in Drones

Reprinted from Herald and News, KURT LIEDTKE H&N Staff Reporter, Oct 3, 2018

New technology is aiding the ongoing effort to reduce disease-spreading pests in the Klamath Basin — and the company offering the service is the first in the country licensed to do so.

Specialized drones capable of spraying pesticides or spreading granular insecticides are the newest tools being implemented by **Three Rivers Mosquito and Vector Control** — a family-run business in Klamath Falls that services much of the Pacific Northwest, and is the first to be licensed by the FAA nationwide to use drones for this purpose.

Established initially in 2002, then revived again in 2012; the in-demand work of reducing mosquito populations and other pests for disease prevention and human comfort has typically been a messy process. It has traditionally involved handling chemicals and application of pesticides by hand or vehicle, often necessitating trudging through mud to reach swamps and ponds where larvae breed.

Trial and error from the ground

For company operators **Ed Horvath and Danta Smith**, finding

alternatives to large-scale fogging of chemical clouds and more environmentally friendly means of applying chemicals in a feasible manner has been a multi-year pursuit.



... we looked into drones and found out that while they've been used for spraying in China for years, nobody has been doing it here at all.

First they tried using ATVs and trucks to reach trouble areas, then considered an Argo ATV that would be better suited for accessing difficult-to-reach locales. A year ago, Horvath realized that drones could access areas that couldn't otherwise be reached on foot, and would be able to apply insecticides by a much more targeted means thereby reducing the amount of chemicals being added to the environment.

"We started all by hand and truck application, then upgraded to ATVs but even ATVs couldn't get everywhere we wanted," said Horvath, director and vector ecologist for Three Rivers. "County governments have used helicopters and airplanes, but I saw that as a waste of money, so we looked into drones and found out that while they've been used for spraying in China for years, nobody has been doing it here at all."

Drone technology has been rapidly growing in recent years, moving beyond recreational or photographic use to more practical purposes. Companies such as UPS and even Chipotle are

Continued on page 6

Advertise in Crack & Crevice!

Crack and Crevice, OPCA's quarterly newsletter reaches OPCA members and their employees.

Crack and Crevice has a long shelf life. Issues are frequently handed out at member events and sent in member kits to new members. Exposure lasts longer than typical newsletters.

Rates

- Business Card—\$50
- Quarter Page—\$100
- Half Page—\$200
- Full Page—\$375

Publication Calendar

Month: Theme/Recent Event

- March Pacific NW Conference
- June High Desert Seminar
- Sept. Fall Beach Seminar
- Dec. So. Oregon Seminar

For additional information and ad deadlines contact...

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Drones - Continued from page 5

testing drone delivery concepts, law enforcement and other government agencies are starting to embrace the technology for their purposes. In Asia, drones equipped with flame-throwers burn debris off of high-voltage power lines, and in Dubai flying drone taxis are already in service.

While vector control via drone is a growing industry in Asia, Three Rivers is the first to gain permission to do so in the U.S. — an unprecedented process that at times left Three Rivers and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) confounded as to how to progress.

Aerial attack of chemicals designed to reduce mosquito populations for disease prevention is not new, but drone use allows much more precise attack on breeding grounds of ponds, swamps and standing water sites rather than a large-scale fog approach used with airplanes and helicopters.

The custom drones acquired by Three Rivers spread granular pesticides or spray liquid chemicals, rarely doing so more than a few feet off the ground at any time for maximum effectiveness of the application.

Breaking new ground

“We started off just taking pictures, I called around asking if drones could be used to spray and was told there was no legal way to do it,” said Horvath. “We started researching it, and got licensed to fly drones, but Part 137 required a commercial pilot license. The FAA didn’t know what to do either because nobody had done this before.”

A multi-month process began with Horvath and Smith collaborating with the Oregon Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) in Hillsboro and the FAA to determine proper waivers, rules and regulations.

Specialized drones were acquired capable of completing the task, costing upwards of \$20,000 each, purchased in cooperation through grants with Chiloquin Vector Control District — one of Three Rivers’ primary clients.

While not the first in the country to consider it, Three Rivers, through a seven-month process, became the first to be approved by the FAA for vector control drone spraying.

“The FAA wasn’t sure how to test us — we had to submit our own rules for training, so we made our own set that now the FAA is following,” added Horvath. “The local FSDO was really excited though, I guess they wanted to be the first.”

Bringing costs under control

While Three Rivers provides vector control services across Washington and Oregon, the acquisition of drones was largely an effort through Chiloquin, which faced a difficult economic decision in continued vector control district operations.

“The use of drones fascinated us, because we have one of the smallest budgets in the state,” said Dennis Jeffcoat, chairman of the Board of Trustees for Chiloquin Vector Control District.

“The cost of labor is skyrocketing, and we saw that we could be placed out of operations unless we found a better way to apply

materials. The rise of chemicals and labor exceeded our budget, we needed to find an alternative method.”

The switch to drone use, according to Jeffcoat, did initially cause some public privacy concerns, but Horvath noted that his specialized drones don’t even have cameras on them.

“We’re not designed to take over for crop dusters, we’re more specific,” said Horvath. “A 100-acre field may only need to be treated for 1 to 2 acres, by taking this approach we can spray a small spot rather than the whole field. Helicopters and air-planes will also put out three times as much chemicals as we need.”

According to Horvath, it takes about 15 minutes to treat one acre, with application of one tank of pesticides lasting about as long as a single charged battery does for each flight. To supplement drone services, Smith has also expanded Three Rivers into aerial photography for clients incorporating mapping and surveying.

Reducing the fog output

“Our main goal is to reduce disease and discomfort for humans and health issues,” said Smith. “If we can treat a small area without having to fog, or do granular application that doesn’t leave chemical residue, it’s better for the environment.”

“We don’t have to do it the way other companies do where they just fog everything with chemicals — we rarely fog in places like Chiloquin that used to fog three to four times per week. Our goal is to reduce the amount of chemicals used.”

Continued on page 8

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Drones—Continued from page 6

That reduced chemical application is not only a goal of Jeffcoat, who along with the district board have strived to consider best practices and all-natural substances whenever possible to reduce environmental harm, but has had a tangible, positive effect on other species in the area.

According to Horvath, the Chiloquin area has seen a resurgence of mayfly and caddis fly populations since fogging was reduced.

“We are never going to get all of the mosquitoes, but it’s a matter of getting it to a comfortable level where people can still go outside and not have health risks,” added Smith. “We want people to enjoy being outside without having to risk West Nile virus or other diseases, but we don’t have to eradicate everything else in the process.”

“Some may say mosquitoes are part of the food chain too, but if you’ve been down to the lake there’s no shortage of midges,” laughs Horvath.

For more information contact Three Rivers Mosquito and Vector Control at 541-238-2272 or visit www.trmvc.com.

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.



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