Florida School IPM News

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Florida School IPM Focus- Green Shield

This issue covers two very important topics- a Facilities IPM training reminder and Green Shield Certification. Many schools and businesses are becoming Green Shield Certified. The University of Florida Department of Housing and Residence Education (DOHRE) is the first University Housing Project to become certified. Wayne Walker is an active participant in the Florida School IPM working group. We would like to congratulate Wayne for taking the time to get UF Housing Green Shield Certified.

Reminder: Facilities IPM Tech Training

Reminder! Wednesday February 23rd.
Facilities IPM Technician Training. The cost of this 8:00 am - 5:00 pm training is only $55 and includes training, booklets and lunch.

For additional information please contact Mandy Judd at FPMA Headquarters 800.426.4829 or Mandyj@flpma.org

Green Shield

“Green Shield Certified is an independent, nonprofit initiative. Green Shield Certified is operated by the IPM Institute of North America, a nonprofit organization recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its expertise and accomplishments in promoting Integrated Pest Management, with more than 25 years of professional experience promoting this approach.

More than 20 school districts around the country have been certified to date using the standards underlying Green Shield Certified—benefiting more than 2 million school children!” Information from: http://www.greenshieldcertified.org

Wayne Walker: Green Shield at UF/DOHRE
Wayne Walker is the Senior Pest Control Technician/IPM coordinator for the University of Florida Department of Housing and Residence Education (DOHRE). Wayne spearheaded Green Shield Certification for UF Housing making it the first university housing program to be certified by the IPM Institute of North America.

He spent the first 8 years of his career doing pest control for Orkin in Gainesville. For the last 10 years his role in the University of Florida System has been as a working manager for pest control in housing at UF. He has been working with a variety of entomology specialists including Drs. Leppla, Koehler, Oi and Baldwin to establish UF Housing as an IPM Leader for Florida. With the support of UF housing administration including Terry MacDonald, Assistant Director for Building Services and Norb Dunkel the Assistant Vice President/Director of Housing at UF. Starting in 2006 Wayne began pursuing Green Shield Certification through the IPM Institute of North America.

Wayne had been implementing IPM in UF Housing for many years, but his biggest challenge with Green Shield certification has been making sure the UF Housing IPM Program was documented in a way that allowed for certification. Another difficulty faced by Wayne was the process of educating housing residents on IPM and the negative impact of using over the counter chemicals that they were purchasing for do-it-yourself use in university housing.

His biggest success with Green Shield Certification has been the continued reduction of pesticide exposure within our housing community while achieving pest management. Certification for UF Housing was granted on Friday February 4th 2011 and will be valid for 3 years with the completion of paperwork from the university. Reevaluation of the UF Housing IPM program will happen in 2014 when representatives from the IPM Institute will visit university housing sites again to evaluate the sustainability of the program.

Wayne believes that if the principles of Integrated Pest Management are followed it would help make UF housing a safer environment for residents, their families and housing staff. If you would like to discuss Wayne's role in the UF Housing IPM Program please contact him at: cell (352)284-3963 WayneW@housing.ufl.edu

News!
We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don’t have the time to write up the information. This newsletter will be published as content arrives, please keep the information flowing! Please send news items to Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman. Visit our website for back issues of Florida School IPM News.