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Past Issues

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Online Training Available:

<http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

School IPM Focus- De-clutter

In the **July 2013** issue of Florida School IPM News we reviewed rodent exclusion and its role in sealing the **building envelope**. With the start of school, this issue will focus on the importance of de-cluttering schools and classrooms. Getting schools fully operational after summer break requires significant time and preparation. This can mean organization takes a back seat to a long list of priorities. Letting items pile up creates harborage sites for pests and limits treatment access. Clutter can also be a distraction in classrooms and can negatively impact productivity. This month's School IPM issue offers useful strategies on how to combat clutter.

What Everyone Should Know About Clutter

One of the best ways to combat clutter is to be prepared. Maintain storage systems already in place, or be ready to implement new procedures that keep closets and cabinets organized. For additional classroom storage and organization tips see our past issues on **spring cleaning** and **combatting clutter**.

Clutter wastes time. When you can't find things where they're supposed to be, you hunt, and hunting wastes time. It also takes longer to clean around clutter. If you need to move things off the floor to clean under or around them you can bet the area is not getting as clean as it could.

Clutter disrupts student focus. Clutter is unsettling and doesn't create or maintain a conducive learning environment. Kids need stimulation, but that's different than clutter. If you are distracted by items that flash across your desk, think of what kids might feel like if they haven't learned to filter unnecessary stimuli.

Clutter creates pest harborage. Pests love dark, undisturbed places. These dark, undisturbed places allow them to reproduce without consequence. The resulting young also have a peaceful place to mature. This is how the pest life-cycle continues.

Clutter creates untreatable zones. Clutter makes pest management almost impossible. If the pest control technician cannot apply the bait because of clutter, or there is so much clutter and food that the pest has no reason to come out, treatments will be ineffective. Remember as little as grease on a surface can feed pests, it doesn't have to be a buffet!

(Information from the Clutterbugs Pest Press)

Combating Clutter

Successfully reducing clutter requires teamwork. Custodial staffs play an

obvious role by removing cardboard, newspapers, and other debris on a regular basis, but teachers are equally important in deciding what can be thrown out. Without a teacher's permission to discard items, custodial cannot do its job. By working to maintain organization in the classrooms, teachers can ensure clutter doesn't become an issue throughout the school year.

- Keep items on shelves and off of floors when possible to facilitate cleaning
- Keep closets and pantries organized
- Designate locations in the classroom for items such as backpacks
- Limit the use of cardboard boxes for storage since pests use these boxes as harborage and breeding sites

Get your CEUs today! Special School IPM Online Offerings

If you only need a couple of hours, try our online offerings:

The ABCs of IPM is available in **English** and **Spanish**. The ABCs of IPM video set is a comprehensive training program for school employees and anyone interested in the basics of IPM in schools.

CEUs: 2 CORE

Cost: \$20

Online, available anytime

Good Neighbor Practices

This module will introduce you to the way we measure pesticide drift. Pesticide drift can happen when chemicals applied on one area move to another area. This movement can be the chemical as it is volatilizing or can be on dust particles that are being blown to another area. Once you learn about drift we will talk about people's perceptions of drift and how you can work to increase your communication with your neighbors and minimize the change of drift around schools. When you are finished watching the tutorial you will be given a 10 question quiz on the material. If you score an 80 on the quiz you will be able to print an FDACS CEU form that you can use the next time you renew your pesticide applicator license. If you do not score an 80 we would encourage you to review the module again and retake the quiz (for no additional charge).

CEUs: 1 CORE

Cost: \$10

Online, available anytime

Upcoming Training Opportunities

We are in the final offerings of PMU for the year. Sign up early before classes are full! **We highly recommend that anyone doing IPM in schools attend at least the GHP Foundations course to maintain your certification and understand how pest management can be**

done effectively.

Class size is limited to 20 participants to improve your learning in our Master and Expert level courses. Master level classes are only offered once a year. Expert level classes are offered every other year. If you plan on taking the **State Certified Operator examination** through PMU, please submit your applications by:

Sept 16 for the Oct 18 PMU **State Exam** for GHP

(Write **"PMU OCT GHP"** on the top line of the state application)

Oct 13 for the Nov 15 PMU **State Exam** for Termite and WDO

(Write **"PMU NOV WDO"** on the top line of the state application)

Summary of hands-on courses:

Click on highlighted course titles for more information or to register.

Sept 4-6, **Termite Foundations** (last one for 2013)

Sept 18-20, **Foundations of Turfgrass Pest Management**

Sept 25-27, **GHP Foundations** (last one for 2013)

Oct 2-4, **Foundations of Tree and Shrub Pest Management**

Nov 6-8, **Foundations of Turfgrass Pest Management**

Must advance through Foundations to qualify for these courses:

Oct 16-18; **GHP Masters**

Oct 18; 1 pm; GHP state exam (must also meet state requirement, write "PMU" on application)

Nov 13-15; **Termite Masters**

Nov 15; Termite and WDO exam (must also meet state requirement; write "PMU" on application)

Dec 18-20, **Master of Turfgrass Pest Management**

Must advance through Foundations and Masters for qualify for this course

Dec 4-6; GHP Expert

SEPTEMBER OFFERINGS

Foundations of Termite Management 101

Learn how termites exploit over 50 building construction elements and how to treat them in a hands-on environment in 2-days instead of 2 years.

- Practice doing a DACS vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS before a crisis occurs.
- Hear about the top 10 reasons technicians get in trouble and how to avoid them from Mark Ruff, industry attorney.
- Get more in-depth information on termite biology and behavior as well as product label navigation. Class duration: 2.5 days.

Date: Sept 4-6, 2013; W-F

Registration deadline: Aug 30, 2013; Friday

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

Cost: \$350

[Register here](#)

Foundations of General Household Pest Management 101

Pest control matters. Cockroach allergen mitigation can be achieved with IPM. Class duration: 2.5 days.

- Study domestic and peridomestic cockroach species and how to control them as well as rodent, small fly, filth fly, fire ant and nuisance ant management.
- Review the labels of commonly used GHP products, practice pest inspections at PMU's house and develop treatment strategies focused on IPM.
- Do a vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS.

Date: Sept 25-27, 2013; W-F

Registration Deadline: Sept 20, 2013; Friday

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

Cost: \$350

[Register here](#)

We need your input!




At the start of the 2013-2014 school year, we will launch our "Fix the Building Envelope" campaign at the **Florida School Plant Management Association** meeting with several CEUs worth of training, starting Sept 9. Come and join us! Let us know what you think about the draft logo. Can you use it as an opportunity to promote the importance of facilities maintenance in human and environmental health? Want to assess your

school's building health in terms of IPM? Use our Florida School IPM Checklist in the **Welcome Packet** on our website. We would welcome your thoughts on the logo and the 2013-2014 "Fix the Building Envelope" campaign. Email Faith with comments: foi@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. We like to share news and video when it happens using our social media outlets- **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **YouTube**. When you send news we will post it on one or more of these sites and again in the monthly newsletter. Feel free to send news or



announcements as soon as they happen and we will post them. We hope this will get you more visibility. Please send news items to **Michael Bentley**.

Visit our website for back issues of **Florida School IPM News**. You can scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone or tablet to get there faster. You will need a QR code reader!