



Arkansas Pest Management Association

INDUSTRY NEWS

PRESIDENT'S QUARTERLY UPDATE

Dwight Reynolds



I hope this message finds you well. As we navigate a dynamic period for our association and the broader industry, I wanted to provide an update on the key initiatives.

Recent Highlights and Achievements: I wish to thank Dallas Hopper for his service as President of APMA in 2025. His dedication and leadership helped strengthen our organization, and I want to personally thank him for his service. A job well done Dallas!

Recertification, Education, & Training: The planning for our recertification meetings was stellar, and the events were well attended. A special thanks to Marilyn, vendors, and speakers who participated. We will have our last minute recertification meeting virtually again this year and the date will be on June 10 for those who need to recertify for the next license period. Planning for the upcoming Annual Conference, which will be held at the Benton Event Center, is well underway. More information to come in future newsletters.

Industry Collaboration: A key focus for our representatives and senators is the renewal of the farm bill. Several members of APMA have met or will meet with our national congressmen to advocate the policies that are favorable to our industry and APMA. We believe that by working together, we can achieve greater influence and drive industry standards.

Call to Action: We are always stronger with the active participation of our members. I encourage you to continue to be a part of our organization, and participate in our quarterly meetings. Your expertise and dedication are invaluable.

I am immensely proud of the work we are doing together and remain optimistic about the future of the APMA. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,
Dwight Reynolds ACE
President, APMA

2026 Calendar

April

17th: Board & Membership Meeting
LUNCH INCLUDED!

July

17th: Board Meeting

September

14th: Board Meeting - 5:30 pm
Benton Event Center

15th-16th: Annual Meeting
Benton Event Center

October

20th - 23rd: NPMA PestWorld
Grapevine, TX



2026 Board of Directors

President

Dwight Reynolds
Rentokil - Terminix
(479) 841-6534
dreynolds@rentokil-terminix.com

Immediate Past President

Dallas Hopper
Hopper Termite & Pest, Inc.
(870) 425-4122
dallas@callhopper.com

Central - Region III

Ian Adams
Adams Pest Control of LR, Inc.
(501) 455-1065
ianadams07@comcast.net

At Large

Justin McCauley
McCauley Services
(501) 315-3117
justin@callmccauley.com

At Large

Bobbie Hyde
Hyde's Termite & Pest Control
(870) 886-7040
bobbie@hydestermite.com

Vice President

Shane West
West Termite & Pest Mgmt.
(479) 927-9892
shanewest@westtermite.com

Northwest - Region I

Cole Hopper
Hopper Termite & Pest, Inc.
(870) 425-4122
cole@callhopper.com

Southwest - Region IV

Jay Heflin
Legacy Termite & Pest Control
(501) 888-2345
jmheflin@birdandbearcompanies.com

At Large

Roger Clark
West Termite & Pest Management
(479) 927-3005
rclark@westtermite.com

Allied Rep

Reb Bowe
BWI Companies
(501) 940-7667
rebbowe@bwicompanies.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Jarrell
Rentokil - Terminix
(501) 303-5760
sjarrell@rentokil-terminix.com

Northeast - Region II

Shannan Hyde Prince
Hyde's Termite & Pest Control
(870) 236-2382
hydestermite@gmail.com

Southeast - Region V

Christian Wilcox
McCauley Services
(501) 315-3117
christianw@callmccauley.com

At Large

Jason Bird
Hopper Termite & Pest Management
(501) 362-8251
jasunb@hopperpest.com

Executive Director

Marilyn Porterfield
(501) 224-4840
office@arkansaspest.org

2026 Committees & Chairs

Governmental Affairs

Zac McCauley

Scholarship

Dallas Hopper

Conference

Shannan Hyde-Prince
Christian Wilcox

Nominating

Dallas Hopper

PAC

Jay Heflin

Technical

Christian Wilcox

PestVets

Steve Jarrell

Budget/Finance

Shane West



Email office@arkansaspest.org to serve on a committee

NPMA MEMBER BENEFIT PEST ID

As a service to NPMA members only, NPMA's Board Certified Entomologists on staff are available to assist you in identifying pests you may come across when providing services to customers.

Photo/Video Identification

Photos and/or videos can be sent in for identification. We will provide our expert opinions based on what we can observe from the submitted information. For the best chance to get a positive ID, please follow the below tips when choosing what to send. We understand that these are not always possible, but please do your best and include as much information as possible.

- Include a size reference for the pest such as a ruler, a coin, or other standard sized item.
- Show the entire specimen with photos of the back, front, and side if possible.
- Include information about the pest situation as described below:
 - Location where pest(s) were found
 - Number of pests present
 - Duration of infestation
 - Associated material damage



If you cannot see details in the photo, neither can we. Use a magnifying glass, good lighting, and the best quality camera you have available.

Send email identification requests to: fieldguideid@pestworld.org

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REMINDER! NPMA COLLECTS ARKANSAS DUES!

We will continue to have the National Pest Management Association collect all dues for any Active Member for 2026/2027. Don't forget to add on any additional voting members you wish to include in your membership, up to 5 per company. They will collect dues for the state and for National at the same time. All Arkansas dues prices will remain the same.

You can renew your dues online: <https://www.npmapestworld.org/join/renew/>

Allied members, those that live outside of Arkansas, and those wishing to pay for additional Active Members (after primary is paid through NPMA) can pay online at

<https://www.arkansaspest.org/join-renew-dues>.

LSU Researchers Launch Gulf South VECTOR Needs Assessment for Pest Management Professionals

The Gulf Coast region of the United States provides a subtropical climate that is suitable for a myriad of arthropod disease vectors (mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, etc.) which is a significant factor in the transmission of vector-borne diseases (VBDs) such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Lyme disease, and West Nile fever. Pest management professionals (PMPs) and mosquito control districts are the front line of defense against disease vectoring pests. However, when delivering disease vector management services, both PMPs and mosquito control districts encounter operational barriers. While similar in their mission to manage disease vector populations, exact strategies utilized will differ between the two: private companies primarily operate reactively, treating properties after customer requests, and focusing on the elimination of current adult and larval presence. Districts, on the other hand, while engaging in similar reactive measures, also utilize preventive strategies such as disease and population surveillance, source reduction and habitat modification, biological control, and community outreach. Private services can operate within a wide geographic area, while district services are limited to within their jurisdiction, usually a single county or parish. As funding ranges dramatically between districts, from volunteer-run to operating on a multi-million-dollar budget, the availability and efficacy of district vector control vary greatly. In some areas, private companies may be the only provider of vector control.

In 2023, the Mosquito BEACONS group assessed the capacities of mosquito surveillance and control across the southeastern U.S. Funding, personnel, and were among the highest expressed needs from vector control districts of all budget levels. Less than half of agencies in survey states had a mosquito identification expert on staff. Additionally, despite the high level of global trade at ports along the Gulf Coast that could introduce invasive vectors, only 1 of 26 programs that had a port of entry within their jurisdiction able to perform surveillance there. Other contributing factors, including land use change, high volumes of international trade and travel (increasing likelihood of invasive disease vectors or pathogens being introduced), and poor waste management practices such as illegal tire dumping, all create ideal conditions for the persistent presence of arthropod disease vectors in the Gulf Coast region. Environmental pollution, including damaged septic systems (Louisiana and Mississippi are the only states that utilize septic ditches) and wastewater runoff, further creates mosquito breeding habitats. Climate variability has also expanded the geographic range and seasonal activity of many vectors and the transmission of their associated

diseases, further complicating management efforts.

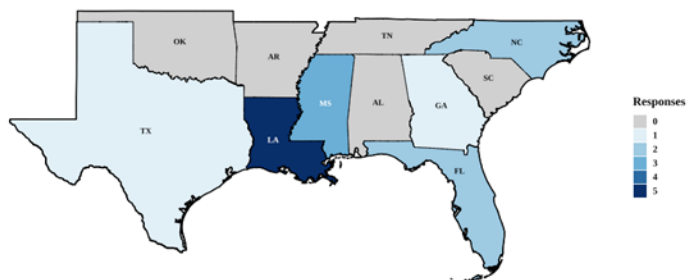
Given the abovementioned barriers that mosquito control districts face in delivering effective vector management programming, pest management companies must also be facing similar challenges. However, given the differences in operations, equipment, and programming, it is likely that PMPs may experience different operational challenges than a vector management district.

To address this knowledge gap, LSU researchers are conducting a regional needs assessment focused on pest management decision-makers, including company managers, owners, and technical directors. The assessment is conducted with a survey which is administered both in person and virtually, with responses organized and analyzed to identify common themes, operational barriers, and priority training needs. Researchers aim to complete at least 30 interviews with companies in Louisiana and many more across the Gulf South region, providing one of the first comprehensive look at vector-management capacity within the private pest management sector in the region. The project is part of the Gulf South VECTOR initiative and is led by Chance Hudnall, M.S. student, under the direction of Dr. Aaron Ashbrook, from the LSU Department of Entomology in collaboration with Dr. Claudia Riegel at the New Orleans Mosquito, Termite & Rodent Control Board. The survey focuses on identifying knowledge gaps, operational barriers to delivering disease vector management services, and training needs within private pest management companies involved in mosquito and other vector-control services throughout Louisiana and the broader Gulf South. Understanding how these challenges translate to the pest management industry is essential for



developing effective training programs and improving regional preparedness for vector-borne disease risks.

Figure 1. Pest management professional needs assessments conducted by state so far. The findings will establish a baseline understanding of industry knowledge, practices, and preparedness related to vector control. This will in turn drive targeted extension programming that addresses pest management professional challenge in delivering disease vector services.



From Research to Extension Programming

In addition to documenting the pest management industry's needs for delivering disease vector management services, the project will support the development of targeted extension programming designed specifically for pest management professionals. Results from the needs assessment will directly guide the design and prioritization of these training and program-development efforts. Potential training and program-development areas include:

- Designing scalable larval surveillance and larviciding programs that can be adapted to different staffing levels, budgets, and equipment availability.
- Developing mosquito identification training programs using multiple instructional formats, including workshops and digital learning tools.
- Evaluating how training influences industry adoption of new vector-control technologies and practices.
- Calibration of mosquito application equipment.
- These extension efforts are intended to support pest management companies in implementing more effective and sustainable vector-control programs.

Collaboration Through the Gulf South VECTOR Initiative

This work is being conducted through the Gulf South VECTOR project, a regional effort focused on strengthening vector-management capacity through research, training, and collaboration among universities, mosquito-control programs, and pest management professionals. By working directly with industry partners, Chance Hudnall and the Gulf South Vector team hope to ensure that extension programming reflects the real-world needs of pest management professionals and supports practical, scalable solutions for vector control across the region.

How Can Pest Management Professionals Participate?

Pest management professionals in Louisiana and the Gulf South are invited to participate in the VECTOR needs assessment by participating in a 30-minute interview.

Participation will help researchers:

- Identify industry training priorities
- Improve extension programming for vector management
- Strengthen collaboration between researchers and pest management professionals
- Support regional preparedness for vector-borne disease risks

Interested participants can sign up for the Gulf South VECTOR needs assessment by scanning the QR or contacting the LSU research team.



<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/w2Gd3DeOLK>

Chance Hudnall
503-931-1293
chudnall@agcenter.lsu.edu

Dr. Aaron Ashbrook
225-578-1634; 225-578-2257
aashbrook@agcenter.lsu.edu



Lynn Hopper Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was named to honor a founder of Hopper Termite and Pest Management in Mountain Home. Lynn Hopper was a very active member of the Arkansas Pest Management Association for more than 30 years, president for two terms, and a board member.

The first scholarship was awarded for the Fall 2003 semester, and continues to be awarded to a minimum of one student each year.



APPLY ONLINE at
www.arkansaspest.org
by February 1st each year!

Any student who has a family member that works in the pest control industry is eligible.

The Lynn Hopper Scholarship has been very impactful for our family. These funds have helped to cover extra costs that we didn't expect to have which helped to reduce some stress as well. We're so thankful to the Hopper family and the APMA for providing this scholarship. -Jay Heflin, parent of scholarship recipients Ben Heflin & Anna Heflin



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Shane West Appointed to the Arkansas State Plant Board

The Arkansas Pest Management Association proudly recognizes Shane West, current APMA Vice President, on his recent appointment to the Arkansas State Plant Board. Announced on February 17 by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Shane will serve a term through August 15, 2028. 17 members are appointed to the ASPB by the Governor, and Shane will fill the previously vacant position held for a licensed pest control operator. His appointment is a testament to his leadership and dedication to the pest management industry, as well as his commitment to advancing and protecting Arkansas's agricultural and business communities.



The Arkansas State Plant Board plays a vital role in safeguarding the state by providing unbiased enforcement of laws and regulations while ensuring the quality of products and services across agricultural sectors. Through its nine specialized committees, the board addresses critical issues impacting plant industries, pest control, and regulatory services. APMA celebrates Shane's appointment as a meaningful opportunity to bring industry expertise and perspective back to the board, further strengthening its mission and supporting the continued success of Arkansas agriculture.

**2026
Arkansas PestVets
Fundraiser!**

We will be providing blankets to veterans in the state for 2026.

WRAP 'EM UP!

Donate new or gently used blankets at any APMA meeting. You may also collect as an office and call the APMA to schedule a time for us to pick them up.

Thank you to our 2025/2026 members for your continued support of APMA!

Active Members

A.P.C.S.
Acme Pest Management
Adams Pest Control of L.R.
Adams Pest Control of N.L.R.
Adams Pest Control/ White Co.
Advance Pest Control, Inc.
All American Pest Control
Austin & Son Termite & PC
B. Evans Pest Control
Bugmobile of Arkansas
Clark Exterminating Co., Inc.
Clarksville Pest Control, Inc.
Complete Pest Control
Critter Getters Pest Services
Curry's Termite, Pest & Animal
Control
Defender Pest Control
Eagle Pest Management
Elite Exterminating Inc.
Enviropest
Five Star Pest Control Co., Inc.
George Termite & PC - Dardanelle
High Tech Pest Control Services
Hopper Termite & Pest Mgmt
(Heber Springs)
Hopper Termite & Pest
(Mountain Home)
Hyde's Termite & PC
John Force Pest Control
Legacy Termite and Pest Control, Inc.
McCauley Services
Mid-State Termite & Pest Control
Mr. Bug Pest Control
Musick Pest Control
Natural Pest Management

Natural State Pest Control
NEA Termite & PC
Ouachita Termite & Pest
Outbreak Pest Solutions
Palisade Pest Control
Palisade Pest Control
Plantation Pest Management, Inc.
Presto-X Company
Ray Houser Termite & P.C.
Rentokil - Terminix: Fayetteville, Little
Rock, Russellville, Benton
Rid-A-Pest
Serfco Termite & PC, Inc.
Southeast Pest Control, Inc.
Steve's Termite & P. C., Inc.
Superior Termite & Pest Control, Inc.
T&O Termite and Pest, Inc.
Target Termite Pest Control, Inc.
The Bug Man
The Bug Man, Inc.
West Termite & Pest Mang.
Will-Kill Termite & Pest Control

Allied Members

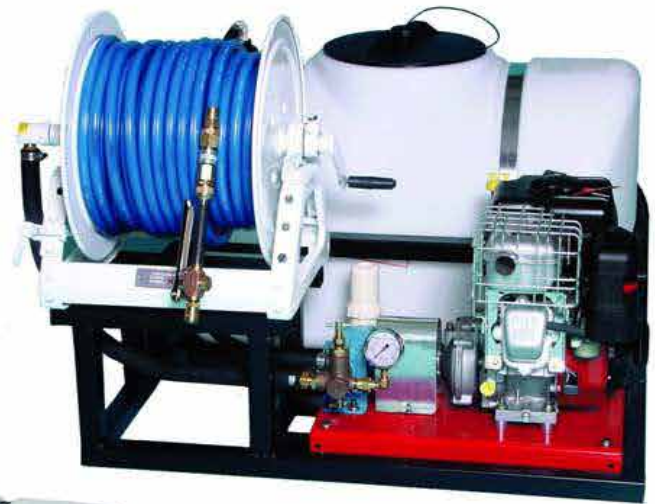
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BASF Pest Control Solutions
Bell Laboratories, Inc.
BWI Companies, Inc.
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Control Solutions, Inc.
EAB Optimal Sales
Ensystem, Inc.
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ARKANSAS
Pest Management
ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 26243
Little Rock, AR 72221
Ph: 501-224-4840
Fax: 501-224-0988

**APMA Political Action Committee (PAC)
Pledge Card**

"Every Dollar Makes a Difference"

I would like to make a donation to the APMA PAC at the following level:

_____ Platinum Level - \$1000.00

_____ Gold Level - \$500.00

_____ Silver Level - \$250.00

_____ Bronze Level - \$100.00

_____ Other – at this time I would like to give \$ _____

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Payment Options

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*Check donations to the PAC
must be written separately
from APMA Membership Dues.*

Signature _____ Date _____

Contributions to PAC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions or for federal income tax purposes. The maximum an individual, federal multicandidate PAC, or party committee may contribute to PAC is \$5,000 per calendar year. Contributions from corporations, labor unions, federal government contractors, and foreign nationals are prohibited.

Thank You!



ARKANSAS
Pest Management
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 26243, Little Rock, AR 72221



***LAST
minute***

RECERTIFICATION

VIA ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

You must have a camera in order to verify attendance and it must remain on during the entire session or it is assumed that you are not watching and you will not receive credit for attending. More than 1 person can attend from the same device and be on camera together.

Register Online
www.arkansaspest.org

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



**2026
ANNUAL MEETING**

Pesticide Recertification & Trade Show

September 15-16, 2026

**Benton Event Center
&
Fairfield Inn & Suites**

We hope to see you there!