

Insec(tc)ure*: Are you insecure about your insect cures?

A University of Tennessee Urban IPM Lab Newsletter for the Pest Management Industry

A Sampling of Upcoming Category 7 PMP Educational Opportunities

Karen Vail, UT Entomology & Plant Pathology

I omitted the upcoming educational opportunities section from the last newsletter, and with so many essential meetings scheduled in the next few months, I wanted to provide it ASAP. So here they are in chronological order:

Pest Management Virtual Workshop January 8, 2026

This 4-hour workshop will provide 4 talks, 9:00-12:50 PM on January 8th, live via Zoom.

- 9:00-9:50 AM: Common Pest Ants - Habits, biology and baiting strategies. John Singletary, ACE with Nisus Corp.
- 10:00-10:50 AM: Pest Trends in TN Multifamily Housing: A Dozen Years of Monitoring and Solutions. Dr. Karen Vail, Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist, the University of Tennessee.
- 11:00-11:50 AM: Mosquito and Tick Update: Vectors and Vectorborne Diseases in Tennessee and Georgia. Dr. Dawn Ford, Epidemiologist and CEO, Ford Training and Consulting
- 12:00-12:50 PM: Stinging Insects and their Management. Robert Lathrop, Owner of Mosquito Joe of Chattanooga.

TDA: C7, 10, 12 = 4 pts; C3 = 3 pts. GDA: 23(4), 31(3), 24(2), 27(2), 41(2), 35(1).

Register: www.drdawnford.com/registration

2026 Smoky Mountain Pest Control Conference, UT Conference Center, Knoxville, January 14, 2026

7-7:45a	Registration & Exhibit Hall (check-in, name badge pick-up)
7:45-8:00	Welcome & Sponsor Introductions
8-9	Department of Agriculture Update (Adam Travis, Ph.D, TN Dept of Agriculture)
9-10	Mosquitoes, Malaria, and Management, Oh My! (Chris Hayes, Ph.D., NC State University)
10-10:15	Refreshment Break & Exhibit Hall
10:15-11:15	Strange, Fascinating, and Useful Termite Facts (Heather Patterson, Control Solutions)
11:15-12:15	Bed Bugs 101: Back to Basics (Zach DeVries, Ph.D., University of Kentucky)
12:15-1:15	Lunch *Hot & Delicious* <i>Sponsored by Syngenta</i> , & Exhibit Hall
1:15 - 2:15	Crawlspace Dynamics (Harry Bryan, NISUS)
2:15-3:15	Navigating Change in Regulation (Faye Golden, Cook's Pest Control)
3:15-3:30	Refreshment Break & Exhibit Hall
3:30-4:30	Formosan Subterranean Termites (Karen Vail, Ph.D., UT)

Register: <https://www.etpca.org/Smoky-Mountain-Conference>

Tennessee Pest Control Association Region 2 CEU Meeting, WTREC, Jackson, January 20, 2026

Time: 8:00am - 4:15pm

Location: West Tennessee AG Ctr, 605 Airways Blvd, Jackson, TN 38301

Cost: Early Bird Registration Special by January 12

Registration: Email Donna Tyler at dtyler-hpc@eplus.net

or call (731) 661-1287

TDA CEUs = 7 pts

<https://tpca.info/event-6325300>

7:30 - 8:00 Registration

8:00 - 9:00 **Glue Boards Alone Will Not Solve a Brown Recluse Problem**, *Karen Vail, Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist, UTK*

9:00 - 10:00 **Flea Control**, *Drew Lockhart, Central Life Sciences*

10:00 - 11:00 **Problem-Solving Scenarios**, *Dr. Karen Vail, Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist, UTK*

11:00 - 12:00 **Pest Control in Commercial Accounts**, *Dr. Jerome Goddard, Extension Professor Entomology, MSU*

12:00 - 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 **Pest Control: A Rapidly Changing Industry**, *Dr. Jerome Goddard, Extension Professor Entomology, MSU*

1:30 - 2:30 **Safety and Sensitive Accounts**, *Tommy Reeves, Oldham Chemicals*

2:30 - 3:30 **Perimeter Treatments**, *Tommy Reeves, Oldham Chemicals*

3:30 - 3:45 Certificates Distributed

3:45 - 4:15 Region 2 Member Meeting

TPCA PWIPM Meeting with Marie Horner, Virtual Meeting, January 20th, 2026

10:30 CST/11:30 EST

SPEAKER: Marie Horner, ACE - Arrow Exterminators

Register: <https://www.tpcas.info/event-6463937/Registration>

Developing Medical and Entomological Networks to Assist Individuals with Suspected Delusional Infestations (DI), UT Conference Center, Knoxville, January 23, 2026

Join the group of pest management professionals who will work with healthcare providers to develop a protocol that enables all professionals affected by this condition to work cooperatively to bring individuals with DI closer to remission. TDA CEUs = 8 category 7,8, 10 and 12

Register: tiny.utk.edu/DIconference2026

Wood-destroying Organisms (WDO) and General Pest and Rodent Control (GRC) Licensing Training, January 27, *April 14, July 14 and October 27, 2026

<https://psep.tennessee.edu/licensed-pest-control-operator/>

Central Region Extension Office, 5201 Marchant Dr., Nashville, TN 37211

*April 14 at Rutherford County Extension Office, 315 John R. Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro.

Register:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=1&CATID=14&SINGLESTORE=true

Pest Control Advisory Board to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture

January 28, April 7, July 15, October 28, 9:30 am

Typical location: Ellington Agricultural Center, Porter Building, 436 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN
<https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/news.html>

TPCA's PestEd: Virtual CEU's, January 28th, 2026

8:00AM - 9:00AM (Central Time)

Speaker: Michael Thome, ACE PHE - Technical Service Mgr. - Transportation, Leisure and Entertainment Market Segments, Rentokil

Topic: German Cockroaches and Their Control

Register: <https://tpca.info/event-6330401/Registration>

Chattanooga Area Pest Control Association Spring Conference, February 11, 2026

Register: Contact Ron Schwalb

2026 TPCA Winter Conference, Embassy Suites, Franklin, February 17 - 19, 2026

Register: <https://tpca.info/event-6471264>

51st Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association (MAMCA) Annual meeting, Double Tree, Memphis, February 17 - 19, 2026

Register: <https://www.mamca.org/annual-conference>

TPCA's PestEd: Virtual CEU's, February 25th, 2026

8:00AM - 9:00AM (Central Time)

Speaker: Dr. Aaron Ashbrook, LSU

Topic: Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA)

Register: <https://tpca.info/event-6331960>

I'll provide more details on the later meetings as we get closer to their meeting dates.

Another ACE added to the Tennessee List

Please congratulate Will Bullard of Chorus Pest Control for passing the Entomological Society of America's Associate Certified Entomologist (ACE) Exam. Way to go Will! Find out more about becoming an ACE (<https://entocert.org/ace>) and our UT ACE Exam Prep Course (<https://tiny.utk.edu/ACEPrepFall2025>).



Happy holidays, everyone! I hope you find time over the next few weeks to enjoy friends and family and reflect on where you've been and where you're headed. See ya next year!

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