

VA PMPs Walk the Hill to Preserve Pesticide Preemption

Pest Control professionals from Virginia were joined by over 400 PMPs from other states at the NPMA Legislative Day held March 9 – 11 in Washington DC. This annual event is our industry’s opportunity to meet with Legislators and Hill Staff to share the vital role pest management plays in protecting public health, food, and property. The goal for this gathering was to present a united front with our pest control peers from across the country to ensure that our interests are at the top of mind for legislators. Pesticide Preemption was the lead issue we spoke with our legislators about. Our industry is promoting state pesticide preemption at a federal level so only state-wide



Members of the Virginia group, from bottom left: Andrea Coron, Rhonda Elmore, and Kristin Coron. From top left: John Singletary, Marie Horner, Jeff Zalinsky, Dustin Pass, Jerry Omoruyi, Greg Schmidt, and Jim Goins.

Inside This Issue

President’s Message.....	5
Spring Sprayer Maintenance	6
6 New Master Technicians.....	8
VDACS Certification Renewal.....	11
Bird & Bat Management.....	12
NPMA Board Election	16
VPMA Application Academies	17
27 New VPMA WDI Inspectors.....	20

agencies, and not localities, can regulate the sale and use of pesticides.

To illustrate what happens in a state without preemption, look to our northern neighbor Maryland. Some VPMA members may also provide pest management services in MD. If you do, you may know that Montgomery County has

a set of laws that ban the use of certain pesticides (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/property-care/lawns/law/allowed-pesticides.html>). Within Montgomery County is Takoma Park, where additional bans with notification requirements exist (<https://takomapark.md.gov/322/Safe-Grow>). Imagine if state pesticide preemption were to be taken away in Virginia. How would this affect you across all the localities that you serve?

A National Patchwork

We have seen efforts in some of the 45 states with pesticide preemption to roll this back so that towns, cities, or counties can regulate pesticides despite the lack of scientific and technical resources available at the local level.

In the Virginia General Assembly, we've seen two attempts to erode the pesticide preemption that we now work under in the last two years. In 2024, there was a bill pertaining to HOAs being able to ban pesticides that was struck from the docket after some committee discussion. In the 2025 session, SB 911 would have required a 5-day notice and other application data to be provided to a database for any aerial applications. This bill took only 9 days to die in Committee.

NPMA strongly believes that the EPA and the state lead agency should be the only regulatory entities responsible for pesticide registration, sale, and use. Until Congress clarifies the exclusive role of state lead agencies, localities can con-

Pesticide Preemption Primer

How is a Pesticide Registered?

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), a pesticide manufacturer obtains permission from the EPA to sell, distribute, or use a pesticide. Before approval, each prospective registrant must provide the EPA with a proposed label (which outlines the conditions of use) and close to 100 studies showing that the product is effective. Registrations are granted for 15-year periods but can be reassessed at any time.

State Limitations on the Use of a Pesticide

Once a pesticide is registered federally, a state's lead regulatory agency (in Virginia it is VDACS-OPS) will serve as a co-regulator with the EPA, assuring inhabitants and businesses of that state that the pesticide is safe, and placing any additional restrictions on the conditions of use. It is illegal to use a pesticide that has not been properly evaluated and approved by both the EPA and the lead regulatory authority in a state where the pesticide is being sold, distributed, or used.

What is Pesticide Preemption?

Pesticide preemption is the concept that the EPA and the state-lead agency have the technical expertise and resources to best evaluate whether a pesticide is safe and effective. That is, the state lead agency preempts the local government when it comes to the highly technical work of determining how pest control products and services are employed. In states with preemption (currently 45), the state lead agency works with the EPA on all pesticide usage, sale, or distribution. Alaska, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, and Nevada do not have a pesticide preemption law, meaning that localities in these states can, and do, have different regulations.

tinue to impose conflicting regulatory restrictions without scientific assessment, economic analysis, consideration of the rights of property owners to control pests, or the responsibility of public health agencies to control disease vectors.

The goal of visits with legislators at Legislative Day was to encourage Congressional support of statewide pesticide preemption language in the 2025 Farm Bill. The Virginia contingent of PMPs that walked the Hill on March 11, included more than 14 people. We visited the office of both Virginia Senators, Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, as well as Representatives Rob Wittman, Eugene Vindman, and Jennifer McClellan. With leave-behind materials supplied by NPMA, we provided specific amended Farm Bill language that we support which specifically prohibits local regulation of pesticides.

VA PMPs touched on two other issues, which were well-received by the offices we visited. First,

we asked for continued support of the 25c tax credit available to homeowners under the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Tax Credit. Homeowners who remove and replace soiled or damaged insulation following a pest infestation, or who install new insulation, are eligible for up to a \$1200 tax credit. As pest professionals, we believe the continuation of this tax credit is advantageous to communities all over the nation.

The second additional issue we discussed was the need for Congress to continue its strong support for global vector control programs, including the US President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI). The US has shown leadership in malaria research and control, saving nearly 13 million lives from malaria while preventing an additional two billion cases from occurring. Once an eliminated disease in the United States, there are now about 2,000 cases of malaria reported annually, and locally acquired cases (transmitted by U.S. mosquitoes) have been reported in Arkansas, Florida, Maryland, and Texas.



The Virginia PMP group meets with Jahnvi Patel (bottom left holding a blue folder), legislative assistant to Sen. Tim Kaine.

Association Leadership Forum at Legislative Day

At Legislative Day, VPMA’s Executive Staff started their time in DC by attending the Association Leadership Forum (ALF) – a meeting where



state association executives and leaders gather to exchange information, experiences, and ideas.

VPMA Executive Director, Andrea Coron, sat on a panel called ***Experiences from Experts: State Associations***, which focused on the on-the-ground discussions and practices within specific state associations on supporting public policy efforts. The panel shared the challenges of engaging board and members to develop a public policy platform; and how to implement it with limited resources and capacity. This meeting also highlighted the SPAR program and the opportunity to collaborate with allied associations who have similar advocacy needs.

From left, Samantha Malone, Washington State PMA, AJ Alonso, Ohio PMA, and Andrea Coron with VPMA in front of the ALF Meeting..

VPMA Vision & Mission

The leadership of the Virginia Pest Management Association works to fulfill the vision of the organization and to promote the values of our mission statement to our members and industry stewards.

VISION STATEMENT - The vision of the Virginia Pest Management Association is to be recognized by the public and the pest industry as the premier resource for supporting the pest management profession.

MISSION STATEMENT - The mission of the Virginia Pest Management Association is to promote ethical and environmentally responsible pest management practices among our members through education, coalition and professionalism to safely protect the general public.

Index of Advertisers

Arrow.....	21
Bell Labs.....	9
Consolidated National Insurers	7
Corteva	13
Ensystem.....	15
JF Oakes.....	8
Nisus.....	10
Select Insurance Agency.....	19
Syngenta.....	14
Target.....	22
Veseris	11

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President's Message: John Reid

*Spring is the time to invest
in your team*



As we turn the corner into spring, the days are longer, the temperatures rise, and for most of us, our phones start ringing a little more often. This season marks the start of what is typically our busiest stretch of the year—a time when our teams are on the move, our customers need us most, and our operations need to be firing on all cylinders.

This is also the time of year when many companies bring on new staff members to help meet demand. Onboarding and training these new employees is one of the most important investments we can make—not just in our businesses, but in the future of our industry. Getting them started with the right knowledge, tools, and mindset lays the foundation for professionalism and quality service.

Professionalism doesn't happen by accident. It's the result of consistent training, clear standards, and a culture that values growth. Whether it's sharpening communication skills, reinforcing safety protocols, or reviewing the proper way to perform inspections and treatments, Spring is an ideal time to step back and ask: "Are we doing everything we can to improve?" The best teams never stop learning, and the most successful businesses never stop refining their operations.

That's where the Virginia Pest Management Association comes in. Your VPMA membership is more than just a badge—it's a toolbox filled with resources to help you and your staff thrive. We offer a multitude of programs including our WDI Inspector Certification, the VPMA Master Techni-

cian Series, Spring Recertification Webinars, Application Academy, ACE prep course, STM Admin Conference and more, all designed to elevate the professionalism and performance of your staff and pest management professionals across the Commonwealth. Whether you're training someone new or helping a seasoned tech take the next step, VPMA has programs to support every stage of the journey.

I encourage you to make the most of your membership this season. Invest in your team, lean on the resources we provide, and take the time to build habits and systems that will carry you through the busiest time of year with confidence and success.

On behalf of the VPMA Board, I wish each of you a safe, productive, and prosperous Spring. Thank you for your continued commitment to our industry and for being part of a professional community that strives to raise the bar every season.

John Reid

P.S. – As we strive to continually improve the VPMA we are always looking for those who want to be involved. If that is you, or you know someone, please reach out to Andrea or Kristin @ office@vpmaonline.com or me personally @ john@accelpest.com.

Want to Reduce Pest Control Sprayer Downtime?

By Andrew Greess, *reprinted with permission from PCTonline.com*

A significant portion of the pest control sprayer repairs (power sprayer, compressed air sprayer, backpack sprayer) our shop performs are caused by clogged or missing filters.

Filtration is critical to pest professionals because debris will wreak havoc on equipment, such as damage pumps, clog hoses, guns and tips and starve pumps of water, causing extensive damage. The following article will focus on power sprayers, but much of the information also applies to compressed air sprayers and backpacks.

It's critical that the filter be located for easy technician access. This includes being able to easily reach and check the filter, as well as ensuring the system is plumbed so the filter can be checked even when the tank is full. If the tank is bottom-plumbed and the strainer is below the water level in the tank, be sure to install a shut-off valve so the filter can be checked even when the tank is full.

Checking and cleaning the filter is the single most valuable preventative maintenance task you can perform. It's also the easiest.

Don't assume your techs know how to do this. Train them.

For new equipment, check the filter daily. If there's consistently no debris, consider reducing the frequency. When you determine the appropriate frequency, make it a company policy. Too



Photo courtesy of Andrew Greess.

often is better than too seldom. Reinforce the importance of checking and cleaning the filter.

Eventually the filter will become too dirty to clean. Replace it. Chemicals will eventually swell the gasket in the line strainer, making it impossible to create an airtight seal and causing the pump to suck air. Replace the gasket.

Equip each vehicle with an extra filter and gasket so the technician can perform this repair in the field. Standardizing filters across all your power sprayers will make this much easier.

Eventually the line strainer body may crack, causing an air leak. Keep a spare filter on hand to reduce downtime.

These steps, if followed, will boost productivity, allow you to provide better service to your customers and reduce repair expenses.

Andrew Greess is a pest control equipment expert and President of equipment website Qspray.com. Contact him at Andrew@Qspray.com.

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Six New Master Technicians

The Virginia Pest Management Association (VPMA) is excited to announce the addition of six new Master Technicians to our ranks after their successful completion of the VPMA Master Technician Series on Cockroaches and Blood-Feeding Arthropods presented in Virginia Beach in February.

These dedicated professionals have shown remarkable commitment to expanding their expertise in pest management by adding these two Master Tech classes to two others taken previously, furthering their ability to safeguard public health and ensure effective pest control.



New Master Technicians, from left: Brian Pendleton with Accel P & TC, and Eric Douglas, Damian Phillips, and Sterling Wilson with Fox Pest Control.

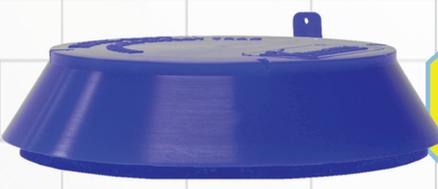
The newest VPMA Master Technicians are:

- Geoffrey Gurr, Kenneth Teachey, and Brian Pendleton from Accel Pest & Termite Control LLC
- Eric Douglas, Damian Phillips, and Sterling Wilson from Fox Pest Control

The VPMA Master Technician program is designed to provide pest management professionals with in-depth, hands-on training on key pest categories. This recent training covered critical topics such as the biology, behavior, and advanced treatment strategies for cockroaches and blood-feeding arthropods. With these insights, participants are equipped to address some of the most challenging pests in the industry with precision.

To become a Master Technician, candidates must complete training in at least four of the eight specialized pest categories offered by VPMA. This rigorous requirement ensures that those who earn the title possess advanced knowledge in multiple pest management areas, elevating their ability to protect public health and safety.

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“We are incredibly proud of these professionals for their dedication to continuing education and technical excellence,” said Andrea Coron, Executive Director of VPMA. “Their hard work not only enhances their own expertise but also raises the standards of pest management practices across Virginia.”

VPMA congratulates our newest Master Technicians and looks forward to seeing the positive impact they’ll make in the field. Their contributions will help ensure higher standards of pest control and public health protection in the communities they serve.

The next presentation of Master Technician Series is scheduled in Virginia Beach this Fall. Rodents will be presented on September 23 and Pest Flies will be on September 24.

To learn more about the VPMA Master Technician program or to view the full list of certified professionals, visit <https://vpmaonline.com/aws/VPMA/pt/sp/find-master>.



Geoffrey Gurr, left, and Ken Teachey, both with Accel P & TC are pictured with Dr. Dini Miller, the Lead Trainer for the Master Technician Program.

Aaron Owens Graduates ELP



NPMA President, Faye Golden, congratulates Aaron Owens on completion of the ELP Program.

Another news-worthy event at NPMA’s Legislative Day was the Executive Leadership Program Class of 2023 Graduation. Our own Aaron Owens, VPMA Secretary and President of US Pest Control was recognized for completing this program. The ELP identifies and trains aspiring association leaders to establish a pipeline of engaged members that represents NPMA’s diverse membership. The two-year curriculum involves professional development, association training, monthly mentoring, and attendance at NPMA events.

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Regulatory Update: Don't Miss Your Certification Renewal Deadline!



Is your certificate set to expire on June 30, 2025?

While there is no fee to renew, you still need to complete one recertification course in each category held every two years to keep your certification valid. This is an important step in ensuring that pesticide applicators remain up to date with the latest best practices, safety standards, and regulations in the industry.

As long as you take the required recertification course before your expiration date, your certificate will be automatically renewed. If you don't complete a recertification course by the

deadline, your certification will expire. Without a valid certificate, applying pesticides would be a violation of Virginia law, and you could face enforcement action. If you miss the June 30 deadline, don't fret, you have until August 29, 2025 to take the course. However, don't wait too long because after August 29, your certification is expired, and you will have to retest.

Unsure of your certification status?

Our online portal provides a convenient way to access and manage your pesticide applicator records online. Through the online portal, you can also update important information, such as your mailing address, phone number, or employer details.

Don't already have access to our online portal?

Keep an eye out for your renewal reminder letter which will include a token and access instructions. Applicators who have set up access to their records via the online portal will receive their renewed certificate by email. All others will receive their renewed certificate by mail.

You can also find a list of an applicator's certification and recertification status on the VDACS website (www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides.shtml). And, if you're due for recertification and haven't signed up for a course yet, no worries! You can check out a list of currently approved recertification courses on VDACS' website here: Approved Commercial/Registered Technician Recertification Training Courses (<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pdf/recertcourses.pdf>)

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Bird and Bat Management an Unrealized Revenue Stream

Richard D. Kramer, Ph.D., BCE

Birds and bats are reservoirs for as many as 25-50 diseases. The most common disease contracted through accumulated bird and bat droppings is histoplasmosis, a fungal disease that can cause respiratory illness and in extreme cases death. Rabies is a disease that is carried by bats and if contracted typically through a bite is fatal if untreated. The rate of rabies infection in a bat colony usually is very low. In the United States less than 1% of bats sampled from natural populations is rabid. Despite the low incidence of rabies in bats, a bite or suspected bite from a bat requires medical investigation. Birds also produce allergens that can be very problematic for sensitive individuals.

Birds and bats carry a variety of ectoparasites most notably mites on birds and bat bugs on bats. Once we remove nesting birds or bat colonies their respective ectoparasites if present seek alternative hosts – humans. It is added value and revenue to proactively treat for these parasites.

Birds can be an extreme nuisance when they perch, roost, and nest in or on structures and trees. Their droppings are very caustic and damage surface materials and coatings. In addition, birds damage crops and their droppings contaminate stored food products.

In some settings birds can be a major nuisance.

- Geese will attack people when they unknowingly pass by their nest. I'm aware of one case of a goose attacking a woman passing by the nest, causing her to fall, and break her arm.
- Goose droppings on sidewalks and playgrounds pose an unsightly mess.
- Vultures perching on a school roof parapet and pulling patches off the mem-

brane roof.

- Woodpeckers looking for wood-boring beetles and, in the process, destroying the wooden shingles and trim on the house.



Pileated Woodpecker. Photo credit: NWCOA

The most important step in bird and bat management is the survey. It is essential in many situations to understand fully what is going on before formulating a management plan. The site should be visited on several days and at different times to better analyze activity patterns.

Determine the species of bird. We have two categories of birds as determined by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act:

Non-protected – sparrows, starlings, and pigeons and in some cases, introduced parrots.

Protected – all other birds. Once the chicks have fledged the nest can be removed and the birds excluded. In some cases, permits maybe issued to remove protected birds or destroy their eggs (geese).

Population size: Are you dealing with one

bird nesting in a dryer vent or less than 10 bats in an attic? Possibly a small group of nesting sparrows or pigeons. Or, is it a flock of starlings perching in a tree over cars when they return in the evening from their feeding site?

Location of the problem. Is it an attic, dryer vent, or an opening in the wall? Are birds in a school yard or on a roof top? Are they entering a maintenance facility through open doors and nesting inside? Are they perching on building ledges 100' off the ground?

Habitat. Are you dealing with a country setting (wide open spaces), farm, detached houses in suburbia, or apartment and commercial buildings in the city? This can certainly affect your options.

Resources. What are they feeding on? Where are they feeding? Where are they nesting?

Activity patterns. Are they roosting, perching, or nesting? At the site are they attracted to food and water?

Time constraints. When can the work be done? Is the work going to be noticed by the public or building occupants?

Public relations issues. Even innocuous methods of bird management can garner undesir-

able public opinion. Unfounded perception can create a lot of issues.

Equipment. Occasionally equipment is needed that requires special training e.g., lifts, respirators, harnesses. Plan ahead and for the added cost.



Bats congregating in an attic. Photo credit: NWCOA.

Regulatory Compliance.

Bats removal is regulated by the Department of Wildlife Resources in Virginia. Be sure to determine if you need a Commercial Nuisance Animal Permit (CNAP) prior to engaging in Bat or Bird removal.

Depending on what control methods you are using, you may need a VDACS 7D pesticide applicator license for Bird control in addition to a CNAP.

Management Options.

- Exclusion involves the use of netting, spikes, pin and wire, slide, bird spider, electric track, vent covers, etc.

- Harassment includes various reflectors, cannons, supersonic repel-

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- Trapping can involve the use of mist nets, cage traps, pole nets, etc.
- Chemical: Various repellents containing methyl anthranilate some with a reflective component and bird tactile/taste gels that contain natural ingredients can deter bird activity. Avitrol is a corn based frightening agent that can be lethal to some birds. It should only be used when it is certain no protected birds are in the area.
- Shooting: this can be effective ridding a location of a few non-protected birds. However, it involves coordination with building management and local law enforcement. Also, there is the potential for structural damage even with a pellet or bb gun.

A component of every bird or bat job should be dropping clean-up and nest removal. One of the products I have used over the years is Dissolve-it.

When working in an environment with a lot of birds or bat droppings wear the proper protective equipment.

- Hooded Tyvek
- Eye protection (goggles)
- Gloves
- Respirator

Bird and bat management can be a great add-on revenue stream. It benefits your customers and your bottom line. It is important to be sure you are in compliance with all state and federal regulations if you take on this new service. In addition, check that your insurance policy includes your work in wildlife control and that you have hired or acquired the skills necessary to perform humane wildlife control services. For more information about nuisance wildlife control and educational opportunities in this field, visit www.NWCOA.com.

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Have you cast your vote in the NPMA Board Election yet?

Only the main contact from each member company can vote in the NPMA election, and each company has an individual link just for their company. You would have received an email from intelligencainc.com on Saturday, March 15, 2025. Reminders will be sent weekly until the election closes on April 15.

John Adkins, Four Seasons Pest Control is running for an at-large director on the NPMA Board

John Adkins is the owner of Four Seasons Pest Control, which he has operated for the past 27 years. A graduate of Radford University, John has built a strong, service-driven business that serves communities across south-central Virginia and four counties in northern North Carolina.

John has been actively involved in the pest management industry throughout his career. He has served on the Board of Directors for both the Virginia and North Carolina Pest Management Associations, is a past president of the North Carolina Pest Management Association, and currently

chairs its PCT School—demonstrating his long-standing commitment to education and leadership in the field.

He has two sons: Hunter, who works alongside him in the family business, and Bryce, a sophomore at Virginia Tech.

John is running for the At-Large position on the Board of Directors for the National Pest Management Association. He hopes to bring his decades of experience and dedication to the advancement of the industry to serve the national membership.



VA & MD PMP Dinner at Legislative Day

A highlight for VPMA attendees is the annual PMP Legislative Day Dinner. For the second year running, VA participants at Legislative Day were joined by MD PMPs for a lovely, social dinner out. Hosted at Equinox on 19th, our group of 26 had the restaurant all to ourselves. We enjoyed lively conversation, delicious food, and warm camaraderie during this evening. Special recognition to our allied attendees from BASF, Corteva, Envu, FORSHAW, and Target Specialty Products that covered the bar bill!



Application Academies bring hands-on skills to PMPs

VPMA wrapped up a successful week of Application Academies in March, bringing together pest control technicians from across the state for a series of hands-on training sessions. With a strong emphasis on "collaboration versus competition," the event highlighted the importance of continuous learning and skills development in the pest management industry.

Jeff Zalinsky, VPMA's Central Virginia Regional Director, expressed his excitement about the event, noting, "What a great day having almost 40 different pest control technicians from 7 different local companies at our office to learn proper techniques, equipment calibration, mixing protocols, and application strategies." For Zalinsky, any opportunity to learn something new in the field is a great one. The application academies were designed to provide just that—new knowledge and practical skills to pest control professionals across Virginia.

One of the key contributors to the event was Michael Ivey of Syngenta, who traveled from North Carolina to help promote the industry and provide hands-on training. Michael led the sessions, focusing on three essential concepts to help technicians refine their approach to pest control:

1. Calibration of Flow Zone Backpack Sprayer – Emphasizing proper calibration techniques, particularly for foundation treatments, to ensure effective pest control and accurate application volumes.

2. High Volume/Low Concentration Applications – Ivey highlighted the importance of using high-volume, low-concentration applications

when targeting large colony ants, particularly in environments with heavy mulch or pine straw. This approach ensures thorough coverage and maximum effectiveness in controlling pests.



Michael Ivey, front left, demonstrating High Volume/Low Concentration Application at the Central Virginia Application Academy held at the PestNow office in Richmond.

3. Practical Application Techniques – Technicians learned the best practices for application techniques, enhancing their ability to make precise treatments that improve results while reducing environmental impact.

Renee Kirby, NOVA Regional Director for VPMA, shared his thoughts on the event, saying, "Application Academy offered a genuinely engaging and interactive learning experience. Every PMP (Pest Management Professional) gained valuable skills in precise equipment calibration and thorough application techniques for effective pest control."

The 90-minute training sessions, which were provided free of charge to all VPMA members, offered more than just educational content. They were designed to foster connections within the pest control community. As Carley Church, VPMA Tidewater Regional Director, noted, "This training brought together individuals committed to continuous learning and excellence in our industry." With more than 40 people in attendance, Church emphasized the significance of building a shared commitment to becoming better technicians who can serve both their companies and their communities.



The great attendance at the Tidewater Application Academy, held at Walder Foundation Products, is pictured here.

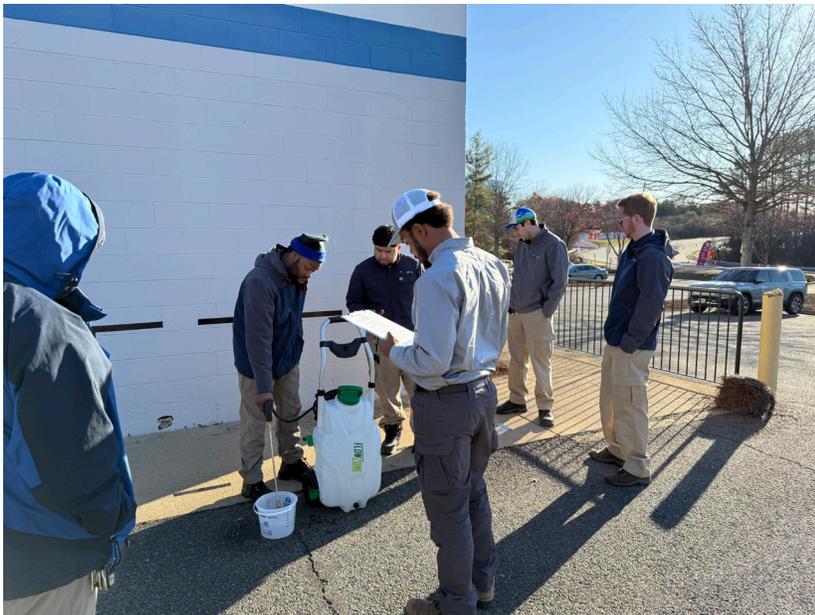
VPMA's goal with the Application Academies is not only to offer valuable professional development opportunities but also to show technicians that they are part of a broader, supportive community. As VPMA works to enhance the visibility of its programs in local regions, events like these strengthen the bonds between technicians and their peers.

A special thanks goes out to Michael Ivey with Syngenta for his dedication to the success of these events. Through his expertise and hands-on instruction, Michael helped ensure that nearly 100 pest management professionals walked away from the Application Academies with new skills and techniques to enhance their work.

The VPMA remains committed to offering

valuable educational experiences and fostering a collaborative environment where technicians can grow, learn, and advance in their careers. The Application Academies are just one example of the many ways that the association continues to serve its members and the greater pest management community.

In an industry where precision and continuous improvement are key, the VPMA is proud to lead the way by providing educational opportunities that drive collaboration and excellence.



Participants at the NOVA event, held at the Vesperis Springfield location, practicing calibration of spray equipment.

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— Randy Abbitt, President
National Exterminating Co.
of Newport News

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Pictured: Frank and Phillis MacDonald, Select Insurance Agency



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VPMA: Raising the Bar on WDI Inspections

The Virginia Pest Management Association (VPMA) continues its mission to elevate the professional standards of the pest control industry in Virginia through comprehensive education and certification programs. A shining example of this commitment is the recent graduation of twenty-seven pest management professionals as VPMA Certified Wood-Destroying Insect (WDI) Inspectors, following a detailed and rigorous training session in March 2025. This milestone underscores the association's dedication to providing pest management professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to deliver the highest level of service to their clients.

Elevating Professional Standards Through Education

Since its inception in 2000, the VPMA Certified WDI Inspector program has been a cornerstone of the association's educational efforts.

Designed to equip pest control professionals with the expertise necessary to conduct thorough and reliable wood-destroying insect inspections, this voluntary certification program has set the standard for excellence in the industry. Now celebrating 25 years of success, the program has trained countless pest management professionals across Virginia, ensuring they are well-prepared to

identify, assess, and mitigate the risks posed by wood-destroying insects such as termites, carpenter ants, and powderpost beetles.

The program is structured to provide pest management professionals with a comprehensive understanding of wood-destroying insect identification, structural vulnerabilities, infestation signs, and best practices for accurate reporting. But the focus doesn't stop there. VPMA's certification process emphasizes the importance of clear communication with homeowners, real estate professionals, and other stakeholders—ensuring that inspections are not only thorough but also understandable and actionable.

“By certifying a new group of WDI inspectors, we are continuing our mission to ensure that pest management professionals in Virginia have access to the latest education and resources,” said John Reid, VPMA President and the lead trainer of the program. “These inspectors are



John Reid, bottom left with back to camera, VPMA President and WDI lead trainer, speaking at the March WDI Inspector Certification class held in Fredericksburg.



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"When looking for a home for our business, we were looking for a company that provides exemplary customer service and was passionate about how customers and team members are treated. We found that in Arrow and are very proud to now be part of the Arrow Family. We wanted to give our team members an opportunity to be with a company where we knew there would be growth opportunities as well as be able to offer an expanded range of services to offer our customers. All of my team members will continue their careers with Arrow Exterminators."

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Exterminating Unlimited

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now better equipped to protect homes and businesses from the devastating damage caused by wood-destroying insects.”

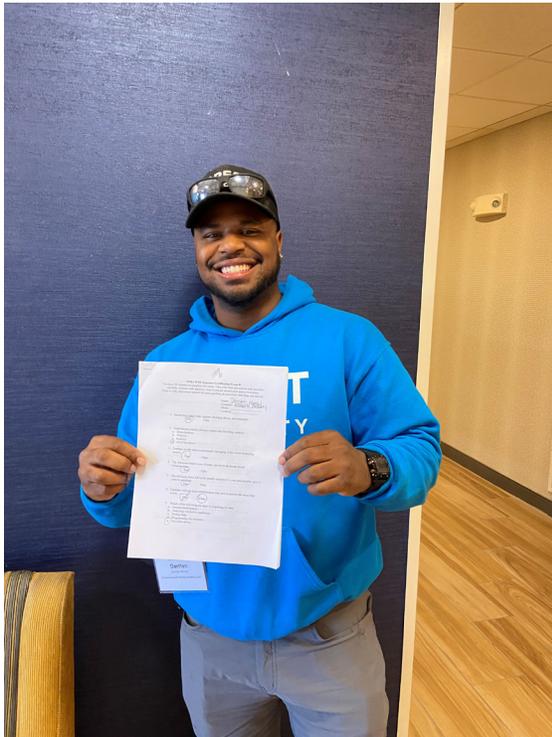
A Commitment to Consistency and Accuracy

For pest management professionals to qualify for the prestigious WDI Inspector certification, they must complete a demanding training program followed by a final exam. The program is open to individuals employed by companies that hold a pesticide business license and are certified by the Virginia Department of Agriculture. The in-depth training covers topics such as identifying various wood-destroying insects, recognizing infestation signs, understanding structural weaknesses, and adhering to industry standards for documentation.

The final exam tests participants’ knowledge and ensures that those who earn the certification are fully equipped to perform inspections that meet VPMA’s high standards. This rigorous approach to education helps guarantee that Virginia’s pest management professionals are equipped with the knowledge and expertise necessary to provide consistent, reliable inspections.

Celebrating Success: New WDI Inspectors Ready to Serve

This latest cohort of certified WDI inspectors joins a growing network of professionals who are committed to ensuring that wood-destroying



Darrian Moody of Pest & Mosquito Authority was our top performer with a 100% on his exam.

insect inspections in Virginia meet the highest standards. Representing nine prominent pest control companies from across the state, these 27 newly certified professionals are now empowered to offer their clients peace of mind, knowing that their inspections are thorough, accurate, and backed by a recognized certification.

Notably, Darrian Moody of Pest & Mosquito Authority stood out as the top performer of the class, scoring a perfect 100% on the final exam. “Darrian’s bright smile matches his sharp mind. He is an asset to his company and the industry,” said Andrea Coron, VPMA Executive Director. This recognition highlights not only Darrian’s expertise but also the caliber of professionals who complete the VPMA certification program, further

demonstrating the program’s role in raising industry standards.

The newly certified inspectors include individuals from the following VPMA member companies:

- Affordable Pest, LLC
- American Pest
- Arrow Exterminators
- EnviroGuard
- E & R Exterminating Co.
- Go-Forth Exterminating Services
- HomeTeam Pest Defense
- Lewis Termite & Pest Control
- Pest & Mosquito Authority

These professionals join a growing network of VPMA Certified WDI Inspectors who are committed to upholding industry best practices and enhancing consumer confidence in the pest management services provided in Virginia.

VPMA’s Ongoing Commitment to Excellence

For more information about the VPMA Certified WDI Inspector program, or to view a list of certified inspectors, visit [VPMA’s Certified WDI Inspector Page](#).

VPMA has scheduled two additional opportunities this year to earn your WDI Inspector Certification. On June 4th, we will host the full program as a live-streaming webinar. The program will be presented in-person on October 2 in Virginia Beach. For more information or to register, please visit: <https://vpmaonline.com/aws/VPMA/pt/sp/wdi-certification>.

In a rapidly changing industry where expertise and professionalism are crucial, the VPMA stands firm as a leader in pest control education, working tirelessly to ensure that its members are equipped to serve their communities with integrity, skill, and precision.