Hello everyone! I hope everybody has had a good winter and spring and are ready for a busy summer pest invasion! It seems like the cold weather really hung around this year, but I am sure you are all now busy chasing critters. It was a pleasure visiting with several of you at the Urban Pest Management Conference in February. I believe we had a good conference, and with some proposed new changes, hopefully an even better one in 2014!

During the conference, many of you attended the members only meeting and enjoyed a great meal. We want to thank the sponsors for their contributions that allowed us to hold this members only meeting. Your contributions were greatly appreciated. Many things were discussed at the meeting, including and most importantly, how to make the conference better and more enjoyable to attend. We discussed moving the week of the conference to avoid other conflicts for our vendors. We have shared these concerns with the University and will begin planning for next year’s conference.

Executive Director, Bob Anderson updated us on various legislative issues of interest to the Pest Management industry, including the proposed elimination of some sales tax exemptions and legislation introduced to reduce the registration fee for pesticides. Brad Kuiper also made us aware of some new audit standards that may be important to us for upcoming audits. The association will look into any new audit standards and report back to the members with any updates or clarifications.

We also discussed whether there was enough interest to hold a fall meeting that would be centered around business issues, such as succession planning, accounting and other regulatory issues. Suggestions were made for speakers such as an accountant, an attorney and a representative from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to discuss potential audit requirements. A reminder was made that the Ward Comb Scholarship fund is available to any student preparing to enter college. For information on this scholarship fund, please contact the association office.

The new association website is in place and will provide valuable information to our members. Information will continue to be added and you will soon be able to receive your newsletter through the website.

Board elections were also held. I am honored to serve as your President for a two year term. Travis Lucas was nominated and voted into the position of Vice President. Thank you to Don Ferguson for your service as Vice President. It was a pleasure working with you. Alice Licht was re-elected to serve as our Secretary/Treasurer. Both Tracy Connor and Stephanie Muhlbach were elected as representatives for their districts.

I look forward to serving two more years as your President. Thanks to the many great members of this association and our association office staff that help make this job easy.

If you ever have any questions or would just like to visit, you can reach me at (402) 306-0466 or email at crittercontrol2@qwestoffice.net. Hope everybody has a great summer.

The 2013 Legislative session adjourned June 5. The Session started out with hearings on all bills introduced, but was heavily dominated by filibusters once full day debate began.

Two early bills of interest to most business groups were L.B. 405 and L.B. 406 introduced by Senators Beau McCoy and Brad Ashford, both of Omaha, at the request of the Governor. The bills both would have removed the sales tax exemption on most current exemptions in the state. This included manufacturing, agricultural inputs, irrigation water, energy and many other exemptions.

Business and agricultural groups formed a coalition and worked together to prevent the passage of these bills, and both were killed by the Revenue Committee. Border bleeding was one of the many concerns expressed, had the legislation passed. The legislature will form a Tax Modernization Committee to study our current tax system over the interim.

Floor debate in the waning days centered on expansion of medicaid under Obama Care and funding of education. The two-year budget from the Appropriations Committee was passed by the body, with several line item vetoes from Governor Heineman, which generated additional debate and overrides.

Legislation affecting the pest control industry was lacking this year, which is not all bad.

The 2013 Legislative session
Do You Have a Student in the Family?

The Nebraska State Pest Control Association is proud to offer the Ward Combs Scholarship to help members and employees of the Association achieve their educational goals.

Through a generous donation from the Combs’ family, and others, the NSPCA is able to assist our members and their children with financial scholarship towards their education.

If you have a student preparing to go to college, please take the time complete the application included on pages 6 and 7. With the increased cost of tuition and books, every little bit can help.

Please contact the Association Office if you have any questions.
Reps. Tom Graves, Schrader Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Protect Agriculture, Food Processing and Pest Control Industries From New EPA Regulation

U.S. Representative Tom Graves (R-GA-14) and Kurt Schrader (D-OR-5), along with a bipartisan group of 13 other representatives, introduced the Pest Free Food Supply Act. The legislation would force the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to withdraw a proposed regulation that would remove the authorized food uses of the industry standard fumigant, sulfuryl fluoride (SF), often used in commodity and food processing facilities. If this EPA action is allowed to go forward, food production and pest management sectors will be left without a broad-spectrum fumigant and few viable pest control alternatives, creating a potential crisis for food safety throughout the United States.

The pest control sector helps commodity and food processing facilities ensure the safety, quality and affordability of their products through the use of SF. Appropriate fumigation is a key component of the sanitation regimen companies follow and Rep. Graves is pleased to have a bipartisan coalition in Congress that recognizes the importance of this safe, common and scientifically sound process.

If EPA moves forward with this proposed regulation based on emotion, instead of scientific facts, it will cost consumers and industry dearly and has the potential to send American jobs overseas, Graves announced. He wants to be sure that the agriculture and food industries are able to continue producing safe, affordable, high-quality products without the threat of excessive bureaucratic burdens and regulations coming from Washington. Rep. Schrader, lead Democratic sponsor of the bill, said, “This proposed regulation represents another example of overreaching by the EPA. We need a smart, science based regulatory structure, not one based on emotion. The EPA formerly acknowledged that phasing out the use of SF will do little to decrease fluoride exposure. Therefore, their actions make little sense. He urged his colleagues to join in cosponsoring the Pest Free Food Supply Act to force the EPA to withdraw this misguided proposal.”

Lawsuit threats by environmental activist groups caused the EPA to flip-flop on its science-based approval of SF’s residue tolerances under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. As a result, on January 19, 2011, the agency proposed revoking the tolerances for SF residues on foods. EPA itself has admitted this action would have no meaningful public health benefits because SF contributes, in their words, a tiny fraction of overall human aggregate fluoride exposures.
Members Gather for 2013 Conference and Annual Meeting

It was great to see many friends and colleagues at the 2013 Urban Pest Management Conference sponsored by the Nebraska State Pest Control Association and the University of Nebraska. The two day conference was well attended by individuals from around the State. In addition to a wide range of topics covered by leading industry professionals, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture was on hand to conduct training for applicator license recertification.

The NSPCA held its Annual Meeting and 3rd Annual Husker Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament. We are thankful for the many sponsors and exhibitors that helped support our Conference. The Board or Directors is beginning to plan for the 2014 UPM Conference now, so please pick up the phone if you have any ideas or topics you would like to see on the agenda for next year.

Thank You to Our 2013 Exhibitors

AB Bait Company
Baehler Insurance Agency
BASF
Bayer Environmental Science
Bell Laboratories
Dow AgroSciences
Ensystex
Kness Manufacturing
Nebraska Dept. of Health & Human Services
Pest Control Supplies
Pest Management Supply
Rhodes Chemical Company
Syngenta
Trece
Univar
Winfield

Save the Date: 2014 NSPCA UPM Conference

February 18-19, 2014
Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln
In late April, a federal judge dismissed litigation filed by activist groups under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that threatened to undermine the continued use of more than 380 lawfully registered pesticides throughout the United States, including almost all rodenticides and termiticides. The action represents an enormous victory for the entire Pest Control Industry. Known as the "Mega-suit," the case had the potential to adversely impact almost every Pest Management Professional.

Over the last decade, activist groups have been filing lawsuits - mostly in California and the Pacific Northwest - challenging the legality of the registration and reregistration of a number of pesticides, claiming that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency failed to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, as required under ESA, about whether the use of the pesticides would affect endangered species or their habitat. EPA lost some of the initial litigation, and in an attempt to avoid further legal setbacks, began negotiating agreements with the activist groups under which beyond label use restrictions were imposed on users in the covered areas.

A case involving more than seventy pesticides, 11 endangered species in eight San Francisco Bay area counties that EPA settled continues to impact PMPs use of rodenticides and termiticides in those counties. More recently, the activist groups Center for Biological Diversity and Pesticide Action Network North America filed the "Mega-suit" in federal district court on Northern California, although the case covered 49 states. After meeting with the groups for more than a year to reach a settlement agreement, EPA last fall, along with several industry groups, filed a motion to dismiss.

The Center for Biological Diversity and The Pesticide Action Network North America have 30 days to refile their lawsuit and 60 days to appeal the decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Key International Code Council Changes Defeated

The National Pest Management Association prevented changes to the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and International Residential Code (IRC) that would be problematic to the professional pest management industry. NPMA brought these changes to a cessation at the International Code Council's Part B Hearings in Dallas, TX, at the behest of the WDO Division.

The biggest win was defeating a disturbing addition to the IRC section on Subterranean Termite Control Methods (R318.1). The poorly written proposal by the Composite Lumber Manufacturers Association would have added plastic composite building materials as an accepted method of termite protection. Furthermore, the proposal could have permitted any structure (including a home) to be represented as "protected from termites" if an exterior deck of wood/plastic composite materials was present. While obviously a flawed proposal, to create the strongest and most credible industry position, NPMA partnered with the Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) to bring defeat to this change.

In other action at the IPMC, the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) proposed redefining "infestation" as the simple presence of pest debris/ residue. NCHH also proposed Code Officials regulating the storage and application of pesticides. With this second proposal's effects at the State level, NPMA again partnered with ASPCRO to defeat this proposal.

Final results of NPMA actions - preemption has been preserved, infestation will not be defined by the simple presence of pest debris/ residue and plastic composite lumber will not be considered a termite control method.
Criteria For Recipient Of Ward Combs Scholarship

1. The student applying for the scholarship must be at least one of the following:
   A. Direct relative of an owner of a pest control business, and a member of the Nebraska State Pest Control Association, to be inclusive of son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, wife or husband of the owner or the owner (him or herself). It shall not include the members’ brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, nieces or nephews, unless they are employed in the business (see #B).
   B. An employee of the owner of a pest control business. The owner must be a business member of the Nebraska State Pest Control Association. The employee must be employed at the business, and not at other enterprises owned by the pest control business. The recipient may also be a son or daughter of an employee of the member.

2. The student applying for the scholarship must meet the following criteria:
   A. The applicant must be a graduate of high school, or have passed a high school equivalency examination indicating the completion of high school.
   B. The applicant must be a resident of Nebraska.

3. The scholarship will be issued on a check payable to the institution chosen by the recipient.

4. The scholarship will be awarded based on the applicant attending one of the following institutions:
   A. An accredited university, state college, community college or business/liberal arts school.
   B. Correspondence courses, mini-workshops or courses will not qualify for the scholarship.

5. The scholarship will be awarded based on the following criteria and points (1 being lowest score, 10 being highest score):
   A. 1-10 Academic Excellence: Based on cumulative grade point averages in high school or higher education.
   B. 1-10 Community Service: Based on individual’s participation in local, regional and state activities to include such service as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, civic and church organizations, community service clubs and the like.
   C. 1-10 Financial Need: Based on demonstration of need, how much of the education must be self-funded or through student loans.
   D. 1-10 Career Objectives: The Committee will review career objectives of the applicant.

Educator's Recommendation Form For Ward Combs Scholarship

Name of Applicant: __________________________________________
School: ___________________________________________________
How long and in what capacity have you known applicant:__________
Please state why you feel this applicant would be a good choice as a recipient of this scholarship:
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
How firm is the applicant's commitment to his or her career?____________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Signed: __________________________________ Date: ______________
Title or Position: __________________________________________

School Verification

As of __________________________ the student listed above had a grade point average of ____________________
ACT Test Score: __________  SAT Test Score: __________  Rank In Class: __________
Signed: _____________________ Position: ___________________
NSPCA Ward Combs Scholarship Application

NAME: __________________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________________________________

CITY: ______________________________________ STATE: __________ ZIP: _______________________

HOME PHONE: ____________________________ CURRENT GPA: _______________________________

SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTENDING: _________________________________________________________

STATE OF RESIDENCE: ___________________________ YEAR YOU BECAME RESIDENT: ______________

SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ATTENDING: __________________________________________________________

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE HONORS, AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: __________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS AND ACTIVITIES: ______________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

STATE YOUR FINANCIAL NEED/PORTION OF EDUCATION FUNDED BY SELF: ________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

ACT TEST SCORE: ____________ SAT TEST SCORE: ____________ RANK IN CLASS: ________________

# OF STUDENTS IN YOUR CLASS: ___________

WHAT ARE YOUR SHORT AND LONG-TERM CAREER OBJECTIVES?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

WHAT DO YOU SEE YOURSELF DOING TEN YEARS FROM NOW?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE USEFUL TO SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

WITH WHICH MEMBER ARE YOU AFFILIATED? _________________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________ Date _________________________________

Please attach reference letter and submit application to
NEBRASKA STATE PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION
1111 Lincoln Mall, Suite 308
Lincoln, NE 68508-3910
(402) 476-1528 Fax (402) 476-1259
Email info@nspca.org
MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Kuiper, Glenn Shaw, Darrel Giesenhagen, Dennis McFarland, Nick Smith, Linda McFarland, Carl Bran, Mike Carey, Dave Ryan, Shawn Ryan, Dennis Probasco, Jack Watkins, Greg Poppe Marsha Poppe-Rosch, Tracy Connor, Vic McCarty, Stephanie Muhlbach, Ryan Powell, Dave Eaton, Dolan Smith, Travis Lucas, Wayne Lucas, Jeff Voelker, Jeff Jones and Deb Jones. ALSO PRESENT: Bob Anderson, Executive Director and Andy Licht, with the Association Office.

1. President Jeff Voelker called the Meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. He thanked the members for attending and participating in the Association meeting. He also thanked the sponsors for their contributions providing the meal.

2. Secretary’s Report. Jeff Voelker asked the members to review the minutes that were attached to the agenda. Motion by Linda McFarland, seconded by Dennis McFarland: "The Minutes from the February 15, 2012, Membership Meeting be approved as published and presented." Motion passed.

3. Treasurer’s Report. Andy Licht reviewed the financial statements for fiscal year ending October 31, 2012. Total assets were $36,997.45 with liabilities of sales tax payable of $15.75 and Restricted Scholarship Funds of $22,846.04, leaving equity at $14,135.66. There was discussion on the Association scholarship and requirements for application. Motion by Brad Kuiper, seconded by Greg Poppe: "The Treasurer’s Report be approved as presented." Motion passed.

4. Members discussed the Urban Pest Management Conference. It was stated the week prior would not conflict with other State Conferences. Bob Anderson said the Association would attempt to share members’ concerns with the University to improve the current format.

5. Bob Anderson updated the membership on legislative issues of interest to the pest management industry, including the proposed elimination of some sales tax exemptions and legislation introduced to reduce the registration fee for pesticides.

6. Bob Anderson asked the membership for ideas for the Association’s new website. He stated it had been developed and information would continue to be added.

7. There was discussion as to whether there was interest from the membership to hold a fall meeting to cover business issues. Suggested ideas for speakers and topics were an accountant, business succession planning, and an attorney. It was also brought up that regulations should be covered at the meeting, specifically Dept. of Ag audit requirements.

8. It was discussed that the Association should look into any new audit standards and report back to the members with any updates or clarification.


   A. Motion by Brad Kuiper, seconded by Linda McFarland: "A unanimous ballot be cast for Jeff Voelker for the position of President for a two-year term." Motion passed.

   B. Motion by Linda McFarland, seconded by Darrel Giesenhagen: "A unanimous ballot be cast for Travis Lucas for the position of Vice President for a two-year term." Motion passed.

   C. Motion by Darrel Giesenhagen, seconded by Mike Carey: "Alice Licht be elected to a two year term of Secretary/Treasurer." Motion passed.

   D. Motion by Vic McCarty, seconded by Linda McFarland: "Tracy Connor be elected to a three year term from District 1." Motion passed.

   E. Motion by Greg Poppe, seconded by Travis Lucas: "Stephanie Muhlbach be elected to a three year term from District 4." Motion passed.

10 Jeff Voelker asked if there were any other topics for discussion, seeing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Vic McCarty, seconded by Linda McFarland: "The meeting be adjourned." Motion passed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Andy Licht for
Alice L. Licht
Secretary/Treasurer