Message from the President
By: Travis Lucas

Dear Fellow NSPCA Members,

Spring is upon us! An exciting time in our business when the rise of seasonal pests can spell an upsurge in new customers and more work. After all, who doesn’t get excited about the first few February interior ant infestations, cutting a soft trench next to a foundation and chasing out spiders, or discovering a complex maze of vole burrows across a yard that was not so long ago blanketed with snow? In addition to being one of the four seasons that we experience, the word spring is defined this way; to move or jump suddenly or rapidly upward or forward. I think we will all appreciate that definition a bit better come May!

The passing of Winter also marks the completion of another year’s successful Urban Pest Management Conference. I certainly speak for so many of those that were involved with and attended the conference who believed that this was a fantastic conference. We enjoyed great attendance, top-notch speakers and topics, and the much appreciated support of our exhibitors. For many of us who are spread throughout our large state, the conference affords us time to spend with friends and colleagues, not to mention taking in the latest industry research and product developments. Pest control is a special and unique business that we typically are passionate about in ways that the general public doesn’t always understand. Coming together with so many like minded professionals gives us a sense of community and a chance to come away with renewed pride and professionalism in our industry. Personally, I can recall as a young man, not sure what type of work I wanted to enter, being energized by some of the industries great success stories and the interest they showed in me and my future in the business. Truly, an event like the Urban Pest Management Conference is an institution, in and of itself, and one that is held in high esteem throughout the country.

2016 marked a momentous year as well. Dr. Shripat T. Kamble, who has been an invaluable source of dedication, attention, and financial support to the conference, announced that after 24 years he would no longer be heading up future conferences. While it is a sad moment to lose someone so pivotal and important to this event, Shripat went above and beyond in his work in behalf of it, and we wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

Here comes the next question. What now? There are obviously some sizeable empty shoes to be filled in the coming years. Fortunately, the conference planning committee is comprised of representatives from the UNL Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources as well as members of our own association. We are all about to find out if we took good notes! We have already begun discussing what the future holds for the conference and I can tell you that we all see this as an opportunity to continue the legacy of excellence left by Shripat. We are enthusiastic about continuing what we all appreciate so much about this conference and excited to contribute in ways that will continue to make the great even greater.

Over the course of this year, the current conference planning committee will be meeting monthly to consider important matters such as speakers, topics, scheduling, and the content of the continuing education credits. Already we have had some generous speakers volunteering their services at greatly reduced rates, as well as the access that the UNL staff has to many qualified educators.

I encourage all of you to recognize and take advantage of the reality that this is our conference. This is an event for pest professionals by pest professionals. If you have any input or suggestions for our upcoming conference, even if they depart from our conventional templates, I am all ears. Any ideas I receive I will gladly present for discussion to the rest of the planning committee who are also open minded to new approaches to our aims. I invite you to reach me at Travis@BenzelPest.net.

Again, I wish you all the best in our coming busy months and hope to hear from you as we plan this exciting 2017 Urban Pest Management Conference.
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CDC Expresses Growing Concerns on Zika; Congressional Response

Officials from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently explained mosquitoes that can carry Zika have spread much faster in the United States, and the virus has greater health impacts than previously thought. CDC officials now believe mosquitoes carrying the virus may be in 30 states, up from 12 states and have also linked the virus to pregnancy complications beyond microcephaly and that Zika may also be associated with acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, a neurological condition that affects the brain in a manner similar to multiple sclerosis.

CDC officials again stressed the need for additional funding to combat Zika, warning that the nearly $600 million in Ebola funds the Obama administration redirected to Zika efforts last week would not be enough. The White House has asked for $1.9 billion in new funding for Zika.

On Capitol Hill the House Appropriations Committee Chairman, Hal Rogers, stated that the Committee is rapidly working on a supplemental bill to provide additional funding to fight Zika but cautioned that the committee is waiting on the administration to provide more details about what it needs to combat the virus outbreak before authorizing $1.9 billion in funding.

Also on Capitol Hill, the House overwhelmingly approved legislation (H.R. 4400) which would add Zika to a key U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) program called the Priority Review Voucher Program, which encourages the development of treatments for neglected tropical diseases. The bill has already passed the Senate (S.2512). NPMA is continuously communicating with Federal legislators and regulators about the important role of the structural pest management industry in mitigating exposure to Zika carrying mosquitoes.
Preventing pests from entering buildings and structures – rather than trying to control them once they’re in – is a key message from the 24th annual Urban Pest Management conference in Lincoln.

Also at the February 9-10 conference, longtime conference coordinator University of Nebraska-Lincoln entomologist Shripat Kamble announced this would be his last, in order to devote more time to research and other extension programs.

The annual conference is sponsored by UNL Extension and the Nebraska State Pest Control Association, in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Bobby Corrigan, RMC Pest Management Consulting of Richmond, Ind., and part-time rodent researcher for New York City, is an annual presenter. This year his emphasis was on strategic pest control.

“Pest management is a deep, deep science,” Corrigan told the 133 participants. “Pests are complex.”

Understanding pest habitat can prevent pests from invading in the first place, and could radically change pest management.

For example, biologists need to be involved when a building is designed and built, Corrigan said, because they know ways to avoid pest entry. And tools such as aerial maps can be useful in identifying places where pests may originate, such as in nearby forage or tree habitat. The finest restaurants and office buildings are not exempt from rodent invasion; Corrigan also showed how a 9 mm gap between doors is an ample entry for mice, which he called the second most successful mammal on earth.

Clients need to be willing partners to solve pest management problems, Corrigan said, and pest managers must keep educated through venues such as the UPM conference, and by reading trade and scholarly journals.

Bob Davis, market development specialist with BASF Pest Control Solutions in Pflugerville, Texas, said the most dangerous known animal is the mosquito. Insects, he added, contribute to up to one-third or more food loss in Third World countries. Davis also explained new pesticide label wording.

Travis Aggson, vice president at American Pest Management in Manhattan, Kan., discussed winning and retaining clients. The cost of obtaining new clients is 15 times more than keeping current clients, Aggson said. Being prompt, courteous, tidy and clean make favorable impressions, he said, adding correct diagnostics, a genuine interest in clients and involving them in decisions create business loyalty.

Several of this year’s 52 topics were on bedbugs, which cause considerable anxiety and expense to control although aren’t known to transmit disease to humans. Other topics included climate change and pest migration, insect biology, bee stings and allergies, bats, ticks, termites, roaches, new methods in products, and in procedures such as fumigation.

UNL’s Pesticide Safety Education Program presented ways to keep applicators safe with protective gear.

Nebraska’s UPM conference is nationally known for its targeted, quality education and its self-tutorial laboratory, said Kamble, who has coordinated the conference since 1997. He, too, is nationally known for his research in cockroaches, termites, ants and bedbugs. In 2012 Kamble received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the National Conference on Urban Entomology. He also is a chair of the examining committee for Board Certified Entomologists offered by the Entomological Society of America.

Discussions are already underway to plan future conferences.

Designed for pest management professionals, sanitarians, food service and food processing plant workers, grain fumigation specialists, public health workers and termite inspectors, the conference also boasts an open laboratory with hundreds of insect exhibits and literature. By attending the lab and other sessions, participants earn credit toward their state certification or recertification in four areas: 08-Structural/Health Related Pest Control, 08W-Wood Destroying Organisms, 09-Public Health Pest Control and 11-Fumigation.

From 2000-2015, the conference has had more than 3,000 participants, Kamble said. Ninety-eight percent of participating pest management professionals report gaining knowledge and biology of pests. Sixty-six percent reported using non-chemical management as a result of the conference.
2016 Urban Pest Management Conference
Well-Attended – Great Participation!

Drawings and fun at the attendee luncheon

Visiting the Exhibits and enjoying the refreshments

Stopping by one of the exhibit booths

Good crowd in the exhibit area

Standing ovation for years of service to Dr. Shripat Kamble

NSPCA President Travis Lucas welcoming everyone to the Urban Pest Management Conference

Dr. Charles Hibberd, Dean & Director of NE Extension addressed the group
Kamble Helps IPM Gain Momentum

I
n the 24 years that Shripat Kamble has been involved with the Urban Pest Management conference – 19 of them as coordinator – group thinking has shifted.

Integrated Pest Management’s multi-pronged, educational, least-toxic approach in targeting pests has gained acceptance with Nebraska pest management professionals, Kamble said.

“In the beginning the group was not accustomed to IPM,” Kamble said. Now their thinking has changed; their mindset has changed. That is a major impact.”

The conference’s reputation is bolstered by Kamble’s fellow colleagues from national professional groups who speak there regularly, and by the self-tutorial lab operated by UNL entomologist Jim Kalisch.

“We provide the best information that is current. We feel we are providing the best service for Nebraska professional pest control companies, offering them the best educational programs,” he said.

Kamble announced Feb. 9 that the 2016 conference would be his last. He later estimated each conference requires about four months of time to plan; make contacts, arrangements and budgets; host the conference; and write thank you letters. He said he will continue to conduct research and work on other Nebraska Extension projects.

Since arriving at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1978, Kamble has advised 22 graduate students. He also advises the Indian Students Association.

Thank You Exhibitors!

Many thanks to the vendors who supported the Urban Pest Management Conference and had displays. We’re looking forward to continued success at 2017’s Urban Pest Management Conference!

• BASF
• Bayer
• Bell Laboratories
• BWI
• Dow AgroSciences
• Pest Control Supplies
• Pest Management Supply
• Rhodes Chemical Co.
• Rockwell Laboratories
• Target Speciality Products
• Univar Environmental Sciences

We Need Your Input! Answer Our Survey

The Association has begun planning for next year’s Annual Urban Pest Management Conference. With Dr. Shripat Kamble stepping down as the conference chair after many years of dedicated service to our industry, both the Association and the University of Nebraska are making plans to improve on the success the Urban Pest Management Conference has enjoyed in the past.

One goal of the Conference Committee is to provide quality education for pest professionals every year, not only for recertification purposes. With the many obstacles you face every day as a business owner, we believe the Urban Pest Management Conference can provide a wide variety of educational topics that are not limited specifically to the pest control industry.

In the coming months, we will be reaching out to you by email to take part in a survey to help guide the committee as they identify topics and presenters for the coming year. Please take a few moments to help us learn what you need to grow and make your business more profitable.

New Association Board Members Elected

In conjunction with the UPM Conference, sponsored by the Nebraska State Pest Control Association and the University of Nebraska, the Annual Membership meeting was held with the election of new directors. President Travis Lucas presided over the meeting which covered updates on current regulatory and legislative issues affecting our members.

Tracy Connor with City-Wide Termite & Pest Control in Omaha was re-elected for a three-year term in District 1. Dave Ryan with Carey’s Pest Control in Hastings was elected to the open District 4 board position. He will also serve a three-year term.

Your 2016-2017 Board of Directors is as follows:

- Travis Lucas, Benzel Pest Control, President; Shawn Ryan, Heartland Pest Control, Vice President; Brad Kuiper, Heartland Pest Control, Government & Legislative Chairman; Tracy Connor, City-Wide Termite & Pest Control, District 1 Director; Carl Braun, Quality Pest Control Inc., District 2 Director; P. R. Olson, Olson’s Pest Technicians, District 3 Director; Dave Ryan, Carey’s Pest Control, District 4 Director; Darrell Giesenhagen, Reliable Pest Control, District 5 Director; and Wayne Lucas, Benzel Pest Control, District 6 Director.

Study Examines NJ Bed Bug Infestations

In order to determine where bed bug outbreaks are occurring and the best way to prevent and control infestations, entomologists examined 2,372 apartments in New Jersey and looked at factors such as the age, race, and gender of the inhabitants. The results are published in the Journal of Medical Entomology.

Dr. Changlu Wang and colleagues from Rutgers University examined 43 low-income apartment buildings and 2,372 individual apartments. They found that about 12 percent of apartments had bed bug infestations, although the rates of infestation varied from building to building.

They also learned that:
- Women were more likely to report symptoms of bed bug bites and more likely to express concern upon learning their homes were infested.
- Infestations were more prevalent in the homes of African Americans than in those of white or Hispanic residents.
- Fifty percent of residents with bed bug infestations were completely unaware of them.
- Apartment buildings with a high turnover of tenants had higher bed bug infestations.

Statistics like these are critical for controlling bed bug infestations, Dr. Wang explained, because “[they] can be used to target our education and bed bug prevention efforts to the most vulnerable communities.”

The researchers also found that they were able to detect nearly 75 percent of infestations with brief visual inspections that took just 10 minutes or less per apartment, which would cost about $12 per apartment for labor based on a $50/hour labor rate.

Unusual Winter Weather Will Impact Spring and Summer Pest Populations

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) released its biannual Bug Barometer, forecasting what to expect from pest populations in their respective regions across the U.S. this spring and summer.

“The Bug Barometer is developed by our entomologists who examine recent weather reports across the U.S. and analyze precipitation patterns to determine the effect on the pest pressure index. Inconsistent weather patterns can alter when, and even where, these pests become active, and our barometer will help people be more prepared and can safeguard their homes,” said Cindy Mannes, vice president of public affairs for the NPMA.

According to the NPMA’s Bug Barometer, here’s the expected pest forecast for our region:

**Midwest:** Wetter than average weather combined with a record-breaking warm December may jump-start ant and tick activity. This is in addition to the premature mosquito population increase already occurring.
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