SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Our Western District Field Manager, Rick Reid, retired on February 1, 2017. Rick was an invaluable and vital employee of the Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division for 25 years. Congratulations to Rick, and the Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division wishes him a happy and well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Richard Willis on his well-deserved promotion to the Eastern District Supervisor for the Structural Section. Richard has provided over 17 years of outstanding service to the Division, as an Eastern Structural Field Inspector, for 10 southeastern counties. We know Richard will continue to do a great job!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to John Feagans, on his promotion to Licensing, Certification, & Outreach Manager. John took over Renee Woody’s previous duties on January 1, 2017. John has worked within the Division, both as a Pesticide Registration Specialist and as a Certification & Training Specialist, in addition to previously owning his own landscape business. He brings a wide range of knowledge and experience to the Licensing, Certification and Outreach Manager position.

2017 PEST CONTROL TECHNICIAN’S SCHOOL (PCT)

Due to the great weather, the 67th Annual PCT School was very well attended. There were over 900 attendees for the school and 51 different exhibitors from around the region and across the country. There were 18 different courses, giving attendees the opportunity to earn a variety of CCU credits. State inspectors scanned attendees’ badges at each course held during the school and over 3400 CCU credits were earned by attendees. There were also a record breaking 171 individuals who took the Certification Exam at the PCT School this year! Mark your calendars now for the January 2018 PCT School, and be sure to preregister later this year.
IT’S TIME TO CHECK YOUR CREDITS!!

Would you like to keep from having to take the license or certification exam over again? If so, you should check your transcript, to make sure you are meeting recertification requirements, before the June 30, 2017 deadline. Please review your transcript, to be sure you have received credits for all the courses you attended. If there are errors or omissions on your transcript, contact Michelle Willett by email at michelle.willett@ncagr.gov or by phone at 919-857-4160. You will need to provide the date of training, topic of training, and name of trainer or sponsor.

Checking your Continuing Certification Units (CCU’s) early will give you more choices in selecting available, approved CCU courses. Waiting until May or June, can mean there are not as many selections to choose from. The following web addresses list upcoming CCU approved seminars, workshops, and ON-LINE courses:


Note: Only half of needed CCU’s can be taken online. If you need 10 CCU’s to be recertified, only 5 of those can be earned by taking online courses. Also, no credit is given for taking the same course over, during the 5 year recertification period.

Renewals Are Coming

Structural Pest Control renewals will be mailed by May 1, 2017 for the 2017-2018 licensing year. When you receive your renewal package, please review the following:

Make sure all names are spelled correctly and addresses are correct. Please include your physical address as well as your mailing address, and correct phone numbers. If there are errors, please make legible corrections on the individual forms. If you are missing a form, please contact Jacinth McAllister by email at Jacinth.McAllister@ncagr.gov. If you need additional forms, please go to our website; http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/forms/index.htm to find the correct form(s) you need.

The cost to renew cards is $40.00 for each Registered Technician Card, $50.00 for each Certified Applicator Card and $200.00 for each Licensee Card for a single phase (P, W, or F) and an additional $75.00 for each additional licensing phase. All cards expire on June 30th, annually, so send in your renewals by this deadline. The Division accepts payment in the form of check or money order. We are unable to accept credit cards at this time. Please remember, branch office registration expires on June 30th, and must be renewed as well. FEES FOR CARDS ARE NOT PRORATED.

If you did not receive your recertification transcripts and require a copy, please contact your Structural Pest Control Representative. For companies A-L, contact Tinesha McNeil at tinesha.mcneil@ncagr.gov. For companies M-Z and Bruce Terminix, contact Annette Locklear at annette.locklear@ncagr.gov.

Please keep your transcript for future reference. With so many people on our recertification list it is very challenging to assist callers who ask for this information verbally.

Branch Office forms are not in the renewal package. If you operate a Branch office, you are required to notify the Division annually of the address of each branch and the individuals assigned to it. This is done using the Branch Office Registration forms, found at http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/forms/Branch_Office.pdf.

CAUTION! Renewal applications may be denied and returned for the following reasons:

• An expired liability insurance certificate. A current certificate must be on file at the Structural Pest Control Office. The certificate must include coverage for pollution and contamination. The insurance expire date is printed on the renewal application.

• Incomplete CCU’s— all continuing education must be completed for 2017 before renewals are received and processed. Check your employee’s CCU status at http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/LicenseSearch.htm. Choose Structural Certified Applicator or Structural Pest Control Licensee. Enter either last name, Company, License and/or File number to search box.

If there are any errors in your transcript, please contact the training agency that gave the course you attended, and ask them to submit a roster to: michelle.willett@ncagr.gov or fax it to 919-733-9796.
STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL RULES REVISION UPDATE

The Rules revisions to 02 NCAC34 .0328, .0502, .0503, .0505 and .0506 that were approved by the Structural Pest Control Committee (SPCC) on October 12, 2016 were presented to the Rules Review Commission on December 15, 2016. All of these revisions were approved with an effective date of January 1, 2017 and are now permanently published in our Structural Pest Control Rules & Regulations. These revisions were discussed in detail in an article from our previous Fall 2016 Bulletin.

- The revision to Rule .0328(a) states- “During inspections the licensee or his employees shall be present to provide access to all structural pest control records, pesticides, and application equipment upon request by the Division.”

- The revision to Rule .0502 is regarding termiticides approved by the SPCC that have application methodology that differ from the minimum treatment standards required by Rules .0503, .0505 and .0506. Adequate efficacy data to support this methodology claim will have to be provided to the SPCC in order for the termiticide to be placed in the category of being exempt from the minimum treatment Rules. Also, this product will have to be labeled for protection of the entire structure. The use of these “methodology termiticides” that differ from the minimum treatment standard Rules will not require a waiver to be issued to the property owner or authorized agent.

- The revision to Rule .0502(a)(2)(B) states- “If the Committee approves a termiticide under Part (a)(1)(B) and the Directions for Use differ from the requirements of Rules .0503, .0505, or .0506 of this Section, the committee may determine that treatments with those termiticides are exempt from all or part of the requirements of Rules .0503(a)(4) and (6) through (11), .0505, or .0506 of this Section, provided that the product is labeled for protection of the entire structure and the licensee provides a warranty for the control of subterranean termites on the entire structure.”

- The revisions to Rule .0503(f), .0505(h) and .0506(e) state- “If the licensee uses a termiticide that has been approved by the Committee pursuant to 02 NCAC 34 .0502(a)(2)(B) and the licensee complies with the requirements of that subsection, the licensee shall not be required to comply with 02 NCAC 34 .0503(a)(4) and (a)(6) through (11).

The Approved Termiticide List can be found on our web site at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/documents/TermiticidesApprovedForUseInNorthCarolinand.pdf

Our Structural Pest Control Rules & Regulations can be found on our web site at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/structural/regulatory_compliance.htm

OBTAIN CA AND RT CARDS

When employees leave employment with a company, it is a good idea to collect their Certified Applicator (CA) or Registered Technician (RT) cards. While it is understandable that it is not always possible, it can prevent someone from using the card to try to do unlicensed pest control work on their own, as if they are still employed with the business associated with the RT or CA card. This could also possibly prevent our Division’s Field Inspector from having to investigate a report of an unlicensed operator, that was previously employed with your company.
POLLINATOR PROTECTION

NCDA&CS Launches New Initiative to Protect Pollinators

One-third of the food we consume comes from the result of a pollinator. With that said, anyone can see the importance of the insects that pollinate our food. From the managed honeybee to the butterflies and solitary bees that pollinate our crops, the need to be judicious when applying pesticides near the habitats of pollinators is critical.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Pesticide Section, along with several stakeholders such as the, North Carolina Farm Bureau and NC State University have been working on this initiative for the past year. The initiative has been to make pesticide applicators who apply insecticides that are toxic to bees to use new tools to reduce the risk of die-offs from the misuse of pesticides.

A grant received from the Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund (PETF), managed by the North Carolina Pesticide Board, funded the web-based tool, FieldWatch.com. It is effective in allowing farmers, beekeepers, and applicators identify, map, and communicate where beehives and high-value specialty crops are located as part of ongoing stewardship activities. Today, FieldWatch has expanded into fourteen states and one Canadian province. FieldWatch is a FREE and EASY management tool for the pest management professional.

The concept of the web-based program, FieldWatch, is to allow for beekeepers (beechek), and specialty crop growers (driftwatch) to register their hives or crops through an online mapping tool, providing pesticide applicators a tool to identify areas on a map to be more cautious when using pesticides that may drift and cause harm. Pesticide management professionals applying products for mosquitos or other outdoor pests control, can also register as an applicator (FieldWatch) so you can visually see on a map the locations of registered hives. As an applicator, you can register for your work area, such as a specified county or multiple counties. When new hives are registered, you will receive an email notification of their hive location. This tool allows for communication and collaboration between the beekeeper and pest management professionals. Currently, North Carolina has 1400 registered apiary locations. Please contact Jason Williams of the NCDA&CS Pesticide Section at 919-857-4151 or jason.williams@ncagr.gov for more information.

The online tool is one of many components of protecting our pollinators. Understanding the life cycle, habitats, and behavior of the honeybee is essential for their protection. Another key component in protection is to read and follow label directions on the product you are using. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) now requires specific label language for products that have been declared highly toxic to bees. Specifically, the neonicotinoid class of insecticides has specific bee labeling. EPA plans for more stringent language on other classes of insecticides deemed highly toxic to bees.

Some pesticide products are known to be toxic to bees, whether by direct exposure or by residues on blooming crops or weeds. These pesticide labels caution against allowing drift to blooming crops or weeds while bees are foraging in the treatment area. Consider the site (many flowering plants attract honeybees), think about pollinator protection when selecting pesticides, and select formulations less toxic to honey bees. Prior to application, ensure that pesticide application equipment is clean and in good working condition to ensure the product will be applied correctly. Prior to applying any pesticide, always read and follow the label, particularly concerning statements and restrictions regarding bees. Labels of some insecticides known to be toxic to honeybees now state that beekeepers must be notified 48 hours before application.

The most important way to protect honeybees is to restrict spraying to the times of day when bees are not likely to visit blooms, when plants are not flowering, during the late evening, or when temperatures are below 50 degrees and bees are not active. Making applications late in the day (after 3 p.m., or ideally in the evening) near sensitive areas and hives will help mitigate many risks to bees. REMEMBER: Always follow label directions and make applications when pests reach economic threshold levels.

IPM encourages using the least hazardous options to reduce the impacts to people, non-target organisms, and the environment. The IPM strategy includes (1) Reduce conditions that favor pest populations, (2) Establish an economic threshold of how much damage can be tolerated before pest control must occur, (3) Monitor pest populations, and (4) Treat/control pests when the economic threshold is reached.

Dispose of unwanted pesticides and spray tank residuals safely according to label instructions. Do not contaminate water sources that honeybees may utilize. Farmers and homeowners can dispose of banned, outdated, or unwanted pesticides free of charge through the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division, Pesticide Disposal Assistance Program. For more information or questions call 919-280-1061.

As an industry of pest management professionals, we must steward the pesticides we use to control unwanted pests, and in return protect the beneficial insects we encounter every day. By using pest control products responsibly and utilizing tools such as FieldWatch, we can assure that this goal can be accomplished.

Dwight E. Seal
Western District Manager
NCDA&CS—SPC&PD, Pesticide Section

919-857-4151 or jason.williams@ncagr.gov
RALEIGH LICENSE EXAM LOCATION

The monthly license/certification exams are administered at the Gov. James B. Martin Building which is located at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. The physical address for the fairgrounds is 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, N.C. The most convenient entrance to find this building is located off of Trinity Road through Gate 9. From Blue Ridge Road, turn onto Trinity Road and Gate 9 will be your first entrance to the fairgrounds on your left. After Entering Gate 9, the Gov. James B. Martin Building will be the first building on your right.

RT Schools and Exam Dates and Locations

APRIL RT SCHOOLS

April 5, 2017
NCDA & CS—L. Y. Ballentine
Building—8:30 am
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100 Information

April 25, 2017
Guilford County Center—8:30 am
Barn Kitchen Building
3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405
336-641-2400 (directions)

*April 4, 2017 9:30 AM
License & Certification Exams
EXAM is FULL
Gov. James G. Martin Building-N.C. State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, N.C. Capacity 50
919-733-6100

April 11, 2017-10:00 AM
Certification Exam Only
New Hanover County Co-Operative Extension Center
6206 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC Capacity 50
910-798-7660 (directions)
919-733-6100 (registration)

April 18, 2017 10.00 AM
Certification Exam Only
Cabarrus County Co-Operative Extension Center
715 Cabarrus Ave - West Concord, NC Capacity 50
704-920-3310 (directions) 919-733-6100 (registration)

MAY RT SCHOOLS

May 3, 2017
NCDA & CS—L. Y. Ballentine
Building—8:30 am
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100 Information

May 17, 2017
New Hanover County Center—8:30 am
6206 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-798-7660 (directions)

*May 2, 2017 9:30 AM
License & Certification Exams
EXAM is FULL
Gov. James G. Martin Building-N.C. State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, N.C. Capacity 50
919-733-6100

MAY EXAMS

May 10, 2017 -1:00 PM
Certification Exam Only - In Conjunction with NCSU Spray School
J.C. Raulston Arboretum
4415 Beryl Road - Brickhaven Building
Raleigh, NC Capacity 50
919-515-3113 (directions) 919-733-6100 (register)

May 24, 2017 -10:00 AM
Certification Exam Only
Iredell County Co-Operative Extension Center - Auditorium # 3
444 Bristol Drive Ste 110
Statesville, NC Capacity 50
704-873-0507 (directions) 919-733-6100 (register)

JUNE RT SCHOOLS

June 7, 2017
NCDA & CS—L. Y. Ballentine
Building—8:30 am
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100 Information

**REMEMBER TO EXAM APPLICANTS

REMINDER to all structural exam applicants and licensees of exam applicants – an exam review session is held in our building (i.e. Ballentine Bldg.) on the last Monday of each month. If you have taken an exam, and did not pass it, then you can call Tinesha McNeil @ 919-733-6100 and schedule yourself for an exam review session. Applicants get a 1 hour session per phase that they did not pass. We restrict the review session to those applicants who took the exam in the same month of the review. You must call ahead and speak with Tinesha McNeil to schedule your review session. The review sessions begin at 9:00 am and end at 4:00 pm, and each session lasts 1 hour. We take a 1 hour lunch break.

Continued on page 6
RALEIGH LICENSE EXAM LOCATION

The monthly license/certification exams are administered at the Gov. James B. Martin Building which is located at the N.C. State Fairgrounds. The physical address for the fairgrounds is 1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, N.C. The most convenient entrance to find this building is located off of Trinity Road through Gate 9. From Blue Ridge Road, turn onto Trinity Road and Gate 9 will be your first entrance to the fairgrounds on your left. After Entering Gate 9, the Gov. James B. Martin Building will be the first building on your right.

RT Schools and Exam Dates and Locations

**JULY EXAMS**

*July 6, 2017 9:30 AM*
License & Certification Exams
Gov. James G. Martin Building-N.C. State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, N.C. Capacity 50
919-733-6100

*July 18, 2017 10:00 AM*
Certification Exam Only
Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center
74 Research Drive
Mills River, NC Capacity 50
828-684-7197 (directions)
919-733-6100 (registration)

**AUGUST RT SCHOOLS**

**August 9, 2017**
NCDA & CS--L. Y. Ballentine Building—8:30 am
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100 Information

**AUGUST EXAMS**

*August 1, 2017 9:30 AM*
License & Certification Exams
Gov. James G. Martin Building-N.C. State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, N.C. Capacity 50
919-733-6100

**SEPTMBER RT SCHOOLS**

September 6, 2017
NCDA & CS--L. Y. Ballentine
Building—8:30 am
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100 Information

September 20, 2017
New Hanover County Center—8:30 am
6206 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-798-7660 (directions)

**SEPTMBER EXAMS**

*September 13, 2017 9:30 AM*
License & Certification Exams
Gov. James G. Martin Building-N.C. State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, N.C. Capacity 50
919-733-6100
**OCTOBER RT SCHOOLS**

**October 3, 2017**
NCDA & CS—L. Y. Ballentine Building—8:30 am
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100 Information

**October 25, 2017**
Gaston County Cooperative Extension Center —8:30 am
1303 Dallas-Cherryville Hwy
Dallas, NC
704-922-0301 (Directions)

**OCTOBER EXAMS**

*October 4, 2017 9:30 AM*
License Exams Only
Ballentine Building- Conference Room 116
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, N.C. Capacity 25
919-733-6100

*October 25, 2017 10:00 AM*
Certification Exam Only
Beaufort County Co-Operative Extension Center
155 A Airport Road
Washington, NC Capacity 50
252-946-0111 (directions)
919-733-6100 (registration)

**NOVEMBER RT SCHOOLS**

**November 8, 2017**
NCDA & CS—L. Y. Ballentine Building—8:30 am
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100 Information

**November 21, 2017**
Pitt County Cooperative Extension Center—8:30 am
403 Government Circle, Suite 2
Greenville, NC 27834
252-902-1700 (Directions)

**NOVEMBER EXAMS**

*November 7, 2017 9:30 AM*
License & Certification Exams
Gov. James G. Martin Building-N.C. State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, N.C. Capacity 50
919-733-6100

**November 21, 2017 10:00 AM**
Certification Exam Only
Cabarrus County Co-Operative Extension Center
715 Cabarrus Ave - West
Concord, NC Capacity 50
704-920-3310 (directions)
919-733-6100 (registration)

**DECEMBER RT SCHOOLS**

**December 6, 2017**
NCDA & CS—L. Y. Ballentine Building—8:30 am
2109 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 733-6100 Information

**December 12, 2017**
Cabarrus County Co-Operative Extension Center—8:30 am
715 Cabarrus Ave - West
Concord, NC
704-920-3310 (directions)

**DECEMBER EXAMS**

*December 5, 2017 9:30 AM*
License & Certification Exams
Gov. James G. Martin Building-N.C. State Fairgrounds
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, N.C. Capacity 50
919-733-6100

*December 13, 2017-10:00 AM*
Certification Exam Only
Pitt County Co-Operative Extension Center
403 Government Circle, Ste. 2
Greenville, NC Capacity 50
252-902-1710 (directions)
919-733-6100 (registration)

*License examinations given only at sites identified with an asterisk*
**Bug Humor & Fun Facts ...**

**Q. WHAT DO YOU CALL TWO TEENAGE ANTS RUNNING AWAY TO VEGAS?**
A. **ANTELOPE**

**Q. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST ANT IN THE WORLD?**
A. **ELEPHANT!**

**Q. WHAT KIND OF ANT IS GOOD AT ADDING THINGS UP?**
A. **ACCOUNTANT**

**Q. WHY DID THE ANT RACE ALONG THE BOX TOP?**
A. **BECAUSE THE BOX SAID: "TEAR ALONG DOTTED LINE"**

**Q. WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ANT FROM OVERSEAS?**
A. **IMPORTANT**

*These jokes taken from [http://www.antsalive.com/ant-jokes.ants](http://www.antsalive.com/ant-jokes.ants)*

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**Ant Facts ...**

**ONLY FEMALE QUEEN ANTS AND MALE DRONES, HAVE WINGS. QUEEN ANTS SHED THEIR WINGS AFTER MATING WITH A MALE, AND SEEK A SUITABLE PLACE TO BEGIN A COLONY.**

**QUEEN ANTS CAN LIVE UP TO 30 YEARS, THE LONGEST OF ANY INSECT. WORKERS LIVE FOR 1 TO 3 YEARS, WHILE MALE DRONES USUALLY ONLY SURVIVE A FEW WEEKS.**

"QUEEN" ANTS ARE THE HEAD OF ANT COLONIES; THEY LAY THOUSANDS OF EGGS. MALE ANTS CALLED "DRONES" HAVE ONE ROLE WHICH IS TO MATE WITH THE QUEEN. NON-REPRODUCING FEMALE ANTS FORM CASTES OF "WORKERS" OR "SOLDIERS" WHO FIND FOOD, CARE FOR THE QUEEN AND OFFSPRING, BUILD THE NEST, AND DEFEND THE COLONY OR ATTACK OTHERS.

**ANTS CAN CARRY 20 TIMES THEIR OWN WEIGHT.**

**MOST ANTS ARE BLACK OR RED IN COLOR BUT SOME SPECIES ARE GREEN OR METALLIC.**

**FORAGING WORKER ANTS CAN TRAVEL UP TO 200 METERS (700 FT.) FROM THEIR NEST AND FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO THE COLONY BY FOLLOWING SCENT TRAILS LEFT BY OTHERS.**

*These facts were taken from [http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/ant.html](http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/ant.html)*