

Palmetto **PEST TALK**



In This Issue

President's Message

Executive Director's Report

Urban Entomologist Report

Slouthern Yellowjackets
Peaking Early

New Members

Clemson Training & Events

SC Urban Entomology Donors

SCPCA Board Members

Local Associations & Meetings

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY**



Rich Borden
SCPCA President

President's Message

I hope everyone is having a fantastic year.

Not sure about any of you but I'm ready for the rain to stop, and wouldn't mind a little reprieve from the heat also.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you next week at the Mid-Atlantic conference in North Myrtle Beach.

NPMA has assembled an all star line up of speakers, with a variety of topics to meet the educational needs of our members.

I highly encourage you to join me in having fun, fellowship, and learning.

Hopefully we have some SC volleyball players that can bring the trophy back to SC.

Membership renewals have been and are continuing to be dispersed.

We are off to a good start with respect to the number of renewals we are seeing returned.

This is a testament to you, the members of the SCPCA. You are appreciated and we want to continue to grow as an association and provide for the needs of our members. Your feedback as a member is as always very important.

Membership Chair, Glen Matthews, would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions on how we can better be of service.

Committee assignments for the new Board of Directors have been announced. These committees are the backbone of the SCPCA. If you have any interest in getting involved with the SCPCA, committees are a great place to start. I'm sure we still have some space for anyone interested. During next weeks board meeting we'll be rolling out some more detailed assignments to the various chairs.

Executive Director's Report



Jim Wright

Phone: 803.656.7860
Email: jwright@scpca.net

Today's date is July 20, 2021... that means that we are more than halfway through 2021 and that just does not seem possible. I am reminded we are not promised anything but today. However, that promise never mentioned how quick time would pass and how fleeting the "day" would be. The take home is we need to plan for tomorrow but, take the time to enjoy today...

The 2021 Carolinas Mid-Atlantic Summer Conference will kick off this next week at the North Myrtle Beach Hilton Hotel. The program for this conference is filled with important topics that are germane to each of us and our businesses. Topics include wood destroying insect inspections for real estate transactions, COVID inspired changes that are here to stay, rodenticide stewardship, bed bug management, ant management specifics, COVID business issues, wood destroying organism identification and fleet safety. Of course, there will be plenty of opportunity to spend some time with your colleagues by the pool or on the beach.

Each of you should have received your renewal notice to renew your SCPCA membership for the 2021-2022 membership year. In case you did not see the application for renewal or need a replacement please click on this link [Renew Membership - South Carolina Pest Control Association \(scpca.net\)](https://www.scpca.net) to fill out the application and renew your membership. For those who have already renewed for this year, I sincerely appreciate and thank you for your quick response. For those who are still on the fence about membership, I encourage you to reconsider joining. If we all stand together, we will be able to promote our industry and show the positive things our industry accomplishes by protecting public health, property as well as our customers and employees. This past year was especially challenging for our industry and this next year will be again exceedingly difficult with economic challenges, legislative attacks, labor shortages and do not forget the COVID pandemic is still looming large in our communities. To some these things are not real until you are faced with the problem. If you are standing alone, the battle may insurmountable, if we are standing together, we have a good chance of making a difference.

Stay safe and if there are things that the SCPCA can do for you please, let us know.

Best regards... Jim

Palmetto PESTTALK

Palmetto PESTTALK, the official publication of the South Carolina Pest Control Association, is published six (6) times annually.

PESTTALK Material Dates:

January/February	January 20	July/August.....	July 20
March/April	March 20	September/October	September 20
May/June	May 20	November/December ..	November 20



South Carolina Pest Control Association
P.O. Box 1407, Camden, SC 29021
www.scpca.net

Jim Wright, Executive Director
p: 803.420.6321 | e: jwright@scpca.net



Dr. Eric P. Benson, BCE

Urban Extension Entomologist
Department of Plant &
Environmental Sciences
Clemson University

Phone: 864.656.7860

Email: ebenson@clermson.edu

[Click to Visit our Website](#)



We are fortunate to live near our granddaughters. For most of last year, we could not take our granddaughters to school, but once we were vaccinated for COVID, we were allowed to take the girls and pick them up at the end of the school day. I enjoy this time with them because they are fun to be with and you never know what they are going to say. Last month, I was driving them to school around 7:10 in the morning. I asked Lucy, who is 9, “What time does school officially start?” Lucy replied, “I don’t know. I don’t do time. That is not my responsibility.” Her sister Amelia, chimed in, “I don’t do time either. I am only 7.” “Ah,” I said. “Thanks for the clarification.”

“You know, I once walked 11 miles with Dad,” Amelia decided to share at that moment. “It was actually 11.5 miles,” Lucy added. “Wow,” I said, “was that when you were hiking in Yellowstone?” “Yep,” said Amelia, “and I got bit on my bum.” “What!” I exclaimed. “Bit by what? What happened?” “Well,” Amelia continued, “I had to go to the bathroom in ‘the nature’ and there were a million, billion mosquitoes and one bit my bum.” “Gosh,” I sighed, “that is a cautionary tale.” “Yep,” said Lucy, “when you are going in nature, you need to remember, repellent, repellent, repellent.”

Kids can easily wander, both in their thoughts and their physical activities. Remember the Family Circus cartoons in the Sunday paper? Sometimes the artist, Bill Keane, would draw little Billy setting out for a walk and there would be a dashed line of his path twisting and turning all over the place before he reached his destination. I bet many of your days in pest control can be like little Billy’s path, twisting and turning in all directions. You may go from dealing with bed bugs, to cockroaches, to ants, to flies, to mice, to moths, to whatever. And you may go from one client asking you, “What chewed this?” to another asking, “Is that poop or

eggs?” And so, it goes, your day twisting and turning. Remember, your cell phone is a pocket computer... lots of information at your fingertips. Your phone is a camera... take a photo. Your phone is a phone...call me or email me (or someone else) your photo or question. Use your resources to help you negotiate the twists and turns of your job.

So, driving to school with kids is fun and full of twists and turns. If I had been alone rather than driving my granddaughters to school, I would have never thought about who ARE the keepers of time and then think about getting my bum bitten by a million, billion mosquitoes. But I will always remember, the next time I am out for a long hike and nature calls – repellent, repellent, repellent.

New Termite Control Basics Program - August 19

We are pleased to announce our new Termite Control Basics (TCB) Program. This 3.5-hour virtual program is designed for individuals brand new to termite control. The program will be instructed by Ryan Okey, Clemson Assistant Department Head of the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and me. Specific topics will include termite and termiticide basics, common points of termite entry into structures, SC termite treatment standards, basic treatment calculations and short videos on proper termiticide application.

Successful participants will gain the information needed to properly apply liquid termiticides according to SC treatment standards. A test will be administered at the conclusion of the program and successful participants scoring 70% or higher will receive a certificate of completion from Clemson University. All licensed participants will receive 3 recertification credits for the program. It is strongly recommended that individuals new to termite control take the TCB program before advancing the Clemson’s

CLEMSON, continued on p. 4



Apprentice Termite Technician program or Clemson's Master Termite Technician Program.

The first virtual TCB program will be held on August 19, 2021 from 8:00 – 11:30 AM. The cost is \$75.

If you are interested in the TCB program, please visit our Clemson Marketplace website to register: https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=71&CATID=120

If you have questions about the program, please contact Jackie Ellis at jells@clemson.edu.

Next WIR & ATT In September

The next **Wood Infestation Report (WIR)** training program will be held on September 14. The next **Apprentice Termite Technician (ATT)** program will be held on September 15. Both programs will be in-person at the Sandhill Research and Education Center (SREC) in Columbia. The cost of the WIR and the ATT one-day programs is \$150 for each class with lunch provided and all the material needed for the programs.

If you have any questions about the WIR or ATT programs, please call Jackie Ellis at 864-656-5048 or email her at jells@clemson.edu. You can also visit our website to register for the next WIR & ATT at https://secure.touchnet.net/C20569_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=71&CATID=120

We look forward to seeing you at our September programs, in-person! More information about the October **Fall Forum** and the November **Master Termite Technician** programs will be in the next issue of *PestTalk* and sent via eblast.

1947 Terminix Way

Our monthly and virtual Coffee Chats continue. Our next **Coffee Chat** is scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2021 starting at 8:00 AM. Kevin Hathorne, BCE and Technical Director for Terminix Service Inc. (TSI) will be our guest. Kevin will give a virtual photo tour of 1947 Terminix Way: a new house on the TSI campus in Columbia for training pest control technicians. This innovative structure should be interesting for all to see!



Remember that the Coffee Chat sessions are free, but no recertification credit are provided. Participants may come and leave the session as needed. Coffee Chat now starts at 8:00 AM and only lasts an hour or less. This still gives you time to get on with your busy day. All technicians, managers and owners are invited. Please register for the meeting by August 10 with the provided Eventbrite link so we know who is coming. After you have registered, you will receive an email with a Zoom link.

While the chat will focus on Kevin's presentation of the development and implementation of 1947 Terminix Way, all topics related to pest control or anything else impacting your work are welcomed. A chat room will be open for your questions and observations. If you have a pest you'd like identified, have the best photo you can saved to your computer or phone and bring it to the session to share.

As we start to turn the corner on summer and head toward the fall, we feel that the Coffee Chats continue to be a great way to stay connected and learn

about aspects of training programs that may give you some creative ideas for your own pest control training programs. So, if you have a little time before you start your busy day, have a cup of coffee with Dr. B and guest Kevin Hathorne and take a virtual trip down to see 1947 Terminix Way.

More Good News About Endowment Efforts

Recently, you may have received an email about a recent post from the Clemson University Office of Planned Giving; but in case you missed it, we want to bring it to your attention. The Clemson post highlighted the recent success of the 2.8 million dollars pledged to date for the initiative to endow the Urban Entomology program. It also highlighted a separate significant gift from the Nettles family to establish an endowed distinguished professorship for another discipline in entomology, yet to be named. Over the years, the Nettles family has been very generous in their support of entomology at Clemson. And as this issue of *PestTalk* goes to press, Clemson will be offering a new faculty position for a Vegetable Entomologist to be stationed in at our research center in Charleston. While this position does not directly impact the Urban Entomology future position, the selected faculty member will be an important addition for strengthening the entomology program for Clemson. I wanted to share these positive steps in bolstering entomology at Clemson now and for the future. Your interest and support does make a difference. Thank you!

To view the original post, please see: https://us3.campaign-archive.com/?e=__test_email__&u=90b-cef49e408047995f897454&id=dea0c-39bec

Southern Yellowjackets Peaking Early

Dr. Eric P. Benson, BCE



Often, when I try to predict the future, I am wrong. I have some stock investments to prove it. On occasion, I have made predictions that I hoped would be wrong. Based on our relatively mild winter and the increasing occurrence of perennial yellowjacket nests, I thought yellowjacket populations would be high this year. Alas, this seems to be the case. Usually, I get the most calls about yellowjackets being a problem in late August, into September and October. This July, I have had many calls about yellowjackets and most, unfortunately, have been problem nests in wall voids of structures.

One of the most common yellowjacket species in SC is the southern yellowjacket, *Vespula squamosa*. Most yellowjackets have yellow and black patterns on their bodies, especially the abdomen. The workers of the southern yellowjacket can be identified from other species in SC with their distinct yellow parallel stripes on their black pronotum behind their head. Size can vary, but most workers are about a half inch in length. The queen can be much larger and have an orange abdomen.

Under normal conditions in the natural environment, yellowjackets are beneficial. They feed on numerous pests, especially harmful caterpillars and flies around home gardens and commercially grown fruits and vegetables.

However, as the summer season progresses, or around large nests, they can become a serious problem. Normally in the winter, the colonies die-out and only queens survive, ready to start a totally new colony in the spring. This is why yellowjackets are usually not a problem in the earlier part of the year. However, we appear to have more situations where perennial yellowjacket nests survive our increasingly mild winters, often with multiple queens. In general, the winter of 2020 in SC was mild.

A number of years ago, I “dissected” a huge perennial southern yellowjacket nest near Greenwood, SC. I estimated that over 250,000 workers were present and at least 100 queens. This was an aerial nest, with paper comb that extended about 20 feet along a shed building and reached about 10 feet in height! Such nests are more than dangerous; they can be deadly.

If you have an account with a large perennial yellowjacket nest, or any yellowjacket nest, use extreme care when treating and realize you may have to do a series of treatments over a one or two week period to get control. If possible, the nest should be treated in the evening when the yellowjackets are back in the nest. If you treat at night, be mindful that yellowjackets are attracted to light.

YELLOWJACKETS, continued on p. 6

(Above) Southern yellowjacket queen about ¾ inch long. Notice the yellow abdomen. Photo credit: Melinda Fawver, Shutterstock.

YELLOWJACKETS, from p. 5

Do not hold a flashlight while applying an insecticide to a nest. If daytime control is necessary, the person should wear protective gear including a hat, bee veil, coveralls, and gloves because returning foragers will likely attempt to defend the colony. Anyone who has treated yellowjacket nests in the day knows that returning foragers coming back to the hole “know” a treatment has been done and they can get very agitated.

Insecticide sprays, foams or dusts can be effective. The sprays formulated for yellowjackets can sometime provide good, quick control. These are good features, especially for an initial treatment. However, sprays may also quickly soak into the soil, raw wood or paper nest material. By wicking the active ingredient away from areas where yellowjackets walk, foragers may not get a lethal dose. Remember too that insulation in exterior wall voids can impede your treatments, keeping your chemical from getting to the heart of the nest. Also, if the nest is deep in the soil or void and a distance from the entrance, sprays may not reach the nest where the queen, brood and many workers are located. Dusts applied around a hole usually do not give quick kill or knockdown and dust may require the technician to get much closer to the entrance. There are some long pole dusters that allow the technician to stand a safer distance from the entrance hole or reach entrance holes in higher locations. A benefit of dusts is they often remain on the surface of the areas where workers walk and carry dust on their bodies back into the nest. If you can safely get to the entrance hole or create a treatment port away from the main entrance but near where you think the nest is located, foaming can be very effective. Properly applied foams spread and wrap around obstacles in the void/nest area giving good coverage.

Every situation is different, but I have often found an initial treatment of the nest entrance with a spray followed by a dust application one or two days later is a good combination. A spray can knock down the colony making it easier to apply a dust later that can get worked deep into the nest.

Whatever control methods you use, you should only use appropriate labeled products. You should keep the nest entrance unblocked until you are sure the nest has been killed. If a nest is in a structural void, the nest should be removed by the client if possible. While old yellowjacket nests are not as messy as old honey bee nests, you still can have secondary pests and foul odors associated with rotting yellowjackets. Even if the nest is not removed, the hole that was used as the entrance should be sealed



(Top) Southern yellowjacket workers at nest entrance hole. Notice the distinctive parallel yellow lines on the black pronotum behind the head, visible on two of the workers. *Photo credit: Sean McVey, Shutterstock.*



(Bottom) Long pole insecticide duster (Dustick) can help apply dusts to high nest location and at a safer distance for the applicator. *Photo credit: Eric Benson, Clemson University.*



New Members

Regular Members

Harrison Southwick
Insight Pest Solutions MB
819 Coggin Court Unit B
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
360-936-6550
hksouthwick@gmail.com
www.insightpest.com/myrtle-beach

Colton Kopecz
Kopex Industries, LLC
3205 Coastal Grass Way Unit 309
Charleston, SC 29414
408-786-7333
ckopacz1@gmail.com
www.kopexpest.com

Michael Trezza
Trezza Termite & Pest Control, LLC
P.O. Box 2977
Bluffton, SC 29910
mike@trezapest.com
www.TrezzaPest.com

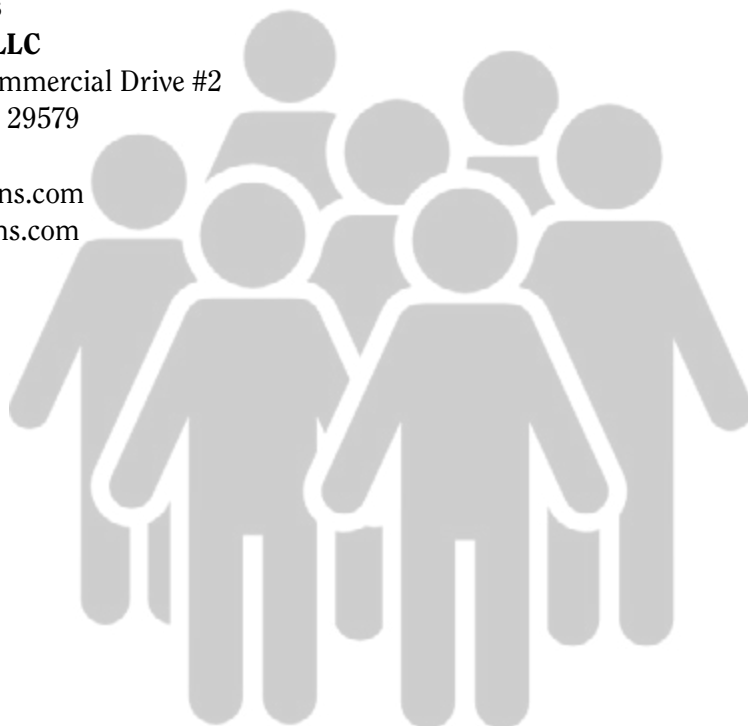
Chris Cummings
Team Veterans, LLC
4108 Carolina Commercial Drive #2
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
843-353-1418
info@teamveterans.com
www.teamveterans.com

Allied Member


Derek Johnson
Cardinal Professional Products
221 Raven Falls Lane
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-430-1973
djohnson@cardinalproproducts.com
www.cardinalproproducts.com

Patrick Settle
Rockit Pest, Inc.
391 Old Settle Road
Inman, SC 29349
803-730-4789
psettle@rockitpest.com
www.rockitpest.com

Casey Prewitt
Neogen
944 Nandino Blvd.
Lexington, KY 40511
270-556-4506
cprewitt@neogen.com
www.neogenprofessionalpest.com



2021 Clemson Training & Events

Termite Control Basics (TCB) Program - Virtual Program
August 19, 2021 | 8:00 – 11:30 AM


Wood Infestation Report Training (WIR) Program
September 14 | One-day Program
Sandhill Research & Education Center, Columbia, SC

Apprentice Termite Technician (ATT) Program
September 15 | One-day Program
Sandhill Research & Education Center, Columbia, SC

Master Termite Technician (MTT) Program
November 10-11 | Two-day Program
Sandhill Research & Education Center, Columbia, SC

8th Annual Clemson Fall Forum
October 27 | One-day Course
5 recertification credits for EPA categories 3, 7 & 8
Best Western Plus, Clemson SC

For more information about workshops, contact Jackie Ellis at 864-656-5048 or jells@clemson.edu



SOUTH CAROLINA
URBAN ENTOMOLOGY
CHARITABLE ALLIANCE
In Cooperation with SCPCA

Help Save the Clemson Urban Entomology Program **PLEASE PLEDGE TODAY!**

**\$5,000,000
GOAL**



Benson Society



Champion Donor



Phil Gregory *in memory of Dr. Ben Kissam*

Guardian Donor



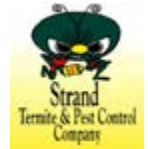
Beverly & Craig Heath



Advocate Donor



Patron Donor



The Ashley Family • Dr. Eric Benson • Marion & Charlotte Cobb
Pat Zungoli & Bob Bellinger *in memory of James D. & William G. Ford*

Friend of the Alliance

AMVAC • CSRA Pest Control Association • Dixie Exterminating Company
Greater Charleston Pest Control Association • Pro Core Pest Control
Sargeant Pest Solutions • VESERIS

Leave A Legacy and Donate Today.

To donate contact Lisa Ashley lisa@fusionflorida.com.



I recently toured the Clemson Urban Entomology Lab with Dr. Benson. If you have never been, or it's been awhile, I highly encourage you to go. The work Dr. Benson and his staff do is amazing.

It really underscores what the South Carolina Urban Entomology Charitable Alliance is all about. Go see for yourself all the work that goes into our industry from a behind the scenes perspective.

Dr. Benson has a passion for this industry and takes great pride in the research that they do.

Thank you Dr. Benson for the eye opening, educational tour.

The alliance will continue its outreach until we have met or surpassed our goal of \$5 million. We as an industry and the SCPCA, need to get this done. Please consider making a pledge or donation.

Have safe travels, and a lot of fun as we head toward the final stretch of Summer.

Again, I look forward to seeing many of you next week, at the Mid-Atlantic Conference.

Take care,
Rich Borden
SCPCA President

SCPCA Board



Board of Directors



President:
Richard Borden
Borden Pest Control
P.O. Box 6402
North Augusta, SC 29861
richard@bordenpestcontrol.com
803.278.1070



Vice President-President Elect:
Glenn Matthews
Modern Exterminating Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 622
Columbia, SC 29202
glenn@pestfreesc.com
803.765.2315



Secretary-Treasurer:
Mary Elizabeth Dowless Fairfax
Strand Termite & Pest Control
4365 Sea Mountain Hwy.
Little River, SC 29566
maryelizabethdowless@yahoo.com
843.249.2629



Immediate Past President:
David Hill
Home Pest Control
P.O. Box 2269
West Columbia, SC 29171
david@homepest.com
803.794.8078



Executive Director
Jim Wright
P.O. Box 1407
Camden, SC 29021
jwright@scpca.net
803.420.6321



Board Members

Region 1 (Piedmont)

Kipp Woods | Term expires 2/23 (2nd Term)
 Procore Pest Control
 3305 Rutherford Road, Suite F, Taylors SC 29687
 E: kwoods@procorepest.com | P: 866.593.4844

Scott Eubanks | Term expires 2/22 (2nd Term)
 Northwest Exterminating
 830 Kennesaw Ave., Marietta, GA 30060
 E: seubanks@callnorthwest.com | P: 770.480.5218

Region II (Piedmont-Upper Midlands)

David Nelson | Term expires: 2/22 (2nd Term)
 Piedmont Pest Control
 P.O. Box 751, Simpsonville, SC 29681
 E: dnelson@piedmontpest.com | P: 864.963.2847

Tara Parks | Term expires: 2/23 (1st Term)
 Walker Pest Management
 1235 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC 29605
 E: tara.m@walkerpestmanagement.com | P: 864.603.1404

Region III (Pee Dee – North Coast)

Dewey Brunson | Term expires: 2/22 (2nd Term)
 Best Home & Property Services, Inc.
 1306 Highway 90, Conway, SC 29526
 E: deweybrunson@yahoo.com | P: 843.236.3065

Tim Harris | Term expires: 2/23 (1st Term)
 Harris Pest Control
 P.O. Box 12405, Florence, SC 29504
 E: tim@harrispestcontrolinc.com | P: 843.665.4325

IV (Midlands-CSRA)

Ralph Faulling | Term expires: 2/23 (1st Term)
 Gressette Pest Management
 P.O. Box 614, Orangeburg, SC 29116
 E: ralph@gressettepest.com | P: 803.543.7118

Johnny Jury | Term expires: 2/22 (2nd Term)
 Jury Pest Services
 1736 Georgia Ave., North Augusta, SC 29841
 E: johnny@jurypest.com | P: 803.441.0007



Region V (Low Country)

Marie Horner | Term expires: 2/22 (Unexpired 2nd Term)
 Stark Exterminators (Arrow)
 701 N. Cedar Street, SC 29483
 E: mhorner@arrowexterminators.com | P: 336.209.1858

Ken Smith | Term expires: 2/23 (2nd Term)
 Palmetto Exterminators, Inc.
 3016 McNaughton Drive, Columbia, SC 29223
 E: kens@palmettoexterminators.net | P: 803.767.8056

Allied Representative

Steve Sullivan | Term expires: 2/22 (2nd Term)
 Sullivan Sales & Marketing, LLC
 109 Mountain Falls Way, Canton, GA 30115
 E: sullyg8r@gmail.com | P: 404.615.6310

Local Associations & Meetings



Upper Piedmont Pest Control Association

President: Dale Greene
Compass Pest Management
(864) 901-5827
Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of Every Other Month | 12:00 PM
Cabela's
1025 Woodruff Road
Greenville SC

Greater Midlands Pest Control Association

President: Bobby Baine
Baine Termite & Pest Control, LLC
P.O. Box 3134
Irmo, SC 29063
baineterminiteandpestcontrol@yahoo.com
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday Every Month | 6:00 PM
Ocean View Restaurant
1000 Knox Abbott Drive
Cayce, SC 29033

CSRA Pest Control Association

President: Ben Blackburn
CSRA Pest Control Association
P.O. Box 253
Augusta, GA 30901
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of Every Month
SRP Park
187 Railroad Ave.,
North Augusta, SC
or
Logan's Roadhouse
269 Robert C. Daniel, Jr. Pkwy.
Augusta, GA 30909

Greater Charleston Pest Control Association

President: Vic Hainline
Truly Nolen Pest Control
PO Box 80547
Charleston, SC 29416
vhainline@trulynolen.net
Meeting: 4th Tuesday of Every Month
5:00 pm - Dinner; 5:30 pm - Meeting
Golden Corral Restaurant
4968 Centre Point Drive
North Charleston, SC 29418

Pee Dee Pest Control Association

President: David Alvey
Harris Pest Control, Inc.
P.O. Box 12405
Florence, SC 29504
dralvey@sc.rr.com
Meetings: 1st Tuesday Every Three Months | 6:30 pm
Western Sizzlin
2688 David McLeod Blvd.
Florence, SC 29501

Grand Strand Pest Control Association

President: Dewey Brunson
Best Home & Property Services
P.O. Box 536
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29597
deweybrunson@yahoo.com
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of Every Other Month | 6:00 pm
Waterway House Sports
9814 N. Kings Hwy.
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572



WWW.SPCCA.NET