

Fumigants & Pheromones

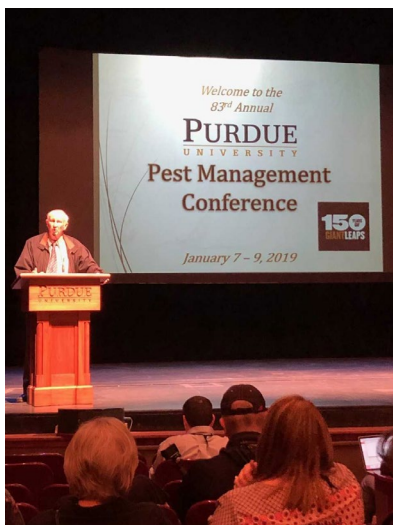
Insects Limited, Inc.



Tom Mueller

4 Reasons to Attend the Purdue Pest Management Conference

If a pest management professional made a wish list for an ideal industry conference, the 83rd Purdue Pest Management Conference would check all the boxes on that list. From January 7-9, this year's conference included great speakers with entertaining presentations, a knowledgeable vendor exhibit room, networking, and the celebration of achievements. Not to mention, there was no snow. Good weather or inclement weather, it is a conference to add to your list. This year the attendees included people from not only the U.S., but from all over the world. It is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones along the way.



Opening remarks by Gary Bennett (conference organizer) at the 83rd Annual Purdue Pest Management Conference

1) The Educational Presentations

The conference kicked off with a Pi Chi Omega sponsored presentation on "The Avengers of IPM and Why Techs are so Important." Pi Chi Omega is a public business and pest control industry fraternity providing a forum where technical knowledge is shared and where networking and mentoring takes place all with the

purpose to enrich the urban pest management community. This group certainly put together an all-star lineup of speakers highlighting the role of technicians in pest management including safety, importance of techs in protecting health, property and food. The entire conference was packed with information on cockroaches, bed bugs, flies, rodents and stored product pests. Each speaker shared the science of the pest's behavior and biology while pleading with the crowd to use science when making decisions on carrying out our pest management programs.



Pat Kelley, President of Insects Limited, presenting on *The Dirty Dozen; Insects in Food Handling Areas*

2) The Knowledgeable Exhibitors and Vendors

As stressed by Gary Bennett, the conference organizer, as well as many of the speakers, there are two reasons why sponsors and vendors are one of the most important parts of these type of conferences. The first reason is how expensive it is to conduct educational meetings, and multiple companies give sponsorship money. The other reason is access to exhibiting vendors. This gives attendees the opportunity to ask questions regarding products discussed throughout the expert presentations. The vendors this year showcased classic products such as pheromones and rodenticides in addition to new

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technology allowing for remote monitoring of different target pests, rodents and insects alike.



Insects Limited's vendor booth

3) The Purdue School of Entomology Lab Tours

These labs provide the necessary information to companies and scientists allowing pest management professionals to successfully carry out their prevention or elimination duties. Led by students and professors, 2019 was the first time in many years conference attendees could sign up to tour the campus entomology labs. These tours are certainly a must for future attendees. Tourists were able to visit the bug barn where many interesting and sometimes rare insects are on display to the university's visitors. Professor Mike Scharf showed tourists the equipment his students were utilizing to carry out much of the science being conducted at the university. Hearing from Grzesiek Buczkowski, Ameya Gondhalekar and Gwen Pearson about research being conducted on cockroaches, bed bugs and ants were also highlighted during the tour.

4) Awards and Recognitions Luncheon

This year marked Gary Bennett's (conference organizer) 50th year in attendance of the Purdue Pest Management Conference. With the information shared and the knowledge gained at this conference every year, it is impossible to estimate the affect Gary Bennett has had on not only the pest control industry but all the individuals we, as pest managers, service throughout our careers. Gary was not the only one recognized for this great accomplishment. Many individuals were asked to stand while their years of attendance at the Purdue Pest Management Conference were announced, and I am convinced this is one of the reasons we all try to make it back every year. It is nice to be recognized for our commitments to knowledge, and we want to hear our name called. Also, in attendance during the luncheon were many grateful students receiving scholarships to help with their entomology education. In all, 37 scholarships were presented totaling \$67,000.



Recognition of Gary Bennett's (conference organizer) 50th year in attendance of the Purdue Pest Management Conference

The dates for the 2020 Purdue Pest Management Conference are January 6-8. Put it on your calendar.