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# School IPM 2015

## Reducing Pest Problems and Pesticide Hazards in Our Nation's Schools

School IPM 2015 Newsletter: March 2014

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\*View this newsletter as a [PDF](#).

### Greetings from School IPM 2015!

Every day, 49 million children attend school in the United States, served by nearly seven million teachers and staff. But they're not alone. Schools are also frequented by a number of pests including cockroaches, mice, dust mites and more. Asthma is epidemic among children, impacting nearly 6% of school children nationally with rates as high as 25% in urban centers. House mice and cockroaches are potent asthma triggers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a prevention-based, highly effective approach proven to reduce pest complaints and pesticide use by up to 90% in schools and other public buildings. IPM practices such as sanitation and exclusion also improve food safety, fire safety and energy conservation. Our newsletter highlights real-life examples of IPM in practice and can help you start an IPM program in your school district. For more information, visit [www.schoolipm2015.com](http://www.schoolipm2015.com).

### Lessons of the 1937 Texas School Explosion

On March 18, 1937, in New London, Texas, a gas explosion killed more than 300 people, mostly students, in their new state-of-the-art public school. The explosion occurred just minutes before the end of the day when a shop teacher flipped a switch to turn on a power sander.

To save money, the school had connected to a free waste gas line, ignoring architects' warnings that the building had not been designed to vent gas fumes. The official Court of Inquiry acknowledged a series of false economies and unheeded warnings, yet named no one responsible. They concluded that school officials were just "average individuals, ignorant or indifferent to the need for precautionary measures, where they cannot, in their lack of knowledge, visualize a



danger or a hazard."

The disaster resulted in a warning odor added to natural gas, and the Texas Engineering Practice Act that set a standard for individuals who design public buildings.

When Ellie Goldberg, an educational consult and advocate for safe and healthy schools, learned about the explosion and the lost generation of children, she recognized an unfinished legacy and lessons still to be learned. "Many recommendations of the Court of Inquiry have yet to be implemented in most schools - schools need technically trained administrators for modern school systems, to do rigid inspections and more widespread public education about managing hazards, and a comprehensive, rational safety code," said Goldberg.

Goldberg created "[Lessons of the 1937 Texas School Explosion](#)," a campaign focused on sharing the story as a cautionary tale and an annual Healthy Schools Hero Award. She hopes that honoring "heroes" who demonstrate an extraordinary sense of responsibility and commitment to safety will inspire others to address chemical hazards and other unhealthy conditions in schools.

#### Meet the 2014 Healthy Schools Heroes

Each of these heroes is extraordinary for a combination of personal qualities and qualifications beyond credentials, a commitment to a safe quality environment, and an exceptional sense of responsibility for excellence.

[Foxborough Regional Charter School's \(FRCS\) Executive Director Dr. Mark Logan](#) is a hero for his commitment to excellence in learning and leadership. Like the community in New London, that was deservedly proud of its new state-of-the-art school building and excellent academic and athletic programs, FRCS has many building features, achievements and awards that make its staff, students and community proud -- for sustainability, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), environmental education, health and wellness.

[Mike Matley](#), the Custodian for the Westborough MA Public Library has an extraordinary mastery of the library's complex systems and operational details. He has a sense of professionalism and duty that goes well beyond his job description of "custodian." His ability and willingness to put his heart and soul into his work has protected and enriched the quality of the old library building and the lives of its staff and patrons for almost 30 years.

[Roger Young](#) is a national leader for best policies and practices in managing school facilities. He champions high ideals and has a gift for cultivating colleagues who share his values. He believes that the primary responsibility of school facility planners is to ensure environmental safety in school facilities. Roger also created the first national listserv for K-12 facility leaders and was chair of the team that produced the Planning Guide for Maintaining School Facilities (National Center for Education Statistics, the National Forum for

### What's New This Month

Calling all Turf People! Do you have a good success story, some good research data? Now is the time to submit your proposal to the Sports Turf Manager's Association for their annual conference.

STMA's Call for Presentations for the 2015 Conference is now open! The 2015 Conference will be held January 13-16 in Denver, Colorado.

Please take a few minutes to submit your presentation ideas and share your expertise with your peers! STMA is always seeking innovative technologies, success stories, case studies, university research, and compliance and advocacy presentations.

Please submit all required materials listed on the online form by the **March 28, 2014 deadline**.

[Click here](#) for more information. Please contact STMA at 785-542-9243 or by email at [kalthouse@stma.org](mailto:kalthouse@stma.org) if you have any questions about presenting or the online form.

### Highlights

"IPM-Solutions for a Changing World" is the theme of the 8th International IPM Symposium to be held March 23-26, 2015 in Salt Lake City Utah USA at the Salt Palace Convention Center. You are invited

Palace Convention Center. You are invited to submit a proposal for a session describing your program, activity, or research that addresses effective and efficient pest management. The symposium sessions will be divided into tracks based on commodity or setting and will address various aspects of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) across disciplines and around the world.

<http://ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium15>

Session proposals must be submitted online by April 25, 2014 for full consideration. Here is the online form: [www.regonline.com/IPMproposals](http://www.regonline.com/IPMproposals)

## Upcoming Events

March 27-29, 2014

Green Schools National Conference  
Sacramento, CA

[More Information](#)

April 6, 2014

Tick-borne Disease: Awareness, Prevention and Treatment  
Framingham, MA

[More Information](#)

April 8, 2014

Lawn to Lake Sustainable Landscaping Care for Schools  
Grayslake, IL

[More Information](#)

April 26-27, 2014

USA Science and Engineering Festival

Washington, D.C.

[More Information](#)

May 18-21, 2014

National Conference on Urban Entomology  
San Antonio, TX

[More Information](#)

August 24-27, 2014

Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) National Meeting

(National Center for Education Statistics, the National Forum for Education Statistics and Association of School Business Officials International, 2003).

[Who Is Your 2015 Healthy Schools Hero?](#) Send your hero's story, name, and email/phone # by January 15, 2015 to [ellie.goldberg@healthy-kids.info](mailto:ellie.goldberg@healthy-kids.info). To view Healthy Schools Heroes 2004 - 2014, click [here](#). Bring the Lessons of 1937 to Your School by [clicking here](#).



## Stop School Pests - A National Standard for IPM Training

Where can you go for school IPM training materials or curricula? The number of information resource sites can be overwhelming. From a trainer's point of view, spending valuable time sifting through hundreds of web pages and hard copy resources to construct training materials can be frustrating.

Stop School Pests - A National Standard for IPM Training project was initiated to address the need for standardized, peer-reviewed training. Dawn Gouge of the Stop School Pests Development Committee reports, "We've needed freely available, science-based training materials for instructors to use. There are children's environmental health advocates everywhere, many of who would readily serve as educators if materials and support were available. One of the greatest limitations of school IPM expansion has been the limited number of trainers available to provide meaningful education events for stakeholders. The Stop School Pests initiative will change that."

Building largely on existing "best-of-the-best" material, the National Standard IPM Training programs offer training materials that can be used across the country. The program provides recognition to those that complete the training, either through a certificate or certification. Training modules will include general introductory materials as well as specific lessons for custodians, maintenance staff, nurses, teachers, administrators, grounds staff, facility managers, food service staff and pest management professionals.

All learning lessons are evaluated by a Review Committee of 32

professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds including extension, government and non-governmental agencies. The resulting teaching and exam materials will be field tested in schools and refined pursuant to trainers and trainee criticism. If you are interested in getting involved with this project please email [MarieL.Snyder](mailto:MarieL.Snyder) for more information. The effort is funded by the USDA North Central IPM Center and the US EPA Office of Pesticide Programs.



## Opportunity for Fun and Discovery at the USA Science and Engineering Festival

The Invertebrate Studies Institute, the Entomological Society of

3/19/2014

(ASA) National Meeting

Missoula, MT

[More Information](#)

November 16-19, 2014

Entomological Society of America

(ESA) National Meeting

Portland, OR

[More Information](#)

March 24-26, 2015

8th International IPM Symposium

Salt Lake City, UT

[More Information](#)

## Quick Links

[School IPM 2015 Homepage](#)

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The Invertebrate Studies Institute, the Entomological Society of America, and the Entomological Foundation are proud to be an official partner of the third [USA Science & Engineering Festival](#), April 25-27, 2014 in Washington, D.C.

The festival is America's largest science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education event. More than 250,000 K-12 students and parents, 5,000 teachers and 3,000 professionals will engage in hands-on education activities with 750 of the world's leading professional scientific and engineering societies, universities, government agencies, high tech corporations and STEM outreach and community organizations.

The three-day Expo is perfect for teens, children and their families, and anyone with a curious mind who is looking for a weekend of fun and discovery. Science celebrities scheduled include Mike Rowe, host of the Discovery Channel's Dirty Job series, Bill Nye the Science Guy, David Pogue, host of NOVA ScienceNow series on PBS, and Grammy Award-winning alternative music band "They Might Be Giants!"

The "Planet Invertebrata" section will feature live and preserved invertebrates, edible insects, pollinators, innovative invertebrate technologies, arts and crafts, marine invertebrates, ecological services for invertebrates and more. "With so many insects, bugs, and other critters around how can you not be excited?" said Marianne Shockley co-organizer of Planet Invertebrata.

To learn more, [click here](#). To volunteer, sign up by [clicking here](#).

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