

Fumigants & Pheromones

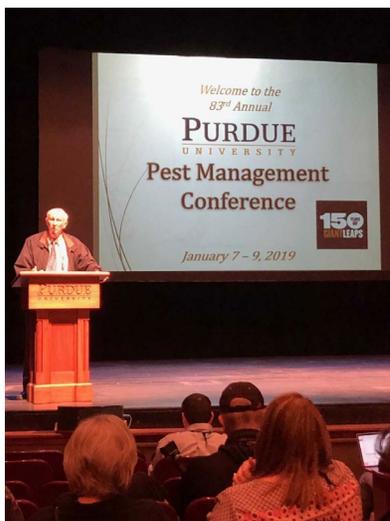
Insects Limited, Inc.



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.

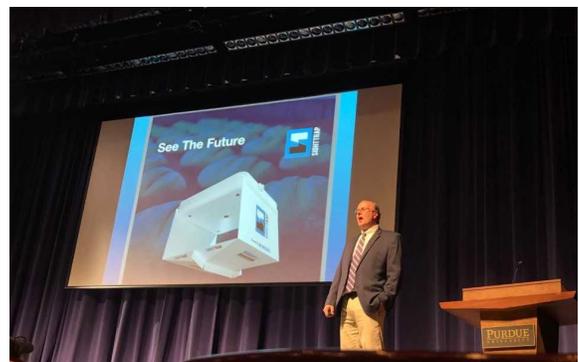


Opening remarks by Gary Bennett (conference organizer) at the 83rd Annual Purdue Pest Management Conference

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.



Ethan Estabrook, BCE

Case Study – Cigarette Beetle Infestation

Implementing pheromone traps into an Integrated Pest Management program can identify valuable information about insect activity, such as the detection of insects, insect species, population trends, and locations of infestations.



Cigarette beetle (Lasioderma serricorne)

At a pet food distribution warehouse, the pest control operator implemented hanging and floor pheromone traps in a grid pattern to monitor stored product insects. During the bi-weekly inspection, one of the floor traps showed many Cigarette beetles.



Insects Limited's All Beetle Trap full of Cigarette beetles in a distribution warehouse

The pest control operator performed an inspection of the immediate area and identified the source of the infestation in a pallet of small animal hay used as feed for rabbits and hamsters. The pest control operator was able to work with the customer to remove the infested pallet from the warehouse to prevent additional infestations to other products in the immediate area. The

infested pallet was then fumigated on a trailer and was able to be repackaged.



Source of the Cigarette beetle infestation on a pallet of hay in a distribution warehouse

Not having pheromone traps could have allowed infestation to other products or infested product to be shipped to customers resulting in customer complaints.

An infestation may go unnoticed based on the regular inspection intervals (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.) and allow infested product to persist. Remote insect monitors, like the [SightTrap™](#), provide daily monitoring which allows faster insight to help pest control operators better manage potential insect problems.



SightTrap™ Powered by ForesightIPM™ from Insects Limited gives you a high-tech tool for preventing problems before they happen. Learn more at www.foresightipm.com

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Pat Kelley, BCE

Insects Limited Releases Top 15 Clothes Moth Cities in the USA in 2018



Scene from Times Square, Broadway & 44th, New York City, Photo by [Vlad Alexandru Popa](#) from [Pexels](#)

Which cities in the U.S. have the worst clothes moth problems? Here is your answer. For the 2nd year in a row, Insects Limited released a ranking of the top clothes moth cities in the United States. For 2018, the top 2 cities for clothes moth remain unchanged in New York City and Boston. This year, there were lots of new cities joining the list and a few that have dropped off. Find the entire rankings below.

City	Change in Ranking
1. New York	No Change
2. Boston	No Change
3. Philadelphia	↕
4. Los Angeles	↓
5. Washington DC	↕
6. San Francisco	↕
7. Minneapolis	↕
8. Chicago	↔
9. Cleveland	NEW
10. Seattle	No Change
11. Dallas	No Change
12. Santa Fe, NM	↔
13. Denver	NEW
14. Albuquerque	↓
15. Atlanta	NEW



Webbing clothes moth © photo by P. Kelley, Insects Limited, Inc.

The Eastern Seaboard owns the top three spots on this list with NYC, Boston and Philadelphia highlighting those spots. Washington DC is not far behind at No. 5. Big movers this year were Cleveland, OH who jumped all the way up to the 9th position from not even being on this list last year. Other cities new to the Top 15 this year were Denver, Colorado and Atlanta, Georgia.

The New Mexico cities of Santa Fe and Albuquerque fell off a bit over the past year. Santa Fe dropped 8 spots to the 12th position while Albuquerque dropped 1 spot to 14th.

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Similar to the trending that we have seen with the rise of bed bugs throughout the country, webbing clothes moths, *Tineola bisselliella*, appear to be on a rapid rise in many metropolitan areas. Research has suggested that the webbing clothes moth does not come into our homes and businesses from natural reservoirs (E.g. bird nests, dead animals), but instead travels from person to person¹. This type of behavior is called synanthropic, which means the clothes moths benefit from an association with humans and the habitats that humans create. As we pass along our wool rugs, blankets, sweaters, fur coats and feather pillows, etc. to family members, friends or other means of trade, we also move the moths from location to location.

The presence of webbing clothes moths in nature in completely rural areas is nearly non-existent, while the densely populated northern portion of the Eastern Seaboard (Maine to Washington DC) again accounted for nearly one-third of the clothes moth sales for the entire country. As people move about the country, they carry the clothes moths with them, so even if your city isn't on this list now, be prepared because they still might be coming your way soon!

The list of top cities was compiled based on the total number of sales of clothes moth pheromone traps into the greater metropolitan areas of each ranked city during the period of January 1 – December 31, 2018.

¹Krüger-Carstensen, B., & Plarre, R. (2011). Outdoor trapping and genetical characterization of populations of the webbing clothes moth *Tineola bisselliella* (Lepidoptera: Tineidae) in the broader area of Berlin. *Journal of Entomological and Acarological Research*, 43(2), 129-135.



Clothes moths can be a frustrating problem to have. [This video](#) will walk you through easy steps on how to locate and rid your closet of damaging clothes moths.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmWTNHRrKMU>