

# Fumigants & Pheromones

Insects Limited, Inc.



Tom Mueller

## 14<sup>th</sup> Fumigants & Pheromones Conference Scouting



David Mueller, Conference Organizer, has made it a priority to travel to the location of the next conference to experience the hotel, travel, weather, and services for himself. This level of dedication is what has made the Fumigants & Pheromones Conference such a world-class event sought after by people from many different countries.



*The Casa region of southern Africa*

Planning a conference on the other side of the world is not an easy task. There are two requirements needed to ensure conference attendees have an excellent experience. The first requirement is to work with a company local to the area with insight and connections. We have had a 25-year friendship with Keith Delpont of Fumigation Tobacco Limited, and we will be working closely with him and his team to create an unforgettable experience for conference attendees. The second requirement is to travel to the location and evaluate conference facilities and amenity options.

For six days in the middle of July, I had the opportunity as a member of the conference planning committee to travel to Zimbabwe as well as Zambia and Botswana. The goal was to help make the final decisions on what the attendees will be doing in and out of the educational portion of the [14<sup>th</sup> Fumigants and Pheromones Conference, May 12-14, 2020](#).

I have been fortunate enough to travel in and outside of the United States. My trip to the Casa region of southern Africa is right there at the top on my list of favorite places. If attending the 14<sup>th</sup> Fumigants & Pheromones Conference in Victoria Falls, May 2020 is not reason enough, look at some of the pictures I captured of the region as well as the conference facilities we have selected. [Register](#) and book your tickets now!



Conference Organizing Committee: Keith Delpont (Top Left), Tom Mueller (Bottom Left), David Mueller (Top Right), Jaime Massaca (Bottom Right)

*Not pictured: Kumbi Chiweshe, Hayley Idensogn, Pat Kelley, Pete Mueller, Casey Vollmer*



*The Zimbabwe double rainbow view of Victoria Falls attendees might see during the conference welcome reception.*



*Zambian view of Victoria Falls in July. Rock cliffs will not be visible during May due to the amount of water flowing in the river.*



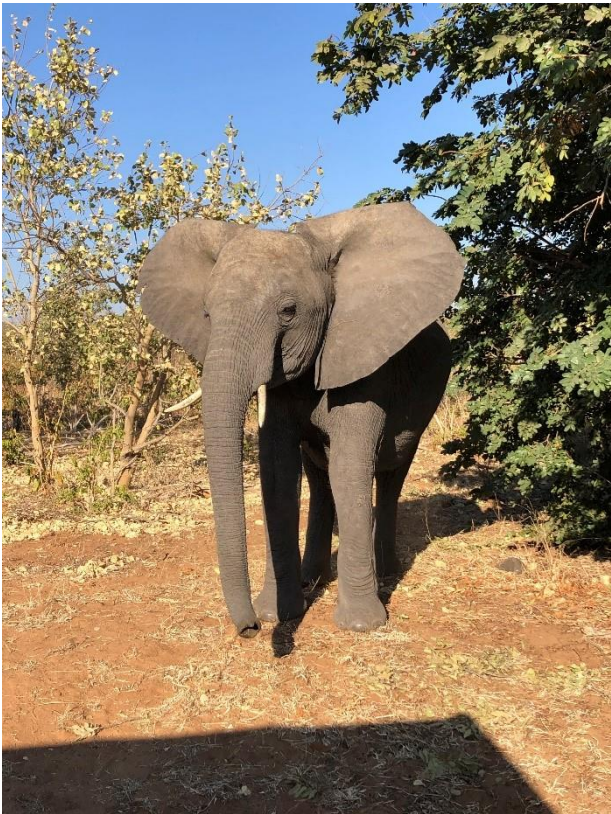
*The Elephant Hills Resort has been carefully selected because of its modern amenities such as this conference room where attendees will learn from practical and scientific presentations.*



*Photo of elephants crossing the Zambezi River*



*David Mueller, Conference Organizer with a view of Victoria Falls from Zambia.*



*Close encounter with elephant herds during early morning game drive.*



*Spectacular sunset in Zambia on the Zambezi River*



*There is no shortage of elephants in the Casa region. This herd was seen coming to the river for a cool drink of water.*



*Spectacular sunrise view from the back of the Elephant Hills Resort. Be sure to keep your doors closed or the monkeys will get into your room!*

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Ethan Estabrook, BCE

## Eastern Subterranean Termites

### Case Study

Insects Limited encountered Eastern subterranean termites (*Reticulitermes flavipes*) at a facility in Indianapolis, Indiana this past July, and it was documented in the following video.



*Subterranean termites hidden deep in loads of tree mulch being delivered can cause damage to structures after some time.*

In a behavior called swarming, alates (winged, sexually mature adult termites) leave the nest in large numbers in order to establish new colonies. Swarming alate termites were found entering the basement through a small gap around a sewer pipe. The cracks and crevices were treated to kill existing termites and help prevent others from entering the facility. The gaps were then permanently sealed off to prevent any future opportunity for termites or other insects entering the facility. Glue boards were placed around the basement to help determine if there were any other potential gaps swarming alate termites may be entering from. The outdoor area was inspected to help determine the

location of the colony. Worker termites were found under landscaping mulch that was up against the structure. The immediate area was treated and recommendations to remove mulch away from the building were provided. Luckily this facility is built out of brick and concrete, but cracks in the foundation could provide access to wood inside the facility. Insect monitoring is currently ongoing to help us better understand population trends, locations of potential infestations, and insect species. This information helps us make more effective decisions in protecting our customer and their items from insect damage.

### Eastern Subterranean Termites

Eastern subterranean termites are the most common and widely distributed termite species in North America. Termites are detritivores and feed mainly on dead plant material and cellulose. This food source is usually found in structural wood in buildings, wooden fixtures, decomposing wood, mulch, leaf litter, and paper. Subterranean termites need moisture in order to survive and thrive. They will often build mud shelter tubes above ground to allow themselves to travel between colonies while being protected from the sun and to keep from drying out. A colony of Eastern subterranean termites can range from 20,000 – 5,000,000 workers and can consume 5 grams of wood per day. That is an equivalent of 2.5 feet of a 2x4 annually! There is no doubt that Eastern subterranean termites can do major damage to homes and wooden structures.

### Tips to Discourage Termite Activity

- **Keep Mulch Dry:** Make sure the ground has proper drainage and that rainwater is diverted away from the structure. If the yard tends to stay

wet, periodically rake the mulch to help speed up aeration and drying. Keep mulch depth to 2 inches or less to help retain less moisture. Avoid watering plants and mulch up against the structure.

- **Provide barrier around structure:** Keep mulch at least 30 inches away from the structure and install a barrier of rocks or bare dirt. This helps discourage insect and rodent activity up against the structure.
- **Keep trees away from structures:** Tree limbs can provide an alternative pathway for insects and rodents to reach the structure. Make sure gutters are cleaned and free of debris. Leaf accumulation in the gutters create a moist and attractive environment for insects. Trees can also block sunlight and slow the rate of evaporation of moisture.
- **Remove excess wood:** Stored firewood, woodpiles, dead trees and stumps are very attractive to termites. Keep all excess wood at least 20 feet away from the home and store wood at least 5 inches off the ground. Remove dead trees and stumps.

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## The Benefits of Hiring a BCE

In [Issue 133](#) of this Fumigants & Pheromones Newsletter, we introduced you to Ethan Estabrook, BCE. That article outlined Ethan's educational background, along with his experiences and accolades. We knew that adding him to the team would help [Insects Limited](#) achieve its company purpose of being an educational leader in the industry.

Another benefit of hiring Ethan, which we were not expecting, is his passion and ability to create fantastic media, and provide detailed educational content to customers searching for more information about their target pests.

Since he joined our team, he has spent many hours working to provide the industry with educational pictures, videos, and other content relating to both stored product insects and insects you probably will not find in your food (see [scorpion video](#) on Insect Limited's social media pages).



To see past as well as future pictures and videos follow us on [YouTube](#) , [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).