

2014 Education Award Winners



COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE
& LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Fred Willey, is President of Invader Pest Management. Fred has been a pest management professional (PMP) for 25 years and founded Invader Pest Management in March of 1994. He celebrates 20 years of great business. Through service contracts Fred interfaces with over 1500 people monthly. About 50% of Fred's business involves environments with children. I asked Fred why he is so passionate about IPM, and I have summarized his comments here: Fred promotes IPM because "I believe that it is a much more professional, effective and responsible means of delivering pest control to our customers. I believe in reducing the use of pesticides and my company was the first pest control company in Arizona to become a Gold Member of the EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. I like to educate the public that as Professional Pest Managers, you hire us to resolve your pest issues not apply pesticides, and it's our responsibility to control your pest issues safely and effectively and IPM strategies are a very effective course of action that utilizes chemical treatment as a last resort instead of first response". Fred says "IPM is much more fulfilling for myself and my employees. Building strong IPM skills is especially useful working in food handling and manufacturing establishments, LEED facilities, public buildings, in Schools, and homes". Fred wants to provide IPM services to his customers, and provide a career with opportunities for personal growth for his employees.

Dan Vezie, works for Maricopa Unified School District, he is a jack-of-all-trades and serves as the district's locksmith and warehouse man, helps with General Fixed Assets, and he is the pest management professional. Dan started with MUSD in 2008 and became OPM licensed in October 2012. Dan came to see us at the Experiment Station to ask how to safely manage pests. Dan says that since implementing IPM his chemical inventory has decreased, his record keeping has improved, and he now has a better understanding of exclusion methods. Dan believes that "IPM serves as a framework to provide an effective, comprehensive, and low risk approach to protect our students, staff, and resources from pests".

Tony Scarfo, is the Quality Assurance and Sustainability Specialist for Phoenix Union High School District. He has worked for PUHSD for 25 years, 18 as Lead Pest Control Technician and 7 as Quality Assurance. In Tony's own words "IPM has provided PUHSD with an important tool to assist in the education and promotion of creating a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff. It has become an important part of our mission of responsible environmental stewardship by providing a fundamental shift in how we operate our daily pest control activities".

Ron Walker, is the Continuing Education Coordinator for the Arizona Dept. of Ag. Office of Pest Management. Ron has worked at OPM (previously Structural Pest Control Commission) for 24 years. Ron says "Pesticide safety has been a priority of mine since starting with the SPCC after seeing how thoughtlessly and carelessly some people both in and out of the pest control industry use pesticides without thinking of either the short term or long term effects of pesticide misuse to themselves or the environment".

Doug Brunner, is a pest management professional working for University Termite and Pest Control. Doug is the contract administrator, responsible for contract implementation of all IPM programs funded by the taxpayer (schools, hospitals, correctional facilities, federal agencies, cities, state agencies, etc.). Doug has been licensed for 19 years, and has worked for UTPC for 18 years. About 70% of Doug's work focuses on schools. He has 315 schools currently under contract. Doug will tell you that he has seen his share of nightmares and IPM minimizes risks.

Ed Stallard, has worked as the Mesa Public School District IPM Coordinator for 12 years. In Ed's own words "MPS is totally committed to providing a healthy learning environment for students and staff. The IPM process provides the elements of education, management and control in order to limit exposure to pesticides. In this way, on a daily basis, we are stewards for that healthy learning environment".

Pat Copps, is an entomologist and technical services manager for Orkin. Pat started in Vector Control in 1972 and has worked as a PMP since. Pat has worked for Orkin for 15 years, and visits approximately 150 customer locations every year. Pat declares "I promote IPM practices since this is the best approach and includes an emphasis on proactive procedures, partnership with the customer, and the resolution of root cause issues. This in turn permits a limited need for extensive treatments when pesticides are needed. I have observed many positive impacts when appropriate IPM based programs are used, including the elimination of the pest issue and a reduced need for pesticides. In my opinion, homes, schools, food processing establishments and hospitals have all had positive impacts from the use of well-designed IPM programs".

William E. (Bill) Currie, boasts a 30-year federal career included USFDA, USDA and EPA. He was transferred into EPA as a charter member when the agency began in 1970. Bill has had hands-on experience with all aspects of urban pest management during his 22 years at EPA as Training Officer and as an IPM Specialist. In 1979, Bill helped the National Park Service start their IPM program. After retiring in 1992, Bill and two associates founded the International Pest Management Institute (IPMI), which has provided technology exchange for urban integrated pest management information through private consulting and training workshops on low risk pest management for school sites, parks and municipalities.

Bill's concerns with the adverse effects of pesticides on children led to working with school systems and other urban sites, with a focus on reducing risks from pests and pesticides. From 1999 through 2002, Bill was the independent IPM expert for the Los Angeles Unified School District, and completed IPM training for over 7,500 staff members.

Elaine Wilson, was worked with the Intertribal Council of Arizona as the Environmental Quality Programs Director since 1990 (24 years). Elaine works with 21 Tribes and provides pesticide safety training for over half of the member Tribes. When asked why Elaine feels IPM is important, Elaine responds "I believe IPM is the best approach in order to protect human health and the environment. I am a firm supporter of IPM and ensuring the safety and wellness of all people, especially children. I also believe that pesticides can be used as a last resort and that they are to be used in accordance with their labels and applicable federal/state/local laws. We continue to educate tribal communities on the importance of IPM and using pesticides safely and ensuring the label is read prior to the use of the product".