

Insec(tc)ure*:

Are you insecure about your insect cures?

A UT Urban IPM Lab Newsletter for the Pest Management Industry

Eight new ACEs in Tennessee

Karen Vail, UT Entomology & Plant Pathology

[The Associate Certified Entomologist \(ACE\) certification](#) provides the PMP with a way to distinguish themselves from others in the industry. Offered by the Entomological Society of America (ESA) to pest management professionals (PMPs) with five years of verifiable experience, PMPs experience a tremendous sense of satisfaction and pride when passing this challenging exam. Years ago, Mike Merchant, retired Texas A & M professor, informed me that the average pass rate for first-time testers was 40%. Not only do ACEs feel the pride, but they also receive a certificate, window decal and uniform patch and can use ACE or “Associate Certified Entomologist” in advertisements. ESA also offers certification in Public Health Entomology and a new entry-level pest control credential. See <https://www.entocert.org/> for details.

We’ve offered an ACE Prep Course every fall since 2017 except in 2020. This year we started as a hybrid course with some students present in the classroom and others online via Zoom, but after a few sessions settled on Zoom. We cover much of the material in the study guide, *IPM for the Urban Professional: A Study Guide for the Associate Certified Entomologist* and supplement discussions with information from the *NPMA Field Guide to Structural Pests* and the *PCT Field Guides*. A schedule and other details of our course can be found at <https://epp.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ACEPrepAnnouncement2021.pdf> and the end of this article.

During a typical year, a session would include a PowerPoint Presentation followed by observations of the pests under the microscope or hand lens. In addition, we might monitor pests by placing glue boards at the interface of two surfaces in conducive conditions and entry points and periodically inspect and record pest presence. So when we switched to online, I was concerned that missing out on the hands-on portion would hurt their success rate, but it didn’t. I’m proud to announce that eight of the eight students, that’s 100%, passed the ACE exam given on December 13 at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. Before this date, only 13 ACEs were registered in Tennessee according to the ACE roster at https://www.credly.com/organizations/entomological-society-of-america/directory?filter%5Bbadge_name%5D=ACE%20Structural%20Pest%20Control&filter%5Blocation_name%5D=Tennessee&page=1. Three of those 13 are also graduates of our ACE class.

If you are interested in taking our ACE Prep Course in 2022, watch for announcements on my websites at <https://epp.tennessee.edu/people/directory/dr-karen-vail/> or <https://epp.tennessee.edu/urban-ipm> or send me an email now, and I will add your name to the ACE 2022 email list. We will continue the Zoom format because it allows us to reach across the state instead of being limited to those PMPs a 2-hour drive from Knoxville. If you plan to take the ACE exam, forget the discount, buy your study manual now and start reading!

Presenting to you our Class of 2021 ACEs. (In the future, I hope to take their photos when they finish their exam, so we capture their excitement and satisfaction as well as have similar photos to share!)

The UT 2021 ACE CLASS



Chase Harrison
ClearDefense Pest Control
Partner



Bo Seay
ClearDefense Pest Control
Manager



Jason Brown
ClearDefense Pest Control
Managing Member



Josh Whitlock
ClearDefense Pest Control
Regional Manager



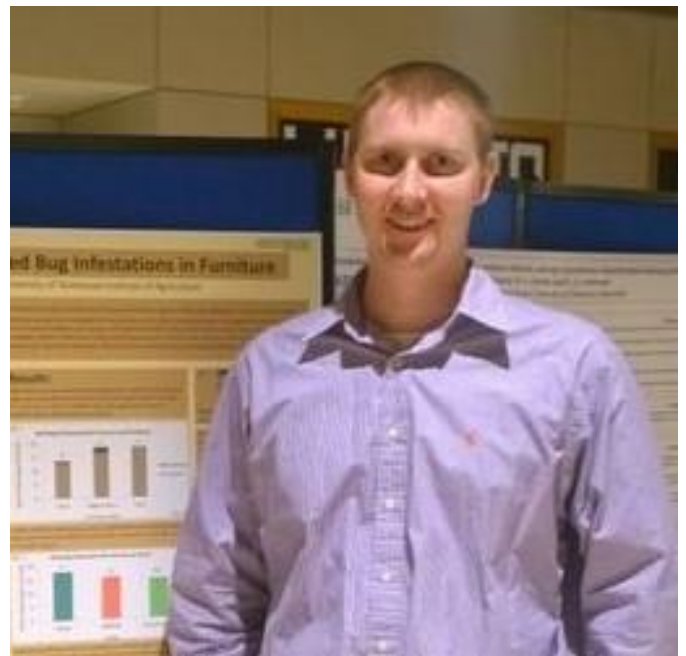
Dan Hekman
PestTech Chattanooga
Owner



Brian George
Russell's Pest Control
Residential and Commercial Solutions Specialist



Mark Peck
Russell's Pest Control
Associate Certified Entomologist



John Glafenheim
Photo borrowed from our UT Urban IPM Facebook post in 2016 when John presented his bed bug research results at the UT Exhibition of Undergraduate Research & Creative Achievement (EURēCA).

ACE (Associate Certified Entomologist) Prep Course

Fall 2021

Are you certified in pesticide applicator category 7 with a minimum of 5 years of verifiable pest management experience in the United States? Then you may be ready to become an ACE, an associate certified entomologist. Before you can become an ACE, you will need to provide two letters of professional reference, be willing to adhere to the [ACE Code of Ethics](#), [complete the application and pay the application fee to the Entomological Society of America](#) and pass an online test of your knowledge of structural pest control. The program and its benefits are explained in its entirety at <http://www.entocert.org/ace-certification>. The application process is separate from the training offered below.

To help you prepare for the exam, Dr. Karen Vail, Extension Urban Entomologist of the UT Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology will provide an ACE Prep Course this fall. All training sessions will be held 5 – 6 pm on select Mondays in McCord Hall Room 057 of the University of Tennessee's Institute of Agriculture Campus, Knoxville, TN 37996. We will also hold the class synchronously online via Zoom.

2021 Training Date	Subject
September 13	Integrated Pest Management and Tools
September 20	Insecticides and Modes of Actions
September 27	Pesticide Safety, Laws & Labels
October 4	Insect Biology and Morphology
October 11	Ants
October 18	Cockroaches
October 25	Flies
November 8	Stinging and Biting Arthropods
November 15	Stored Products Pests
November 22	Occasional Invaders
November 29	Wood-destroying Organisms
December 6	Common Commensal Pests/Review
December 12	Specimen review in the afternoon
December 13⁺ 5 pm – 8 pm	Exam (limited to 20)⁺

⁺The ACE exam will be given in room 243 Computer Lab of the Brehm Animal Science Building.

You can register for all classes of the ACE Prep Course at one time for a discounted price of \$300 or you can pay \$30 for each individual class as long as you register at least one week ahead of the training date. Enrollment limited to 25 per training date. One Tennessee recertification point per session. Course will only be held if at least 5 register before August 30th.

Register for the UT ACE Prep Course online at

<https://tiny.utk.edu/ACEPrepFall2021>

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UT Institute of Ag Campus Map



Park in lot 66.

We suggest you purchase the *IPM for the Urban Professional: A Study Guide for the Associate Certified Entomologist* from ESA (<http://www.entocert.org/ACE-study-guide>) and the *NPMA Field Guide to Structural Pests* (<https://forms.npmapestworld.org/Bugstore/index.cfm?trg=4&uIDC=26&uSect=catX>) prior to taking the training. The NPMA manual is also available as a downloadable phone app but comes with an annual fee. The ESA study guide is discounted when you purchase it with your ACE application. In the past, shipping of the manuals has been greatly delayed, so order the manuals as soon as you sign up for the class!

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Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label and registered for use in your state.

Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

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