

WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

October 6, 2006

Collaboration and business partnerships help construct a new urban Structural Pest Management Research and Demonstration facility.



(Above left: new Structural Pest Facility at WSU Puyallup; middle: pest managers attend training class; at right: exploring an area of potential pest infestation).

A new urban Structural Pest Management Research and Demonstration facility, the latest addition to WSU Puyallup's landscape, was finished and ready to open for business on October 3, 2006. It was the beginning of a new era for the WSU Urban Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Pesticide Safety Education Program. Carrie Foss, Urban IPM Coordinator, Art Antonelli, Extension Entomologist, and Rebecca Hines, Extension Coordinator, conducted the first training class for structural pest managers and inspectors at the new facility. Experienced pest management and inspection business owners were anxious to see this building since it is the only training structure of its kind in the western United States. They traveled from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Oregon and Washington to find out what kind of training WSU Puyallup could offer their technicians. Some of them thought they might want to build a similar structure in their state. Experts in structural pest IPM from California, Colorado, Hawaii, and Washington presented at the October workshop as part of a WSU Urban IPM Workgroup project.

IPM in the urban environment requires identification of the pest, evaluation of the damage or health threat posed by pest infestations, and a determination of conditions conducive for infestation. With the new Structural Pest Facility, inspectors and pest managers will get hands-on experience identifying wood-destroying organisms, their damage, and the conditions that are conducive for infestations by examining damaged wood and insect frass or other remains. Inspectors and pest management professionals will learn to identify carpenter ants, subterranean termites, anobiid beetles, moisture ants, and other pests by observing living and dead insect specimens using microscopes and other diagnostic tools available at WSU Puyallup.

WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region; Programs for Its People

Weekly Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, terwin@wsu.edu, 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, jnewkirk@wsu.edu, 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee and she will send this Highlight as an attachment.