

Report from Southern Chester County Meeting on Phorid Flies at Avondale Fire Hall on October 25, 2016

Speakers: State Senator Andy Dinniman; Fred Strathmeyer Jr, Deputy Sec. PA Department of Agriculture; Dr. David Beyer & Dr. Thomas Baker, Penn State University; Tony Scheivert, NGT Manager; NGT Supervisors; Phil Coles, Giorgio Mushrooms; Barbara Runkle, Harrogate resident.

Attendees - approximately 170 people from: Harrogate; Somerset Lake, New Garden Township; Avondale; Lower Oxford; Kennett Square.

Notes from the meeting:

Penn State University

PSU has been studying phorids for the last 6 months and has been funded by USDA and Giorgio Mushrooms. At this time, it is not clear whether funding will be available to complete this study in an acceptable timeframe. Penn State has identified 2 different kinds of phorid fly and has established a colony in their laboratory to enable them to continue research on attractants. The results of the PSU yellow, phorid sticky pads that were planted, recorded and monitored by PFAC in the grasses of our community were revealed on slides and discussed. Harrogate's phorid survey map from last spring was used as an example for other communities as guidance in mapping their trouble spots.

The mushroom industry

It was announced that there are no phorids in Berks County and the reason, at this time, is unknown. According to the representative from Giorgio Mushroom (Berks County), the process in the mushroom houses is *exactly the same* in our local farms. It is unknown why our area is getting a large infestation of this variety of fly. There are guidelines to minimize pests in the mushroom houses but there is *no compliance monitoring*.

PA Department of Agriculture

According to Fred Strathmeyer, The PA Department of Agriculture will work with Harrisburg toward identifying an agency to take responsibility for this issue. He will guide NGT Supervisors through the process and has advised the township to contact and engage with the Chester County Department of Health.

Harrogate

A letter from Lou Taylor was read summarizing his 7-year battle with the phorid flies at his home in Harrogate. Barbara Runkle was asked to speak and answer questions regarding Harrogate's experience as well as PFAC's research on the fly.

General – This is an issue affecting *many* in Southern Chester County. Several attendees shared their frustrations and personal stories in dealing/living with the phorid flies in their homes.

FYI: The link to the local press report on the Township meeting: <https://www.facebook.com/southernchesconews/posts/10154181115062815:0>

>>As requested by several neighbors, documents for fly information (including the 10/5 meeting in our clubhouse) are available on the Harrogate website.