

Phorid Fly Issue

Harrogate Community Meeting
October 5 2016

Phorid Fly Action Committee (PFAC)



Why We Are Here (Colin)

To Share

- What we know about the Phorid flies
- What has been done to address the issue
- What we plan to do next
- What you can do




What We Know (Barb)

What is this fly?

Penn State has positivity identified as "*Megaselia halterata* mushroom fly"

- This fly is a "filth fly" breeds in moist organic, decaying matter
- Eric Toedter (Kaolin) American Mushroom Institute confirmed mushroom homes are the primary breeding sources of this filth fly
- Climate Change extending growth and breeding season, ie: warming trends
- Need 20 days of below zero to kill off in-ground secondary breeding sources
- Tracking fly counts to see if temperature, humidity, rain, wind, time of day, etc. does not provide any accurate prediction of phorid fly activity
- Dr. Nina Jenkins has now confirmed there are **TWO** different shapes of this same fly!

Health Risks - Phorid flies are considered "vectors"

- Can carry diseases and bacteria
 - Capable of laying eggs in open wounds, and unwashed hair
 - Can contaminate food by landing and crawling on kitchen counters and food
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What We Know

Impacted Areas

- ✓ **Landenberg** - Harrogate North, Harlow Pointe, Somerset Lake, Hartefeld
- ✓ **Avondale** - Brittany Hills
- ✓ **Lower Oxford Township**
- ✓ **Hockessin, Delaware** - Hockessin Hunt
- ✓ **Cecil County Maryland**



What We Know

Limited Controls

- Professional pest treatment: Interior house spraying
- Spraying house with Dawn/Water
- Treating lawns, mulched beds with Pesticides, NEEM OIL Mix, IGR's
- Sealing holes and gaps around the house
- Keeping All Sink, Shower, Tub Drains Clean
- Keeping Sump Pump, Crock and Condensation Pumps Clean
- Fogging the attic
- Blacking out windows, Room Darkening vs. Light Filtering Shading
- FlyWeb Fly Lights



There is NO SINGLE REMEDY.... Find The Primary Breeding Source



What Has Been Done (Colin)

PFAC working hard to get government involved...

- New Garden Township
- Chester County Conservation
- Pennsylvania State Representative
- Pennsylvania State Senator
- Penn State University
- American Mushroom Institute



This is a complex problem and the solution will involve coordination across a number of organizations and individuals.



Our Next Steps ... possibilities

Black Fly Suppression Program – Ben Russell - PA Dept of Environmental protection (Barbara)

Green Fertilizer and Lawn Pest Control (Margo)

- Bifenthrin (Environmentally safe pest treatment) on grounds
- Costs per house lawns \$42.00/spray X 4 = \$160.00
- Cost for open grounds \$1,837.00/spray X 4 = \$7,348.00
- Suggested 4 treatments
- Phone: 610-524-2175 X117, speak to Christian Rising



It is critical that you spray BEFORE the leaves begin to cover the grasses. The spray MUST be applied to the grass, not the leaves!



What **YOU** Can Do (Margo)

- Spread the word – talk to your neighbors
- Contact everyone on the contact list
- Treat your home for ants
- Use Fly Web lights to help control phorid flies inside your home
- Draw your blinds/drapes
- Google “Phorid Fly” and learn all you can!





Contacts

Start CALLING and EMAILING these people today!!!

PA State Senator: Andy Dinniman

Aide: Don Vymazal: 610-692-2112

Email: dvymazal@pasenate.com

PA State Representative: Cris Ross: 610-925-0555

Aide: Joe (??)

Website: www.Repross.com

New Garden Township Manager: Tony Scheivert: 610-226-5019 (mobile)

Email: tscheivert@newgarden.org

Chester County Conservation District:

Michael Zuk, Mushroom Farm Resource Conservationist: 610-925-4920

Email: mzuk@chesco.org

PA Dept. Of Agriculture: 610-489-1003

PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program: Shelly Dehoff: 717-299-5361

Email: shellydehoff@lancasterconservation.org

Chester County Health Department: 610-733-4919

American Mushroom Institute Representative (Trade Group) : Eric Toedter (Kaolin Mushroom)

Email: etoedter@southmill.com

Harrogate Home Owners Board President: Les Clarke: 610-268-2036

Additional Information

Fly Web Light Suppliers

- Do My Own Pest Control
<http://www.domyownpestcontrol.com/flyweb-plus-p-15962.html>
- Fly Web FlyLights
<https://www.flywebflylights.com/>
- Amazon
https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_c_0_5?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=flyweb&srefix=flywe%2Caps%2C151

DF5000 Drain Cleaner

<http://www.domyownpestcontrol.com/df-5000-drain-gel-p-351.html>

Research

- General Phorid Fly Information
<http://www.walthamservices.com/pest-control/flies/phorid-fly/>
- Close associations: Micro-Myiasis & Morgellons disease
<http://www.morgellonsuk.org.uk/micromyiasis.htm>

Facebook Groups

- Friends of the Pennsylvania Black Fly - Gnat - Suppression Program
<https://www.facebook.com/nognatsinpa/>
- Washington County Gnat Fighters – MD
<https://www.facebook.com/Washington-County-Gnat-Fighters-MD-511010728940692/>
- Phorid Fly Community (Private Group) To join, send the email address you use for Facebook to traceyhaun@yahoo.com

Special Thanks!



Lou & Laurene Taylor
Barb & Dave Runkle



Questions

