

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2009-07
January 30, 2009

SUBJECT: Notification of Recent Staffing Actions within Plant Protection and Quarantine's Emergency and Domestic Programs

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program is pleased to announce the appointments of two new employees to PPQ's Emergency and Domestic Programs (EDP) staff: (1) Dr. Prakash Hebbar as the National Program Manager for selected stem rust diseases of wheat and barberry and (2) Andrea Simao as the National Program Manager with the invertebrates and biocontrol staff. We would also like to announce the promotion of Lynn Evans-Goldner to National Program Manager, Julie Twardowski as National ALB Program Coordinator, and Paul Chaloux as National EAB Program Coordinator.

Dr. Hebbar, as the National Program Manager for selected stem rust diseases of wheat and barberry, will be responsible for overseeing programs at the national level, such as black stem rust. Dr. Hebbar received his Bachelor's of Science (BS) degree in Biological Sciences and his Master's of Science (MS) degree in Microbiology from the University of Mysore in India, and his Doctorate degree in Plant Pathology from the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. He has 30 years of experience in research and program management, including experience in cereal microbiology; the biological control of fungal diseases of cereal, oil seed, and perennial crops; and the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of cocoa diseases. Prior to joining EDP, Dr. Hebbar worked in the private sector under a public-private partnership supported by USDA's Agricultural Research Service's Sustainable Perennial Crops Laboratory, managing a global IPM project for cocoa pests and diseases in Latin America, West Africa, and Asia.

Ms. Simao, as the National Program Manager with the invertebrates and biocontrol staff, will be responsible for overseeing the Japanese beetle, panicle rice mite, and mollusks programs. She received her BS in Ornamental Horticulture from the University of Georgia. Ms. Simao has 14 years of Federal Government service, having begun her career as a PPQ officer in the Port of Atlanta, Georgia. In 2000, she transferred to the Charlotte, North Carolina work unit as a PPQ officer. In 2002, she transferred to PPQ's Professional Development Center in Frederick, Maryland. As a training specialist, she provided instruction in numerous curricula, including New Officer Training (NOT), Interim NOT, Basic Agricultural Safeguarding Training, and the Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist Academy.

In January 2009, Ms. Lynn Evans-Goldner was promoted to the position of National Program Manager and will move to EDP's Plant Pathogen and Weeds group. In addition to continuing to serve as the *Sirex noctilio* National Program Coordinator, Ms. Evans-Goldner will also manage selected plant pathogen programs, including Karnal Bunt and

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certain potato diseases. Lynn Evans-Goldner has a BS in Plant Science (Entomology and Plant Pathology) from the University of Delaware and a MS in Plant Pathology from Rutgers University. Ms. Evans-Goldner joined PPQ's Commodity Risk Assessment group in 2001. Later, as a Staff Officer, Ms. Evans-Goldner worked on various PPQ emergency programs, including *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3, biovar 2, and *Phytophthora ramorum* (Sudden Oak Death). From 2005 through December 2008, Ms. Evans-Goldner served on the EDP staff as the *Sirex noctilio* National Program Coordinator.

In October 2008, Julie Twardowski became the National Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) Program Coordinator. In this position, Ms. Twardowski will be responsible for managing the ALB program, working closely with the National ALB Director. She has a BS in Entomology, with a concentration in Wildlife Conservation, from the University of Delaware and a MS in Environmental Science and Policy, from Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Twardowski began her career with USDA in 2002 as a PPQ Officer with the ALB program in Queens, New York. As a PPQ Officer, she was a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative for survey and treatment contracts and was responsible for inspecting trees, database management, and map creation. She later moved to Riverdale to support the National ALB Director and Program Coordinator responsible for planning efforts and managing the ALB database, where she subsequently became a Staff Officer.

In November 2008, Paul Chaloux moved to Riverdale, Maryland, to become the National Program Manager for the Emerald Ash Borer Program. Mr. Chaloux has a BS in Environmental Protection and MS in Plant Pathology, with a concentration in Forest Pathology, from West Virginia University. Mr. Chaloux began his career with APHIS in January 2000, as a Plant Pathologist with the Citrus Canker Eradication Program (CCEP) now the Citrus Health Response Program in Florida. In this position, he was responsible for performing field and laboratory diagnostic work and for training new and existing employees in the identification of citrus diseases and citrus varieties. In May 2002, Mr. Chaloux was promoted to a Supervisory Officer position with CCEP. As a Supervisory Officer, he was the Officer-in-Charge at the CCEP's Palm Beach County office, supervising a staff of approximately 20 officers, technicians, and administrative personnel, performing regulatory work and survey activities in residential and commercial settings in southeast Florida.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Prakash Hebbar, Andrea Simao, Lynn Evans-Goldner, Julie Twardowski, and Paul Chaloux to their new positions. Dr. Hebbar can be reached at Area Code (301) 734-5717 and via email at Prakash.Hebbar@aphis.usda.gov. Ms. Simao can be reached at Area Code (301) 734-0930 and via email at Andrea.B.Simao@aphis.usda.gov. Ms. Evans-Goldner can be reached at Area Code (301) 734-7228 and via email at Lynn.E.Goldner@aphis.usda.gov. Ms. Twardowski can be reached at Area Code (301) 734-5332 and via email at

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Julie.S.Twardowski@aphis.usda.gov. Paul Chaloux can be reached at Area Code (301) 734-0917 and via email at Paul.Chaloux@aphis.usda.gov.

/s/ John H. Payne /for

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