



RESEARCH • IPM NEWSLETTER

GWSS Redux

BY CONNIE CASSINETTO

Media & Communications Officer
San Joaquin County Administrators Office

In the early part of the 1990s, a new pest came on the scene in southern California. Before agricultural growers were aware of it, this pest spread into the grape growing areas of Riverside County where it devastated the vineyards in Temecula. The pest, identified as the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS), was found to spread Pierce's Disease, a disease for which there is currently no cure. The pest continues to invade other nearby counties and soon began to appear in limited numbers in counties in Central California. The pest was thought to be spreading primarily through "hitch-hiking" on trucks loaded with plants being shipped to counties outside the southern California area.

In spring 2000, the San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner put a plan in place that included the involvement of a task force of growers, state and local government entities, and agricultural industry representatives. The San Joaquin County GWSS Task Force quickly geared up to devise a strategy to prevent the GWSS from taking hold in San Joaquin County. Throughout 2000 and 2001, the Commissioner and the task force educated the community, aggressively surveyed for GWSS, and managed any findings of the pest.

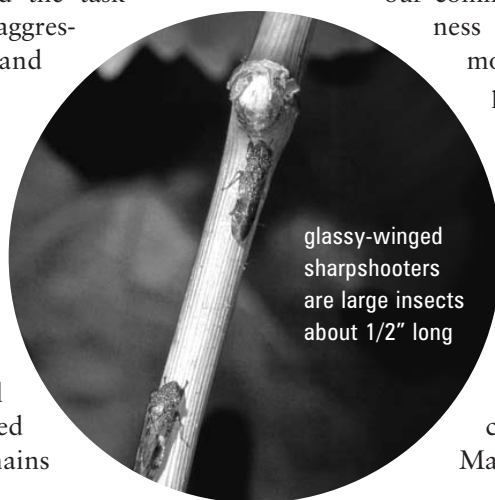
The County Agricultural Commissioner stepped up the management plan in 2001 with the start of a new residential yard inspection survey. Other counties had found GWSS in residential areas. No GWSS were found in San Joaquin County residential areas during the survey which ended October 31st. The county remains

GWSS-free. Over the two-year period, some findings of GWSS had occurred in commercial nurseries. These nurseries participated fully in treatment programs, preventing the pest from gaining a foothold in the county.

To continue to remain free of the pests requires the continuation of a focused pest management and eradication plan and the continuation of public education. In spring 2002 the task force is focusing on continued education and information to targeted groups that are the most likely to locate GWSS:

- Growers/Commodity Groups.
- Field/Landscape/Nursery workers.
- Homeowners, specifically those who garden.

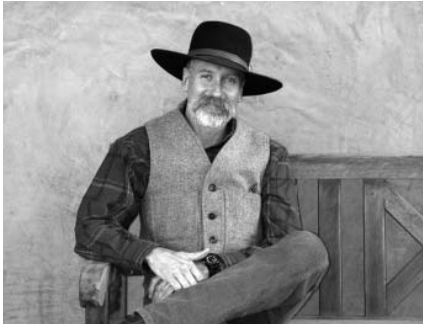
The goals of the continued public education are: to continue to provide education to the public and media regarding the GWSS and its potential negative impact on our community and the state; maintain awareness within the public of the need to monitor finds and report sightings of the pest to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office; and maintain an easy and clear way to report any finds of GWSS to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. To accomplish these goals, the task force is using an approach that includes paid media, publicity, teaming up with retailers, and personal presentations. The public education campaign is scheduled to kick off in March and continue on through October.



glassy-winged sharpshooters are large insects about 1/2" long

Kent Reeves: Biologist, Cowboy and Conservationist

BY LISA MAY & CLIFF OHMART



KENT REEVES, Wildlife Biologist
East Bay Municipal Utility District

Kent was born in Merced and grew up in Los Banos spending time on his family's almond orchards and cattle ranch. Since Kent was young, he has had an interest in wildlife and loved to spend the majority of his childhood outdoors. While growing up, Kent had a passion for surfing and gave considerable thought to becoming a marine biologist, but instead became more interested in wildlife research. Kent attended Humboldt State University and earned a bachelors degree in Wildlife Management and a masters in National Resource Management with a wildlife emphasis. Kent started his research with mountain lions and has also carried out research on Florida panthers, black bears, alligators, and studied river otters for his masters degree. Kent continues to monitor a variety of wildlife species and has worked extensively with threatened and endangered species in California.

In 1979 while attending college, Kent met his wife Heidi who earned a degree in Natural Resources. Before Kent and Heidi married, he lived in New Mexico and studied

sustainable and holistic management. Kent was also a cowboy, trained horses, and broadened his background in range ecology. Heidi joined the Peace Corps and was stationed in Kenya, East Africa where she taught and helped start a secondary school on the coast. This is where she met Jayne, who is the aunt of Kent and Heidi's son James. James was adopted 3 years ago at the age of five. It took Kent and Heidi a long two years to adopt James because of the extensive paper work involved in adopting a child from a foreign country.

Along with doing extensive work on wildlife, Kent is very much involved in the community. He is on the Board of Directors of the California Section of the Society for Range Management and California Native Grass Association. He is involved in the Tri- County Protection and Conservation Team for the San Joaquin kit fox that includes San Joaquin, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties. Kent is on the steering committee of California Association of Winegrape Growers' Vineyards and Wildlife Habitat Project, and is also on the steering committee for the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan. Kent was recently appointed to the Alameda County Agriculture Advisory Committee. The idea of this advisory group is to help foster agriculture while conserving natural resources so they become sustainable. Kent has been working for East Bay MUD in Lodi as a wildlife biologist for four and a half years. His focus is on wildlife habitat in the

Mokelumne River. Throughout the year he conducts surveys on amphibians, reptiles, raptors, and mammals, and maps vegetation along the river. Kent does an exceptional job working with regulatory agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. East Bay MUD plays a big part in improving the fisheries and wildlife along the river, and Kent has been involved in cooperating with landowners in the region. He believes in keeping farmers and ranchers in business because they play an important role in preserving wildlife. Because of his extensive experience in working with landowners on sustainable farming practices he has grown to appreciate the complexities of the issues surrounding various regulations such as the Endangered Species Act. He feels very strongly that there are ways to approach these issues so that both the landowners and agencies can be satisfied with the outcome.

Kent was on the committee that put together the Lodi Winegrowers Workbook and proved to be a valuable asset for the project. He would really like to do more work with winegrape growers who farm along the lower Mokelumne River.

What Kent enjoys most about being a biologist is "Working with people and their enthusiasm for wildlife." He has learned that people are very conservation minded. He strongly believes, "The future of wildlife is with private landowners."

EDITORS NOTE: We thought for a change of pace our newsletter readers might be interested in reading a profile of someone who is not an LWWC member but who has been working with many LWWC members on their farms. Kent attends many LWWCs meetings, has helped put together the Lodi Winegrowers Workbook, and has a very constructive view of the best ways to work with landowners on wildlife and habitat issues.

IN THE VINEYARD

BY PAUL S. VERDEGAAL

U.C. Viticulture Farm Advisor

With the 2001 season past and quickly becoming a fading memory and statistic, the wine community along side the rest of America finds some difficult times. The worst parts of the year past were the September 11th attacks and the weak economy. The good part of the year 2001 is that in the 225th year of our country's history, it still stands as a beacon of hope and we are more united as a nation.

Such big events may give some perspective to the mixed season we experienced with lower prices and too many grapes, but a quality vintage to rival "last century's" 1999 season. During the past two years and probably another two or three there will be tough times and a need for continued efforts towards quality, even with higher costs and lower prices.

As the pruning in the district passes the halfway point, there is lots of uncertainty about everything, except quality will be the focus of growers and wineries. If you are still able to determine some dormant pruning weights for individual vines at this time, you can use those and compare them to the average crop yield per vine, calculated from the field



Expect some uneven bud break and some abnormal vine responses this spring

average of tons per acre. The comparison of this crop to prunings ratio was explained in the LWWC In the Vineyard of December 2000. The LWWC office may be able to run a copy off or call my office.

The mild fall and warm winter, at least until early January, has caused some concern and questions about the effect on vines. Grapes have a low requirement of chilling hours between 100 and 300 total hours (one chilling hour equals one hour below 45 degrees Fahrenheit). The warm weather only provided about 349 hours (average being 730) as of December 31st and most of that after mid December. Growers have seen a lot of "vine bleeding", with sap running profusely from any cut on a vine. Normally, anytime there is good soil moisture and temperature above 45 degrees, vines will bleed. Usually this is in March, so it has been a lot more noticeable at this time of year lately. In addition many young vines, vigorous vines or well-irrigated vines had a difficult time slowing down enough to go dormant this winter.

What might be well expected this year is a very uneven bud break this spring. Young vines may have even more symptoms of uneven shoot growth and blank buds or even some minor spur or cordon dieback. Overall, older vines and less vigorous vines may not show as obvious a problem at budbreak. The warm winter effect may be evident at bloom time and there may be some yield reduction. That probably won't be quite as severe as with fruit trees and we probably don't need a bumper crop this year. At least "the neighbor" doesn't need it. Anyway, be on the lookout for some

abnormal vine responses, similar to what we saw in 2000 from the dry conditions in fall and winter. There is not much to counter act this type of growth, but just balanced care to avoid excessive stress or excessive vigor.

Quality should still sell your grapes and that the district can provide at reasonable costs. Good luck in 2002.

ATTEND A LODI WINEGROWER'S WORKBOOK WORKSHOP!

Over 200 LWWC growers have attended a Lodi Winegrower's Workbook Workshop and received their own copy of the workbook. You are all cordially invited to come to a workbook workshop in your area and get your own copy.

Call Cliff or Lisa
at 209.367.4727

to find out when there will
be a workshop near you.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

An internship is available at LWWC for the 2002 grape Season. Open to any student interested in learning more about winegrape pest management. It is a full-time position from mid April to mid September.

Call Cliff or Lisa
at 209.367.4727
for more information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FARM SAFETY DAY

March 1, 2002 7:30am-4:30pm UC Davis IPM Project and Lodi District Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee is holding Farm Safety Day. Lodi Grape Festival Grounds, 413 E. Lockeford St., Lodi. For more information call 209 367 7840.

BREAKFAST MEETING

March 11, 2002 8:00am-9:30am Kent Reeves, wildlife biologist with East Bay MUD and Brian Whiebler from US Fish and Wildlife Service, will discuss the topic of wildlife along the Mokelumne River and Landowner partnerships. California Waste Management Services, 1333 East Turner Rd., Lodi.

DEFICIT IRRIGATION FOR WINEGRAPE & WINE QUALITY

April 10, 2002 1:30pm-4:00pm Featuring Speakers: Stan Grant, Ron Brase, Kay Bogart, Daniel Bosch. Wine & Roses Ballroom.

SULFUR STEWARDSHIP FIELD DAY

April 24, 2002 8:00am-10:00am In cooperation with the Winegrape Pest Management Alliance Program a field day will be held to discuss the issues around sulfur stewardship. Several equipment manufacturers will be present to demonstrate their vine canopy sprayers. A postcard will be mailed out with more details.



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WINEGRAPE COMMISSION

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