

Officials Hope Termites Gone From Holden Beach

Local officials have their fingers crossed, hoping an unusual breed of termites spotted last year on some landscaping timbers at Holden Beach won't be back this spring.

"We'll just have to wait and see what nature does," Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service Director Milton Coleman said Tuesday. "Hopefully we've got it nipped in the bud."

Formosan termites, more aggressive than other termites common in the United States, were detected at the beach last spring. It was the first time the species had been recorded in North Carolina.

"They are far more aggressive than our regular subterranean termite," Coleman said. "They can leave the ground and form colonies in the walls of a house without having to return to the ground for moisture."

Coleman said the termites got to the beach on landscape timbers purchased at a building supply store. Officials couldn't determine where the shipment of timbers originated.

The timbers, which were placed outside of a home on Brunswick Avenue at Holden Beach, were removed and destroyed when the ter-

mites were discovered by a local exterminator.

"We feel pretty sure it was restricted to the landscape timbers," Coleman said. "I hope they've been taken care of."

Coleman said about five lots on the street were treated with pesticides. But officials won't know if all of the termites were eliminated until late April or early May when the weather turns warmer.

Formosan termites can burrow up to one yard into the soil and may have avoided the pesticide treatment, Coleman said.

"They do have the capacity to go down pretty deep in the soil," he said. "We're sort of keeping our eyes on it."

Coleman said experts from N.C. State University and the N.C. Department of Agriculture were called in last year to help get rid of the termites.

Formosan termites are usually found in sub-tropical areas and are common in Central America. Coleman said they are also found in Charleston, S.C., but had never been detected in North Carolina before last year.

Islands Chamber Directors Met At West Brunswick High

Directors of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce met at West Brunswick High School Tuesday morning for breakfast and a visit with students and faculty members.

The visit was sponsored by the recently organized home-community-school relations committee, which vocational instructor Gary Poulos serves as chairman. Other members, all from the faculty, are Liz Erickson, Susan Morgan, Zula Jenrette, Bertha Bell, Maggie Dessing, Deana Disarno, Jim Price and Linda Hickman.

At the breakfast Tuesday, Poulos said directors heard from senior April Dowless, a student in Harriet Bellamy's marketing program. Miss Dowless is involved in a cooperative program that allows her to learn some skills by working part-time at

a local business on early release from school.

The committee is exploring several program possibilities that have worked well at other high schools, including such activities as "chats with the principal" for parents; exam jams for which teachers study with students in preparation for exams and the school provides transportation to and from home; semi-annual open houses; orientation at the start of the school year for not just incoming freshmen, but for all students and their parents; and questionnaires sent home to parents.

"We as teachers can only do so much," said Poulos. "We're looking at anything we can do to get more involvement from the community, anything to get parents involved with their students. When you have an interested parent you have a good student."

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Village Installs Alderman, Clerk

Two new town officials took office Monday night at Varnamtown. Will (W.H.) Mumford of Riverside subdivision was installed as alderman of the riverfront village. He replaces Faye Galloway, who resigned Jan. 28 less than two months after taking office. She was elected in November.

Mayor Judy Galloway said Edward McLelland was also installed to succeed Paul Vealey as town clerk.

Both had been appointed to their respective positions at the February board meeting.

In other business Monday, the board voted to apply for a state planning grant to develop its first CAMA land use plan. Consultant Howard T. Capps told the board it could be as late as August or September before the town knows if it will receive a grant.

An application submitted several years ago was not funded, but Capps indicated he thought the town's chances were better this time around.

Under the Coastal Area Management Act, the state's coastal zone management law, the 20 coastal counties and municipalities within them are required to develop a plan to guide land use and then to update it every five years.

"We haven't done one yet," said Mayor Galloway. "If they want us to do one, they need to provide us the grant."

Also Monday, the board hired Scott Varnam to mow the yard at town hall and rescheduled its April meeting from April 20 to 7:30 p.m. April 27, to avoid scheduling conflicts with revival services at local churches.

Blood Drive Tuesday At BCC

A blood drive will be held Tuesday, March 24, at Brunswick Community College in conjunction with the American Red Cross, Cape Fear Chapter.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the college's main campus north of Supply.

Blood donors need to be 17 to 76

years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health.

Donations can be made every eight weeks or 56 days, said Jean Maiwald, a consultant with the Cape Fear Chapter bloodmobile.

Ms. Maiwald said that responding to community blood drives helps ensure that the Red Cross can adequately supply hospitals.

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Airport Commission Takes No Action On Allegations

At a special meeting last week, the Brunswick County Airport Commission voted 6-1 not to take action regarding allegations that its former attorney, Grover Gore of Southport, had misused funds.

The commission was also scheduled to meet in regular session this Wednesday, March 18, to discuss its 1990-91 annual audit report.

Performed by Milton Hardison of Wilmington, the audit reported that the Airport Commission's treasurer, Gore, wrote checks to himself totaling \$5,220 to pay for legal services he provided the board.

State law prohibits elected and appointed officials from becoming "an undertaker or to make any contract" for services to the government they serve, the report cites.

Gore, who volunteered his legal services to the board before he was appointed to the commission, has denied any wrongdoing. He did not take part in the Commission's vote that hired him as attorney and stepped down from the job six months later, saying he did not feel comfortable with the role. His term on the Commission expired Dec. 31.

The board is charged with operating the airport on N.C. 133 at Oak Island.

At the March 10 special meeting, Commission member Bob Miller questioned the board about the use of telephone credit cards issued to Gore while he was on the board. At question is whether the \$1,124 and \$1,602 in phone bills made on a credit card issued to Gore, as noted on the June 1990 and June 1991 audits, represents airport or personal business.

After meeting in executive session, the board voted 6-1 not to take action regarding the telephone bills incurred by Gore during the term of his appointment to the Commission. Miller voted no.

The board also voted 6-1 to terminate its contract with Faith Walker of Southport. Ms. Walker had been hired by the board to take notes and to write minutes of the meetings.

She sent a letter to Brunswick County Commissioners and to the mayors of Long Beach, Yaupon Beach and Southport last month criticizing the board's behavior at meetings and asked that county commissioners step in to settle the disputes.



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