



Fire Trailer News

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The Fire Trailer News is the official publication of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association and is published four times a year: Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring. Views and opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the officers or membership of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. Articles, manuscripts and photos are solicited for this publication. No payment is made for contributions. Submissions should be sent to the editor. Appearance of advertisements in the Fire Trailer News does not constitute endorsement by the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association. Advertisers shall not use the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association name or image in its commercial activities in any manner.

President's Message

This will be my last president's message for the Fire Trailer News. My term as president will end when Bill Barrett of the Gwinnett County Fire Department takes over as GFIA President at the Annual Meeting on August 3, 2005 at the Southeastern Arson Seminar. The other new officers have been nominated and all offices are uncontested so there will be no need for an election. Wade Crider of the Douglas County Fire Department moves up to become First Vice President. Zane Newman of the Americus Fire Department is the new Second Vice President. My co-worker, Charlie Mangan of AGL Resources, is the new Secretary. Once again Ed Canipelli, who is retired from USAA and now works for Cunningham Investigative Services, will be the Treasurer.

The SEAS is fast approaching and I look forward to seeing many of you there. As usual it should be a great program. The Savannah site seems to be very popular with everyone and the

Training and Education Committee is already working on the contracts with the Marriott Riverfront for the 2006 and 2007 Seminars.

The GFIA Spring Seminar in Macon was a great success thanks to the hard work of Joe Jones, Randy Bishop and Tom Musselwhite of the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department. These guys worked diligently to make the seminar a huge success. We had 121 people in attendance, which is our largest attendance ever at a Spring Seminar.

The site for the 2006 Spring Seminar has not been picked at this time. If anyone is interested in co-hosting the seminar please contact Kevin or Susan Cunningham or Laurel Waters, who are all Co-Chairs of the Training and Education Committee. If anyone has ideas for topics for the seminar please send those ideas to the Training and Education Committee.

As many of you may already know, the Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council now (continued on page 5)

District News

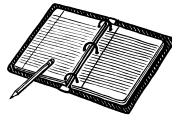
Metro District - The Metro Fire Investigator's Association meets every third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 at Manuel's Tavern located at 602 N Highland Ave., Atlanta.

July's speaker will be Van Pearlberg with the Cobb County District Attorney's Office. Mr. Pearlberg will be talking about the Jury Selection Process - Evidence and Witnesses. MFIA will

hold a one day practical training seminar on Friday, October 14, 2005. Please check the website at www.mfia.net for further details on this first of a kind event.

Northwest District - District meetings are held at 11:30am on the second Wednesday of the odd months at BJ's Restaurant in Calhoun. BJ's is located on Hwy 53 near the (continued on page 5)

Upcoming Events



August 1-5, 2005 - 41st Southeastern Arson Seminar - "Fire Investigations: Bridging the Gap in the 21st Century". Once again, this years seminar will be held at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel in historical Savannah and will be hosted by the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association and the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's Office. Registration brochures have been mailed and are available online at www.gfia-iaai.org and in this issue of the **Fire Trailer News**. Hotel Reservations can be made at the Marriott by calling (912) 233-7722. Please specify "Southeastern Arson Seminar" when making reservations. Room rate is \$110 per night plus tax and includes onsite parking.

Tuesday, August 2, 2005 at 1:00 pm – For those of you unable to attend the Southeastern Arson Seminar consider visiting www.cfitrainer.net and participating the Digital Photography for Fire

Investigators Webinar presented by John Twomey. Participants will receive written course materials and will have the opportunity to participate in a live "question and answer" session during the program. The program will discuss the basics of digital photography for fire investigators, software and editing procedures for digital images intended as evidence as well as the very latest court decisions on the scope and admissibility of digital images in fire and explosion cases.

At the completion of the program participants can choose to take an optional test and receive a certificate documenting their completion for those using the program for IAAI-CFI credit. While this Webinar is free, attendance will be limited to 400. So register TODAY! Those who are unable to participate in the webinar will be able to access the recorded program at a later date.

* * For past Webinars visit www.cfitrainer.net * *

US Consumer Product Safety Commission Recalls



Your Online Resource for Recalls

USPS Announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the following firms. For specific product make and models on the items recalled below go to <http://www.recalls.gov>.

Hoover Self-Propelled Upright Vacuum Cleaners – Mfg.: - Hoover Co., North Canton, OH. **Hazard:** Recalled vacuums have defective on-off switches that can overheat the handle and tool holder areas of the vacuum resulting in a fire hazard. **Units:** About 636,000. **Incidents/Injuries:** Maytag has received 249 reports of vacuums overheating, which caused the handle area to smoke, melt or catch fire. One minor burn injury requiring no medical attention was reported.

Martha Stewart Everyday Brand Flowerpot Candle Sets Sold Exclusively at Kmart - Mfg.: - Global Gift Industries distributed by Kmart Corp, Troy, MI. **Hazard:** These candles can have a high flame, posing a risk of burn injuries to consumers. **Units:** 16,000 sets. **Incidents/Injuries:** Kmart has received one report of a high flame with these candles. No injuries were reported.

Bunn® Home Coffeemakers – Mfg.: Bunn-O-Matic Corp., Springfield, IL. **Hazard:** The coffeemaker's plastic pour-in bowl and lid can melt or ignite due to an electrical failure, posing a burn and fire hazard to consumers. **Units:** About 1.75 million. **Incidents/Injuries:** Bunn-O-Matic has received 17 reports of the bowl or lid melting though no injures have been reported.

KitchenAid® Coffeemakers – Mfg.: Whirlpool Corp, Benton Harbor, MI. **Hazard:** An internal electrical component of the coffeemaker can overheat and ignite posing a fire hazard to consumers. **Units:** About 529,000. **Incidents/Injuries:** Whirlpool Corp. has received 13 reports of incidents involving coffeemakers overheating resulting in minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.

2005 GFIA Spring Seminar - Macon

The Georgia Fire Investigator's Association, in cooperation with the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department, hosted the 2005 Spring Seminar in Macon on March 2-4, 2005. Thanks to our wonderful slate of speakers, the support of the Macon - Bibb County Fire Department, numerous sponsors and you, the attendees, this seminar was a huge success with the best turn-out in GFIA history!



Live Burn Site at the Spring Seminar

Instructors set combustible materials around a toaster that had been altered



A Good Fire Always Draws a Crowd

In addition to the attendees at the spring seminar and Macon - Bibb Firefighters, local television affiliates and newspapers came out to observe and report on the mutual training aspects of the live burn exercises.



Fire Investigations: "Bridging the Gap in the 21st Century" 41st SEAS REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Mailing Address:

City/County/State/Zip Code:

Employer:

Golf tournament:

tickets needed:

Golf Handicap:

Schedule of Events

Monday, August 1

3:00pm - 6:00pm Early Registration
6:00pm - 7:30pm Commissioner's Social (provided)

Tuesday, August 2

7:00am - 8:00am Registration
8:00am - 8:15am Opening Ceremonies and Keynote Address - Commissioner John W. Oxendine
8:15am - 12:00pm Origin and Cause Investigation
12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch (on your own)
1:00pm - 5:00pm Forensic Pathology

Wednesday, August 3

Please check your breakout choices below. Only one choice per time slot, please.

8:00am - 10:00 am	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Investigation Solving Techniques (Patterns, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethics
10:00am - 12:00pm	<input type="checkbox"/> Clandestine Labs	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Fires
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)	
1:00pm - 3:00pm	<input type="checkbox"/> ISO Claim Search and Legal Updates	<input type="checkbox"/> New Technologies/GLS
3:00pm - 4:45pm	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Fires (Repeat)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Investigation Problem Solving Techniques (Ignition)
4:45pm	GFIA Annual Meeting and Election Results* *GFIA Annual Election 12:00pm - 4:00pm, location TBA	

Thursday, August 4

8:00am - 10:00am	<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Appliance Fires	<input type="checkbox"/> Be Careful What You Breathe
10:00am - 12:00pm	<input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Appliance Fires (Repeat)	<input type="checkbox"/> Collection & Preservation
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Awards Luncheon (provided)	
1:30pm - 3:00pm	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufactured Homes	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Scene Death Investigations
3:00pm - 5:00pm	<input type="checkbox"/> Alarms	<input type="checkbox"/> Sprinklers

Friday, August 5

8:00am - 11:00am NIST Major Fire Investigations
11:00am Examination and Closing Remarks

PRICES: Registration: \$175.00 each Golf Tournament: \$50.00 each

-Make check or money order payable to-
GA Chapter of IAIAI

-Cancellation Policy-

To receive a refund, registration must be cancelled by July 27, 2005

Please mail your check or money order to:
Georgia Fire Investigators Association
Post Office Box 382
Snellville, Georgia 30078

Program Information Contacts

April Hayes
Phone: 404-656-0533
Fax: 404-657-9831
Email: arson@mail.oci.state.ga.us

Susan Cunningham
Phone: 770-978-1251
Fax: 770-978-8782
Email: cis1234@comcast.net

District News

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intersection of Hwy. 53 and 41. All are welcome. For more information about meetings contact Jeremy Kittle via email at: jeremy.kittle@mail.oci.state.ga.us.

Southeast District - For information regarding the next district meeting contact District VP Brian.Clavier@mail.oci.state.ga.us.

Southwest District - For more information contact District member Zane Newman at Zane.Newman@americus-online.com

Northeast District - Contact Ken Grosch at (706)-344-3666.

West Central District - Contact District VP Keith Bell at hollandinvest@bellsouth.net or visit the GFIA website at www.gfia-iaai.org.

East Central District - The EC District is currently inactive. If you would like to participate in it's resurrection contact Thom Burruss or Bill Barrett.

President's Message

Continued from
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requires that all POST Certified Arson Investigators have 24 hours of approved Continuing Education Credits each year. Those of you who attend the Southeastern Arson Seminar should receive enough credit to cover your Continuing Education Credits for this year. It is also our goal to get enough hours at the GFIA Spring Seminars to cover the 24 hours of approved Continuing Education Credits each year.

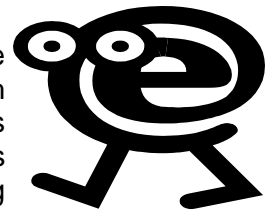
This is my second time through as President of the Georgia Fire Investigator's Association and I would like to thank all you out there for allowing me to serve this organization. Thanks to all of you for your help and cooperation through the years.

See you in Savannah!

Thom Burruss - President

The New GFIA Web Site www.gfia-iaai.org

The new GFIA web site is up and running! The web site includes a downloadable membership application form, a link to the Southeastern Arson Seminar which includes a registration form, district links and the most current information on issues relating to fire investigation and the membership of the GFIA. You can find numerous links relating to Professional Associations, Governmental Agencies and Training under *Resource Links*. Anticipated new additions include an online membership directory and online contact information update capabilities.



We will be accepting sponsor ads with a link to your website in the near future. For information on placing your company ad online or if there is any information you would like to have added or included on the website please feel free to contact Laurel Waters at 770-982-0210 or via email at info@gfia-iaai.org

GFIA Officer Nominations

The nominations for Officers of the GFIA for the year 2005-2006 are as follows:

2nd Vice President - Zane Newman. Zane, a Captain with Americus Fire Department, is in charge of inspections and investigations. He is a charter member of the SW District, Past-President of the SW

District and a member of the IAAI since 1998. He has served one term as Secretary of the GFIA.

Secretary - Charlie Mangan. Charlie is employed in the Safety Department with AGL Resources. He is a long standing member of the GFIA and a member of the IAAI. He is always willing pitch in and lend a hand. Most of you

know Charlie as our Golf outing coordinator.

Treasurer - Ed Canipelli. Ed, retired SIU investigator with USAA, has been Treasurer of the GFIA for the *last 17 years*. Once again, Ed has agreed to undertake the duties and responsibilities of keeper of the cash. Thanks again Ed!

2004-2005 GFIA Officers and Directors

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
President	Thom Burruss	AGL Resources, Inc.	404-584-3785	404-584-3711	tburruss@aglresources.com
1 st VP	Bill Barrett	Gwinnett County Fire Department	770-513-5527	770-513-5529	barretbi@co.gwinnett.ga.us
2 nd VP	Wade Crider	Douglas County Fire Department	770-942-8626	770 920-7153	wcrider@co.douglas.ga.us
Secretary	Ricky Turner		C-478-494-7105		sherryturner@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Ed Canipelli	Cunningham Investigative Services	770-978-1251	770-982-8782	edcanipelli@earthlink.net
Past President	Laurel Waters	Analytical Forensic Associates	770-982-0210	770-982-0206	afalabs@bellsouth.net
Director	Teresa McAfee	State Farm Insurance Company	770-593-6548	770-593-6615	tsmcochran@aol.com
Director	Ron Kibble	Georgia Farm Bureau	706-937-7100	706-937-3153	wrkibble@gfb.org
Director	Paul McGahee	Georgia Farm Bureau	229-388-0500	229-388-0500	pmcgahee@friendlycity.net
MFLA VP	Eric Stauffer	MIME Forensic Services	678-730-2000	678-482-9677	arson@mac.com
NW VP	Jeremy Kittle	Office of Insurance Commissioner	404-656-2060	404-657-9831	jeremy.kittle@mail.oci.state.ga.us
NE VP	Ken Grosch	Dawson County Fire Department	706-344-3666	706-344-3669	fireinspector@syclone.net
WC VP	Keith Bell	Holland Investigations	706-324-5762	706-324-5762	hollandinvest@bellsouth.net
SW VP	John Baty	Valdosta Fire Department	229-333-1837	229-333-1879	jbaty@valdostacity.com
EC VP					
SE VP	Brian Clavier	Office of Insurance Commissioner	404-656-0533	404-657-9831	brian.clavier@mail.oci.state.ga.us

2004-2005 GFIA Committee Chairs

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Finance	Bill Barrett	Gwinnett County Fire Department	770-513-5527	770-513-5529	barretbi@co.gwinnett.ga.us
By-Laws/Legal	Jim Fisher	Hall, Booth & Slover	404-954-5000	404-954-5020	jhf@hbss.net
EP&G	Mark Dietrichs	Swift Currie, McGhee & Hiers	404-888-6127	404-888-6799	mtd@scmhaw.com
T&E	Kevin Cunningham	Cunningham Investigative Services	770-978-1251	770-978-8782	kevincis@comcast.com
	Susan Cunningham	Cunningham Investigative Services	770-978-1251	770-978-8782	cis1234@comcast.com
Nominating/Elections	Laurel Waters	Analytical Forensic Associates	770-982-0210	770-982-0206	afalabs@bellsouth.net
Editor	Dennis Ellerbee	EFI	770-233-0121	770-233-0121	fm113@bellsouth.net.com
Membership	Laurel Waters	Analytical Forensic Associates	770-982-0210	770-982-0206	afalabs@bellsouth.net
CFI Certification	Jane Cox	Office of Insurance Commissioner	404-656-6879	404-656-7628	jane.cox@mail.oci.state.ga.us
Web Master	Ralph Newell	Newell Investigative Services	770-297-7138	770-297-9133	nisi1@bellsouth.net
Chaplain	Paul McGahee	Georgia Farm Bureau	229-388-0500	229-388-0500	pmcgahee@friendlycity.net
Parliamentarian	Gary Kendrick	Spalding County Fire – Retired	770-227-0781		gjk@bellsouth.net
921	Steve Sprouse	Office of Insurance Commissioner	404-656-0543	404-657-9831	steve.sprouse@mail.oci.state.ga.us
Historian/Photo	Bill Barrett	Gwinnett County Fire Department	770-513-5527	770-513-5529	barretbi@co.gwinnett.ga.us
Sergeant at Arms	Jane Cox	Office of Insurance Commissioner	404-656-6879	404-656-7628	jane.cox@mail.oci.state.ga.us
Sergeant at Arms	Chuck Keene	Keene Investigative Services, Inc.	706-367-0773	706-367-0773	keene3@alltel.net
Awards	Charlie Mangan	AGL Resources, Inc.	404 584-3786	404-584-3711	cmangan@aglresources.com
Expert Testimony	Harold Raines	RH&W Investigations	404-316-5646	404-634-8006	hraines@hotmail.com
	Teresa McAfee	State Farm Insurance Company	770-593-6548	770-593-6615	tsmcochran@aol.com

The IAAI Annual General Meeting

The 2005 Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Arson Investigators was held the week of April 25, 2005 in Washington, DC. The educational training offered at the seminar was great thanks to the hard work of GFIA Members Teresa McAfee, Chair of the IAAI T&E Committee, Kevin and Susan Cunningham, Program Coordinators, and Mark Dietrichs who instructed the Ethics portion of the seminar. Teresa, Kevin and Sue worked tirelessly throughout the year enlisting speakers and planning the event.

There could not have been a more interesting venue for the AGM than our nation's capitol. Attendees from the Georgia Chapter included Teresa McAfee, Kevin and Susan Cunningham, Don Dowling, Eric Stauffer, Doug Byron, Dana Mason, Laurel Waters and Mark Dietrichs.

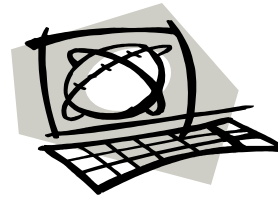
Kevin and Susan Cunningham were presented with the 2005 IAAI President's Award at the Awards



Banquet on Thursday evening for their service to the organization and their part in the planning of the 2005 AGM. Congratulations Kevin and Susan!

www.checkitout.com

- **www.firescenesafety.com** - This site is dedicated to providing Fire and Explosion Investigators with access to information and sources of technical assistance to reduce the potential for occupational injuries, illnesses, exposures and fatalities associated with the investigation of fires and explosions.
- **www.firefighterclosecalls.com** - Visit the gallery section of the page. An idea born from "The Secret List" an independent newsletter produced since 1998 in an effort to bring forward the issues involving injury and death to firefighters... often issues that are ignored, quickly forgotten or just not talked about. Originally started as an e-mail group amongst some close friends in the fire service, it is currently received by thousands of fire service members.
- **www.gao.gov/special.pubs/soi.htm** - Although somewhat dated this site is a good resource for investigators. The 1997 Investigators' Guide to Sources of Information is published as a service to the investigative



- community by GAO's Office of Special Investigations. It is intended to be a useful investigative tool for identifying sources of information about people, property, business, and finance. To make the guide useful in an increasingly electronic environment, we have added Internet addresses wherever possible and a chapter on how to use the Internet to gather information valuable to the investigative process.
- **www.arsoncontrol.org** - The Insurance Committee for Arson Control (ICAC) serves as a national resource, education and communications organization. ICAC sponsors and coordinates the activities of the National Arson Forum, a gathering of leaders from the public and private sectors to exchange information and develop new resources to aid all participants in the battle against arson.
- **www.iasiu.org** - The International Association of Special Investigation Units is a good resource for industry related events, news, training resources and many useful links.

**THE GEORGIA FIRE INVESTIGATOR'S
ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 382
Snellville GA 30078

New Employment and Training Requirements for Fire Investigators in the State of Georgia

Effective July 1, 2004, anyone employed as a fire investigator, or anyone who seeks the recognition as a fire investigator must meet the education and training requirements as established by the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC). Because the certifications are based on a calendar year, the deadline for initial certification has been extended to December 31, 2005. Anyone employed or who seeks a state certificate as a fire investigator must meet the following qualifications:

- A. Be at least 18 years of age
- B. Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction
- C. Have a good moral character as determined by investigation under procedure approved by the Council.
- D. Be fingerprinted and a search made of local, state, and national finger files to disclose any criminal record
- E. Possess or achieve within 12 months after employment/appointment a high school diploma or a general education development equivalency
- F. Complete the Arson Investigations Level 1 and Level 2 training courses taught by the Georgia Police Academy

For the continued training/education requirements, each calendar year the fire investigator must demonstrate the ability to perform basic investigative skills plus have a minimum of at least 24 hours of training in a GFSTC accepted training program. For more information or to download an application package, visit the GFSTC web site at <http://gfstc.georgia.gov/>.