

**PPQ Deputy Administrator's Outstanding Achievement Award
Submission Form**

Name: Alisha Shumaker

Job Title and Organization: CBP Agriculture Specialist

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I would like to nominate CBP Agriculture Specialist Alisha Shumaker for the PPQ Deputy Administrator's Outstanding Achievement Award. Specialist Shumaker has demonstrated outstanding initiative through the development of a comprehensive training program for the detection of Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) on vessels arriving from the Russian Far East and Japan. The target audiences for this training are CBP Agriculture Specialists, CBP Officers, and the Coast Guard. Working with PPQ entomology identifier Patrick Marquez, Specialist Shumaker incorporated information regarding the biology of the moth into the training to pinpoint areas of the vessel where egg masses would be most likely found.

Specialist Shumaker recognized the need for a stronger AGM inspection program to be put in place. She developed an SOP for the Port of Puget Sound giving step by step procedures for boarding AGM vessels which was implemented and adopted by several CBP Ports on the West Coast. She realized more effective inspections with greater awareness and attention to the inspection of high-risk vessels could be performed by those boarding the vessels for regulatory and enforcement purposes, namely CBP officers and the Coast Guard.

Specialist Shumaker independently created a power-point slide presentation on recognition of AGM egg masses and adult moths. She defined the areas of the vessel most likely to harbor the pest. She also used mounted specimens of the various life stages of the moth as well as hands-on inspection of an actual vessel in port as part of the training. She created laminated picture cards showing the life stages and instructions on collection techniques if AGM is encountered. These cards are handed out at the end of training sessions. The presentation also gives a short explanation of how the pest is spread and the damage that it could incur should it become established.

Using ship arrival reports and AGM Vessel Alert Lists, Specialist Shumaker tracks vessels arriving from high-risk areas and has effectively closed a potential pathway for the introduction of these pests by ensuring that mandatory boarding and inspections are conducted.

Specialist Shumaker's goal of greater awareness through education has more than exceeded expectations. A day after completing one of Specialist Shumaker's training sessions, a Customs and Border Protection Officer detected an AGM egg mass on the undercarriage of a container, an area not previously suspect for harboring egg masses. Additionally, Specialist Shumaker has made it a point to educate crew members and others on high-risk vessels by handing out USDA "Don't Move Gypsy Moth" pamphlets to spread awareness.

Earlier this year Specialist Shumaker discovered an AGM egg mass on a vessel arriving from Japan. This finding had international significance as it led to the pilot certification program for USDA requiring the Japanese to issue certificates of inspection for AGM before entering US waters. Additionally, she has established communications with agricultural officials in British Columbia, Canada. This interchange has facilitated AGM targeting efforts in both the US and Canada and has led to a reassessment of risk posed by vessels arriving from some ports that are not on the high risk port list. The communication also serves to strengthen regional ties between the Canadian and US agricultural programs.

Specialist Shumaker has had major impact on CBP by highlighting the significance of safeguarding our natural resources against this major pest. The potential benefits reaped by the American public cannot be underestimated as forests, national parks, greenbelts, the nursery industry and especially the timber industry, so important to the economy of our nation, would suffer irreparable harm if this pest were to become established. Untold taxpayer dollars would be spent to control AGM and mitigate damage to the environment caused by pesticides used to combat the pest.

As we now face the present threat of the entry of this pest due to a severe outbreak of AGM in the Russian Far East, her efforts become even more critical to the mission of protecting American Agriculture. Specialist Shumaker's efforts are directly linked to Plant Protection and Quarantine's mission. By safeguarding our natural resources from this serious pest, the

marketability US agricultural products in domestic and international commerce is strengthened.

Submitted by Janey M. Nakahara, CBP Supervisory Agriculture Specialist,
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