

News from FMCA

FMCA Awards and Officers

There were several awards given to honorees and the installation of new officers occurred at the Fall 2008 annual meeting of the FMCA. The new officers and the award recipients will be announced in the Jan/Feb 2009 issue of *BuzzWords*.

Dodd Short Courses

The link to reservations for the Ocala Hilton for those who plan to attend the Dodd Short Courses is:

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/OCFOHHF-FLMCA-20090125/index.jhtml>

The Dodd program booklet was mailed out the week of the Fall Meeting (Nov 17) and includes all of the hotel information and a course registration form. This information is also on-line at the FMCA website

www.floridamosquito.org. If you have any questions regarding the hotel link or the program please contact Kellie Etherson or anyone on the Dodd Short Course Committee.

News from the Districts

Celebration Postponed

The 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County, Florida has been postponed until April 2, 2009. For more information:

www.anastasiamcd.org

Betty and Jack Salmela

About a month ago, Jack Salmela's wife Betty died. For those of you who don't know Jack, he was the long-time Director of the Brevard Mosquito Control District and a giant in our industry who retired in the mid-1990s. He was the FMCA President in 1968.

To the best of my knowledge, Jack is the only mosquito control professional who has received the "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Conservation Service Award" which is the highest honor

bestowed by the Secretary of the Interior to non-Service employees for direct contributions to the mission and goals of the USFWS. Jack received this prestigious award in 1986 for "his endless contributions to wildlife conservation through effective mosquito control techniques and his personal dedication to effective management of wildlife resources". Jack also was the first recipient of the FMCA's Maurice W. Provost Award.

Several weeks ago, I received a call from Jack asking if I could help arrange a small gathering to scatter his wife's ashes at an impoundment in Indian River County which was previously owned by Betty's family. In trying to adequately commemorate this event, I got in touch with several of Jack's long-time colleagues. That morning, on a windy, cool day along the Indian River Lagoon, Betty's ashes were scattered at Indian River Impoundment #30 (also known as Duck Point). On hand to participate were John Beidler (Director Emeritus of the Indian River Mosquito Control District (IRMCD)), Frank Evans (retired Director of the St. Lucie County MCD), Frank's wife Hedvig, Scott Taylor (former Biologist with the Brevard MCD and currently with the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program), Bill Opp (former Director of the Lee County MCD and long-time DHRS employee), Joe Carroll (retired Biologist with the USFWS), Pat Morgan (IRMCD Mosquito Control Technician), myself and several of Jack's family members. After the brief ceremony, we all went to Jack's house to reminisce about the early days of mosquito control, Betty and her family and Jack's huge influence on how we carry out our mission today.

Jack is 84 years old and his health is a bit frail. Jack wasn't expecting these several of his mosquito control colleagues to participate this morning. However, opportunities like this to share time and memories with long-time friends and colleagues don't come along too often and we need to take advantage of them when they do.

**Doug Carlson, Director
Indian River Mosquito Control District**

From FMEL

Passing of Bill Bidlingmayer

Bill Bidlingmayer passed away in April of this year at age 87. Bill was a Research Entomologist at the Florida Medical Research Laboratory.

Marc Minno to speak about butterflies and mosquito control

Pelican Island Audubon Society will host Marc Minno on Monday, January 19, 2009, at 7:30pm in Vero Beach Community Center.

From Marc Minno: "I have been studying the butterflies of the Florida Keys and southern mainland for the last 2 years. Ed Fussel with Florida Keys Mosquito Control District and US Fish and Wildlife Service have funded this work. The news is not good. I believe that 3 of the endemic butterflies are now extinct, 6 species are extirpated from the Keys, and at least 20 others are imperiled. I would very much like to give a presentation on my results."

NEWS from PHEREC

Insecticide Resistance Data Online

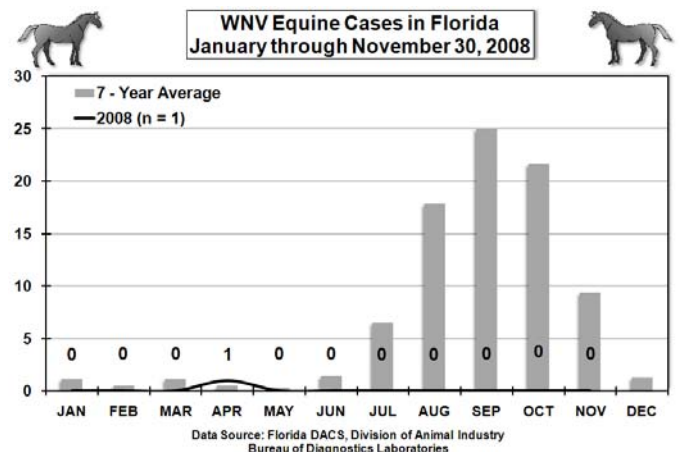
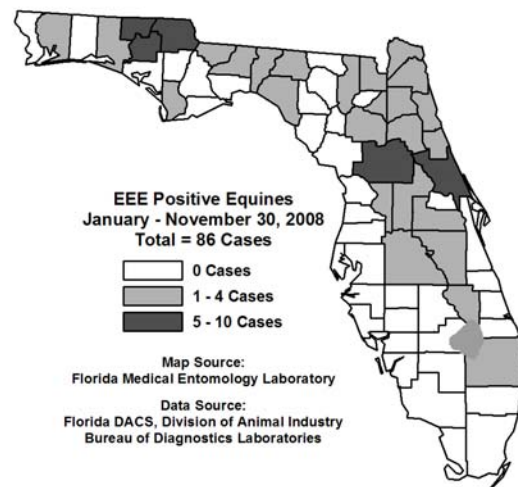
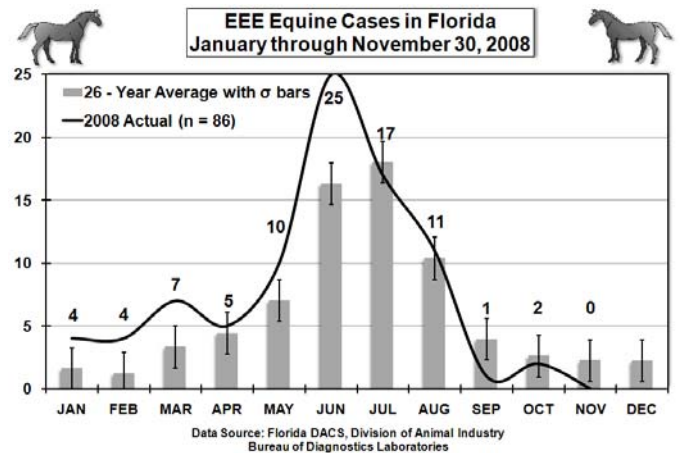
In an effort to make maximum use of the Internet, we have posted some of the recent FMCA power point presentations at our Center's web site. Marah Clark's paper entitled "Bottle Bioassay Studies at Jacksonville: Testing the susceptibility of native mosquitoes to naled and permethrin + PBO" can be found at URL

<http://pherec.org/mls/database/FMCA2008.ppt>

For a complete listing of Technical Memoranda on the preparation of "off-the-shelf" chemicals for insecticide resistance testing go to:

<http://www.pherec.org/memoranda/>

For more information, please contact Dr. Jack Petersen, drjack3@hotmail.com



From the Editor of *BuzzWords*



Dr. Harold C. Chapman was a native of Michigan having been born in Kalamazoo in 1921. He graduated from Harbor Beach High School, Michigan, in 1939. He was a World War II veteran, where he flew in 35 bombing and mining

missions from Tinian Island in a B-29 over Japan. His medals included the Air Medal with oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He received his B.S. (1948) and his M.S. (1950) from Michigan State University and a Ph.D. from Rutgers University (1959).

Chappy, as he was known to his colleagues and friends, was a Medical Entomologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 33 years and headed USDA Research Laboratories in Reno, NV, Fresno, CA, and the Gulf Coast Mosquito Research Laboratory in Lake Charles (1946-1981). He was a short-term consultant with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Thailand (2), China (2), Malaysia (2), Philippines (2), South Korea, Taiwan, India, and Nauru Island, Ivory Coast in Africa, Newfoundland, and Canada. After his retirement from the USDA in 1981, Dr. Chapman was the Executive Director of the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) in Lake Charles from 1986-1993. He was also a President and Honorary Member of both AMCA and the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association (LMCA). Dr. Chapman published over 135 scientific papers, including bulletins

and book chapters on his research. Awards included the Certificate of Merit (AMCA), Meritorious Service, Medal of Honor (AMCA), and the Hathaway-Ritter Achievement Award (LMCA). He authored or co-authored the descriptions of 27 new species of aquatic or semi-aquatic Hemiptera, one mosquito, and one protozoan parasite. Eight pathogens and parasites and one Hemiptera have been named after Dr. Chapman.

Dr. Chapman loved to hunt squirrels and was an avid fisherman. He was a lector at our Lady Queen of Heaven Church from 1965-2006. He was especially proud of and loved his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Frankie Holbert Chapman of Lake Charles; three daughters, Dawn M. Conner, Debra E. Monroe and Gail A. Yantis and husband Gary, all of Lake Charles; son, Harold C. Chapman of Georgia; three brothers, Murray Chapman of Michigan, Raymond Chapman and wife Marion of Tennessee, and Jerry Chapman and wife Jean of Michigan; seven grandchildren, Trisha Mier, Heather Fontenot, Michael Conner, Candice Caillier, Brandon Lorentz, Christopher Hebert and Kori Hebert; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Ota Chapman; brother, Tom; sisters, Betty and Cora; and daughter, Nina Lee.

Dr. Chapman peacefully passed away Sunday, November 16, 2008 in his home with his family by his side. Memorials may be made in Harold's memory to the National Parkinson Foundation, Inc., 1501 N. W. 9th Ave. Miami, FL 33136-1494.



Seminole County Mosquito Control Job Opening

Seeking Team Leader/Technician; Working Area: **Mosquito Control;** Pay Rate \$15.91-26.25/hour (\$33,080-54,582/year)

GENERAL STATEMENT OF JOB: Performs specialized work involving the supervision of mosquito control field operations. Works under the direction of the Manager and is expected to exercise considerable independent judgment to accomplish work with a minimum of supervision. Work also includes performing the functions and duties of a Mosquito Control Technician.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: Assists in coordinating field evaluations of pesticides and application equipment. Supervises field surveillance, larviciding and adulticiding operations and evaluates the effectiveness of these operations. Conducts field inspections to detect the presence of mosquitoes; sets and retrieves mosquito traps. Ensures all spray equipment is calibrated according to label specifications. Conducts quality assurance evaluations and oversees the safety program. Assigns complaint investigations to the appropriate personnel. Evaluates work performance and abilities of subordinates. Applies natural predators known to be effective against immature mosquitoes. Maintains records and completes reports. Maintains daily records of areas sprayed, to include location, time, volume of chemicals used and miles traveled. Establishes and maintains effective working relationships with other employees and the general public. Maintains Sentinel Chicken Flocks and performs other duties of mosquito-borne virus surveillance. Provides information to the public on the production and elimination of mosquitoes. Responds to citizens' requests in a courteous and timely manner. Conducts Out-Reach and Public Education programs as assigned by Manager. Participates in continuing education on Public Health Pest Control and federal, state and county laws and regulations governing pesticides. Keeps abreast of advancements in the mosquito control field through self-study and professional training courses.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED and three (3) years of experience in all phases of mosquito control to include one (1) year of supervisory experience. Mosquito control supervisory experience preferred. Must be able to calibrate spray equipment for proper application rate. Knowledge of the geographic layout of Seminole County is a plus.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Must possess a valid Public Health Pest Control certification issued by the State of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or obtain within 90 days of appointment. Must possess and maintain a valid Florida Driver's License. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, holidays and/or rotating shifts.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: Knowledge of the technical aspects of mosquito control operations.

WORKING CONDITIONS: Working extended hours outdoors in high temperatures and humidity.

HOW TO APPLY: Send resumé by e-mail or mail. Position open until filled.

SEMINOLE COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL

177 Bush Loop, Sanford, FL 32773, 407-665-5542, mosquito@seminolecountyfl.gov



Manatee County Mosquito Control District

Founded in 1947 as a County-wide Independent Special Taxing District, MCMCD did not start functioning until 1950 with the hiring of the first employee and interim Director, John Patton, who served for less than a year. In the 58 years since, the District has had just 3 Directors, Bob Kemp (1951-61), Larry Rhodes (1961-94) and Mark Latham (1994-present).

The majority of the District funding is obtained from levying a mosquito control tax on property values. At 0.1088 mills per \$1000 of property value, the current tax rate is amongst the lowest for Independent Mosquito Control Districts in Florida. A person with a house valued at \$250,000 will pay just \$21.76 for "unlimited" mosquito control for the year (after figuring in the \$50,000 homestead exemption) - what a bargain!!

Like many mosquito control programs, MCMCD bases its operational programs on effective surveillance including larval dipping, daily landing rates, daily/weekly trapping and, yes, "complaint calls" (or, to be politically correct, "service requests"). Over the past 13 years the District has averaged just 1500 complaints a year (from 300,000+ residents), an indication that we are either doing a very good job at being proactive, or the citizens just don't know where to call! Actually, upon investigation (we try to visit every complainant), greater than 50% of the calls are due to "domestic mosquitoes" (*Aedes aegypti*, *Aedes albopictus* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*) in urban areas where public education is our primary intervention method. The impact of the media was observed "big time" this year as we received significant numbers of complaint calls following the myriad of newspaper, radio and TV stories on foreclosures, stagnant swimming pools and mosquito fish!



With urban development, coastal salt marshes, freshwater wetlands, citrus groves, dairy farms, other agriculture, phosphate mining and several large river watersheds, the District can list at least 20 different mosquito species of importance, mostly as a nuisance but also as potential disease vectors. The philosophy of the District is to concentrate its

larviciding and source reduction control strategies close to the main population centers (along the coast and the I-75 interstate corridor) and be resigned to the fact that the other areas of the county are only effectively treated through aerial adulticiding.

The District has three Hughes-500D helicopters that can be used for liquid larviciding, granular larviciding or adulticiding, five truck-mounted adulticiding units and six truck-mounted larviciding units, as well as many other support vehicles (for surveillance, helicopter loading, etc). The District strives to keep up with the latest technologies in order to provide accurate, efficacious, safe and environmentally sound applications. Over the past 13 years the District has averaged annually 875000 acres aerial adulticiding, 150000 acres truck adulticiding and 15000 acres aerial larviciding.



Anyone who knows the District (and the Director!) knows that we like to "play" and "experiment", conducting our own spray trials, collaborating with University researchers and trying every product/formulation on the market (just ask DACS about our pages-long chemical inventory report!). We invite others to join us in trying to answer those important questions, and we are always willing to share information on new ideas, products or application strategies that will benefit

the mosquito control community not just locally or statewide, but nationally and internationally (and yes, I've enjoyed my trips to Greece!).

"It appears that all mosquito control programs are proud of their culinary abilities and Manatee County MCD is no different - with many part-time commercial fishermen on the payroll our specialty is a southern fish fry consisting of mullet, hush puppies, cornbread, grits and beans... just ask the attendees at the recent FCCMC open house for their opinion!"

Mark Latham, Director



We need you to attend FMCA's Legislative Days Target Date: March 17-18, 2009

Your visits during last year's Legislative Days made an impact with the Florida legislators. Thanks to the 21 individuals from 13 organizations participating through FMCA, the FY 2008-2009 budget approved by the legislature fully funded Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) support for mosquito control programs at \$2.16M and contained a research proviso for \$250,000. Job well done.

Florida is experiencing a serious budget shortfall and the Governor's office is requesting every state agency to submit a plan to decrease spending by 10%. FDACS has submitted a list of 82 possible cuts, totaling the 10% decrease as requested. Unfortunately, one of those cuts is \$1.06M for mosquito control, leaving ~ \$1.1M to distribute for mosquito control programs and research. This represents a 50% cut to mosquito control!

It cannot be stressed enough how important your participation will be in Tallahassee next year. The proposed reduction in state support for mosquito control will very likely become a reality if FMCA does not defend mosquito control's needs and our importance in protecting the health and well being of Florida's residents and tourists. If state funds are important to continue the training and education for your staff, to provide other resources for your program, and if you rely on the information resulting from the Florida mosquito control research program, then you need to let Florida's legislators know. The reduction in state funds will significantly affect the smaller programs so it is especially important that they come to Tallahassee to be heard. Once these state funds are lost, they will not likely come back, and it could likely be a precedent to further reduce the program or eliminate it completely if further cuts are needed, or if another Agency sees an opportunity to use the funds from the Waste Tire Fund for another purpose.

FMCA's Legislative Days is tentatively scheduled for March 17-18, 2009 in Tallahassee, FL. We need to have as many participants this year as possible. Your participation would be greatly appreciated and we urge you to put this on your calendar. Your participation can make an impact with the legislators. This is a critical time for the future health of Florida mosquito control. The FMCA legislative committee provides participants in Tallahassee with background information and brochures to give to legislators. We visit each legislator using groups of 4-5 participants with at least one participant who has had previous experience acting as the lead spokesperson. This is a well crafted activity that you will actually find enjoyable!

If you plan to attend the legislative days, or have questions about the Tallahassee Days program, please contact FMCA's Legislative Committee Co-Chairs – Dennis Moore (727.376.4568) or Doug Carlson (772.562.2393). Travel funds are available through the FMCA by request. Contact Dennis or Doug if funding is requested.

Hope to see you in Tallahassee,

**Dennis Moore & Doug Carlson,
FMCA's Legislative Committee Co-Chairs**



Florida's State Support Budget for Mosquito Control: Tough Times May Undermine Florida Public Health

Mosquito control is Florida's first line of defense against the ravages of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, eastern encephalitis, dengue and many others. Protecting Florida's citizens from mosquitoes is serious business. About \$160 million is spent annually in Florida for mosquito control. Most of this money is from county funds or ad-valorem taxes derived from a millage rate set by the local mosquito control program. A small, but very important part of the funds come from the state in ~ \$2.16 million annually as state aid to local mosquito control and \$250,000 in support of Florida's mosquito control research program. The state aid for mosquito control is generated by Waste Tire Fees that are provided to the Florida Solid Waste Management Trust Fund. See the inset for language concerning these funds for mosquito control (Florida Chapter 403.709). The waste tire fees for mosquito control are transferred from Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to manage under Florida Statutes Chapter

388 sections 261, 271, 281. The administration of these funds can be found in Florida Administrative Rule 5E-13 sections 022, 030, 031. The state aid for mosquito control has been essential in supporting and maintaining Florida mosquito control programs (MCPs) and the significance of the Florida Mosquito Control Research Program cannot be overstated (Tabachnick, WJ. 2008. Florida mosquito control research program. *BuzzWords* 8(2): 6-7). The state has provided ~ \$37,000 annually to each DACS approved MCP.

Why is state aid to mosquito control so important? Although the amount of support provided by the state may be only a small percent of a large MCP budget (~ 0.1% - 3%), the state funds allow greater freedom for these programs than provided by their local budgets. For example, many MCPs use state funds in various ways to control mosquito production sites that may include providing training and professional development for their employees. This training is essential for employees to obtain continuing education credits (CEUs) to maintain Public Health Pest Control certification and maintaining the high level of professionalism in the Florida mosquito control community. State aid is instrumental in facilitating and maintaining the superb Florida network of MCPs, the professional development of their staff, their ability to participate and take advantage of FMCA activities, MCP ability to coordinate operations and many activities to control mosquito production. The impact of state aid to small MCPs is crucial. These funds may represent a substantial portion of the budget of small MCPs that may influence a county to provide county support for mosquito control.

These are tough economic times, and all aspects of Florida's budget are under scrutiny. Florida's economy is in dire straits with severe consequences forecast for state services. Last year state aid to mosquito control and the state supported mosquito control research program were targeted for reductions. Both were saved through efforts of the FMCA and Chris Lyon of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. A strong case for maintaining funding was made with legislators in Tallahassee (Tabachnick, WJ. The importance of Florida Mosquito Control Associations Tallahassee days. *BuzzWords* 8(3): 10-11).

Proposed reductions in state aid to mosquito control At the Fall 2008 meeting of the FMCA, Steve Dwinell, Assistant Director of the DACS Division of Agriculture and Environmental Services presented Division plans for meeting the next expected shortfall in Florida's budget. Michael Page, Bureau Chief, DACS Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control, made a similar presentation to mosquito control Directors and Commissioners at the meeting. The Division plan has dire consequences for Florida and Florida mosquito control. Mr. Dwinell explained that the Department has been told not to make across-the-board reductions and he explained that the Division was told to protect revenue producing programs. The DACS division where mosquito control resides decided there was only one non-revenue generating program – you guessed it, it is state aid for mosquito control. Therefore the planned cuts for the entire Division are being borne entirely by the mosquito control funds that are generated by the revenue producing fees on tires! Note that funds provided for state aid are not from general revenue sources, they come from the tire fees that will still be collected, but they will be directed elsewhere. DACS proposes a 50% reduction in state aid to mosquito control and the complete elimination of DACS funding for mosquito control research. The plan is to provide remaining state aid to Florida MCPs having annual budgets less than \$1 million since the funds represent a greater portion of these budgets. **Make no mistake, the proposed cuts to mosquito control are draconian and will change Florida mosquito control capabilities for the worse.**

The impact of reductions in state aid FMCA has voiced strong objections to the DACS plan. The Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control (FCCMC) voiced strong objections when the plan was presented at the Council meeting in October 2008. The FCCMC passed several recommendations including discussion requesting that DACS prepare a different plan for presentation at the next Council meeting in February (go to http://consensus.fsu.edu/MC/pdfs/FCCMC_Report_Oct08b.doc for minutes of the October meeting). Taking the entire Division cuts on the back of mosquito control is unjustified and ill advised considering the importance of mosquito control to the state and the potential impact of such drastic cuts on public health and well-being. A reduction in state aid for mosquito control will result in less training, less travel between MCPs, less inter-MCP communications, reduced ability to reduce mosquito production sites, and the demise of DACS support for the mosquito control research program. This is at the very same time when both FMCA and the FCCMC urge more

training, more statewide communications, and more mosquito control research. The DACS proposal with priority to protect “revenue generating programs” requires further discussion, evaluation and reconsideration by the Agency.

Mosquito control is widely recognized as essential to protect Florida’s tourism industry. Mosquito control is often taken for granted but it does greatly contribute to the hospitable environment that induces people to move to Florida and hence supports Florida’s housing industry. Hence, though mosquito control does not directly generate revenues for DACS, it is essential to the well-being of Florida’s economy. It is unwise to risk effective mosquito control at a time when Florida needs tourism and a vibrant housing industry more than ever. It is unfortunate that the current tough times will require reductions in many state services. However, state support for mosquito control must be maintained and even modestly increased if the state hopes for economic recovery. The meager state support for mosquito control provides an essential service to Florida, using fees that do not impact general revenues in the state budget. The effects on Florida far outweigh the cost to the state and any conceivable savings that might be accrued by these drastic cuts. The proposed reduction in this small program will greatly increase the chances of dire consequences through losses in mosquito control professionalism, communications and effectiveness.

Florida mosquito control has already lost the state program to control dog flies (\$250,000) that was also available to assist other regions of Florida during mosquito-transmitted disease outbreaks. Does it make any sense to risk the effectiveness of Florida mosquito control at a time when Florida is at increasingly great risk from mosquito-borne pathogens and nuisance mosquitoes? Just consider some recent events. In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Fay in 2008, DACS conducted emergency mosquito control in several counties using \$1.2 million from FEMA. Clearly mosquito control is high priority to the Agency since emergency mosquito control was conducted with tax payer funds, be it federal or state. At the very time of the Fall 2008 FMCA meeting, many Florida state agencies participated in a table top exercise in Tallahassee on a hypothetical Rift Valley Fever outbreak! Does it make sense to reduce Florida’s state aid for mosquito control at the same time that Florida is preparing against new mosquito-borne pathogens? Does it make sense to reduce state aid while Florida provides emergency mosquito control at more cost than the proposed reduction but with no benefit to Florida’s mosquito control infrastructure?

State aid to mosquito control comes from waste tire fees that are part of the Florida’s Solid Waste Management Trust Fund. These fees will continue to be collected despite DACS’ plan. Although mosquito control does not generate the tire fees, the program is based on the well known relationship between mosquito production and waste tires. The significance of this appears to have been lost. So what happens to the waste tire fees if mosquito control’s portion is reduced? In the 2008 budget cycle a portion of the reduction proposed for state aid to mosquito control was due to a reduction that DEP was to transfer to DACS! Mosquito control is essential to Florida, and state aid is important to maintain it. Sadly, though waste tire fees will continue to be collected, the funds will be used for other unspecified purposes and public health will be at risk.

Options for state aid for mosquito control

What are some guiding principles that need to be considered during this time of budget constraints?

- Mosquito control is too important for Florida to impose draconian reductions.
- Mosquito control is too important to be reduced, despite it not being considered by DACS as a direct revenue generating program. The tire fees generate the revenues for mosquito control state aid. Plans to redirect waste tire fees elsewhere should be closely scrutinized.
- The mosquito control research program has been the basis for successful effective, efficient and environmentally sound Florida mosquito control. Any reduction is unacceptable. The program should receive an increase to make it more effective and widespread.

What are some options to more effectively utilize Florida’s state aid for local mosquito control?

- DACS should develop a written plan for the FCCMC outlining options for any change in state aid for mosquito control.
- Counties desiring state aid should provide details to DACS on the specifics of how the state aid will be used to promote mosquito control per Chapter 388.271 and administered by DACS following Rule 5E-13.

- All MCP requests for state aid should be reviewed by DACS (or a Committee appointed by DACS) and approved only when the requests meets stated requirements.
- Some MCPs may not qualify; some MCPs may voluntarily relinquish state aid. This provides opportunities to distribute state aid in new ways that would improve Florida mosquito control.
- State aid could be used to induce increases in local support for mosquito control, i.e., DACS could set a minimum per capita local contribution in support for mosquito control as a condition to receive state funds, i.e., an annual minimum of \$2-3 per capita.
 - Currently in the 29 largest Florida MCPs, with an annual budget above \$1 million, the average annual per capita local cost for mosquito control is ~. \$27.
 - The annual per capita cost for the 28 MCPs with annual budgets below \$1 million is ~\$4.75.
 - There are 16 MCPs with an annual budget of less than \$100,000. Their annual budget for mosquito control is just \$1.89 per person!
 - There are 17 counties providing less than \$2 per person for their mosquito control programs and 14 additional counties providing no local mosquito control.
- State funds should be used to increase DACS support for the state program for mosquito research to at least \$300,000.
- Florida's laboratories supporting mosquito control and FMCA have received substantial budget reductions with more to come in this budget year. State support from the state aid program would be invaluable assist in offsetting some of these budget reductions. The looming loss to Florida's laboratory infrastructure is a potential catastrophe that will take decades to recover from.
- State funds should be provided to support Florida mosquito control activities such as training through the Dodd Short Courses, Mosquito Fly-In, courses at the two Florida laboratories, and support of FMCA publications like the mailings of *BuzzWords*.

Florida Statutes Chapter 403.709

Solid Waste Management Trust Fund; use of waste tire fees.— There is created the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund, to be administered by the Department. From the annual revenues deposited in the trust fund, unless otherwise specified in the General Appropriations' Act.

(3) Up to 11 percent shall be used for funding to supplement any other fund provided by DACs for mosquito control. This distribution shall be annually transferred to the General Inspection Trust Fund in the DACS to be used for mosquito control, especially the control of West Nile virus.

(e) At least 10 percent of the revenues deposited in the fund annually from waste tire fees shall be allocated as additional grants to local mosquito control agencies in accordance with s. 388.261 for the specific purpose of abating and providing mosquito control relating to waste tire sites, other tire piles, and other sites identified by local mosquito control agencies as mosquito breeding areas. Only local mosquito control agencies approved by DACS may receive funds pursuant to this paragraph.

This is a moment of truth for Florida mosquito control to show the significance of mosquito control in protecting Florida. The proposed severe cuts will reduce Florida's mosquito and mosquito-borne disease control capabilities with consequences that far outweigh the savings to the state budget. Mosquito control must defend its importance, its cost effectiveness, and how much MCPs deliver for the low cost to the state budget. Mosquito control must urge DACS to develop plans that will allocate state funds in a way that will have even greater impact on Florida mosquito control and Florida than how funds have been historically distributed. Florida mosquito control must be aggressive in defending the state funds, and must be aggressive in ensuring that these essential resources are adequate to meet mosquito control's historic responsibility to protect Florida.

Tallahassee legislative days will be critical this year!

Walter J. Tabachnick, Ph.D.
Director, Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory
Professor, Department of Entomology and Nematology
University of Florida, IFAS
Vero Beach, Florida

The deadline for submissions to be included in the
Jan/Feb 2009 issue of
BuzzWords is Feb 1, 2009

Please send change of address or newsletter submissions to:
Roxanne Connelly, Editor, 200 9th Street SE, Vero Beach, FL 32962
or buzzwords@ifas.ufl.edu

***BuzzWords* deadlines for contributing articles and news**

Jan/Feb	February 1
Mar/Apr	April 1
May/Jun	June 1
Jul/Aug	August 1
Sep/Oct	October 1
Nov/Dec	December 1