

LEE COUNTY MOSQUITO/HYACINTH CONTROL DISTRICTS



Newsletter

May, 2011

Future Important Dates for your Calendars:

May 8—12: Washington, DC Mtgs.

May 13th: Mosq. Control Interns' Tour

May 26th: River Hall Elem. School Career Day



Memorial Day

May 31st



The Lee County Hyacinth Control District conducted its Annual Pond Watch Workshop. The event is a review of all the information generated, in 2010, by the volunteers, who sample monthly their ponds and the conditions that may affect the presence of aquatic weeds.

Roy Beckford, Lee County Extension Agent, participated along with several volunteers who provided some experiences and recommendations to the other 40 attendees. This event was coordinated by Dr. Ernesto Lasso de la Vega and Ken Sonne with the assistance of Shelly Redovan and her team who provided the logistics of the meeting.



Dr. Jon Hornby attended an Entomologist/Biologist Research Workshop at Manatee County which was sponsored by the Florida Dept. of Agricultural/Consumer Services. Jon's presentation was "Butterflies are Free?"

Field Activity — 2011

ACRES TREATED	GROUND ADULTICIDING	AERIAL ADULTICIDING	GROUND LARVICIDING	AERIAL LARVICIDING	SERVICE REQUESTS
January	0.0	0.0	7.4	84.9	6.0
February	11,009.8	0.0	16.0	1,446.9	79.0
March	6,272.4	14,783.5	20.3	2,931.0	69.0
April					542.0
May					
June					

The Aquatic Systems/Mosquito Education Program presented a display at the first annual *Stemtastic Showcase* at the Lee County School Dist. Public Education Center. Approximately four-hundred members of the public attended to see innovative ideas and topics related to science, technology, engineering and math as presented by local education agencies and industries in their respective fields. The Mosquito Education Booth displayed aquatic critters that eat mosquito larvae and various activities for students and parents to complete.



FGCU Mosquito Interns: Adam Pottruck, Sabina Perri, Kelly Walsh, Jilian Meek and, *Public Educator*, Eric Jackson

Some of the highlights include creating bottle breeders, making mosquito life cycle wheels and creating models of mosquitoes. There were quite a few kids flying their newly made mosquitoes from booth to booth throughout the day.

“Can you imagine living here without skeeter control?” At the April 18th meeting of the St James Civic Association, that was the requested focus of a presentation by LCMCD. Shelly Redovan provided this presentation to the group. An overview was provided on the LCMCD program and the unique and challenging aspects of mosquito control on Pine Island with emphasis on St. James City.

Mosquito and Mosquito-Borne Disease Surveillance Section

In 2010, Lee County had 56 sentinel chickens positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). While many thought it to be a busy year for virus activity for Lee County, in looking back at prior years, it does appear to have been normal activity. But the surrounding counties near Lee, such as Collier and Hendry, did have very active years. Collier had two (2) WNV cases and Hendry had problems with Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) with several horse cases.

In 2010, there were 65 cases of endemic Dengue Viruses in Florida—one each in Broward & Dade Counties and 63 cases in Key West in Monroe County. It has been decided to add Dengue Virus rt-PCR testing to the Lee County Mosquito Control Disease Surveillance Laboratory. Milton Sterling spent April 11–16, 2011, at the FL Dept. of Health Diagnostic Laboratory in Tampa to learn the technique they use in finding Dengue Virus using rt-PCR protocols. While at the Tampa Lab, Milton also learned ELISA testing of chicken sera for antibodies of St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE), WNV and EEE.

We hope to be adding Dengue Virus rt-PCR (all 4 sero types) testing of mosquito pools as well as adding ELISA testing protocols of sentinel chicken sera for SLE, WNV and EEE some time this mosquito season.