

Elmer W. Gray

I was born and raised in Ocean County, New Jersey. During my youth I spent a lot of time on the salt-marshes of the area and we had close family friends who worked with the Ocean County Mosquito Commission. Living in the coastal region, there were times when the mosquito populations were bad and I became very aware of the importance of mosquito control. I left NJ in 1981 to attend college at Clemson University in Clemson, SC where I majored in zoology. Upon graduation I was hired as a technician for Dr. Ray Noblet who was serving as the Medical and Veterinary Entomologist for the Clemson University Department of Entomology. While working at Clemson, I earned a Masters of Agriculture degree. During my time at Clemson University we worked primarily with black flies (Diptera: Simuliidae) and established a colony of black flies. In 1999 we moved the colony to the University of Georgia and I took on the role of the Public Health Extension Specialist for the Department of Entomology. Today we operate the NIH/NIAID supported Black Fly Research and Resource Center. As part of my extension role, I serve on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Mosquito Control Association. Other mosquito related duties include creating the Category 41, Mosquito Biology, Surveillance and Control study guide, conducting training sessions for a wide range of constituents, and answering mosquito related inquiries from the media, public, and industry.