

Some of the Challenges I faced as
a new Director of Mosquito Control
in Glynn County, GA.



Glynn County Challenges

- Gaining little support from the other departments within our county.
- Brunswick Altamaha Canal
- Debris Management
- Fuel Prices– Biodiesel, tracking systems,
- Ongoing projects such as “Ditching” in Salt Marshes
- Losing our pilot/mechanic position

You haven't quit yet?

- Other Departments within the County.
- Information Technology told me I was the lowest on their priority list.
- Human Resources could have helped more but didn't.
- Finance.... Very inadequate training for payroll and other financial record keeping and then lots of trouble for doing it wrong.

Tornado

- Proved one thing---Mosquito Control does not have time to help with Debris Management
- I spent 20+ hours working with meetings and measuring trucks and going between contractor and the government while at the same time trying to manage mosquito Control.

Biodiesel

- Chemical cabinet/large stir plate/digital scales/ glassware/Experience turning oil straight from a frier into biodeisel
- Simple process that is very time consuming



Naturalized Wetland









Andrews Island











OMWMM

Open Marsh Water Management

I know your shoulders are still a little tender but we need to do something about this.

- Large amount of material– All the e-mails led me to realize what the attitudes of the different players involved really were.
- The site which was chosen does not breed.
- The told us what we were doing wrong but would not help us find the right course of action to follow.



known breeding area

known breeding area

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1°07'02.66" N 81°24'51.23" W elev 0 ft

Streaming ||||| 100%

Eye al







DNR Headquarters



The Players



Meeting

- Two sides of the table
- They had their game faces on- I left mine at home
- Cold atmosphere
- I stayed quiet
- I was told I needed to inform them of any work that we were to do in the marshes prior to doing the work.
- I am an “environmental watchdog” for you guys also.























I hate the rain.







These guests not welcome



Michael Hall/The Brunswick News photos

Diane Wilson, left, and Leon Burns deposit small briquettes (detail, top) into storm drains and other pools of standing water to halt the development of mosquito larvae, preventing them from reaching adulthood this weekend.

Mosquitoes threaten holiday weekend

By JESS DAVIS
The Brunswick News

Glynn County residents and Labor Day guests should expect to run into unwanted visitors this weekend: Mosquitoes – a lot of them, warns Ben Brewer, manager of Glynn County Mosquito Control.

The 3.5 inches of rain dumped on the county by Tropical Storm Fay last week and two days of extremely high tides enabled mosquitoes to breed in places where they typically don't.

Mosquito control plans to spray pesticide on areas where it's believed a lot of mosquitoes will be, but residents should protect themselves from bites just the same, Brewer said.

Mosquito control will use a helicopter to spray Jekyll Island today in places where the insects are believed to be breeding. The application of insecticide will hopefully prevent a swarm of female mosquitoes, the ones that bite, from crossing over the water and pestering residents on St. Simons Island and the mainland, Brewer said.

Brewer said it might also be necessary to spray Jekyll Island, as well as other sections of the county. Five trucks are ready to spray neighborhoods or affected areas, such as drains with stagnant water.

Residents who see mosquito larvae in puddles or pools of water should call mos-

Please see MOSQUITOES, 3A

Fight back

To protect yourself against mosquitoes:

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants outdoors, if it's not too hot.
- Use a bug repellent that contains the chemical DEET.
- Pay attention to children, who can get multiple bites in a short period of time.
- Go inside if you are getting too many bites.

To report areas with a lot of mosquitoes, call the county's customer service line at 554-7111.

Here comes THE SWARM

This week's heavy downpours have mosquito control working overtime



A helicopter from Southern Helicopter Leasing of Millington, Tenn., drops granular pesticide on parts of Little St. Simons Island to kill mosquito larvae. Due to the recent heavy rains, there is a lot of standing water on the island, providing a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

By ANNA FERGUSON
The Brunswick News

Ben Brewer hates the rain, and with good reason. Every time the clouds open and bring down pellets of water, his job is made much more difficult.

"I can't sleep, I can't relax when it rains," said Brewer, manager of Glynn County Mosquito Control. "The only time I like when it rains here is when I'm off on vacation."

The week's rains have been a wonder drug for area lawns and wildlife.

Unfortunately, it's had the same impact on mosquitoes. Certain areas of the Golden Isles are now active mosquito breeding grounds — most notably, the marshes on the high end of Little St. Simons Island.

While examining the marsh on Little St. Simons around midweek, Brewer discovered millions of standing water mosquito larvae spread across several hundred acres. Within days, the larvae would hatch to become mosquitoes, pests for the privately owned island.

Brewer aimed to stop the problem before it started, though finding a solution to Little St. Simons mosquito issue is anything but simple. The island is an ecologically friendly resort and makes all attempts to utilize environmentally sound practices, said Scott Soleman,



David Miller, left, and Leon Burns, technicians with Glynn County Mosquito Control, load a hopper with pesticide to be flown over the island.

ecological manager for Little St. Simons.

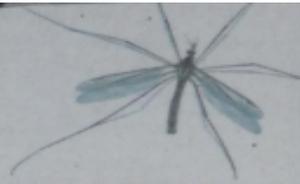
Rather than spraying the island for adult mosquitoes from the air with chemicals, as is the typical answer to Glynn County's mosquito problem, Brewer used a larvae-killing technique that targets the eggs in the water and only affects those soon-to-hatch targets.

The larvae-targeting method is a more environmentally friendly way of dealing with the insects, said Soleman.

"We worked very closely with mosquito control to make sure the practice was in step with our efforts to be ecologically friendly," Soleman said.

Little St. Simons does not solicit

Please see MOSQUITOES, 5A



FIGHTING THE SWARM



Glynn County Mosquito Control manager Ben Brewer checks for mosquito larvae in water from abandoned tires in an Amherst Street backyard on Wednesday. Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Mosquito control working overtime with heavy rains

By **BRANDEE A. THOMAS**
The Brunswick News

Most people know that empty buckets and used tires have the potential to be breeding grounds for mosquitoes, but they aren't the only possible incubators.

Children's toys, car tarps and random yard litter are also culprits, says Ben Brewer, Glynn County mosquito control manager.

And with recent rains, watch out. The pesky little insects may soon be out and about.

Brewer says his department is doing everything it can to combat mosquitoes but says residents have to do their part on private property, which is out

of his department's jurisdiction.

"We ride around a lot spraying neighborhoods, and there is a lot of yard litter," Brewer said. "Any yard with any container has the potential to be filled with mosquitoes."

"Kids plastic toys are really good breeders. Tarps are also a great place for mosquitoes because all of the different folds in the material can hold water."

Mosquitoes lay their larvae in water. It takes only five to seven days of incubation before they are mature and emerge from the water as flying, biting adults.

With back to back weeks of rainfall, Brewer says conditions are ripe in Glynn County for a mosquito invasion

in-the-not-so-distant future.

"We've gotten more rain in the last few days than we've been getting, not to mention the rain we received a couple of weeks ago," Brewer said.

"There are puddles everywhere — in yards and even on paved streets. We could begin to see a lot of mosquitoes by this weekend."

To help prevent a mosquito explosion, Brewer's crew has been monitoring breeding grounds like salt marshes, ditches and other public areas. Now, Brewer needs help from citizens.

"We do what we can to combat salt marsh mosquitoes, but it's hard for us to find every hot spot for container

Please see MOSQUITOES, 5A