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Georgia Mosquito Control Association

Oct 20, 2010

Volume 1, Issue 2

GMCA Meeting (Oct 20-22, 2010)

Dear Mosquito Control Professionals:

Once again it's time for us to gather together at the Georgia Mosquito Control Association's Annual Meeting. I hope you will join us in Athens Georgia October 20-22 to hear some informative presentations while learning from, and socializing with, your fellow GMCA members. The conference will be held at the Continuing Education Center (Georgia Center for Continuing Education) on the University of Georgia campus. GMCA does have a block of rooms reserved, but these tend to go quickly. If you haven't made your reservations yet, please do so now by calling 1-800-488-7827 (toll free). Should there be no more rooms available at the Georgia Center, remember there are also many great hotels located conveniently nearby. And don't forget to send in your meeting registration forms.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the GMCA Board members whom I have had the pleasure of working with over the past few years. It has been an honor to serve on the Board with such a dedicated group of professionals. We have seen some exciting things happen this year. In April, Rosmarie Kelly and I had the opportunity to

attend AMCA's Washington Days and meet with Georgia representatives to hopefully educate them further about mosquito control while also requesting their support regarding issues which directly affect our industry. Elmer Gray, who was unable to attend this year, still assisted by setting up our appointments. Our primary issues of concern were requesting that federal funding for mosquito surveillance be maintained, and also asking that proposed NPDES regulations not place undue burdens on our industry. By the end of our two days on Capitol Hill, Rosmarie and I had met with aides for every single Georgia representative and we even had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Jack Kingston in person. Overall, the feedback we received was very supportive of our industry. Rosmarie followed up with each of the aides we met with and also continues to provide them with arbovirus updates and other relevant information.

Subsequently, in August a bill was proposed by Senators Blanche Lincoln (AR) and Saxby Chambliss (GA), which would amend FIFRA to clarify that additional permits are not required for pesticide applications made in accordance with FIFRA. If successful, (continued on p. 3)

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Special points of interest:

- GMCA Annual Meeting
- Washington Day
- Issues affecting mosquito control



Washington Day



National Capitol Building, Washington DC

The 12th Annual American Mosquito Control Washington Conference was held on May 10-12, 2010. Washington Day has been held annually since 1999. It is the optimal way to learn first-hand about the exciting and creative legislative process. It is vital for AMCA (and GMCA) to maintain a presence on Capitol Hill year after year, so that our mosquito control industry is at the forefront of legislative consideration on important

issues. Our elected officials and their staff are anxious to hear what their constituents have to say, and the value of face-to-face meetings cannot be overstated. These meetings are also an excellent opportunity for your congressional representatives and key staff members to learn about your district and the services it provides to their constituents.

The conference begins with presentations by AMCA members and conference organizers to review AMCA issues and prepare for a day “on the Hill”. Day 2 is set aside for visits with senators, representatives, and their legislative aides (typically 20-30 minutes in length). That evening the AMCA holds a reception for AMCA attendees, along with senators, representatives, and their aides in a Congressional meeting room. The next morning there are presentations by invited speakers, elected officials or key staffers from federal agencies that have a direct impact on the activities of professional mosquito control.

The mission of the AMCA is to provide leadership, information, and education leading to the enhancement of health and quality of life through the suppression of mosquito and other vector-transmitted diseases, and the reduction of annoyance levels caused by mosquitoes and other vectors and pests of public health importance. Washington Day is part of the Leadership and Advocacy program of the AMCA designed to take mosquito control’s concerns directly to the legislature.

GMCA Washington Day participants, 2010:

Candace Royals – GMCA President (2009-2010)
Rosmarie Kelly – Public Health Representative
Elmer Gray – Cooperative Extension Representative (scheduling)

The Issues



The issues were of general

interest in any jurisdictions afflicted by mosquitoes and the myriad problems associated with them. High on the list of priorities were concerns about: □Clean Water Act permits in order to spray aquatic pesticides; □Continued federal funding for mosquito control (especially relative to West Nile virus-related annual funding going to the states from the CDC); □Maintaining EPA

product re-registration for our frontline mosquitocides; □New implementation emphases for the Endangered Species Act relative to insecticide use; The ability to practice mosquito control on National Wildlife Refuges and other federal lands; □Stormwater management issues relative to the EPA’s federal purviews.

The program can be found at <http://www.mosquito.org/meetings/mtg-agenda.aspx>

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this bill could undo the 6th Circuit Court decision related to NPDES permits. Though I know that Agriculture was the predominant driving force behind this, the Lincoln/Chambliss press release specifically mentions “unnecessary, burdensome and duplicative permit requirements on producers, mosquito control districts and states.” Perhaps our voices were actually heard. We will have to wait and see what the final outcome will be, but regardless it is important for all of you to do what you can to maintain communication with your local representatives so that they understand the importance of our mosquito control and surveillance efforts.

The GMCA Board also worked diligently to complete Georgia’s Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) application. This document is intended to describe the current policies and organizational structure of GMCA and to present a brief overview of the general control practices of its members. GMCA promotes the continued education of pesticide applicators and the judicious and responsible use of pesticides as a means of reducing risks associated with pesticides. This document describes how the GMCA will strive to improve its ongoing policy of encouraging environmental stewardship. After many collaborative efforts and a

few re-writes, the final document was submitted to the PESP subcommittee and GMCA quickly received unanimous approval as a Regional PESP Partner. Feedback from the PESP subcommittee included comments stating that the GMCA application was well thought out, well written, and should serve as a template for future applications. That’s quite an achievement. Thank you to everyone involved for all your efforts.

Thank you also to all of the GMCA members. It is your hard work and dedication that make GMCA such a great association. As Public Health professionals, you should certainly take pride in the fact that what you do helps to protect the citizens of Georgia from vector-borne diseases. It has certainly been my pleasure serving as GMCA president. For additional information regarding the annual meeting as well as other useful information, please go to: www.gamosquito.org.

I look forward to seeing you all in Athens.

Sincerely,

Candace G Royals
GMCA President, 2010



The Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association is having its 36th Annual Meeting on February 22-24, 2011 in Wilmington, NC.

<http://www.mamca.org/conference.htm>

The American Mosquito Control Association is having its 77th Annual Meeting on March 20-24, 2011 in Anaheim, CA.

<http://www.mosquito.org/meetings/index-new.aspx>

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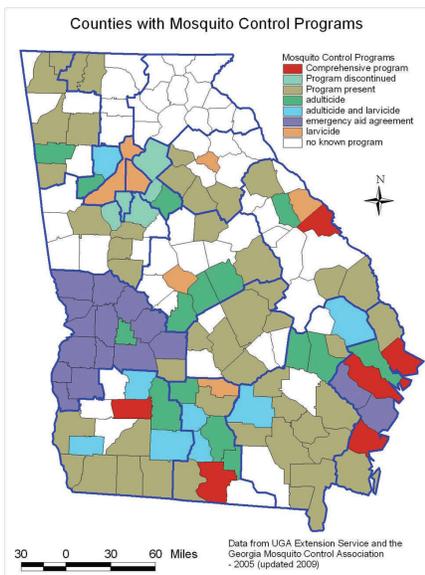
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www.GAmosquito.org

Mosquito Control in Georgia and NPDES Permitting

Mosquito Control in Georgia



Map of mosquito control programs in Georgia, 2009.

What will change with NPDES permitting? Better surveillance and reporting will be the big changes. Mosquito Control in Georgia is not done at the state level. There is everything from large well-funded IPM programs to small city-run poorly funded spray-because-it-is-Monday programs. Most of the small programs are located within the public works departments of either the city or the county, and most do the best they can given the funding (or lack) they have to work with. Most do some larviciding and education, but many rely heavily on adulticiding. Much of the equipment is old. Very little surveillance is done and most of that is passive in nature. Some mosquito control agencies are tapped into GDPH's Arboviral Surveillance program, and use the data collected to help with mosquito control decisions. There are 2 small IPM-based mosquito control program located in Environmental Health. There are several stand-alone programs. Most of

Metro Atlanta has programs based on reducing risk of disease, NOT reducing nuisance mosquitoes, so they are run a bit differently than the usual mosquito control program. These programs are located in the District Environmental Health offices in each of the metro Atlanta counties. Regardless of how our state mosquito control programs are structured, all must be watchful of the impending change when the pending NPDES ruling goes into effect. The final EPA document, "Pesticide General Permit for Point Source Discharges to Waters of the United States from the Application of Pesticides" is due out in December, 2010. Our state's related document, issued by EPD, should follow soon thereafter. Remember, the required implementation date is April 9, 2011! After that date, all programs meeting the annual treatment threshold will have to work under an NPDES Permit.