

## **Extension Medical Entomology Programs: The University of Georgia Approach - Elmer Gray**

- A. 2014 - 100 year anniversary of extension programs
- B. UGA entomology
  - 1. 35 Faculty
    - a) 11 with extension appointments
    - b) 2 extension staff members
  - 2. Nancy Hinkle - vet extension and other things
  - 3. Elmer
    - a) 20% public health extension
    - b) Black fly research
    - c) Started at UGA in July 1999 - WNV
  - 4. Other mosquito folks
    - a) Mark Brown
    - b) Mike Strand
    - c) Others
  - 5. <http://www.ent.uga.edu/extension.htm>
- C. GMCA connection
  - 1. Board of directors has an extension liaison
  - 2. Developed the CAT 41 mosquito control licensing category for pest control with some help from GMCA and others
    - a) Took several years
    - b) Around that time the economy crashed and PCOs became much more important
- D. Future challenges
  - 1. Threat of emerging and increasing mosquito-borne diseases
  - 2. Health departments have many other issues than mosquito-borne diseases
  - 3. Decline in VBD surveillance
  - 4. Nuisance potential actually helps support keeping the industry going
    - a) Mosquito bites hurt
    - b) Populace is less tolerant than ever before
  - 5. Funding
  - 6. Many mosquito control aspects are very visible
- E. Needs
  - 1. Politicians are swayed by complaints
  - 2. Control will be done by someone
  - 3. Training and licensing are needed and should be required
- F. Moving forward
  - 1. Mosquito control profession has changed
  - 2. Public awareness has never been greater
  - 3. Entry level work with high employee turnover
  - 4. Effective training is vital
    - a) Need to be able to answer the questions of the public
    - b) Need to understand the process
- G. Points of interest
  - 1. Strong code enforcement needed
  - 2. Let the media help
  - 3. Lag times between an infective bite and diagnosing a MBD is huge
  - 4. We need to be vocal about mosquito control needs, especially where disease is possible
- H. Communicate
  - 1. Go talk to your health district

- a) Educate them about mosquito control
- b) Partner with them
- 2. Get the message out before the problem occurs
- 3. Target the youth
  - a) Insect displays
  - b) Info on all insects
  - c) Mosquito control
  - d) Get into the schools