

# LEE COUNTY MOSQUITO/HYACINTH CONTROL DISTRICTS



## Newsletter

July, 2010

### *Culex coronator* has been found in Lee County

On May 23rd, the District collected a *Culex coronator* in a CDC light trap. The trap was set in North Ft. Myers. Tom Miller immediately recognized the mosquito was not a common *Culex* and thought he may have collected a *Culex tarsalis*. When Tom showed the specimen to Katie Heggemeier, she recognized it was more likely a *Culex coronator*. Katie had the specimen identified through Dr. Roxanne Connelly of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory. Lee County joins 22 other counties in Florida that have identified *Culex coronator* in their collections.



Accordingly, to Dr. Bruce A. Harrison of Public Health Pest Management in North Carolina, *Culex coronator* is a very hardy species. Adults are primarily active between dawn and dusk with 60 to 80% of collections in the first half of the night. Dr. Harrison found twice as many adults collected in CDC traps set at 1 to 1.5 meters as in traps set at 3 meters height. *Culex coronator* larvae can be found in clear, highly organic, turbid and even slightly brackish water. Their larval sites are usually in open sunlight (62%) but can also be found in partially shaded (36%) or fully shaded (3%). He listed the following as examples of common breeding habits: pits, ground pools, rock pools, flood pools, isolated stream pools, seepage, marshy depression, wheel/tire ruts, ditches, concrete animal troughs, quarry and various containers. It might have been easier to list where they are not found.

June 4th was the very first career day for Spring Creek Elementary. Shelly Redovan represented the District, providing information on careers in entomology. Shelly got to speak with 4 classes of fifth grade students. The students were all eager to tell about what they learned from the "mosquito guy" (Brian Murphy). While the majority of students found the mosquito control class interesting, only a couple thought they might want a career that included insects.



Ground Breaking—New Building June 15, 2010

"One Ringy Dingy" A gentleman (?) called our Switchboard, June 17th and asked for a helicopter to hover over the trees in his yard (SE Cape Coral) and shake the possums' loose from his trees and then we should get rid of them. I referred him to Animal Control. He got very angry and hollered, "What's a matter with you people, don't you do that"? Then he promptly slammed the phone down on me.

## Field Activity — 2010

ACRES TREATED	GROUND ADULTICIDING	AERIAL ADULTICIDING	GROUND LARVICIDING	AERIAL LARVICIDING	SERVICE REQUESTS
January	972.8	0.0	5.2	0.0	7.0
February	0.0		9.8	667.0	9.0
March	27,107.4	0.0	50.2	1,135.8	219.0
April	51,420.2	116,439.6	178.2	4,938.3	277.0
May	30,291.8	0.0	56.0	835.2	162.0
June					
July					

### More Pictures of Ground Work for our New LCMCD/LCHCD Building Site



For the second year, six top science fair entries in the Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Science & Engineering Fair were selected as the recipients of the Lee County Mosquito Control Emerging Scientist Award. Six students were given the opportunity to apply for a one-week Summer Internship hosted by LCMCD. The internship was a one-week, unpaid experience which involved learning about the biology of mosquitoes, mosquito vectored diseases, application of basic research and science, issues related to controlling mosquitoes and aquatic plant management. This year's interns were Tyler Theriault and Travis Edwards. They were selected based on two application essays: "Why is scientific research a value to society?" and "Why do you want to participate in the actual intern project?" The selection committee also considered responses on the Survey of Research Readiness: Student Self Assessment. The internship was June 21st through June 25th. It was a pleasure to have them work with us.

**Tom Miller recently graduated from the Advanced Mosquito ID Lab in Vero Beach. Congratulations Tom!**



Mosquito Identification and Certification Workshop - March 2010  
Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory - University of Florida/IFAS