

Keynote – Mosquitoes, Survivors, and a Lot of Luck, L A Williams

- a) History of Arthropod-Borne Diseases in North America
 - i) Impacts of disease on the state of South Carolina
 - ii) Mosquito control has been essential to development
- b) Mosquito-borne diseases still a threat today
- c) Failures do occur
 - i) Bad management
 - ii) Poor practices
 - iii) Insufficient science
- d) Federal Programs
 - i) 1960s – *Aedes aegypti* eradication program
 - ii) Malaria eradication
 - (1) Started with the military
 - (2) Expanded to CDC
- e) Military training for mosquito control
- f) Prevention is the key!
- g) Need to keep an eye on public policy
- h) Army Corp of Engineers – 1970s
 - i) Dredge disposal sites breed salt-marsh mosquitoes
 - ii) Army Corp took no responsibility to mosquito problems caused by this practice
 - iii) Change in policy needed – lots of hard work by many agencies and people
 - iv) Army Corp now
 - (1) Accepts some responsibility to mosquito control in disposal sites
 - (2) Are more careful when disposing of dredged material
- i) *Aedes albopictus* – 1980s
 - i) Tire breeder
 - ii) Increased mosquito problems in areas where no mosquito problems had existed
 - iii) Big tire problem in state
 - iv) Created legislation to deal with problem
 - (1) SC Tire Dealers Association
 - (2) County associations
 - (3) Environmental activists
 - (4) Public Health
 - (5) Environmental Health
 - (6) Mosquito control
 - v) Took legislation to the politicians
 - (1) \$2 fee
 - (2) Got introduced a year later with a larger bill & passed
 - (3) Mosquito control got no funds from the bill
 - (4) Tire problem was reduced
- j) Hurricanes – 1989 (Hugo)
 - i) A lot of damage
 - ii) CDC & FEMA involvement

- iii) Aerial application required
 - (1) Linemen could not fix lines
 - (2) People could not live and work in area
 - (3) Worry for possibility of disease
- iv) Policy change occurred
- v) Issues with special interest groups
- vi) Issues in dealing with people who are in both official and unofficial capacities
- vii) Health & well-being of citizens of primary importance
- viii) BE PREPARED in advance
- k) Mosquito control has shaped, and continues to shape, South Carolina