



Placing your best tarsi forward: How to be prepared for anything

Monday, March 4, 2024

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Room D3

Morning Session

Speaker and Panelist Bios



Academia - Dr. Lawrence Reeves, Assistant Professor at University of Florida

I am an entomologist specializing in mosquito biology. I am broadly interested in mosquitoes, though my research is focused on mosquito diversity, ecology, and the nontarget effects of mosquito control within ecosystems. I use DNA barcoding and other molecular methods to study the boundaries of mosquito species, monitor for new introductions of nonindigenous species, and to characterize interactions between mosquito and host species. My research integrates aspects of ecology and molecular ecology, entomology, taxonomy, invasive species biology, epidemiology and biodiversity conservation to address mosquito-related issues important to Florida, and beyond.



Industry - Dr. Joe Iburg, Technical Development Specialist at Azelis Agricultural and Environmental Solutions

Joe began his career in mosquito control in 2008 when he graduated with an Entomology degree from the University of Georgia. For 10 years he managed the black fly rearing and bioassay laboratory and participated in public health extension. He received his PhD in Environmental Toxicology in 2013 through an interdisciplinary program with the entomology department. He started a small pest abatement program in Arizona and later worked as a Technical Sales Representative with ADAPCO prior to his current position. He has 15 years of experience in mosquito control and enjoys learning from and sharing information with mosquito control programs throughout the country.



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Government - Jodi Holeman, District Manager, Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District

Jodi Holeman currently holds the position of District Manager at the Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District in Fresno County, California. She has been with the District since 2003, starting as a Surveillance Assistant and holding various positions before being appointed as the District Manager in 2023. Jodi has earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biology from Fresno State.



Government - Dr. Scott Larson, Assistant Entomologist, Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

Scott Larson received his PhD in Entomology from UW-Madison where he studied ticks and tick-borne diseases in the forests of northern Wisconsin. He was hired as a postdoc for the Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Disease where he researched tick control strategies for homeowners. Scott currently works at the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District in the Twin Cities as the Assistant Entomologist where he works on the surveillance and identification of mosquitoes and ticks in the area.



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Industry - Andrew Rivera, Senior Field Biologist at Clarke Mosquito Control Products

I started with Clarke as a field biologist 6 years ago, and since then have worked with over 40 different mosquito control programs across 18 states. My job is to steward the safe and efficacious use of Clarke's mosquito control products and equipment. I regularly calibrate truck and aircraft sprayers, conduct resistance trials and assays, and study the impact of mosquito control efforts on target populations. When I'm not working directly with public health programs, I am behind the scenes with Clarke's Research and Development team to field-test prototypes of new mosquito control products.



Academia- Dr. Brian Byrd, Professor, Western Carolina University

Brian Byrd received a Bachelor's degree (Biology) from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, a Master's of Science in Public Health Parasitology, and his Doctorate (PhD) from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. During his studies at Tulane he was a pre-doctoral fellow in a CDC funded training program in vector-borne infectious diseases. He teaches undergraduate courses such as Medical Entomology, Principles of Epidemiology, Public Health, and other Environmental Health Science courses. His research, primarily conducted with undergraduates, has a regional focus on the eco-epidemiology of La Crosse encephalitis and invasive *Aedes* ecology.



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Afternoon Session

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Dr. Christopher Bibbs, Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District

A former academic researcher and industry R&D specialist, Chris has run two separate research programs between Anastasia Mosquito Control District and now Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement. He is principally a toxicologist and behavioral ecologist with many hard wired connections across universities, industry, USDA, CDC, and DoD. His lynchpin programs are the professional training and development he does with interns and visiting scientists.

