

NEW JERSEY MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION, INC. NEWSLETTER

VOL. XV NUMBER 3 October, 2003

The Doc

By Ary Farajollahi and Soji Adelaja

Dr. Wayne J. Crans, head of the Mosquito Research and Control Unit of Rutgers University, Department of Entomology, was recently awarded the Abraham Weisblat Award at a recent banquet. This award is Cook College's highest recognition and is awarded to those rare individuals who have demonstrated excellence across the board in teaching, research and extension outreach. Doc was selected over the very best and brightest professors at Cook College, a branch of Rutgers University.

The award is Cook College's only endowed faculty award, and was established in memory of Professor Abraham Weisbalt. The late Professor Weisbalt spent most of his career in the foundation world. At the Rockefeller Foundation, he worked closely with John D. Rockefeller III to develop agricultural research capacity world-wide, develop international cultural exchange programs and promote innovative programs to enhance human capital and capacity. After a lifetime of service at philanthropic and research institutions, he came to Cook College to teach and mentor junior faculty. After Weisbalt died in 1998, Dr. Adesoji Adelaja, then dean and director of research, worked with the Weisbalt family and Abe's friends to devise the Weisbalt Endowment as a permanent tribute to Abe Weisbalt's legacy.

The goals of the Weisblat fund are to recognize land grant excellence and to influence the reward system by recognizing each year that one outstanding faculty member whose work best exemplifies the land-grant mission of excellence in all three areas of research, outreach and education. There is perhaps no other individual who matches this description better than Dr. Wayne Crans.

Dr. Crans came to Rutgers University to obtain his undergraduate degree in the spring of 1962. He then went on to attain his master's degree in 1965, and then his PhD in entomology in 1968. He has been a professor at Rutgers since 1968, and has served as a Research Officer and Survey Specialist during his sabbaticals in Africa. He has held numerous positions around the state that include serving on the Lyme Disease Advisory Council, West Nile Virus Task Force, National Representative for NJ Vector-borne Virus Information, AMCA, NJMCA, PESP Advisory Board, NJ-PA Black Fly Study Group, and many other organizations at the local, state, national and international levels.

Doc has been at the forefront of mosquito research and control in New Jersey for several decades now. His expertise is sought and regarded by many personnel across the nation and his presence and guidance in New Jersey during the 1999 introduction of West Nile virus was instrumental in allowing mosquito control agencies to combat this disease accordingly. Dr. Crans has received many distinguished awards, including the Faculty Service Award, Jesse B. Leslie Award, Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching, Cooperative Extension Award of Excellence and many others. His many publications have surfaced in a variety of scientific journals across the globe. He has also been an amazing mentor and friend to his many graduate students, colleagues, and professionals across the nation.

One might wonder why a student of Doc and the Executive Dean have partnered to make this announcement. Doc Crans has touched each of our lives and careers and his work has benefited the state tremendously. He is one of the unsung heroes of Rutgers and we are glad to see him recognized as one of the best your land grant institution has to offer.

Presidents Message

June 19, 2003

A meeting of the trustees of the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association, Inc. was held at Headlee Hall on June 4, 2003. The following actions were approved.

Treasurer Martin Chomsky reported a balance of \$54,740.00 in the association's active assets account.

The Commercial Exhibits Committee has been charged with reviewing the exhibit fee for exhibit space at the annual meeting to take into consideration the increased cost of exhibit charges from the hotel and recommend a new fee schedule. The Committee will also discuss the exhibit fee schedule for non-commercial groups who may wish to exhibit at the annual meeting.

The 501(c)(3) application to establish the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association, Inc. as a not for profit corporation has been submitted to the state and is working it's way through the process. When approved, the NJMCA will save considerable money that will not have to be paid as sales taxes for our annual meeting costs. In addition, contributions to the NJMCA for the silent auction and other projects will be tax deductible to the donors. The 2003 budget was amended to add \$500.00 into the Administration line 10 to cover the cost of obtaining this 501(c)(3) status.

Many counties and the NJMCA at various venues throughout the state have used the large model mosquito that the folks in Ocean County constructed several years ago. This year the model was used in Washington, DC in conjunction with the AMCA Legislative Day to draw attention to mosquito control efforts. The mosquito and its shipping container can use some refurbishing. The NJMCA will provide the supplies needed to accomplish this task as a way of saying "Thank You" to Ocean County for their generous support through the years.

Earlier this year, a question was raised about presidents serving for two-year terms. A review of the by-laws show that there isn't any reason a person cannot succeed himself or herself as president.

Scott Crans reported 272 people attended the Association's Pesticide Training sessions this year. The "Jeopardy" format was not only a lot of fun, but was a fantastic learning technique. Many people in the audience were ready to jump in with the correct answers. Maybe next year you will be able to participate in this program. A great big THANK YOU to the people who organized and participated in this program. This is just another way that New Jersey continues to be a great leader in the field of mosquito control.

All the rain we've had through June certainly is keeping everyone busy answering complaints, larviciding and adulticiding. There have been some great articles in newspapers detailing what is happening in mosquito control. If you haven't already reached out to your local newspapers to let them know of your willingness to contribute information, this would be a good time to do so.

Bill Zawicki

Upcoming Meetings

Pennsylvania Vector Control Assoc, Annual Conference, November 16 - 18, 2003. Ramada Inn, State College, PA. For info see website at www.pavectorcontrol.org

Northeast Mosquito Control Association, Annual Meeting - December 1-3, 2003, Cape Codder Resort, Hyannis, Ma. For info see website at www.nmca.org

American Mosquito Control Association, 70th Annual Meeting- February 21-26, 2004, Savannah, GA. For info see website at www.mosquito.org

New Jersey Mosquito Control Assoc., Annual Meeting - March 9-12, 2004, Trump Marina, Atlantic City, NJ For info see website at www.rci.rutgers.edu/~insects/njmca.htm

The following is a copy of the exact wording of the Bunnie Hajek Award Plaque that was awarded Mr. Howard Emerson at the 2003 NJMCA Annual Meeting. This listing is being included to illustrate the highly esteemed body of work Mr Emerson has accomplished.

BUNNIE HAJEK AWARD

of the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association, Inc. Presented by the Officers and Members at its 90th Annual Meeting March 13, 2003 to HOWARD S. EMERSON,

WHO, as a member of the Association, has unselfishly devoted his time serving as President, as chairman and member on numerous committees, has presented papers, prepared resolutions and served as session moderator at the annual meetings of the Association, and

WHO, as Superintendent of the Camden County Mosquito Extermination Commission has actively participated in all aspects of mosquito control and has developed and incorporated innovative ideas into improving mosquito control, and

WHO, through his efforts at soliciting input from all county mosquito control agencies and providing timely feedback, has accurately and superbly represented mosquito control interests as a member of the State West Nile Virus Task Force, and

WHO, unselfishly gives of his time to promoting mosquito control within and beyond his county borders through the media, participation in demonstrations and exhibits, attending AMCA's annual Washington Day, and working very closely with his neighboring counties, and

WHO, through his active participation over the years,

THEREBY, has promoted the objectives
and purposes of the Association
and the profession of its members

FROM THE MOSQUITO ARCHIVES?
control?

When were airplanes first used in mosquito

According to L.O. Howard, Chief Entomologist of the Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, the first larviciding by aircraft occurred in 1926 at Quantico, Virginia, "the worst hole for malaria on the Potomac". Treatment was with Paris Green, an arsenical by-product of the French dye industry, @ 1 lb./acre, diluted with hydrated lime and powdered soapstone. Weekly applications cost 72.4 cents/acre (Proc. NJMEA 15:6-24. 1928) Dr. Howard spoke at most of the annual meetings of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association 1914-1931, reporting on events and research on mosquitoes in the world. Also in 1926, S.F. Morse discussed various aspects of "using aircraft" in mosquito control (Proc. NJMEA 13:81-83) and suggested that small dirigible balloons might be better suited and safer over a wooded swampy region.

The first use of the "aeroplane" in N.J. was in 1931, and was reported in 1932 (Proc. NJMEA 19:97-102) by Bob Vannote of the Morris County Mosquito Extermination Commission. The trials involved the services of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) and Unger Aircraft Inc., operating at Hadley Field, New Brunswick and Hanover Field in Morris County. The aircraft was a new Standard D-25 bi-plane, fitted with a venturi tube under the fuselage. Varieties of dry materials were tried (sawdust + fuel oil, sawdust + pyrethrum larvicide, peat moss + fuel oil, peat moss + pyrethrum larvicide). These materials did not provide very efficient larvicidal surface films. After changing to a liquid application system, a second series of tests also gave incomplete surface film. Subsequently additional holes were drilled in the spray bar for applying oil.

A final test occurred in July 1931, after a rainfall of 2.67 inches during a 5 day period flooded hundreds of acres in Morris County. On July 14 larvae were numerous, and 8 acres were treated by the bi-plane flying at a 10 foot altitude, with a 30 foot swath. This resulted in 98% kill of larvae and pupae. Estimated cost was \$6.53/acre, approximately 1/2 the cost of hand application. The test was considered a success.

The Standard D-25 also was used in 1931 as an aid in inspection and surveillance in Morris, Union, Hudson, and Middlesex counties. This was reported by Frank Miller of NJAES in 1932 (Proc. NJMEA 19:37-52, 73-78). Aerial surveillance rapidly detected the extent of flooded areas and failed drainage systems. Often a Fairchild's Aerial Camera was used, which also recorded standing water on flat roofs, some of which were later confirmed as *Culex* breeding sites. Mr. Miller even believed that this type of surveillance allowed executives in mosquito control to check on progress in problem areas, as well as on the performance of temporary workers during summer hours.

D. Sutherland