Control Program for Mosquito Reduction:

Source reduction includes, but is not limited to, informing homeowners to drain standing water from around their homes.

We implement biological controls such as adding mosquito fish to bodies of water that do not drain quickly and have no other biological controls in them.

We treat bodies of standing water with a bacterium, Bacillus Thuringiensis israelensis (BTi). This is one of our methods of larviciding, killing the baby mosquitoes. Larviciding is our preferred method of treating for mosquitoes because the baby mosquitoes stay in water and if we kill them before they grow up, they won’t transfer disease to either humans or animals. Adult mosquitoes are controlled by chemical applications, which are usually made either early in the morning (4am-7am) or very late in the evening (8pm-10pm), to reduce the chance of non-target insects from being affected by chemicals.

Applied Research:

Our applied research is directly related to our surveillance and control programs. We are constantly striving to better our understanding of mosquito behaviors, making our service to St. Johns County better. We do this by conducting research on mosquito biology, non-target insects, resting behavior, trapping devices, machines for mosquito control, and chemical trials.

Education Program:

At AMCD we find that the best way to keep our county safe is through educating them on the dangers of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases. One way that this is accomplished is through free classes about mosquitoes that are taught throughout St. Johns County schools. Also we participate in community events, such as career fairs and charity events. Lastly, our inspectors and staff are annually required to attend training on new research, safety protocol, machine maintenance, and chemical safety.

For more information or to schedule a program:

Please contact or visit the following:

ANASTASIA MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

500 Old Beach Road
St. Augustine, Fl 32080
(904) 471-3107
www.amcdsjc.org
Florida has a long history of being plagued by insects of all sorts. The many swamps, lakes, rivers and hammocks make Florida the ideal home for many types of biting insects. Because of this, many early settlements in Florida were restricted to the northern parts of the state. At one point in history, the major cities, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Tallahassee, and Pensacola, were called the “Malaria Belt”. Mosquitoes and the disease they carried were a major threat to the people in Florida.

In 1821 the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito brought Yellow Fever to St. Augustine. At the time people believed the disease was air-borne. In 1881 Dr. Carlos Juan Finlay established that the disease was transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Dr. Finlay’s findings were dismissed and the Yellow Fever epidemic persisted until 1905. In 1906 the state Sanitary Engineer began to campaign for mosquito control. It wasn’t until World War I (1914) that a effort was organized to control mosquitoes. In 1922 the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association was formed. From 1925 on, many counties developed mosquito control programs. In 1948 the Anastasia Mosquito Control District joined the fight in controlling the mosquito populations.

The Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County (AMCD) is a special taxing district.

**What makes us a special district?**

A special district is described as a political subdivision of a state established to provide a single public service (as water supply or sanitation) within a specific geographic area.

In 1948 our district was formed to cover Anastasia Island to near Crescent Beach, hence the name: Anastasia Mosquito Control District. By 2003, AMCD’s coverage included the 609 sq miles that is St. Johns County today.

We currently have three stations: Base, North, and South stations.

We are governed by a non-partisan, elected board of five commissioners who serve a 4 year term.

**Mission Statement**

To preserve & protect people from mosquitoes and mosquito-borne disease

To reduce/control mosquitoes through integrated pest management based on environmentally friendly and cost effective methods

To minimize negative impacts on people and other living things, based on valid scientific data, peer review and public hearings

To spend public funds prudently: and

To become recognized as one of the leading mosquito control districts

**How** Do we accomplish our mission statement?

Through the programs we utilize:

**Customer/Professional service program**

Residents of St. Johns County are encouraged to go online or call and fill out a service request. Once a service request is put into the system, it takes about 1-4 business days for the service to be completed. For a service request the inspector will come to the property and first inspect for mosquitoes. It is very helpful to the inspector to describe the problem you are having and where it could be coming from. They will look for both adult and larval mosquitoes (babies). Once they have justification, i.e. mosquitoes have been identified though surveillance methods, they can then treat the residence for the mosquito problem.

**Surveillance Program** (arbovirus, mosquito population, environmental parameter, service requesting, pesticide resistance, and service follow-up)

AMCD has sentinel chickens set up around the county to monitor for mosquito-borne disease.

The mosquito population is monitored in numerous ways. One way is by trapping. Mosquito traps are placed around St. Johns County weekly during mosquito season and the collected mosquitos are counted and identified to species.

Another way we monitor the mosquito population is through service requests. We track the amount of service requests by area which allows us to see where the mosquitoes are becoming a nuisance in the County.

Mosquito counts are yet another method we use to monitor mosquito populations throughout the county. Inspectors count the number of mosquitoes to land on exposed skin for a set amount of time. Other surveillance includes monitoring weather patterns and monitoring for pesticide resistance in the mosquitoes around our county.