

***Report on the 2009 California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Symposium
Items of Mosquito and Vector Management Interest***

The 2009 Cal-IPC Symposium was held in Visalia 14-17 October, including a classroom and field workshop and several post conference fieldtrips. The workshop included an up-date of the San Francisco Estuary Spartina Project by Drew Kerr, one of the managers. Its emphasis was on landscape-scale invasive plant control, with successful examples of large area restoration of habitat. Reduction of saltmarsh mosquito breeding sites is one of the benefits of these projects. Drew works with the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District (SMCMAD) with their collaborative activities on Spartina control as it affects mosquito breeding and general habitat quality, and with James Counts, their Operations Supervisor.

I displayed and discussed the “Invasive Aquatic Weeds and Mosquito” poster. The scheduled and informal poster sessions gave participants time to elaborate on information in their own posters, and share material from other posters.

One of my more fruitful poster discussions was with Mike Kelly of the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve (and a long-time Cal-IPC stalwart), regarding some success using incremental applications of an aquatic glyphosate formulation on Ludwigia in smaller lakes with major mosquito breeding areas. The contractor initially engaged by the San Diego County Vector Control Program, abandoned the project. Mike and his associates were called in to complete the work. This incremental approach allowed dead material to decompose without depleting dissolved oxygen in the lakes, preserving habitat quality, and avoiding the expense of its disposal. Mike and I will be discussing the particulars at a later date.

Other relevant posters included “Maintaining riparian habitats after initial invasive plant treatments on Camp Pendleton;” “Weed control and habitat restoration in a saline habitat” (S.F. Bay); “Timing of application of influences the efficacy glyphosate on Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*).” These experiments tended to confirm the favorable results of observed late fall applications used in other projects. PDF copies of posters and abstracts will be posted on the Cal-IPC Website www.cal-ipc.org.

Several of the presented papers were applicable to aquatic and riparian concerns. These included: “Aquatic weed management; a survey of techniques and environmental impacts....” This was a comprehensive review of various problem plants and pros and cons of various methods and agents. “Refining mechanical removal methods for the removal of *Spartina alterniflora* at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge.” Mechanical methods were needed because strict local regulation of herbicides and pesticides. “Team Arundo del Norte: lessons learned from a coordinated approach to weed management.” This was a review of eight years experience in various sites in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Bay-Delta Region.” This report highlighted the importance collaborative efforts and long-term activities.

Important general topics included climate change, collaborative activities, and public outreach. In addition to the specific presentations, this informal networking among participants improves communication in areas of mutual interest among a wide variety of disciplines. In my opinion, these are very worthwhile activities, that help bridge gaps between science and public policy. In previous conversations, Cal-IPC has expressed an interest in continuing this type of collaboration, especially with groups such as the Southern California Vector Control Environmental Taskforce (SCVCET)

Charles E. Blair, MD, Trustee MVMDSBC and Member, SCVCET