Mosquito Safari Website Launched

Mosquito Safari is here! This informative and interactive website is a great teaching tool to help our customers learn more about mosquitoes and best management practices to control those pesky mosquitoes. It has great photography and graphics. Dr. Mike Merchant, Extension Entomologist at the Urban Solutions Center in Dallas has done an outstanding job of developing this new educational tool. More about the website…..

Mosquito Safari <http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu/> takes you on a virtual tour of a backyard, encouraging you to see things from the mosquito's point of view. Did you know that an old tire makes the perfect mosquito home? That garbage cans and garbage lids are one of the most common breeding sites for mosquitoes? What about bird feeders and bird houses in areas where West Nile virus is common--does attracting birds to your backyard make the risk worse?

These and many other questions will be answered when you visit the site. Topics covered include mosquito biology and life cycles, risks of mosquitoes to humans and pets, how to identify the most common mosquito species, and steps you can take to reduce mosquito bites in your own backyard.

Gardeners will learn about mosquito repellents, where mosquitoes hide during the day, and some practical steps that can help when the city is not conducting mosquito spray operations. For pest management professionals, the site can be a good way to reinforce the messages technicians give their customers about how to reduce their risks from mosquito bites. New technicians? Mosquito Safari can provide at least a half hour of training time for trainees.

If you visit, be sure to turn on the sound, as much of the site is narrated.

Funding for Mosquito Safari was provided by USDA's Southern Region IPM program and Region 6 office of the US Environmental Protection Agency. For more information, contact Dr. Mike Merchant, Professor and Extension Entomologist at the Urban Solutions Center in Dallas.
Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Texas 4-H Kidz with Biz Ideaz E-Camp Team for winning the TAE4HA Excellence in Camping Team Award!

They were also selected as the *Southern Region winner Specialty Award - Excellence in Camping Team* and will be recognized during the NAE4HA Conference in Rochester, NY this Fall.

Members of this team include:

Montgomery County - Sheryl Nolen, Caroline Cruz, Michelle Mihalek
Williamson County - David Wright, Maggie Johnson
El Paso County - Jimmy Rodgers
Brown County - Darlene Locke, 4-H Center
State & Tech Team reps - Jeff Howard, Toby Lepley, Dee Lee Smith

Spotlight

Wenhsing Cheng, FCS Agent in Dallas County initiated the launch of a new blog called Lifeline ([http://agrilifeblogs.tamu.edu/blogs/lifeline/](http://agrilifeblogs.tamu.edu/blogs/lifeline/)). FCS Agent Lexie McGrane and CEP Agent Marvin Young are the other two contributors/writers of Lifeline. The purpose of the Lifeline blog is to strengthen family life and family health in the Metroplex. Educational information related to financial management, food safety, health, nutrition, parenting, general safety issues, or worksite wellness will be posted on the blog. Over thirty articles have been posted among the three agents since the launch of Lifeline in April.

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