

South HUNTSVILLE NEIGHBORS



MEET

The Smartts

MOSQUITO SQUAD OF HUNTSVILLE



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By Bob Druckman, Publisher, *South Huntsville Neighbors*

Photo by S&S Photography

Daniel and Amber Smartt, owners of Mosquito Squad, a veteran and locally owned business, started thinking about owning a business back in 2014. After much research, they decided on Mosquito Squad (more on that later).

Daniel and Amber love Huntsville. Daniel is a native of Huntsville and he marvels at the positive significant changes made in town. “Campus 805 is on the same site that I went to middle school and even though Butler High School is closed it holds many great memories for me.”

Amber is a native of Baltimore, MD. She loves living in Huntsville. “It’s all about family and community and has a wonderful vibe. It is amazing the amount of growth this city has seen since I moved here.”

Daniel and Amber have three children: Meadow 15, Hadyn 11 and Ethan 8. Besides owning Mosquito Squad, Daniel is also a 14-year veteran of the Huntsville Fire Department. He also served in the Marines for 14 years and was deployed for one tour in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan.

How did you get involved with Mosquito Squad?

“After becoming tired of dealing with mosquito bites for me and our children, I started considering my options. Through some lengthy research, I decided to try my hand in the mosquito business. The next step was to find a company that would fit. Once I gathered what I needed, it was apparent that Mosquito Squad was the best choice, but to my dismay my local area was already taken. Other options were available, but did not strike me as a possibility,” Daniel said. “A few weeks later, during a conversation with a friend, I found that this area was currently for sale. After contacting the owners and going through lengthy conversations and training sessions, we decided that I should become the Operations Manager for the season, and discuss purchasing at the end. After seeing how much the customers enjoyed this service, myself included, it was a done deal. Finally, in February of 2016 we finalized the change in ownership and became proud owners of Mosquito Squad of Huntsville, just as the season was starting.”



What do you like about Mosquito Squad?

“Amber and I have always been involved in our community.” Amber has been involved with the PTA and volunteers in the schools that their children attend. Daniel has served his country (Marine Corps), his city (Huntsville Fire Department), and now his community, helping to rid yards of potentially dangerous mosquitoes and ticks.

“We especially like that a portion of our proceeds go to Malaria No More. This partnership is on the ground in Africa working to eradicate Malaria.”

We have all heard about the Zika Virus. Are there other mosquito borne illnesses to be aware of?

“Mosquitoes and ticks are known to carry several different vector borne illnesses that can become potentially threatening. We focus on taking a proactive approach to mosquito and tick control,” said Amber. “We would rather offer education to help our clients and our community take part in controlling mosquitoes using the seven Ts: Tip, Toss, Turn, Tarp Removal, Take care, Team Up, and Treat. And the six Cs: Clear, Clean, Choose Plants, Check, Care, and Call for controlling ticks.”

“We also treat for ticks that can cause Lyme Disease. We are in the process of developing a relationship with the Alabama Lyme Disease Foundation.”

Tell us about the training of a Mosquito Squad technician.

“Most of the training is hands-on. We have safety videos along with online courses that our techs must pass before we send them out on a service call. They also have extensive field training. We go to certain areas to do mock treatments so that they understand the proper way to treat a yard.”

Mosquito Squad of Huntsville is Licensed, Bonded, and Insured, including Workers’ Compensation for their customers’ protection.

What makes you different than the others?

“Mosquito Squad invented the Barrier Treatment in 2005. It is a proprietary blend that is the best on the market.”

“Our customer service is impeccable. We have a 100% customer satisfaction guarantee. We will make it right and we don't have contracts with our clients. It is a money back guarantee. We communicate regularly with our clients. We notify them of when we are coming out and when we have completed the treatment. Typically, 85%-95% of the mosquitoes are eradicated depending on the program the customer chooses.”

Tell us about yourself, hobbies, interests?

Amber: “Being able to spend time together as a family is our hobby. I help Daniel in our business and of course being a mom is a full-time job. We love to spend time in the backyard, (treated by Mosquito Squad, of course). I do love to bow hunt (deer) and someday will get into bow fishing. I find bow shooting very therapeutic.”

Daniel: “I like to hunt and fish, but the time invested with the family is priceless. We put God first in our life, in everything we do, and give all the Glory to Him.”

Favorite meal?

Daniel: “Fried Pork Chops, Greens, Black Eyed Peas and Cornbread. Amber is a great cook”

Amber: “Anyplace I don't have to cook.” (Laughing).

If you could invite three people to dinner who would they be?

Daniel: “Jesus, my grandfather Lester Smith, and Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller.”

Amber: “Jesus, William Shakespeare, Barbara Bush.”

What movie would you like to see again and again?

Daniel: “American Sniper and Saving Private Ryan.”

Amber: “The Blind Side- I loved Sandra Bullock in that movie.”

What would you like clients to know about Mosquito Squad?

“We are a family business and have always believed that honesty is the best policy. We tell it like it is and let the client know what we can or can't do. We deliver great service and our 100% customer satisfaction guarantee is second to none. We take great pride in what we do.”