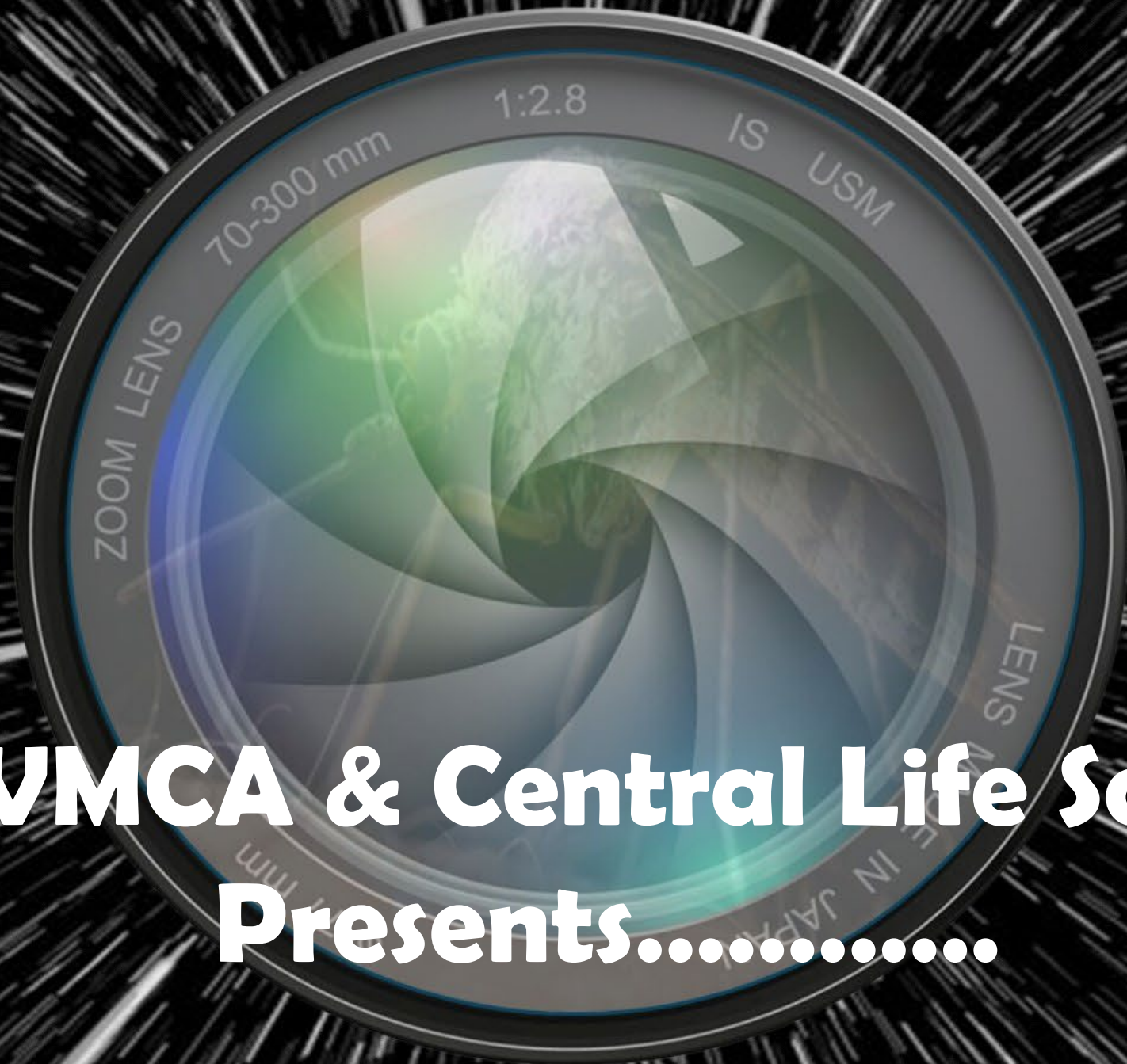


**A LONG  
TIME AGO IN  
A GALAXY  
FAR,  
FAR AWAY...**

I started work on a project and after years of quiescence I am excited to announce that the project has finally been completed.



**The VMCA & Central Life Sciences  
Presents.....**

**Photo Contest**

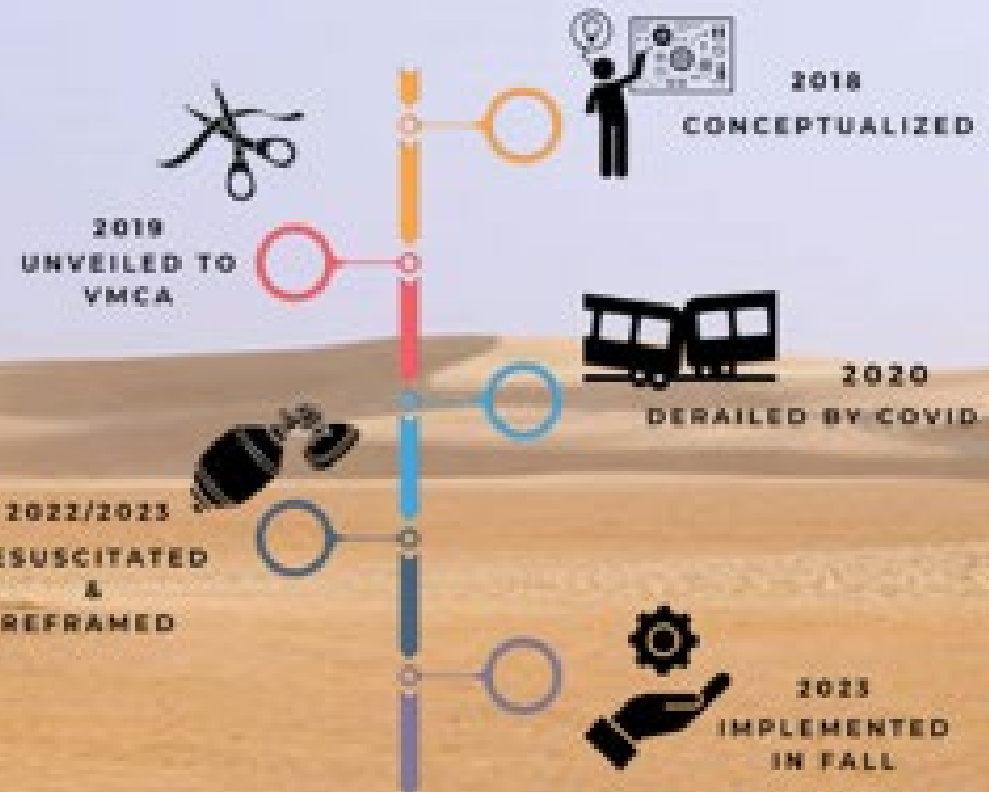
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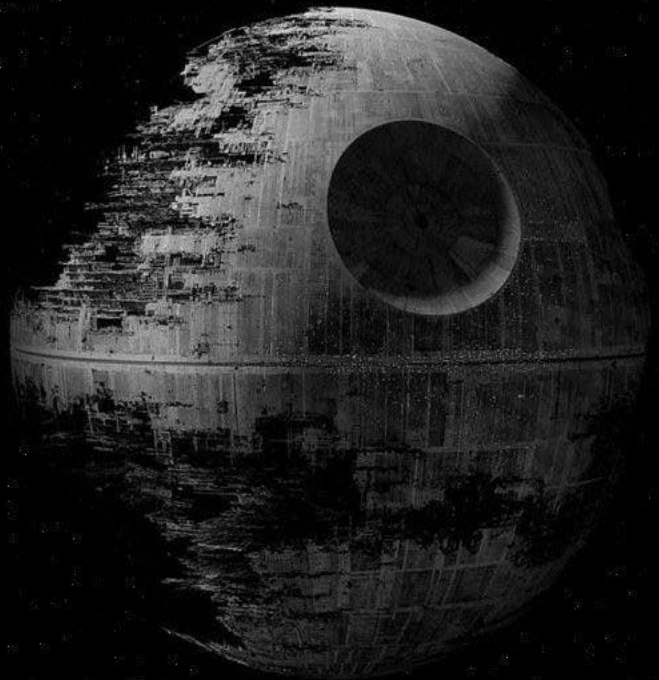
# EPISODE I

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**VMCA's Masters of the Lens**

# VMCA CENTRAL LIFE SCIENCE PHOTO CONTEST





# 2023/2024 Central Life Sciences VMCA Photo Contest

**Contest Submission Dates:** September 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

**Voting Period:** January 1, 2023 – February 12, 2023.

**Mosquito Best in Show & Overall Best in Show will be voted on during the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> days of the conference ([VMCA Annual Conference February 20-22, 2024](#)) with the winner being announced on Thursday.**

## Contest Guidelines

Any VMCA member, Student Presenter, Affiliated Lab Group, Abatement Team Member, and/or Vendor Representatives may submit up to 1 photo per category.

All photos must follow the category guidelines specifically and must include mosquitoes and/or closely related arthropods including but not limited to spiders, centipedes, millipedes, scorpions, isopods, etc. unless otherwise indicated in the category submission description/directions.

All the submissions must be completed using the links on the following pages. Each caption must include a “Title” and can include a brief description if desired.

The same photo cannot be submitted for multiple categories (excluding “Mosquito Best in Show & Overall Best in Show.”)

# Contest Categories

\*To access the links, you may need to press [Ctrl][Click] depending on your computer settings. This can be changed by:  
File>Options>Advanced>Editing Options>Clear the checked box for Use CTRL. (Conversion of this document to Microsoft Word will be necessary)

## 1. Under the Scope (\$20.00 prize)

- a. Get up close and personal with your subject.
- b. Submit a microscope or macro lens photo.
- c. Pictures must be only of organisms (as primary focus)

Submit Under the Scope photos [here](#).

## 2. Go-Go Gadget Photo (\$20.00 prize)

- a. Photo must be taken with a cell phone & tablet.
- b. Photo must include an arthropod.
- c. Pictures must be only of organisms (as primary focus)

Submit Go-Go Gadget photos [here](#).

## 3. Ludicrous (\$20.00 prize)

- a. Photo must be creative and potentially ludicrous (but appropriate)
- b. Photo cannot be graphically altered.
- c. Photo must include an arthropod.

Submit Ludicrous photos [here](#).

## 4. Original Meme (\$20.00 prize)

- a. Entry must include an original photo.
- b. Meme must include text.
- c. Meme must include a mosquito.
- d. Be creative and appropriate.

Submit Original Meme photos [here](#).

# Contest Categories

**\*To access the links, you may need to press [Ctrl][Click] depending on your computer settings. This can be changed by: File>Options>Advanced>Editing Options>Clear the checked box for Use CTRL.**

## 5. Mosquito Outreach (\$20.00 prize)

- a. Submit a photo that demonstrates public outreach efforts.
- b. Photo must be creative and demonstrate engagement.

Submit Mosquito Outreach photos [here](#).

## 6. Incognito Habitat (\$20.00 prize)

- a. Submit a photo that portrays a hidden mosquito habitat.
- b. Invite the viewer into a game of hide and seek or "Where's Waldo".
- c. Photo does not have to necessarily have a mosquito present.

Submit Incognito Habitat photos [here](#).

## 7. Research (\$20.00 prize)

- a. Submit a photo that visually introduces or communicates a research project or lab experience.
- b. Must be an arthropod/mosquito related research project.

Submit Research photos [here](#).

## 8. Mosquito Interactions (\$20.00 prize)

- a. Entry must focus on an interaction between a mosquito, plant, animal, fixture, and/or another environmental element.
- b. Submission must visually communicate something about mosquito behavior, behavior, and/or ecology to the viewer(s).

Submit Interactions photos [here](#).

## 9. Mosquito Best in Show (\$40.00 prize)

- a. The winner from each of the above categories will be entered into this category if the photo contains a mosquito.
- b. Voting for this category opens separately from the above categories. See contest rules for more details.

## 10. Overall Best in Show (\$50.00 prize)

- a. Top images (winners as voted) from all categories (1-8) listed above.
- b. Not limited to mosquito only photos.
- c. Voting for this category opens separately from the above categories (1-8). See contest rules for more details.

# Under the Scope Criteria

**a. Submit a microscope or macro lens photo**

**a. Only organisms**





**Under the Scope**

**Gulf Fritillary Caterpillars**



**Under the Scope**

**Toxorhynchites Resting**



**Under the Scope**

**Rockpool Rockstar**



**Under the Scope**

**Close Up (Cq. Perturbans)**



**Rachel Kempf**

# Go-Go Gadget Criteria

- a. Must be taken with a cell phone or tablet**
- b. Must include an arthropod**
- c. Only organisms**

# Go-Go Gadget



**Forest Tent Caterpillar**

07



62



40



2



# Go-Go Gadget



**Ladybug Larva on Co2  
Tank**





# Go-Go Gadget



**Asian Lady Beetle**

07



62



40



2



# Go-Go Gadget



**Haemaphysalis  
longicornis Larva Shot**

07



62



40



2





**Rachel Kempf**

# Ludicrous Criteria

- a. Photo needs to be “silly”**
- b. Cannot be altered**
- c. Must include an arthropod**



# Ludicrous



**Culex restuans**



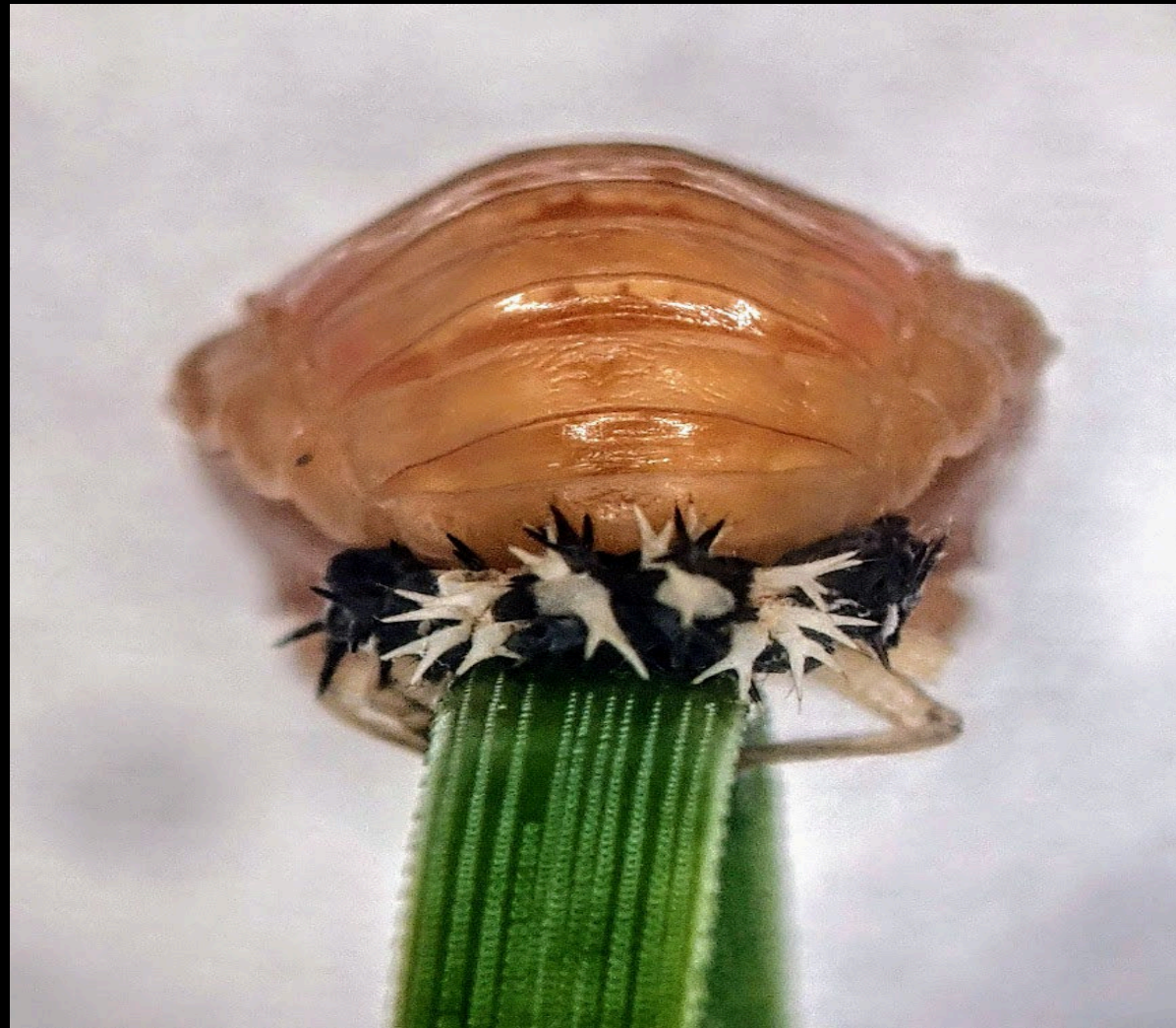
# Ludicrous



**Moving Day!**



# Ludicrous



**Ladybug Pupae Full Frontal**



# Ludicrous



**Cole: why do you have a cup of ranch?**



**It's not ranch**

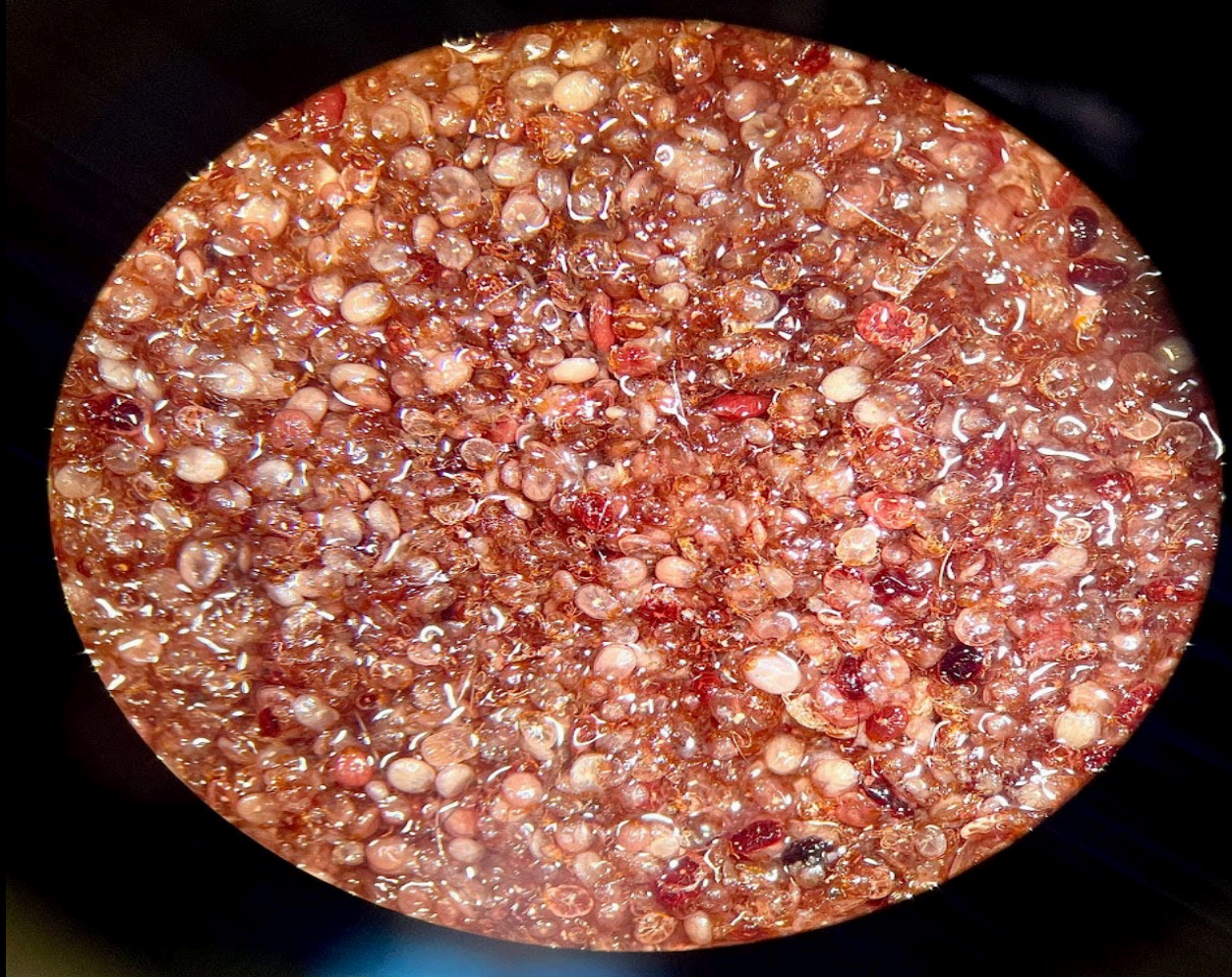
**✨ it's fleas ✨**



**Cup of Ranch**

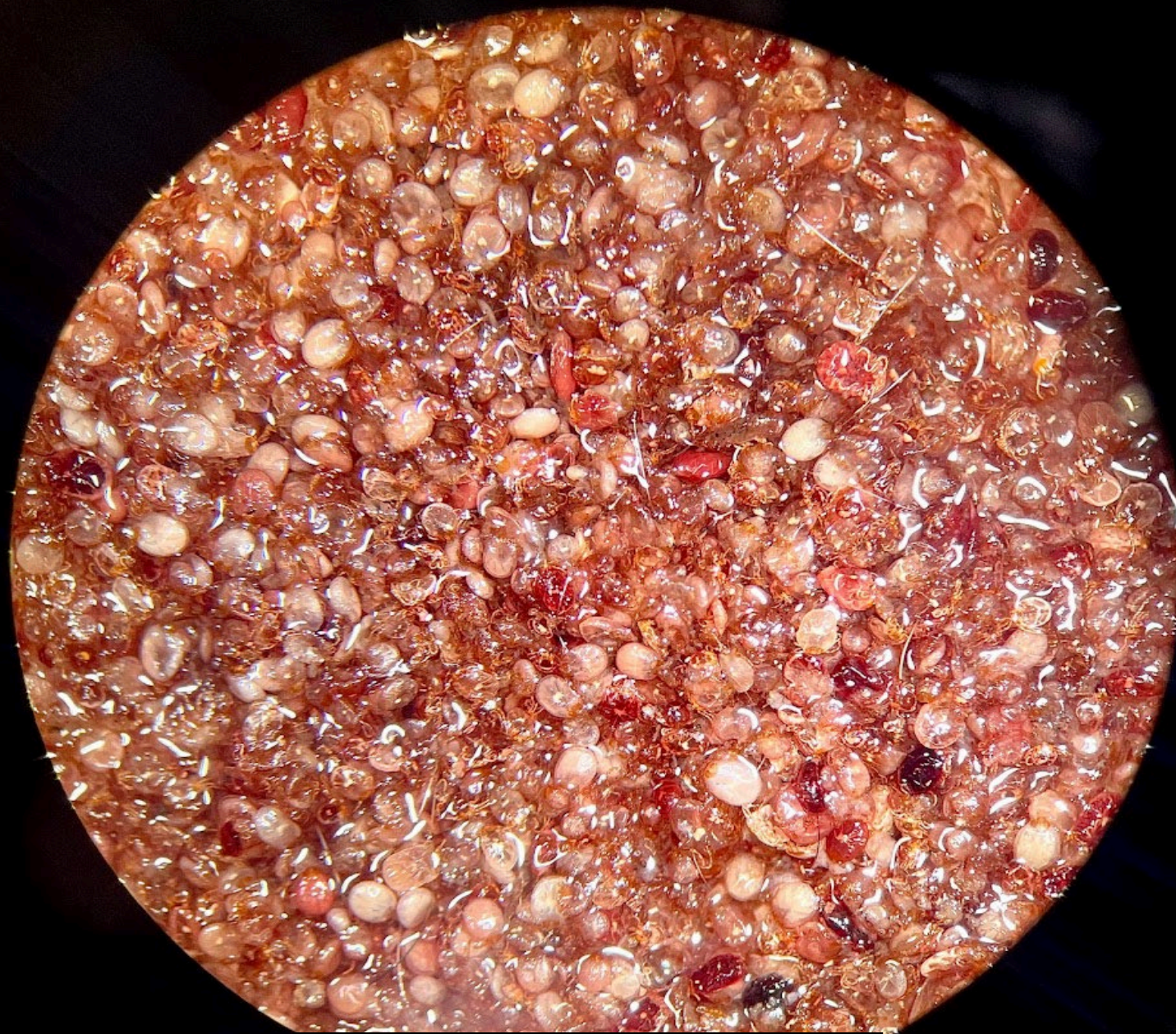


# Ludicrous



**Amblyomma americanum off deer  
ears (4483)**





**Rachel Kempf**

# Original Meme Criteria

- a. Must be an original photo
- b. Must be creative and appropriate



**TAKE YOUR KID TO WORK DAY**



**THEY SEE ME ROLLIN'**

**THEY HATIN'**

# Original Meme

**“Mosquitoes are really bad at my house!”**



Soooo...

I think I found the source of your mosquito problem.

# Original Meme

I DID NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS



Soooo...

**Jay Kiser**

I think I found the source of your mosquito problem.



# Mosquito Outreach Criteria

- a. Photo demonstrates public outreach efforts
- b. Must be creative and show engagement



# Mosquito Outreach Criteria

- a. Photo demonstrates public outreach efforts
- b. Must be creative and show engagement





# Mosquito Outreach



**Mosquito Goes Bananas**

# Mosquito Outreach



**Dragonfly Naiad in the Classroom**

# Mosquito Outreach



**Bug Bizarre 2023**

**Jay Kiser**



# Incognito Habitats Criteria

- a. Portrays a hidden mosquito habitat
- b. Hide & Seek



# Incognito Habitat



**Aedes atropalpus hidden habitats**

# Incognito Habitat



**Where's Waldo**

# Incognito Habitat



**Hidden Horde**

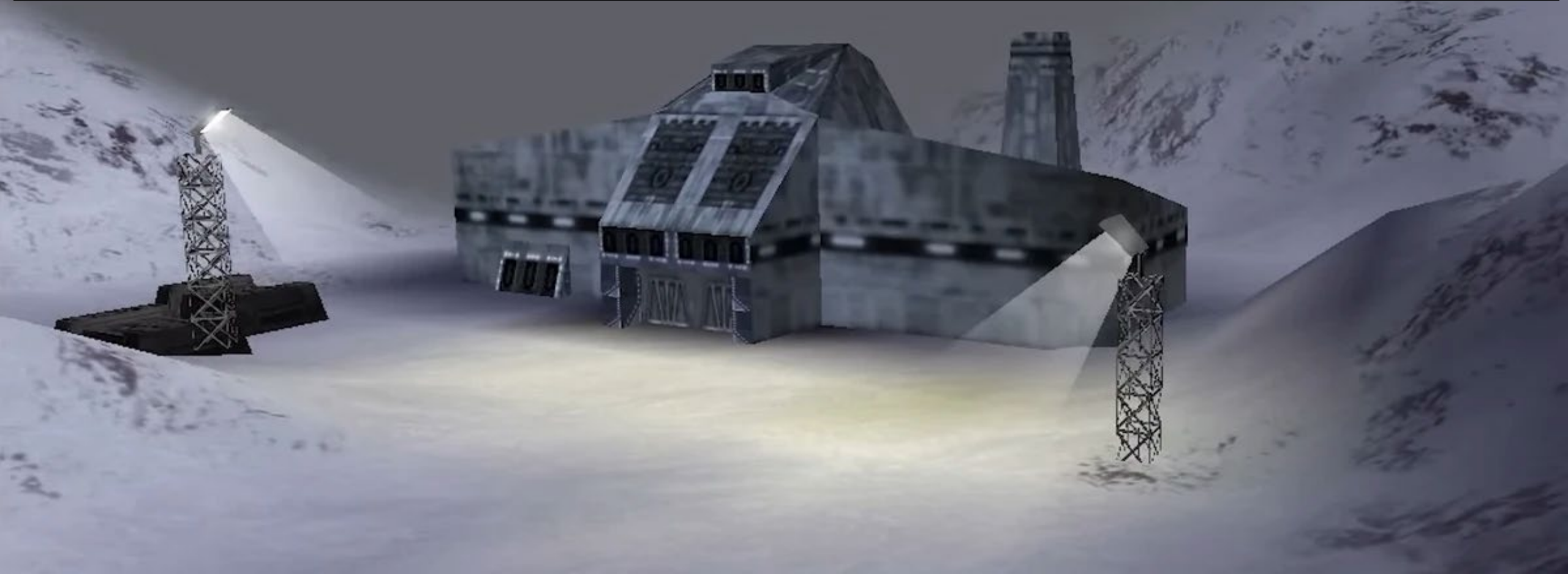


**Jay Kiser**



# Research Criteria

- a. Introduces or communicates research project or lab experience**
- b. Arthropod/mosquito related**

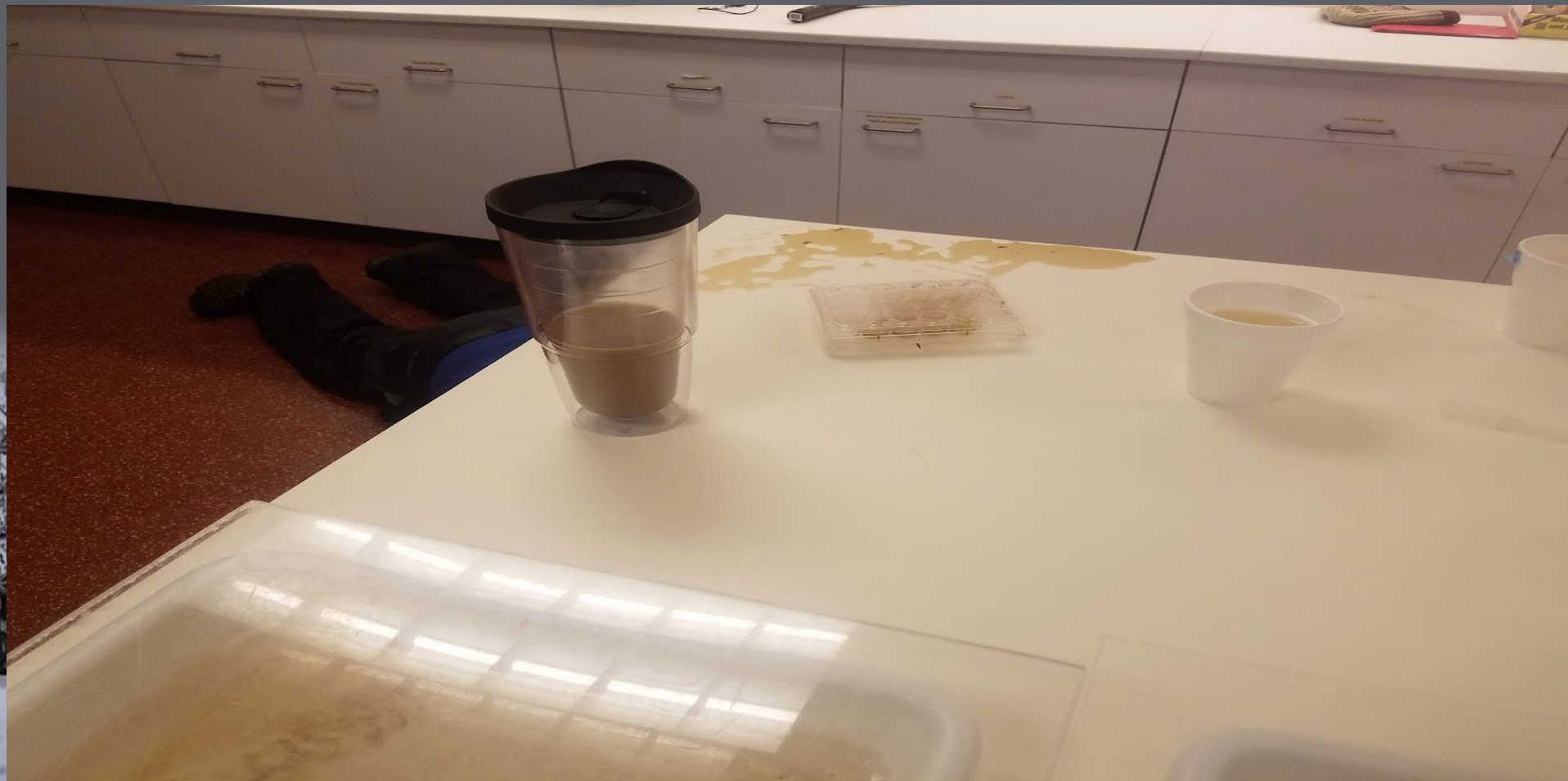


# Research



**Classic Jay Kiser**

# Research



**The Dedication is Real, Folks**

# Research



**Gettin' Some Sugar**

# Research



**Testing 1, 2.....Testing**

**Jay Kiser**





## **Mosquito Interactions Criteria**

- a. Interaction between mosquito and others or their environment**
- b. Communicates behavior or ecology**

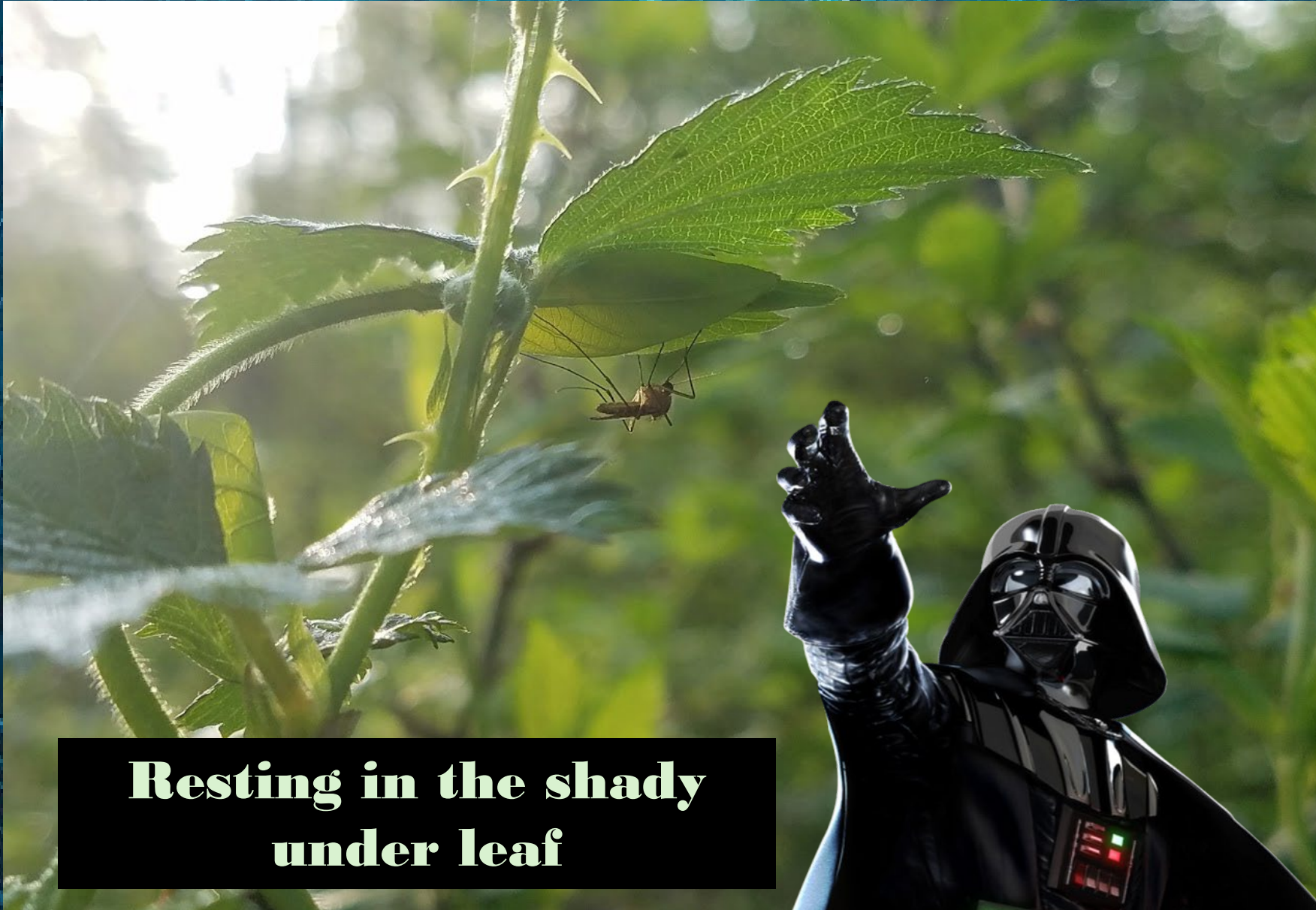


# Mosquito Interactions

**Huh, that hurts**



# Mosquito Interactions



**Resting in the shady  
under leaf**

# Mosquito Interactions



**Turtle Bloodmeal**



# Mosquito Interactions



**Aedes albopictus on leaf**

# Mosquito Interactions



**Hang in there!**

**Rachel Kempf**





**Rachel Kempf**



**Rachel Kempf**



# Things Learned

- **Better Advertising**
- **More Efficient Posting**
- **Adding New Categories**
- **More Detailed Categorical Guidelines**
  - **Distance & Phone Voting**
- **Many Improvements are still to come**

Much to learn  
you still have.



A promotional graphic for a photo contest. The background features a collage of Star Wars characters: Chewbacca on the left, Jabba the Hutt in the center, and Yoda on the right. Two silhouetted figures in the foreground hold glowing lightsabers that intersect in the center. The text is overlaid on the left side in white on black backgrounds.

**VMCA's Masters of the Lens**

# **RETURN OF**

## **The VMCA Photo Contest**

**— EPISODE II —**

**Coming in.....  
2024-2025**

