

# THE SKEETER

VOL. 80. NO.2

## 2020 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE VIRGINIA MOSQUITO  
CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

## Summer greetings, VMCA

As I write this in late July some jurisdictions are seeing some of their first WNV and EEE positives. Here in Fairfax County, we've had very few positives this summer compared to previous years—despite July being one of the warmest on record. The summer weather trend had been dry and hot for much of the state, but many of us, especially Hampton Roads, recently received a quick soaking from Tropical Storm Isaias. As many of us return to our offices and job duties, COVID continues to spread around us, with the U.S. reporting more cases per day now than during the first peaks. COVID-19 has permeated every aspect of our lives since it first appeared in the U.S. in early February. Cloth face coverings are recommended by the CDC and WHO, and are widely utilized throughout the world now as a standard practice in public settings where social distance is difficult to maintain. We have tightened our social circles and have found new ways to stay in touch with one another as we attempt to distance ourselves from each other in person. Executive Board meetings have been held remotely for the past few months. Work schedules have been staggered to limit interaction. As people spend more time at home, people's exposure to nuisance mosquitoes that thrive around households, such as *Aedes albopictus*, may be increasing. The important work of mitigating the threats of vector-borne disease in our communities continues, and the work you all do is as important as ever. The CDC recently weighed in on the [importance of continuing mosquito surveillance and control during public health emergencies and natural disasters](#). Additionally, a recently-published study in Nature supports statements by WHO and CDC that three significant mosquito vectors (*Culex quinquefasciatus*, *Aedes aegypti*, *Aedes albopictus*) [are not known to be able to transmit novel coronavirus](#).

Social unrest has also hit a fever pitch in the U.S. and globally, spurred on by the death of an unarmed black man, George Floyd, at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. The Black Lives Matter movement has inspired protestors around the world to amplify their voices and create meaningful change. The Executive Board of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association stands in solidarity with the [Black Lives Matter movement and the principles that guide it](#). VMCA is committed to providing an inclusive and equitable space for vector control professionals as people from all races and backgrounds work together to protect the public health of all members of our communities. As VMCA president, I humbly encourage our membership to seek out and work to correct inequities in the services that we provide within our own jurisdictions through a lens of social justice. Minority communities may have understandable apprehension about asking the government for help due to historical mistrust—and could therefore be underserved compared to other communities. Community members that are dealing with more pressing issues (e.g. unaffordable health care services, lack of access to health/affordable food or housing) may be less likely to contact us about vector control services. As such, we have a personal responsibility to direct resources to those communities and be proactive about rebuilding that trust, with the goal of creating a more equitable breadth of services as we move ahead together.

Regarding our annual meeting, I regret to inform you that the VMCA Executive Board has voted unanimously to cancel the in-person 2021 Annual Meeting of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association, due to circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. A number of other states in the region and nationally have also cancelled in-person meetings. During these unprecedented times, the health and safety of our membership and those we serve is at the forefront of this decision. Budget cuts,

jurisdictional travel restrictions, and safety issues surrounding large gatherings were all considered as we weighed our options. The next in-person meeting of the VMCA has been rescheduled for January 25-27, 2022 at the Newport News Marriott at City Center. Sincere appreciation goes to Charles Abadam, who was able to renegotiate our contract for 2022 without incurring any of the thousands of dollars in cancellation fees that the organization would have been responsible for if we chose to cancel and re-book somewhere else the following year. The Executive Board is exploring options for some kind of online information-sharing in place of the in-person 2021 meeting (webinars, virtual mini-meeting, etc.) and information will be shared as it becomes available. Be on the lookout for an online survey that will be distributed by Tim DuBois to gauge member preferences for meeting virtually in some form during the off-season. If you have comments or suggestions for how we can still share educational or operational content in a collaborative and safe way (from a distance), please feel free to email me or give me a call at 571.722.5716. We are open to all input!

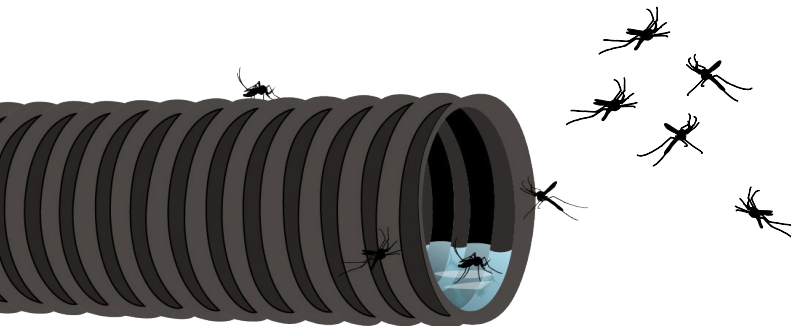
Sincerely,

Andy Lima

VMCA President, 2020



**ANDY LIMA**  
**2020 VMCA PRESIDENT**



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS CANDIDATES

VMCA's Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the 2021 VMCA executive board.

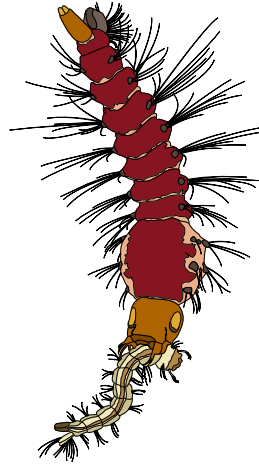
Are you or a VMCA member you know interested in being on the VMCA board? If so, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, LaToya White ([lnwhite@nnva.gov](mailto:lnwhite@nnva.gov)), with the name and contact information of your nomination. We are seeking nominations for the First Vice President position on the 2021 executive board. The member voted into the first vice president position typically moves up the ranks of the executive board each successive year; a five year commitment. VMCA needs the help of dedicated and enthusiastic individuals to keep our organization running great. Deadline for submissions will be November 1st, but the earlier we hear from you the better.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VMCA ORGANIZATIONAL MAILING ADDRESS

Virginia Mosquito Control Association  
 Jay Kiser, Secretary/Treasurer  
 800 Carolina Rd  
 Suffolk, VA 23434  
 Phone: (757) 514-7608  
 Email: [virginiamosquito@gmail.com](mailto:virginiamosquito@gmail.com)

YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR OR RENEW YOUR VMCA MEMBERSHIP ONLINE! VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND FILL OUT THE FORM [HERE](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tour de Skeeter** [Late Registration Deadline](#)  
 August 26, 2020

**Second Annual** [Tour de Skeeter](#)  
 August 29, 2020  
 Chesapeake, VA

**Entomology 2020** [Virtual Annual Meeting](#)  
 November 16-19, 2020

**NMCA 66th** [Annual Meeting](#)  
 Postponed until further notice  
 Hyannis, MA

**AMCA 87th** [Annual Conference](#)  
 March 1-5, 2021  
 Salt Lake City, UT

**NCMVCA** [Annual Meeting](#)  
 Postponed until further notice

**Student Poster Competition** TBA

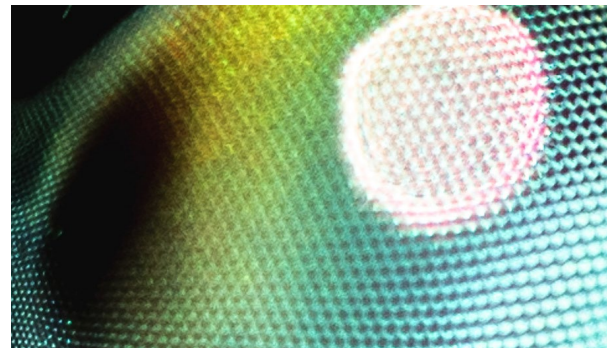
**VMCA 2021 Annual Meeting** Cancelled

**MAMCA 2021** [Annual Meeting](#) TBA

**SCMCA 2021** [Annual Meeting](#) TBA

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Announcements, What's That?	<a href="#">4</a>
Tour de Skeeter 2020	<a href="#">5</a>
Let's Get Social!	<a href="#">6</a>
2020 VMCA Committees	<a href="#">7</a>
VMCA Membership Renewal	<a href="#">8</a>
What's That? Answer	<a href="#">9</a>
2020 Sustaining Members	<a href="#">10</a>
Jurisdictions & Other Resources	<a href="#">11</a>
2020 Executive Board	<a href="#">12</a>



## WHAT'S THAT...?

Answer on [page 9](#)



# TOUR DE SKEETER 2020

(Written by Jay Kiser, Photos by Karen Akaratovic and Jay Kiser)

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were unable to kick off National Mosquito Control Awareness Week in June. However, with the lessened restrictions, Tour de Skeeter will be riding out again this year on August 29, 2020. This event will be taking place on the Virginia Capital Trail between Jamestown and Richmond. At noon, we will all meet up at Indian Fields Tavern right off the trail. At the tavern, the SCC will provide a collection of appetizers to participants while riders can purchase their own drinks and lunch.



2019 Tour de Skeeter group shot at the Indian Fields Tavern.



2019 Tour de Skeeter hangout session at Indian Fields after the morning ride.

## REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Full Registration is \$35 (August 7th deadline): Includes event packet (VMCA bag with t-shirt and other goodies, trail map and information card), light fare at the Indian Fields Tavern, and emergency support 1 hr +/- event time. Proceeds from registrations will go towards the VMCA Student Poster Competition and fundraising events. Come out and help support vector-borne research. [Register and pay online.](#)

The Virginia Capital Trail ([Map](#)) is a 52 mile paved trail that runs from Jamestown to Richmond Virginia. Before and after the tavern time, you can bike ride, jog, skateboard or walk on the trail as much or as little as you would like. Bring your families, join up with friends, or go solo. Last year, groups of bike riders met in Jamestown and Richmond to ride and meet up at the Tavern (roughly mile marker 22 on the trail). Another group met up at the tavern to ride locally. There are additional parking lots on the trail where people can meet up as well.

## MEETING LOCATION:

Indian Fields Tavern (12 - 4 PM)  
9220 John Tyler Memorial Highway  
(near mile marker 22)  
Charles City, VA 23030  
(804) 829-2200

Camping at Chickahominy Riverfront Park is a possibility the night before or night of the event. The park is located at mile 6.7 with over 120 campsites. If you are interested in camping and want to share a site, please email Jay Kiser ([Jkise005@Suffolkva.us](mailto:Jkise005@Suffolkva.us)).



Estimated look of 2020 Tour de Skeeter quick dry t-shirt.

# LET'S GET SOCIAL!

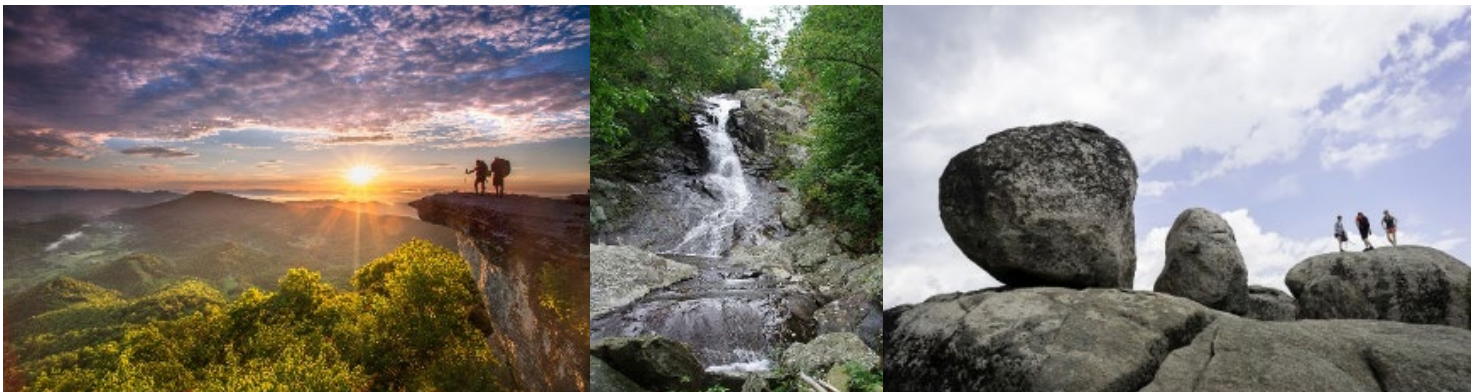
## TWO PROPOSED SOCIAL GROUPS WITH JAY KISER (PHOTOS BORROWED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES)

In times like these, many of us are in need of some social bonding. Why not get together with your fellow VMCA members where you can nerd-out discussing mosquitoes. Over the last few years, I have played with the idea of hosting events throughout the year where VMCA members can get together and network. Current recommendations for social distancing have put a damper on some of my ideas, but they have also brought new ones to light. I would like to start two new social groups where VMCA members can mingle yet remain safe with social distancing. If you are interested in either of these social clubs, please email me at [Jkiser@suffolkva.us](mailto:Jkiser@suffolkva.us). We don't need big numbers for either of these groups to take place, but the more the merrier.

**VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB:** A more informative title may be Virtual Peer Reviewed Journal Article Club, but that doesn't roll off the tongue as well. I was thinking one or two evenings a month, a group of us could get together (via GoToMeeting or Google Hangouts) and discuss a couple journal articles that we read during the previous weeks. We can take turns choosing the articles for the group to read. How many of you have said to yourself, "I really wish I took the time to read more mosquito journal articles?" Well, now is your chance.



**ADVENTURE CLUB:** This could start out as a hiking club, but move on to other adventurous activities if the group wants. Significant others and close friends are more than welcome to participate. I was thinking we could meet up one Saturday a month and do a day hike at one of Virginia's many great trails. We can start off with a moderate trail and see how the group does before choosing our next trail. Even though we will be physically coming together, we will be outside in the fresh air with lots of space to spread out. Our first adventure could be riding our bikes on the Capital Trail August 29th in the [Tour de Skeeter](#). Details can be found in this Skeeter edition. Don't forget to register.



# 2020 VMCA COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	CHAIR(S) 2020	MEMBERS (2020)	DUTIES/PROJECTS
<b>Annual Meeting (Local Arrangements)</b>	Charles Abadam	Ann Herring, Luz Grant, Josh Smith, Ryan Levering, Stephen Rehak	Decides location of future meetings
<b>Annual Meeting (Program/Agenda)</b>	Tim Dubois	Mitch Burcham, Eli Hosen, Andy Lima, John Orr	Organize Annual Meeting program
<b>Annual Meeting (Vendor Planning)</b>	Kurt Vandock	Ann Herring, Wes Robertson, Steve Molnar	Vendor correspondence/setup
<b>Audit</b>	Mitch Burcham	Daniel Sherwood, Penelope Smelser, Mike Bowery	Annual audit of financial record
<b>Bylaws</b>	Jay Kiser	Charles Abadam, Luz Grant, Daniel Sherwood, Eli Hosen, George Wojcik	Bylaw revision/maintenance
<b>Education</b>	Lisa Wagenbrenner	Ann Herring, Jennifer Barritt, Karen Akaratovic	Recertification, Adult ID course
<b>Elections</b>	Andy Lima	Penelope Smelser	Set up online voting, send out voter information, count votes, announce winners during annual business meeting
<b>Historian</b>	Tim DuBois	John Orr, Carla Caulkins, Ann Herring, Daniel Sherwood, Francisca Cantu, Amanda Byrd	Historical archive
<b>Hospitality Room</b>	Luz Grant	Darrell James, Charles Abadam, Tarik Phililps	Annual Meeting hospitality room
<b>Information/Social Media</b>	Karen Akaratovic, Rachel Kempf	Cassidy McKelvie, Katherine Reutt, Wes Robertson	The Skeeter, Facebook, Instagram
<b>Legislative</b>	Randy Buchanan	Randy Buchanan	NPDES, VPDES, PESP
<b>Membership</b>	Jay Kiser	Joshua Bernick, Tim DuBois, Ann Herring	Keep updated list of membership
<b>Merchandise</b>	Penelope Smelser	Katherine Reutt, Lisa Wagenbrenner, Ann Herring, Luz Grant, Daniel Sherwood, Francisca Cantu	Coordinating sales of merchandise for and during annual meeting
<b>Nominating</b>	LaToya White	Ann Herring	Find election candidates, prepare/gather profiles of nominees for ballots
<b>Photography</b>	Janice Pulver	Carla Caulkins, Andy Lima	Takes photos of VMCA-related events for website, The Skeeter, Facebook and Instagram
<b>Public Relations</b>	Ryan Levering	Wes Robertson, Ann Herring	Mosquito Awareness Week, Outreach/Education
<b>Special Awards</b>	Jennifer Barritt	LaToya White, Charles Abadam, Karen Akaratovic, Ann Herring, Phil Meekins, Darrell James	Annual Meeting awards--R.E. Dorer, Outstanding Service
<b>Student Competition</b>	Jay Kiser	Charles Abadam, Karen Akaratovic, Kaitlyn Price, John Orr, Ann Herring, Wes Robertson, Ryan Levering, Francisca Cantu, Dennis Salmen, Francis Valera, George Wojcik, Michael Rollins	Organize student research/poster project competition with an award to be given at the annual meeting, raise funds for award, judge entries for student competition
<b>Technical Support</b>	Charles Abadam	Cassidy McKelvie, Daniel Sherwood, Eli Hosen, Joshua Bernick, Ciro Monaco	Maintain/advise VMCA on hardware/software, operate AV setup during annual meeting, AV support for Executive Board meetings
<b>Website</b>	Karen Akaratovic	Karen Akaratovic	Maintain and revise website

**Virginia Mosquito Control Association**  
New Membership & Member Renewal Application

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ( ) RENEWAL ( ) NEW**

Mark an "X" in the appropriate box

NAME:	Regular \$15	
PHONE:	Associate \$10	
ADDRESS:	Student \$10*Enclose proof of student status	
EMAIL:		
ORGANIZATION:		
	Total Submitted	

Questions or comments can be directed to Jay Kiser, Secretary-Treasurer, 757-514-7608 or email to: [Virginiamosquito@gmail.com](mailto:Virginiamosquito@gmail.com).

The VMCA accepts cash, check, and credit card. Membership forms and payments are accepted on our website at [www.mosquito-va.org](http://www.mosquito-va.org).

**Jay Kiser**

VMCA Secretary-Treasurer  
800 Carolina Rd  
Suffolk, VA 23434  
757-514-7608 office phone  
757-923-2484 office fax

**Regular Member** - VMCA Newsletter, hold office, serve on committees, propose motions, vote, and participate in business meetings.

**Associate Member** - VMCA Newsletter, participate in business meetings.

**Student Member** - VMCA Newsletter, serve on committees and participate in business meetings. (Student must be enrolled as part-time or more in an accredited college or university. Student must produce valid College or University ID Card).

**Sustaining Member** - Exhibit space during the annual meeting and registration for one person. VMCA Newsletter, participation in commercial presentation session, listing in VMCA Newsletter and meeting program, listing on VMCA website.

Online submission form can be found [here](#)



# WHAT'S THAT? ANSWER

**That** is the eye of a male common blue dasher, *Pachydiplax longipennis*, a common resident of calm waters throughout North America and a stalwart devourer of mosquito larvae that dare to call the edges of biodiverse pond ecosystems home.

As the pandemic rages around the world I've found a particular kind of solace in my macro lens. Chasing shy and wary insects around and focusing on the steady breathing required to capture sharp detail on moving subjects mere inches from the lens has a way of transporting me to a calmer and smaller world.

Dragonflies are particularly challenging and rewarding subjects. They are remarkable insects. Their huge compound eyes can have up to 30,000 ommatidia and they have anywhere between 11 and 30 opsin genes (we have three), coding for all manner of color, UV and polarized light detection. They whiz around at incredible speeds, acrobatic aerial artists constantly divebombing, sparring, and courting each other at a dizzying pace. When I manage to sneak up to one and capture its brilliant iridescence in 1:1 detail, I can't help but feel a spark of pure joy.

-Submitted by Rachel Kempf



# 2020 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

The VMCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members for 2020. Without their generous contributions, much of what we do would not be possible. Please do not hesitate to contact them. They are here to help you!



Bayer Environmental Science



#### [ADAPCO, Inc](#)

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[tbean@myadapco.com](mailto:tbean@myadapco.com)

#### [Bayer Environmental Science](#)

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#### [Central Life Sciences](#)

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[joneill@central.com](mailto:joneill@central.com)

#### [Clarke](#)

Jeff Hottenstein  
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[jhottenstein@clarke.com](mailto:jhottenstein@clarke.com)

#### [Co-Diagnostics Inc](#)

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#### [Morrell Instruments Company, Inc.](#)

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[chatcher@morrellonline.com](mailto:chatcher@morrellonline.com)

#### [Summit Chemical Company](#)

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#### [Target Specialty Products](#)

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[steve.molnar@target-specialty.com](mailto:steve.molnar@target-specialty.com)

#### [UNIVAR USA, Inc.](#)

John Singletary  
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[john.singletary@veseris.com](mailto:john.singletary@veseris.com)

#### [Valent Biosciences Corp.](#)

Jim Andrews  
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[james.andrews@valent.com](mailto:james.andrews@valent.com)

# VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL JURISDICTIONS & OTHER RESOURCES

As a result of revisions to the VMCA By-Laws, the organizational member category was eliminated. In order to facilitate communication among mosquito control programs, jurisdictions with known mosquito and vector control programs are listed below. If there are other jurisdictions that should be listed, please submit them to the editor.

## Virginia Mosquito Control Jurisdictions

[Alexandria Health Department](#)

Boykins, Town of

[Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission](#)

[Chincoteague Mosquito Control](#)

[Fairfax County Health Department](#)

Fort Eustis

[Gloucester County Mosquito Control](#)

[Hampton Environmental Services](#)

[Henrico County](#)

[Newport News Vector Control](#)

[Norfolk Vector Control](#)

[Poquoson Mosquito and Drainage](#)

[Portsmouth Mosquito Control](#)

[Prince William County Mosquito & Forest Pest Management](#)

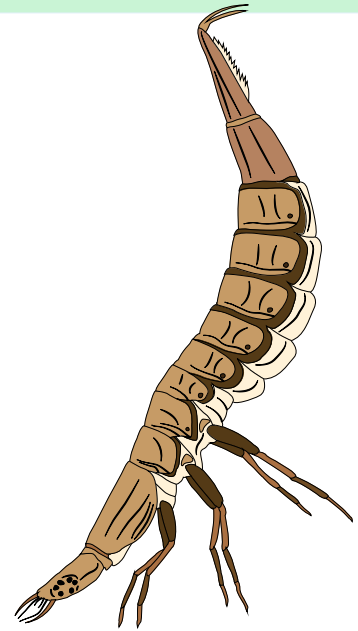
[Suffolk Mosquito Control](#)

US Air Force / Langley Air Force Base

[Virginia Beach Mosquito Control](#)

[Williamsburg Mosquito Control](#)

[York County Mosquito Control](#)



## Other Mosquito Control Organizations

[American Mosquito Control Association](#)

[Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association](#)

## Other Resources

[Virginia Department of Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

[Fairfax County Education and Outreach Materials](#)

# WANTED: SUBMISSIONS!

Do you have information you'd like to include in the next issue of The Skeeter or a photo you'd like to share? We are always looking for organizational updates, operational news, education and outreach activities, pictures, stories, and anything remotely vector-related to include in upcoming newsletters as well as on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Please send all items to the Skeeter editor, Rachel Kempf at [rkempf@pwcgov.org](mailto:rkempf@pwcgov.org)

**THE SKEETER**  
Newsletter of the  
Virginia Mosquito  
Control Association



**2020 Virginia Mosquito Control Association Executive Board**

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703-792-4694  
[rkempf@pwcgov.org](mailto:rkempf@pwcgov.org)



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**Katherine Reutt**

**Wes Robertson**

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[VMCA Executive Board](#)



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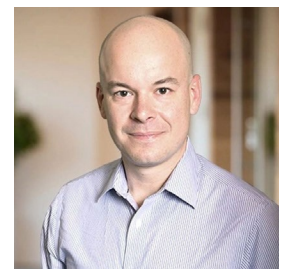
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[kurt.vandock@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.vandock@gmail.com)

\*Non-voting member of the Board

**Take the time to volunteer on a committee! An active membership makes for a stronger organization. Contact anyone on the Board to participate.**

The Skeeter is the official production of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association. The VMCA membership is encouraged to submit articles, reviews, and any other interesting facts or tidbits for publication. Submissions can be sent to Rachel Kempf at [rkempf@pwcgov.org](mailto:rkempf@pwcgov.org) or Karen Akaratovic at [kakaratovic@suffolkva.us](mailto:kakaratovic@suffolkva.us)