

THE SKEETER

VOL. 82, No. 1

2022 Spring Newsletter



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

President's Address

The 2022 Season is fast approaching, and although COVID-19 cases are decreasing and society is slowly returning to a state of “normalcy”, one word remains strong in our collective vocabulary: adaptability.

At the time of this address, some municipalities still have staff allocated to COVID-19 response. Several face financial and/or regulatory restrictions which impact their daily mosquito response capabilities. Some are still adjusting to working virtually. Others are modifying outreach programs through the use of innovative technologies to improve distance education opportunities. What ever the case, one thing remains clear, we have had to adapt.

VMCA's response to COVID-19 has been no different. While the VMCA board and membership had hoped that the first virtual VMCA conference in January of 2021 would be temporary, the 2022 conference demonstrated that a hybrid program may be necessary so long as COVID-19 looms in the shadows.

Despite this hybrid program, and a few bumps in the road along the way, the 2022 conference proved a success as updates were made to our bylaws, new elections were held, and important discussions were had regarding the state of mosquitoes (and other vectors). That said, we hope all attendees gleaned some beneficial information from the content provided. If you were not able to attend (or even if you did), please take the time to admire Karen Akaratovic's hard work, and dive into the [VMCA's official website](#) where you can find past presentations, legislative updates, executive board meeting schedules, special event information, merchandise for sale, and more. Also as you continue to read and navigate this issue and the website, please take a moment to send a quick congratulations to all our election winners. Finally, continue to check the website for developing information on the 2023 Annual Conference.

Thanks to all of you for all that you do and enjoy this edition of *The Skeeter*.

Wes Robertson, 2022 VMCA President



Announcements

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VMCA ORGANIZATIONAL MAILING ADDRESS

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WHAT'S ON THE COVER

A male *Culex restuans* (peep the dot!) rests on the edge of a larval dipping cup as a small twig juts out behind him; photograph captured by Janice Pulver, Biologist for York County Mosquito Control

WHAT'S THAT...?!



Answer on [page 22](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

You can sign up and renew your membership online! Visit our website to fill out the form and complete payment [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[VMCA Adult Mosquito ID Class](#)

May 9, 2022, Suffolk VA

[York County Bug Fest](#)

May 14, 2022, Yorktown, VA

[24th Annual Washington Conference](#)

May 17-18, 2022, Hilton Alexandria Old Town, Washington DC (Informational Call April 5, 11AM)

[VMCA Executive Board Meeting](#)

May 6, 2022, Virtual; [register here](#)

[National Mosquito Control Awareness Week](#)

June 19-25, 2022

[4th Annual Tour de Skeeter](#)

October 15, 2022, Virginia Capital Trail

[NCMVCA Conference](#)

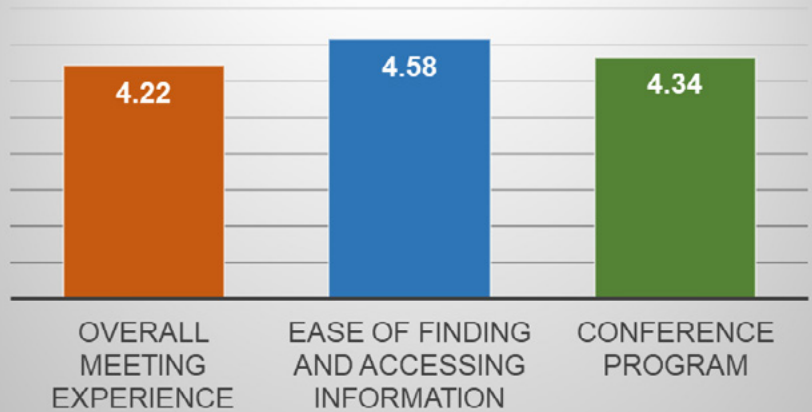
November 9-10, 2022, Greenville, NC

VMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

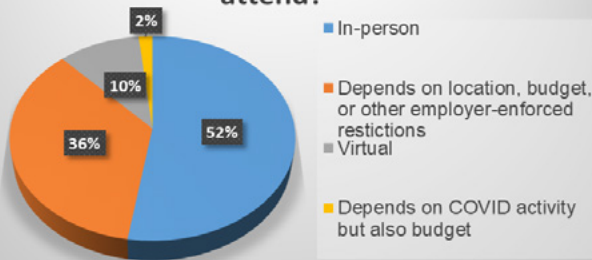
SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the VMCA annual meeting survey. We had a total of 59 responses to the survey this year. I encourage everyone to fill out the survey at the end of every meeting. Answering the surveys can help shape future meetings. Overall the annual conference received positive feedback. The bar graph at right shows the average of all the responses for conference logistics.

Conference Logistics

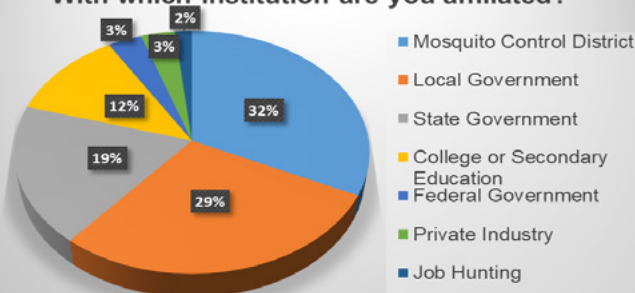


Which format of future VMCA conferences are you most likely to attend?

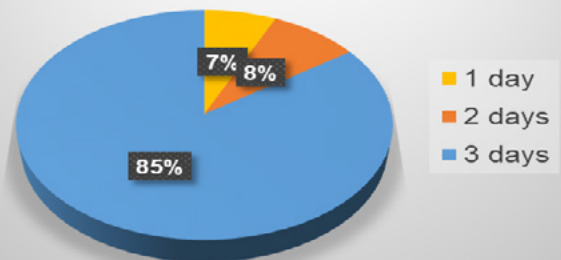


The majority of members would like to attend future meetings in-person. For some members it will depend on location and budget for them to be able to attend in-person. The majority of the conference attendees were from a Mosquito Control District (32%) or from a Local Government (29%).

With which institution are you affiliated?

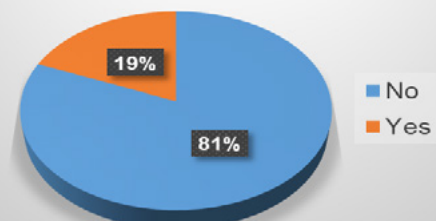


How many days did you attend?



Most attendees attended all three days and recertification was not a factor in attending. When asked "If you attended virtually, what was your overall experience using the GoToMeeting software?" 34 responses were N/A, 17 were satisfied, 3 were dissatisfied, and 5 answered other and mentioned the technical issues of the meeting.

Was recertification a main factor in attending?



VMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

SURVEY RESULTS

How could the meeting be improved?	Replies
Work out technical issues. Prepare better. Better communication between in-person and virtual	14
Nothing	7
Have more presentations on trapping techniques and other vectors	3
Presentations from different localities (limit duplicate speakers)	2
More breaks, perhaps every hour?	2
Different types of presentations other than mosquitoes and ticks	2
Provide more opportunities for discussions after presentations	1
Provide some kind of certificate for attending the meeting	1
Equipment demo	1
Too many tick presentations	1
Let in-person know anything you leave behind between days gets thrown out.	1
More membership involvement	1
Less/shorter sponsor presentations. More attendance from colleges	1
Have hands-on demonstrations	1
More information on mosquito control	1

We got 39 fill-in responses for how the meeting could be improved (see left).

It seems most people had issues with the technical difficulties and communication between virtual and in-person.

There were 31 responses for “How can the VMCA help support the type(s) of work that you do?” (see right).

How can the VMCA help support the type(s) of work you do?	Replies
Already doing it	8
Information and improvements to the day to day job at mosquito control	4
Continue offering annual conference to stay current on related research & maintain certification	2
Field trials	2
More educational opportunities throughout the year, offer more online presence	2
Training on multiple topics, research	2
Better vendor presentations	1
Continuing to exist	1
Continue having students present research projects	1
Help provide connections for joint projects from different regions of the commonwealth	1
Information about mosquitoes	1
Invite a representative of the DC Dept of Health to speak on mosquitoes in national parks	1
More career assistance and mentorship to help members that want to progress professionally	1
More public education (tip and toss and other methods of source reduction)	1
Morphological ID resources, larviciding best practices, online tutorials	1
Offer more categories for recertification	1
Stay on track	1

There were 28 fill-in answers for “Additional comments you’d like to share (positive or negative- both have the potential to help shape future meetings).” Most people felt that the conference was great and that they hope there is a virtual option for future meetings. Other answers mentioned the technical difficulties, but believe most of it was resolved by day two. Some other answers mentioned that they want a better diversity of topics; they want more than just mosquitoes and ticks.

I believe most attendees really enjoyed the meeting and were happy to have the option of in-person or virtual. The technical support committee really had their work cut out for them this year, but they made the meeting a success and we couldn’t have done it without them!

**Submitted by
First Vice President
Carla Caulkins**



VMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

“Some VMCA committees do excellent work with a dedicated committee chair willing to take on the majority of its responsibilities. Few committees elect to rely on the passion and drive of all its committee members as its foundation. **Since the creation of the Student Competition Committee in 2016, there have been several members that have gone above and beyond the call of duty.** Not only did most of these members help create this committee, but they continue to put in the hard work year after year to make it function smoothly. The SCC chair and all of VMCA would like to recognize and thank these volunteers for their service.

Karen Akaratovic (top left receiving award from 2021 VMCA President Tim DuBois) has been the right-hand-woman of this committee for 6 years. Always willing to take on new tasks and come up with fresh ideas to benefit the committee. She has spearheaded the Tour de Skeeter since its beginning in 2019 and sold more 50:50 raffle tickets than anyone...even with Francis trying his hardest. She has taken on many of the behind the scenes responsibilities and is always eager to respond to the chair's lengthy emails. Her devotion to the committee is enormously appreciated and it would not be the same without her.

Ann Herring (center left) has always been willing to jump in and take on whatever tasks are needed. Since the first year of the competition, she organized and directed the silent auction at the annual conference. Over the years, she has convinced the membership, vendors, and anyone else who was willing to listen, that they should donate incredible items to the auction...yet somehow she still ended up donating over half the items herself each year. During Tour de Skeeters, she always participated and volunteered her time as an emergency pickup driver. Even when she was not on the TMVCC board, she still organized 50:50 raffles at truck rodeos and oyster roasts. Ann has been a pleasure to work with and it will be sad to see her retire.

Wes Robertson and **Ryan Levering** (bottom left: Ryan left, Wes right) have been SCC judges for 6 and 4 years, respectively. Being a judge is no easy task, requiring time over the holiday season. Their tenacity and passion for higher education is commendable. Not only have they graded each of the posters submitted to the competition, but they made sure to keep the students engaged during the Q&A sessions at the conferences; making sure the students all felt the interest from our membership. During the conferences they both were always in the wing, waiting to help where they were needed. All their hard work over the years has been much appreciated, and we hope for many more.



Thank you, to each and every one of you.”-Jay Kiser

VMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY AWARDS

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD - RANDY BUCHANAN

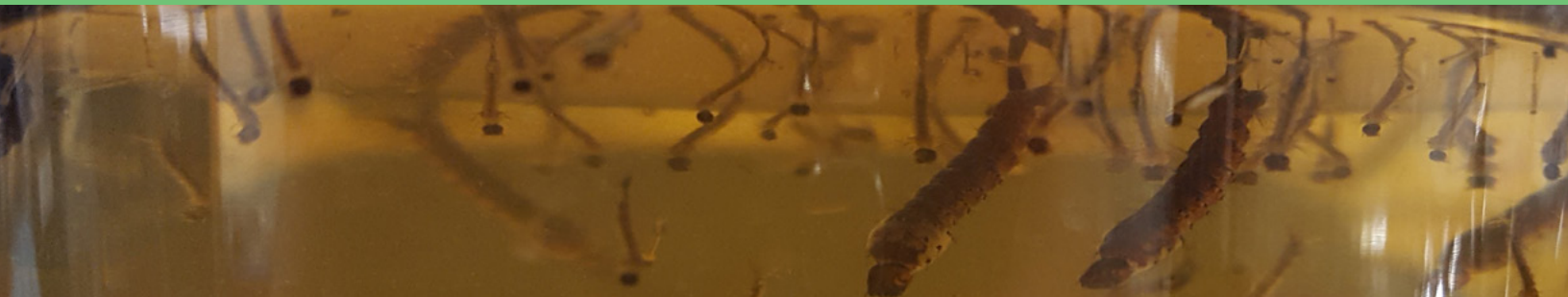


"It is with great pleasure that we nominate **Mr. Randy Buchanan** for consideration for the 2022 VMCA Honorary Membership Award. Randy has not just been a member of the organization since 2002-2003 but has continuously shown exemplary service through his active involvement and commitment to the principles that the Virginia Mosquito Control Association represents.

Randy has been the heart-and-soul of Henrico County's Standing Water Initiative for almost twenty years. He is a public servant dedicated to his staff, county residents, and the development and progression of mosquito education and management. His determined, yet calming, attitude has not only helped establish and grow Henrico's SWI program but assisted in bolstering the VMCA into its modern form. He has served as the organization's president in 2007, Outstanding Service Award recipient in 2011, and has been an active participant and advisor to a variety of committees and members each year demonstrating his commitment to service.

While Randy's VMCA story took place before Ryan and I joined the Standing Water Initiative, it cannot be overstated how influential he is as a boss, mentor, and friend. It would be our guess that each and every member of the association has experienced Randy's generosity, advice, wit, and "back-in my day" stories. All kidding aside, Randy's knowledge and wisdom is not only unparalleled, but reflective of his experience within the realm of public health and service. **He is always encouraging, supportive, and genuine, but above all else, he is truly one of the best people the VMCA has ever had enlisted in its membership.** Therefore, it is our opinion that there are few more deserving or better suited for honorary membership than him. Thank you, Randy, for your time, efforts, and humility."

Sincerely,
Wes Robertson and Ryan Levering



VMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY AWARDS

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD - MITCH BURCHAM



“To nominate someone for the Honorary Membership Award is a somewhat of a double-edged sword. On one side, it is a chance to give to someone an award that is well deserved, and a somewhat rare honor for the VMCA to bestow. On the other, you give it knowing that the person who has done so much for your organization is close to, or already retired, and that their work with the organization is coming to a close. Double-edged sword or not, there are few that deserve this award more than **Mitch Burcham** (pictured left receiving award from 2021 VMCA President Tim DuBois).

For over 20 years, Mitch has been a part of the VMCA, and not just a member, but an active participant in all aspects. He has served on multiple committees throughout the years, and was the president of the VMCA in 2003. Mitch volunteered multiple times to volunteer on the TMVCC board, especially when the group needed someone to fill in looking for future candidates; he assisted with recertifications and calibration rodeos. He has been a vital figure in the Hampton Roads area when communicating with military bases, and was a welcoming constant on the peninsula, which has seen quite a bit of rotation. Taking part in aerial spray missions for the peninsula and Portsmouth, **Mitch was always a source of information and never denied help whenever needed.**

It is an honor for me to nominate my friend, Mitch Burcham for the 2022 Honorary Membership Award, in hopes that maybe we could sucker him into showing up with his stories of times past, his knowledge, and maybe a few jokes here and there.”

-Tim DuBois

PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARD

2021 VMCA President **Tim DuBois** received the Presidential Plaque for his leadership of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association in 2021.

Tim will now continue serving on the board in 2022 as Past President. Shown at right, Tim (left) accepts the plaque from 2019 VMCA President LaToya White (right). Typically the plaque is presented by the incoming president, which would have been 2022 President Wes Robertson. However, Wes joined us virtually and was therefore unable to present the award.



Thank you, Tim, for your service to the VMCA!

VMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY BYLAWS UPDATE

During the 2022 VMCA Business meeting, the VMCA membership voted on two sets of proposed bylaws changes. **The first set of proposed changes was unanimously voted in favor of.** The proposal of changes included:

1. Better definitions for the terms "Annual Business Meeting," "Annual Conference," and "Board Meetings"
2. Outlining the creation of particular committees
3. Listing essential items for future ballots
4. Allowing a lag time in membership between the end of the fiscal year (December 31) and the start of the annual conference
5. Fixing of grammatical errors

The second set of proposed changes included the change of VMCA's name from Virginia Mosquito Control Association to Virginia Mosquito and Vector Control Association. **After much debate, this proposal was voted against.**

The current up-to-date set of bylaws can be found on the VMCA website at <https://mosquito-va.org/bylaws>

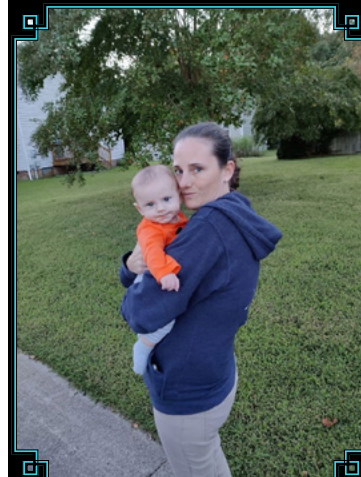
**Submitted by Bylaws Committee Chair
Jay Kiser**

VMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you all for attending the 2022 Annual VMCA Conference, virtual or in-person. There was a fantastic turn out, but we definitely still missed those that could not attend in-person. Either way, there was a fair turn-out as far as voting, and the following were voted into office: **For Vice President, membership elected Rachel Stradling from Alexandria** (pictured left); **for First Vice President, membership elected Carla Caulkins of Chesapeake** (pictured right); Jay Kiser remains on the board as Secretary/Treasurer; Kurt Vandock remains as the Industry Representative. Tim DuBois now moves into Past President, Wes Robertson moves into President, and Elizabeth Hodson moves into President Elect. See all the board members photos on the [back cover](#).

The Association is always eager to have new faces and fresh ideas on the executive board. If you are interested in running, please contact Tim DuBois at duboist@portsmouthva.gov

Submitted by Past President Tim DuBois

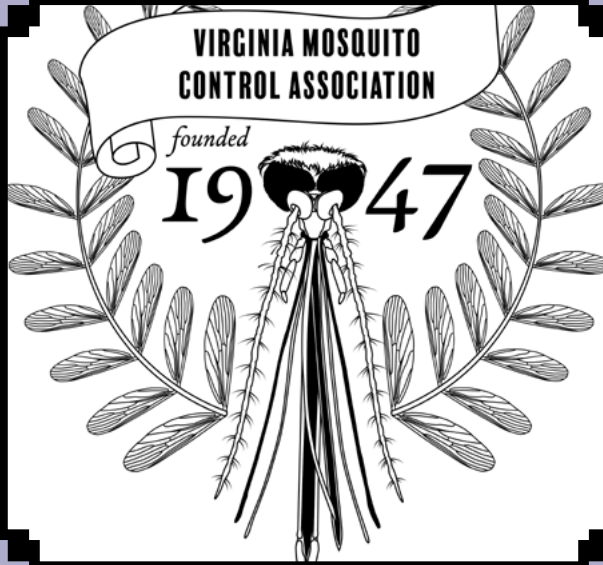


MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE REPORT

Greetings from the Merchandise Committee!

A highlight of every VMCA Annual Conference is checking out the latest VMCA branded shirts, mugs, bags, and decals and 2022 was no different. The Merchandise Committee was pleased to bring a new t-shirt, keychains, and decals to our members. Sales for 2022 came in just over \$2,000. The goal of the merchandise committee is not to turn a profit for the VMCA but instead to provide our members with fun swag to show pride in their profession. Merchandise sales are not just an annual

If you would like to take part in choosing the products for the next conference, please join the Merchandise Committee or simply send me your suggestions; we want to sell the things you want to buy!



If you have artwork you would like to share with the VMCA please submit it and you may find your design on the next VMCA t-shirt!

conference event; items can be bought anytime of the year. Items can be shipped, delivered, or picked up; we are happy to work out the best arrangement.

Please contact Merchandise Committee Chair Penelope Smelser at penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov if you are interested in making a purchase. The [VMCA website](#) shows all our current inventory. The designs found on our merchandise are frequently created by our own members and we are always looking for new and exciting designs.

Submitted by Merchandise Committee Chair Penelope Smelser

Quick Tip!



Paper wasps love those first warm days of spring just as much as we do! They can't wait to get those colonies going and will build their nests practically anywhere. Yes, that is a fairly large paper wasp nest in the fuel door of a truck (YIKES!). **Check any equipment that sits for a bit in the spring!**



STUDENT COMPETITION COMMITTEE REPORT

It was great to get back to some normalcy with an in-person conference this year. I was a little weary beforehand, but everything worked out really well. Like the rest of the conference, the student competition had an ample turnout: five posters were submitted with four from Virginia Tech and one from Roanoke College. From these five posters, there was a nice diversity of tick and mosquito topics. **The winner of the 2021-2022 poster competition was Rebecca Trimble**

(pictured top right receiving the Dr. Jorge Arias Student Competition award and \$500 check from President Tim DuBois) with a poster titled "Pathogen spillover into the Asian longhorned tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis* in Virginia." Rebecca and the two top runner-ups in the poster competition, Peter Schiff (pictured at right with fellow student, Lindsey Faw discussing their posters with Charles Abadam and Karen Akaratovic) and Melanie Turner, all gave in-person presentations during the conference.

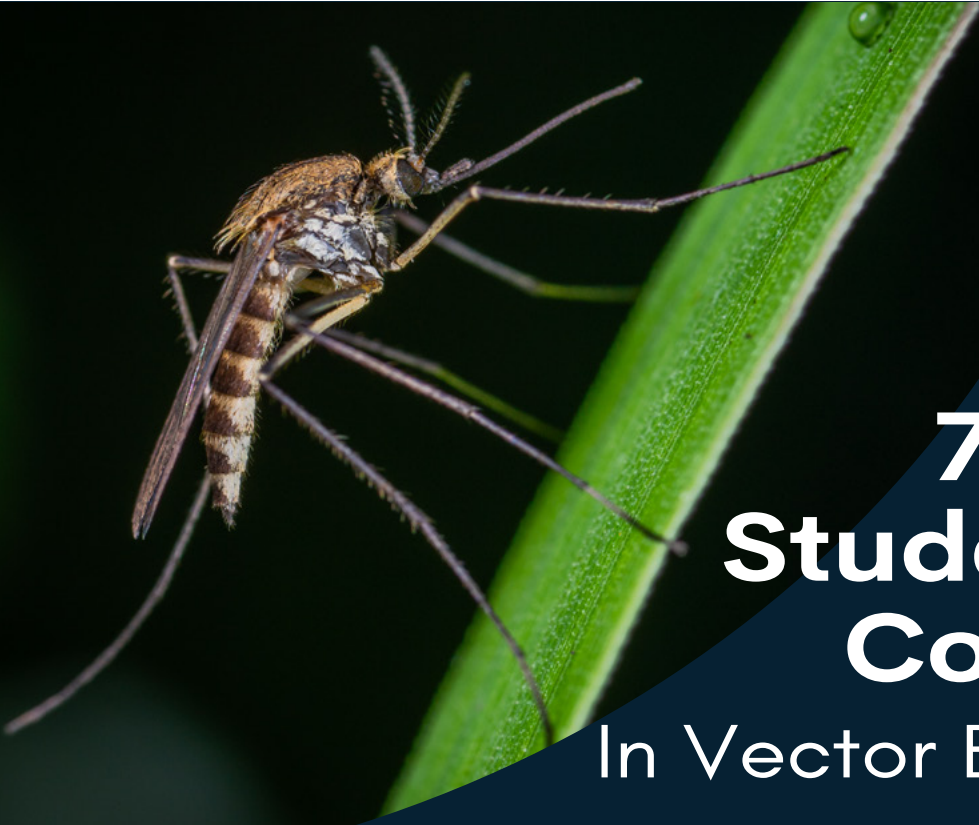
As usual, the student competition committee held several fundraising events during the 2022 VMCA Conference. Karen Akaratovic and Ann Herring **sold \$475 worth of 50:50 raffle tickets** throughout the conference. Jamie Durden (an unbiased non-participating conference attendee) drew the winning ticket that was owned by Karen Akaratovic. Karen donated a portion of her winnings back to the committee with **a total of \$337 raised for future competitions** (Karen with winnings pictured bottom right). Thank you to all that participated, and I hope we can all win next year.

Ann Herring spearheaded the silent auction during the 2022 conference. There were lots of great donations from our members that sparked people's interest; **27 items (pictured at right) were auctioned off and raised a total of \$737**. I would like to thank Adapco and Valent for sponsoring the final bidding event with appetizers. Thank you to Clarke, even though they were unable to sponsor the event, they still donated a generous array of items to be auctioned off. A huge thank you to all the VMCA members that donated items and bid on them. This is always an enjoyable event, and I hope everyone had as much fun as I did.

The SCC is planning a similar competition during 2022-2023 but with **a few big changes**. In order to raise participation in the competition itself, we are opening the submission process to students from colleges and universities in **Virginia and Virginia's neighboring states** (NC, TN, KY, WV, MD, and DC). We are also going to offer **monetary prizes to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place posters** (\$500, \$300, and \$200 respectively).

**-Article by Jay Kiser, SCC Chair
photography by Janice Pulver and TJ Carner**





7th Annual Student Poster Competition

In Vector Borne Sciences

*NOW INVITING STUDENTS FROM:
Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Maryland,
West Virginia and DC*

THE DETAILS



MUST BE ORIGINAL RESEARCH

In areas of vector borne sciences, IE: diseases, surveillance methods, pesticides, arthropod vectors, etc.



POSTER PRIZES

*1st Place: \$500
2nd Place: \$300
3rd Place: \$200*



VMCA CONFERENCE

Opportunity to present research at 2023 Annual Conference

More Info:



**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT:
December 2, 2022**

<https://mosquito-va.org/scc-poster-competition>

VMCA BOOK CLUB

It's been nearly one year since the VMCA Book Club first met during the spring of 2021. Resulting from the great pivot to virtual meetings due to Covid-19, getting together to nerd out on all-things Vector has never been easier! This month, Stephen Panossian (MD Dept. of Agriculture) chose **three papers that each focused on a different invasive mosquito species.**

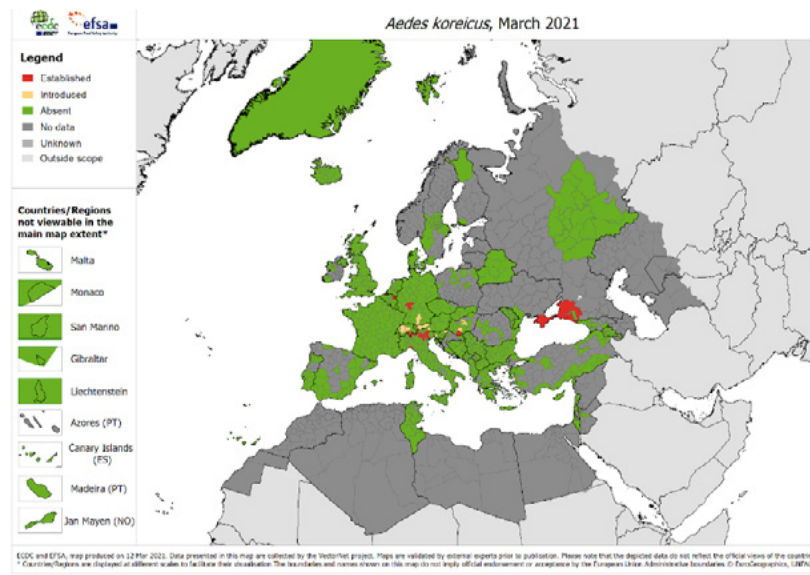
The first paper was an interesting account published by the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in 1980, documenting the presence of *Culiseta annulata* in Baltimore, MD. The paper discussed the ecology of this species (native to most of Europe, Middle Asia, and Northern Africa) and the mosquito's potential for establishing in North America. Obviously this never occurred, however; Stephen made a great point about how helpful it would be if there was a nationwide clearinghouse for reporting invasive species. **What happens when one of our localities comes across a potential invasive mosquito, and who do we report it to?**

Our second paper was a modelling study published by researchers at the University of Florida in collaboration with several mosquito control localities in Southern Florida. Using several geographical, climate, and species-specific variables, scientists created maps for areas most suitable for the establishment of *Aedes scapularis* (another invasive species native to much of South and Central America). They found that **coastal areas appear to be most suited for the establishment of this species.**

Finally, the group discussed a paper about the



vector competence of *Aedes koreicus* for arboviruses and a novel insect-specific virus. **This species is probably the most important for those of us in the mid-Atlantic to consider**, as it has demonstrated an innate ability to adapt and survive in similar conditions to *Aedes albopictus* (meaning just about anywhere!). Researchers found that *Aedes koreicus* can potentially transmit arboviruses



like Chikungunya and Zika viruses, although it does not appear to be a competent vector for West Nile virus. The group's main takeaway was to consider this mosquito's threat to establish itself in Virginia- what are its defining characteristics? What habitats does it occupy? Should it be added to a "Top 10 Most Wanted" invasive species list moving forward?

The group meets virtually on the first Monday of each month from 6-7pm. One person chooses two or three scientific articles to read and discuss during each Book Club. **Need a break from thinking about mosquitoes? Tired of ticks? Sift through a paper about kissing bugs for a change!** We've covered all sorts of topics, including bird feeders, repellants, genetics, GIS, and (Charles' favorite) scientific models! Obviously, mosquitoes and ticks remain the primary focus, but it's always fun to delve into something new. If you're interested in joining the email list, reach out to Jay Kiser at jkiser@suffolkva.us.

Submitted by Ryan Levering

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Each year at the annual meeting, VMCA recognizes individuals or a group of individuals who have contributed to making the VMCA the best it can be. The Awards Committee and VMCA Executive Board accept nominations of members and peers who deserve recognition. Please send your nominations and supporting documentation via email to Awards Committee Chair Jennifer Barritt (JBarritt@vbgov.com) by December 15th, 2022.

Award Descriptions

R.E. Dorer Award: The highest honor award that may be given to a very elite individual that has contributed much to VMCA. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the awards committee and will be brought to the executive board for unanimous approval.

Honorary Membership: An award that may be given to someone that has contributed to VMCA and may be near retirement. Nomination for this honor must be justified in writing and submitted to the executive board for review. The executive board shall be required to vote unanimously to confirm the honorary membership nominee.

Dr. Jorge Arias Student Competition Award: Award given to the winner of each year's student competition.

Dr. Bruce Harrison Mosquito Research Award: Award bestowed on an individual or group of individuals who have contributed greatly to the improvement of mosquito knowledge in or affecting the state of Virginia through the peer-reviewed publication of mosquito research and shown a dedication to the sharing of this knowledge through teaching and training; Written rationale for the nominations must be submitted to the executive board for unanimous approval.

Distinguished Service Award: Awarded for exceptional service with VMCA organizational work

Outstanding Service Award: Awarded for exceptional service in field work

Certificate of Appreciation: Award given to a non-member that did some special service for VMCA

For a list of past award recipients, check out the [Awards Page](#) on the VMCA website.

Quick Tip!

Lint rollers save lives.

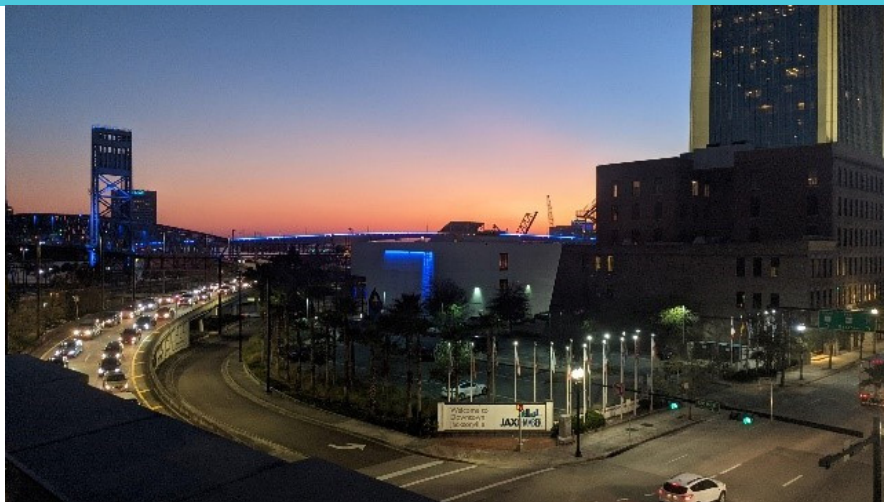
If you've ever had tick larvae crawling up your pants leg, you know the horror.

A couple quick swipes and all is well again. You can even easily save them this way and send them to Dr. Holly Gaff's lab at ODU to contribute to their ongoing research.

Protect yourself out there!

#PPE

AMCA 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY



Jacksonville from the vantage point of Cowford Chophouse's rooftop.

Since I started my career as a mosquito control biologist in 2008, I have been to almost every AMCA conference (only missing Reno, NV in 2008 and Kansas City, MO in 2018). With COVID-19 sweeping in, I was pretty disappointed to hear that the Portland, OR conference was cancelled in 2020 and the Salt Lake City, UT conference was virtual only in 2021. After two years without an in-person conference, I was itching to get back to some normalcy. **Normalcy that involves an entire week of nerding out with people that love mosquitoes/insects/biology as much as (if not more than) myself.** My hopes came to fruition; from February 28 to March 4, Jacksonville, FL was home to AMCA's 2022 in-person annual conference. Downtown Jacksonville was a beautiful location with the conference center located on the north shore of St. Johns River.

Attendance at the conference seemed a little lower than usual, especially the international attendance, but it felt like a pretty sizable crowd. The exhibitor hall had over 30 occupied booths, 30 posters on display, and lots of attendees schmoozing with one another. Tuesday through Thursday were packed with presentations. Some sessions had 5 conference rooms going at one time. I was obviously not able to attend all the presentations, but received my fill of the topics I came to see. As usual, Ary Faraji's lightning round seemed to be a fan favorite. This session was jam-packed with 3-minute-long presentations of all sorts of topics. At the end of the session, the audience's applause chose their favorite talk. Lawrence Reeves won for the second year in a row. His 2022 topic was titled "*Hesperus arizonicus*: A terrestrial rove beetle and underwater predator of mosquito larvae." In other sessions, I learned about the details of new surveillance methods, techniques/chemicals/equipment for better adult and larval mosquito control, and better ways to understand pesticide resistance testing. Even though I was not able to see every presentation in-person, **AMCA recorded them all and will post them for future viewing. Attendees will get to view the recordings for free and non-attendees will have the opportunity to pay for access to this content.** AMCA is currently working to get these recordings accessible. [Check for updates here.](#)

On Thursday afternoon, there was a field day setup in the large grassy space behind the conference center. Mosquito controls from all over Florida and nearby states, brought large equipment and outreach displays for conference goers to look at. I wasn't expecting to write this article when I attended the conference, so I didn't take too many photos throughout the week. **The field day on the other hand, was photo-worthy.** On [page 27](#) are several great ideas I saw and I would love to share them.

Submitted by Jay Kiser, CONT'D on [page 27](#)

ADVENTURE CLUB



L-R: Emma & David Gaines, Jay Kiser, Kaitlyn Price, Kristin Skees, Cassidy McKelvie, Matt Madariaga, & Loki

On March 19th, the eve of the Vernal Equinox, the VMCA Adventure Club made their **first excursion of the year to Humpback Rock**. The trail was settled nicely in the Blue Ridge Mountains and with Spring slowly peaking her head up, the weather was perfect for this time of year. It was a lovely 62°F with the sun shining and the wind blowing just enough to keep us from getting overly heated.

We chose to do the Humpback Rock loop, which we clocked at about 4.5 miles.

So around 10am, seven of us, and a canine companion, adventured to an elevation of 1,102 ft. The initial climb was steep but the views were incredibly rewarding. Once arriving at the top, we were met with a sharp jagged overlook with views of the mountains for miles. It was not overly crowded and we enjoyed our time spent there.

We hope to do an excursion like this one once a month, with our next one being April 23rd at Mount Pleasant, near Buena Vista, VA. If anyone is interested, please contact [Jay Kiser](#) for more information and to be put on the email list.

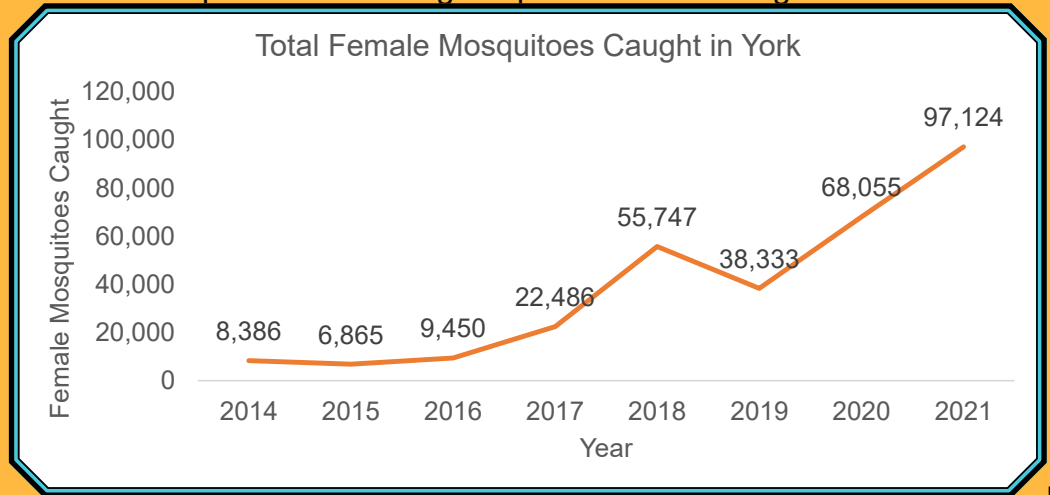
Submitted by Kaitlyn Price



COUNTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT: YORK

York County has made some considerable changes within the last five years. The biggest change is drastically increasing the amount we trap and it becoming the push to adulticiding efforts.

- ◇ 2017
 - » Pre 2017 to mid-season we had three monitoring sites
 - » Added more monitoring sites towards end of season
- ◇ 2018
 - » One week rotation, 37 sites
- ◇ 2020
 - » Two week rotation, 77 sites
 - » Retrapping initiated
- ◇ 2021
 - » 91 sites
- ◇ 2022
 - » Decreased to 81 sites



Operationally changing trapping to trigger adulticiding in itself decreased the amount we adulticide.

Further contributing to the decrease, retrapping based off thresholds made spraying efforts go through a second hurdle. If a retrap hits the threshold again, then the trap site area is put on the spray list. Surprisingly, a good amount of sites usually did not hit the threshold a second time.

Another contributing factor to the reduction in spraying is a 171% increase of citizens on our Spray Avoidance List

since 2017. Citizens on the list can opt out of spraying for a spray season, but must have their yard inspected for mosquito breeding habitats. This gives us a chance to inspect yards and form relationships with the local Beekeepers, Pollinator Gardeners, and those

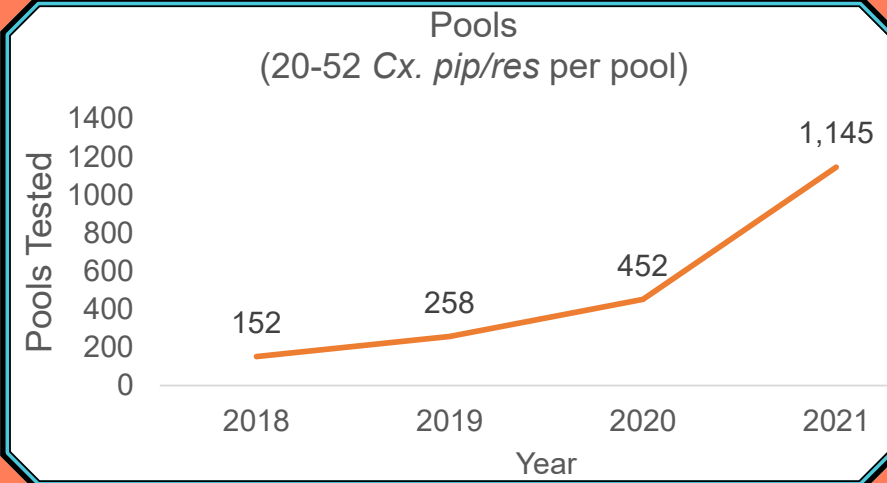
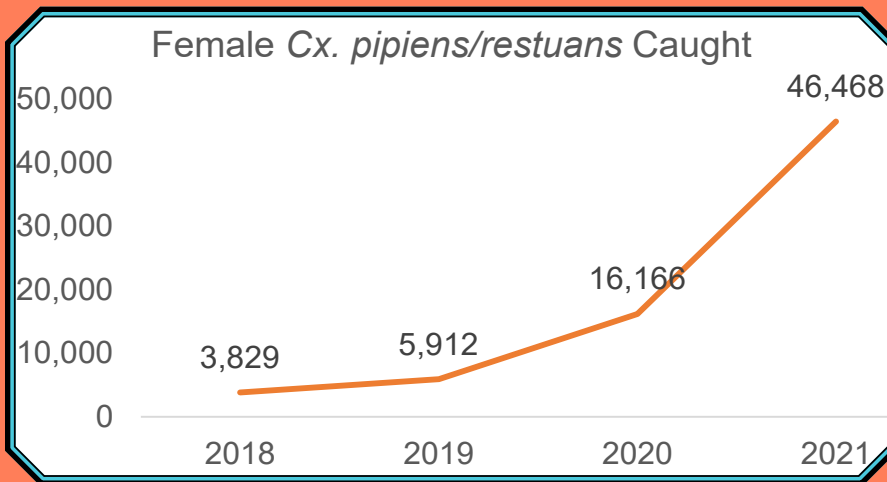
generally against Mosquito Control.

We now have a great relationship with these groups and often work with them in outreach efforts.

Pre 2018, we had 12 fog areas and made 44 new, smaller areas in 2020. The average drive time per fog area pre 2018 was four hours and now it is maybe 30 minutes to an hour. The idea was to focus in on the problem areas and, again, reduce the amount we spray. There has been an **88% decrease in acres treated from 2017 to 2020; 83% decrease from 2017 to 2021** and we hope to continue this trend.

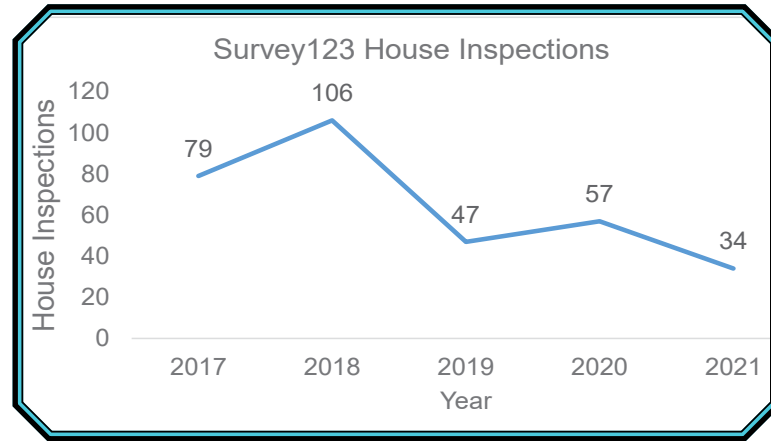
In 2018 we started testing for West Nile virus. As our trapping efforts increased, and I would say skill level, the number of *Culex pipiens/restuans* we caught and tested steadily increased year to year. After DCLS stopped testing secondary vectors, we

also have stopped due to budgetary constraints.



YORK COUNTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

We are seeing noticeable changes in our trapping numbers, spraying, and relationships with citizens that are **leaning more and more to anti-adulticide approaches to controlling mosquitoes.** With the reduction in spraying/stereotypical approach to Mosquito Control, are we getting fewer calls about mosquito annoyances? Based off of our yard inspections, we are actually getting less calls. Could this also be attributed to COVID-19? Possibly, but only **time will tell if the changes we have made are having a noticeable impact on the mosquito populations in York County.**



Submitted by Janice Pulver

MAMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

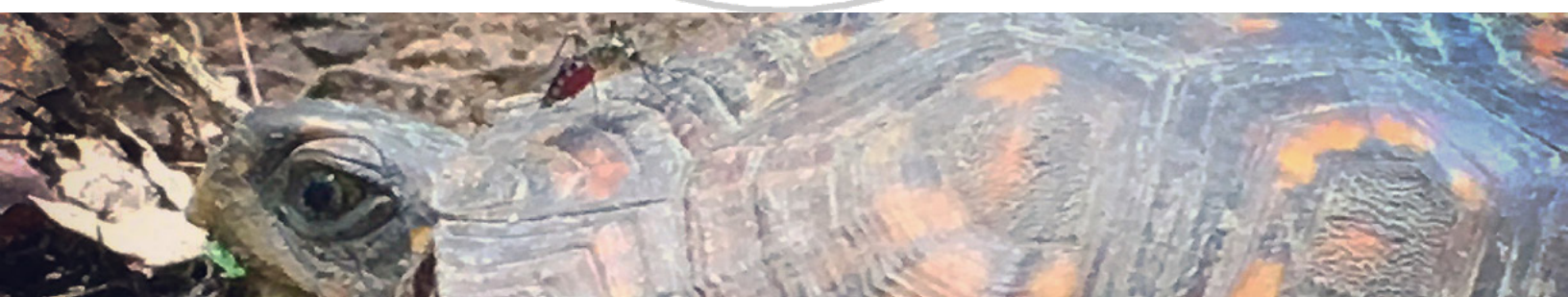
The **47th annual MAMCA Meeting** was scheduled for February 8th to the 10th in Rehoboth Beach, DE.; Delta and Omicron COVID variants had other ideas.

A few weeks before the meeting, the state of Delaware imposed another lockdown restricting state employee travel even within the state. This action required the board to pivot to cancel the in person meeting and reschedule a virtual meeting later in the month. The board worked with The Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (NEVBD) to host the virtual meeting on short notice. **NEVBD and the host state of Delaware did an outstanding job in creating an informative and impactful program.**

There were 129 attendees (2 R.E. Dorer award winners) and 9 sustaining members registered for the meeting. A wide variety of topics were presented upon, including: *Assessing the host blood feeding patterns among EEEV bridge vectors near the Great Dismal Swamp, VA* by Jamie Mangan from Cornell University; *Efficacy of a Buffalo Turbine and A1 Mist Sprayer for the Area-wide Deployment of Larvicide in an Urban Residential Setting* by Nick Indelicato from Mercer County NJ Mosquito Control Unit.

Mark your calendars and escape the cold - the next meeting is scheduled as a joint meeting with the GMCA and the Florida Fly-in, January 9th to the 13th, in Savannah, GA. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Virginia state MAMCA representative.

Submitted by MAMCA Representative
Jeff Hottenstein



FROM THE LORDS OF SMALL MATTERS

Updates for the VMCA Book of Guidelines for Board Members and Committees

Please take a look at your sections of this document. If anything needs to be updated or changed, **I would like to have your notes by September 1st.** I will update the document with any changes and the board will vote for its continuation. The up-to-date Book of Guidelines can be found on the [Bylaws page](#) of the VMCA website.

Benefits for VMCA Membership

Honorary members & RE Dorer Award Recipients,

you are now able to attend the VMCA Annual Conferences at no charge. During the 2022 Annual Business Meeting, a vote took place and with unanimous decision to give our membership's most respected individuals the honor of attending conferences for life.

If you are not an Honorary member or have not received the RE Dorer Award, don't worry, VMCA still cares about you and wants to see more of you.

All members are invited to participate in board meetings and the annual business meeting at no charge.

Executive Board Meetings are usually held once a month via GoToMeeting. A schedule of the next few can be found on the [News page](#) of the VMCA website (just scroll down to the calendar of upcoming events).

If you would like to receive a link to join, please email your request to VirginiaMosquito@gmail.com. As a member, you can join in on the discussions, express your opinions, and bring up important topics. Only voting board members can make motions and vote during executive board meetings.

If you are a VMCA member in good standing (paid your membership dues for that year), **you are invited to the annual business meeting whether you registered to the annual conference or not.**

If a virtual option is offered, you can request a code to enter the business meeting via GoToMeeting. Please note, if members did not register and fully pay for the annual conference, they will not be able to enter the conference hall until the business meeting begins.

Submitted by Bylaws Chair Jay Kiser

SOCIAL MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

CONNECT WITH US!

<https://mosquito-va.org/>

DID YOU KNOW?

Mosquitoes can lay their eggs in as little as an ounce of water

- TIP and TOSS containers after every rain and at least once a week
- Clean out clogged roof gutters
- Dump out standing water in birdbaths, flower pots, and old tires

Stay updated on vector control-related events, current mosquito topics, and plenty of educational/informational tools!

LET'S GET SOCIAL

Like our Facebook page, Virginia Mosquito Control Association & follow us on Instagram, @virginiamosquitocontrol

Did You Know?

There are almost 3,500 species of mosquitoes worldwide. Virginia only has 58 species!

www.mosquito-va.org

FOLLOW. LIKE. SHARE. REPEAT

ADULT MOSQUITO ID CLASS

**Returning
to in-person
instruction!**

Virginia Mosquito Control Association is holding its annual Adult Mosquito Identification Course on Monday, **May 9, 2022** at Suffolk Mosquito Control, 800 Carolina Road, Suffolk, Virginia 23434 in the administration building, training room 128. This will be a one-day event. The class will be conducted by VMCA's Education Committee and taught by local Virginia mosquito control biologists. While we aim to be as current and informative about our local (mainly Tidewater area) species as time allows, this class will not be strict taxonomy, but more of a practical training geared toward seasonal interns, summer part-time biology positions, or mosquito biologists new to the area.

Class size is limited to 30!

Attendees should have mosquito surveillance and/or identification in their job description and duties. New participants will take precedence over returning individuals; if space is available then others will be accepted. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided by VMCA. If you have dietary restrictions and/or would like to bring your own food, a refrigerator/freezer and microwave are available.

Sign-up is on a first-come basis so please sign up early!
Email your name and organization to Education Chair Jennifer Barritt at jbarritt@vbgov.com
by Friday, April 29th to register for this exciting opportunity.

Tentative Schedule

7-7:30 Equipment set-up and light refreshments (provided by VMCA -donuts, granola bars, coffee, water)
7:30-7:35 Welcome & Opening Remarks – TBD
7:35-8:30 General mosquito biology, traps, diseases – Mike Bowry, Hampton Mosquito Control
8:30-8:40 Dichotomous keys & other ID tools – Jay Kiser, Suffolk Mosquito Control
8:40-8:50 *Anopheles* genus – Katherine Reutt, Chesapeake Mosquito Control
8:50-9:00 *Culex* genus – Karen Akaratovic, Suffolk Mosquito Control
9:00-9:10 "Minor" genera (Cs, Cq, Or, Ur) – Janice Pulver, York County Mosquito Control
9:10-11:30 Identify An., Cx., and minor genera using microscopes and keys
11:30-12:00 Lunch (provided by VMCA) – pizza, water, soda
12:00-12:20 *Aedes* genus – Jay Kiser, Suffolk Mosquito Control
12:20-12:30 *Psorophora* genus – Penelope Smelser, Norfolk Vector Control
12:30-3:00 Identify Ae. and Ps. using microscopes and keys
3:00-3:30 Break down of equipment and room clean-up

Student Supply List

- » microscope with light source
- » Harrison et al. 2016 Mid-Atlantic Region ID Guide ([order form here](#))
- » forceps
- » petri dishes
- » notebook/pen/pencil
- » refillable coffee mug/tumbler (optional)

***If you are missing any supplies, please notify Jennifer when signing up**

Directions to the facility and more can be found on the [Adult Mosquito ID Course page](#) of the VMCA website.

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

VMCA's Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the 2023 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, Tim DuBois (duboist@portsmouthva.gov), with the name and contact information of your nomination. We are seeking nominations for the First Vice President position on the 2023 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.

Founded 1947

Mosquito Control Association

Submitted by Nominating Committee Chair Tim DuBois

BIOQUIP CLOSES



After 75 years of being a main supplier of equipment, supplies, and books for entomology and related sciences, "BioQuip Products" is closing down their operations. BioQuip, located in Rancho Dominguez, California, was a service to museums, universities, teachers, and members of the vector control community. Their final order date was March 31st, 2022.



That's all Folks!

PRODUCTS SINCE 1947

When a valuable company (that has been operating since 1947) ceases operations, a sense of uncertainty starts to spread. The company's owners were saddened to reach such a conclusion as this. The future of the products and the company itself remains uncertain.

BioQuip has made a lot of advancements possible and impacted the majority of the VMCA's members. On behalf of the VMCA, we would like to say, "Thank you, BioQuip" for a dedicated 75 years of service!



Submitted by Katherine Reutt



WHAT'S THAT? ANSWER

THAT is *Dirofilaria immitis*, also known as dog heartworm; a parasitic roundworm that is transmitted by the mosquito.

There are more than 70 species of mosquitoes that can act as a vector for heartworms.

In an infected animal, adult female heartworms release their offspring, called microfilariae, into the animal's bloodstream. A mosquito that bites the infected animal then ingests the heartworm larvae and it will mature within the mosquito. That mosquito is now capable of transmitting the microfilariae to another host, by taking a blood meal.

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially deadly disease for dogs and cats.



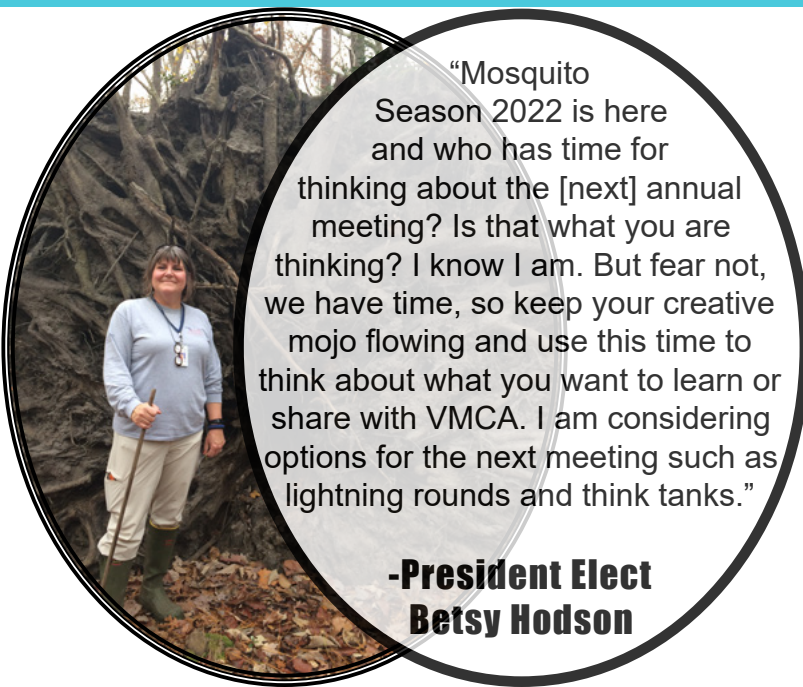
Mosquito control is an important control measure for the spread of heartworm disease, as the mosquito is an intermediate host. Fortunately, it is also preventable with regular and appropriate heartworm preventative medications. It is often treatable when detected soon enough within a canine.

As a reminder, please keep your dogs and cats updated on their heartworm preventative treatments

year-round and especially as we approach mosquito season. Ask your veterinarian for more information on preventative options for your pet.

Submitted by Katherine Reutt

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS



"Mosquito Season 2022 is here and who has time for thinking about the [next] annual meeting? Is that what you are thinking? I know I am. But fear not, we have time, so keep your creative mojo flowing and use this time to think about what you want to learn or share with VMCA. I am considering options for the next meeting such as lightning rounds and think tanks."

**-President Elect
Betsy Hodson**

It's never too early to start thinking about presentations at the VMCA Annual Conference!

The survey indicated some members want more presentations on trapping techniques and vectors other than mosquitoes and ticks; a couple people want to limit duplicate speakers.

VMCA members, YOU are the solution!

Do you deal with rodents, fleas, or other pests such as wasps, bed bugs, or snakes? Present about it!

Don't want duplicate speakers? Make sure at least ONE person from your jurisdiction signs up to give a talk each year. We all do things differently and it's great to learn new perspectives.

Please send presentation thoughts and ideas to:
President Elect Betsy Hodson
elizabeth.hodson@yorkcounty.gov
and keep an eye out for more details on forms and deadlines, coming soon!

SPRING 2023 LARVAL ID CLASS

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS WORK!

The VMCA board is currently talking about having a larval mosquito identification course in the spring of 2023. There are lots of things that need to be worked out before any details can be announced, but I want to send out a

Call for Larval Collections

In order to have all the specimens for the larval class, **VMCA needs your help to collect them.** I still have the specimens from the 2017 larval course, but it would be nice to have all **fresh larvae.** If you know how to ID larvae and you want to help collect, please email me at jkiser@suffolkva.us. We can discuss preservation techniques and share a checklist of species needed. If you would like to help collect but don't already know how to ID larvae you have collected, we can team you up with someone in your region that might be able to help.

Some species are found more abundantly in particular areas of Virginia, so it would be great if our members in those areas could help collect: *Aedes atropalpus* are found in **rock pools in northern and western VA**, *Aedes sollicitans* and *Aedes*



taeniorhynchus are found in and near **salt marshes along the coastline and tributaries**, *Aedes trivittatus* are found in **woodland pools in more northern and central Virginia**, and *Aedes sticticus* can be found along **riverbanks throughout the inner parts of the state.** There are also lots of hard-to-

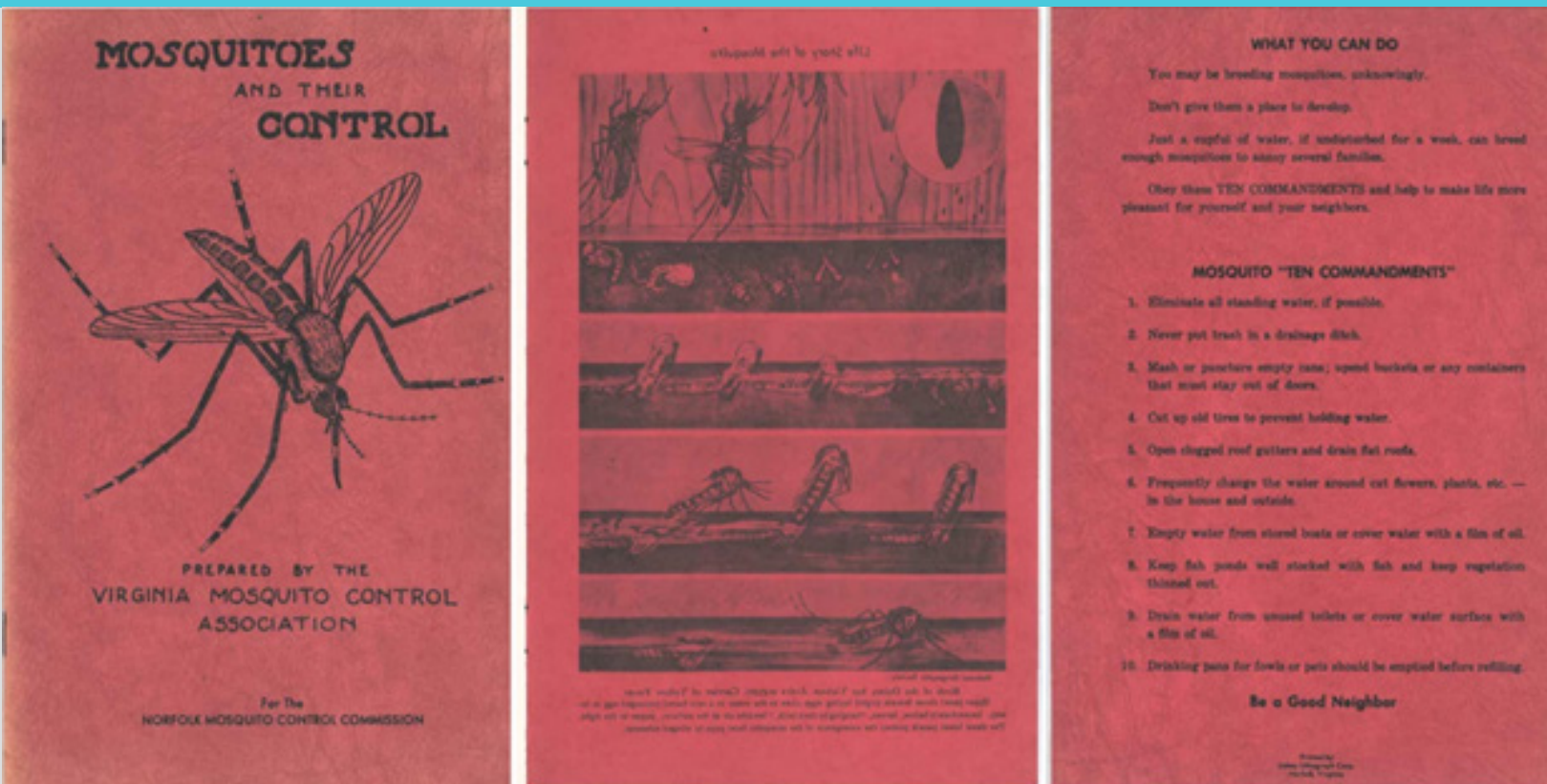
find species out there, so the more help from you all the better.

If there is interest, VMCA could possibly have a group of members or a committee that would maintain VMCA's collection of larvae and adults over time. This could be a great opportunity to take photographs of these specimens and their key morphological characteristics. The collection of photographs could then be set up on our website.

Submitted by Jay Kiser



HISTORICAL COMMITTEE FLASHBACK



In what seems to be the **first official publication of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association**, the Norfolk Mosquito Control Commission requested a small book on mosquito control.

This included brief descriptions of the mosquito's biology, disease potential, and methods of control for both commissions and private individuals. On the inside of the cover (above left) was a diagram of the life cycle for *Aedes aegypti* (above center). On the back of the booklet (right), was the "Ten Commandments" of Mosquito Control for citizens.

Seems the strongest educational points to the public haven't changed in quite a while.

**Submitted by Historical Committee Chair
Tim DuBois**

MOSQUITO "TEN COMMANDMENTS"

- 1. Eliminate all standing water, if possible.**
- 2. Never put trash in a drainage ditch.**
- 3. Mash or puncture empty cans; upend buckets or any containers that must stay out of doors.**
- 4. Cut up old tires to prevent holding water.**
- 5. Open clogged roof gutters and drain flat roofs.**
- 6. Frequently change the water around cut flowers, plants, etc. in the house and outside.**
- 7. Empty water from stored boats or cover water with a film of oil.**
- 8. Keep fish ponds well stocked with fish and keep vegetation thinned out.**
- 9. Drain water from unused toilets or cover water surface with a film of oil.**
- 10. Drinking pans for fowls or pets should be emptied before refilling.**

CLARKE PUBLIC HEALTH MOSQUITO CONTROL WORKSHOP

Clarke is offering several free mosquito control workshops to customers across the United States in 2022. All of the workshops are “designed specifically to help public health mosquito abatement professionals deliver better program results and earn Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) where applicable.” This was a great alternative to the annual VMCA pesticide applicators recertification course that normally takes place in Hampton, VA, as it was cancelled for 2022. The local Clarke workshop was held on March 30th, at the Newport News Marriott at City Center. There were a great number of attendees to the workshop from all over the state.

A delicious breakfast buffet was provided prior to the presentations starting. Topics covered included: integrated mosquito management (both larviciding and adulticiding); vector disease activity updates; trends and emerging practices; mosquito biology and habitat; surveillance; Resistance Management; community education and communications; pesticide safety and handling; and aligning public health with public preference. The workshop included various different speakers from Clarke and each presentation was very informative.

Thank you, Clarke!

Submitted by Katherine Reutt

Missed it? Find another upcoming workshop [here](#).

Quick Tip!

photography by Alex Riley
Suffolk Mosquito Control

Be on the lookout for turtles crossing the roads!

Mosquito season is here and that means so are lots of other animals! Spring means copulation for the snapping turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*, and many other species so they may be crossing roads to forage, searching for a mate, or a site to lay their eggs.

Put that reflective PPE and emergency light to good use and help them safely across!

DEQ TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW

25-800 - 2024 Amendment and Reissuance of the Existing General Permit Regulation Chapter 800

Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) General Permit Regulation for Discharges Resulting from the Application of Pesticides to Surface Waters

On April 15, 2022 Virginia Department of Environmental Quality hosted the first Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting for the reissuance of the VPDES Pesticide General Permit (PGP), which will occur in 2024.

VMCA Legislative Committee representatives attended this meeting. With this being the 2nd reissuance of this General Permit, the meeting was very uneventful and any changes now are mostly grammatical modifications to mirror the EPA permit wording more closely. In other words, no significant changes at this time.

Note, you should be familiar with this General Permit and understand the requirements.

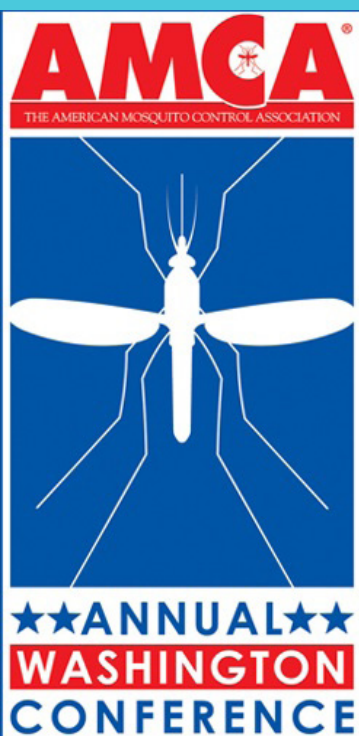
With that said, hats off to VDEQ and VDACS for their initial collaboration in implementing this non-funded, duplicative mandate from the Federal Government, in a way that reduces the burden on our effort to protect Public Health in Virginia and other associated industries.

If you are interested in learning more about VPDES Permits, “our” existing General Permit, or others please visit [this website](#).

“If you’re looking for something to do...join the Legislative Committee.” Unknown Author

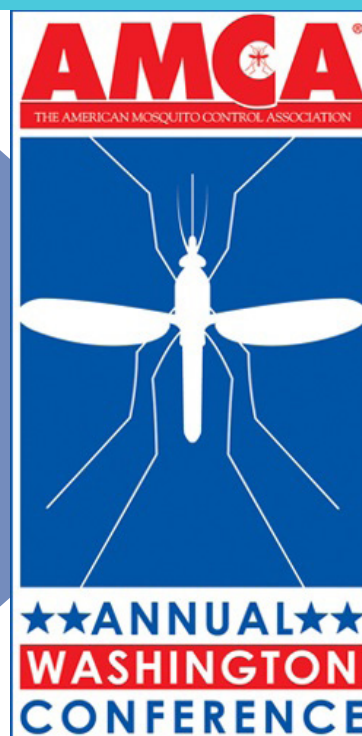
**Submitted by Randy Buchanan
Legislative Committee Chair**

**For more information, tools, and updates check out the
new [Legislative News page](#) on the VMCA website!**



AMCA's 24th Annual Washington Conference
is being held May 17-18 at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town. Join AMCA for the opportunity to educate key legislators and policy makers on the mosquito control industry, the work you do, and explain how their votes impact our districts and their constituents.
Registration closes May 5th! Register [online here!](#)

Submitted by Ryan Levering



AMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONTINUED (FROM PG 14)



Top left: BG Pro with counter is set up in a modified dog kennel. This can be used for 24/7 surveillance at particular locations in your jurisdiction, or you could set it up in a more public location for PR exposure and a conversation starter.

Display trailers: The first trailer (middle left) allows the public to walk up to the display and mosquito control crew can stay inside. The other trailer (bottom left) allows the public to walk inside to see displays.

Microscope displays are getting so much cheaper and less cumbersome these days. These small scopes are used to display specimens on TV monitors (top two right photos).



People love to see specimens up close, but you don't want them to break your equipment. **These novel ideas are the best of both worlds.**

Dead mosquito larvae are put into a vial or container with

hand sanitizer (right, second from bottom). This allows the larvae to remain suspended in 3-dimensional space. Bottom right is a kids toy (similar to the "Creature Peeper" sold on Amazon) where specimens inside can be viewed with magnified lenses from the top down or bottom up. It can hold small amounts of water (perfect for a close up of living larvae) or solid objects/insects.



CONT'D NEXT PAGE

AMCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONTINUED

Sprucin' up your outreach display with some of these ideas.



Lee County's box of **over 1,000,000 mosquitoes** (pictured left; salt marsh mosquitoes collected only **part** of a season). Container seemed very sturdy, which would be needed.

Have you ever pooted and felt some chunks slip through?

Mosquito scales can easily come through the thin cloth filters while aspirating. This HEPA filter attached to your pooter should do the trick (pictured right). I have never tried it, but I am eager to buy one from John Hock this season.



Submitted by Jay Kiser

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING



FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3 2023 RENO, NEVADA

VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL JURISDICTIONS & OTHER RESOURCES

Virginia mosquito control jurisdictions

- [Alexandria Health Department](#)
- [Boykins, Town of](#)
- [Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission](#)
- [Chincoteague Mosquito Control](#)
- [Fairfax County Health Department](#)
- [Gloucester County Mosquito Control](#)
- [Hampton Environmental Services](#)
- [Henrico County](#)
- [Joint Base Langley-Eustis](#)
- [Newport News Vector Control](#)
- [Norfolk Vector Control](#)
- [Poquoson Mosquito and Drainage](#)
- [Portsmouth Mosquito Control](#)
- [Prince William County Mosquito & Forest Pest Management](#)
- [Suffolk Mosquito Control](#)
- [Virginia Beach Mosquito Control](#)
- [Williamsburg Public Works](#)
- [York County Mosquito Control](#)

**Know of another jurisdiction
or resource to add?
Please submit them to the [Editor](#).**

Neighboring, regional, & national mosquito control organizations

- [American Mosquito Control Association](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association](#)
- [Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control](#)
- [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#)
- [New Jersey Mosquito Control Association](#)
- [North Carolina Mosquito and Vector Control Association](#)
- [Northeastern Mosquito Control Association](#)
- [South Carolina Mosquito Control Association](#)
- [Georgia Mosquito Control Association](#)
- [Florida Mosquito Control Association](#)

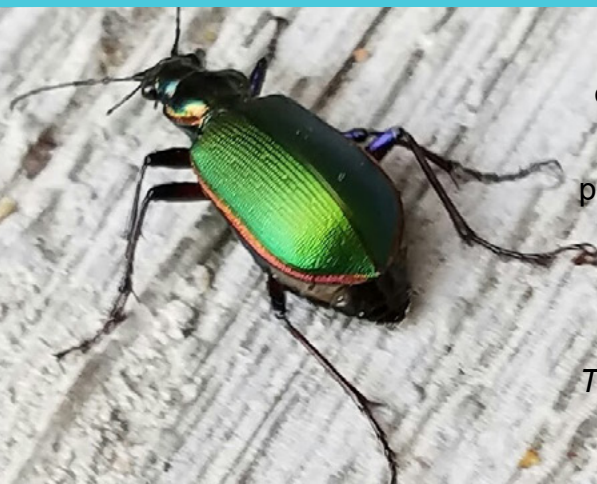
Other resources

- [Virginia Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)
- [Fairfax County Education and Outreach Materials](#)
- [Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases](#)
- [VMCA Employment Opportunities](#)
- [AMCA Career Center](#)

SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Do you have photos of mosquitoes or other insects?

Do you have information you'd like to share with membership?



The Information Committee is always on the hunt for organizational updates, operational news, experimental findings, education/outreach activities, pictures, stories...even the bloopers! If you have anything remotely vector-related and are willing to share it in an upcoming newsletter or on Facebook/Instagram, please send it in!! You can email *The Skeeter* Editor, Karen Akaratovic at kakaratovic@suffolkva.us or [submit online](#).

2022 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

The VMCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members for 2022. 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!



Adapco

Joe Iburg
(314) 541-1972

jiburg@myadapco.com



Bayer

Kurt Vandock
(919) 549-2226

kurt.vandock@bayer.com



Central Life Sciences

Jeff O'Neill
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joneill@central.com



Clarke

Jeff Hottenstein
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Co-Diagnostics

Chuck Berg
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c.berg@codiagnostics.com



Target

Steve Molnar
(470) 432-3134

steve.molnar@target-specialty.com



Valent

Jim Andrews
(910) 547-8070

james.andrews@valent.com



Veseris

Brock Verworn
(571) 296-6976

brock.verworn@veseris.com

2022 VMCA COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE NAME	CHAIRPERSON	CURRENT MEMBERS
Annual Meeting (Hospitality Room)	Ann Herring mherring@suffolkva.us	Jay Kiser
Annual Meeting (Local Arrangements)	Charles Abadam cabadam@suffolkva.us	Carla Caulkins, Ann Herring, Jay Kiser
Annual Meeting (Program/Agenda)	Elizabeth Hodson elizabeth.hodson@yorkcounty.gov	Carla Caulkins, Tim DuBois, Jay Kiser,
Annual Meeting (Vendor Planning)	Kurt Vandock kurt.vandock@bayer.com	
Audit	Penelope Smelser penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov	
Bylaws	Jay Kiser jkiser@suffolkva.us	Charles Abadam, George Wojcik
Education	Jennifer Barritt jbarritt@vbgov.com	Karen Akaratovic, Ann Herring, Katherine Reutt, Lisa Wagenbrenner
Elections	Wes Robertson rob106@henrico.us	
Historian	Tim DuBois duboist@portsmouthva.gov	Carla Caulkins
Information	Karen Akaratovic kakaratovic@suffolkva.us	Rachel Kempf, Jay Kiser, Ryan Levering, Kaitlyn Price, Katherine Reutt
Legislative	Randy Buchanan buc06@henrico.us	Ryan Levering
Membership	Jay Kiser	Karen Akaratovic
Merchandise	Penelope Smelser	Katherine Reutt
Nominating	Tim DuBois	
Photography	Terrell Carner carnerw@nnva.gov	Karen Akaratovic, Carla Caulkins, Alexandra Cumbie, Janice Pulver
Public Relations	Ann Herring	
Special Awards	Jennifer Barritt	Karen Akaratovic, Ann Herring
Student Competition	Jay Kiser	Karen Akaratovic, Alex Cumbie, Ann Herring, Ryan Levering, Kaitlyn Price, George Wojcik
Technical Support	Charles Abadam	Joshua Bernick, Kyle Girone, Janice Pulver
Website	Karen Akaratovic	Alexandra Cumbie

Take the time to volunteer on a committee! An active membership makes for a stronger organization. Contact the chairperson of any committee that interests you or any member of the [VMCA Executive Board](#) to participate. Read about the committees in the [VMCA Book of Guidelines](#).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

With both sadness and gratitude, we must announce that Rachel Stadling has resigned as VMCA Vice President. We sincerely thank her for her contribution in her time as a member of the executive board and wish her the best of luck and opportunities in her future endeavors. Rachel will remain a member and participant within the organization.

VMCA, as dictated by our bylaws, has appointed Carla Caulkins to transition from First Vice President to fulfilling the duties of Vice President. The board will attempt to fill the vacant First Vice President position in the upcoming weeks.

Therefore, I would like to announce the opportunity for anyone interested in actively participating on the VMCA board to send me a formal nomination request by May 3, 2022.

These will be reviewed and discussed at our May 6, 2022 board meeting. Since this nomination is for interim First Vice President, the position will formally reopen for membership voting this winter for the 2023 term year.

If anyone has questions about the transition or the organization, do not hesitate to reach out to the executive board. Please see the First Vice President description on the VMCA website, under the Bylaws section (<https://mosquito-va.org/bylaws>) if you are considering the position or are interested in nominating someone else for consideration.

Sincerely,

Wes Robertson
2022 VMCA President

**Nomination requests to:
VMCA President
Wes Robertson
rob106@henrico.us**

Register to attend the May 6th VMCA Executive Board meeting [here](#).



2022 VMCA EXECUTIVE BOARD

THE SKEETER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE
VIRGINIA MOSQUITO
CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Skeeter Production Team

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EDITORIAL REVIEW
VMCA Executive Board

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Past President
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President Elect
Elizabeth Hodson
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Vice President
Carla Caulkins
ccaulkins@cityofchesapeake.net

The VMCA board is addressing this and will update membership as details are available.

First Vice President
vacant



Secretary/Treasurer
Jay Kiser
jkiser@suffolkva.us



Industry Representative
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The Skeeter is the official publication of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association. The VMCA membership is encouraged to submit articles, reviews, photography, and any other interesting facts or tidbits for publication. Submissions can be sent to Karen Akaratovic: kakaratovic@suffolkva.us

