

The Skeeter

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION



VOLUME 84
FALL 2024
NUMBER III

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

HAPPY FALL, VMCA!

I hope everyone had a successful summer and can enjoy easing into off-season activities. As of the writing of this address, I'm looking forward to Tour de Skeeter on October 19th and I'd like to give a **shout-out to this year's sponsors: Azelis, Central Life Sciences, Clarke, Target, and Valent!** Although I always mourn the end of summer, the arrival of autumn has been a gentle transition in southeastern Virginia and we have been spared any major storms. My heart goes out to our neighbors in the south and west that are dealing with the devastation from Hurricane Helene.



Since my last address, there have been some changes on the VMCA Executive Board. In an email letter on September 20th, members were notified that Vice President Addison Weddle has resigned in order to focus on her academics and pursue a career in the medical field. We are grateful to Addie for her years of service to the organization and wish her all the best! With this news in mind at our September meeting, the VMCA Board voted to appoint First Vice President Janice Pulver to the position of vice president for the remainder of this year. Congratulations, Janice! The position of first vice president will remain vacant and be removed from the 2025 board (per member vote at the 2024 annual business meeting). If you have any questions about this transition, please review our [bylaws](#) or reach out to any member of the executive board. **If you are interested in joining the VMCA Board, please contact [Past President Carla Caulkins](#).** As Nominations Committee Chair, she is looking for two or more candidates to run for vice president and at least one candidate to run for secretary in the 2025 Election.

Registration is now open for the 2025 Joint Conference with MAMCA. Check out the article in this issue with more information and visit their [website](#) to register and make hotel reservations. VMCA's [conference page](#) will also be updated with information as we receive it. If you do not plan on attending the conference but wish to remain a VMCA member, you can renew your [membership online](#) at any time. This conference will host the 9th Annual Student Poster Competition which will expand eligibility to students from colleges and universities across the Mid-Atlantic States. **Submissions must be received by December 4, 2024.** More information can be found on the [SCC poster competition page](#). Please consider donating items to the Student Competition Committee's Annual Silent Auction where all proceeds benefit the student awards.

Now is the time to nominate your peers for one of VMCA's awards. Descriptions and nomination instructions are listed in detail on the [awards page](#). **Please submit your nominations to [Awards Committee Chair Jennifer Barritt](#) by December 15, 2024.**

Also, don't forget to submit photos and vote for your favorites in VMCA's 2nd Annual Photo Contest. Submissions must be received by December 31, 2024. Check out the [photo contest page](#) for details. Not attending the conference but need VDACS recertification credits? Registration is now open for the annual January Recertification Course. Deadline to register is January 13th; details and registration form are posted on the [website](#).

Finally, I want to thank all the committees and board members that are working hard to keep the VMCA running and to bring the best activities and materials to membership. **There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes and I sincerely appreciate everyone's contributions.** If you aren't already involved, please consider running for the board or joining a committee next year. In the meantime, member participation is greatly appreciated in any VMCA event, such as registering for the Tour de Skeeter, submitting to the Photo Contest, nominating peers for awards, providing specimens to Curations & Preservation, contributing articles to this newsletter, presenting at the annual conference, and voting in our elections.

I hope everyone enjoys this issue of *The Skeeter*, with many thanks going to the Information Committee and all article contributors!

All the best,
2024 VMCA President
Karen Akaratovic

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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SCC Poster Competition
Deadline December 4, 2024

NMCA Annual Conference
December 8 - 11, 2024

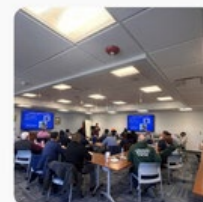
RECERTIFICATION COURSE
January 15, 2025

VMCA & MAMCA Joint Conference
Feb 4 - 6, 2025

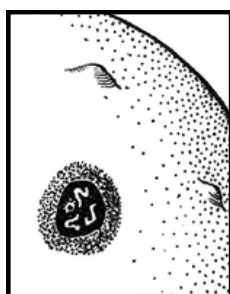
AMCA 2025 Annual Conference
March 3 - 7, 2025

JANUARY

15
2025

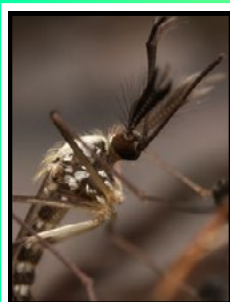


reminder: VMCA Recertification
Course



WHAT'S THAT?

FIND OUT WHAT
THIS SPOOKY
CREATURE IS ON
PAGE 8



WHAT'S ON THE COVER?

MALE *Aedes triseriatus*
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BEN
BURGUNDER FROM FRITZ
LAB, UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND



???

LOOK FAMILIAR?
CHECK OUT THE
HISTORICAL
FLASHBACK FOR
MORE INFO ON THE
LOGO!

2025 CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2025 JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION AND THE MID-ATLANTIC MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION.



VMCA 78th & MAMCA 50th Joint Annual Conference

February 4 - 6, 2025
Marriott at City Center
740 Town Center Drive
Newport News, VA 23606

Registering to the conference includes membership to both organizations for one year and there are several options, including full, one-day, student, and sustaining. There is an electronic form if paying via credit/debit, or documents to print and mail if you prefer. If you would like to register multiple attendees at once, there are instructions for that as well. **Register before January 17, 2025 to avoid the late fee!**

Hotel reservations are available at the group rate of \$110 plus hotel occupancy tax and day fee totaling \$17.50. **Rooms must be booked by January 13, 2025** after which time the group rate is not guaranteed.

Honorary members, the VMCA Board has voted to cover the cost of your registration. If you would like to take advantage of this option, please fill out the PDF or Word registration form that is posted on MAMCA's website and email it to Treasurer Jay Kiser at virginiamosquito@gmail.com by **January 10, 2025**. Jay will complete the payment and confirm your registration.



MAMCA Call for Presenters Form

For questions and to submit this form, please contact
President-Elect Jeff Hottenstein at
jhottenstein@clarke.com

Presenter Contact Information

Name: _____
Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Presentation Information

Presentation Title: _____
Author(s): _____
Presentation Length: _____

Please visit the MAMCA website (<https://www.mamca.org/annual-conference>) for the hotel reservation link, registration forms, and more.

VMCA will also keep its website updated with all the information you need for the upcoming conference. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Present your work at the upcoming MAMCA/VMCA Joint Conference! We invite proposals on topics in mosquito control, vector-borne disease, and public health innovations

For questions and to submit the presenters form, please contact Jeff Hottenstein at jhottenstein@clarke.com

2025 MAMCA/VMCA Joint Conference**Please Support, All Proceeds Benefit VMCA Student Poster Competition**

Silent Auction!

Please Donate Items

- New, gently used, or created
- Mosquito/insect/vector swag
- Artwork and crafts
- Gift cards or themed baskets
- Trinkets and doodads
- Anything that may peak the interest of your colleagues



**Final bidding on items will take place after presentations
on second day of the conference, February 5, 2025**

Please drop off items at conference registration desk by noon, February 4, 2025.

Newport News Marriott City Center

Contact Jkiser@suffolkva.us for more information

50/50 Raffle!



Tickets available at the Conference

- 1 ticket for \$1 or 6 tickets for \$5
- Winning ticket drawn at end of second day of conference
- Winner receives half of ticket sales

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS



We are currently seeking nominations for two positions within the Executive Board of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association. The executive structure consists of a President, Past President, President Elect, Vice President, Industry Representative, MAMCA Representative, TMVCC Representative, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations are needed for Vice President and Secretary. As a reminder, and to hopefully help with obtaining nominees, I have listed the duties of the positions currently accepting nominations for 2025. You can also find more details in the VMCA Guidelines on the Website.

The VMCA Vice President is responsible for actively participating in VMCA board meetings and the annual conference, assisting other board members as needed, and compiling the annual conference statistics via surveys, reports, and/or other means.

The VMCA Secretary is responsible for keeping the minutes at official functions and monthly Executive Board meetings. They are also responsible for presenting (usually in typed form) minutes prior to Executive meetings. Additionally, they work together with the board and members to ensure proper notices and emails are given and provided in accordance with the bylaws (serve as the primary VMCA contact/coordinator) on announcements, events, etc. The Secretary also maintains a list of current VMCA members.

If you, or someone you know is interested, please reach out to Carla Caulkins via email: ccaulkins@cityofchesapeake.net



Check out VMCA Merchandise here:

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

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Your artwork could be on "VMCA swag"

Share your creations for a chance
to be featured on the official
2025 VMCA Merchandise!

Submit your artwork to Merchandise Committee Chair:
Penny Smelser - penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov

VIRGINIA MOSQUITO
CONTROL ASSOCIATION'S

9th Annual Student Poster Competition

In Vector Borne Sciences

POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT VMCA/MAMCA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 4-6, 2025 AT
THE NEWPORT NEWS MARRIOTT CITY CENTER

Monetary Prizes

1st place \$500

2nd place \$300

3rd place \$200

University students
from the Mid-Atlantic
region are invited to
participate:

VA, DE, GA, KY, MD, NC,
PA, SC, TN, DC, and WV

Submission
deadline is

December 4, 2024

Posters must
display original
research



CALL FOR 2025 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 are currently accepting 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 15, 2024. Below is a list of VMCA awards and their descriptions. If you are interested in who has received awards in the past, the VMCA website has a page devoted to those individuals (<https://mosquito-va.org/awards>)

VMCA 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.
- **Honorary Membership:** Award that may be given to someone that has contributed to VMCA and may be near retirement.
- **Dr. Jorge Arias Student Competition Award:** Award given to the Winner of that year's VMCA student competition.
- **Student Competition Award:** Award is given to second and third place winners of the VMCA Student Competition
- **Dr. Bruce Harrison Mosquito Research Award:** This award is 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.
- **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 some non-member that did some special service for VMCA.

Submitted by: Jennifer Barritt
Awards Committee

WHAT'S THAT ANSWER

If you guessed a ghost, wrong!! But it is spookier than you would think. This 1947 illustration depicts a *Synthesiomyia nudisetia* larva. This fly is part of the order Diptera, which is known for causing myiasis, an infestation of larvae in and under the skin. Found in tropical and subtropical zones around the world, this species is particularly useful to forensic entomology and has been involved in forensic investigations in different countries.

Submitted by: Karen Akaratovic
Suffolk Mosquito Control



2025 PHOTO CONTEST

Brought to you by the Photo Contest Committee and Central Life Sciences

The Virginia Mosquito Control Association is happy to announce our **2nd Annual Photo Contest**.

We hope to pique your interest and engage your creativity as we seek to allow our membership (and all MAMCA members) to see things through the eyes of the many wonderful people who make up our organizations. Help us share in your experiences and have a little fun in the process. Thanks for your hard work and let's see those pictures!

Contact Photo Contest Committee Chair Wes Robertson with any questions.

Don't forget to check out the contest guidelines and complete the submission form [here](#).

Submission forms can be emailed directly to rob106@henrico.gov

VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE 2024/25

VMCA Photo Contest



Contest Submission Dates:
August 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

Brought to you by the Photo Contest Committee and
Central Life Sciences



BEST MACRO LENS PHOTO



BEST "LUDICROUS" PHOTO



BEST MOSQUITO OUTREACH
PHOTO



BEST RESEARCH PHOTO

HISTORICAL FLASHBACK

EIGHT DECADES OF THE SKEETER PART III

*presented by the
Historical Committee*

Fall! What's there to say. It's chilly! It comes every year! It happened in the eighties too!

It's a low-effort entry this time, folks, but I promise I'll make up for it in the winter.

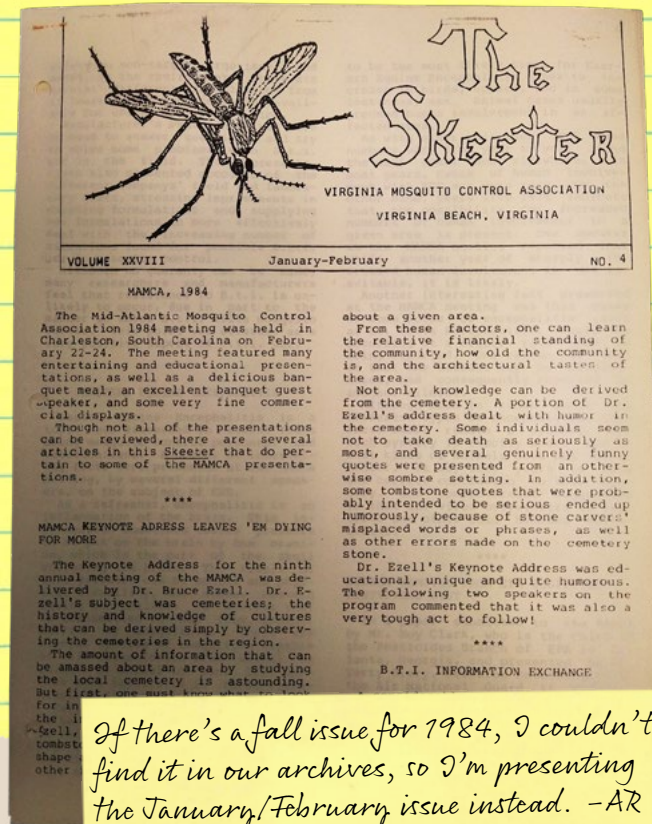
Fortunately, the '84 and '94 issues don't give me much to work with anyway. Off we go!

- Alex Riley, Historical Committee

VOL 28 NO 4: JAN-FEB, 1984

1984 marks the midpoint of our journey through the Skeeter's eight decades: it sits as far from the final years from World War II as it does from today. Though the digital age had begun a decade earlier and computers were already making their way into both the home and workplace, typewriters were still the dominant method of creating documents, and so '84's Skeeter looked much like it had since the late 40s.

The issue from the winter of that year (see the note to the right) ran the usual 3 pages and recapped that year's MAMCA meeting. The keynote address was, curiously, about the ethnographic information that can be extracted from cemeteries, and though it's not at all mosquito or vector related (or maybe because it isn't) it was apparently a huge success. The other topics are more typical: a talk on EEE, and another on Dibrom (also known as Naled). The two articles not about the MAMCA conference are fun: one is an appeal by a Leroy Bohn of the Washington Borough Mosquito Control Commission to switch from a standard file to a hand grinder, which feels very much in the spirit of the MCWA-era newsletter's swapping of tips and tricks. The other is a summary of an article in the Journal of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association—today called Wing Beats—about a larval light trap, which caught 18,500 larvae overnight in an experiment in Ghana.



The real star of this issue, though, is a newly registered pesticide known by the initials of the bacteria it contains: B.t.i.

Bti had been discovered and field tested the previous decade, with the EPA registering it in 1983. Much of the '84 MAMCA meeting was given over to discussing its amazing efficacy—the article notes that it might even be difficult (if not impossible) for mosquitoes to ever evolve any resistance. So far, 40 years on, that does seem to be the case.

VOL 54 NO 4: SEPTEMBER 1994

While 1984's Skeeter was untouched by the technological changes accumulating around it, by 1994's volume was entirely a product of the Information Age. Rather than photocopied from a typed page, it was composed in a word processor on a desktop computer—likely Microsoft Word itself, given the fonts used. The September issue is clearly a rush job (something this writer can relate to!), covering the front and back of only a single page. The three stories are taken directly from wire services, copied and pasted via another new invention: the Internet. The theme of the month is malaria, with the UPI cover story describing a recent anomalous outbreak in New Jersey and New York, and the two Reuters pieces on the back covering an invasion of “giant” malaria-bearing mosquitoes into Bangladesh. (Unfortunately, neither of the articles identify the species.)

The issue from April of that year is much more substantial, with a pair of what appear to be original page-long essays alongside a message from the VMCA president, the minutes of the 1994 VMCA meeting, and a

The Skeeter

Newsletter of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association September 1994 Vol 54 #4

Malaria Outbreak in New York and New Jersey

New York, July 7 (UPI) - "Five cases of malaria from local mosquitoes in New York and New Jersey over the last three years constitute the only outbreak of its kind in an urban area since the disease was eradicated in the 1950's," federal health officials said Thursday.

Three cases in the New York borough of Queens were diagnosed in August 1993, in the middle of a heat wave that may have caused an increase in the kind of mosquito that carries and transmits the malaria parasites. These parasites are transmitted through the blood and can be life-threatening in some forms. "The victims, all of which have recovered live in the same neighborhood and were infected with the same strain of malaria," said Zucker, who investigated the New York cases.

"Almost all malaria cases reported in the United States are caused by mosquito bites received when traveling in other countries," said Jane Zucker of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. "Any cases of malaria acquired domestically have come from rural Southern California," she said. "This is an extremely unusual event," Zucker said. "In an urban area, it never happens."

Of the three Queens victims, only one had been to an area where malaria is common within the last two years, but exhibited no symptoms of the disease.

The other two cases occurred in New Jersey in September 1991, and were the subject of a report in the New England Journal of Medicine. Both individuals, a 29 year old woman in South Jersey and an 8 year old boy in North Jersey, were also infected with the same strain, according to the Journal's findings.

In both states, health officials conducted surveillance after the reports. In New Jersey they found the species *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*, which is the only species that can carry malaria. But they found no mosquitoes that were infected with the disease, the Journal said. In New York, no *Anopheles* were found at all. City Health Department representative Steve Matthews indicated that it is possible that the mosquitoes were there but left before the tests were conducted since it took several weeks to diagnose and report the cases.

Both federal and city officials stressed that five cases do not mean any increased risk of contracting the disease. "There were no other cases but those three (in New York), and there have been no other cases this season," Matthews said. "There's no reason to worry unless you have a high fever accompanied by sweats."

Virginia Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting
February 8,9,10 Williamsburg, Virginia.

ABOVE: *The Skeeter* Vol 54 No 4. From VMCA archives.

PREVIOUS PAGE: *The Skeeter* Vol 28 No 4. Also from VMCA archives.

LEFT: *The Skeeter* Vol 54 No 2. From, you guessed it. VMCA archives.

few other bits of news. The theme of the issue appears to be “scientific hubris”: both of the essays are about well-intentioned researchers whose efforts to breed a better bug ended in the disastrous introduction of a novel pest to the Western Hemisphere. The first essay is about “killer bees,” which anyone who was a child during the 90s might recall ranked up there with booby-trapped Halloween candy on the list of Things Your Parents Were Very Concerned About. The second essay is about spongy (or gypsy) moths.

Going by his biography on the VMCA's website, R.E. Dorer would have retired around this time, likely one of the final figures from the VMCA's founding. Certainly, none of them are visible on the list of officers included in the April issue. In their place are names more familiar to many who are active with the VMCA today.

Sorry for the brevity! Next issue we bring the Skeeter into the current century, with issues from 2004 and 2014.
— Alex

The Skeeter

Newsletter of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association April 1994 Volume 54 Number 2

Imported Pests!

Warwick Kerr and the Brazilian Killer Bees

Geneticist Warwick Kerr was a highly respected university researcher who was interested in breeding a better honeybee. Around 1955, a research project was designed by Dr. Kerr and several associates to attempt genetic improvements in the honeybee industry. Eventually called out as a foreign-aid effort, this study was a joint project of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture. Unfortunately, in 1957 his project went wrong, causing a sequence of events which had very significant foreign-relations and environmental consequences.

The honeybee *Apis mellifera* is not a native of this hemisphere, being imported from Europe during colonial days. Those honeybees that found their way into Brazil's fledgling beekeeping industry were from temperate climates and for a number of reasons did not produce as much honey in the tropics. Dr. Kerr and his associates apparently felt that by breeding the temperate European honeybees with the tropical African honeybee *Apis mellifera adansonii* the best traits of both races of bees might produce a more productive honeybee.

The Brazilian agriculture authorities agreed and in 1956 the first of several shipments of African honeybees were sent from South Africa to Sao Paulo, Brazil to begin these experiments. At first these importations were in the form of five honeybee queens. Later importations were of some of these queens were then intermated into Brazilian queens using the latest technology at the time, the Laidlaw Interbreeding Device. During these later experiments, African honeybee semen was also imported to USDA laboratories in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and spermated into their local honeybees by one of Dr. Kerr's associates, Steven Taber. Some of these bees also got loose, but apparently the Africanized bees didn't survive in the Louisiana countryside.

In Sao Paulo things didn't work out as planned. The *adansonii* crosses tended to swarm frequently, had smaller colony size and were very ill-tempered. Faced with a project that wasn't working, interests and funding went into more productive areas of inquiry. The colonies of African bees produced under Dr. Kerr's direction were then relegated to an unused part of the bee yard and pretty much neglected, until one day when a technician inspecting the colonies did not replace excluders which kept the Africanized hybrid queens confined to the hive. These bees then swarmed into the local countryside, spreading outward from Sao Paulo at a rate of about 200 miles each year.

The problem became evident when the first word of stinging incidents began. At first, reports told of animals being attacked, then humans. After the first few human deaths the Brazilian press became involved. The world's media then had a hey-day at Dr. Kerr's expense, essentially sending his many confidantes and reputation to academia's trash bin. Although efforts at eradication were made the Africanized bees expanded their range steadily, and in 1969 had spread to Argentina and 1973 to Venezuela; by 1993 reports had surfaced that isolated swarms of Africanized honeybees were being found in the United States, having crossed Panama and spread through Mexico.

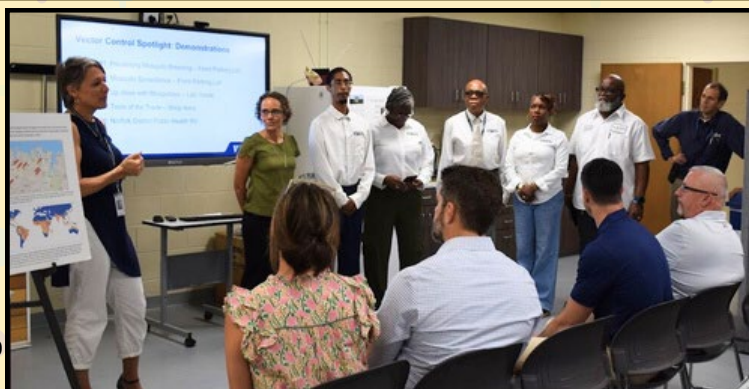
So far many people have been stung to death and many millions of dollars lost. The beekeeping industry in affected areas hasn't been the same since, and Dr. Kerr's experiments have been written into history as a profound embarrassment to foreign relations and modern genetics. The bees he created now also carry his name: *Apis mellifera adansonii* (Kerr).

For those of us who must control various insect pestilence the Africanized honeybee may one day be added to our list of responsibilities, just as many Latin American firefighters are now charged with fighting fires and killing bees. Fortunately, there is a possibility that Dr. Kerr's bees don't remember well, and this might well work to our advantage if these insects find their way this far north. Time will tell.

NORFOLK'S VECTOR CONTROL HOSTS STATE BOARD

This summer, the Virginia State Board of Health visited Hampton Roads for its June board meeting. On June 12, 2024, the State Health Commissioner and Board of Health visited the Norfolk Health District's Division of Vector Control; the meeting format was combination of presentations and hands-on demonstration stations highlighting each step of our mosquito control program, including an overview of mosquito biology, mosquito arboviral surveillance, and control. A recurring theme of the day was the unique

public health challenge of Norfolk's position as a coastal city- from the perspective of past, present, and future. Norman Grefe, Environmental Health Manager, and Penelope Smelser, Environmental Health Supervisor, presented on topics ranging from the 1855 Yellow Fever epidemic in Norfolk and Portsmouth, and emerging concerns such as the impact of sea-level rise on mosquito control in a coastal city, invasive species- the collection of *Aedes aegypti* in Norfolk in 2023 and 2024, and the ongoing challenge of insecticidal resistance. The Board's visit concluded with a field trip to one of Norfolk mass graves/memorials dating from the 1855 Yellow Fever Epidemic, a somber reminder the historical public health challenge presented at the boundary of land and sea at a time when scientific understanding of disease transmission was limited. The Board's visit was an **opportunity to showcase the important work of mosquito control today**, as well as current and future challenges in a changing world.



Dr. Susan Grois, Norfolk Health District Director, speaking to the Board and flanked by Norfolk's Vector Control team.



Mosquito surveillance demonstration tent.



Penelope Smelser presenting to the Board of Health.

Submitted by: Norman Grefe
Norfolk Vector Control

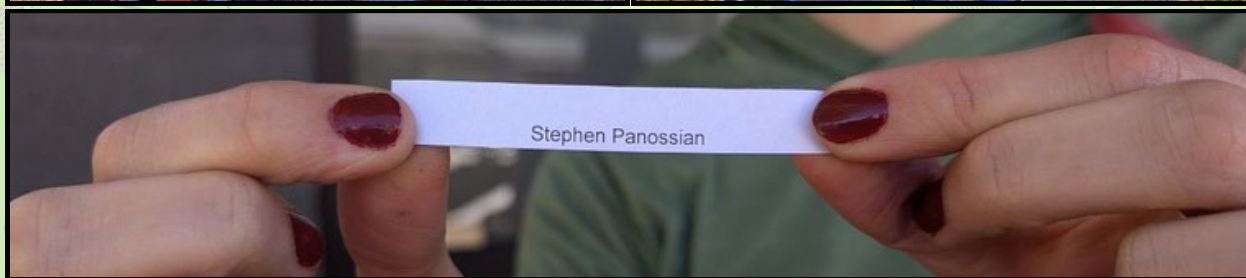
2024 TOUR DE SKEETER

VMCA's Student Competition Committee (SCC) hosted its 6th annual Tour de Skeeter (TdS) fundraising event on Saturday, October 19, 2024. We had a great turnout with 28 registered participants and 5 sponsorships from VMCA sustaining members. **After all expenses were paid, SCC raised over \$750 for our student competition/prizes. This is what it's all about!**

Saturday morning started off pretty chilly, with a sunrise temperature of 45 degrees. For those of us that road our bikes in the early hours, we definitely had a brisk ride. As the day went on, it became a beautiful sunny day with a high of 74 degrees. People entered the Capital Trail from different locations and enjoyed their walks and/or rides along the autumn leaves. At noon, everyone started to congregate at Indian Fields Tavern (IFT) for some drinks, pizza, and hanging out. Over the years, IFT has really stepped up their location with a brewery tasting room, permanent food truck, and two stages for live music. TdS participants enjoyed themselves in the brewery courtyard and gorged on the refreshments.



2024 Tour de Skeeter participants in front of the Indian Fields Tavern brewery stage.



(On top left) The group is hanging out in the brewery courtyard with live music playing nearby. (On top right) Karen Akaratovic's family is enjoying the Capital Trail. (On bottom) Stephen Panossian's name was drawn from the hat (paper bowl in this case) as the winner of the \$200 Amazon gift card. He graciously donated the gift card back to the SCC. Thank you Stephen!



2024 TdS T-shirt design by Jay Kiser, with all the 2024 sponsors on the back

I would like to thank everyone that contributed to this event: SCC committee members, TdS participants/registers, and Indian Fields Tavern. I would like to send out a huge thank you to the sustaining members that made this event possible: **Steve Molnar with Target Specialty Products, Dan McCombie with Azelis, Jeff O'Neill with Central Life Sciences, Jeff Hottenstein with Clarke, and Jim Andrews with Valent.** Their sponsorships were used to purchase shirts, prizes, and food for the event, while registration fees help facilitate future VMCA student competitions.

Submitted by: Jay Kiser
Student Competition Committee

ORPOUCHE VIRUS UPDATE:

The following was sent to VMCA membership on September 27, 2024 on behalf of Joshua Smith, the Environmental Health Supervisor of the Fairfax County Health Department:

Oropouche virus, an emerging virus in the Americas, can be spread to people by infected biting midges (*Culicoides paraensis*) and some mosquito species, including *Culex quinquefasciatus*. More information about the cause and transmission is available here: [Oropouche: Causes and How It Spreads | Oropouche | CDC](#). The virus can also be passed from a pregnant person to their fetus and infection during pregnancy has been associated with fetal deaths and possible birth defects.

Outbreaks of Oropouche virus disease have been reported in South America and some places in the Caribbean from late 2023 into 2024. Travel-associated cases have been reported in the U.S. More information about the outbreak can be found here: [2024 Oropouche Outbreak | Oropouche | CDC](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published a plan for response to Oropouche virus disease cases (available here: [Response to Oropouche Virus Disease Cases in U.S. States and Territories | Oropouche | CDC](#); direct link to plan: [Response to Oropouche Virus Disease Cases in U.S. States and Territories in the Americas \(cdc.gov\)](#)). The plan includes information on the range of potential vectors in the US, entomological surveillance recommendations, vector control strategies, a guide to modify CDC miniature light traps to collect biting midges, and some links to identification keys.

Small, biting midges from the family Ceratopogonidae are widespread in many areas and chances are you have encountered them at some point in your personal or professional life—they are often called “no-see-ums”, but they have other common names including “punkies” and “sandflies*”. If you use host-seeking traps with fine mesh screens or collection bags with fine mesh, you may have collected these biting flies in your surveillance efforts. A review of the *Culicoides* of Virginia was published many years ago as part of the “Insects of Virginia” series. This also includes an identification key. It is also available online (“The Insects of Virginia No. 3: A Systematic Review of the Genus *Culicoides* (Diptera : Ceratopogonidae) in Virginia with a Geographic Catalog of the Species Occurring in the Eastern United States North of Florida”. Frank V. Battle and E. Craig Turner, Jr.. 1971. [the_insects_of_virginia_no_3.pdf \(vmnh.net\)](#)).

*The vectors of the Trypanosome that causes leishmaniasis are also called sandflies but they are in the family Psychodidae.

2024 Oropouche Outbreak

KEY POINTS

- From late 2023-2024, outbreaks of Oropouche virus disease (Oropouche) have been reported in several countries in South America and the Caribbean.
- Travel-associated cases among U.S. residents have been reported, but local transmission has not been detected in the United States.
- Oropouche virus is spread to people by the bites of infected biting midges. Some mosquitoes can also spread the virus.
- Travelers to affected areas should protect themselves from bug bites.
- Pregnant people should avoid non-essential travel to areas with an Oropouche virus Level 2 Travel Health Notice.



Source: [2024 Oropouche Outbreak | Oropouche | CDC](#)

JURISDICTIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND 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 Sciences](#)
- [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](#)

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](#)

**Know of another jurisdiction or resource
to add?**

Please submit them to the [Editor](#)

2024 SUSTAINING MEMBERS

The VMCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members for 2024. 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!



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Special Awards	Jennifer Barritt jbarritt@vbgov.com	LaToya White
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THE SKEETER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
VIRGINIA MOSQUITO CONTROL
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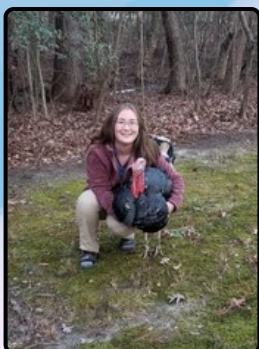
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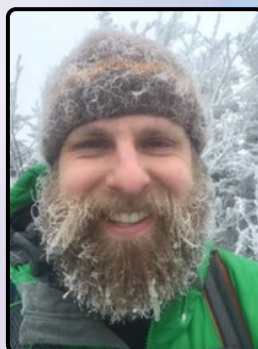
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