

Announcements

VMCA Meeting Recap What's that?

VMCA Awards 2012

MAMCA Update

Portsmouth Update

York County Update

The Skeeter



Newsletter of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association

Volume 72, No. 2 April, 2012

President's Message

I remember attending my very first VMCA annual meeting. I was a newly hired biologist for the City of Hampton Mosquito Control. As I watched and learned new and exciting insights into the world of mosquitoes, I said to myself "that could never be me up there at the podium as President". At the time, I felt significantly small in the realm of such great leaders and speakers. Wow! Time sure does change things! Today I stand as your VMCA President for 2012. I am extremely honored and prepared to lead



Lisa Wagenbrenner VMCA President 2012

this great group of dedicated mosquito control professionals in the coming year.

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Organizations & Resources

In February, we held our 65th annual meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Suffolk. The meeting was a success with lots of praise for a job well done!

I would like to thank the speakers, attendees and those individuals who graciously volunteered extra time. Until I was involved with the VMCA board, I had no idea of all the behind the scenes work that goes into having a successful meeting. Thank you to all the committee members who contributed to the success of our Annual meeting. A big thank you also goes out to our dedicated vendors who continue to support the VMCA year after year. I'd like to congratulate and welcome our new 1st Vice President, Jennifer Pierce. Penny Smelser was officially voted in as Secretary/

Treasurer, after serving a year as interim secretary. The VMCA handed out several very deserving awards this year. The prestigious R.E. Dorer award was given to Joe Conlon for his long time dedication and many contributions to the VMCA. JoAnn Beasley had a special recognition award given to her for the 24 years of dedicated service as the Secretary/ Treasurer. She retired last March as secretary and will be greatly missed by the VMCA, but we wish her well in her new endeavors. A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Julie Francis. Outstanding Service Awards were given to Caleb Stitely, Jay Kiser, and George Wojcik. Congratulations to all!

MAMCA held their annual meeting this past February and Virginia was well represented. Congratulations to Dr. Arias of Fairfax for receiving the R.E. Dorer award. Presentations were conducted by Carl Sivertsen, Ann Herring and Anna Riggan. In this tough economy, it's nice to see colleagues from Virginia attend out-of-state meetings.

Committee chairs are being assigned now and if you filled out the form to (See Lisa, Page 2)

Announcements

VMCA Mosquito ID Course

Wednesday & Thursday, May 16 & 17 900 Hollowell Lane, Chesapeake, VA See Page 11 for more information

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week

June 24-30, 2012



Upcoming meetings 66th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association

February 6-8, 2013 Location TBA

38th Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association March 13-15, 2013

Columbia, SC

79th Annual Meeting of the American Mosquito Control Association

February 24-28, 2013

Lisa (cont. from Page 1)

assist on a committee you will be contacted soon. The committees are the backbone of the VMCA and we are always looking for new blood, no pun intended, to help out.

The legislative committee, currently chaired by Randy Buchannan, is in need of additional help. We must keep abreast of the ever changing policies with pesticide management and this committee is our portal to those policies. Please contact Randy (<u>buc06@co.henrico.va.us</u>) if you are interested in learning the ins and outs of this important committee.

As we wrap up this year's annual meeting, the hotel arrangements committee chaired by Lane Carr and Jennifer Welch has been hard at work searching for possible locations for our 2013 annual meeting. As I write this, the board is in the process of selecting the Hampton Crowne Plaza located on the harbor in downtown Hampton. We are very excited about this great location on the water. More information will be disseminated in future *Skeeters* and on our website.

The education committee, chaired by Brian Prendergast, has again organized a free adult identification course to be offered in May. Please consult this *Skeeter* (Page 11) for additional information and a tentative schedule.

The mosquito season is already upon us due in part to our mild winter, so I sign out by saying "Good Luck! And have fun counting!"

VMCA Meeting Recap

The 65th annual meeting of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association was held February 1-3 in Suffolk, VA. There were 104 attendees and 35 presentations, plus vendor presentations.

Forty-six surveys were returned, with continued high scores for the meeting. The following were the most common comments:

- Awesome job keeping speakers on track
- Great location! Hotel, staff, and food was wonderful.
- Would like to see more operational presenta-

Miss the meeting? Presentations can be found at http://www.mosquito-va.org/2012ppt.htm.

Average rating of components of the Annual Meeting, based on 46 returned surveys.

Submitted by James Will



What's that?



Answer on page 5.

VMCA organizational mailing address Make sure you send all forms to the proper address.

Virginia Mosquito Control Association Penelope Smelser, Secretary/Treasurer 2800 Tarrant Street Norfolk, VA 23509 Phone (757) 683-8662

Email Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov

VMCA Awards 2012

Certificate of Appreciation: Julie Francis



Julie designed the new VMCA logo.

Outstanding Service Award: Jay Kiser



Jay was instrumental in filling in the distribution map of *Aedes albopictus* and *Ochlerotatus japonicus* in Virginia.

Outstanding Service Award: George Wojcik



George was recognized for contributions to organizing the annual meeting and for taking the lead in revising the VMCA By-laws.

Outstanding Service Award: Caleb Stitely



Caleb secures the Virginia governor's proclamation of Mosquito Awareness Week every year.

R.E. Dorer Award: Joe Conlon



Joe dedicated many years to the VMCA and the mosquito control districts of Virginia. His time and expertise are greatly appreciated and help make Virginia mosquito control what it is today.

Special recognition: JoAnn Beasley



JoAnn was recognized for her 24 years of service to the VMCA.

MAMCA Update

The 37th Annual Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association meeting was held this past February in the historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Outside the plethora of phenomenal speakers covering a wide variety of subjects (including an odd "hands on" presentation of bedbugs), the historic town offered plenty of activities once the speakers were done, to include a two

Virginia had an excellent showing as we had five counties/cities representing their programs. On top of a great showing from our state, we were also privileged to see one of our own, Dr. Jorge Arias receive the prestigious R.E. Dorer award (right). Dr. Arias has a wealth of knowledge and experience that brings fresh life and ideas to an already ever-expanding field of work, and I personally hope that he continues to share his knowledge and ideas as long as he is able to do so.

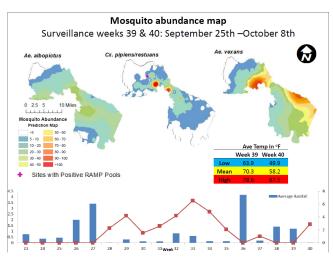
hour bus tour of the battlefields on the last day.

to of e-cr-

Carl Sivertsen was also on hand during the meeting to deliver yet another great speech on the keys of communication, Ann Herring from Suffolk gave a great presentation on the Mosquito Dunk program utilized by the city, and Anna Riggan from Henrico gave an interesting study using spatial and temporal modeling using the past few years of data.

Submitted by Tim DuBois.





What's that? Answer

That is an *Ochlerotatus sollictans* female feeding on Dr. Bruce Harrison. This mosquito is a potential vector for West Nile and Eastern equine encephalitis viruses and has been shown to be infected with Jamestown Canyon virus.

Submitted by Andy Lima



Portsmouth Update

A Tale of Two Seasons or A Tail of a Whale

This time last season we were reaping the rewards of a La Niña. Many parts of the state were dealing with cold wet conditions. That four letter word snow was common place in the forecast. On several occasions we had snow on the ground for several days if not weeks. In our region the mere mention of snow accumulations triggers mass hysteria. Hardware stores quickly sell out of snow shovels, sleds, and ice melt. Grocery stores experience a rush on basic staples bread, milk, alcohol. Auto body shops prepare for the rush of vehicles as guard rails and vehicles develop very strong magnetic properties. Many school age kids and teachers alike hope and pray for that extra day off.

This season is almost the exact opposite. Any frozen precipitation quickly melted as ground temperatures have not fallen below freezing for more that a few hours or days. Many people are asking are we going to have a winter?

One of the biggest signs of warm temperatures in our region are the whales. This year as been spectacular for whale watching off of the coast. Fin, Right, and Humpback whales have been right off of the beach all winter long. Many whale encounters have been within 3 miles of the beach. For the anglers in the crowd: yellow fin tuna made a surprise showing right off the beach. Several anglers fishing for highly coveted striped bass (or rock fish) were shocked when 100 pound class tuna crashed their trolled rock fish baits. The off-shore anglers quickly upgraded their tackle and began to bring some very nice fish to the scales.





Humpback whales. Photos by Brian Lockwood, jetskibrian.com

Back on shore the warm conditions have starting this season off with a bang. At the time of this writing (March 7th) we already have red maples budding out and Bradford Pear, Crabapple, and Forsythia are in bloom. Hold on to your hats because the pollen counts are on the rise. Southern yellow pine trees are ready to bloom, and the oak trees will not be far behind.

On the avian side: Ocean going gannets are following schools of bait fish (bunker, shad and herring) moving up the rivers to spawn. I found a pair of Canada geese with 4 goslings. Ospreys are back and preparing to nest. Bald eagles are well into their nesting season.

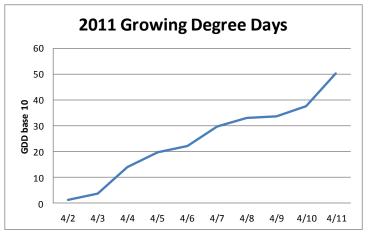
Portsmouth Update (cont.)

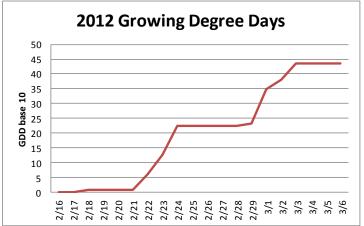
What about the bugs? They are ahead of schedule also. Ants were swarming March 1. Some non-biting midges have started to emerge. We have already found *Ae. vexans* larvae L1-P, *Cx. restuans* L1-P, and *Oc. canadensis* L1-P. *Aedes vexans* and *Oc. canadensis* went from L1 to P in one week. Some started to emerge right before the most recent cool down.

With all of this activity the math side of me started to kick in. Where exactly were we as far as growing degree days? It was time to revive last year's temperature spreadsheet and up-

date it with data from this year. A few key strokes and calculations later it was possible to confirm that were we about 5.5 weeks ahead of schedule. This year we hit 44 GDD March 3rd. Last year it was April 10/11th when we hit 44 GDD. 2012 also has some well pronounced steps or plateaus where we are not building GDD. The normal trend (what we saw last year) is a gradual warm up with out steps.

Hampton Roads is still in jeopardy of a frost. The average last frost for our area is the first week of April along the coast (Norfolk/Virginia Beach) up to the first week of May for areas more inland areas (Williamsburg and James City County). Any hopes of a frost killing mosquitoes might be misplaced. It would take a hard freeze for several weeks to kill off most mosquitoes. Rest assured any mosquitoes still in the water will be fine. I have collected mosquito larvae (*Oc. canadensis*, *Cs. melanura*, and *Cx. restuans*) from under as much as two inches of ice.





Hold on to your hats...this is shaping up to be a long season!

Calculating Growing Degree Days

GDD = Average Daily Temperature minus Base Temperature (any negative values = 0)

Start adding GDDs once you have a string of positive figures. Make sure you know how GDD is calculated before you compare observations; GDDs calculated with Celsius and Fahrenheit are not interchangeable.

Average Daily Temperature = (Temp Max + Temp Min) / 2

Base temperature for most growing things is 10° Celsius = 50° Fahrenheit.

Example: High temp of 68° F, low temp of 50° F [(68+50)/2]-50 = 9

For the metric folks it would be

High temp of 20°C, low temp of 10° C [(20+10)/2]-10 = 5

Submitted by George Wojcik

York County Update



July Meetings

- July 3 Beautification Committee, EDS @ 7pm
- July 11 Planning Commission, York Hall @ 7pm
- July 12 Wetlands Board, York Hall @ 6pm
- July 17 Board of Supervisors, York Hall @ 6pm
- July 18 Historic Yorktown Design Committee, York Hall @7pm
- July 19 Stormwater Advisory Committee, York Hall @ 7pm
- July 24 Economic Development Authority, CA @ 5:30pm
- July 25 Chesapeake Bay Board, York Hall @ 6pm
- July 26 Board of Zoning/Subdivision Appeals, York Hall @ 7pm

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Mosquito Prevention??

It's a funny title, because we can't prevent mosquitoes. They were here long before we were and don't seem to want to leave.

But here's what you can do to help lessen your chances of being pestered by these pests.

- Wear long, loose and light colored clothing.
- Use a mosquito repellent (be mindful of the requirements for children and DEET).
- Eliminate standing water from any container, such as bird baths, tires, tarps, boats, unused swimming pools, etc. This water needs to be emptied every week.
- Call the county and request mosquito fish for your ornamental pond or homeowner association BMP.

Sometimes conditions are ripe for mosqitoes to breed even after following the above measures. For example, after a hurricane standing water that cannot recode will become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. To report a mosquito problem, call 890-3790 and leave your name, address phone number and your concern. You can also leave this information on the website at www.yorkcounty.gov/eds.

Information about ground spraying operations will be left on the mosquito spray hotline at 890-3793 once it is activated each spring. Every day after 3 p.m. the hotline is updated with information on what locations are being sprayed that day. This information is also available on the new and improved Mosquito Control website at www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquitocontrol.

A York County recycling calendar containing mosquito prevention information. These calendars are sent to all citizens. View more about the York County program at: http://www.yorkcounty.gov/Default.aspx?alias=www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquitocontrol



Tom Gallagher's boss John Hudgins stopped by to celebrate St. Paddy's Day



Chesapeake Update

CHESAPEAKE ATTACKS FROM THE AIR

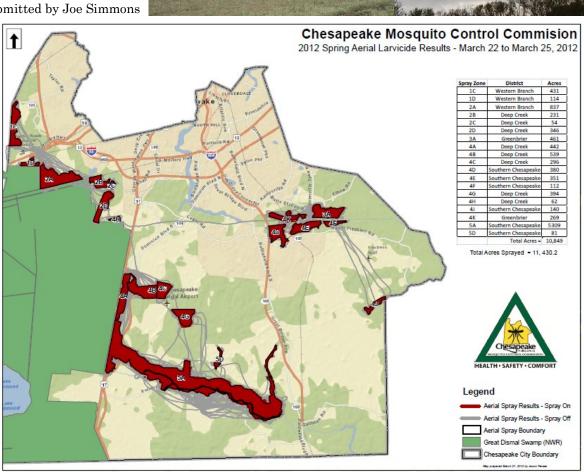
After an exceptionally wet fall and mild winter, Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission employees have found large numbers of mosquito larvae throughout the City. It also appears that many adult mosquitoes have survived over the winter. With the season running almost a month ahead of previous years, and higher than average temperatures being the norm this spring, Chesapeake has conducted an aerial larvicide application to over 11,000 acres.

Using a combination of liquid Bti (Vectobac 12AS) and liquid Altosid, large areas of wooded wetlands and rural areas were treated. The Northwest River drainage, the areas bordering the Intracoastal Waterway and the eastern border of the Great Dismal Swamp NWR were the primary targets. These areas are not accessible by conventional means and are virtually impossible to treat on foot. This early application has helped break the breeding cycle in pre-

vious years.

The helicopter application was done under contract by Kritter Cropdusting out of Culpepper, Virginia, during the week of March 19 thru March 25.

Submitted by Joe Simmons



Fairfax County Update

Fairfax County To Host Tick Class

The Fairfax County Disease Carrying Insects Program is hosting its second tick class on April 17 & 18, 2012. Speakers from across the Commonwealth and beyond will join with DCIP staff for this event. Presenters come from academia, public health and the military. Approximately 20 people will be attending this event.



Sivertsen Selected Chairman

Carl Sivertsen of Fairfax County has recently been selected to Chair the Airports Advisory Committee for Fairfax County. Sivertsen will lead this group over the next year as the County deals with growth and development at or around Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors relies upon this body for advice on issues affecting County residents.

Arias Awarded the R. E. Doer Award

During the 2012 MAMCA meeting celebrated in Gettysburg, PA, Jorge Arias was awarded the prestigious and well-earned R.E. Dorer Award for his commitment and dedication to mosquito control in the Mid-Atlantic States and beyond. Carl Sivertsen presented the award (left).

USA Science and Engineering Festival

Fairfax County is happy to be working with the AMCA on the USA Science and Engineering Festival being held at the D.C. Convention Center on April 27 -29, 2012. Fairfax helping with logistical support and providing staff to work the booth at this exciting event. It has

been rumored that DCIP staff may be seen wearing a mosquito costume at this event. We are excited about being part of the exciting event.

Fairfax Changes Larvicides

After many years of using Vectolex WSP for treatment of the County storm drains (seen at right), Fairfax County has decided to change to NatularTM. This product is formulated by Clarke, using its patented ingredient, spinosad. Stay tuned as we report our findings for the 2012 season.



Submitted by DCIP Staff

VMCA Adult ID Course

The VMCA is holding a FREE adult mosquito ID course on May 16th and 17th. It will be conducted by the combined efforts of local mosquito control biologists. This is not a taxonomy or refresher course, but a more practical training geared toward seasonal interns, summer part-time biology positions, or mosquito biologists new to the area. Class size is limited to 20 so please make every effort to send eligible participants. We will take other participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Please sign up early. This information is also posted on the VMCA website (http://mosquito-va.org/formstraining.htm).

Supplies and microscopes are limited but we will have a few extras on hand. Please review the attached supply list for the class. If possible, please bring the following items: microscope with lamp, power strip, extension cord, forceps, petri dishes, wipes, alcohol and notebook. The course will be held at Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission, 900 Hollowell Lane, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320.

Lunch is on your own but there are plenty of places to eat within a short drive. An on-site refrigerator is available. We will provide coffee, donuts, sodas, and water for both days.

Please e-mail Brian Prendergast (<u>brian.prendergast@med.navy.mil</u>) with participants name and city or county and what supplies you lack from the provided list.

Schedule of events for the VMCA Mosquito ID Course

Wednesday, May 16

7:30 - 8:30 Refreshments 8:30 - 8:45 Course overview 8:45 - 10:00 General mosquito information 10:00 - 10:10 Break 10:10 - 10:40 Disease & economic impact of mosquitoes 10:40 - 11:10 Introduction to traps and demonstration 11:10 - 11:40 Environmental concerns of field work 11:40 - 12:00 Laboratory protocol

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 1:30 Aedes

1:30 - 2:00 *Psorophora*

2:00 - 2:30 Culex

2:30 - 2:40 Break

2:40 - 3:00 Culex

3:00 - 3:20 *Anopheles*

3:20 - 4:00 Ochlerotatus & salt marsh mosquitoes

Thursday, May 17

7:30 - 8:30 Refreshments

8:30 - 9:30 Field Trip

9:30 - 9:45 Sorting exercise

9:45 - 12:00 Identify mosquitoes

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 4:00 Identify mosquitoes



From *The Skeeter* Archives

As the VMCA Historian, I wanted to bring something to *The Skeeter* publications to give a small glimpse of what was done in the past, to show how much our field of expertise has changed, and also how very similar our field still is. In February of 1947, a group of commissions spread throughout the state decided to create the Virginia Mosquito Control Association. Below is the official announcement, followed by Commission reports for the districts associated with the VMCA through the spring months (March-May) of 1947. Submitted by Tim DuBois.

The Official Announcement

On January 24, 1947, a group of citizens interested in Mosquito Control met in the office of the Virginia State Health Department, Essex Building, Norfolk, Virginia, at which time the Virginia Mosquito Control Association was created.

The function of this Association is to promote Mosquito Control in Virginia wherever same is feasible; to maintain public interest in areas where mosquitoes are now being controlled; to keep up with the latest developments in control methods; to disseminate information concerning mos-

quitoes to its membership and the public through publications and meetings; and to unite and coordinate common interest and efforts.



<u>President</u>: Perry W. Ruth, Secretary and Technical Advisor of the Norfolk City Mosquito Commission

<u>First Vice President</u>: Stuart Gibson, Elizabeth City County Executive

<u>Second Vice President</u>: Peyton May, Commissioner, Virginia Beach-Princess Anne County Mosquito Commission <u>Secretary and Treasurer</u>: R.E. Dorer, Director Mosquito Control, State Health Department, Norfolk

Commission Reports

Norfolk City Mosquito Control Commission
The Norfolk City Commission focused on maintenance
work in the early spring due to "unseasonably" cool
weather. Maintenance efforts generally refer to ditch
maintenance and tidal ditch clearing. In May, oiling operations started, while in the downtown section of Norfolk,
crews treated manholes and vaults with residual DDT.
"This new method of treatment worked out last year and it
is expected that the one spraying will last all Summer."

<u>Virginia Beach-Princess Anne County Mosquito Control</u> <u>Commission</u>

In the early spring, much of the work consisted of clearing ditches for easy access during oiling operations. A lot of focus was in the Princess Anne Hills section and the Rudee Inlet area. In May, oiling operations, surveillance trapping and backyard inspections had started, and a new weed killer (2-4-D) was being tested on the marshes at the treatment plant. "If this is successful, it will save the Commission a great deal of trouble and expense."

Warwick County Mosquito Control Commission
Warwick County Commission had a tough time with both
rain and cold weather, making their spring ditch maintenance efforts very slow. By May, the weather had improved, "On ditch work, we are taking care of the worst
places in preparation for the oiling season".

Elizabeth City County Mosquito Control Commission Much of the efforts in the Elizabeth City Commission followed suit with cleaning, clearing and bushing the drainage ditches. Buckroe area and routes into the Hampton Creek were the main focuses. Crews in May had started

inspection work, and assisted in the Clean-Up-Drive program aimed at getting citizens to clean up yards. "It is felt that the number of breeding places destroyed by the

Program justified the Commis-

sion as signing its men to help out."

City of Richmond Mosquito Control

The City of Richmond Program began April 28th of this year, in hopes of clearing streams of debris, and requesting citizens report standing water. The Department of Public Works offered to assist in filling holes with dirt to eliminate standing water. In May, the program was in full swing, finding only minimal Culex larvae. "The public is responding wonderfully well to our request to notify us of any standing water and they are helping by disposing of cans, etc., in the proper manner."

Portsmouth City Mosquito Control Commission
On May 15, 1947, the Portsmouth City Commission was
organized. Though the commission was assembled, they
decided to await interviews for the Superintendent instead of appointment by the council. "In the meantime,
the equipment, tools, etc., will be assembled so as work
can be started within a few days."

<u>City of Hopewell, Virginia Mosquito Control</u>
Hopewell is planning on revisiting the seasonal program for mosquito control on May 21, 1947. "Last season, very good control was accomplished and it is hoped that the same good service will be rendered this season."

Federal Public Housing Authority Pest Control Program Mosquito Control work for the six units of the Federal Housing Authority in the Tidewater region commenced on April 8, 1947. It is planned to continue operations until October. "This control work has been carried on for several seasons with most satisfactory results ..."

2012 Sustaining Members

The VMCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members for 2012. 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!



(804) 615-8648

al.kent@univarusa.com

PP&S

(910) 547-8070

j.andrews@valent.com

Virginia Mosquito Control Organizations & Other Resources

As a result of revisions to the VMCA By-Laws, the organizational member category was eliminated. In order to facilitate communication among mosquito control districts, those that have traditionally been organizational members are listed below along with their websites. If there are other sites that should be listed, please submit them to the editor.

<u>Virginia Mosquito Control Organizations</u>

Boykins, Town of

Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission

Emporia, City of

Fairfax County Health Department

Fort Eustis

Gloucester County

Hampton, City of

Henrico County

Newport News, City of

Richmond, City of

Suffolk, City of

US Air Force / Langley Air Force Base

York County

Health Information

Virginia Department of Health Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Other Mosquito Control Organizations

Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association American Mosquito Control Association

Not a member? Join us at:

http://www.mosquito-va.org/membership.htm

Annual dues for 2012 are:

\$15

Regular member

Associate member \$10

Student member \$10

Sustaining member \$400

Submissions wanted!

Have something you'd like to include in the next issue of *The Skeeter*? We are looking for organizational updates, operational news, education and other outreach activities, pictures, stories, or other vaguely vector-related items to include in an upcoming newsletter.

Please send all items to Justin Anderson at janderson152@radford.edu.

The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is: **June 30, 2012**.

The Skeeter

Newsletter of The Virginia Mosquito Control Association

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www.mosquito-va.org

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

2011 Virginia Mosquito Control Association Officers

President Lisa Wagenbrenner (757) 673-3932 lwagenbrenner@cityofchesapeake.net (757) 382-3450 jsimmons@cityofchesapeake.net President Elect: Joe Simmons Vice President: James Will (757) 869-7292 james.will@langley.af.mil 1st Vice President: Jennifer Pierce (757) 426-5420 [Pierce@vbgov.com (757) 683-8662 Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov Secretary / Treasurer: Penelope Smelser (757) 514-7609 cabadam@suffolkva.us Past President: Charles Abadam (757) 514-7609 MHerring@suffolkva.us *TMVCC Representative: Ann Herring (757) 727-2808 tdubois@hampton.gov *MAMCA Representative: Tim DuBois

The Skeeter is the official publication of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association.

The VMCA membership is encouraged to submit articles, reviews, and any other interesting facts or tidbits for publication. Submissions can be sent to Justin Anderson at skeeter@radford.edu.

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*Non-voting member of the Board

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