



# The Skeeter



Newsletter of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association

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April, 2013

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## President's Message

There is an old adage that says "be careful what you wish for because you might actually get it". Well it suddenly hit me as I wrote this article that I did get this job and now I have to do it. Let me begin by saying thanks to all who made the VMCA annual meeting in Hampton a success. Despite some cold and rainy weather, traffic accidents that blocked both bridge tunnels at the same time causing hours of delay, and dramatically reduced travel budgets in many agencies, the meeting was indeed a success.



Joe Simmons  
VMCA President 2013

Our sustaining members and our guest speakers deserve special recognition for a job well done. Perhaps the greatest praise should go to the many volunteers who donated their time and talents to ensure that everything went according to plan.

Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Justin Anderson for his wonderful work with the **SKEETER** and to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Labs-Vector Management and the Pennsylvania Department of Health-Bureau of Labs for their help in confirming positive mosquito pools from Virginia. Congratulations go out to Jay Kiser on being elected as First

Vice President. This election was of major significance because it was done electronically for the first time-welcome to a brave new world VMCA! If you have not volunteered to serve on one of the many Committees that make the annual meeting possible, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Board members. If you did not purchase one of the awesome new shirts at the annual meeting, it is not too late. We still have some available. Contact Penny Smelser for details.

As we look ahead, please mark your calendar for February 12-14, 2014 for the annual meeting at the Hilton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. This is an outstanding venue for our meeting - great food, sunrise over the ocean, and night life to keep you jumping. Make your plans now. A committee is already hard at work securing a location for 2015.

The Education Committee is again planning an adult mosquito identification course tentatively scheduled for May 15 & 16 at the Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission headquarters at 900 Hollowell Lane in Chesapeake. This is an excellent opportunity for interns, new hires or old folks as well to learn the basics of mosquito identification and biology.

On a less than happy note, James Will, VMCA president-elect, has resigned from his position. Jim will be moving out of state to be with his family and we will sorely (*see Joe, page 2*)

## Announcements

### Upcoming meetings

#### **VMCA Adult Mosquito ID Course**

May 15-16, 2013

Chesapeake, VA

See Page 3 for more information!

#### **Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting**

November 10-13, 2013

Austin, TX

#### **American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene Annual Meeting**

November 13-17, 2013

Washington, DC

#### **American Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting**

February 2-6, 2014

Seattle, WA

#### **Virginia Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting**

February 12-14, 2014

Virginia Beach, VA

**Have information on meeting that may be of interest to VMCA members?**

**Attend a meeting and want to submit a summary?**

**Send it to the editor (see page 12)!**

*(Joe, continued from page 1)*

miss him here in Virginia. All of us wish him the best of luck in a new job and a new home.

A news reporter asked me recently what kind of mosquito season lies ahead. I told him that if he can tell me what the weather is going to be for the next six months, then I will predict the mosquito season. We have had a more "normal" winter this year in most of Virginia which may have helped reduce overwintering mosquitoes but we have also had a lot of rainfall. The swamps and wetlands in southeastern Virginia are full and overflowing. If this pattern continues into the warm days of spring and summer, we may be in for another record season. We can only hope that the West Nile outbreak seen last year across the country does not expand into Virginia. Remember that what we do is important to the health and comfort of the people that we serve. Good luck in the new season.

Joe Simmons, VMCA President

## VMCA Adult Mosquito ID Course

The VMCA is holding a FREE adult mosquito ID course on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be conducted by the combined efforts of local mosquito control biologists. This is not taxonomy or a 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 serve 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. 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 ([brian.prendergast@med.navy.mil](mailto:brian.prendergast@med.navy.mil)) with participant's name and city or county and what supplies you lack from the provided list.

Wednesday, May 15		Thursday, May 16	
7:30 - 8:30	Light refreshments	Early morning	Biologists return with traps from their districts
8:30 - 8:45	Course overview	9:00 - 9:30	Identification overview
8:45 - 10:00	General mosquito information	9:30 - 9:45	Sorting exercise
10:00 - 10:10	Break	9:45 - 12:00	Identify mosquitoes
10:10 - 10:40	Disease & economic impact of mosquitoes	12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
10:40 - 11:10	Introduction to traps & setup demonstration	1:00 - 4:00	Identify mosquitoes
11:10 - 11:40	Environmental concerns of field work		
11:40 - 12:00	Lab protocol		
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (on your own)		
1:00 - 1:30	<i>Aedes</i>		
1:30 - 2:00	<i>Psorophora</i>		
2:00 - 2:30	<i>Culex</i>		
2:30 - 2:40	Break		
2:40 - 3:00	<i>Culex</i>		
3:00 - 3:20	<i>Anopheles</i>		
3:20 - 4:00	<i>Ochlerotatus</i> & salt marsh mosquitoes		

### What's That?

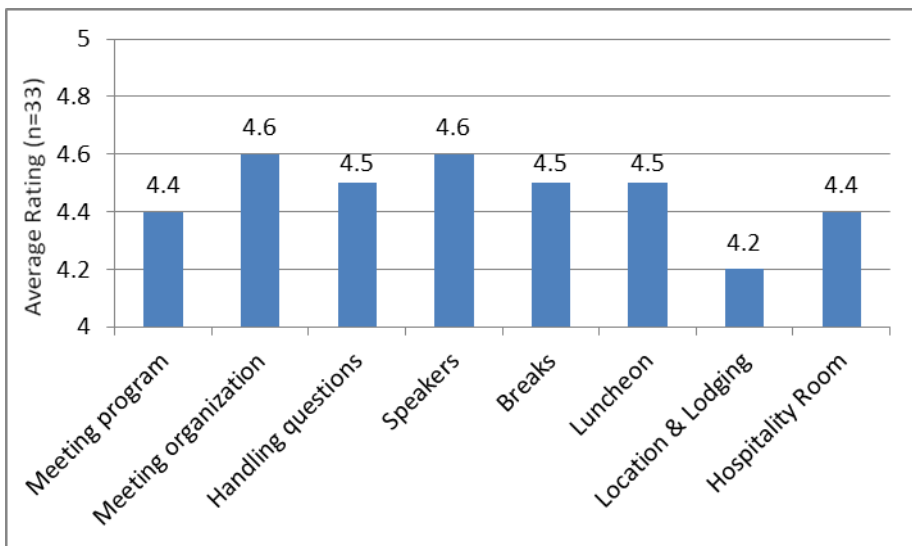


Answer on Page 6.

## 2013 Annual Meeting Recap



Pictures from the meeting. Top left: Lisa Wagenbrenner receives recognition of her year of service as president from incoming president Joe Simmons. Top right: Lane Carr accepts Justin Anderson’s Outstanding Service Award for his work on *The Skeeter*. Left: Outstanding Service Awards were given to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Labs-Vector Management and Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Labs . Accepting on their behalf are (l to r): Dreda Symonds, Tim DuBois, Penelope Smelser, Jay Kiser, and Karen Akaratovic.



### Annual Meeting Survey Results

A total of 33 surveys were filled out about this year’s meeting. Results are shown at left. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to fill these out. Your comments and suggestions are very helpful in making each meeting such a great success. We received many ideas to better our meeting and plan to implement them in the upcoming year. Thank you again for your input.

Submitted by Jennifer Pierce



# York County Update



### Be a "Skeeter Beater"

The best way to fight a mosquito bite is through awareness and prevention. In York County, seasonal fresh water and salt marsh mosquito populations are controlled by an integrated program that focuses on reducing and treating larval breeding habitats and control of the adult mosquitoes. When mosquito populations increase, spraying is performed by either ground or air to reduce their number. In order to achieve the best coverage, spraying occurs in the early morning or late evening when most mosquitoes are active. However, even with all of these measures, it is important to be aware that there is no such thing as a mosquito free environment in our area. To protect yourself from the bite, wear long, loose, and light colored clothing and use a repellent.

Everyone can help control mosquito populations by emptying water laden receptacles in your yard at least once a week. Be proactive by taking the following additional preventative measures:

- Turn over pails, planters or flush out bird baths or anything else that can hold stagnant water at least once a week.
- Biologically treat, cover, or empty unused swimming pools and use offered "mosquito fish" in ornamental ponds.
- Remove litter that holds water such as toys, cans, bottles, tarps, animal dishes, etc.

Mosquito Control is everyone's responsibility. If you would like to report a mosquito concern or assist in the mosquito fight, call 898-3790. For more information on mosquito control activities, visit [www.yorkcounty.gov/eds](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/eds)

Left: The August page of the York County Beautification Calendar emphasizes citizens of the county to get involved in controlling the mosquito population.

### August Meetings

- August 6—Board of Supervisors, York Hall @ 6pm
- August 6—Beautification Committee, EDS @ 7pm
- August 8—Wetlands Board, York Hall @ 6pm
- August 14—Planning Commission, York Hall @ 7pm
- August 20—Board of Supervisors, York Hall @ 6pm
- August 21—Historic Yorktown Design Committee, York Hall @ 7pm
- August 22—Board of Zoning/Subdivision Appeals, York Hall @ 7pm
- August 27—Economic Development Authority, CA @ 5:30pm
- August 28—Chesapeake Bay Board, York Hall @ 6pm

### July 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Right: The York County Division of Mosquito Control reaches out to its citizens via the spring edition of the York County *Citizen News*.

Below: Similar emphasis on getting the populace involved can be found on their website, as seen in this image.

Submitted by Tom Gallagher

## Mosquito Control update



Volunteers are needed in the **Mosquito Monitor** program to help fight the bite. No previous experience is required! Volunteers will be trained and provided with a light trap for monitoring the mosquitoes. As a volunteer mosquito monitor, you will play an important role in reporting mosquito counts, which will directly affect the ground and/or aerial spraying schedule.

This one-of-a-kind program involves citizen volunteers and has won national recognition as being unique in playing an important role in the mosquito control effort. To volunteer, call 890-3791 no later than Friday, March 29. Leave your name, address and telephone number. You can also submit this information to [gallagher@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:gallagher@yorkcounty.gov). Volunteers will be notified of the scheduled two-hour training session in mid-April.

**Mosquito dunks** and mosquito fish are available to citizens for use in breeding situations such as unused swimming pools or ornamental ponds. The dunks are being offered again this season as long as limited supplies last. One two-dunk pack is available per household and must be picked up by the homeowner. Stop by the Waste Management Center at 145 Goodwin Neck Road. Additional mosquito dunks can be purchased at local hardware stores, garden centers, and home improvement stores.

**Free mosquito fish** can be obtained by York County residents by calling 890-3791 or via e-mail (shown above). Leave your name, address and telephone number along with the size dimensions of your unused swimming pool or backyard ornamental pond. Fish deliveries will not be made until June and residents will be notified several days prior to the delivery date.

Mosquito season usually begins in mid-May. The start of the season depends on the amount of rain we receive this spring, the amount of standing water, and the water's temperature in the woodland areas. The **mosquito spray hotline** will be activated on Monday, May 18 and will provide information on where and when spraying is being conducted (dependent on the need for spraying and weather conditions). The spray information is updated daily at [www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquitocontrol](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquitocontrol).

To report a mosquito concern, call 890-3790.

## Virginia Arbovirus Cases, 2012

During 2012, the following arbovirus diseases were reported in Virginia:

### West Nile virus

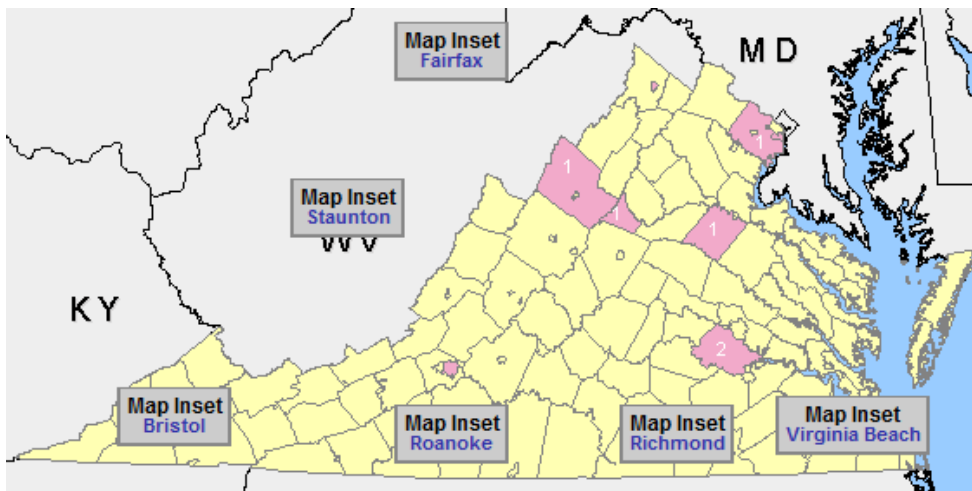
- 30 cases
- 4 fatalities
- 3 positive blood donors
- 1 equine case, fatal

### La Crosse virus

- 2 cases (Wise Co.)

### Eastern equine encephalitis virus

- 1 case (Portsmouth)



Distribution of West Nile cases in Virginia, 2012. Fatalities occurred in Chesapeake, Fairfax County, Greene County, and Winchester. Map from [USGS](#).

### Dengue virus

- 17 cases, imported from Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Thailand, Viet Nam

### Tick-borne encephalitis virus

- 1 case, imported from Czech Republic

Submitted by David Gaines

### What's that? Answer

That is an engorged *Ixodes ricinus*, the most common vector for tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV), which was imported into Fairfax County in 2012 (see above). TBEV is a member of the *Flaviviridae*, which includes such vector-borne viruses as West Nile virus and the dengue viruses. TBEV causes over 10,000 cases of encephalitis annually over large swaths of northern Europe and Asia, especially in Russia; mortality rates may reach 20%. The virus may also infect a variety of animals. Dogs and horses may develop neurological disease, while goats, sheep, and cows may pass virus in the milk, including to humans.

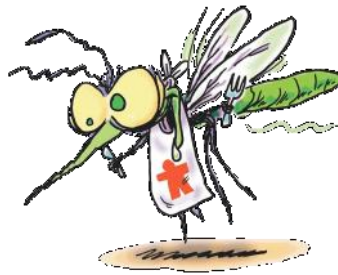
### VMCA organizational mailing address

**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](mailto:Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov)

## Fairfax County Update



### **FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFERS WEST NILE VIRUS TESTING**

Effective April 2013, Fairfax County Health Department Laboratory will offer West Nile virus PCR testing of mosquito pools and RAMP test samples. RT-PCR is the gold standard for WNV testing and confirmation. Our target turnaround time will be 72 hours for mosquito pools or RAMP confirmation.

If you are interested in information regarding pricing, submission requirements, or would like to set up a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Fairfax County Health Department Laboratory, please contact the Fairfax County Health Department Laboratory Director, Deborah K. Severson or Laboratory Supervisor, Barbara Beatty at the numbers listed below.

Deborah K Severson  
FCHD Laboratory Director  
[Deborah.Severson@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Deborah.Severson@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
703-277-3253

Barbara Beatty  
FCHD Laboratory Supervisor  
[Barbara.Beatty@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Barbara.Beatty@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
703-277-3251

Submitted by Joshua Smith

### **Telling Our Story**

The Virginia Mosquito Control Association has begun to tell our story of mosquito control in 2013.

The Public Relations Committee has submitted our request to Governor McDonnell's office to recognize National Mosquito Control Awareness Week in the Commonwealth June 23-29.

As we begin our mosquito control operations this spring, please send photos and notes of your operations to myself, Justin or Joe Simmons. We want to tell our story to the rest of the Commonwealth via [Facebook](#) and our [website](#) to show how we protect public health and make our communities a better place to live!

Let's tell our story!

Submitted by Caleb Stitely

## VMCA Committees

VMCA cannot function without the help of its members. Consider becoming involved in one of the committees listed below. Contact a member of the Executive Board.

<b>VMCA Committees &amp; Chairs</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Committee Members</b>
<b>Legislative Committee</b> Randy Buchanan	NPDES VPDES PESP	Lane Carr
<b>By Laws</b> George Wojcik	By Law Revision and Maintenance	
<b>Annual Meeting (Program/Agenda)</b> Jennifer Pierce (Pres Elect)	65 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Program	
<b>Annual Meeting (Vendor Planning)</b> Jay Kiser	Commercial Packets to vendors Vendor Presentations set up	
<b>Annual Meeting (Local Arrangements)</b> Tim Dubois/Lisa Wagenbrenner	Locating a place for the Annual Meeting	George Wojcik, Lane Carr
<b>Audit</b> Chris Dehart	Annual Audit	Ann Herring Mitch Burcham
<b>Elections Committee</b> Lisa Wagenbrenner	Finds candidates for the next election. Prepares the ballot and coordinates/checks the election process-Verifies on-line voting	Connie Gregg, Ann Herring
<b>Special Awards</b> Jennifer Pierce	R.E. Dorer Outstanding Service Awards	Phil Meekins, Kirby Foley
<b>Education</b> Brian Prendergast	Recertification Adult ID Larval ID	Lisa Wagenbrenner Jennifer Pierce, Jay Kiser Karen Akaratovic, Dreda Symonds
<b>Historian</b> Tim Dubois	Historical archives	Andy Lima
<b>Information</b> Justin Anderson	Skeeter	George Wojcik, Andy Lima
<b>MAMCA</b> Tim Dubois	Virginia Update for the MAMCA meeting	
<b>Membership</b> Penny Smelser	Keeps an updated list of membership	Randy Buchanan, Ann Herring
<b>Photography</b> Tim Dubois	Photo Contest Collects Photos throughout the year for the website, Skeeter, and for distribution	Lisa Wagenbrenner, Andy Lima
<b>Public Relations</b> Caleb Stitely	Poster Contest, Mosquito Awareness Week Photo Contest Outreach, Education and Fundraising	David Gaines
<b>TMVCC</b> LaToya White	TMVCC representatives Gives TMVCC updates	
<b>TRAST</b> Jay Kiser	TRAST Representatives Gives TRAST updates	
<b>Website</b> Lane Carr	Maintains and revises website as necessary	Penny Smelser
<b>Social Media</b> Caleb Stitely	Facebook Twitter	Justin Anderson, Andy Lima, Rachel Kempf
<b>Ad hoc (Mosquito Distribution Map)</b> Jay Kiser	Documenting mosquitoes found throughout Virginia	
<b>Hospitality</b> Ann Herring	Annual meeting Hospitality Room	Jennifer Pierce, Latoya White



# VMCA Membership Application and Renewal Form

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

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ( ) RENEWAL ( ) NEW**  
 Mark an "X" in the appropriate box

*Membership payment is by calendar year*

NAME:	Regular \$ 15.00	
PHONE:	Associate \$ 10.00	
ADDRESS:	Student: *Enclose proof of student status \$ 10.00	
E-MAIL:		
ORGANIZATION:		
	<b>TOTAL SUBMITTED</b>	

**Please "X" here if you cannot receive the newsletter by email**

Questions or comments can be directed to Penelope Smelser, Secretary-Treasurer, 757-683-8662 or mail to: [Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov](mailto:Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov)

Send payment (made payable to **VMCA**) and mail/fax this form to Secretary/Treasurer –or- fill out the form, save and submit by email.

Penelope Smelser  
 VMCA Secretary-Treasurer  
 2800 Tarrant Street  
 Norfolk, VA 23509  
 757-683-8662 office phone  
 757-683-2500 office fax

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

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

**Student Member** - VMCA Newsletter, serve on committees and participate in business meetings.

(Student must be enrolled at least 1/2 time in an accredited college or university and produce valid College/University ID Card.)

## 2013 Sustaining Members

The VMCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members for 2013. 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!

<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ted Bean</b> (814) 671-6516 <a href="mailto:tbean@myadapco.com">tbean@myadapco.com</a></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Peter Connelly</b> (772) 563-0606 <a href="mailto:peterc@amvac.net">peterc@amvac.net</a></p> 
	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Charlie Pate</b> (706) 338-4734 <a href="mailto:cpate@central.com">cpate@central.com</a></p> 
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Jeff Hottenstein</b> (703) 498-9362 <a href="mailto:jhottenstein@clarke.com">jhottenstein@clarke.com</a></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Matt Crabbe</b> (804) 334-7370 <a href="mailto:crabav@gmail.com">crabav@gmail.com</a></p> 
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Caleb Stitely</b> (540) 828-6070 <a href="mailto:cstitely@dynamicaviation.com">cstitely@dynamicaviation.com</a></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Joe Andrews</b> (888) 603-1008 <a href="mailto:joea@allprovector.com">joea@allprovector.com</a></p> 
 <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Doug Hill</b> (804) 512-2676 <a href="mailto:dhill@nikon.net">dhill@nikon.net</a></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Zachary Cohen</b> (800) 227-8664 <a href="mailto:zcohen@summitchemical.com">zcohen@summitchemical.com</a></p> 
 <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Mike Leahy</b> (804) 615-8648 <a href="mailto:Mike.leahy@univarusa.com">Mike.leahy@univarusa.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Jim Andrews</b> (910) 547-8070 <a href="mailto:j.andrews@valent.com">j.andrews@valent.com</a></p> 

## 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.

### Virginia Mosquito Control Organizations

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](#)

[AMCA/Fairfax County Education and Outreach Materials](#)

Not a member? Join us at:

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

Annual dues for 2012 are:

Regular member	\$15
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](mailto:janderson152@radford.edu).

The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is: **June 30, 2013.**

**The Skeeter**  
**Newsletter of**  
**The Virginia Mosquito**  
**Control Association**

Justin Anderson  
Department of Biology, Box 6931  
Radford University  
Radford, VA 24142  
Phone (540) 831-5639  
Fax (540) 831-5129



[www.mosquito-va.org](http://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.

**2013 Virginia Mosquito Control Association Officers**

President: Joe Simmons	(757) 382-3450 <a href="mailto:jsimmons@cityofchesapeake.net">jsimmons@cityofchesapeake.net</a>
President Elect: Jennifer Pierce	(757) 426-5420 <a href="mailto:JPierce@vbgov.com">JPierce@vbgov.com</a>
Vice President: Jay Kiser	(757) 514-7608 <a href="mailto:jkiser@suffolkva.us">jkiser@suffolkva.us</a>
1st Vice President: Jeff Hottenstein (interim)	(703) 498-9362 <a href="mailto:jhottenstein@clarke.com">jhottenstein@clarke.com</a>
Secretary / Treasurer: Penelope Smelser	(757) 683-8662 <a href="mailto:Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov">Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov</a>
Past President: Lisa Wagenbrenner	(757) 673-3932 <a href="mailto:lwagenbrenner@cityofchesapeake.net">lwagenbrenner@cityofchesapeake.net</a>
*TMVCC Representative: LaToya White	(757) 514-7608 <a href="mailto:lnwhite@suffolkva.us">lnwhite@suffolkva.us</a>
*MAMCA Representative: Tim DuBois	(757) 727-2808 <a href="mailto:tdubois@hampton.gov">tdubois@hampton.gov</a>
*Non-voting member of the Board	

*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](mailto:skeeter@radford.edu).

Committee Chair / Production: Justin Anderson, Radford University

Distribution: Penelope Smelser, Norfolk

Editorial review: All the members of the board.

Production advisor: George Wojcik, City of Portsmouth