



The Skeeter



Newsletter of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association

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April, 2013

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President's Message

Genesis 7:12 "And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights." I am beginning to know how Noah felt and the thought has crossed my mind that an ark might not be a bad idea. After several dry seasons, nature has decided to put things back in equilibrium. Hardly a day has passed recently here in the Tidewater area without at least one thunderstorm and sometimes there have been multiple downpours on the same day. Couple that with temperatures in the 90s each day and you have a formula for mosquito paradise.



Joe Simmons
VMCA President 2013

While mosquito numbers have not yet risen to the levels seen last season (2012), there are many weeks still to come before cool weather finally arrives. Each season seems to bring something new and this year is no exception. For the first time in recent memory, *Coquillatidia perturbans*

numbers have been unbelievably high. In fact, one Chesapeake CDC light trap had over 6000 of them in a single night and their unusual life cycle makes them a difficult problem to solve when compared to other species.

Following James Will's resignation as President-elect, Jennifer Pierce will move into that office and Jay Kiser will assume the office of Vice President. The VMCA Board voted to appoint Jeff Hottenstein as interim First Vice President until elections are held at the next annual meeting. Welcome aboard, Jeff.

The annual mosquito identification class was very successful as you can see in another article later in this issue.

Plans are now well underway for the 2014 annual meeting to be held at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel. This is an awesome venue with great views, good food, and all sorts of entertainment. The dates are February 12-14, 2014 so please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Several committees are working to finalize all of the details which will make this an outstanding meeting and special thanks goes to all who have donated time and talent to ensure success. However, the annual meetings are only as good as the presentations. Now is the time to be planning to WOW the membership with your knowledge, expertise, and experience. Be thinking about how you can share with others your operations, research or unusual events. Pictures tell a thousand words and the time to take those photos is now. Jennifer Pierce, the annual meeting program chairperson will be sending out information in the not too distant future. Please plan to make a presentation if at all possible.

Announcements

Upcoming meetings

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

Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association Annual Conference

March 4-6, 2014

Cambridge, MD

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)!

(see Joe, page 2)

Joe, continued from page 1

Thanks for all that you do and good luck in the coming months.

Joe Simmons, VMCA President

Who's That?

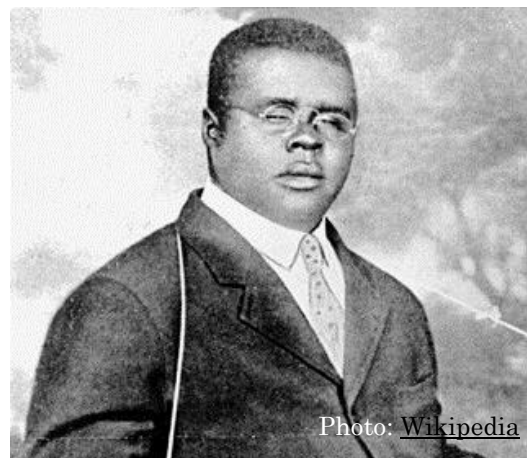


Photo: [Wikipedia](#)

Answer on Page 4.

READ THE PESTICIDE LABEL – IT'S SERIOUS BUSINESS, AND IT'S THE LAW

Recently, an estimated 50,000 bumblebees were killed in Wilsonville, Oregon after a commercial pesticide applicator treated blooming linden trees with a powerful insecticide in an effort to control aphids. Although the incident is still under investigation, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service (VDACS) reminds everyone who uses pesticides, either individual homeowners or professional applicators, of the importance of reading and following the instructions for use on the pesticide label.

Pesticides include a broad group of chemicals and substances that are used to manage undesirable insects, weeds, fungi, bacteria and viruses. Regardless of their mode of action, before pesticides can be sold, they must undergo a registration process with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA reviews scientific data to determine the potential effects a pesticide may have on humans, animals and the environment. The instructions and related precautions that appear on the pesticide label are intended to protect the user, other people, animals and the surrounding environment by minimizing the potential risk of exposure to the pesticide. The likelihood of an incident like the bumblebee kill in Oregon is minimized when users follow the directions on the label.

Every pesticide reviewed and registered by the EPA contains the following statement: "It is a violation of federal law to use a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling." That federal law is the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In addition to violating FIFRA, failure to use a pesticide according to its label could also constitute a violation of the Virginia Pesticide Control Act. Both the federal and the Virginia pesticide laws provide for civil or criminal penalties for violations.

What are the risks of not reading and following the label?

- **Human Injury, Disease or Death** - One of the greatest concerns with the application of pesticides in a manner that is inconsistent with label directions is the potential for human injury, disease or even death to those making the pesticide application and to bystanders as well. The exposure could occur as a result of uncontrolled drift, equipment leakage, over-application of product, applications during adverse weather, uses on target pests other than those for which the product is intended or when allowing access to treated areas while the pesticide is still wet.
- **Environmental Contamination and Pollution** - Environmental contamination is another potential concern when applicators do not follow the pesticide label directions. Pesticides intended for outdoor use typically have an environmental hazards section that provides information about how to prevent damage to the environment and wildlife, including bees.
- **Economic Loss and Property Damage** - Economic loss and property damage can occur by either over-application of a pesticide or, in some cases, under-application. Pesticide misuse could also lead to legal action if personal, property or environmental damage occurs. Economic loss and property damage also may occur when applicators apply pesticides to sites not listed on the label or if the applicators allow the pesticide to drift. Applicators must heed label precautions to keep pesticides away from desirable plants, food crops and non-target sites such as neighboring properties.

To learn more about the proper use of pesticides, visit the Virginia Pesticide Safety website at vapesticidesafety.com. This site is maintained by VDACS' Office of Pesticide Services. In addition to information regarding the proper use of pesticides, the website also contains information about common and seasonal home, lawn, and garden pests, as well as options for managing those pests.

Submitted by Elaine Lidholm,
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission: The Educational School Program

Joe Simmons, with twenty years teaching experience, knew exactly how to develop a program acceptable to the public school system. He created a thirty minute PowerPoint geared toward the third grade level. SOL science concepts are intermingled with important topics on mosquitoes. Subjects covered include life cycle, breeding habitats, and how to protect yourself from mosquitoes. Joe began presenting with the 2005-2006 school year and with my employment in 2009, I was handed the task and continue it today. Currently, there are twenty Chesapeake public schools with a third grade level. Each year from January to March, we strive to present at all twenty schools. Between 2010 and 2013, I have presented to 9,191 third graders (see pictures below). To date, we have reached close to 20,000 third grade students. We also attend career days and after hours science fairs, allowing closer interaction with parents and children. Mosquito education to the citizens is an important part of any mosquito control program. It never ceases to amaze me the number of citizens who have no idea what we do to protect them, and I am more than happy to spread the word!



Submitted by Lisa Wagenbrenner

A Tick-Killing Robot

Engineers at Virginia Military Institute have developed a robot that can kill ticks. Essentially the ticks are lured into a specific site using carbon dioxide, then the robot performs your everyday tick drag using insecticide-treated denim. Holly Gaff, at Old Dominion University, has demonstrated a 75-100% kill rate, although so far the process is only effective for about a day. VMI engineers plan to improve the device in the coming year.

A description and video (from which the captured image at right was obtained), along with links to other local news items be found on the [VMI website](#).



Recap of the VMCA Mosquito ID Course 2013

The VMCA sponsored a free adult mosquito identification course, for the third time, held May 15 and 16, 2013. The course was once again taught by the combined efforts of several mosquito district biologists which included Tim DuBois, Jay Kiser, Karen Akaratovic, Jennifer Pierce, Penny Smelser, Dreda Symonds, and Lisa Wagenbrenner. Their expertise and time were greatly appreciated and contributed to a successful course. The course consisted of 20 participants.

Suffolk Mosquito Control again provided a projector and microscope combination to allow for live viewing of the specimens.

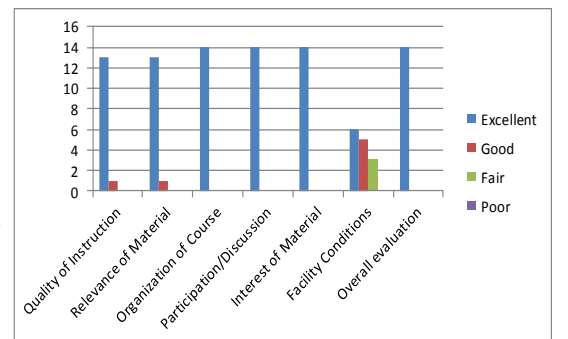
The VMCA would also like to thank Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission for the use of their facility located at 900 Hollowell Lane.

Surveys were provided to the participants and 14 were returned. Each parameter received a total vote count of 14 (consisting of #of votes for excellent, good, fair, and poor).

General comments:

- Highly recommend
- Good jumpstart to identifying
- Useful tips
- Excellent shortcuts in identifying
- Knowledgeable group of instructors

Top: Lisa Wagenbrenner and Jennifer Pierce demonstrating proper trap setting. Middle: Course participants observing tranp demonstration. Bottom: Survey results.



Who's that? Answer

That is Blind Lemon Jefferson, a Texas blues musician popular during the late 1920s. He is featured here because of his song "Mosquito Moan", which was recently featured in the Entomological Society of America publication, *American Entomologist* (subscription required).

The song may be heard on [YouTube](#).

Now we know where Andy Lima got his inspiration!

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

York County Update

Grafton Bethel Elementary 3rd grader wins Mosquito Beater poster contest

Grafton Bethel Elementary 3rd grade student Victoria Sun, winner of the York County Mosquito Beater 2013 poster contest, is shown with (from left to right) her father Wanliang Sun (holding little brother Matthew), her mother Rumei Qin, Mosquito Control Chief Tom Gallagher, Victoria, and Mrs. Wanderer, teacher.



The yearly contest is the culmination of county staff's outreach efforts to teach elementary students about mosquitoes and how to prevent them from breeding and biting. After learning where mosquitoes breed, why female mosquitoes need blood, and how to camouflage themselves using loose clothing and bug spray to avoid mosquito bites, students are encouraged to participate in a poster contest, using their creativity to portray the knowledge they have gained.

A \$25 gift card from Barnes & Noble was awarded to one poster winner from each school. Victoria was chosen as the overall winner from all schools and was presented with an additional \$25 gift card. Victoria's poster was selected out of 149 posters completed and submitted by county third-graders this year.



Left: Displays set up at two York County libraries having a local mosquito awareness week proclamation and mosquito awareness & prevention 3rd grade student school posters.

Right: Biologist Betsy Hodson participated in an elementary school career day to let the students learn more about mosquitoes



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:		
	TOTAL SUBMITTED	

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

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

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

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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.

2013 Virginia Mosquito Control Association Officers

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

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Distribution: Penelope Smelser, Norfolk

Editorial review: All the members of the board.

Production advisor: George Wojcik, City of Portsmouth