

The Skeeter



Newsletter of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association

Volume 75, No. 3 August, 2015

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President's Message

Hello VMCA members. I hope everyone is having a successful summer. It is already August and half of the 2015 mosquito season is over. Time sure flies when you are having fun, or at least when you are really busy. If the rest of Virginia was anything like the Hampton Roads area, this past spring and early summer were pretty hectic. Even though things seem to be slowing down now, I am sure everyone is still in the swing of things. I hope everyone has the time to peruse this summer's



Jay Kiser VMCA President 2015

Skeeter, and I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Since our last *Skeeter*, VMCA has also been keeping busy. In May of 2015, VMCA's Education Committee, with the help of several Hampton Roads' biologists, put on a great adult mosquito identification class. As usual, these classes are free and open to anyone interested in sharpening their skills or first timers learning how to ID. Lisa Wagenbrenner did a great job setting up this year's course. Rachel Kempf, our new Public Relations Committee Chair, also did a great job setting up the 2015 Virginia Mosquito Awareness week that took

place June 21st-27th. I hope everyone took full advantage of this opportunity to educate their citizens.

The end of year is quickly approaching and soon we will all be making plans to come together. I hope everyone will be able to attend VMCA's 2016 annual meeting that will be taking place January 26th-28th at the Portsmouth Renaissance in downtown Portsmouth. I am excited for this location, not only because it is within bike riding distance from my house, but it is also being held in a beautiful part of an often overlooked city. Located near the Elizabeth River front, Downtown Portsmouth is loaded with historical sites, bars, restaurants, and other attractions. If you are planning on attending, please think of a presentation or two that you or someone from you jurisdiction can give. We are all interested in hearing about what is going on in Virginia's mosquito world, and there is no better way to enlighten us than presenting at the VMCA annual meeting. Joshua Smith from Fairfax (Joshua.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov) will be setting up the agenda for next year's meeting. Just let him know if you are interested.

Jay Kiser, VMCA President

Announcements

Upcoming meetings

Society for Vector Ecology Annual Conference

September 27-October 1, 2015 Albuquerque, NM

Entomology Society of America Annual Meeting

November 15-18, 2015 Minneapolis, MN

Virginia Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting

January 26-28, 2016 Portsmouth, VA

American Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting

February 7-11, 2016 Savannah, GA

Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting

March 30-April 1, 2016 Nashville, TN

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 <u>editor</u>!





January 26-28th, 2016

Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel

What's That?



(answer on page 3)

VMCA organizational mailing address Send all forms to this address.

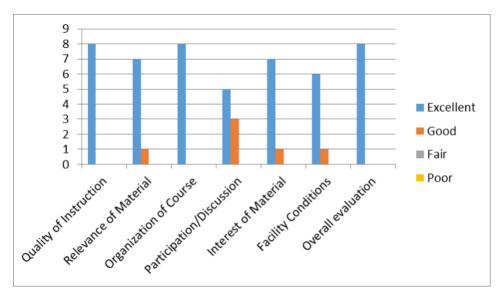
Virginia Mosquito Control Association Penelope Smelser, Secretary/Treasurer 2800 Tarrant Street Norfolk, VA 23509 Phone (757) 683-8662 Email Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov

VMCA Adult ID Course Recap

The VMCA sponsored a free adult mosquito identification course held May 13 and 14. Thirteen students attended the 2 day course. The course was taught by the combined efforts of several mosquito district biologists that included: Tim DuBois, Jay Kiser, Karen Akaratovic, Lisa Wagenbrenner, Dreda Symonds, Penny Smelser and Betsy Hodson. Their expertise and time were greatly appreciated.

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 8 were returned. Each parameter received a total count of 8 (consisting of # of votes for excellent, good, fair, and poor).



General comments:

- -A great collaboration and a wealth of knowledge in our area about mosquito control
- -Power Points were very informative
- -How to properly trap for mosquitoes
- -Very detailed in the identification of many types of mosquitoes

What's That? Answer

THAT is a predatory stink bug (*Euthyrhynchus floridanus*) attacking a carpenter bee (*Xylocopa virginica*) at the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

Photo and submission by Chris Martin, Entomologist at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic.



Arias awarded AMCA Medal of Honor

On March 30, 2015, the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) awarded Jorge Arias with the AMCA Medal of Honor for his contributions to mosquito control over the course of his

career. AMCA Vice President, Stanton E. Cope presented the Medal of Honor plaque to Jorge's daughters, Ana Arias and Sara Arias-Shanks. The awards presentation was held at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans, Louisiana during AMCA's 81st Annual Meeting, March 29 - April 2, 2015.

From his nomination letter:

For 40 years, Dr. Arias has been recognized around the world as an outstanding entomologist committed to protecting public health. Throughout his career, he strived for excellence in everything he did and expected nothing but the best from himself and



Awarding of the Medal of Honor. The photo shows (from L to R) Steve Mulligan [AMCA President], Ana Arias, Sara Arias-Shanks [Dr. Arias' daughters], and Stanton Cope [AMCA Vice President].

those around him. Further, Dr. Arias has devoted much of his professional career to young biologists, entomologists and scientists through ongoing efforts in the areas of staff and program development.

Dr. Arias received a Bachelor's Degree in Pre-Medical Sciences and a Master's of Science Degree in Biology, from Whittier College in 1966 and 1969, respectively, followed by a Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of California Riverside in 1973.

Dr. Arias had a distinguished career throughout the Americas, spending most of his professional life in South and Central America and the Caribbean. He began his career in Brazil working for the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia (INPA). His first appointment with INPA was as a Medical Entomologist where he helped establish a Medical Entomology laboratory and provided training in laboratory and field methodology. His second post with INPA was as a Senior Research Scientist and head of the Parasitology I Laboratory where he lead a team of 17 to 20. The group's research was focused on the biology, ecology and population dynamics of phlebotomine sand flies and triatomine bugs, as well as the epidemiology of cutaneous leishmaniasis and trypanosomiasis in the Amazon Basin.

From 1986 to 2003, Dr. Arias held various posts at the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). His first was as a consultant that served as a coordinator between PAHO, the University of Panama and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Panama in a human resource training and research grant from USAID. The training provided helped teach students operational techniques and research methodologies dealing primarily with *Anopheles* and *Aedes* mosquitoes as well as malaria transmission. The second post, as a Communicable Disease Country Advisor –Entomologist, was the PAHO consultant responsible for the PAHO Communicable Diseases desk in Brazil. In addition to collaborating with the Brazilian National Malaria Control Agency, he also provided expert advice on other vector-borne diseases including leishmaniasis, lymphatic filariasis, Chagas disease, and onchocerciasis. He helped prepare and implement both the National Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination program and the Visceral Leishmaniasis emergency program in Brazil. He was also responsible for managing various agreements between PAHO and the Brazilian National Health Foundation including World Bank Loans for Malaria Control in the Amazon Basin and Endemic Disease Control in Northeast Brazil. In his next appointment as Project Manager and Country Advisor in Communicable Diseases he managed, planned, programmed, carried-out, evaluated and

Arias awarded AMCA Medal of Honor

monitored all activities relating to a \$4.8 million agreement between the Ministry of Health of Venezuela and PA-HO (through the PCEE/World Bank Loan on Control of Endemic Diseases). In addition to managing the grant, which included a vector-borne disease component, he also taught and supervised Master's students at the School of Malariology in Maracay, Venezuela. His last position with PAHO was as a Regional Advisor in Communicable Diseases where he was responsible for matters concerning policy in the prevention and control of West Nile virus, dengue fever, leishmaniasis and vector-related activities for PAHO member countries in the Americas. Among his duties in the position, he was involved in designing, planning and implementing long-term programs to strengthen West Nile encephalitis, dengue and leishmaniasis control programs in Latin America and the Caribbean; evaluating national dengue control programs, detecting weaknesses to be corrected and strengths to be augmented; making appropriate and timely decisions to advise other agencies as to the situation of dengue in the Region so as to permit them to make pertinent decisions; and to explain, advocate and convince the ministers of health of member countries that new interventions in dengue control must be implemented in order to reduce the morbidity and mortality of the disease.

During his career at PAHO, he stayed in the academic world as a professor *ad honorem* at both the Escuela de Malariologia y Saneamiento Ambiental, "Dr. Arnoldo Cabaldón" Maracay, Venezuela, and the Masters in Medical Entomology Program, University of Panama, Panama City, Panama. Additionally, he was a visiting lecturer Harvard School of Tropical Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts. He also supervised at least nine Master's theses and has been a member of several thesis defense committees.

After retiring from PAHO in 2003, Dr. Arias came to the Fairfax County Health Department where he infused and energized the new Disease Carrying Insects Program. He demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the newly established Fairfax County program by evaluating new mosquito trapping and testing methods, expanding education and outreach on mosquitoes, ticks, West Nile virus, and Lyme disease in an effort to reach all area residents and encouraging staff to pursue higher levels of professional development. While working in Fairfax County, he continued to consult internationally in Brazil and Panama. He also worked with a team of editors on a series of books about insects of the Amazon, reviewed journal articles and Master's theses, and mentored young biologists in the hope that they would find joy in the world of entomology. Dr. Arias retired from the Fairfax County Health Department in 2013 but the impacts of his hard work and dedication to public health will be felt for many years to come.

Even in his retirement, Dr. Arias still finds time to do entomology work with a group of collaborators on a dengue and *Aedes aegypti* project in Brazil funded through the Gates Foundation.

Throughout his career, Dr. Arias was active in a variety of groups trying to improve the public health. He was a member of over 40 PAHO or World Health Organization Technical Committees on Tropical Diseases; went on multiple World Bank missions to evaluate endemic disease control projects in Argentina, Brazil, and Venezuela; and served as an advisor and technical advisor committee member for the International Development and Research Center (IDRC-Canada) ECOHEALTH in Latin America.

Honors that Dr. Arias has received include the 2011 AMCA Volunteer of the Year Award for his contributions to vector-borne disease outreach efforts, recognition by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for his lifetime of work and his dedication to public health, a meritorious service award from INPA, and various awards from PAHO, including the Director Award which is the highest individual award in the organization. He has also had at least 16 insects named in his honor.

He has over 75 peer-reviewed publications and was a co-editor of six books in the <u>Aquatic Biodiversity in Latin</u> America series.

Throughout his career, Dr. Arias has been a member of various scientific societies including the American Mosquito Control Association, the Society for Vector Ecology, the Entomological Society of America, the Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association, and the Virginia Mosquito Control Association.

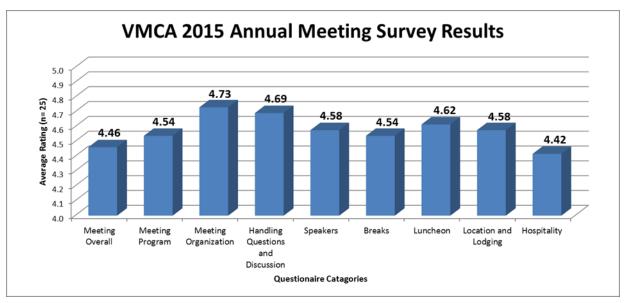
The Medal of Honor Award is the highest achievement of the AMCA and upon review of his lifetime of work, we can think of no person who is a better recipient than Dr. Jorge Arias.

Submitted by Josh Smith

2015 VMCA Annual Meeting Recap

During the 2015 annual meeting, we received 25 filled out surveys. Shown below are the results to the questionnaire. Overall the meetings high scoring and positive feedback received in the surveys point to another successful meeting.

We appreciate all of your comments and suggestions and will keep them under consideration to make next year's meeting even better. Thank you to everyone that participated, and we look forward to seeing you all next year.



Outstanding Service Award – Lisa Wagenbrenner

Lisa has served as President of both the VMCA and TMVCC while serving on several additional committees. For many years, Lisa has proved her high level of dedication by consistently and enthusiastically providing support whenever needed. As chairperson of the education committee, Lisa oversees and works closely with her fellow mosquito biologists to provide a *free-of-charge* mosquito I.D. course. She is also instrumental in organizing the annual recertification course. As chairperson of the Local Arrangements committee, she is a critical part of the coordination and planning to ensure a successful annual meeting.



Presidential Plaque – Jennifer Pierce

Jennifer served as the VMCA president from 2014-2015. Through her hard work and commitment to the organization, Jennifer used her time in office to make 2014 a great year. We thank you for your service.



2015 Hampton Roads Chicken Round-Up

Mosquito Control personnel from the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach came together on June 15^{th} , 2015 for the annual round-up of sentinel chickens. The event took place at the farm of Melvin Atkinson

in Isle of Wight County, as it has for the past several years.

Sentinel chickens are an essential part of these cities' programs. They are placed at various locations throughout each city and are used to identify presence of West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEEV). After the initial baseline testing is done to confirm no presence of infection, blood samples are taken from the birds weekly or biweekly, depending on the city. The samples are sent to the Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) in Richmond where they are tested for antibodies to the two viruses previously mentioned. When a sentinel chicken is bitten by an infected mosquito, within a week the chicken begins to produce antibodies to the respective virus; they are not harmed. Once a blood test comes back as positive for antibodies for either virus, the chicken is replaced and the respective



Virginia Beach (closest to camera with blue tshirts) and Chesapeake crews setting up to take blood samples of the sentinels.

city may ramp up mosquito surveillance and treatment of the surrounding area. Most cities donate their chickens to non-profit sanctuaries when they become infected or at the end of the season.







Left: Karen Akaratovic, a biologist for Suffolk Mosquito Control, organizes band numbers and blood samples for Suffolk's sentinel chickens. *Right:* Jamie Durden, a biology technician for Suffolk Mosquito Control, selects a chicken to be banded and bled for testing. *Center:* Karen extracts the blood while Jamie holds the chicken in place.



Virginia Beach Interns, Isabella Bartha and Emily Dann (left to right), position a chicken while Biologist Dreda Symonds (far right) supervises and prepares to take a blood sample.

Submitted by Karen Akaratovic



Chesapeake Intern Leah Henry holds a chicken in her lap as Biology Technician Connie Gregg inserts a needle and extracts approximately 2mL of blood for virus testing. Intern Jessica Asfari, and Biologist Lisa Wagenbrenner (from left to right), stand behind.

TMVCC Update

The Tidewater Mosquito and Vector Control Council is pleased to announce all sponsors have been booked for the 2015 monthly meeting schedule. However, we are still interested in educational speakers for the months of August-October and December. If you or your colleagues are interested in sharing your mosquito control experiences and expertise, please contact one of the board members. Dates, locations, and presentation topics for each meeting are posted on the TMVCC page on the VMCA website as they become available. Monthly reminder emails are sent out to all TMVCC members. Please email TMVCC President, Karen Akaratovic, at kakaratovic@suffolkva.us if you would like your email to be added to

the contact list.

May 12th- Jeff Hottenstein with Clarke sponsored the May meeting which was the annual adulticide rodeo. Jeff provided a great calibration service as always to the local mosquito control jurisdictions. In attendance were Fort Eustis Army Base, City of Hampton, Langley Air Force Base, the Navy, City of Newport News, City of Norfolk, City of Poquoson, City of Portsmouth, City of Suffolk, City of Williamsburg, and York County.

June 10th- Joe Andrews with AllPro Vector Group sponsored the June meeting and gave a presentation created by Dr. Harrison titled, "Using ecology in developing control strategies for targeting spe-



Jeff Hottenstein with Clarke calibrates a Suffolk Mosquito Control adulticide machine.

cies." Dr. Harrison agreed to make the presentation available in PDF format for anyone interested. Please ask a board member if you would like a copy. Also, for the first time in TMVCC's history, Fairfax County attended the meeting remotely via GoToMeeting software. If this is something your jurisdiction would be interested in as well, please let a board member know. Other cities in attendance at this meeting were Hampton, Newport News, Suffolk, and York County.

July 8th- This meeting broke the attendance record with almost 50 people showing up to learn about snakes in the field from Wes Robertson of Henrico County as well as current larvicide products from Jim Andrews of Valent Biosciences Corporation. Jim sponsored the meeting and gave a very informative presentation on the biology behind his company's products as well as a new item on the market, Vecto-Prime Biological Larvicide, sold exclusively by Valent. For more information, contact Jim at James.Andrews@valentbiosciences.com or visit their website. Those in attendance were City of Hampton, Henrico County, the Navy, City of Newport News, City of Norfolk, City of Suffolk, and York County.

What's Happening in Suffolk

April 18, 2015 The Recycle Drive & Tire Amnesty Day was held at the Lowe's of Suffolk parking lot. This gives an opportunity for the citizens to clean out homes and cleanup yards. Goodwill Industries was present so citizens could drop off electronics, household items, clothing, and other items. Shred-It (a shredding company) took up to 3 paper bags or file size boxes of old bills, bank statements and other personal papers for shredding, TFC Recycling had a roll-off bin to drop off recycle items (paper, cardboard, tin cans and plastic bottles #1 & #2), and batteries and tires up to 24" in size without rims (private citizens only, no dealers). This year the drive brought in



1,132 tires, 2,500 pounds of materials for Goodwill, 320 pounds for TFC Recycling and 2,500 pounds for Shred-It. Suffolk Mosquito Control was present with lots of information on protecting yourself and others by cutting down on the population of mosquitoes. *Score Against Bites* activity book and *The A-B-C s of Bites* book (available from <u>AMCA</u>) are the 2 books we use, along with other items. Suffolk Mosquito Control also had on hand for the citizens, Mosquito Dunks that could be picked up with proper ID.









New VMCA Website

If you haven't been there lately, head on over to check out the new and improved website!



Big Changes in Chesapeake

September 1, 2015 will usher in a new era for the Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission. Current Director Joe Simmons will be retiring on that date. After a lengthy career in education, 12 years as a biologist and the last six as director of the Commission, Joe will stepping down to a less stressful lifestyle. Over the last decade, he has served as VMCA president, mid-Atlantic Director of the AMCA and numerous other positions in mosquito control.

One of his biggest accomplishments has been an education program for elementary students in Chesapeake. Beginning with a small grant in 2005, the program targets third grade students whose curriculum includes items such as insect life cycles and ecological relationships. This was a perfect fit to talk about mosquito biology and then how students can protect themselves and how they can reduce mosquito populations around their homes. Since inception, the half hour program has been presented to over 25,000 Chesapeake third graders.

Working with the Commission and with City Council, Joe was able to negotiate the construction of a new seven million dollar Mosquito Control Commission Headquarters facility to be constructed beside the existing Deep Creek site. Also over the last six years efficiency measures were put in place to reduce expenditures during some extremely difficult financial times and maintain a balanced budget. At the same time, the Commission has maintained one of the highest customer service ratings of any agency in the City.

But change is inevitable, and beginning on August 10 a new director will begin a transition period leading to September 1. The new director is no stranger to Virginia mosquito control personnel. She is Dreda A. Symonds, Mosquito Control biologist from Virginia Beach. Dreda has an extensive resume with many "firsts" from education, training, to mosquito surveillance. She was instrumental in the formation of TRAST, has worked extensively with AMCA, and has held offices in almost all mosquito control organizations.

Dreda brings with her extensive knowledge of mosquito biology and control operations and will be a welcomed addition to the Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission, the largest mosquito control operation in the state of Virginia in terms of budget and personnel. Congratulations to Dreda and good luck.

Submitted by Joe Simmons

MAMCA Meeting

Mark your calendars and make your plans now to attend the next remarkable meeting of the 41st Annual Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association meeting, March 30th - April 1st, 2016, at The Inn at Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN.

More information is available on the MAMCA conference website.





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

Montant Comment Colored		
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 SUBMITTTED	
Please "X" here if you cannot receive the new	sletter by email	
Questions or comments can be directed to Penel 257-683-8662 or mail to: Penelope.smelser@no	1	
Send payment (made payable to VMCA) and more, save and submit by email.	ail/fax this form to Secretary/Treasurer –oi	r- fill out t
Penelope Smelser VMCA Secretary-Treasurer 2800 Tarrant Street Norfolk, VA 23509 757-683-8662 office phone		

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.

757-683-2500 office fax

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.)

2015 Sustaining Members

The VMCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members for 2014. 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!

Ted Bean

(814) 671-6516 tbean@myadapco.com



Zach Cohen

(800) 227-8664



Electronic Data Solutions®

Matt Crabbe

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Bayer CropScience



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PP&S



Jim Andrews

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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

Alexandria Health Department

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

Norfolk, City of

Portsmouth, City of

Prince William County Mosquito & Forest Pest Management

Richmond, City of

Suffolk, City of

US Air Force / Langley Air Force Base

<u>Virginia Beach Mosquito Control</u>

York County

Health Information

<u>Virginia Department of Health</u> Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Other Mosquito Control Organizations

Mosqu

Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association
American Mosquito Control Association

AMCA/Fairfax County Education and Outreach Materials

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, 2015.**

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



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

2015 Virginia Mosquito Control Association Officers

President: Jay Kiser	(757) 514-7608	jkiser@suffolkva.us
President Elect: Josh Smith	(703) 246-8477	joshua.smith@fairfaxcounty.gov
Vice President: Jeff Hottenstein	(703) 498-9362	jhottenstein@clarke.com
1st Vice President: George Wojcik	(757) 393-8666	wojcikg@portsmouthva.gov
Secretary / Treasurer: Penelope Smelser	(757) 683-8662	Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov
Past President: Jennifer Pierce	(757) 426-5420	<u>JPierce@vbgov.com</u>
*TMVCC Representative: Karen Akaratovic	(757) 514-7608	kakaratovic@suffolkva.us
*MAMCA Representative: Ann Herring	(757) 514-7608	mherring@suffolkva.us
*Sustaining Member/Industry Rep: Jeff O'Neill	(302) 312-3950	joneill@central.com
*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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Production advisor: George Wojcik, City of Portsmouth