



# DIDEEBYCHA

Georgia Mosquito Control Association

www.GAmosquito.org



The GMCA Newsletter - DIDEEBYCHA - is a means of spotlighting various programs throughout Georgia, as well as a way of providing the membership with information about topics of interest to mosquito control.

## NPDES Update

Georgia Environmental Protection Division has indicated that they will...

...release their final NPDES pesticide permit document on Oct 28, 2011. By law, agencies that apply pesticides for mosquito control will have to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply pesticides and have a Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP) on file after Oct 31, 2011 BEFORE they can apply pesticides.

Commercial Pest Control companies will also have to have a PDMP. However, if GEPD follows the current EPA NPDES draft, there will be a threshold based on acreage that needs to be reached before a NOI is required to be filed. Check out the

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### Arboviral Summary

An update from the Georgia Department of Public Health on arboviral diseases in Georgia.

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### PESP

New method for collecting data for the EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program.

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### Program Spotlight

Information about the DeKalb County Board of Health's program providing protection against WNV.

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## Georgia Arboviral Summary



# GMCA

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual GMCA meeting is from Oct 19-21, 2011 in Athens, GA. There are a variety of speakers on the agenda from both commercial businesses and government agencies. Information about the meeting can be found at <http://www.gamosquito.org/meeting.htm>.

In addition to operational and informational talks, there will be an AMCA Washington Day update. The AMCA Washington Conference is a way for individual members from all states to come to Washington, DC and speak with their Senators and Representatives about important mosquito control issues.

WNV has been very active in Georgia this year. Our primary WNV vector, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, has been detected in high numbers in many areas where mosquito surveillance is being done.

In areas of high WNV risk, daytime biting mosquitoes are potentially infected, so repellents should be worn whenever venturing outside.

Our current arbovirus case count is:

- \*6 neuroinvasive WNV cases
- \*3 Presumptive WNV+ Viremic Donors
- \*4 WNV fever cases
- \*4 Dengue fevers with travel outside the US
- \*1 LaCrosse Encephalitis case

There have been two deaths associated with the WNV fever cases. The highest number of

WNV cases reported in Georgia was 55 in 2003. The public health epidemiologists are also looking into 9 additional WNV cases and one additional dengue case with travel outside the US.

Overall WNV has been detected in 395 mosquito pools. Prior to 2011, the most WNV detected in Georgia in mosquitoes was 126 pools. No other viruses that cause disease in humans have been detected.

One WNV+ bird has been reported, as well as 3 WNV+ horses. No EEE has been reported in horses or birds this year.

<http://health.state.ga.us/epi/vbd/pastsurv.asp>

## The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway

The Jones Center has created an archive of mosquito related papers and reports. These reports primarily deal with work done in southeastern Georgia. There are a number of reports from the Emory Field Station at Ichauway. The Emory Field Station was located in southwestern Georgia (Baker County) about 40 miles south of Albany. There are pdf's of all the

papers archived at the Center.

If someone would like a copy of a paper they can contact the Center librarian at [lcox@jonesctr.org](mailto:lcox@jonesctr.org).

Information about the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway can be found at <http://www.jonesctr.org/>.



## Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

an EPA partnership program

Established in 1994, the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) is an EPA partnership program that works with the nation's pesticide-user community to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. PESP is guided by the principle that partnership programs complement the standards and decisions established by regulatory and registration actions. The informed actions of pesticide users can further reduce the risks from pests and pesticides by playing a major role in ensuring human health and environmental safety.

<http://www.epa.gov/pestp/pestp/index.html>

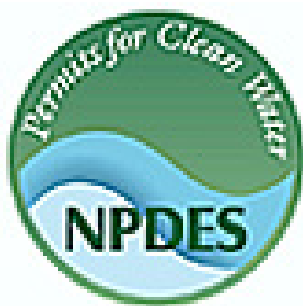
As a PESP member, the GMCA is tasked with collecting data about mosquito control practices in Georgia and showing improvements towards use of best management practices over time. To this end, the American Mosquito Control Association, which holds the membership that GMCA works under, has created a survey that can be used to collect data from individual mosquito control agencies that are a part of the GMCA. This survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/62D7SDV>. If you are a manager at of a mosquito control program or a commercial business that does mosquito control, please take a moment to fill out this survey to help us continue to show our willingness to be environmental stewards.

NPDES Update page on the GMCA website ([www.GAmosquito.org](http://www.GAmosquito.org)) for continuing updates or request to be included on the NPDES e-list for up-to-date information. To be included on the list, please email Rosmarie Kelly at [rmkelly@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:rmkelly@dhr.state.ga.us) and ask to be added to the list.

GA EPD draft NPDES permit for pesticide use -  
<http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/NPDES-Pesticide.html>

### NPDES Background Information

EPA is developing an NPDES general permit for point source discharges from the application of pesticides to U.S. waters, also known as the Pesticide General Permit (PGP), in response to a 2009 decision by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (*National Cotton Council, et al. v. EPA*). The court vacated [EPA's 2006 Final](#)



[Rule on Aquatic Pesticides](#) that said NPDES permits were not required for applications of pesticides to U.S. waters. As a result of the court's decision, discharges to waters of the U.S. from the application of pesticides will require NPDES permits when the court's mandate takes effect. On March 28, 2011, the Sixth Circuit of Appeals granted EPA's request for an extension to allow more time for pesticide operators to obtain permits for pesticide discharges into U.S. waters. The court's decision extends the deadline for when permits will be required from April 9, 2011 to October 31, 2011. Pesticide application use patterns not covered by EPA's Pesticide General Permit may need to obtain coverage under an individual permit or alternative general permit if they result in point source discharges to waters of the U.S. This general permit will provide coverage for discharges where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority. For discharges in NPDES authorized states, state NPDES authorities will be issuing their permit.

[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=410](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=410)

The NPDES Permitting program offers training courses, workshops, and webcasts to explain the regulatory framework and technical considerations of the NPDES Permit program. These courses are designed for permit writers, dischargers, EPA officials, and other interested parties.

[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/outreach.cfm?program\\_id=0&otype=1](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/outreach.cfm?program_id=0&otype=1)

## Focus on Mosquito Control

### DeKalb County Mosquito Control Program

In 2001, anticipating the arrival of West Nile virus (WNV), the DeKalb County Board of Health established an arbovirus control program. This program began actively seeking evidence of WNV in the county through testing of dead birds. On the morning of July 23, 2001, the news arrived that a Cooper's hawk from DeKalb County tested positive for WNV. This hawk was the first documented evidence of West Nile virus, not only in DeKalb County, but also in the state of Georgia.

The arbovirus control program works with residents to reduce mosquito infestations and takes an aggressive role in preventing infections of WNV and other arboviruses. (Arboviruses are **arthropod-borne** viruses.) This program coordinates with county and state agencies, local municipalities, neighborhood groups and residents. It works to track the mosquito population; to find, control and eliminate mosquito-breeding sites; and to educate the public in mosquito control. The program has three main components: surveillance, public education and mosquito control.

The surveillance component includes not only monitoring for dead birds, but also for various mosquito species and human infections. All dead bird reports are logged in to a database and mapped for analysis. Select birds are submitted for virus testing. Twenty-four locations are trapped weekly for surveillance of mosquito populations. All mosquitoes are sorted and select specimens are submitted for virus testing. Additionally, the mosquito collection counts are monitored and evaluated to identify trends in the mosquito population. Any human infection of WNV or other arbovirus is investigated to determine possible virus transmission locations.

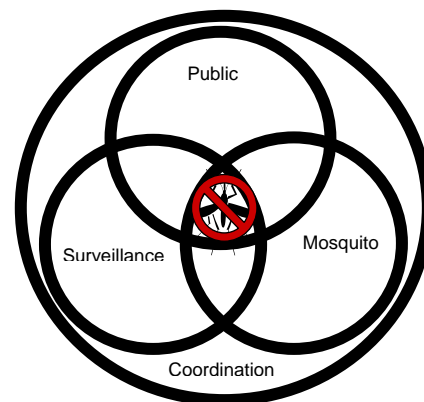
Education is an important component of mosquito control. Since *Cx. quinquefasciatus* transmits WNV in DeKalb County and breeds in containers, educating residents to remove these containers, or at least dump them regularly, limits the locations where a mosquito can lay her eggs. Some methods used to educate residents include press releases, town meetings, media events, health fairs, television

interviews, web pages, senior center presentations and email updates. Residents are encouraged to request a mosquito assessment so that staff can assist in locating breeding sites of mosquitoes.

In areas where surveillance indicates an increased risk of virus transmission, door-to-door campaigns are conducted. These campaigns help to locate breeding sites, to apply larvicide appropriately and to educate residents not only about eliminating mosquito breeding sites, but also about halting virus transmission by preventing mosquito bites.

Along with the door-to-door campaigns and mosquito assessments, visits are made to priority facilities including senior centers, personal care homes, higher risk centers and green spaces. These are areas with concentrations of individuals who have the highest risk of becoming seriously ill if they get infected with WNV. At these facilities, areas are larvicided and staff members are educated on eliminating mosquito breeding sites on their property.

Since 2001, staff members from the arbovirus control program have responded to over 5,700 requests for assessments, mapped 8,500 dead birds, knocked on over 40,000 doors, identified over 113,000 mosquitoes and prevented an unknown number of cases of WNV.



# The Oscar T Fultz Fellowship Award

## GMCA's Award for Excellence in Mosquito Control

This award is the highest award given by the GMCA next to that of the immediate past president of the association. The criteria for this award are exceptional life-time contributions to the association and to the control and study of mosquitoes.

For a person to be eligible for this award, an in-depth letter must be submitted no later than the July meeting of the Board of Directors. The president will name three members of the current Board of Directors or past presidents to serve on the election committee.

This award does not have to be given every year and must be held in its highest distinction, not to be given lightly.

The names of past award recipients can be found at:

<http://www.gamosquito.org/resources/Fultz%20Fellowship.pdf>.

## The Georgia Mosquito Control Association

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