

# DIDEEBYCHA

## GMCA Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

July 7, 2017

### Washington Day, 2017

May 16

The 19th Annual AMCA Washington Conference took place May 15-17, 2017 at The Melrose Georgetown Hotel. More than one hundred AMCA members met to discuss issues that can only be resolved at the Federal level. The Washington Conference is geared towards those US AMCA members concerned with the impacts of the decisions the federal government makes that have an effect on mosquito control and public health pesticides.

There were 4 position papers this year:

1. [Build Comprehensive Vector Programs](#)
2. [Clean Water Act NPDES Permit Impacts on Mosquito Control Programs](#)
3. [Endangered Species Act Considerations and Mosquito Control](#)
4. [Federal Funding for Mosquito Control: Advance Innovation and Discovery](#)

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### Annual Meeting

Athens, GA; Oct 18-20

The GMCA Board of Directors is currently working on the agenda for the annual meeting, being held on the UGA Campus at the Continuing Education Building on Oct 18-20.



So far we have a great line-up of speakers, with topics ranging from repellent development to dealing with service requests, as well as control overviews, vaccine development, calibration, and wolbachia. It should be a good mix of both applied and theoretical mosquito control topics.

There have been a few changes to our Board, with Kenna Graham taking a job in Tennessee with their Department of Public Health and David Touwsma working on becoming an even bigger commercial mosquito control tycoon.

President: Fred Koehle

VP: Joey Bland

Directors

1-year: Steve Pavlovich

2-year: Allen Hillman

3-year: Laura Peaty

Sustaining: Zane McCallister

ST: Karen Farris

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## Dealing with Zika Virus in Georgia in 2017

By Thuy-vi Thi Nguyen

Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is considered the world's busiest airport according to 2016 rankings from Airports Council International, having the most number of flights and number of passengers (over 104 million passengers). With this increase in international travel, travel-associated Zika cases have put concern regarding Zika virus transmission in Georgia.

Since Jan. 27, 2016, the state office Zika Epidemiology Team has triaged 2,620+ clinical inquiries about suspect Zika cases. 1,880 suspected patients have been tested/approved for testing, and DPH confirmed the 118th travel-related case on May 4th, 2017. There are currently 13 people enrolled in the pregnancy registry.

The prevention or reduction of transmission of mosquito-borne diseases is completely dependent on the control of mosquito vectors and limiting person-mosquito contact. Mosquito surveillance is a key component of any local integrated vector management program. The goal of mosquito-based surveillance is to quantify human risk by determining local vector presence and abundance.

The Georgia Department of Public Health's Vector Surveillance Coordinator Program from 2016 has been strengthened by hiring additional staff (1 additional VSC and an Assistant State Entomologist) for 2017 with the ability to further perform mosquito surveillance in more counties around the state. The VSCs have been placed in areas of potential higher risk and/or areas with little to no mosquito control in most of the counties in the region to be able to have provide more thorough surveillance in the designated districts. Additional and more comprehensive training has been provided to the VSCs to strengthen their knowledge base on both larval

and adult mosquito identification. Surveillance started in May and several travel-related ZIKV cases have already been investigated. Together with environmental health specialists and mosquito control, surveillance will be performed in every county in Georgia, a new 2017 goal. Mosquito surveillance equipment and training for all interested people in every Health District to do mosquito surveillance, identification, and control has also been arranged to better prepare for the next mosquito-borne virus to come along.

In response to the threat of possible Zika transmission, the GDPH has set up 10 additional trailers (total of 11) with Zika threat response equipment. It contains a moveable laboratory with both surveillance and identification equipment as well as control supplies and equipment.

The goal of vector control is to suppress *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* mosquito populations in a coordinated and effective manner to prevent or interrupt Zika virus transmission.

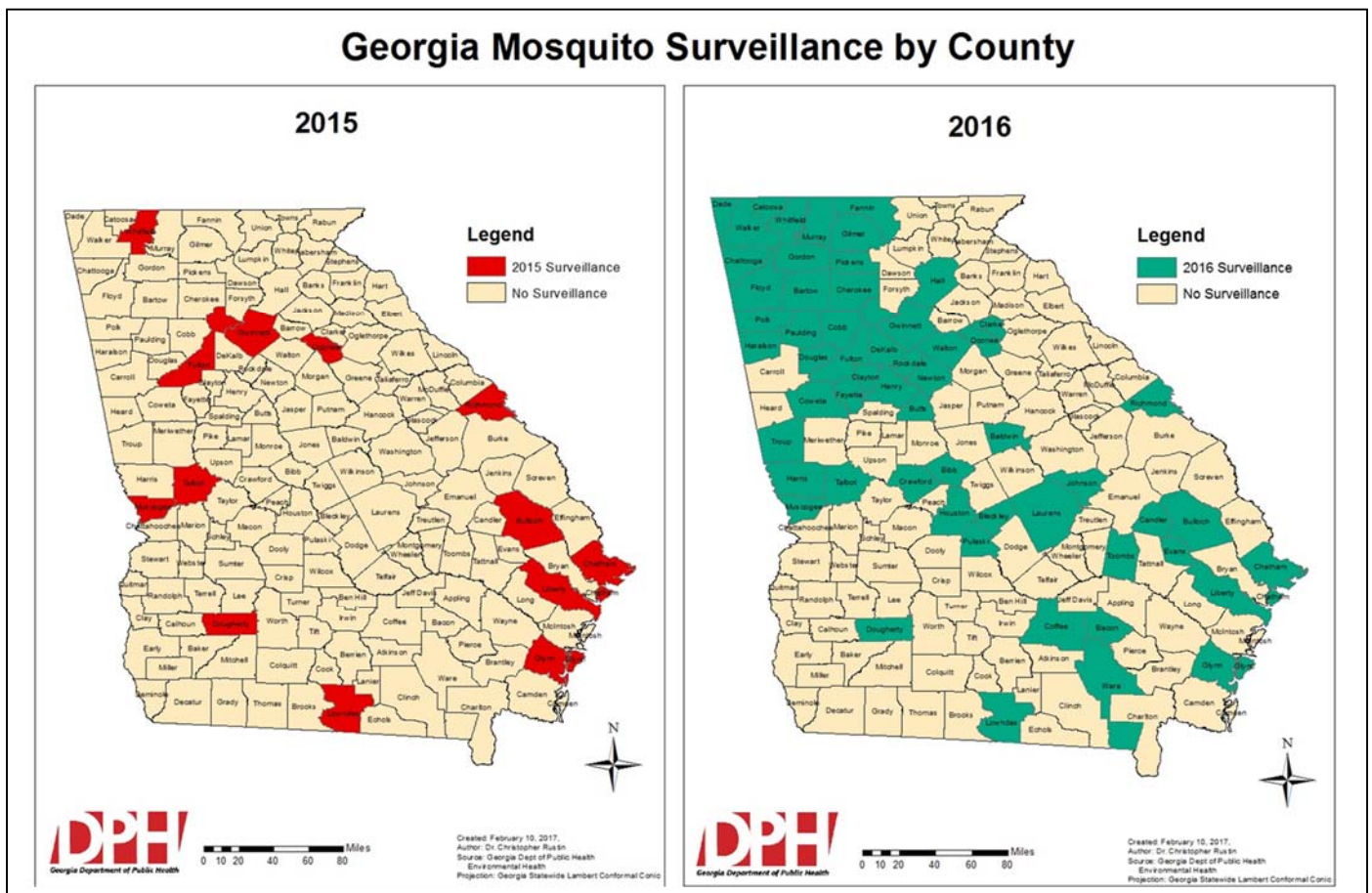
- The CDC has developed guidelines on the Surveillance and Control of *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* in the United States.
- The magnitude of activities used in a vector control response will depend on the extent of mosquito-borne transmission, as measured by the number of Zika cases and their geographic and temporal distribution.
- Control activities that target both adult and larval mosquitoes will be necessary to prevent or interrupt Zika virus transmission by mosquitoes.
- The methods used around a single case may be accomplished with intensive sanitation and limited adulticiding delivered with backpack spraying.

- More widespread transmission may require equipment (trucks or aircraft) that can deliver larvicides and adulticides over a much broader area in a timely and effective manner (contracted pest control company).
- Any vector control should be guided by robust mosquito surveillance to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.

Surveys performed by the CDC found an increase in the number of U.S. counties with *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes that are competent Zika-transmitting vectors. On June

In Georgia, state-wide mosquito surveillance has been performed in 51% of all 159 counties. Current surveillance data for 2017, up to the month of June, totals at 28,661 mosquitoes, of which 87% are *Culex* species, and 4 % *Aedes* spp. (2% are *Aedes albopictus*)

The *Ae. albopictus* numbers, such as all container breeding species, are currently low because of the heavy rains washing larvae out of containers, whereas floodwater species are high because of the rain. However, once the rainy weather ceases with water containers full of water, the



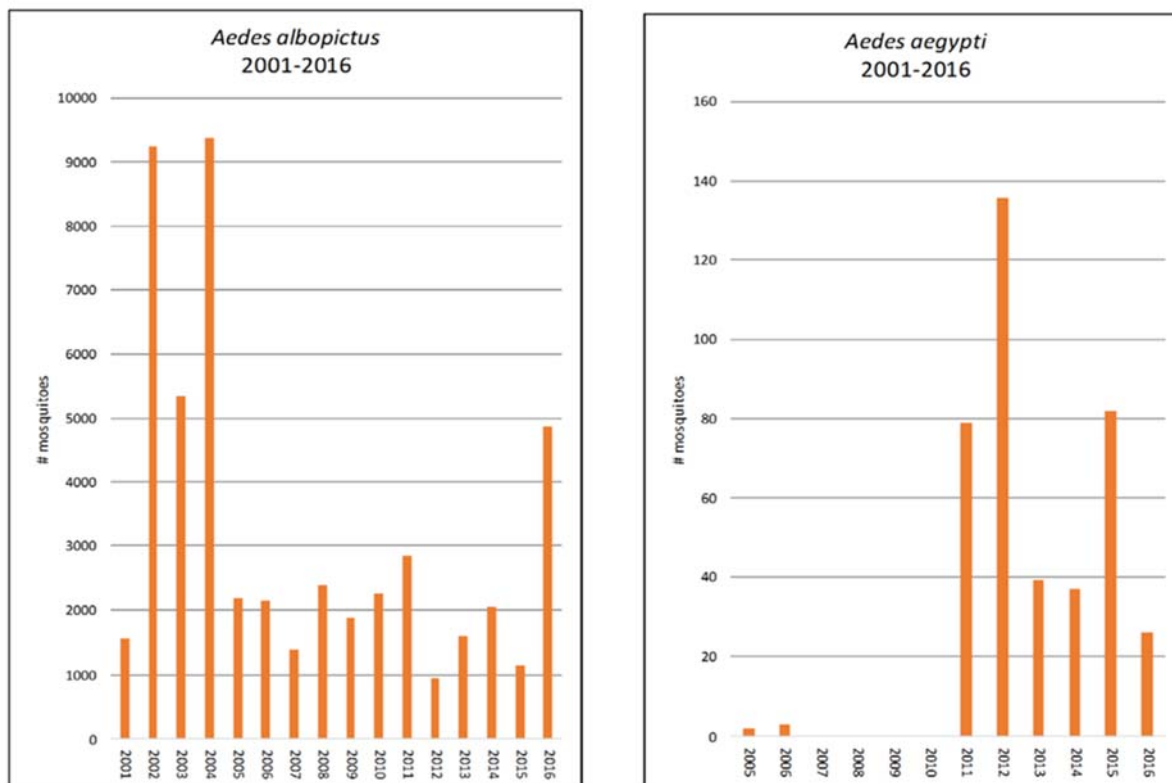
20th, 2017, the CDC released a statement on the survey findings that show an increase in the number of counties in the Southern United States reporting the presence of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* as compared to a previous report.<sup>1</sup>

numbers of container breeding species are expected to significantly increase. Low numbers of *Aedes* spp. are also due to incomplete data sharing, either reports have not yet been submitted or only mosquitoes sent for testing are reported.

**References**

1. Micah B. Hahn, Lars Eisen, Janet McAllister, Harry M. Savage, John-Paul Mutebi, Rebecca J. Eisen; Updated Reported Distribution of *Aedes (Stegomyia) aegypti* and *Aedes (Stegomyia) albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) in the United States, 1995–2016. J Med Entomol 2017 tjx088. doi: 10.1093/jme/tjx088

***Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* counts in Georgia 2001-2016**



**Number of Counties with Mosquito Surveillance by Year**

year	# counties
2006	12
2007	10
2008	12
2009	10
2010	16
2011	14
2012	6
2013	8
2014	10
2015	8
2016	53
2017	(81/159)





Misty, our newest Vector Surveillance Coordinator

## Representatives

Cooperative Extension – Elmer Gray

Public Health – Rosmarie Kelly

Past President – Jeff Heusel

Fred agreed to come back and help out as president when Kenna headed north to TN, and volunteered another Richmond County BOH employee, Karen Farris, to take over the Secretary-Treasurer spot.

Active Membership (\$20) is for any and all persons who are professionally engaged in any branch of mosquito and related pest control work, and persons interested in the cause of mosquito and related pest control who desire affiliation with this association.

Companies that are professionally engaged in any branch of mosquito and related pest control work who desire affiliation with this association shall be eligible for commercial membership. If a pest control company wishes to become a Commercial Member (\$100), the company name will be listed on the Commercial Members page.

Any person or firm interested in the promotion of the purposes of GMCA may become a Sustaining Member (\$400). Sustaining Membership includes one individual membership and one exhibit space for the Annual Meeting.

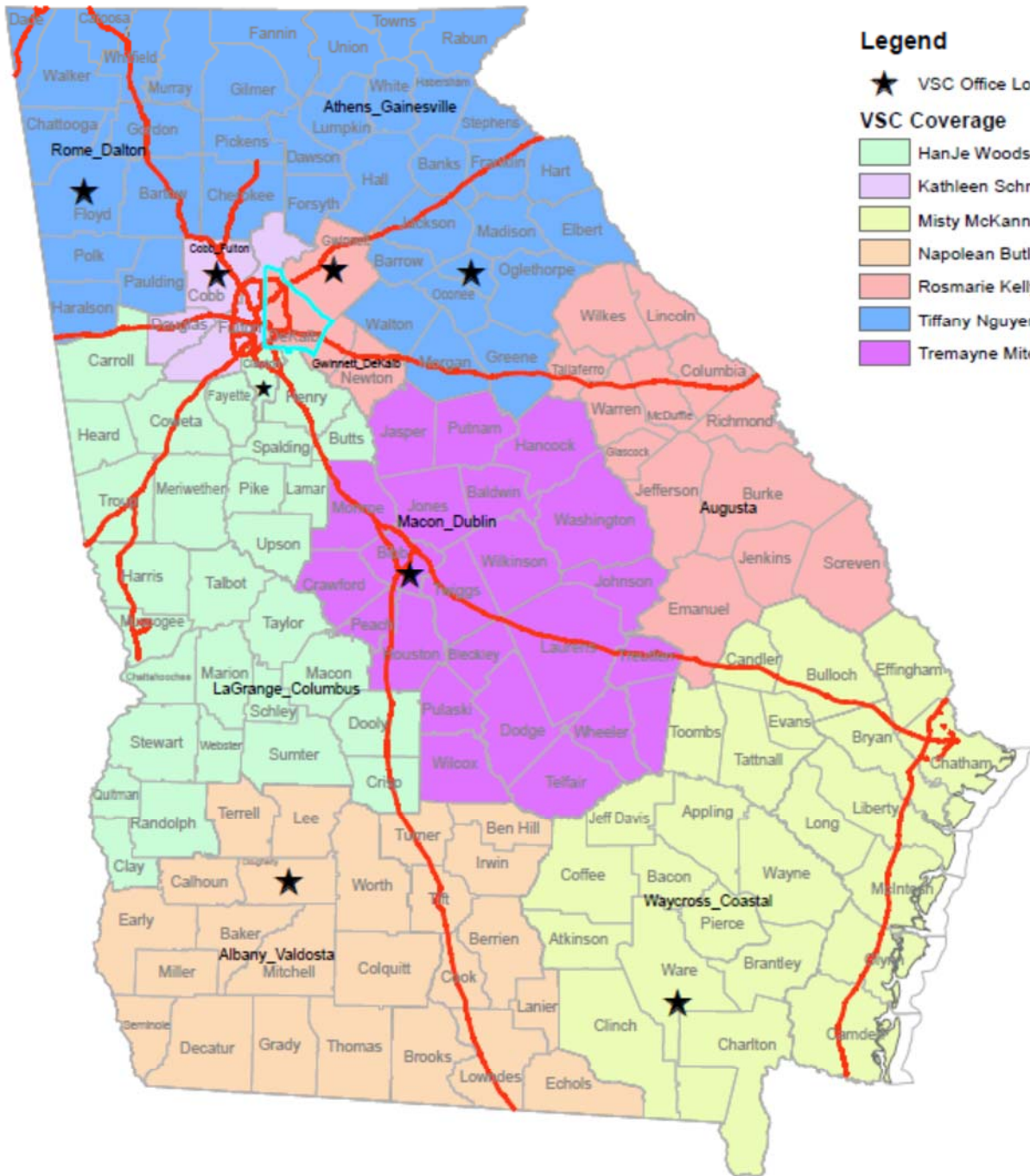
Please check out our website – [www.GAmosquito.org](http://www.GAmosquito.org) – for additional information.







# Environmental Health Vector Surveillance Regions



## Legend

★ VSC Office Location

## VSC Coverage

- HanJe Woodson
- Kathleen Schmidt
- Misty McKanna
- Napoleon Butler
- Rosmarie Kelly
- Tiffany Nguyen
- Tremayne Mitchell

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## The Georgia Mosquito Control Association

**GMCA**  
**c/o Karen Farris**  
1916 North Leg Rd, Bldg K  
Augusta, GA 30909

[www.GAmosquito.org](http://www.GAmosquito.org)