



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

Everyone should by now have submitted their NOI and prepared their PDMP.

The next step is to put together a report for pesticide application activities for 2012. This report should be kept on file, and NOT sent to the GA EPD office. A biennial report form is available on the GMCA website. Thanks to our colleagues in MA for allowing us to modify their form.

Check out the NPDES Update page on the

GMCA website (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 and ask to be added to the list.

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Mosquito ID Classes

The free adult and larval ID classes offered by the GDPH may be discontinued.

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Adult and Larval Mosquito ID Classes

Knowing what mosquito species are present and where they are breeding is essential to a well-planned mosquito control program. A quality mosquito control program has as its foundation a solid understanding of the biology of the mosquito species that occur locally. This includes such information as where the larvae are found, where the adults rest, what time of day the adults look for a blood meal, what control measures are most effective against each species, and whether pesticide resistance is present in the mosquito populations. In addition, control of disease-transmitting mosquitoes requires information on the timing and distribution of human and animal cases.

Monitoring or surveillance is an important part of both nuisance-based mosquito control program and virus surveillance programs. Collection and identification of larval mosquitoes in new or previously identified habitats often form the core of nuisance-focused surveillance. Adult mosquito surveillance is used mainly as an assessment tool to judge the effectiveness of control measures.

In disease prevention and control programs, adult mosquito surveillance plays a much larger role, since the risk of pathogen transmission is often linked to adult mosquito density, infection rates, and

the age structure of the female population. The objective is to detect activity of the vector species at the earliest possible point in time so that human risk of disease can be reduced. Good surveillance promotes the most effective and efficient use of public health pesticides, and aids in making programs more responsive and more economical. Mosquito surveillance also becomes an important component of preparedness during an emergency where mosquitoes become a problem.

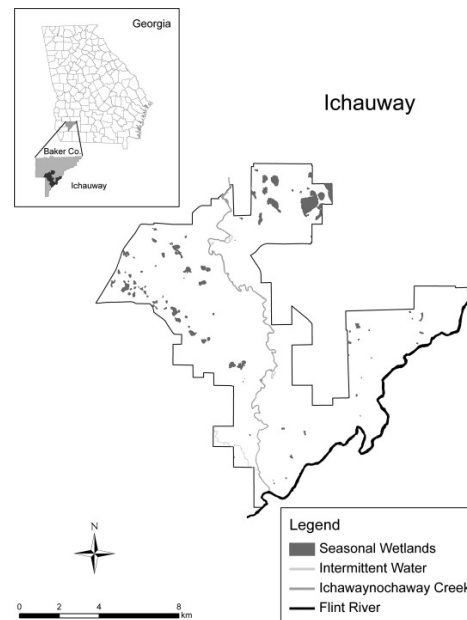
The Georgia Department of Public Health sponsors one adult mosquito ID class and one larval ID class in Georgia each year. Along with mosquito identification, information concerning surveillance and control are discussed in both classes, and Georgia-specific information about arbovirus surveillance is presented. Both classes are open to Environmental Health Specialists, PCOs, and Mosquito Control personnel throughout Georgia and the surrounding states, as well as to anyone wishing to learn how to identify mosquitoes.

These classes have been offered since 2001. Initially each was a 3-day class taught by Dr Bruce Harrison and Parker Whitt from the now-disbanded Public Health Pest Management Section of the Division of Environmental Health in North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The classes were recently reformatted as 2-day classes, and are taught by Parker Whitt, who is now with North

Carolina's Department of Agriculture. These classes are supported by the CDC and by the GMCA sustaining members, who provide the lunches for both class days, as well as sharing information about mosquito control. CEUs in CAT 31 and 41 are offered for each class.

These classes are currently at risk. As arboviral surveillance funding has decreased, class costs have been picked up by the GDPH Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response. Recently there has been talk that funding may not be made available for the 2013 classes. It is important for those who make the decision to fund these kinds of programs are made aware of the need to continue to offer this training. To this end, if you would like to see the GDPH continue to offer mosquito ID classes, please send an email to Dr Cherie Drenzek (cldrenzek@dhr.state.ga.us), of the Acute Disease Epidemiology Section of the GDPH, and to Scott Minarcine (SEMinarcine@dhr.state.ga.us) and Dr Pat O'Neal (jponeal@dhr.state.ga.us) of the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response requesting that these classes continue to be offered.





The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway

A little know resource for mosquito research can be found in Newton County Georgia well off the beaten path. The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway (<http://www.jonesctr.org/index.html>) seeks to understand, to demonstrate, and to promote excellence in natural resource management and conservation on the landscape of the southeastern coastal plain of the United States.

The Jones Center was founded on a long-standing ethic of conserving land and water resources. Ichauway is maintained as the tangible expression of this natural resource management philosophy. Central to this philosophy is the conviction that management and research inform each other and are partners in their contribution to knowledge. One of the Center's most important products is people who combine a rigorous understanding of ecological principles with proficiency in natural resource management.

To understand the natural systems of the southeastern coastal plain, the Center assembles information from respected practitioners and the scientific literature and conducts targeted research to expand the knowledge of the field. Through a rigorous and creative research program the Center aspires to improve management and stewardship of resources of the southeastern

coastal plain and also to contribute to natural resource science at the national and international levels.

To demonstrate excellence in natural resource management, the Center manages Ichauway to protect and enhance the diversity of natural communities and their component species. The practical and economic aspects of proper stewardship are fundamental considerations of this work.

To promote excellence in natural resource management and conservation, the Center develops and conducts education and outreach programs for undergraduate and graduate students, interns, land owners and managers. The Center serves as a science-based resource for public officials, policy makers and the public.

The Jones Center has created an archive of mosquito related papers and reports. It is mostly southeastern in scope and a lot of the papers are from the Emory Field Station at Ichauway. All the papers are in PDF format. If someone would like a copy of a paper they can contact the Jones Center librarian at lcox@jonesctr.org.

NPDES Update (cont)

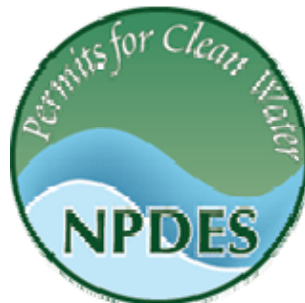
GA EPD NPDES permit for pesticide use -
<http://www.georgiaepd.org/Documents/NPDESPesticideGeneralPermit.html>

From Joe Conlon, Technical Advisor for the AMCA:
<http://www.mosquito.org/news-article--message-points-for-impacts-of-npdes>

As West Nile virus and EEE control measures have captured the media's attention during the recent outbreaks, activists have begun using this as an opportunity to dismiss our claims of NPDES impacts on our capabilities to provide comprehensive control measures to safeguard public health. Recently, a Water Policy Report (<http://environmentalnewsstand.com/Water-Policy-Report/Water-Policy-Report-09/10/2012/menu-id-304.html>) sported the headline, "Despite Criticism, West Nile Spraying Unhampered By EPA Pesticide Permit", a theme which seemingly reinforces the activist's argument, but on closer review of the facts and quotes therein, provides little support for the headline's stark pronouncement. Controversial claims such as this often engender media inquiries to districts in order to obtain either confirmation or foment debate. Therefore, it is important that the AMCA membership both be able to place the article in proper context and make the case that, in fact, NPDES is hampering our ability to provide our citizenry with the services they've come to expect.

To this end, you will find a [bulleted list of message points](http://www.mosquito.org/assets/News/message%20points%2009%2018%2012.pdf) (<http://www.mosquito.org/assets/News/message%20points%2009%2018%2012.pdf>) that you can use if confronted by the Water Policy Report or similar rationale as a means to undermine our argument for legislative relief from CWA via HR 872 or HR 872 language in the Farm Bill under consideration. Much of the information included was kindly provided by AMCA members responding to the request issued through blast email earlier this week. We are aware that the list is lengthy and detailed. This is not by accident, as we hope that it will afford you a number of options to cut and paste those most germane to your needs as well as provide an appreciation of the depth and scope of the problem on a national scale. The bullets in bold lettering are our message points, with the indented bullets providing documentation.

AMCA's efforts, in conjunction with other user groups and industry coalitions, to obtain a legislative fix to the NPDES requirements continue apace - with proactive liaisons with key House and Senate members and staffers. The list of message points will also provide a countervailing set of arguments should your legislators begin to think a legislative fix to the NPDES issue is not needed, particularly if they choose to use the article to bolster that view. Please feel free to forward this document to your representative and Senators.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Georgia Mosquito Control Association

The Georgia Mosquito Control Association held its 35th annual educational conference in Athens, GA on October 17-19. The program was well thought-out and timely with an excellent slate of speakers. The presentations are available for viewing online at the Association's web-site at <http://www.gamosquito.org/Presentations2012.htm>.

The following officers and Board members were installed at the meeting: Fred Koehle – President, Ian Brown – Vice President, Jerry DeRamus – Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Moulis – Past President, Alan Gaines – 1 Year Director, Jeff Heusel – 2 Year Director, Kenna Graham – 3 Year Director, Julie Fogg – Industry Director.

The GMCA website is full of useful information. Recently a "Publications" page has been added to the website to make it easier for people to find research papers of importance to the mosquito control community. If anyone has any PDFs of papers that would be useful to the GMCA membership, please send them to Rosmarie Kelly at rmkelly@dhr.state.ga.us.

Last year the GMCA moved into the age of social media. The [Georgia Mosquito Control Association \(GMCA\)](#) group currently has 52 members. There is also a twitter account at #GAmosquito. Social media is a quick way to share useful information, and the American

Mosquito Control Association has even provided training for mosquito control programs wishing to use twitter as a means of dispersing and gathering information (Twitter 101 for Mosquito Control Professional).

This year, in an effort to reach out to the commercial pest control applicators that are more and more getting into the mosquito control business, the GMCA has added a new category for commercial pesticide applicators. If a commercial Pest Control Company becomes a commercial member, their employees can save \$20 on their annual meeting registration. Commercial applicators also have the option of becoming an individual member.

The GMCA website also includes information on the NPDES permit and the PESP program (<http://www.gamosquito.org/certifications.htm>). The AMCA is currently collecting data from PESP Partner under the AMCA's auspices. This survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PESP2012>.

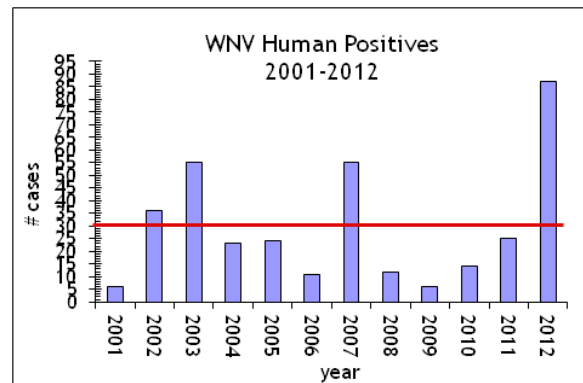


Arbovirus Update

This has been an active year for arboviruses in Georgia. As of November 12, there have been 75 WNV human cases in Georgia, including 5 deaths. Previously the highest case count has been 55 WNV+ humans. These numbers will likely rise as a number of cases are currently under investigation. There have also been 13 WNV viremic blood donors reported to the GDPH. Eight travel-associated dengue cases have also been reported.

Nine birds have been submitted for testing to SCWDS, with one bird testing WNV+. Eastern Equine Encephalitis has also been reported from a flock of emu. There have been 9 EEE+ and 10 WNV+ horses reported.

Mosquito surveillance and testing was done in 6 counties this year. WNV was reported in 124 pools to date, with positive mosquitoes being found in 5 of the 6 counties. Three mosquito pools also tested positive for EEE.



The Georgia Mosquito Control Association

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