



The Skeeter

Newsletter of The Virginia Mosquito Control Association

Volume 66, No. 1

April 2006

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President's Message

I am honored to serve as President of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association in 2006 and I do not take this task lightly. It is an exciting time to be a member of the VMCA board as our membership has increased significantly, mostly in Central and Northern Virginia. This increase in membership outside of what has been the "hub" of the VMCA membership, Southeastern Virginia, is a vital part of making this truly a statewide association. Two of the VMCA's newest board members are from areas where that have not produced board members before: Vice President Randy Buchanan from Henrico County and First Vice President Jennifer Johnson from Fairfax. The perspectives that Randy and Jennifer bring to the VMCA from their respective regions should enhance the way we serve our entire membership.



Jason Williams, VMCA

The increase in membership is not without its growing pains. Nearly 80% of the membership attended the annual meeting this past February and we are pushing the capacity of our usual venue for the meeting. There have been, for several years, requests for a change of location for the annual meeting to somewhere more stimulating or at least just different. The plain truth of the matter is that we could not find another location that could accommodate us in the same, very reasonable price range. Those of you that took the time to fill out the meeting questionnaire seemed to be, for the most part, pleased with the meeting this year. We decided, with the 400 year anniversary of Jamestown in 2007 and hotels filling up quickly to go ahead and lock in the Crowne Plaza in Williamsburg for at least one more year. Having stated that, know that we are actively looking for a new location for 2008 and any help from the membership in hunting down a suitable venue for our meeting is greatly appreciated.

The VMCA will be sending a delegation, including myself, VMCA First Vice President, Jennifer Johnson, and the AMCA President-Elect, Gene Payne, to D.C., May 1-3, for the AMCA Spring Washington Conference. We will be meeting with our elected officials to discuss issues near and dear to us involved in mosquito management. We meet before going to Capital Hill in order to coordinate our message and we are well informed in advance on the issues. It may be intimidating to a "newbie" but our elected officials and their staffs are extremely pleasant and attentive. I encourage anyone who is interested to visit the AMCA website for schedule and hotel information. It is a great opportunity to get our message to our legislators and the more people we have from Virginia, the better.

As our Virginia mosquito and arboviral season is starting up, remember that ours is an important and noble profession in protecting the public health and I hope everyone has great success in their programs managing mosquitoes and the diseases they carry.

Jason W. Williams
President, VMCA

Honorary Member and R.E. Dorer Award

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. Bruce Harrison served as a de facto Virginia State Entomologist unfilled position for many years by being always available to freely consult on significant mosquito issues when needed.

WHEREAS, Dr. Bruce has been much involved in the writing of more than 90 Research papers that have served to enlighten the medical entomology community along with association memberships for enhanced awareness and operations.

WHEREAS, The VMCA has greatly benefited by Dr. Harrison's attendance at many annual meetings some at his own expense to provide presentations on his research activities for the enlightenment of the attendees.

WHEREAS, Dr. Harrison when asked has conducted for a nominal fee many local mosquito identification courses to promote a more knowledgeable membership about the various types of mosquitoes and their source habitats.

WHEREAS, The VMCA wishes to recognize Dr. Bruce Harrison as a consummate professional, for his many contributions to the betterment of the association and its members.

NOW, Therefore be it proclaimed by the President and association membership that Dr. Bruce Arthur Harrison is hereby congratulated upon being selected to be a lifetime Honorary member of the VMCA and to receive the esteemed R.E. Dorer award!



Dr. Bruce Harrison, VMCA Honorary Member and R.E. Dorer Recipient.



Past President Gary Tetreault

A year later than planned Gary Tetreault received his VMCA president plaque. Gary was away "camping in the desert" for the 2005 Annual Meeting. We appreciate Gary's service to our country and VMCA.

Certificates of Appreciation

The Hampton Crew (Mike Elberfeld, Delbert Kreiger, Edward Bishop, John Miller, Richard Walker, Kenneth Jackson, Greg Atkinson) were given Certificates of Appreciation for all of their hard work helping to make recertification courses run smoothly.

Outstanding Service Awards

Joe Conlon received an Outstanding Service Award for his long standing commitment to the VMCA. Joe continues to drive up from Florida each year just to attend our meetings and regularly gives presentations. The past two years Joe has also provided the entertainment at our banquets, allowing him to poke fun at VMCA members at our request.

Ted Bean also received Outstanding Service Award for providing limitless support the VMCA and TMVCC. Unfortunately, Ted's service area no longer includes the state of Virginia. We wish him the best.

2006 Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting was a great success. There were 150 registered for the meeting (including speakers). Membership totals are 13 sustaining members, 103 regular members, and 78 associate members.

(Meeting Presentations) Most presentations are available for distribution, contact Jason Williams at 757-637-3932 if interested.

Digital Images provided by Beverly Holmberg and Tom Gallagher.

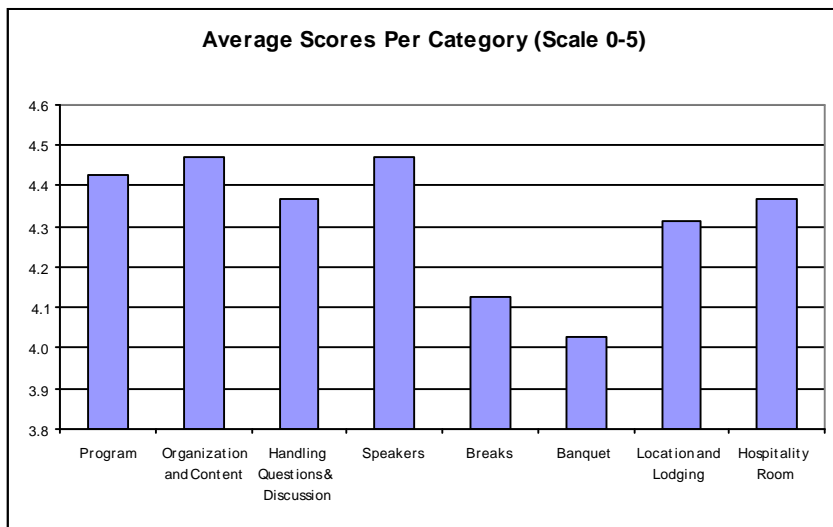


2006 Annual Meeting Evaluations

39 out of 149 registered attendees completed and returned a survey. The chart is a summary of the average score for each item rated. Please note that not all 39 surveys contained a score for all categories.

Interested in making next years meeting a success?

Contact Agnes Flemming
agnes.flemming@vdh.virginia.gov or
 Randy Buchanan
buc06@co.henrico.va.us for more details.



THANKS VMCA!

From Bruce A. Harrison

Talk about getting blindsided, that's what happened to me at the recent VMCA annual meeting. I really didn't know what to say at the meeting. So, now I will try to express first my humbleness and secondly my heart-felt thanks to the officers and members of VMCA for having received the R. E. Dorer Award and later the honorary lifetime membership. You are a great association, and it has been a real pleasure to be a member and to watch it grow over the last 12-15 years. If you don't believe me consider this, who in Virginia would have expected 10 years ago that one of their own would be the upcoming AMCA president? Although Gene is worried he will not do a good job, there is no doubt in my mind about the high quality leadership he will provide. The same is true for the professionalism and leadership of the officers of the association. Who would have expected that the size of the annual meetings would approach 150 attendees that are excited about their work? So, I take my hat off to you, VMCA! I did play a low level role in training some of you, but the rewards I received from my friendships with you have far exceeded the effort it took to train. However, what you have now is because you, the association, have put your act together and made the VMCA a great association. I'm proud to be a member of the VMCA.

The VMCA donated \$500 to the Hurricane Relief, specifically to a fund sheltered under the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association. One hundred percent of all donations will go to families of mosquito control personnel.

Additional donations can be made to Calcasieu Parish Mosquito Control, 1037 Tom Watson Rd, Lake Charles, LA 70615. Checks should be made out to Hurricane Katrina Relief - LMCA. Please write, "for Hurricane Katrina Relief" on the outside of the envelope.



March 3, 2006

Virginia Mosquito Control Association
900 Hollowell Lane
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320-3619

Dear Ms. Beasley:

On behalf of the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association (LMCA), I would like to thank you for your generous contribution to the Hurricane Relief Fund. As you know, literally millions of people throughout the gulf coast were impacted by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in some fashion. Most people were affected in small ways such as the loss of utilities and disruption of their daily lives. However, many thousands of people—including a large number of fellow mosquito control workers sustained damage to their homes, or lost their homes entirely. The money collected through this fund will help these people get their lives back together. As important as that is, it will also let these mosquito folks know that others in their field care about their plight.

The outpouring of support by so many persons, companies, and associations has been truly awe inspiring. I have long thought of the many people throughout the country in mosquito control as more than friends and acquaintances—there exists a bond that goes beyond that. The number of donations, as well as their generosity, lends support to that sentiment.

Once again, thank you for your contribution to the Hurricane Relief Fund. It is sincerely appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Roderick A. Wells
President

Virginia Mosquito Control Association 2006 Sustaining Members

Adapco, Inc.
Tim McGonegal
108 Etheridge Road
Manteo, NC 27954
(252) 489-9384; Fax (866) 330-9888
tmcgonegal@myadapco.com

AMVAC Chemical
Clark Hudson
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Argo of Tidewater
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dhoyt@dynamicaviation.com

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Wellmark International
Charlie Pate
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(706) 338-4734
charles.pate@wellmarkint.com

Tidewater Mosquito and Vector Control Association (TMVCC)

New officers were nominated and voted in for 2006. The new officers are:

President	Lou DeMarco (Chesapeake)
Vice President	Charles Abadam (Suffolk)
Secretary	Michael Harrison (Portsmouth)

Virginia Mosquito Control Association Officers 2006

President: Jason Williams (757) 673-3932 jwilliams@mail.city.chesapeake.va.us
 President Elect: Agnes Flemming (757) 683-2824 agnes.flemming@vdh.virginia.gov
 Vice President: Randy Buchanan (804) 501-7332 buc06@co.henrico.va.us
 1st Vice President: Jennifer Johnson (703) 246-8404 Jennifer.Johnson3@fairfaxcounty.gov
 Secretary / Treasurer: JoAnn Beasley (757) 382-3453 jbeasley@mail.city.chesapeake.va.us
 Past President: Louis DeMarco (757) 382-3459 ldemarco@mail.city.chesapeake.va.us
 *MAMCA Representative: George Wojcik (757) 393-8666 gwojcik@portsmouthva.gov

* Denotes a non voting member of the board.

2006 TMVCC MEETING SCHEDULE

APRIL 12	Chesapeake Square Golden Coral, Portsmouth Blvd., sponsored by Jim Andrews and Valent Biosciences; Topic: Equipment Calibration and New Larvaciding Technology
MAY 10	James City County, sponsored by Jeff Hottenstein and Clarke Mosquito Control; Spring Calibration Rodeo
JUNE 14	Norfolk Golden Coral, Military Highway, sponsored by Tim McGonegal and ADAPCO; Topic: Larvacides
JULY 12	Hampton Golden Coral Mercury Blvd., sponsored by Joe Andrews and UNIVAR; Topic: Five Popular Mosquito Habitats and Habitat Reduction
AUGUST 9	Chesapeake Golden Coral, Battlefield Blvd., sponsored by Charlie Pate & Wellmark International
SEPTEMBER 13	VACANT
OCTOBER 11	VACANT
NOVEMBER 8	Chesapeake Mosquito Control, 900 Hollowell Rd, sponsored by Peter Connelly, Tim McGonegal and ADAPCO; Customer Appreciation Day

2006 Committee Assignments

Information (Skeeter)

George Wojcik, Randy Buchanan,
Jennifer Johnson, Michael Harrison,
Bruce Harrison, David Gaines,
Jorge Arias, Norman Greffe, Kirby Foley

Public Relations (Poster Contests/Science Fairs, etc.)

Randy Buchanan, Lane Carr, Cindy Daniels, Jennifer Johnson

Ad Hoc (if Applicable)

Louis DeMarco, Gene Payne, Tom Gallagher, Gary Tetreault

Photography

Beverly Holmberg, Carl Sivertsen,
Lane Carr, Norman Greffe

Audit

Bill Rawls (CP)
Louis DeMarco

Membership

Randy Buchanan, Jennifer Johnson,
Carl Sivertsen

Education (Public Health: Category 8/60 certification and recertification, mosquito ID, bionomics, surveillance)

Randy Buchanan, Leroy Bohn, Kirby Foley, Bruce Harrison,
Joe Andrews, David Gaines, Juan Constantine

Web Page

Kirby Foley

Historian

Phil Meekins

Awards and Decorations

Anonymous

Nominating

Louis DeMarco

Standing Advisory

Appointed as needed

Annual Meeting

(Local Arrangements-Facility) JoAnn Beasley, Agnes Flemming
(Program Agenda) Agnes Flemming, Randy Buchanan
(Commercial Sustaining Membership) Leroy Bohn

Tidewater Regional Arboviral Surveillance Team (TRAST)

Penelope Smelser

What is an epidemiological week and why do we use them?

An epidemiological week, commonly referred to as an epi week or a CDC week, is simply a standardized method of counting weeks to allow for the comparison of data year after year. Many people know these as CDC weeks because CDC uses them and has published them in the past. Nevertheless, they are used throughout the world by epidemiological teams in different countries. Unfortunately not all countries calculate epi weeks in the same manner, and this discrepancy causes some difficulty in comparing data internationally.

The question is, how do we define epi weeks? The heart of the matter is how we define the first epi week. Is it the week in which the first of January falls? Is it the first complete week in January? To solve this, there is a definition (in the United States and many Latin American countries) as to how we establish epi week one.

The first epi week of the year ends, by definition, on the first Saturday of January, as long as it falls at least four days into the month. Each epi week begins on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday. (http://www.paho.org/english/sha/be_v21n3-calendar.htm) The following figure provides the epi week calendar for 2006, with epi week one starting (by coincidence) on the first of January.

So why do we bother to determine and use epi weeks? Many times, particularly for mosquito surveillance programs or epidemiological studies, daily increments are too frequent and too varied to be able to be managed and analyzed, or there are many factors that make it impossible to compare daily results. On the other hand the monthly time interval is too great, and data interpretation is needed at more frequent intervals. Therefore we seek an intermediary period of time to analyze the data, and this brings us to the week. By defining the epi week, we are able to maintain harmony and ensure that all parties count weeks the same way, understanding that epi week *n* refers to the same time period.

Jorge R. Arias, Ph.D.
Disease Carrying Insects Program
Fairfax County, Virginia

2006									
EW	Month	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	Month
1	Jan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Jan
2	Jan	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Jan
3	Jan	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Jan
4	Jan	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Jan
5	Jan	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	Feb
6	Feb	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Feb
7	Feb	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Feb
8	Feb	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Feb
9	Feb	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	Mar
10	Mar	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Mar
11	Mar	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Mar
12	Mar	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Mar
13	Mar	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	Apr
14	Apr	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Apr
15	Apr	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Apr
16	Apr	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Apr
17	Apr	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Apr
18	Apr	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	May
19	May	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	May
20	May	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	May
21	May	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	May
22	May	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	Jun
23	Jun	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Jun
24	Jun	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Jun
25	Jun	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Jun
26	Jun	25	26	27	28	29	30	1	Jul
27	Jul	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Jul
28	Jul	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Jul
29	Jul	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	Jul
30	Jul	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Jul
31	Jul	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	Aug
32	Aug	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Aug
33	Aug	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Aug
34	Aug	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	Aug
35	Aug	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	Sep
36	Sep	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Sep
37	Sep	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Sep
38	Sep	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Sep
39	Sep	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Sep
40	Oct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Oct
41	Oct	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Oct
42	Oct	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Oct
43	Oct	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Oct
44	Oct	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	Nov
45	Nov	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Nov
46	Nov	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Nov
47	Nov	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Nov
48	Nov	26	27	28	29	30	1	2	Dec
49	Dec	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Dec
50	Dec	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Dec
51	Dec	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Dec
52	Dec	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec

National Public Health Week

National Public Health week is April 2nd — 8th for more information visit the American Public Health Association web page at <http://www.apha.org/nphw/2006/>

2007 Organizational Membership

Effective in 2007 there will be an organizational membership. The purpose of the organizational membership is to provide a point of contact and to provide access to the VMCA website for job postings and advertisements and priority seating for educational events or opportunities. The organizational membership will include 1 regular membership "intended as the primary point of contact" for that organization.

Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association (MAMCA) Update

The 31st Annual Educational Conference was held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania this past February. The meeting had over 120 registered participants. Andy Kyle and Mike Hutchinson of Pennsylvania did a superb job organizing the meeting. The meeting had an excellent turnout despite the northern location and schedule conflicts with the West Nile Virus meeting. Virginia was well represented at the meeting; delegates from Chesapeake, Henrico County, Fairfax County, Portsmouth, all attended the meeting.

The MAMCA 2007 Annual Educational Conference will be jointly hosted by South Carolina. The exact location for the meeting has not been determined. The target is to have the meeting in the Charleston area. The spring planning meeting has not been finalized. Details will be provided in the next issue. Any one interested in becoming a member of MAMCA it only costs \$5 per year; applications are available on the web site www.mamca.org.

This is my last year in a 3-year term as MAMCA state director from Virginia. Virginia will have to appoint someone at the 2007 MAMCA meeting to serve the next 3-year term.

Respectfully submitted

George Wojcik

New for 2006

Starting this year we are going to try and include several new regular features for our members.

Regional Reports

The VMCA is growing into a true state wide organization. To try and communicate what is going on throughout the state we have broken the state up into regions (South East, Central, North East, and South West). The goal is to have regular reports from each region.

Organization Survey / Profiles

The newsletter committee has developed a survey we can send out to all known mosquito control entities in the state. This survey is designed to provide basic information about each local mosquito control program. The committee will compile the survey information into a standard organizational profile for distribution in the news letter.

Individual Member Profiles

Our membership is growing. We are also developing a basic survey to spotlight individual members of the VMCA.

Vision for the Newsletter

Last year I agreed to take up the reigns for producing *The Skeeter*. I do not like the term editor. I am the newsletter committee chair, my job is to coordinate the production and distribution of the newsletter. A considerable amount of work goes into each issue, far more work than I am capable of on my own. Several people have agreed to assist in various capacities. These are the people that make things happen.

Regional Coordinators: Solicit, contribute, and coordinate input from their respective regions. (North East - Jennifer Johnson, Central - Randy Buchanan, South East - Lou DeMarco, South West - TBD)

Regular Contributors: Recognized mosquito control professionals that regularly take the time to write articles for the newsletter. Drs. Bruce Harrison, David Gaines, Jorge Arias.

Editorial Group: Proof read every issue prior to distribution. In 2005 the board of directors requested at least one board member participate. Regional Coordinators, Gary Tetreault, the entire board of directors.

Webmaster: Posts the electronic final version of each issue on the web page. Kirby Foley

My goals as committee chair.

- Our newsletter has been described as the “flagship of our organization”. This is how the membership finds out what is going on. I will try to maintain or elevate the level of quality of our newsletter.
- Move newsletter to all electronic format. This is to control the costs associated with printing and postage. Printing and mailing as in the past would require us to substantially increase dues or start selling add space. From an environmental standpoint it makes sense to reduce the amount of paper used each year. Currently we have over 90% of the membership receiving the Skeeter via email or in many cases organizations are going to print a hard copy from the website and circulate among workers. The electronic versions will be available on the webpage for the foreseeable future. We should be able to go 100% electronic in the next year or two.
- Establish written editorial guidelines and procedures for production and dissemination. The intent is to be able to facilitate a successful transition to another committee chair in the near future. I have agreed to serving as committee chair for now. We have a history of complacency in the organization, some of our past committee chairs have ended up stuck for many years. Our organization is full of some very capable people that can and should have the opportunity to take the lead in producing the newsletter.

George Wojcik

Newsletter Input

Have an idea of something that you would like to see in the newsletter?

Organizations and individual members are encouraged to submit news letter articles and or topics. Electronic submission should be sent to gwojcik@portsmouthva.gov in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Hard copy submission can be mailed to George Wojcik 2001 Frederick Blvd Portsmouth, Virginia 23704.

Deadlines for submission are (June 15th, September 15th, and December 1st)

**NEWSLETTER OF THE
VIRGINIA MOSQUITO
CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

900 Hollowell Lane
Chesapeake, VA 23320

Phone: 757-382-3450
Fax: 757-382-3466



www.mosquito-va.org

VMCA Membership Application 2006

NAME: _____
PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
*EMAIL: _____

Membership Fees	
Regular	\$ 10.00
Associate	\$ 5.00
Student	\$ 2.00
Sustaining	<u>\$300.00</u>
Total Submitted	_____

*When you provide an email address you will receive an electronic copy of the "The Skeeter", newsletter of the VMCA.

☐

If you want to receive a hard copy of "The Skeeter" in the mail you must check this box.

Make checks payable to:
VMCA, attn. Jo Ann Beasley
900 Hollowell Lane
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**** Student memberships require proof of student status. ****