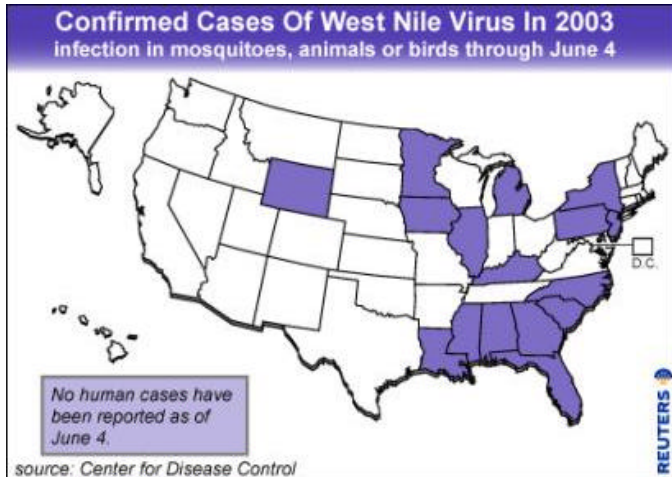


Missouri Mosquito & Vector Control Assn. Newsletter for Summer 2003



West Nile coverage for the year has shown that it is moving in a pattern similar to last year. There has been no activity in Missouri yet this season. However the recent rains have been flushing the larvae out of the pools. But with drier weather the stage has been set.

The MMVCA now has a Website!

Mark Ritter

After much trial, tears, and screams of frustration, we have our website up. You can reach it at <http://mmvca.ihostsites.net> While still a work in progress we have entered the internet. It is a small site but I encourage you all to visit and send me your scathing criticisms, critiques, and (be still my heart) suggestions as to how we can fix some problems. If we have someone who is more proficient in Front Page than I please contact me as I need help! But please go and take a look at the site it is a beginning.

The Season is upon us!

Mark Ritter

With June's arrival (and an end to the Monsoon season) we are finally seeing some warmer weather (as I write this we have 84 degrees in St. Louis and the larvae are just fine). A visit to my neighbor's garden yesterday showed me that our job is still uphill as I overturned six containers of first through third stage mosquito larvae. This from my very own neighbor! It is still an uphill battle folks-educate, educate, educate!

The CDC has a rather grim forecast for this year for West Nile Virus. With the fact that the virus is fully moved into the state that forecast seems reasonable for Missouri.

In the St. Louis area many municipalities started to perform larval control in mid April. Adulticide operations began first in St. Peters in early June (Mr. Schaugnessy wins the first prize) with Fenton, and St. Louis City and County following close behind. So far trapping and bird reports from the MODHSS have found no WNV activity but it's only a matter of time. Now is the time to have your larval and surveillance plans in operation. Catch-basin control, as well as other breeding site control should be underway now. With the arrival of the warmer weather the annual larval growth surge will begin. Stop them before they reach the beach-larvacide now it will save you dollars and sleepless nights later this summer.

For those of you (and there are quite a few) who are entering your first year of operating a mosquito control program please feel free to call upon me for any advice I or the other members can give. Please use us a valuable free resource. I can be reached at 314.622.4253 from 7 to 5 Monday through Friday or at my e-mail RitterM@stlouiscity.com and I will be happy to forward your questions to other members.

Over the winter we joined the American Mosquito Control Association as a sustaining member. The AMCA is a wonderful source for information and is well worth the \$100.00 annual membership fee. Their website is www.mosquito.org go and take a look there are great people there like Joe Conlon who can also be a reference for you.

This year will bring challenges many of us have never faced but remember we are not alone and the aid that we as an organization can bear to help one another is considerable.

Next MMVCA Meeting

Our next meeting will be in October at the Jefferson County Dept. of Health Building in Arnold Missouri. Dennis Diehl and Steve Crawford will be hosting the event with Lipha-Tech's Ted Bruesch providing a seminar on rodent control as well as lunch. Dr. Richard Housman Asst. Professor of Entomology from UMC will also speak on vector ecology and control. We will also introduce a former member with a new position Steve Molner formerly of St. Louis County is the new sales rep from Adapco for Missouri (we all wish Jason Scott luck and will miss him). Other speakers will be assigned as the summer progresses.



Directions-Arnold Missouri is located south of St. Louis on I-55. From the Southwest-take I-44 to the MO hwy. 141 exit. Go east on 141 to Astra way make a left onto Astra Way to Lonedell building is at top of the hill (green metal roof). From the South-Take I-55 and go north to Hwy. 141 (Arnold exit) make a left and go West to Astra Way. Make a right onto Astra way to Lonedell. From the North and West-get to St. Louis take either I-270 or I-70/I-55 South to the Arnold exit on I-55. Follow the previous directions.

First Positive Bird for 2003 in St. Charles County

The Missouri Dept. of Health and Senior Services reported that the first positive bird for WNV was found Monday June 23rd in St. Charles County. The bird a juvenile American Crow was found in the Harvester area. As of this writing no other positive birds have been reported in Missouri.

AMCA Annual Meeting in Savannah GA

AMCA 70th ANNUAL MEETING
February 21- 26, 2004



Will be held at the International Trade and Convention Center, Savannah, GA.

Sleeping accommodations can be made currently at the Savannah Hyatt Regency. The meeting and associated events such as banquets, exhibits, receptions and breaks will be at the Convention Center.

Rooms at other hotels will be available.

Hosted By
The Georgia Mosquito Control Association

I urge all of you to attend this meeting (hey Savannah in Feb. beats the winter blahs) as the news you get is second to none and the contacts you make are a great help. Joan Bradford went to last year's event and you can ask her what she thinks about it. Go to www.mosquito.org for more details.

The following opinions are those of the president who is solely responsible for them...

To spray or not to spray that is the question...

Last year the City of St. Louis met several times with members of the Gateway Green Alliance. These are folks who think that what we do is a danger to them and their families. Stepping aside from the divisive issue, this was actually a good thing. Because of our meetings last year we assessed what the City had done and made changes in our program. These changes have (so far) resulted in cost savings and a more precise scientific approach to **adult** mosquito control. In short, the City entered into a

partnership with some wonderful people at the G.I.S. Laboratory at St. Louis University. Dr. Gary Higgs (a whirlwind of energy and optimism) has been a joy to work with. Under his staff's eye one of my folks has crafted a mapping program and database that will allow us to pinpoint our mosquito control efforts when the disease does emerge this year. Using the Esri 3.2 GIS system we can map where positive pools of mosquitoes or positive dead birds are found and treat the immediate area. In that fashion we should be able to precision control our efforts and be more effective in our control.

In short we are working smarter and harder this year. This program has been successfully utilized in the east for many years but has not been utilized much in the mid-west (except in Chicago). The big advantage is putting steel on target as they say in the military. If your surveillance program can show you where the activity is the GIS mapping process will show you where to concentrate your efforts. If you can respond quickly enough you may be able to stop human infection. This has been an exciting adventure (albeit a frustrating one occasionally) that makes going to work an exciting challenge everyday. If you have any questions please contact me and I will introduce you to Dr. Higgs at St. Louis University.

Also if you find yourself dealing with the Greens the best response is an open honest exchange of ideas. Give these folks the MSDS sheets of the products you use as well as the labels. Make sure that they are aware of *where they can get the information* on the toxicity of the product you are using. Know what it is you are using and why. The decisions that you used to purchase the product should be a public matter and you should at the very least know why you are using that product. Reliable chemical reps will be a great source of information (if your rep. isn't, then maybe they shouldn't be your rep!). Remember we are all trying to make our communities a safer place to live and an open policy is the best way to operate in any mosquito control operation.

I got this call....

About a month ago I got a call from the MO Dept. of Agriculture who asked me if I would talk to a gentlemen from a town in the northern half of the state. It seems this town had made some decisions on chemical application for mosquito control that were not the wisest. In short they had used agricultural chemicals and then used product that had expired to treat

mosquitoes. I spoke with the gentlemen from this town and we came to the agreement that they needed; one, to join MMVCA, two to learn how to do the job properly, and three, that even though they were a government agency the law did indeed apply to them. Now, partially as a result of that conversation there is a town in Northern Missouri that will now buy a new ULV machine and use properly labeled mosquito control products that will actually kill mosquitoes.

So another battle has been won by the MMVCA, and some more citizens of the State of Missouri are being protected from West Nile Virus. If anyone knows of a community that is improperly applying pesticides contact the MO Dept. of Agriculture and they will investigate. The goal of that organization is to show folks how to properly apply pesticides safely and legally. While enforcement is an issue, compliance with F.I.F.R.A. and the MO Pesticide Use Act is the goal. If you have any qualms about this just call me and I'll pass it on so they can be brought into compliance.

Useful Websites

mmvca.ihostsites.net MMVCA Website

www.mosquito.org AMCA Website

www.kellysolutions/mo.org MO Dept. of Agriculture Pesticide list

www.cdc.gov CDCs website

MONKEYPOX

On Friday June 13th 2003 the Head of Environmental Health for the City of St. Louis asked me to come up with a strategic plan to address any potential vector threats to the population of St. Louis. By Monday I had sent him what I thought was a reasonable plan dealing with Encephalitis, Malaria, Plague, Yellow Fever, Dengue fever, and Lyme disease. Feeling rather self-satisfied I got to rest for about four hours. Then I got this call...it seems a child had been admitted to a St. Louis Hospital with Monkeypox. The next few hours were a whirlwind of research and contingency planning. Instructive, and educational, but not a good way to operate. In short just when you think you have it all under control life throws you a slider.

The case eventually came to be identified with a small southern IL town where the patient's uncle had given the boy a pet prairie dog who had gotten

the Monkey pox from other rodents (a giant Gambian Rat) from an exotic pet store in the Chicago area. It only goes to show you that when you think you know it all you get this call....