



LeMaringouin



September 2022

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Message from the President



Greetings! As we move through this season, West Nile virus is ramping up (it definitely is in Tangipahoa parish!). Unfortunately, we have seen not only West Nile virus-positive mosquito samples but human cases as well. This reaffirms how important our work is, and I know we will all stay the course and continue our efforts until this virus activity decreases.

In other news, big changes are on the horizon for the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association this year! We are eager to have our first in-person meeting since 2019 and have many exciting ideas

planned. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Coshatta Casino and Hotel in Kinder, Louisiana on December 6th-8th. A special thank you to **Claudia Riegel** and **Herff Jones** for working so closely with the hotel to get everything underway. Registration information will be coming soon to our website.

Speaking of our website, our new, updated look is about to be up and running, and we could not be happier with the finished product. I would like to thank **Herff Jones** and the website committee: **George Bragg, Alex Fortenberry, and Jennifer Bushnell** for their help and insights in getting this project off the ground. Additionally, we are diligently working toward an alternative to the current LASTS system for arbovirus surveillance. We hope to work out the details soon and make the transition as smooth as possible. A big thank you goes to **Chris Fayette** who has continued to manage the LASTS program even after retiring earlier this year.

I sincerely hope that you, your families, and your districts stay safe as we enter the peak of hurricane and West Nile virus season. I look forward to seeing everyone in December!

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Announcements



better together
LMCA annual conference
will be in person again!



LOUISIANA
MOSQUITO CONTROL
ASSOCIATION

Annual Conference

December 6th – 8th

Kinder, Louisiana at the Coshatta Casino Resort

- Conference Registration: \$125 early bird ends 11/11; \$175 on-site registration
- November 21, 2022 is the deadline to reserve rooms at the group rate of \$99.00 + tax per night (single/double rate)
- Reservation contact: (888) 774-7263 - Use Group Code - LAMCAAM



Individuals enhancing the health and quality of life through the suppression of mosquitoes, other vectors and pests of public health importance.



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Just a brief message to the LMCA membership. Please take a moment to seriously consider joining the AMCA, becoming a sustaining member or renewing your membership today! AMCA elections will launch soon and your membership must be up to date to vote. Membership offers many benefits and the connection with a collective of public health professionals is invaluable. For instance, often times special interest groups, media or citizens ask, "How do you know your control operations are appropriate and safe?" The AMCA's Best Practices Manuals and the JAMCA (The Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association) are the supporting materials and documents to answer those questions as benefits of membership. The JAMCA chair, editors and subject matter experts have worked hard to expedite the submission and review process giving members early access to the latest JAMCA articles.

The association has enjoyed successful advocacy efforts this federal funding cycle on several important measures for public health mosquito and vector control. These efforts are ongoing; every LMCA member can impact the outcome by communicating the need and importance of these matters directly with their members in Congress. The AMCA's immediate federal funding goals for 2023 include sustained and increased funding for CDC as well as ELC grant funding support. Funding requests to support enhanced vector-borne disease education, surveillance, diagnostics and control of tickborne diseases as well as other emergent mosquito-borne pathogens. Additionally, emphasize the vital need for Congress to provide funding support for agencies to improve and expedite the product registration process; particularly through the development of evaluation techniques (modeling) that accurately reflect mosquito abatement operations. Lastly, encourage the Congressional Appropriations committee to maintain funding for the USDA and its programs to continue research to develop innovative control methods as well as improve current operational technologies.

I hope that many of the LMCA membership will join us in Reno for the AMCA 89th annual meeting, February 27 – March 3, 2023. AMCA vice-president Rui-de Xue has reported to the Board of Directors exciting symposia which will no doubt be a full program for attendees. Lastly, as we quickly approach the peak of hurricane season for the region, let's retrieve our hurricane emergency plans, practice their execution and prepare our employees.

AMCA Announcements



LMCA Member Spotlight

Steve Hahn joined East Baton Rouge Parish Mosquito Abatement and Rodent Control in October of 2000 as a Pest Control Inspector I. For the next 9 years, Steve worked doing residential service requests and larviciding. In 2009, he was reassigned to a newly created position as a surveillance technician. Some of his new duties included maintaining the department's colonies of *Aedes aegypti* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*, as well as, repairing and installing various surveillance traps. Steve has been very successful in keeping robust populations of these species for our in-house testing and education displays. He has also been able to provide mosquito samples for many graduate students at LSU and other institutions like Montana State University for their research over the years.



In 2012, Steven started the mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) introduction program where he establishes mosquito fish populations in abandoned swimming pools, ornamental ponds, etc., to control mosquito larvae at area homes. While we previously had, a small program of maintaining mosquito fish for our education outreach program, Steve significantly ramped up the fish production to accommodate this new mission. Steve is definitely a team player here at MARC. If you need help with construction projects or require supplies from other departments Steve is always there to help.

Steve is an avid bowler and golfer when he has time. He recently was engaged to his fiancé, Shannon in August. Steve has two children (Katelyn and Caylib), two grandchildren, and a third grandchild on the way. He has been an usher for the last 25 years at his church. Steve is definitely a great member of the mosquito control family and a stalwart citizen of Louisiana.

Mark Bunch was hired as a larvicider in 2015 and was quickly promoted to field biologist one year later. He covers a significant chunk of ground every day in rural Bush/Talisheek, Louisiana, but is also responsible for taking the airboat out to inspect marshes and coastal areas throughout St. Tammany. Mark is always ready to volunteer for a new project, investigate a resident's mosquito complaint, or attend an outreach event to educate the public on mosquito biology and prevention methods. Perhaps it's his military training (he served our country in the US Army from 2008 to 2011), his potent sense of humor, or just good genes, but all we know is St. Tammany Parish is fortunate to have Mark Bunch performing mosquito inspections. Thank you Mark for seven years of outstanding service and for always going above and beyond to get the job done.



LMCA Member Spotlight



Lisa Rowley was hired by St. Tammany Parish as a taxonomist in 2006 and is responsible for identifying mosquitoes from around the parish to this day. While Lisa's background is in plant pathology (M.S. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst), her expertise in identifying mosquitoes rapidly and accurately is an indispensable part of our operations. Lisa regularly assists other parishes with identifying challenging mosquitoes, occasionally even on her own time (and in her own make-shift lab/kitchen!). Since 2019, Lisa has taken over performing insecticide resistance evaluations, and can frequently be found in the lab with a topical micro syringe in hand, or a 96-well plate full of mosquito en-

zymes. We are incredibly fortunate to have Lisa Rowley in our lab. Thank you, Lisa, for 16 years of outstanding service and for always going above and beyond to get the job done.

Blaise Navarro is the Shop Supervisor for the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District. He started as an inspector in 2011 and was promoted to Shop Supervisor in 2020.

Blaise's duties include overseeing the care and maintenance of our office and shop, managing the ground spray crew and operations, and maintaining our truck fleet. He keeps the shop running like a well-oiled machine!



He has been a member of the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association since 2011. Additionally, he was the Stephen C. Mayor Operational Achievement Award recipient in 2016. He earned this award through his hard work in upgrading our spray trucks to be more efficient in the field.

Blaise and his wife, Shannon, live in Loranger. He has three sons (Cody, Dominick, and Blaise III.). He is an active church member and enjoys spending his free time hunting, fishing, and playing with his beautiful grandchildren, Amelia and Silas.

Blaise is such an important member of our team! He is continuously thinking of unique ways to solve problems and make our operations run smoothly. He is hard-working, resourceful, and takes great pride in his work. He is always cheerful, courteous, and keeps all of us laughing! We are very grateful to him for all he does for us!

LMCA Committee News

Education & Outreach Committee News

The LMCA Educational Committee, in conjunction with Board of Directors, have used another tool to bring awareness about the insect called the MOSQUITO to “All citizens of Louisiana.” These billboards will act as a Public Service Awareness campaign to remind everyone of the importance of taking preventive measures and to continue supporting their local mosquito control districts. Special thanks to the LMCA Educational Committee, LMCA Board of Directors, and Lamar for launching this project to continue the educational outreach program.



District News

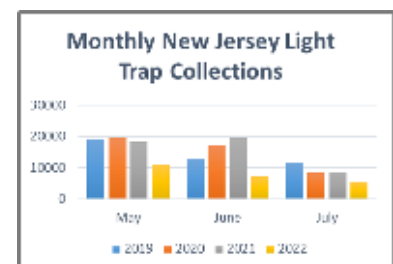
Caddo

Greetings from Caddo Parish. It has been a really slow mosquito season for us. The big news has been the heat and lack of rain. It has been over 100 degrees 27 times this year and we reached 106 back in July. There has been very little rain and a few Thunderstorms but nothing substantial. We did get a break in the middle of August with some rain and cooler temperatures. Our mosquito counts have been low. CO2 light traps have had a really low average of below 20 most nights and some traps collect less than 5. Gravid traps have been higher but the numbers are still below average for us. On the virus front, we have had some areas test positive for West Nile, all quinks. Due to the lack of mosquitoes, our control efforts have been aimed at the West Nile areas. The only other mosquito we have seen is *Aedes albopictus* in some areas where we have had storms. We are currently upgrading our equipment replacing the old sprayers and adding a drone to our operations. Hopefully, by the end of 2023, we will have all new sprayers. Good luck with the rest of the season and hopefully we will see everybody in December.

Calcasieu

Hello from Kal-ka-shoo! It's been another weird weather year from extreme heat and drought to rain every day. The rains have brought relief from the heat but also floodwater mosquitoes. One bonus of the rain, is it continues to flush out catch basins, reducing the *Culex* breeding in these hard-to-treat areas. On the disease surveillance front, our first WNV-positive mosquito pool was detected on June 9th and the last one on July 1st. The flushing action of the rains, along with ground larviciding and aerial spraying seems to have helped.

Repairs to our buildings have begun, two years after Hurricane Laura (8/26/20). Contractors are currently remodeling the administration building, adding an office for the lab and a much bigger conference room. The existing structure built in 1994-1995 was really in need of expansion and update. All our building repairs are scheduled to be complete by December 20, 2022. Everyone is excited about the future of our organization and the possibilities.



Along with the daily activities at our mosquito district, our staff has been working on extra projects. **Jill Hightower** and **Kathy Gotreaux** participated in the Annual Mosquito Awareness Week, putting up a display at our main library in Lake Charles. The aerial crew, **Anthony LeDoux** and **Ricky Peters** took a field trip to visit Dynamic Aviation in Virginia. They traveled to inspect and give input to Dynamic on the construction of another King Air. We are expecting to receive the plane in December and know this will enable us to better serve our ever-growing district. Let us know if anyone is in the market to buy a tricked-out Britten-Norman Islander spray plane. We continue to hire new staff as personnel leave for other positions, recently hiring **Grayson Goltzman** and **Sam Baker** as Pest Control Technicians. Everyone here is looking forward to our LMCA meeting in Kinder. Call us if you need anything!

District News

Cameron

We have been experiencing very large amounts of rain since the Fourth of July, with some areas receiving a total of over 20 inches since early July. We have had very large hatch offs of rice field and salt marsh mosquitoes from these rains. Around Labor Day the mosquitoes were so bad that they were comparable to the numbers that we had following Hurricane Rita in 2005 and 2006. We hired Dynamic Aviation to come assist us with aerial spraying. We have sprayed about 150 drums of Dibrom during this period. With all the ground and aerial adulticiding, we have reduced the mosquito populations back to normal levels.

We have had two WNV positive mosquito pools this year. This is rare for us. We seldom have any positives.

We are currently receiving bids for a chemical warehouse in Sweetlake, that is on elevated property and is safe from the storm surge if another hurricane comes our way. We hope to begin construction soon.

Our office remains damaged from Hurricane Laura, it may take another year or two before we are back in our office. In the meantime, we are still working out of a small camper, our houses, and our trucks.



A truck covered in dead mosquitoes following aerial treatment in Grand Chenier

East Baton Rouge

We have had a bit of a weather reversal this year-dry spring and wet summer. Our “quink” numbers are definitely down, but floodwater species are unfortunately abundant. With all the recent summer rains, we have seen many *Culex nigripalpus*. In fact, recently all three of the West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquito pools were *Cx. nigripalpus*. Overall, WNV activity has been rather low this season (unlike our less fortunate mosquito control friends in other parishes).

As we noted in the April Newsletter, we purchased a PV35X drone from Leading Edge Aerial Technologies and this program is now operational.

Both **Guy Faget** and **Marcus Goss** have their Part 107 and Aerial Applicator certifications. With all the rain, we have been treating between 60 and 100 acres weekly. In the photo from left to right, we see **Marcus Goss**, **Nelson Hughes**, and **Guy Faget**.



District News

East Baton Rouge continued

Service requests have been much in demand this summer. We are averaging between 700 and 900 mosquito service requests weekly, and approximately 100 rodent requests. Since we have experienced staffing shortages, we have been working overtime to accomplish residential inspections since March. **Kenny Ricard, Marilyn Payne, and Klaryce James** have all been busy once again with our **Community Outreach Program**. We have participated in numerous back-to-school events now that schools are back to in-person attendance as well as various health fairs. Kenny even got his wife **Kaylin** to participate. Here she is showing a heartworm-infested dog heart to attendees at the Rose Hill Church Health Fair.



We want to wish everyone a storm-free end of summer and hope to see all our mosquito control friends at the LMCA meeting this December!

District News

Jeff Davis

It has been a hot dry year, up till now. August rains have started to be a common occurrence in the last three years. Mosquito numbers have been down this year also. We did have one positive WNV pool at the end of July but we got to work with our trucks, and we believe we have the spike in disease down for now. We have been averaging about 50,000 acres by trucks over the last 3 months. We still have not used our planes, but we see flying on the horizon with the recent showers. We would like to get a couple of new trucks, but it is looking like that will have to be next year with a 40-week lead time. Is anyone else experiencing this problem? We would also like to let everyone know our office manager, **Mrs. Roxann Leger**, was fighting cancer this summer. She passed away in her home on June 13th, 2022. We are deeply saddened by her passing, she was always laughing and happy to be around. She will be missed

Orleans

Greetings from New Orleans! We have had a busy season so far, with numerous operational projects and the launch of our new and improved BG surveillance program. Mosquito numbers have been lower than typical for most of the summer, with a recent uptick in August. Container mosquito populations have increased with more frequent rainfall and have been implicated as the source problem for many of our residential service requests. We continue to push messaging about source reduction through social media and press releases. We have invested more heavily into area-wide larviciding this year to decrease populations of nuisance and vector species before numbers become high and to target problem areas, especially after rains. We are in the second year of city-wide insecticide resistance screening for *Culex quinquefasciatus*. Our methods include CDC bottle bioassays, RT-PCR to evaluate knockdown resistance (kdr), topical assays to measure the relative frequency of susceptible mosquitoes, and biochemical enzyme assays, developed in collaboration with the Department of Entomology at LSU, to measure detoxification enzymes. We have chosen a subset of our weekly surveillance locations for annual screening, while populations from the other locations will be screened rotationally.

Our summer operational research projects were successful thanks to our staff and summer interns **Bridget Knudson, Carli Harvey, and Heather Penton**. This year, we conducted field trials testing copepod application methods in tires and a lab study testing population-level ecological parameters for *Aedes albopictus* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* in artificial swales and tires. We also increased our colony-rearing capacity for future operational trials. We look forward to publishing some of these results over the winter.

St. Tammany

Mansonia titillans emerging from their summer slumber are in for a rude awakening. We're now certified for herbicide application, and we dipped our toes into water hyacinth control this spring. Source reduction by eliminating water hyacinth could be a game-changer for these Fall mosquitoes, and we're excited to see the effects of our efforts over the next few months.

We're wrapping up a project evaluating the effect of rainfall on *Cx. quinks* in septic ditches. We monitored five neighborhoods for rainfall and mosquito/predator presence all summer long, and we're about to begin modeling ditch mosquito abundance. Want more info? Check out our summer 2022 sewage report online at:

<https://bit.ly/3w6kgGa>

Construction will begin this Fall on a new building with a larger training room, expanded laboratory, and truck bay, with completion scheduled for late 2023.

Congrats to Field Biologist **Rob Kiviah**, who retired in July after 27 years working for STPMAD! His extensive mosquito knowledge, gigantic smile, and brownie recipe will be sorely missed. While one employee retires, another joins the team – welcome **Patrick Riley**, full-time pilot, to our aerial crew!

District News

Tangipahoa

Happy summer! As many are probably aware, Tangipahoa parish is amid the most active West Nile virus season we have ever seen. At the time of this writing, we have submitted nearly 1,300 LSU samples, tested nearly 140 LAMP samples, and have had almost 300 West Nile virus-positive mosquito pools (both LSU and LAMP).

In response, we have flown ten aerial missions, conducted ground spraying seven days a week throughout the month of July, and ramped up our public response (press releases for newspaper and radio, and social media). Although West Nile activity is at an all-time high here, our trap counts have been low.

We are continuing to use FieldSeeker for all our adultciding and larviciding operations. Our computer specialist, **Alex Fortenberry** has been developing some useful mapping tools using our surveillance data and hopes to give a full report of his processes at the LMCA meeting in December.

West Baton Rouge

Greetings from West Baton Rouge! "Rain, rain go away. Come again some other day"! Daily thunderstorms with heavy rain have been the weather pattern for the last couple of months. The almost daily flushing of parish drainage systems has helped to keep *Cx. quinquefasciatus* numbers low overall. Our WNV positive sample numbers, while almost identical to this same time last year, are still down substantially from previous years. With the ground already saturated, any heavy rain causes water to hang around a little longer consequently, we have been dealing with moderate numbers of *Ps. ferox* and *Ae. vexans* throughout the parish.

Field Supervisor **Michael Joseph** and Mosquito Control specialist **Ronnie Carpenter** have been kept busy conducting roadside ditch larviciding, offroad larviciding, and nighttime spray truck operations. We added two part-time spray truck drivers to our crew this year, **Kristi Blanchard** and **Titus Winfield**. Both have been valuable additions to our team.



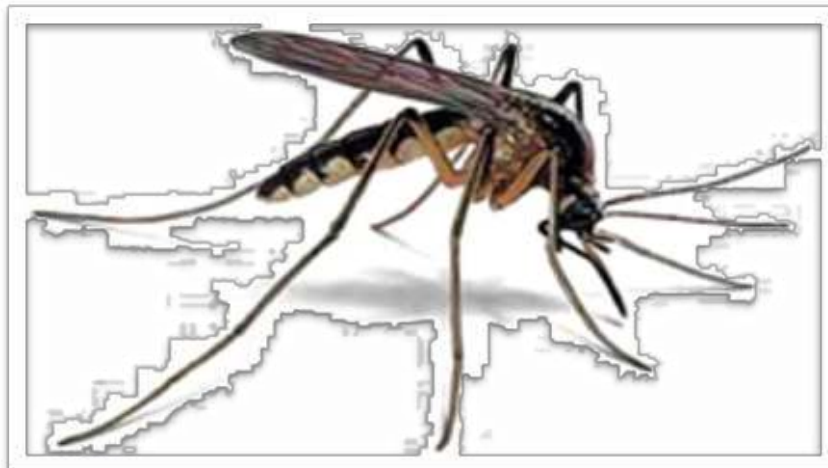
District News

West Baton Rouge Cont.

With Covid restrictions gone and most community events back in full force, we have been busy once again conducting public outreach and education events including most recently as a part of our local library's summer reading program. New for this year, we have placed flyer holders with our magnetic business cards in a few public spaces including our local library and health unit. Along with our website and Facebook page, it is yet another way to get the message out.



Best wishes to everyone for a safe and successful rest of the season and we look forward to seeing everyone in-kind this December!



LMCA Fun Facts by Jeff North

What do you think our chances are of having this “mosquito season” come to an early end? By the time this newsletter arrives at your fireside dens, homes, and offices, it’s a pretty good chance that fall football will be underway and thoughts of jackets and sweaters may not be that far off. I know, I may be overly optimistic, but wouldn’t you agree, that by some miraculous chance, sooner or later we must encounter an “early fall?” Wouldn’t it be nice to enjoy sustained, brisk winds from the north instead of those dreadful winds from the gulf that wreak havoc on our communities and lives? Try to imagine fall foliage gently abscising from the tips of branches rendering colorful leaves that softly touch down upon our sidewalks and streets. Think of a wind gust that urges you to raise the collar on your flannel shirt as the blustery winds chase the fallen leaves down our serpentine walkways. Close your eyes for a moment and try to detect the aroma from a steaming cup of coffee as it rests on your desk. Perhaps more noticeable, would be a spiced tea, a fall candle, or perhaps a fall treat such as oatmeal cookies, or rice krispie treats, being removed from the oven. Are your eyes still closed? Let’s move on!

Is it that far-fetched to wish for temperatures in August and September that would stifle the winged marauders we battle all year? Lately, it seems, we beg for a breath of air that doesn’t consume us with exhaustion and humidity. There is a record of hope though. Did you know that the low temperature in Baton Rouge on August 15th, 2004, was 58 degrees? Keep in mind, this was in August. What would you think the lowest temperature on record is for New Orleans in September? How about 42 degrees on September 30th, 1967. In Monroe, on this same date, it was 35 degrees. Are you beginning to agree with me that at least we have a chance for an early fall? Just for kicks and grins, it was -16 degrees in Minden, LA on February 13th, 1899. I bet that made for a “cozy” Valentine’s Day. Just remember, I am trying to stir optimism within you, so please continue to work with me.

What would you do on the weekends if we were fortunate enough to have a definitive early fall? Would you head to the local farm markets to gather pumpkins for an early carving? Would bundles of cornstalks and sugarcane adorn your front doors and porches? What would the flower beds and gardens have growing in them? I wonder if shrimp festivals and gumbo cooking contests would move forward on our calendars? Wouldn’t it be fun to have blankets and portable heat lamps at the tailgate parties instead of insect repellent and fly swatters? Who knows how far the field goal attempts would be with a 20 mph, north wind? It seems as of lately, by the time football weather gets here, the season is over. Again, there is nothing like the power of optimistic thinking. Keep the faith!

Now, back to reality, but just briefly. We have had a busy mosquito season, and it is still ongoing. Valiant efforts by everyone doing their jobs are not taken for granted. Everyone in our industry is to be commended for their endeavors and hard work. Back to my earlier points though, I offer you a glimmer of hope. Think of the coming days of what many of us cherish so dearly. If you’re like me, these wonderful days can’t get here soon enough. Continue to push forward, but look to the skies for the first migrating flock of snow geese. Take time to notice the first change of color on the elm, the sycamore, and the cypress. I assure you it will be here before you know it. As quickly as it arrives, it will pass too. I not only encourage you, but I invite you, to absorb the fall in all her splendor and what she offers. You’ll be glad you did. See you soon!

Louisiana Mosquito Control Association Membership



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The LMCA is a support arm for these operations, those smaller city/community operators and all others interested in mosquito control. We provide a platform for educational resources and opportunities through publications, meetings and workshops, as well as guidance and technical direction for those in need. Association leadership works closely with state regulators to assure competency within operations and vigilance on legislative matters. Through this we are able to uphold our mission of enhancing the quality of life through the suppression of mosquitoes for all here in Louisiana. Visit our website at www.lmca.us for more information.

- E-Newsletters
- Workshops
- Annual Meetings
- Technical Advisory Services
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- Educational Resources
- Legislative/Regulatory Monitoring
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Special Thanks to Our Newsletter Committee:
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