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March 2025

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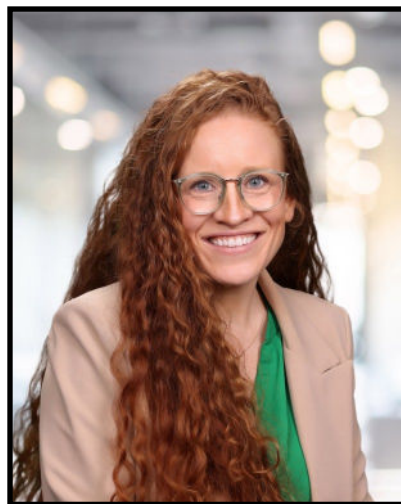
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Message from the President



Greetings LMCA members! I hope you all survived the Louisiana snowstorm and had a great winter gearing up for the mosquito season. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your LMCA President this year, and I am honored to be serving on the board an additional year. I want to send a BIG thank you to **Josh Hightower** for serving as the LMCA President for 2024. Josh has always been an excellent leader/president and is certainly a hard act to follow!! Thank you, Josh, for all that you do for LMCA and the board!

I am sad that I missed the 2024 LMCA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, but I heard it was a wonderful meeting. I want to shout out the LMCA Annual Meeting Committee for all of their efforts at putting together an amazing meeting: **Kristen Healy, Jeff North, Claudia Riegel, Kellie Quinn, Sarah Malasovich, Sarah Michaels, Heath Deese, Herff Jones, and Josh Hightower**. Thank you all for your efforts throughout the year to make our annual meeting an excellent event!

If you are looking to train some new employees this year, we will be having the spring workshop on March 31st and April 1st at East Baton Rouge Mosquito and Rodent Control. It is going to be a great event with a number of our members teaching various courses! Huge shoutout to **Mike Becker** and the EBRMARC family for hosting us and making jambalaya!!

I have a few things on my agenda this year. We are working on updating the Code of Ethics/Conduct for the association and a method for reporting violations. Another project that I would like to do is to update our By Laws, with the help of a committee. There are a few things that need to be addressed such as online voting, etc. Finally, I would really like to increase participation amongst the various committees within LMCA. If you are interested in getting involved, please let me know! We can discuss some of your interests and find the committee that will be the best fit.

Finally, I want to provide a big shout out to **Jeff North**!! Jeff will be retiring at the end of March. Jeff has impacted all of us throughout the years with his generosity, kindness, hard work/participation and of course, his Jeffisms. We are so excited for Jeff to get to enjoy his retirement, but I sure will miss him, as I am sure we all will! Jeff, thank you for your mentorship over the years! You will be missed!!

Thank you all again for allowing me the opportunity to serve LMCA as president this year. I look forward to seeing you all soon and hope you have a wonderful season!!

Emily Boothe

LMCA Board of Directors 2025



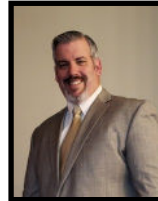
Emily Boothe
President



Renee Pellerin
Vice President



Herff Jones
Secretary/Treasurer



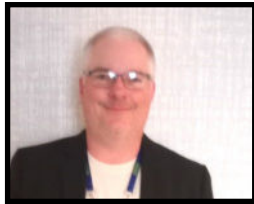
George Bragg



Jennifer Bushnell



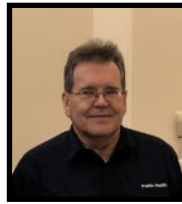
Heath Deese



Josh Hightower



Michael Joseph



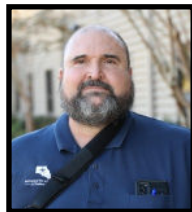
Kyle Moppert



Dr. Sarah Michaels



Dr. Claudia Riegel



Calvin Smotherman



Michelle Traweek-Tidwell



Dr. Michael Becker
Board Shadow



Announcements

Louisiana Mosquito Control Association 2025 Spring Workshop



**March 31 &
April 1, 2025**

**EBR
Mosquito &
Rodent Control**

10550 Veterans Memorial Blvd.,
Baton Rouge, LA 70807

**Register &
Pay Online!**

www.lmca.us

Current LMCA Member* - \$25
New LMCA Member (Includes Dues) - \$45
Non-Member - \$50

**Note - If you attended the 2024
Lafayette LMCA Annual Meeting,
your membership status is current.



**LOUISIANA
MOSQUITO CONTROL
ASSOCIATION**

Pay by credit card online OR pay by check (payable to LMCA) by mailing to:
LMCA • 611 Old Central Taxiway • New Iberia, LA 70560



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

A Partner in the EPA's Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program

Greetings from the AMCA!

The AMCA Board held a virtual meeting in mid-January to discuss key initiatives, including the annual meeting, efforts to increase member engagement, our financial position, and an exciting new national campaign concept. Additionally, the in-person Interim Board Meeting took place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in mid-November, where board members provided regional updates and refined strategic plans. We are also excited to announce that **Atlanta, GA, has been selected as the host city for the 2028 AMCA Annual Meeting!**

We look forward to seeing you in San Juan for the **2025 AMCA Annual Meeting, scheduled for March 3rd–7th**. If you are unable to attend this year, we encourage you to mark your calendars for the **2026 meeting in Portland, OR, from March 23rd–27th**.

In addition, the **27th Annual AMCA Washington Day Conference** will be held **May 12th–14th**. This event plays a vital role in advancing AMCA's mission and directly benefits both our members and state associations. If you have not attended Washington Day before, we strongly encourage you to consider participating—every voice makes a difference! **Registration is now open**, and more details can be found here: [AMCA Washington Day Conference](#).

Federal Advocacy and Initiatives

On the federal front, AMCA has been actively engaged in key efforts, including:

- **CDC Funding & National Communications Plan:** We have secured funding to begin a soft launch of our national communications plan.
- **Oropouche Virus Guidelines:** AMCA has obtained a grant to develop guidelines for this emerging virus.
- **Drone Guidance & Exemptions:** Advocacy continues for improved regulations and exemptions.

Monarch Butterfly Proposal: We are collaborating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to submit comments regarding this initiative.

A special thank you to **AMCA Technical Advisor Dan Markowski** for his tireless efforts in advocacy and policy updates. For more information on these initiatives, visit the **AMCA website** under the **Member Services** menu or contact Dan directly at AMCA.TA@mosquito.org.

Membership & Engagement

We encourage members to consider upgrading to a **Sustaining Membership**, which offers exclusive benefits such as discounted annual meeting registration rates and full access to AMCA's training modules. Learn more here: [Sustaining Membership](#).

For those interested in joining as a regular member, please visit: [Join AMCA](#).

As always, I welcome any questions or interest in getting more involved with AMCA. Please feel free to reach out!

Colby Colona

AMCA South Central Regional Director

✉ colby@tangimosquito.org

☎ 985-543-0454

LMCA Awards



Hathaway - Ritter Distinguished Achievement Award

This award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the cause of mosquito control in Louisiana. Dr. Edward S. Hathaway (1886-1984) and Anderson B. Ritter (1904-1968) blended their interests, energies and remarkable talents into a focused effort bringing professional mosquito control to the people of Louisiana.



Scott Harrington served many valuable years in the LMCA organization and running the Calcasieu Parish Mosquito Control Office in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Whether serving on the board, or leading the LMCA as president, or managing his mosquito control district, Scott Harrington's professionalism, dedication, and work ethic prove unmatched. His tenure in this business is something to be spoken for, as Scott continues to be an inspiration for all employees he has mentored and those of us colleagues who have turned into his close friends. Scott Harrington has been with the Calcasieu Parish Mosquito Control for 29 years.

Scott is so much more than his work. He enjoys camping, traveling, going to the gym, and he even ran a few marathons. As much as possible, Scott is busy outdoors, likely, out in the marsh duck hunting on Saturday mornings.

Of course, what is most special to Scott is his family. He has been married to his lovely wife, Joni, for 37 years. Scott and Joni have two children, a daughter Hannah, who is married to Brython, and a son Wyatt.

LMCA Awards

Presidential Citation Kenny Ricard



I was hired June 8, 1996 by the current East Baton Rouge Parish Mosquito Control biologist, **Dennis Walette**, as an Inspector I (11 years). Later, I was promoted by Director Matt Yates to Inspector II (2 years), and then to Inspector III (present position). Assistant Director **Rod Wells** later give me the position and responsibilities of the Community Outreach Coordinator. From that moment, my passion has been to educate EVERYONE who will listen about mosquitoes. Our program has grow from reaching 500 people a year to over 15,000 people a year because I have the best community outreach staff around. I totally love my job.

Thank you **Mr. Josh Hightower** for recognizing my work and for such a prestigious award.

Presidential Award for Meritorious Service Kyle Moppert



Kyle Moppert, Public Health Entomologist

In addition to his many years of service to the LMCA Board of Directors, **Mr. Moppert** has extensive work with FEMA, the CDC, GOHSEP, ID-EPI and others in Vector Control and Hurricane Recovery. He has also been instrumental in obtaining, managing and distribution of grant funds for equipment and pesticides to Mosquito Abatement Districts, Parishes, the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL), and to other public entities across the State.

LMCA Awards

Stephen C. Mayor

Operational Achievement Award



Stephen C. Mayor was the president of the LMCA in 1996, and he also served as the Director of Mosquito Control in Jeff Davis Parish. The operational achievement award was created in memory of Mayor who died in a plane crash returning from a spray flight near Jennings, LA.

This award is for the best operational paper presented at the LMCA Annual Meeting. The award is made to residents of the State of Louisiana and employed by a mosquito control operation in Louisiana. The award consists of a cash award of \$500 and a plaque engraved with name and topic of achievement.

The 2024 recipient is **Alex Pavlakis NOMTRCB**



Alexandros Pavlakis is a graduate of Tulane University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He has been with the City of New Orleans Mosquito, Termite, and Rodent Control Board since 2019. As an entomologist, he currently manages weekly arbovirus and mosquito surveillance, oversees mosquito abatement efforts throughout Orleans Parish, and organizes field research projects. Additionally, he supervises the mosquito larval habitat monitoring program across the parish, with a specific focus on discarded waste tires.

New Orleans faces considerable challenges due to the high number of mosquito larval habitats identified in the area. The purpose of this study was to evaluate differences in development and adult life history traits across various habitat types for *Aedes albopictus* and *Culex quinquefasciatus*. The study involved raising mosquitoes in laboratory microcosms designed to mimic three common larval habitats in New Orleans: waste tires, construction sites, and nonfunctional fountains. Development time, adult survival, and adult female wing length were recorded. The findings of this research have the potential to inform operational decisions and establish guidelines for prioritizing larval treatments, focusing on the relative risks of adult vector production among different habitat types.

LMCA Awards

2024 LMCA Student Competition Winners



First Place: Madeline Phillips LSU

Madeline Phillips is a 2nd-year master's student in **Dr. Kristen Healy's** lab at LSU. She is conducting a survey of tick species in Louisiana as well as a survey of healthcare provider knowledge of alpha gal syndrome. Madeline completed her undergraduate degree in Human Biology at North Carolina State University and plans to continue on to get her PhD after graduation to pursue a career in Medical Entomology.

2nd Place: Heather Penton STPMAD



Heather Penton, MPH, recently joined St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District as an APHL-CDC Public Health Laboratory Fellow. She moved to New Orleans in Fall 2018 to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a Master of Public Health in International Health and Sustainable Development from Tulane University, graduating with her MPH in May 2024. Throughout her studies, she took an interest in vector-borne diseases and interned with New Orleans Mosquito, Termite, and Rodent Control Board for two summers, where she learned integrated pest management strategies for rodents and conducted surveillance and habitat source reduction for mosquitoes. She tailored her graduate studies to reflect her interests by taking courses in tropical medicine, virology, malaria, and other infectious diseases.

3rd Place: Jeffery Roth LSU



My Name is **Jeff Roth**. I am currently in the second year of my PhD at LSU studying the effects of mosquito spraying on songbird diet and disease prevalence. I grew up in Upstate New York where I received my undergraduate degree in Biology from SUNY Cortland. Following

my undergrad, I spent six years working field jobs that spanned from the Bering Sea down to Cloud forests in Costa Rica. I obtained my master's degree from Angelo State University in 2023 shortly before moving on to LSU. When I am not busy with my PhD, I enjoy staying active by rock climbing, hiking, or running.

LMCA Awards

2024 LMCA Poster Contest Winners



1st Place: Tara Richard STPMAD

Poster title: "Starting a RT-PCR laboratory for arbovirus surveillance"

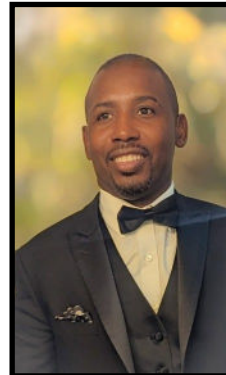
2nd Place: Alyssa Schwinn Tulane



Hello! My name is **Alyssa Schwinn** and I am currently a second year PhD student at the Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University. Before moving to New Orleans, I attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for my undergraduate education, and during that time I developed

strong interests in infectious diseases, leading me to pursue my graduate education at Tulane. At Tulane, I have learned a great deal about infectious disease but have truly been inspired and encouraged by the passion-driven work of my peers and professors. In the future, I hope to develop medical countermeasures and to improve emergency preparedness protocols for infectious pathogens. Outside of the lab, I enjoy reading, painting, and watching the sunset on Lake Pontchartrain! I can also play the clarinet, so perhaps I was destined for New Orleans all along!

3rd Place: Marcus Goss EBRMARC



Marcus Goss is a highly skilled and experienced certified Drone Pilot, serving the city of Baton Rouge for the past 15 years. Marcus is also a proud US Navy Veteran who served honorably in the Gulf War. His military service instilled in him a strong sense of duty and a commitment to excellence. Beyond his professional life, Marcus is an aviation enthusiast, having completed private pilot training through King

Schools and at Baton Rouge Community College. He is dedicated to staying at the forefront of aviation technology and applying his knowledge to serve his community.

University News

Dr. Aaron Ashbrook, Assistant Professor of Urban and Peri-Urban Entomology at Louisiana State University

The Gulf South Vector and LSU AgCenter (**A. Ashbrook, A. Carter, E. Guidry, M. Devlin**) operated the Louisiana Sanitarian Training Tour in July of 2024. The training tour entailed nine full day training events that were offered to sanitarians in each region of Louisiana. Surveys and pre/post assessments were conducted with positive knowledge change.

In the Ashbrook lab, **Bandana Shrestha**, graduated with her MS and is now working at the University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology with Dr. Zach Devries. **Chance Hudnall**, MS, has joined the Ashbrook lab to work with pest management professionals on improving vector management capacity.

Dr. Ashbrook was highlighted in an article by Kyle Peveto, in the Louisiana Agriculture Special Feature titled “Aaron Ashbrook: Helping Others with Insect Issues Is a Fascinating Challenge” (<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page/1733776910938>)

Dr. Kristen Healy, Associate Professor of Medical Entomology at Louisiana State University

Dr. Kristen Healy and her graduate student **Madeline Philips** are conducting a comprehensive survey of the ticks of Louisiana. They have been encouraging anyone that finds a tick to either submit a photo or specimen to them at the LSU AgCenter. In addition, individuals that utilize the VectorSurv system can directly input tick identification data into the tick portion of the system. Information on the survey and where to submit tick specimens can be found on the following site: geaux-ticks.org



Prior to fire ants in the state, Louisiana used to have much more ticks and tick-borne diseases. While fire ants may not directly kill ticks, their presence in an area could potentially disturb tick habitats or compete with them for resources, which might indirectly affect tick populations. geaux-ticks.org

LMCA Member Spotlight

Kevin Lowrie STPMAD



Kevin Lowrie has been the STPMAD Facilities Manager since 2006. Kevin can always be depended upon to take care of anything the facility needs; whether we need to replace a lost vehicle title, repair a broken door, or install speed humps on the campus, Kevin takes care of it all. Additionally, Kevin manages our chemical inventory and most purchasing efforts for the District. We imagine almost everyone knows who Kevin is, but we wanted to make sure the membership at large gets an idea of how much we rely on him to take care of things for our organization. Our district has been privileged to have him as a core part of our success for a long time, and we are grateful to his wife, retired Office Manager Susan Lowrie, for introducing him to the District many years ago. Kevin and Susan live in St. Tammany Parish with their dog, Sweetier.

Guy Savastano Tangipahoa MAD



For two decades, **Guy Savastano** has been a cornerstone of the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District. Joining the team as an inspector on March 8, 2004—roughly a year after the District's inception—Guy has played a crucial role in protecting our community by controlling mosquitoes.

As an inspector, his dedication and dependability are unmatched. He approaches his work with skill, ensuring that each inspection is thorough and effective. His commitment has not gone unnoticed—citizens in the district will sometimes call in just to compliment his work and friendly personality.

But beyond his expertise, it is Guy's kindness and good-natured spirit that make him such a valued member of the team. Whether he is out in the field or around the office, he is always willing to lend a hand—and he takes the occasional workplace teasing with a smile.

We appreciate all that Guy does for the District and the community. Thank you for your years of hard work and for always being such a great sport!

District News

Caddo

Greetings from Caddo Parish. 2024 turned out to be a slow year for West Nile. We did have a high amount of *Ae. vexans* in the fall, causing some complaints from the public. Winter of 2025 has been a mixed bag with lots of rain, very cold temperatures, but no ice or snow. At the time of this writing, it has finally started to warm up. Once it warms up, we should be very busy. On the equipment front, we have upgraded all of our sprayers. We have two seasonal employees that will pull double duty this year to help with day-time activities, surveillance, spraying at night, and drone missions. We are currently finishing up maintenance on the sprayers and we will start surveillance in the 3rd week of March. Good luck with the season.

Bryan Glascock

Calcasieu

The NFL Superbowl is over, and Mardi Gras is approaching, that means mosquitoes are coming soon! Yet again another crazy winter season, one foot of snow and two weeks later its 80 degrees, thanks a lot Mother Nature. There are several social media posts out there with pictures of adult mosquitoes resting on the snow's surface, they are relentless.



The December LMCA Annual meeting saw several staff members give presentations. **Josh Tracy** (Technician) gave his first presentation ever, talking about the drone operations in 2024. We look forward to him sharing more in the future. **Jill Hightower** (Lab Supervisor) presented about our parish's 2024 West Nile Virus activity and the issues we had getting it under control. The conference was well attended, and everyone enjoyed the location.

Our shop areas are diligently getting ready for the upcoming season. One of our King Air spray planes is currently having phase work done at the Gonzales Airport. We are expecting it back at the end of February, and then we will send the second King Air off shortly afterwards. The ground larvicide trucks are set to resume applications sometime in March.

Wishing everyone the best on our upcoming spray season, stay safe.

District News

Cameron



What a difference a year makes! Last winter we had very warm temperatures and we were right in the middle of one of our worst outbreaks of all time. This winter has been more like “winter.” Cameron parish actually had a blizzard warning and received about a foot of snow across the entire parish. Recently in February, we experienced some more freezing temperatures. However, prior to the snow and between the freezes, the temperatures were pretty warm, and in our parish when it is warm the mosquitoes come out of hiding. Luckily, our mosquito populations are close to average, compared to how they were last year following the drought. We have been running the trucks on a regional basis, when the weather permits. We have only had two flights so far in areas along the coast and along the ship channel to control high landing rates of *Aedes sollicitans*.

Following the snowstorm, we finally moved into our repaired and renovated office in Creole. We have also moved our chemicals and equipment to our brand new Sweetlake warehouse, that have been stored at Calcasieu MAD since the 2020 hurricanes. The Sweetlake warehouse is farther inland from our office and is on property that is elevated higher than the flood requirements for our parish. We are storing all of our chemicals at this location. After four and a half years, it is nice to have a place to work.



Creole Office



Sweetlake Warehouse



Jeff Davis

It was great to connect with everyone at the LMCA conference in New Orleans. The Jefferson Davis Parish MAD has been keeping busy with off-season maintenance on our trucks and aircraft. Thankfully, we had 10” of snow in southwest Louisiana. It was fun to see all the photos and videos of kids playing in the snow. Will this event impact our mosquito populations? Only time will tell. The following week, temperatures were back in the 70s and 80s, with *Culiseta inornata* already buzzing around. Hold onto your coats, folks—it may not be over yet!

We have also had some changes around here. **Wayne Landry**, our shop supervisor, retired after over 20 years of service. He began as a part-time spray driver and worked his way up to shop supervisor. Wayne was usually the first one in and the last to leave, and he always had the coffee brewing when we arrived. Now, we are on the hunt for an automatic coffee maker. Haha! Looking forward to seeing you all at the workshop in Baton Rouge.

Heath Deese, Assistant Director



District News

Orleans

NOMTRCB had a busy off-season cohosting the New Orleans Urban Pest Management Symposium with the Greater New Orleans Pest Control Association and Louisiana Pest Management Association. This meeting brought together almost 200 individuals from various backgrounds ranging from pest control operators, to mosquito and rodent abatement districts, to university professors. This second iteration was a major success and will occur every 3 years, next in 2028. Multiple NOMTRCB employees recently completed degrees. Malcolm MacLean completed his Master's of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from Tulane University in May 2024. Evan Davies successfully defended his thesis titled "Southern House Mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus* Say) Association with Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana and the Effects of Ammonium Hydroxide on Life History Traits" on December 19, 2024 to complete his M.S. in entomology from Louisiana State University. Maddie Fryer defended her thesis titled "Evaluation of Larval Mosquito Habitat in Stormwater Infrastructure" on January 29, 2025 and will graduate Spring 2025 with her M.S. in environmental science from LSU.

2024 marks a huge milestone for the City of New Orleans Aviation Program, with the installation of the spray kit for ULV adulticide operations completed in late July of this year. The new equipment allowed us to execute 6 spray missions to date covering an even greater number of treatment zones across the city. Our helicopter is currently having a tank installed for larvicide applications which will greatly increase our ability to larvicide widescale and in places that are difficult to access via truck. NOMTRCB is prepared for another season as the temperatures start to warm back up after our unprecedented snow storm in January. We wish everyone the best as mosquito season starts back up!

St. Tammany

As the 2025 Season rapidly approaches, STPMAD is working hard to make sure we are ready to go. We have upgraded our fleet with a new Marsh Master and several new vehicles to allow us to be as responsive as possible to any outbreaks. We are looking forward to welcoming back our larviciders and night treatment teams in early March. Additionally, our leadership team is working closely with our full-time staff to determine the most efficient and effective use of their time in the field and lab, exploring options for flexible work hours and shifts.

Our IMM has been updated to reflect the insight gained in the last year to help us define better treatment areas, as well as to define the frequency and criteria to initiate treatments. We anticipate a busy season – and we are ready to go!

Tangipahoa

As we gear up for mosquito season, we have many great things to share regarding our past few months! Per our 2024-annual report in December, over 460,000 mosquitoes were counted between our CDC and Gravid traps. This number is over 1,000,000 less than what was counted in the previous year! Over 2,460 samples were collected and sent to LSU for WNV testing, resulting in just 26 positives for the year.

Our first larviciding drone (Agras T30) is on schedule to be used this upcoming season! We plan to begin using the drone when needed, more specifically following heavy rainfall and for areas unreachable by our team. We are also happy to announce the opening of our new hangar! Years in the making, our hangar will now provide us with a space all to ourselves. This has increased our storage capacity significantly, allowing us to keep chemicals and equipment tailored to our specific needs. The ample space in the hangar will assist us when it is time for routine maintenance and repairs, reducing the need to fly elsewhere for service. This minimizes both downtime and costs during our busy season. Looking ahead, the extra space also allows for future expansion, making it easy to accommodate an additional aircraft should our aerial spraying needs increase.

Social Media continues to be a vital tool in transparency for our district. Between our "WNV Risk Map" and weekly graphics and posts, our page saw a 123% increase in followers. According to Meta Insights, our social media pages saw a 590% increase in reach and an almost 200% increase in content interactions. We plan to incorporate more video content in the year ahead to give our residents a closer look into our day-to-day operations.

We are up for millage renewal on March 29th with the expectation that we will pass. Here at TMAD, we wish you all the best in your districts as we prepare for the 2025 mosquito season!

District News

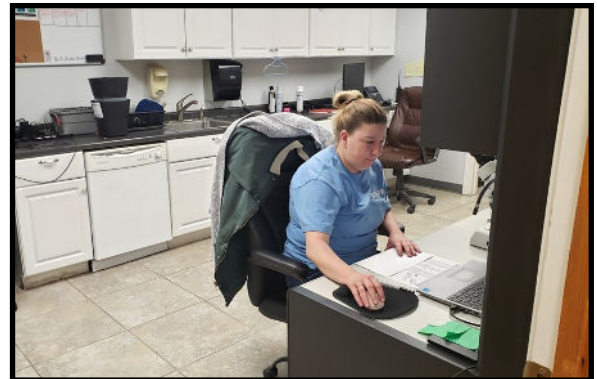
West Baton Rouge

Greetings from West Baton Rouge Parish! With a brief period of unseasonably warm temperatures and ample rainfall in early February, we were concerned that we were in for a repeat of last season's early start. However, cold weather returned and it appears we will have a more normal start time this year.

Field Supervisor **Michael Joseph** and Specialist **Ronnie Carpenter** have been hard at work preparing trucks, spray equipment, and surveillance equipment for this coming season. Among other tasks, one of our part-time workers, **Kristi Blanchard**, has been busy entering some of our historical data into the VectorSurv Gateway.

New for this year, we have added an e-bike to our equipment lineup to aid in our storm drain treatment program. We typically need a crew of two to man our side by side units while doing these applications. Using the e-bike will free up one of our employees to be working on other tasks. It will be in the field soon and we look forward to presenting on it in the fall.

Barring any unforeseen rise in mosquito/virus activity in March, we will begin our 2025 surveillance/disease monitoring program during the first week of April as we typically do. Whatever the 2025 season has in store, we are confident our team will rise to the challenge. On behalf of the team here at WBRP Mosquito Control, we wish you and your team a safe and successful season ahead and we look forward to seeing you a little later in the year.



Kristi Blanchard



Michael Joseph

LMCA Reflections by Jeff North

“A hundred years ago, there were one and a half billion people on Earth. Now, over six billion crowd our fragile planet. But even so, there are still places barely touched by humanity.” These profound words were from David Attenborough’s opening narration of the nature documentary “Planet Earth”. First airing on March 5, 2006, this eleven-episode series features a global overview of a diverse biome on Earth. The documentary is fully brought to life through the soothing, almost therapeutic, voice of Mr. Attenborough. In each episode, a journey is illustrated from around the globe focusing on an array of habitats including mountain ranges, freshwater ecosystems, a frontier of caves, savannas and deserts, and regions of the Arctic and Antarctica, just to mention a few. Perhaps, most eye-opening, are his opinions on the effect of gradual climate change and seasonal transitions and the effects on the flora and fauna of the world.

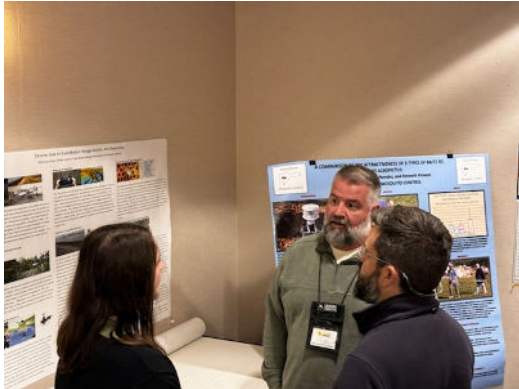
Due to space and time restraints, there is no way to fully describe what is depicted and presented in all of the episodes of this brilliant documentary. This is for you to discover in the solitude of your dens and studies on a rainy, Sunday afternoon. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not at least whet your appetite for what lies within a few episodes to inspire your thirst for knowledge to what most of us will never be exposed to. Here are a few excerpts that I hope you find both intriguing and entertaining.

A global overview includes emperor penguins enduring four months of darkness, with no food, in temperatures of -94F. Picture polar bear cubs emerging for the first time into a world of ice, wondering what now? The Amur leopard, population of just forty individuals, is considered the world’s rarest cat due primarily to habitat loss. Attenborough describes this loss as “the symbol of fragility of our natural heritage.” In the tropics, the jungle that covers only three percent of the planet’s surface supports fifty percent of its species.

In specific habitat episodes you will find a discussion of mountains and the species that inhabit them. You will learn about the grizzly bear of the Northern Rockies, the snow leopard in the Himalayas, and the puma of the Andes. The episode on caves will take you through a journey both above ground and underwater exploring species from swallows to bats. During the freshwater program, you find yourself fully immersed in the struggle of the wildebeest as they swim for their lives through a mass of crocodiles. The beaver pond provides a home for the otter, the wood duck, and the cottonmouth. In the shallow seas, you will witness the return of the humpback whales to their breeding grounds in the tropics. The green sea turtle, jawfish, and Wonderpus octopus will amaze you as they are forced to cope with their environment through camouflage and foraging where they have no place to hide from predators. The most extensive forests on Earth will be featured including some of the world’s tallest trees. What I have mentioned is only a small sample of what is offered through this jaw-dropping film. I invite you to sit back and relax and take in all that is offered to you and your family and hopefully you will appreciate how fragile our Mother Earth truly is.

My inspiration for this article began with a related documentary that recently aired, “The Americas” narrated by Tom Hanks. The ten-episode event from the producers of “Planet Earth” explores the landscape and wildlife of North and South America including diverse topography from the Atlantic Coast, through the Caribbean, back to the Frozen North, to Patagonia, and even the Wild West. Tom Hanks does an excellent job with narration, following in the footsteps of David Attenborough. His message is the same, bringing awareness of conservation issues around the world. I think we underestimate how important our natural world is and many times we take for granted that it will always be here. This is far from the truth! Do you ever take notice of the empty drink cans in the ditches along our roadsides? How many sacks and wrappers from hamburger joints blow freely across the highway? The next time you pull up to an intersection or a stoplight, peer out your window and take notice of the number of cigarette butts lying next to the curb. This is all man-made and mankind deposited. I refer to it as a tragedy. To put this in perspective, think of what “progress” does to our swamps, rivers, forests, and oceans. Think of the concrete that is poured every single day displacing animals, birds, reptiles, and flora. The human population is spiraling out of control, and we continue to plague our planet with debris and destruction. This cannot last forever without grave consequences. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to take immediate action to clean up our mess and to reverse the course of the demise of our planet and Mother Nature. Think about what you can do as an individual to reduce the environmental impact that we are all guilty of. Whether it is thumping cigarette butts out the window, piling up plastic bottles in the recycle bin, or discarding aerosol cans, if we each accept a personal accountability, I bet we can make a difference for our future in a positive way. Please accept my challenge and a hundred years from now, hopefully, those after us will realize the benefits of our efforts. Remember, we do not own the planet, we are just borrowing it from our children. Think about it! Until next time enjoy our natural world and I’ll see you soon in the swamp.

Scenes from LMCA's Annual Meeting in New Orleans 2024



In Memory of:

Tina Marie Paredes
Iberia Parish Mosquito Control
June 2, 1964 - Feb. 16, 2025

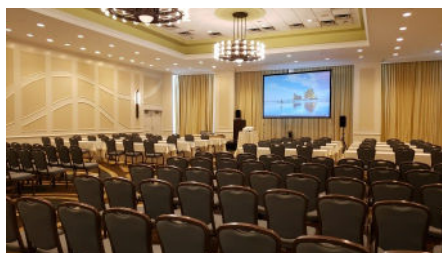
Louisiana Mosquito Control Association Membership



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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
- IPM Training
- Educational Resources
- Legislative/Regulatory Monitoring
- Technical Manuals / Bulletins



Special Thanks to our Newsletter Committee:
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