Greetings from West Baton Rouge Parish! Compared to this same time last year, it appears things have gotten off to a slow start in regards to West Nile virus activity within the state, but will it last? With the first of day summer behind us, and hot temperatures becoming the norm, conditions are certainly ripe for a busy season ahead. Now as always, complacency is one of the major problems we face when trying to keep the public aware and concerned enough about West Nile virus to take action. As we advance into the heat of summer, now is the time to make our control and public education efforts count.

Spring is a busy time for the LMCA, and this year was no exception. In March, complete with a revamped format, the LMCA Workshop was held at East Baton Rouge MARC. Special thanks to everyone at EBRMARC, Herff Jones, Kristen Healy, and everyone on the LMCA Workshop Committee who worked extremely hard to make this year’s workshop a rousing success. In May, the LMCA Mosquito Academy was held at New Orleans MTCB. Special thanks to Director Claudia Regal and her team for the hard work that goes into making this great event a success. Also in May, Herff Jones, Dennis Wallette, and I traveled to Washington DC for the AMCA’s Washington Day event. Joining our Louisiana delegation for visits with state legislators, were Sean Healy and Emily Dugas, both of whom made significant contributions to our successful day on the hill.

Speaking of events, you won’t want to miss out on this year’s LMCA Annual Meeting. The LMCA is already hard at work planning the 2019 annual meeting, which will be held this year December 3rd – 5th in Baton Rouge at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center. Details on registration and reservations will be forthcoming soon.

As we head into the busiest part of the year, I wish everyone a safe and successful season as we go about the business of serving and protecting our communities. If I can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Bragg
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225-490-8532
LMCA Member District Spotlight

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Michael Joseph was chosen for this edition of our Member Spotlight. Thank you all who sent in nominations, but as we all know, the success of our Mosquito Control Districts is because of ALL employees. Be on the look out for the next member spotlight!

Michael Joseph hired on with our department as a mosquito control specialist in March of 2015. Michael had previously driven spray trucks for us as an employee of West Baton Rouge's Drainage Department. He took great interest in what we did to control mosquitoes and would often ask in-depth questions on our methods and procedures. Prior to taking the mosquito control specialist position with us, Michael on his own time, went and achieved his General Standards and 8A mosquito control certifications from LDAF. Michael resides in Port Allen, Louisiana. He is a devoted father of two beautiful girls, Malaysia and Makayla. Along with being an excellent employee and a devoted father, Michael is also a devout Christian. He serves as the full-time Pastor at Greater Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Erwinville, LA. He is known on the job and in his community as someone who can be depended upon for a listening ear and sound advice. Michael was promoted to Mosquito Control Supervisor after a departmental restructuring which brought WBR Mosquito and Animal Control Departments together under Director George Bragg in February of 2018. Over the last year, Michael has been relied upon heavily to make a transitional time in our department's history go smoothly. Along with actively working in the field, Michael also is responsible for helping plan and execute day to day larvicide, surveillance, and night spray truck operations. From servicing field equipment to teaching education events, Michael accomplishes all his tasks with determination and efficiency. Since 2015, Michael has represented WBR Mosquito Control superbly, he is a vital member of our team and we are honored to have him onboard.

Michael Joseph, West Baton Rouge Mosquito Control
District News

Caddo

Greetings from Caddo Parish, the 2019 Mosquito season has been very challenging and busy. We had numerous damaging storms and high amounts of rain from May to the last week of June. High winds and tornadoes has caused damage throughout the parish. Trap counts have been high *Columbiae Ferox* and *Anopheles Crucians*. In the urban area we have a lot of *Aedes albopictus*. The gravid trap counts have been high all being *Culex quinquefasciatus*. The surprising thing has been the low number of *Vexans*, usually we catch high numbers in these situations. With an increased amount of mosquitos, there has been numerous complaints. Spray season started out bad for us, we had several problems with the pumps in the sprayers. The cause was a bad tote of oil. Working with Adapco and Caddo fleet services they helped fix the situation, all of the trucks are now in operation. Another problem being the weather, thunderstorms and high winds made it tough to find good spray nights. At the time of this writing, everything is negative on the West Nile virus front. I wish everybody good luck with the rest of the season and I hope for some calmer weather in Caddo Parish.

Calcasieu

We have quickly traveled through half of 2019 and thus far overall mosquito nuisance populations have remained below normal. Our salt marsh habitats have not produced large broods of *Aedes sollicitans* yet. Hurricane season is here, so we’ll wait and see what mother nature divvies up the remainder of the year.

*Ricky Peters*, our new aerial mechanic, installed a spray system flush tank in our Islander. The flush line runs from the tank through the wings and into chemical pods under each wing. This eliminates an additional take-off and landing with each mission to load flushing material. It’s a definite time, cost and safety addition to Islander spray missions. I don’t know of another system like it installed in this type of aircraft. P.S. the pilots love it.

Cameron

So far this year, there is not much to report on. We have had many flooding rains and have had plenty of water in the marshes, but the mosquito populations have remained below average. The high water and heavy rains must be allowing flushing action and access to mosquito larva by predators keeping our numbers low. Light traps and BG trap counts have been very low. We have started using a gravid trap this year in a few communities that have septic ditches. All gravid trap collections in these areas has had good catches of usually at least 100 to 400 “quinks”. We have only had one flight to knock out flood water mosquitoes from our last really big rain event. That flight covered 46,080 acres of areas near rice fields in Sweetlake, Klondike and Lowry and some slow draining marshes in East Grand Chenier.

On May 17, we had a luncheon following our board meeting to honor our chief pilot, *Reagan Cook*, whose last day of work was May 31. He has retired after over forty years of flying for Cameron Parish Mosquito Control. We will miss him very much and appreciate all of his dedication to Cameron Parish. If you know anything about our mosquito populations and how many acres we treat for each flight, it is probably safe to say that Reagan has caused death to more mosquitoes than any other person in the world.
District News

EBRPMARC

A slow start to the mosquito and West Nile virus season here in Baton Rouge. We have had above normal temperatures and rainfall, but the floodwater species are really not much of an issue. We have seen moderate numbers of *Anopheles crucians* in some areas and there are numerous peridomestic *Aedes albopictus*. We normally have our first West Nile positive mosquito pools during the third week of June, but have yet to get any positive mosquito samples. That will probably change during the next few weeks.

Over the last few years we have observed an increase in breeding pairs of American Robins in many older Baton Rouge neighborhoods. This trend is definitely noticeable this season. While this species has historically overwintered in South Louisiana, there are definitely more breeding birds here at this time. We feel that this is a concern since robins are considered strong amplifying hosts for West Nile virus. Just what we need more West Nile virus concerns.

As most of you know, we are now operating out of our new building complex on the Metropolitan Airport property. It is great to have more room, but we are still dealing with minor problems left over from the construction.

Continued…

After an immense amount of work, we have finally digitalized our mosquito and rodent service request protocol. A number of our employees, as well as, staff from the Information Services department have been involved in this development. Foremost among these are Pest Control Inspector II Marcus Goss and Senior Administrative Specialist Courtni Lacey. We really appreciate all the work that they have done to free us from paper work orders.

Iberia

The mosquito season has started slowly for the district. Mosquito surveillance numbers has been relatively low compared to previous years same period. Yes, there have been noteworthy rain events followed by high daytime temperatures that have not produced significant populations. So, for the time being there has not been a need for aerial interventions. In other news, the District has been the fortunate beneficiary of elements of the CDC Hurricane Relief Enhanced Capacity Grant. None more significant than funding to purchase an aircraft outfitted for mosquito spraying.

The funding will establish in-house aerial operations for Iberia and Vermilion Parishes. Previously, the two programs shared contract services since 2006, so a cooperative endeavor sharing an in-house aerial operation seemed appropriate and logical. Recently, BID packages were open identifying a vendor providing a Piper Navajo Chieftain with modifications and installations.

Both programs are excited to add this capacity to enhance their capability to better serve the communities for which they are responsible.

We want to welcome two new employees, Pest Control Inspectors I, Justin Byrd (left) and Kyren Williams (right).

Congratulations to our Pest Control Inspector I, Brett Heitzmann, on being promoted to Mosquito Control Specialist.
District News

Ouachita

Friday, June 28 brought with it OPMAD’s first West Nile virus-infected pools of the season. These two mosquito pools were collected 19–21 of June. These positives were realized two weeks later than last year’s first positives of the season.

As you may all remember, last year at the LMCA Annual Meeting I gave a presentation regarding the 2018 surveying of trash cavities throughout the city of Monroe. We were able to finish analyzing the data this Winter/Spring and were pleasantly surprised at the results. At this year’s annual meeting, I will present the data but just wanted to update that we have shared said data with the city. In doing so, we highlighted our primary focus cavities, secondary focus cavities, etc. With this data, the city was more than eager and willing to help and responded immediately by beginning the process of filling in said cavities.

Lastly, OPMAD is excited to announce the addition of its newest full-time employee, Mr. Terry Dyer. Terry joined us in April and is now serving as our new Night Spray Supervisor. Terry has been working with us since 2002. In his previous capacity, he served as a seasonal employee operating as one of our team leaders for the night spraying operation. Terry has recently retired from the Monroe City Fire Department after 34 years of service. Thank you Terry for your service to the city of Monroe and welcome aboard!!

St. Tammany

The last several months have been a momentous blur at St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement. The four-week evaluation of the helicopter applied Bti (Vectobac WDG) took place in May and June. Prior to these applications we began an extensive media and public outreach campaign to discuss the approach. In the weeks prior to the first helicopter applications, residents received mailed flyers describing the treatments designed to kill larval mosquitoes. In addition, extensive posts to social media sites including Next Door and Facebook delineated the strategy and safety of this approach.

Four helicopter applications with Bti were applied weekly starting on May 21 and continuing through June 12, 2019. A preliminary review of the efficacy data of these applications suggest excellent control (up to 92%) in small containers, but reduced efficacy (63%) in heavily polluted roadside ditches that receive sewage effluent from residences. It may not surprise you to know that we were not able to show any reduction in adult mosquito populations across the treatment and control areas in this study.

Continued...

As if to thumb their long pointy noses at us, the first West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes in the state were collected in a NO-LIGHT CDC trap in the neighborhood and on the first day we conducted the Helicopter Bti trial! Subsequent to this study additional WNV-infected Culex quinquefasciatus and Cx. salinarius mosquitoes have been collected in areas across the parish. Pilot Brandon Campbell has been giving the Twin Otter “Skeeterbomber” airplane a workout covering 421,367.9 acres on 20 missions for the year-to-date.

Tangipahoa

Our CDC trap and gravid trap counts are about where we expect them to be at this point in the year, though overall counts are slightly lower than at this point last year. We have submitted over 900 samples to the LSU vet lab and have tested over 60 samples in-house. We have not received any positive West Nile virus pools so far this year from the LSU lab or from our in-house testing.

For adult control efforts, we are maintaining our ground control operations with our trucks each night, and the airplane as needed for high trap counts. For roadside ditches, we use a duplex mixture of B.t.i and methoprene in our tank trunks, and larviciding oil by hand. We have also continued utilizing MapVision for data entry and storage in both the office and field. We have been conducting field and resistance testing as needed. In July, we are planning to conduct a cage test with Fyfanon EW and multiple species of mosquitoes.

We have a new inspector that has joined our work family! We would like to welcome Cody Navarro. He is already doing a great job and we are happy to have him.

We hope you had a productive “Pilez Mosquito Week” and continue to “pilez” the mosquitoes in your districts!
District News

WBR

Greeting from West Baton Rouge Parish! As we head into the heat of the summer things have been quiet for us in regards to overall mosquito trap counts and West Nile virus activity. While we currently have no positive samples, by this time last year we already had several mosquito samples test positive for West Nile virus. We began our surveillance season as we always do during the first week of April. Since then, our overall mosquito numbers have been down, consequently our submission counts are down as well. Very similar to last year, we once again experienced very limited early season floodwater mosquito activity. However, with the warmer temperatures lately, we have begun to see a slight increase in Culex Quinquefasciatus numbers. While our spray truck operations have been minimal to date, our crew has been larviciding heavily in many areas of the parish.

Our education event season has gotten off to a great start as we once again attended Kite Fest Lousiane’ in April. Also in April, we attended STEAM Night at our local library, and most recently we participated in a joint collaboration with districts from around the state at the 4-H University Day event held at LSU.

I would like to introduce a new addition to our team, Saul Kimble. Saul comes to our district having previously worked for WBR Drainage Department. Saul was a spray truck driver for a few years before transferring to our department. He has successfully obtained his general standards and 8A mosquito control certifications from LDAF. In May, Saul also attended and successfully completed training at this year’s LMCA Mosquito Academy. Saul has been a great addition to our team and we are excited to have him onboard with us.

We wish everyone a safe and successful season as we do battle against our common winged enemy, the mosquito.

Saul Kimble, West Baton Rouge Parish
LMCA Annual Meeting News

LMCA Meeting

The site, city, dates and meeting location have been set for this year’s 62nd LMCA Annual Meeting. The meeting dates will be Tuesday, December 3rd to Thursday, December 5th. Our host location will be the Downtown Baton Rouge Capital Hilton.

The room rate for double occupancy will be $129.00/night. The room block is open for reservations. Attendees can call direct (225) 906-5783 or use online link which will be posted on the LMCA webpage. When making reservations to receive group rate you must identify the group name Louisiana Mosquito Control Association and the group code MOS. Reservation cutoff date is November 11, 2019.

Hilton Baton Rouge Capital Center
201 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Phone: (225) 344-5866

Hope to see everyone there!!
Code of Ethics

Louisiana Mosquito Control Association Members

Mosquito control provides services which are increasingly important to the health, welfare and progress of society. Those employed in the mosquito control profession have the responsibility to render effective and professional service to humanity, in keeping with the high standards of ethical conduct. Therefore, in striving to advance and maintain the honor and dignity of the profession, the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association has established the following code to define the conduct and ethics due the profession. This code is binding on the membership of the LMCA.

LMCA members will use their knowledge and skill for the betterment of human welfare.

Members will, at all times, strive to maintain the public trust, and advance the standards and principles established by the LMCA.

Members will cooperate in the exchange of information and technology for the growth and progress of the mosquito control profession and the LMCA.

Members will not cause dishonor to the Association through their actions while representing the LMCA.

Members will promote solidarity, harmony and support among members and fellow workers. They will not undermine, vilify, berate or otherwise intentionally injure the work, accomplishments, efforts or professional reputation of another.

Members will not conduct or in any way participate in a fallacious review of the work of a fellow worker or other member.

Members will help defend and morally support others against unjust claims and accusations. They will defend the mosquito control profession and report to the Board of Directors any member acting in a manner inconsistent with the policies and guidelines set forth by the LMCA.

Charges of any violation of this code on the part of any member will be reviewed by the LMCA Board of Directors and may, with a majority vote of the Board, result in, but not be limited to, censorship, loss of voting privileges within the Association, removal from committee membership and removal from membership in the Association.
Louisiana Mosquito Control Association Membership

Louisiana Mosquito Control Association

611 Old Central Taxi Way
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Phone: 337-365-4933
Fax: 337-364-8063
www.lmca.us

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