

The Landing Rate Count

Newsletter of the South Carolina Mosquito Control Association

The President's Message

Hi Everyone,

I am James Brock, with Horry County Mosquito Control, I am the Program Manager for Horry County Mosquito Control. I have been in the program for over 10 years. I have two sons Conner and Hunter.

Conner is a Lineman for Santee Cooper, Hunter attends Wingate University where he plays football, rugby and is on the National Honor Society. I also have 2 granddaughters, Ellie who is 2yrs old

and Shiloh who is 1yr old. When I'm not playing with the granddaughters, I like to go hunting and fishing. I also a volunteer as a Coach at St. James High School for the football team. I am active in the

Heiaz Shriners and the Masonic Lodge. I would like to take the opportunity to thanks everyone for allowing me the honor and privilege of being the President of the SCMCA for 2023.

This is really a special year because this is the 50th anniversary of the SCMCA! I would also like to welcome all the new board members as well. Hopefully things will return to normal this year, the Summer Workshop will be in person this year at Pinopolis on June 8th. Looking forward to serving everyone as your President.



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Editor: Johnny Bruton

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Important Meeting Notice

SCMCA will host a summer Workshop

June 8, 2023

Please contact Beverly Whitmire to reserve your place! SCMCA Secretary/Treasurer

Whitmire.beverly@Richlandcountysc.gov 803.576.2426

2023 SCMCA Sustaining Members

Thank you for your time and contributions!



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2023 SCMCA Sustaining Members, continued



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2023 SCMCA Sustaining Members, continued



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SCMCA Regions & Delegates

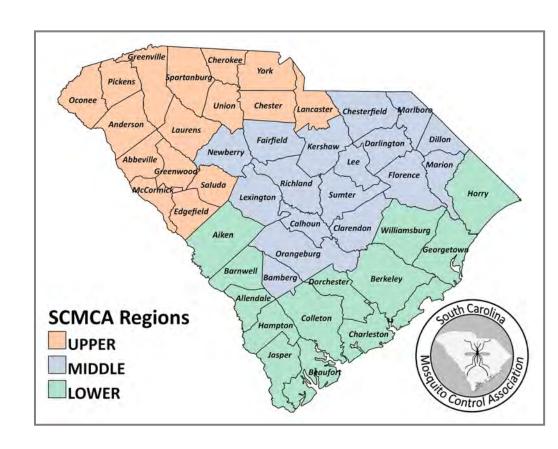
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<u>Middle Region</u>: Christina Adams

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<u>Lower Region</u>: Gage Floyd Phone: (843) 915-6963 <u>Floyd.gage@horrycounty.org</u>







James Brock Accepting Gavel For Special Young!





New Board of Directors from North Myrtle Beach 2022!



Silver Dipper Award - Olin Towery



LA Williams Award-Larry Motes





2023 Annual Meeting Early Bird & Hospitality Room!!

Meet Your New SCMCA Board Members!

Lower Region Representative

Hello everyone! My name is Gage Floyd. I am born and raised here in Horry County, in a small town called Green Sea. I worked with Horry County Mosquito Control for just over a year and a half. I have since taken another job opportunity as an inspector and camera truck operator with Stormwater. During my free time I love to go to the gym, cook, and travel. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your lower region representative for The South Carolina Mosquito Control Association.



Middle Region Representative

My name is Christina Adams and I am your Middle Region delegate. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity within the association! I am about to celebrate my one year anniversary with Richland County Vector Control in Columbia, SC as an Environmental Field Coordinator. I am originally from Lexington, SC, but also lived in Beaufort, SC for much of my life. I received a BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry at the University of South Carolina - Beaufort in Bluffton, SC. I went to continue my education with programs at the University of Alabama Birmingham and then at the University of Florida. I returned back home to SC at the end of 2021 and started working with Richland County Vector Control at the beginning of 2022, in March. In my spare time, I love traveling, spending time with my two nieces, reading, and watching movies. I love to learn new things and I've really enjoyed learning about the vector control industry this last year and cannot wait to continue to grow and learn from the industry! I look forward to working with you all and serving as your Middle Region representative!



Julie Davis

Upper Region Representative

Born and raised in the upstate of South Carolina, Julie Marie Corley Davis is originally from Pow-

dersville, SC. After graduating from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in Resource Management and a Minor in Wildlife, Aquaculture, and Fisheries Biology, Julie began her professional career with the SC State Park Service. After working with them for six years, she went back to Clemson and obtained her Master's degree.

After graduation, Julie was hired on with Greenwood County as Lake Manager in 2006. Lake Greenwood, situated in the foothills of SC is an 11,400 acre lake owned by Greenwood County and bordered by three counties. Lake Greenwood, a FERC licensed project, was created in the late 1930s, and is a treasure for the surrounding communities. Lake Management staff perform a small scale mosquito control program on Lake Greenwood.



Mike Riles

At Large Representative

Mike Riles,

I have been working in mosquito control operations since 2014 and small operational vector research since 2011. My focus is on Integrated Pest Management philosophies imbedded in specific topics of invasive specie and arbovirus transmission, mosquito identification, and mosquito species migration and introductions in the SE USA. Currently I am the regional sales manager for Central Life Sciences for the southeast region of the United States. I am also engaged with the FMCA Dodds Shorts Courses as an instructor on surveillance and mosquito identifications, working as a co-director for BEACONS invasive species working group and am heavily involved with legislative and regulatory issues through the AMCA ESA subcommittee as they align within mosquito control on a national platform. I have also recently taken on the roles of industry board member in both the SCMCA and the GMCA.



Vice-President Johnny Bruton

Hello everyone, my name is Johnny Bruton. I am the Operations Manager for the City of North Myrtle Beach of which I have been employed for 17 years. I attended Horry-Georgetown Technical Collage and the University of Arkansas Grantham. I have two boys Frankie (29) and Scottie (28) which I think the world of. I started as a Heavy Equipment Operator with the City, which part of my duties were to spray mosquitoes after work when it was my turn to take after hours call. For many years the City would just spray without performing any surveillance. My former boss tasked me with updating the Mosquito Control Program and with the help of many others took the next step in mosquito control for the City. I still manage the program in the day to day operations but do not get to spend the time with it I would like. Last year we faced many obstacles with employees and as such I got to go out several nights and drive the spray truck, what a great feeling to be home. I hope that I can serve each and everyone of you to the best of my ability. If you have any questions or would like to just talk about mosquitos please give me a call. See you at the summer workshop!!



Upper Region Update

City of Edgefield – Mosquito Control efforts include adulticiding in the summer twice weekly. The City does a 5-mile radius on the city streets of Edgefield.

City of Fountain Inn – City of Fountain Inn applies adulticide as requested. Last year they sprayed the city parks and used larvicide in the retention ponds. Mosquito issues were not too bad last year. They are waiting to see how this year unfolds.

City of Clemson – On the 73 miles of streets in the city, they run trucks starting in May and going through October every other week. They use a Biomist 3+15 ULV in Clarke Fogger. They have performed mosquito control efforts for at least 10 years.

City of Seneca – Their mosquito control program is the same as last year. They usually start in May, depending upon the weather, and do treatments every other week. They also treat in West Minister on alternating weeks. They are cautious about pollinators.

Middle Region Updates

Calhoun County - Ron Gibson

This past summer was the lowest numbers of complaints that they have ever had:

Average = 150

2022 = 26

Richland County - Olin Towery

While we have had an eventful off-season here at Richland County Vector Control, we have also gotten a much needed break from mosquito calls and disease response. Our team got a little bigger at the end of October when we welcomed Brandon Scruggs to the family as our Administrative Assistant. Brandon fit right in without ever missing a beat, and he has become a true asset to the staff. The Vector team enjoyed attending SCMCA's Annual Meeting in November. Christina Adams received the award for Technician of the Year, and Olin Towery was honored to receive the Silver Dipper. We are also currently in the process of digitizing our program. This is a project that we have been trying to accomplish for many years, and we are excited to finally have it in the works. Lastly, we are gearing up for the start of mosquito season. We will complete seasonal maintenance of our equipment, purchase needed pesticides, treat catch basins, and continue responding to citizen's request for service. The to-do list keeps growing every day, and before we know it we will be in the middle of mosquito season. Y'all take care and stay safe out there!

Lower Region Updates

Dorchester County

At Dorchester County Mosquito Control Department, we are gearing up to tackle yet another successful season of mosquito abatement. My name is Martez Morris. I am the Mosquito and Pest Control Coordinator for Dorchester County Neighborhood Services, I have approximately 4 years in Pest Control experience. I'm celebrating my first year with the Dorchester family and very happy to be here. Helping people is my passion and I'm dedicated to making this year a great year. Our main goal this year is to reduce the number of mosquitos in a more cost effective and environmentally safe way. Dorchester County operates a Mosquito Control Program to protect its citizens from the spread of mosquito-borne diseases by spraying pesticides (insecticides), applying larvicide to low-lying areas, and educating its citizens on reducing the conditions that foster increases in the mosquito population.

Last year we experienced a lot of rain in which forced us to slow down spraying due to the ineffectiveness of chemical. Our department has developed a <u>Mosquito Abatement Map</u> that subdivides the County into fifty (50) spray zones. Each zone has its own map printed with detailed street information. This system helps us track targeted areas and citizen's request. All our spray technicians manage zones and perform treatment bi-weekly to designated areas. We manage the mosquito population with Larvicide which is BVA 2 Oil, Altosid XR Briquets, or Altosid XR-G granular products. Surveillance on mosquito population is important. To do so, we do Larvae Sampling, Trap Collections, Landing Rate Counts and Rainfall Gauges that are placed in strategic areas within the County.

Within Dorchester County we have a lot of rural and agricultural areas which makes communication a little more challenging to educate citizens around these regions. We try our best to treat high demand areas daily. Ground spraying is conducted Monday through Friday, 9pm – 5am on a seasonal basis that begins and ends dependent on current mosquito activity. We attend crime watch and civil meetings to bring public awareness to reduce the possibility of breeding grounds. With these methods in place, it allows us to monitor emerging mosquito borne diseases and respond appropriately and coordinate issues effectively with DHEC and Clemson University.

City of North Myrtle Beach

Hello everyone, the City of North Myrtle Beach has been faced with some challenging times this past year. It has been hard to find employees in this ever changing economy we are facing today. We hope 2023 will shine brightly for us. We are planning to utilize an additional ULV sprayer this year as well as increase our surveillance program at least to the standards we used in 2021. Our staff had a great time at the annual meeting held in North Myrtle Beach this past November and look forward to seeing everyone at the Summer Workshop. Be safe!

Johnny Bruton
Operations Manager Streets & Drainage

Lower Region Updates

Charleston County Mosquito Control

July and August's historically above normal rain amounts caused a high level of continuous mosquito surveillance and control response by this program throughout both months and into all of September. Then the most significant weather event of 2022 happened September 30, when Hurricane Ian made its second landfall, partly in northern Charleston County, Ian dropped up to 9.82 inches of rain on the entire County region and produced peak high tides of up to 7 ft. These conditions prompted a considerably large, atypical degree of mosquito control activities for the month of October, including ULV spray mission acreage (92,760), aerial larviciding (3,338 acres), aerial adulticiding (19,000 acres), and responding to citizen Requests For Service (789). These efforts continued well into the first week of November. Eventually cooler weather, the natural lessening of daylight hours, and lower October rain amounts prevailed to reduce the need for response to more typical late fall/early winter levels. Mosquito control personnel shifted activity to maintenance and overhaul of eight ULV spray units and thirty-five New Jersey light traps, along with preparation of the 2023/2024 budget and composition of the 2022 Annual Report. During the July through December period, Field Inspector Lonnie Burbage was promoted to the Shop Foreman position, and two Spray Technicians were hired. During this time the program acquired three new Ford F-150 trucks and two Ford Escapes to replace older vehicles.

City of Myrtle Beach

The City of Myrtle Beach Mosquito Control Program will see few changes this season other than having more new residents. The program is looking to change the adulticide we are currently using to something else. We are researching the matter and no decision has been made as of now. The program did lose a long time member who was a great help with the trapping program but he did train a very good replacement for me. We are hoping for a quiet season with no hurricanes or West Nile. Thank you.

Clarence M. VanHouten

City of Myrtle Beach Mosquito Control Program



SOUTH CAROLINA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Attn: Olin Towery, Secretary Treasurer Richland County Vector Control 400 Powell Road Columbia, SC 29203

OFFICE PHONE: (803) 576-2428 FAX: (803) 576-2498

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAMI	C:				
ORGANIZATION	<u> </u>				
ADDRESS	s:				
WORK PHONE					
FAX					
E-MAIL					
			á		
ТҮРЕ (OF MEMBERSHIP/ DUES (Renewal due at Annual M	eeting)		
	Active Member	\$ 10.00			
	*Sustaining Member	\$150.00			
*Includes one active membership					
Please make	checks payable to <u>SCMCA</u> and r	eturn to <u>Olin Towery</u> at the ad	dress above.		
For Office Us	e Only:	Region: Upper / Middl	e / Lower		

Check #___

Amount Paid \$_____ Date Paid:____



Web Resources

Resource	Website	
American Mosquito Control Association	http://www.mosquito.org/	
CDC Division of Vector-Borne Diseases	http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd	
CDC Zika Virus Information	http://www.cdc.gov/zika/	
Clemson University CEU Search (See your information)	http://regfocus.clemson.edu/dpr/ncommercial.htm	
Clemson University Cooperative Extension Beekeeping	http://www.clemson.edu/extension/beekeepers/	
Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation	http://regfocus.clemson.edu/dpr/	
EPA Insect Repellents: Use and Effectiveness	http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/	
Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory (+ID Guide)	http://fmel.ifas.ufl.edu/	
Florida Mosquito Control Association	http://www.floridamosquito.org/Home/	
Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association	http://www.mamca.org/	
NC Mosquito and Vector Control Association	http://www.ncmvca.org/	
SC DHEC Mosquitoes in South Carolina	http://www.scdhec.gov/mosquitoes	
SC DHEC Reporting Dead Birds in South Carolina	http://www.scdhec.gov/birdtesting	
SC DHEC Zika Virus Information	http://www.scdhec.gov/zika	
Society for Vector Ecology	http://www.sove.org/	
South Carolina Aquatic Plant Management Society	http://www.scapms.org/	
SC Bee Keeper Association (Local assoc. links)	http://www.scstatebeekeepers.org/	
SC Mosquito Control Association	http://www.scmca.net/	
USGS (Arbovirus Disease Maps)	http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/mapviewer/	

SC DHEC Update for SCMCA Newsletter

SC DHEC Update for SCMCA Newsletter

Funding Opportunity for South Carolina Mosquito Control Agencies

Our lab was contacted early in 2023 about a potential funding opportunity that will be made available in 2024 federal fiscal year (August 2023 through July 2024). This one-time funding will be used to assist mosquito control agencies in post-hurricane response to mosquito population surges. The SC DHEC Medical Entomology Lab is responsible for applying for this funding by stating a work plan and budget, with a plan for dissemination of funds. The grant application announcement is expected this spring.

To better secure grant funds for mosquito control agencies, we have created a <u>survey</u> (linked below) to assess the need of our local county and city mosquito control agencies and how best to support them in future hurricane events. Please take some time to fill out the survey, so we can allocate the funding in a fair manner when it is awarded. Please feel free to send the <u>survey link</u> to city or county agencies within South Carolina that may not be a member of SCMCA. All information in the survey will be kept confidential unless otherwise stated in individual guestions.

Please take the Mosquito Control Needs Assessment Survey so that SC DHEC may better support mosquito control in South Carolina: https://forms.office.com/g/VfJ69snvGE

South Carolina Mosquito-Borne Disease Update

Eighty-five mosquito-borne disease events were detected in South Carolina in 2022. West Nile virus was detected in 9 birds, 19 people (including 1 human death), and 48 mosquito samples in July through October in ten counties. Just alone in the City of Columbia located in Richland County, SC, West Nile virus was detected in 6 birds, 40 mosquito samples, and 8 people. Inability to control the West Nile virus outbreak was attributed to breeding in cryptic or hidden containers in an area densely populated with people, housing, and vegetation, and also due to insecticide resistance to pyrethrins. An A1 Mister was purchased by the SC DHEC Medical Entomology lab to assist with area-wide larviciding. Also, a "West Nile Virus Activity in Your Area" Alert Postcard was sent to 23,197 addresses in the affected areas of Richland and Lexington County.

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus was detected in two birds in October through November in two counties. One human case was dually infected with West Nile virus and a California Serogroup virus. One travel-related human case of dengue virus and one of chikungunya virus were detected in two counties. Various mosquito-borne viruses were detected including Tensaw and Bunyavirus Non-Specified in *Anopheles crucians* complex, Flanders virus in *Culex pipiens* complex, and Keystone virus in *Aedes atlanticus/tormentor*.

SC DHEC Update for SCMCA Newsletter

So far, in 2023, a EEE virus-positive horse was detected earlier than normal in mid-January in Berkeley County. We had two late-year EEE-positive birds in a house finch and a rough-legged hawk in 2022, with onset dates in October and November. We are concerned about increased EEE virus activity in 2023 because of early warm temperatures and the virus being amplified early in the transmission season, as evidenced by the EEE virus-positive birds and horses seen within the last five months.

In the 2003 EEE virus outbreak, 154 horses were positive for EEE virus, and our earliest horse case occurred at the end of May. In 2004, a January case of EEE virus occurred in a horse in late January, but no more EEE virus-positive horse cases were detected until Sep-Dec, 2004. Although the January 2023 case was not the first EEE virus-positive horse seen in January, it certainly does cause some concern. *Culiseta melanura* mosquitoes are the primary vector of EEE virus in South Carolina, but two other important players in South Carolina are *Anopheles crucians* complex and *Culex erraticus*. Both species overwinter as adults and could emerge on warm days to blood feed. We speculate that one of these two mosquito species most likely infected the horse in mid-January, 2023.

The horse case in Berkeley County occurred near a Carolina Bay (Hellhole Bay) in Sumter National Forest, which does not allow mosquito control due to protected endangered species in the area. However, we have asked Berkeley County Mosquito Control to trap mosquitoes in the area when temperatures become more consistently warm to see which mosquito species are carrying the virus in that area.

2022 SCMCA Board of Directors

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SCMCA - Promoting Mosquito Control in South Carolina

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