

The Landing Rate Count

www.scmca.net

Newsletter of the South Carolina Mosquito Control Association

February 2024 –Vol 49 • Issue 1

Editor: Chelsey Reed

The President's Message of Unity

Hello everyone! For those of you who do not know me I would like to introduce myself to you as your President for 2024. My name is Johnny Bruton, I am the Operations Manager of Streets & Drainage for the City of North Myrtle Beach of which I have been employed since 2006. I was originally hired as a Heavy Equipment Operator with the City. A few years into my career with the City I was granted the opportunity to further my education by attending Horry-Georgetown Technical College in the pursuit of a Civil Engineering Degree and finished up with a Degree from the University of Arkansas. I was prompted through the ranks with the City and in January of 2020 prompted to my current role as Operation Manager. I have two sons, Frankie and Scottie who I am very proud of. My journey in mosquitoes has been one of trial and error, lined with many great people. When I first started at the City I knew nothing about mosquitoes or mosquito control other than they were a pest and bit you! We were tasked with going out and spraying three nights a week for two hours at a time not knowing why we were really performing the duties we were tasked to do. Then about 2009 or so we acquired our first known case of West Nile in the City and I was tasked with helping DHEC on trapping and follow-up treatments. Wow, did I learn a lot in a short period of time! That winter the City made mosquito control one of its priorities. We began the process of acquiring a building for mosquito control so that we could set up a lab. We started working with DHEC a little closer and performing more surveillance. We also began the process to track and review all the data we could in respect to mosquitos and the mosquito population within the City of North Myrtle Beach and surrounding areas. We found that data is the key or foundation to a successful program. We now have really great mosquito techs, who do an amazing job for the City and we would not be able to function without them. All this was made possible with the help of some really great people that I have met and who have helped along the way. From the first conversations with LA Williams to Terrill Mincey and Olin Towery to James Brock. These are just a few of the great people who have shed light and direction on mosquito control for me.



Johnny Bruton, 2023 - 24 SCMCA President

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This brings us to Unity, these people and many others who work and share their passion for mosquito control are what makes the South Carolina Mosquito Control Association what it is. We can all work together, sharing information to improve not only our programs but the overall perception of mosquito control throughout the state of South Carolina. It's not hard to share and work together. As an example, I will tell you about my relationship with one of the best in the business, James Brock. He is the past President so everyone should know of him. Yes, he is a bull in a China shop and I really enjoy getting him wound up. At the end of the day we are always bouncing ideas off one another and checking in weekly during mosquito season. This allows for a close interaction between the City of North Myrtle Beach and Horry County. It's not "who did what" or "I am better than you", it's let's get the job done so the public benefits and our phones stop ringing (which they don't). Hopefully this organization, through its Summer Workshops and Annual Meetings, can learn to work and share more with each other. We may have another workshop to bring everyone together to promote communication and sharing. We look forward to seeing everyone June 6th for Summer Workshop!!

2024 SCMCA Sustaining Members

Thank you for your time and contributions!



**ADAPCO Innovative Mosquito Solutions,
an AZELIS Americas Company**

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2024 SCMCA Sustaining Members



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Univar Environmental Sciences

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Valent Biosciences

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2024 SCMCA Sustaining Members



Mosquito Spraying • Woods Spraying • Crop Spraying • Fertilization

Williamsburg Air Service, Inc

Guy McClary

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(843) 687-3629 cell

WILLIAMSBURGAIRSERVICE@yahoo.com

SPRAYING@ftc-i.net

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SCMCA Regions & Delegates

Upper Region: Julie Davis

Phone: (864) 943-2648

jdavis@greenwoodsc.gov

Middle Region: Gabriel Begley

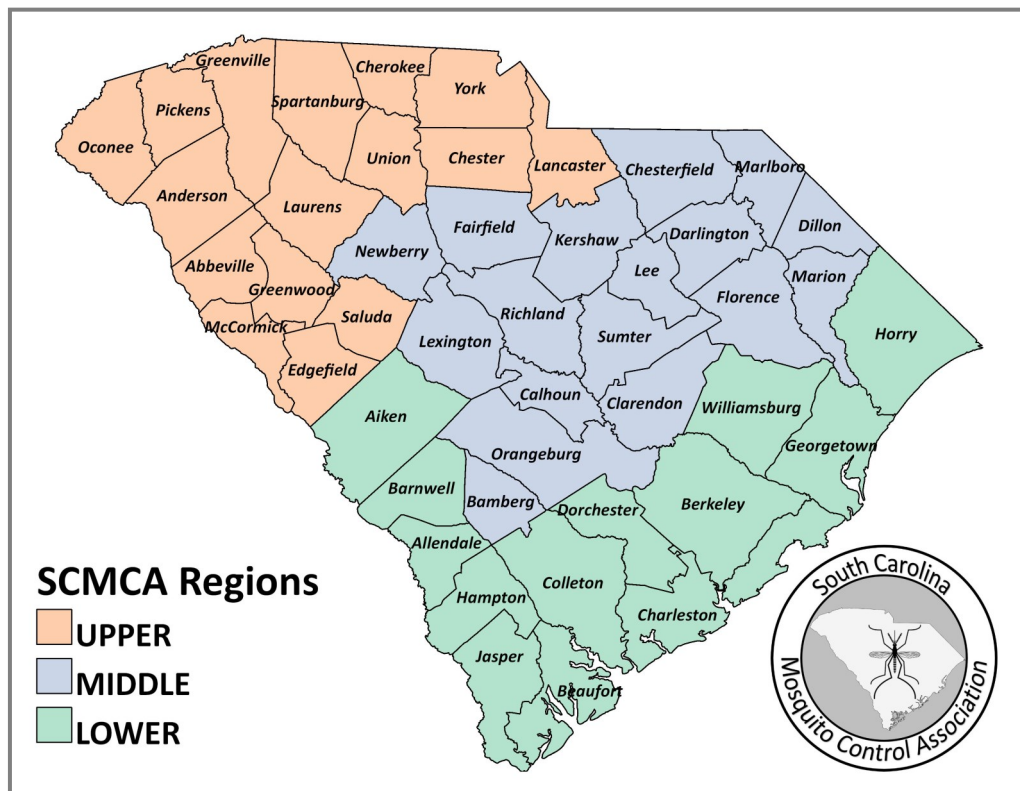
Phone: (803) 896-0579

begleygd@dhec.sc.gov

Lower Region: Andrew Pierson

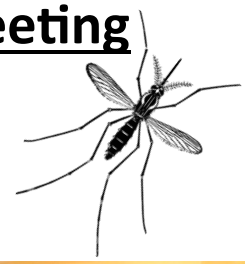
Phone: (843) 202-7891

APierson@charlestoncounty.org



SCMCA 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting

November 1-3, 2023



2023 Board of Directors (L-R): James Brock, Johnny Bruton, Julie Davis, Christina Adams, Beverly Whitmire, and Tammy Brewer (Special Young and Gage Floyd not pictured)



2024 Board of Directors (L-R): James Brock, Andrew Pierson, Johnny Bruton, Julie Davis, Gabriel Begley, Chelsey Reed, Beverly Whitmire (Tammy Brewer Not Pictured)



SCMCA 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting

November 1-3, 2023



SCMCA 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Congratulations to our Award Winners!



L.A. Williams presented with the Golden Dipper Award. This is a special, one-time award created for this 50th anniversary for Mr. Williams' involvement in the association since its formulation in 1973. Thank you for your service to the SCMCA!



Ed Harne presented with the L.A. Williams, Jr. Award for extraordinary contributions to mosquito control in South Carolina and to the SCMCA.



Raymond Clark presented with the Silver Dipper Award for exemplary efforts in support of mosquito control and the SCMCA. (Not pictured: Pat Wright also received a Silver Dipper Award for her service to the SCMCA over the years).



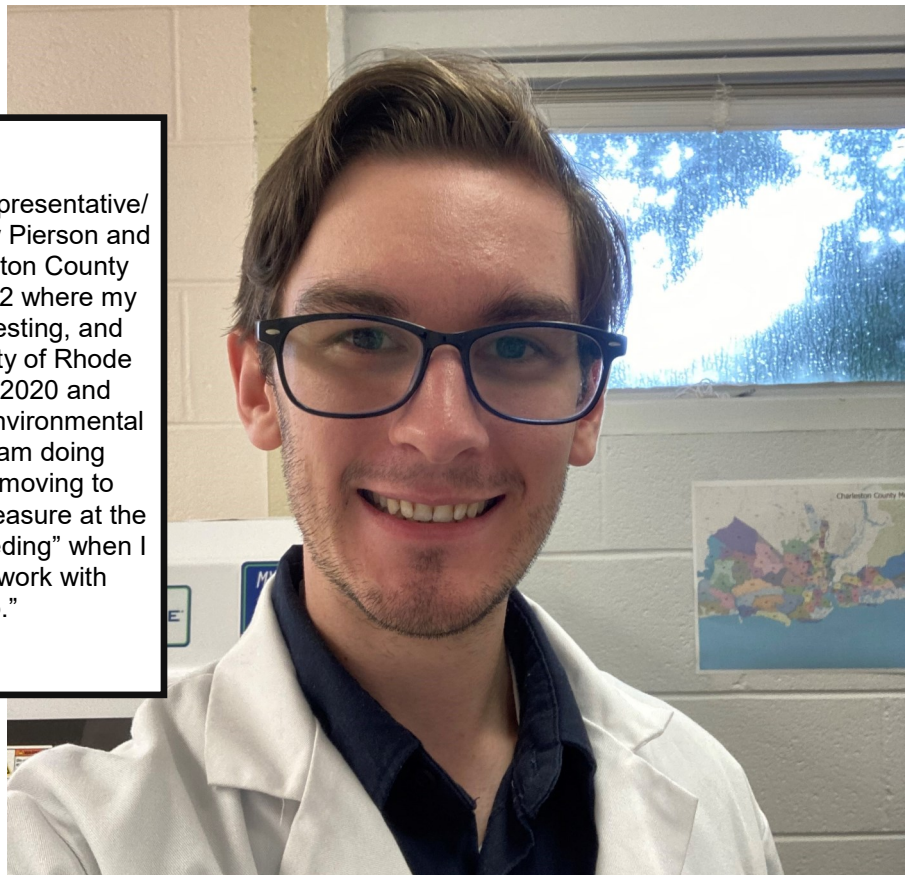
Lauren Rustin presented with the Technician of the Year Award for outstanding contributions to mosquito control and the SCMCA in her position with the Medical Entomology Lab at DHEC.

Meet Your New Board Members!



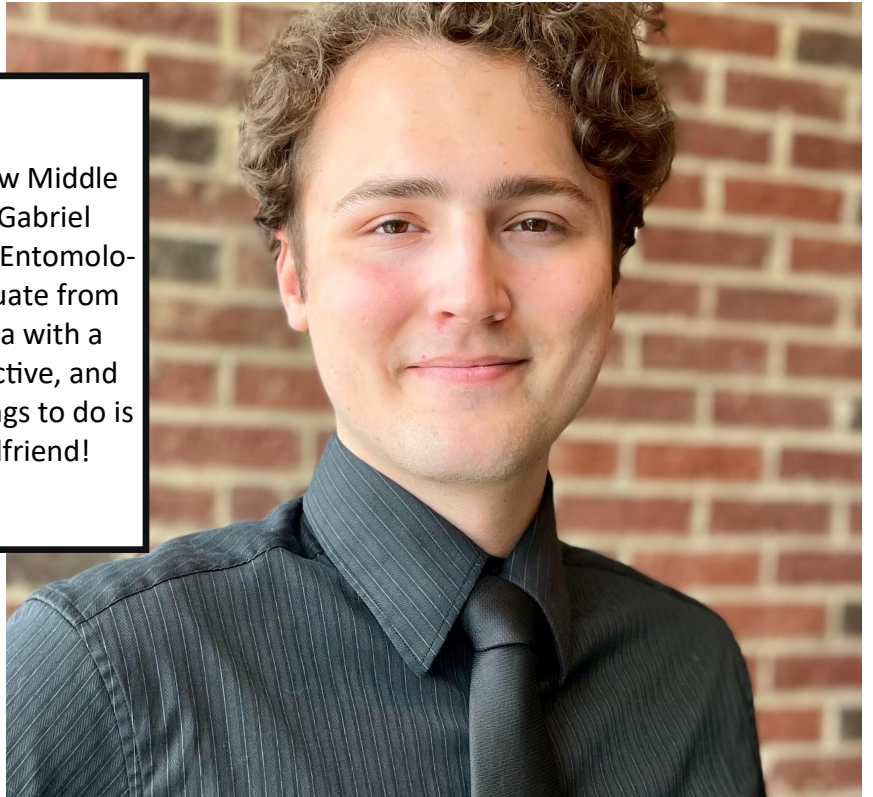
Please welcome Katie Williams as your new Representative At-Large. Katie Williams works for Valent BioSciences as a Technical Development Specialist for the Public and Forestry Health Team. Prior to joining Valent BioSciences, Katie earned a BSc in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Clemson University in 2004 and an MSc in Environmental Sciences from the College of Charleston in 2012. She has extensive knowledge in operational mosquito control as she spent six years as an entomologist/research biologist at a district in Florida where she focused on innovative trapping techniques, resistance management and caged mosquito field assays.

Andrew Pierson is your new Lower Region Representative/Webmaster. "Hi everyone! My name is Andrew Pierson and I have been the Entomologist for the Charleston County Mosquito Control Program since January 2022 where my main responsibilities are trapping, disease testing, and recordkeeping. I graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a B.S. in Biological Sciences in 2020 and worked for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Mosquito Abatement Program doing arbovirus surveillance for two years before moving to Charleston. My hobbies include hunting for treasure at the beach and thinking "ooh I wonder if that's breeding" when I drive by water-filled ditches. I'm excited to work with everyone as the Lower Region Rep."



Meet Your New Board Members!

Please welcome Gabriel Begley as your new Middle Region Representative. "Hi my name is Gabriel Begley, and I work in the SC DHEC Medical Entomology lab. I'm 24 years old, and a recent graduate from the University of South Carolina Columbia with a Bachelors in Public Health. I love to stay active, and enjoy visiting parks. One of my favorite things to do is visit Congaree National Park with my girlfriend!



Chelsey Reed is honored to be your new Vice President. Chelsey resides in Columbia and works as the Supervisor of Richland County Vector Control. She holds a B.S. in Biology from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, where she was born and raised, and will be finishing her master's degree this summer in Medical Entomology from the University of Florida (go gators!). Chelsey also works for United Airlines and loves to travel, play music, and hang out with her two cats, Dottie and Taz, in her spare time. She looks forward to working and learning with you all!

Upper Region

The counties in the Upper Region are in preparation for the spring season. Treatments have not yet begun but they are hopeful for a mild summer!

Middle Region

Cheraw: Still doing routine spraying in the summer, have had less mosquito complaints this past season. This could be due to less standing water being present.

City of Columbia: Stacy Harris has changed positions from code enforcement officer to mosquito abatement services manager. This is so that he can more directly spearhead vector related pursuits. Mosquito complaints also fell dramatically this previous season, and mosquito numbers decreased as well.

Hartsville: No updates, but plans to attend SCMCA if nearby/budget allows.

Leesville: This season has had less mosquitoes compared to previous seasons. Heavier rainstorms have been happening recently which could be affecting mosquito numbers. Leesville is also working with local beekeepers and citizens who would like for their properties to not be sprayed. Leesville is also switching back to Aqua-Reslin this season after alternating between it and Permanone.

Lexington: James Hall recently returned after leaving in 2020. Lexington county is beginning deployment of Gravid and CDC Light traps for the first time. Lexington county is also working on creating a webpage to coordinate with local beekeepers to avoid harmful spraying practices.

Newberry: Matt Bartley retired recently, and the acting director Kip is seeking upcoming trainings and updates for when a more permanent director is chosen. Mosquito levels and complaints have been more or less the same this season.

Richland: The 2023 mosquito season in Richland County saw a decrease in West Nile Virus activity from the previous year, but maintained a similar amount of mosquito activity and service requests. The off-season has been spent focusing on training events and fully digitizing our program into our newly acquired MapVision software. Looking forward into 2024, we expect to hire an administrative assistant as well as another full-time inspector, which will bring us to three field staff. Our surveillance is set to begin in March and we are looking forward to what the year may bring!

St. Matthews: the past two seasons, complaints have been the lowest in 25 years. One employee is still attending workshops and conferences

Lower Region

Beaufort: Beaufort County Mosquito Control (BCMC) is gearing up for the mosquito control season. Our staff has had a busy “conference season” with lots of great experiences for education and networking. We attended the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE) conference in September in Charleston, the 50th SCMCA Annual Conference, the Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) annual conference, the FMCA Fly-In, and the Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association (MAMCA) annual conference. Our technicians and other staff attended various FMCA Dodd Short Courses including the Advanced Mosquito Control course. We’re looking forward to attending the AMCA annual conference in Dallas as well as the Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Workshop at Anastasis Mosquito Control District.

With a lot of help from our County’s GIS department, we’ve developed a comprehensive surveillance database using ESRI’s ArcGIS Online system. We have fully implemented the database, but this will be the first season the complete system is used. It’s fully operational, but we’ll be making adjustments throughout the year to streamline the process even more.

Our aircraft are undergoing annual maintenance inspections and should be ready for calibration in April. We hired a new Chief Pilot, Bradley Rinehart, in October and we plan to be more aggressive in our aerial larviciding and adulticiding programs. We’ll also begin our catch basin treatments in April with a more analytical approach by analyzing population and catch basin density using ArcGIS. This will help us be more efficient with our time and resources.

Charleston: Charleston County Mosquito Control wrapped up routine surveillance and treatment operations in early November to transition to winter maintenance and preparation for the 2024 season. We’ve been kept busy with the implementation of Fieldseeker Core and ULV to replace our current software. Looking forward, we’re continuing to prepare for warmer weather as spring quickly approaches and will be calibrating our ULV sprayers later this month as well as our helicopter-mounted adulticide system in late March or early April. This is none-too soon, as our Spray Techs and Field Inspectors have been bringing in numerous late stage larval and pupal samples from throughout the county. The most important update we have is that of Ed Harne’s retirement at the end of February after 38 years with Charleston County. Ed has been an invaluable resource to Charleston County Mosquito Control and beyond, and we wish him the most fruitful retirement; he’s earned it. In the same vein, we will be hiring to fill the vacant position in the coming weeks. If anyone is interested in applying, keep an eye on Charleston County’s careers website.

Andrew Pierson, Entomologist

City of North Myrtle Beach: The City of North Myrtle Beach has experienced a very wet and warm winter. From our early surveillance activity we are already seeing increased number of larva from prior years. With that being said we are gearing up for a busy mosquito season. We have not added much by the way of equipment or staff over the winter this year but with the rapid growth of our City there is a great need for both. We have already started treating catch basins for the upcoming year and anticipate running all of our trap sites by the last week of February. We look forward to seeing each of you at the Summer Workshop in June!

Lower Region

Dorchester: Mosquito season can indeed be a challenge, particularly in areas like Dorchester County. Here are a few suggestions to help prepare and combat the mosquito population. Encourage residents to use EPA-approved mosquito repellents when spending time outdoors, especially during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Mosquitoes breed in standing water, so it's essential to eliminate any stagnant water sources around homes and public areas. Regularly empty containers like flowerpots, bird baths, and gutters to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs. Organize community cleanup events to remove debris and clear out areas where water can accumulate. This not only reduces mosquito breeding grounds but also enhances the overall appearance and cleanliness of the community. Implement mosquito control programs that may involve larviciding or adulticiding to manage mosquito populations in areas where breeding grounds are difficult to eliminate. Keep grass and vegetation trimmed to reduce hiding places for adult mosquitoes during the day. This can also help improve air circulation, making it less favorable for mosquitoes to rest. By implementing a combination of these strategies, Dorchester County can better prepare for the upcoming mosquito season and minimize the nuisance and health risks associated with mosquitoes.

-Martez Morris, Dorchester County

Horry: I would like to start this off by telling everyone thank you for allowing me to be able to serve as president of SCMCA in 2023. I would like to thank all of the officers and everyone for all of their support. Congratulations to Johnny Bruton and the new officers for 2024.

Horry county has had a pretty wet and mild winter. We are already starting to have mosquito activity and we're also starting out first round of larviciding for the season. We have added a new mosquito technician, Bruce Williams, and will be looking for four more this year. We have recently got our new software up and running (FieldSeeker).

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the summer workshop this year. Hope everyone has a safe year.

-James Brock



Upcoming Events

- **Do you have any ideas for a new SCMCA logo? We would love to see them! Submit your designs to Beverly (whitmire.beverly@richlandcountysc.gov) or Chelsey (reed.chelsey@richlandcountysc.gov) by **March 12, 2024** for a chance for your logo to be featured on some new SCMCA merchandise!**
- **Ed Harne's Retirement Celebration will be February 28, 2024 from 11am-1pm**

Please drop in if you can to congratulate Ed on 39 years of dedicated service!



- **The Annual Summer Workshop will be held June 6, 2024 in Pinopolis**
- **ReMoa Tri Field Trials to be held in Charleston, SC**

Azelis and Valent BioSciences will be hosting an Adulticide Caged Mosquito Field Trial Workshop in the last week of June, 2024 (date subject to change). All are encouraged to attend and bring mosquitoes from your county to be tested. Credits will be offered. Please reach out to Katie Williams or Trey English with questions and be on the lookout for more information to come!

Katie Williams: katie.williams@valentbiosciences.com

Trey English: trey.english@azelis.com



SOUTH CAROLINA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Attn: Beverly Whitmire, Secretary Treasurer

Richland County Vector Control

400 Powell Road

Columbia, SC 29203

OFFICE PHONE: (803) 576-2426

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME:

ORGANIZATION:

ADDRESS:

WORK PHONE:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP/ DUES (Renewal due at Annual Meeting)

Active Member	\$ 25.00
*Sustaining Member	\$250.00

***Includes one active membership**

Please make checks payable to SCMCA and return to Beverly Whitmire at the address above.

For Office Use Only:

Region: Upper / Middle / Lower

Amount Paid \$ _____ Date Paid: _____ ☐ Check # _____ ☐ Cash



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 <i>your</i> 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/



2024 SCMCA TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominee: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE ADD A BRIEF BIO ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM

Jacket Size: _____

County/State Program: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Job Title: _____

Supervisor: _____ Phone/Email: _____

WRITE A BRIEF SUMMARY SUPPORTING YOUR NOMINEE FOR THIS AWARD. (In your nomination, be specific – who, what, when and where. Attach a letter or other supporting material if needed.)

Guidelines for Selection:

1. Consistent and excellent performance with efforts above and beyond expected duties
2. General knowledge of mosquito biology
3. Service to community
4. Positive attitude: enthusiasm, pride in work
5. Team Player
6. Must be a member of the association in good standing

Please complete this form and return to:

Beverly Whitmire
Richland County Vector Control
400 Powell Road
Columbia, SC 29203
Phone: (803) 576-2426
Email: whitmire.beverly@richlandcountysc.gov

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
September 27, 2024

2024 SCMCA Board of Directors

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Secretary-Treasurer: Beverly Whitmire
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Historian: Tammy Brewer
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SCMCA – Promoting Mosquito Control in South Carolina

The Landing Rate Count
SC Mosquito Control Association
c/o Richland County Vector Control
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Columbia SC 29204

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