



The Landing Rate Count

Newsletter of the South Carolina Mosquito Control Association

The President's Message

For those who haven't yet had the displeasure, my name is Andrew Pierson, and I am the Lab Manager at Charleston County Mosquito Control. I got my start in vector control immediately after graduating from the University of Rhode Island in 2020 at Rhode Island DEM's mosquito-borne disease surveillance program. I was welcomed to CCMC in 2022 where I have had the good fortune to meet and work with so many dedicated vector control professionals in South Carolina. Your work to protect public health and preserve livability, while often underappreciated, is exceptional and vital to maintaining South Carolinians' way of life.

It is my great honor and privilege to serve as your president this year alongside a board of directors who are dedicated to ensuring that your SCMCA membership continues to provide the best training opportunities and events to expand our members' knowledge and skillsets. If you ever have ideas for how the SCMCA can better benefit you in your work, I encourage you to reach out to our regional delegate or myself to make it known. I wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing each of you at this year's Summer Workshop.

With appreciation,

Andrew Pierson



SCMCA PRESIDENT - ANDREW PIERSON

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SAVE THE DATE!

SCMCA SUMMER WORKSHOP

SANTEE COOPER WAMPEE
CONFERENCE CENTER
PINOPOLIS, SC

**JUNE 4, 2026
9:00AM**

Call for Presenters



The SCMCA is looking for presenters to fill 20-minute time slots at the 2026 Summer Workshop!

Topics can consist of anything related to vector control, including but not limited to everything from operational strategies to academic research.

The SCMCA and Mosquito Control Community are both made stronger by sharing knowledge and experience amongst each other to better protect public health and preserve habitability in South Carolina.

If you have a topic you'd like to present, please scan or click the QR code below to fill out a survey. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to [Andrew Pierson](#).



BEACONS Workshop Interest Survey



The Association is looking into partnering with the Mosquito Biodiversity Enhancement and Control of Non-native Species (BEACONS) working group to provide an invasive mosquito identification workshop to South Carolina mosquito control professionals.

Our target timeframe for the workshop is currently sometime in January or February of 2027.

Before the Board pursues this opportunity, we want to gauge interest from SCMCA members.

If you would be interested in attending an invasive mosquito identification workshop in SC, please click or scan the QR code below to let us know!

If you have any questions not addressed in the survey, please reach out to [Andrew Pierson](#).



2025 SCMCA Sustaining Members



Al and Shanda Allen
843-358-3583



Al Royster
606-682-3477



Derek Wright
941-737-9883



Mike Riles
850-628-0091



Trey English
Office: 866-829-0275
Cell: 229-300-0091



Cale Payne
863-296-7948



Beaufort County Mosquito Control
843-255-5800



Chad Minter
208-595-1435



Katie Williams
803-335-6893



Kim Wynette
470-304-3734

Meet your New Board Members

Lower Region Delegate - Bruce Williams



Hello I'm Bruce Williams and I'm with Horry County Mosquito Control, I've been with Horry County Mosquito Control for three years.

I attended Fayetteville State University, where I was a student athlete playing football, I majored in Physical education. I've been with

the program for several years and I have obtained my (cat5) and (cat8) license. I didn't know a lot about Mosquito Control when I first started

But the other Mosquito Control techs and the program manager have taught me so much and continue to teach me. With many more years to come in my journey I am eager and ready to learn as much as I can, this is one of the reasons why I thought joining the board would help me fine tune this craft to make me better and ready for what the future holds. I look forward to serving you as your lower region rep! If you ever need to reach out to Feel free to do so.

Middle Region Delegate - James Hopp

James H. Hopp Jr. is a proud citizen of Columbia, South Carolina, originally from Whitmire, SC. He brings over 40 years of experience in the retail industry and has been serving his community through Richland County Vector Control since March 2025. A devoted husband of 35 years, James is an active member of his church and a proud father of two grown daughters. He values faith, family, hard work, and community, and strives to reflect those principles in his daily life.



Vice President - Brian Hayes



Hi! my name is James “Brian” Hayes, and I am proud to serve as the Vice President of the SCMCA in 2026. A little about me, I live in the Carnes area of Summerville with my wife, two boys, and our little dachshund. I received by associate’s degree form Trident Tech and my Bachler of Science degree in Public Health from Southern New Hampshire University. Despite a brief period when I worked with Dupont Kevlar, I have been a part of Charleston County Mosquito Control for 28 years and have served in several different roles within the program. I am a huge sports fan, and love supporting the University of Alabama! I also enjoy spending time outdoors and serving with my church in Ridgeville. I look forward to doing my part in helping the association provide support for public health in South Carolina.

Secretary Treasurer - Olin Towery

Hello, everyone! For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Olin Towery. I am the Manager of the Richland County Vector Control Program and have worked in the field of mosquito and vector control for 18 years. I joined the South Carolina Mosquito Control Association in 2009 and have been an active member ever since.

I served as SCMCA Secretary-Treasurer for nine years where I had the privilege of contributing to the association’s leadership and mission. Throughout my career, I have been honored to receive several recognitions from the SCMCA including the L.A. Williams Jr. award in 2024.

My work is driven by a commitment to public health, effective mosquito control operations, and the continued advancement of vector control practices across South Carolina, and I look forward to serving SCMCA once again on the board of directors.

Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance, and I look forward to serving the association for many years to come.



Upcoming Events



2026 Summer Workshop

This year's Summer Workshop will be held at the Santee Cooper Wampee Conference Center on **June 4, 2026**.

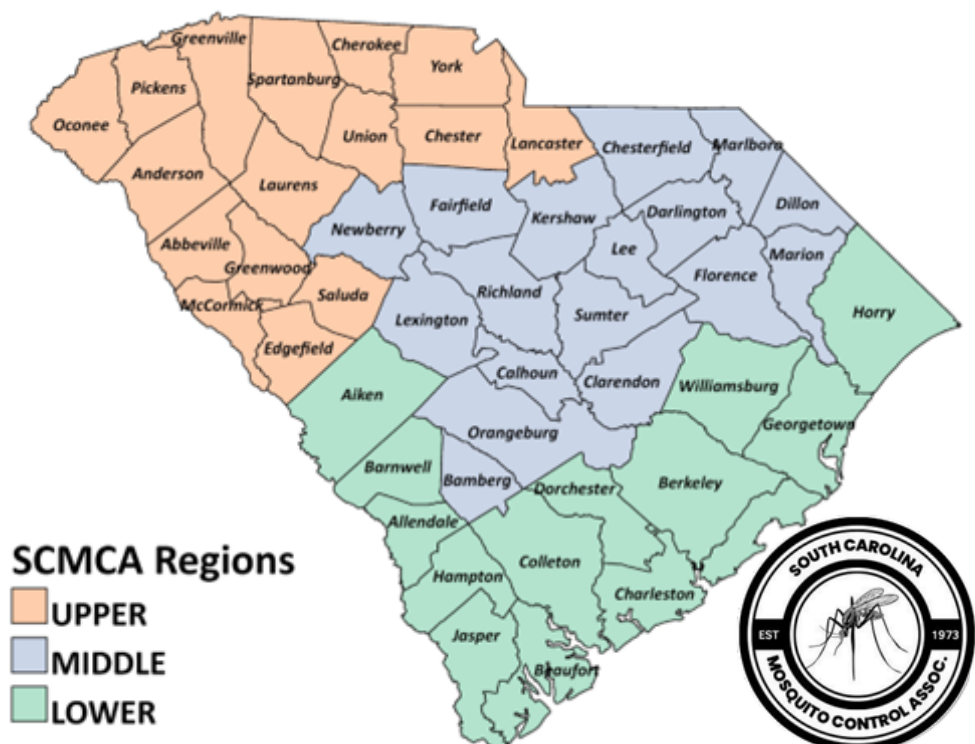
Please email [Olin Towery](mailto:Olin.Towery@scdheh.org) to RSVP at your earliest convenience.

SCMCA Regions and Delegates

Upper Region:
Kenneth Juergens
864-992-1305

Middle Region:
James Hopp

Lower Region:
Bruce Williams
843-915-6929



Lower Region Updates

Berkeley County

We just finished breaking down all of our sprayers cleaning and service them, we have one employee that is retiring after nine years with us Michael Floyd, we do have a couple of job openings we hope to fill in a couple of days. We don't have any new equipment this year.

Georgetown County

Georgetown County fortunately experienced a decrease in the amount of Mosquito activity from previous years. We attributed this to a dry season along with increased Larviciding efforts in the Spring and throughout the season. With a staff of only (3) full-time personnel and (4) part-time drivers, we have to be as efficient as possible in our efforts, which included using various Larvicides in their most appropriate applications..

Guy McCleary (Williamsburg Air) conducted Aerial Larviciding operations in the Spring using Vectobac 12AS on the Georgetown County side of the Santee Rivers, which helped to significantly decrease the typical early season outbreak we have experienced in the past. Several small outbreaks occurred during the season which were controlled with increased treatments using our spray trucks. We treat 41 routes on a rotating or as needed basis using 4 trucks.

We responded to a positive test of an individual with Malaria, who worked at a Boy's Camp; however, there was no indication of the virus spreading after 2 weeks of increased treatment in the immediate area.

Colleton County

Colleton County was able to purchase 3 new ULV sprayers in 2025 thanks to the Federal/DHEC grants and they are ready for service for this upcoming mosquito season. We also started participating in the Dept of Public Health trapping program and anticipate having 3 trapping locations in Colleton County this year. We experimented with the MetaLarv XRP pouches last year as an add on to our larvicidal program and hope to increase the use of that product this year in several areas of the county.

City of North Myrtle Beach

The City of North Myrtle Beach experienced a very successful mosquito season last year, and we are hopeful for another strong year ahead. This past winter has been unusually warm and dry. More recently, we have seen a stretch of colder temperatures, including several weekends with snow and ice, which should help reduce mosquito populations going into spring. Our Mosquito Abatement Program is preparing to begin larviciding operations within the next 30 days. As always, our focus will be on proactive treatment and monitoring to help minimize mosquito activity and protect public health throughout the season. We appreciate the continued support and cooperation from our residents and partners and look forward to another successful year. We also look forward to seeing everyone at the Summer Workshop.

Horry County

Happy 2026 Everyone!! Last year was the slowest year that I can remember for at least 15 years, everything seemed to fall in to place perfectly. I would like to congratulate Bruce Williams on becoming the Lower Region Rep. for the SCMCA Association, and all the other New Officers too, it is always a good thing to see younger members get involved, I am sure the board will do great things this year. With that being said I would also like to say congratulations to Raymond Usher for obtaining his Pesticide licensee and Jeff Hodder for getting his Cat 5 license, awesome job guys. Not a lot really happening at this moment with Horry County Mosquito Control, just trying to get settled in to the new building and offices, we added a couple of Guardians to the spraying fleet and will hopefully add several more before June. We will also be hiring several seasonal employees in the next couple of weeks, and just began our preseason larviciding along with getting everything ready to go for the season. Wishing everyone a safe and great year!

City of Myrtle Beach

City of Myrtle Beach Mosquito Control Program is working through the winter to prepare for the upcoming season just like everyone else. We will be using a new insecticide this season and try to put out more larvicide in older neighborhoods. We have found parts and had 3d printed parts made for our older Bioquip gravid traps that are still giving us good service. That's all we have for now.

Lower Region Updates (continued)

Beaufort County

We've been hard at work in Beaufort wrapping up the 2025 season and gearing up for 2026. We were lucky to have a fairly mild season towards the end with most of our collections in late October through early November being leftover *Culex nigripalpus* and a manageable population of *Aedes vexans*. We had to cancel multiple late-season adulticiding missions (ground and aerial) due to high winds and then the low overnight temperatures were the final nail in the coffin for the adulticiding season. We continue to set our weekly surveillance traps throughout the winter, but we focus mainly on catch-basin trapping during weeks with predicted low overnight temperatures.

We had a banner year for mosquito-borne disease testing, with 1,824 samples tested. This was a huge increase from 2024 when we tested ~600 samples. This increase had a lot to do with our unfortunate EEE human death in late September. Fortunately, we didn't detect any pathogens in any mosquito samples in 2025.

Interestingly, we were notified by DPH about the detection of Cache Valley virus in one of our submitted mosquito samples, so we plan to investigate this further in the coming season, although we're not currently equipped to detect Cache Valley in our lab.

Many of our staff will be attending the FMCA Dodd Short Courses again this year. We have two new technicians that will be taking the Intro to Mosquito Control course and a few other staff attending various full or half-day courses throughout the week.

Our brilliant maintenance staff have just completed building a new truck-mounted larviciding system that we're eager to try out soon. Inspired by photos taken by staff who attended the FMCA Dodd courses two years ago, our in-house built, actuating ditch sprayer is something we're eager to start using. This is our first iteration and most of it was completed using parts we already had in our shop. We retrofitted the controller from an old manual ULV sprayer and wired the actuator controls to the existing switches, then 3D printed a plate to indicate the switches for Up/Down and On/Off.

We still have a lot to do this winter to get ready for the next season and we hope the mosquitoes won't get an early start in 2026.

Charleston County

CCMC has spent the winter months strategizing for the coming spring and performing equipment maintenance. We've retired New Jersey Light Traps in favor of CDC traps baited with dry ice for our routine mosquito surveillance. In 2025 we collected 24,000 female mosquitoes in 7-11 CDC traps set weekly compared to 3,500 mosquitoes from 34 NJLTs. Our Field Inspectors will continue mapping catch basins into the spring while our service request volume is relatively low. We are also planning for the implementation of UAS technology in the coming year to aid our larviciding efforts in inaccessible areas. Finally, we welcomed new Spray Technician Matt Leedy and Entomologist Zoe Monogan to the program this January, and are excited to have them join our mosquito abatement adventures.

Dorchester County

Hello, my name is Martez Morris. I am the Mosquito and Pest Control Coordinator for Dorchester County Neighborhood Services. Our main goal is to reduce the number of mosquitos in a 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.

Mosquitoes are a pest that can cause itchy bites, but they can also cause more serious health issues like spreading diseases. The most common diseases that could potentially be carried by mosquitoes in South Carolina include: West Nile, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, La Crosse Encephalitis, Saint Louis Encephalitis, and dog/cat heartworms. Dorchester County has developed a Mosquito Abatement Map that subdivides the County into fifty (50) spray zones. Each zone has its own map printed with detailed street information. The County may amend the boundary of these zones from time to time to provide for more efficient mosquito abatement spraying.

2025 SCMCA Annual Meeting November 5-7, 2025



2026 BOD (L-R): Tammy Brewer, Brian Hayes,
Andrew Pierson, James Hopp, Ken Juergens,
Bruce Williams, Chelsey Reed. Not Pictured: Olin
Towery



SOUTH CAROLINA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

OFFICE PHONE: (803) 576-2426

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 Olin Towery at the address above.

For Office Use Only:		Region: Upper / Middle / Lower	
Amount Paid \$ _____		Date Paid: _____	
☐ Check # _____	☐ Cash	☐ Card (Add 3.5% convenience fee)	

Mosquito Control Resources

American Mosquito Control Association

AMCA Online Training Center

AMCA Yesterday's Threat Today's Solutions

CDC Vector-Borne Diseases

CDC Arbovirus Maps

EPA Insect Repellents Use and Effectiveness

Clemson Department of Pesticide Regulation

Clemson DPR CEU Search - Noncommercial

Clemson Cooperative Extension Beekeeping

South Carolina Beekeeper Association

SC DPH Mosquitoes in South Carolina

Florida Medical Entomology Lab & ID Guide

Florida Mosquito Control Association

Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association

North Carolina Mosquito Control Association

Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE)