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LOUISIANA MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

December 2004

<http://www.lmca.us>

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District & University News
2004 Annual Meeting Synopsis



2005 Spring Workshop

The LMCA Spring Workshop is tentatively scheduled for March 8-10, in Baton Rouge, LA. Hotel arrangements have not yet been completed. These will be passed along in a special mail-out early next year and placed on the LMCA web site.

Plans are to have a similar type program as last year's event. The first sessions will be classroom style at the hotel. Included will be a general session for those individuals wanting to become certified in category 8a. This training can also be used as a refresher for those already certified but still new to mosquito control.

An advanced session is also being planned to assist those individuals requiring re-certification only. This has generally been held the afternoon of the second day. Attendees in the advanced session will have to attend the hands-on demonstration to be held at LSU on the third day.

In an effort to prepare an informative program, Dr. Grodner is requesting suggestions for advanced session topics. If anyone has suggestions for topics, please feel free to contact her at Mgrodner@agcenter.lsu.edu. Also, she may be contacting many of you to assist with the program. Please consider sharing your talents in an effort to make this a successful event.

Message from the President

I have always thoroughly enjoyed my involvement with the LMCA. I have met a lot of great people whom I am very pleased to call my friends. Therefore, I consider it to be an honor and a privilege to serve as the Association's President. I will work hard to live up to the level of confidence that the Board has shown in me.

I want to thank **Lucas Terracina** for his work in 2004. He did a very commendable job during his tenure as President. **Curt Bowers**, **Sid Chambers**, **Mary Grodner** and **Matt Yates** were all re-elected to 3-year terms on the Board of Directors. I want to thank them all for their continued service. Any LMCA member wishing to become more involved need only ask. There are a number of different committees that can always use additional input. Give me a call, and I'll be happy to put you to work.

We have a new member district in Louisiana. Livingston Parish expects to be up and running in 2005, and is in search of a Director. Interested parties are invited to send their applications to the following address: Livingston Mosquito Abatement, P O Box 158, Livingston, LA 70754.

We are all winding down from a very busy West Nile virus season. Unfortunately, in our business, mosquitoes don't necessarily go away during the winter months. Recent rainfalls have produced large numbers of floodwater mosquitoes in this area. It is a never-ending battle...

Good luck in the New Year, and have a very Merry Christmas!

Dennis Wallette, President

2004-05 LMCA Board of Directors

Officers

President – Dennis Wallette
Vice President – Jeanine Tessmer
Secretary Treasurer – Chuck Palmisano

Board of Directors

Charlie Anderson	Mary Grodner	Scott Willis
Curt Bowers	Lucas Terracina	Matt Yates
Guy Faget	Rod Wells	
Sid Chambers	Dawn Wesson	

2004 Annual Meeting Deemed a "Yankee" Success

From our point of view the 2004 Louisiana Mosquito Control Association meeting was a great success. I'm not aware of any major complaints, and the couple of minor ones that occurred seemed to be handled to everyone's satisfaction. Everyone attending had a clean bed to sleep in and plenty of good food and beverage to consume.

We were cautiously optimistic about the meeting, since LMCA rarely holds the meeting in the "Yankee" part of the state. Then to put what may be the only two "Yankees" in the LMCA in charge of the planning was a possible recipe for disaster. However, attendance turned out to be great, thanks to all of the districts that sent the usual number of delegates, even if it was a long distance to travel. We had 134 delegates, 26 vendor representatives, four invited speakers, five former Hathaway-Ritter recipients and several members of Hoot Holiman's family.

The program, which thankfully was not my responsibility, was handled very nicely by Dr. Cole Church. All together, there were 37 speakers. The program ran very smoothly and our equipment functioned without any problems.

The delegates were welcomed to the city by The Honorable **Jamie Mayo**, Mayor, Monroe, LA. He graciously reminded all of us to drive carefully, but if we did get a ticket that Monroe had 1000's of church going citizens that would pray for us.



Chuck Palmisano presents the family of Hoot Holiman a print in memory of his years of service to LMCA to Hoots family.



Allen Wooldridge and Charlie Anderson reminiscing about Hoot

Following Mayor Mayo's welcome **Allen Wooldridge**, ADAPCO president, dedicated the meeting to the memory of **Jessie Marion "Hoot" Holiman, Jr.** He was remembered as a man of exceptional story telling ability as well as for his contributions to Louisiana mosquito control. On hand for the dedication were his wife **Susan**, his son **Patrick** and his wife **Mandy** and Susan's Aunt Harriet Black.

Dr. Nasci, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, provided the AMCA Presidential address as well as a national update on West Nile virus activity. Not to be outdone, **Rick Duhrkopf**, AMCA Regional Director, Baylor Univ., Waco, TX gave us an update on activities in the South Central AMCA region. Our own **Lucas Terracina** gave the LMCA presidential address.

Our keynote speaker was **Bob Peterson**, Ph.D. Agricultural & Biological Risk Assessment, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT who provided an excellent discussion of *"Comparing Risks Between West Nile Virus and Mosquito Control Strategies"*. Additionally, we were fortunate to have another invited speaker, **Ms. Angela Logomasini** with the Environmental Studies Program, Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C. who presented *"Pesticides and the West Nile Virus – An examination of Environmental Claims"*.

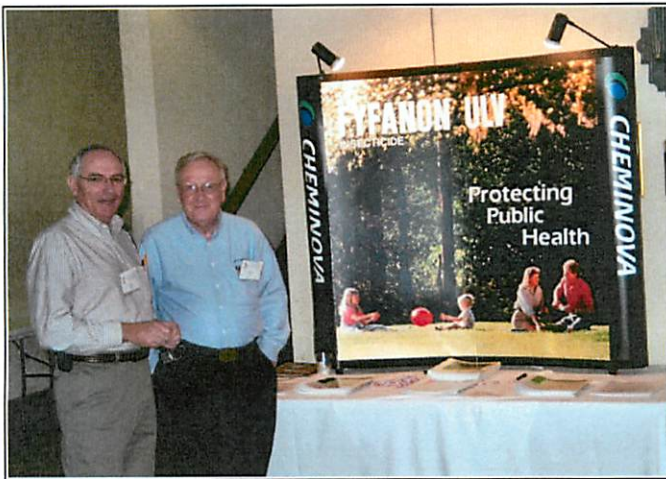


Cole Church presenting a print to Keynote Speaker Bob Peterson



2004 Annual Meeting cont.

There were a total of 16 vendors who showcased their products and through their registration, gave monetary support to the meeting. In addition, many of them also sponsored the special events. The following is a list of all vendors and any event they may have sponsored. Please note that thirteen of them have been with us before: **ADAPCO, Inc.** (Lamar Meek Memorial Breakfast); **AMVAC Chemicals** (Tuesday Dinner Buffet); **Bayer Environmental Science** (Thursday morning breakfast); **B & G Chemicals & Equipment Co.** (Wednesday afternoon refreshment break); **Cheminova, Inc.** (Wednesday luncheon); **Clarke Mosquito Control** (Thursday morning refreshment break and Pre-banquet hospitality); **Dynamic Aviation Group, Inc.**; **Lowry-Dunham, Case and Vivien** (Wednesday morning refreshment break); **Quality Unlimited** (Thursday morning refreshment break and Pre-banquet hospitality); **Univar** (contributing sponsor); **Valent Biosciences Corp.** (Thursday morning refreshment break and Pre-banquet hospitality); **Vector Disease Control, Inc.** (program printing); and **Wellmark** (Tuesday afternoon refreshment break). There were three vendors attending the LMCA meeting for the first time this year: **AG-NAV, Inc.** from Ontario, Can.; **Chauvin Bros. Tractor, Inc.** from Belle Chasse, LA; and **Jasmic, LLC** from Hazlet, NJ. Thanks to all of our industry sponsors. We appreciate all that you do for us. Please support these people whenever possible.



We want to express our thanks to a number of people who were on the Annual Meeting Committee; **Sid Chambers**, **Scott Willis** and **Chuck Palmisano** contributed immensely by keeping us from forgetting any details. **Allen Loe** contacted some of the local merchants to get some of the nice door prizes that we gave away. A special thanks to each and every one of you that attended the meeting – you all are really the ones that make this meeting a success.

We want to personally give very special recognition to the work of three people who really made the meeting happen. **Peggy Robinson** and **Michelle Traweek** from Ouachita Parish and **Susan Lowery** from St. Tammany Parish were the ones who kept up with all the details of registrations, payments and getting the materials ready for the meeting. They were the three very efficient and friendly ladies you met when you picked up your packets at the registration table. Without them, we know the meeting would not have run nearly as smoothly as it did.



Future Meetings

LMCA Spring Workshop

March 8 – 9th

Baton Rouge, LA

AMCA Annual Meeting

April 1 - 7, 2005

Vancouver, British Columbia Canada

Past President's Message

It was an honor and a privilege to serve as your President in 2004. Much was accomplished during the year due to the hard work and dedication of many. To all of you I say thanks and encourage you to continue supporting LMCA.

The LMCA is now experiencing a period of growth reminiscent of the late 70's early 80's. This growth is welcome, as it will bring new faces and ideas into the organization. It will also mean new challenges for the Association to serve the expanding membership. We therefore must be ready and willing to meet these challenges and provide the support necessary to guarantee the continued success of our industry.

To each member I ask that you get involved and be active in the Association. When we all work together towards a common goal, good things will happen.

Lucas Terracina, President 2003-04

Sincere Thanks !

Event Sponsors

ADAPCO, Inc. – Lamar Meek Memorial Breakfast

AMVAC Chemicals – Tuesday Dinner Buffet

Bayer Environmental Science – Thursday Breakfast

Cheminova, Inc. – Wednesday Luncheon

Refreshments and Hospitalities

B & G Chemicals & Equipment Co. – Refreshment Break

Clarke Mosquito Control – Refreshment Break and Pre-Banquet Hospitality

Dynamic Aviation Group, Inc.;

Lowry-Dunham, Case and Vivien – Refreshment Break

Quality Unlimited – Refreshment Break and Pre-Banquet Hospitality

Valent Biosciences Corp. – Refreshment Break and Pre-Banquet Hospitality

Wellmark – Refreshment Break

Other Sponsorships and Vendors

Vector Disease Control, Inc. – Program Printing

Univar – Contributing Sponsor

AG-NAV, Inc. – Exhibitor

Chauvin Bros. Tractor, Inc – Exhibitor

Jasmic, LLC – Exhibitor

Upcoming Meetings

There are a couple of meetings that many of you may be interested in attending early in 2005. First in early February, CDC will once again be hosting the National West Nile Conference. This year's event is scheduled for Feb. 8-10, in San Jose, CA. Information on this meeting can be found at <http://www.wnvconference.org/>. These meetings offer the latest insights and developments in the fight against WNV. Be aware that this meeting does occur over Mardi Gras for those of us here in LA.

The second meeting is the AMCA Washington Day. Normally held in May, this year's event is scheduled for Feb. 27 – March 1. For the first time AMCA is not going alone in this venture. It is being held jointly with the National Pest Management Association (NPMA). This event offers an opportunity for us to promote the legislative issues important to our industry and discuss them one-on-one with our federal legislators. It has become a very important event, raising the visibility of our industry. Information about this meeting can be found at <http://www.mosquito.org/WashDay2005.php>.

Should you plan to make the Washington Day, please contact Dennis Walette, President of LMCA. It is important that those delegates attending from LA plan their legislative appointments together. Dennis is one of the individuals planning to attend, representing LMCA. He can be contacted at dennis@tangimosquito.org.

LMCA Dues Renewal

Just a friendly reminder that it is now time to renew your LMCA membership dues. At the end of this Newsletter is all the information needed for you to keep your membership current. This will be the only notice you receive regarding renewal, so take the time now to submit payment along with the necessary information. If you attended the Annual Meeting in Monroe you may have paid your dues when you registered. If so, please disregard this notice.

UNIVERSITY NEWS



Texas A & M

Howdy! And Happy Holidays from the friends and members of LMCA "nested" in Aggieland. Well! Summer is over and so is most of the fall, to include the Fall Semester here at A & M. Dr. O has been busy teaching his undergraduate course in Medical Entomology this semester to some 34 students of diverse backgrounds and scholarly interests. He has 5 lectures to go and 8 lectures of information yet to give . . . do we sense "power lectures" or what !!? Otherwise, Dr. O continued to oversee the local West Nile Virus survey and monitoring effort in the Bryan/College Station area throughout the rest of the summer and on through the fall. He did this with the assistance of two undergraduate students, Nick Hammond and Amanda Gonzales who helped perform the surveys as "directed studies" projects for credit under Dr. O's advisement. We continue to have some West Nile virus activity in our local bird populations in the Aggieland area, but thus far, we've found only one site in Bryan where mosquitoes "hot" for WNV were collected this year. Unfortunately, however, this site was across the street from a grade school, with the virus being found in the mosquitoes just as school was starting this fall; so, this caused a "local stir" for a while. Amanda Gonzales, by-the-way, was selected as this year's recipient of the Texas Mosquito Control Association's James D.

long Undergraduate Research Scholarship.... Way to go, Amanda!

TMCA held its 48th Annual Meeting in the "Friday Night Lights" city of Odessa, TX, in October, with a near record attendance being realized. Dr. O couldn't go to the meetings this year as he stayed home to "keep the home fires burning", while his students went to the meetings. Amongst the Aggie graduate students giving papers at this year's TMCA meeting, Cat Zindler gave one on the development of her West Nile virus risk map for the Bryan/College Station area. She has been invited to give this paper at next spring's meeting of the AMCA in Vancouver, B.C. Cat otherwise has been helping Dr. O teach his Medical Entomology course, serving as his Teaching Assistant and otherwise. She has been preparing herself for the taking of her Ph.D. preliminary examinations in January/February of next year.

Jennifer Murrell also gave a paper at this year's TMCA meeting; her's was an update on the results being generated from her M.S. degree thesis research project on "*The Distribution of the Species of the Anopheles quadrimaculatus Complex in Texas*". Jen M has completed all the coursework on her degree plan and is devoting full time to completing her thesis project when she's not teaching lab sessions as a TA in our department. Mark Johnsen likewise gave a paper at the TMCA meeting on the results of the insecticide resistance tests he's been

performing throughout the summer and fall on Houston/Harris County-based adult Cx. *quinquefasciatus* populations. He's been performing these tests in cooperation with the Harris County Mosquito Control District and ones which answer to objectives of Mark's degree project and to those associated with a USDA, CSREES Southern Regional IPM Research Grant that is partially funding Mark's project. Elevated tolerances to pyrethroidal adulticides on the part of the Houston/Harris County "quink" populations is what was given cause for Mark to perform the tests he's been "performing". From the looks of Mark et al's results, it appears that Ray Parsons and his group may be able to manage the resistance that's is developing in these particular quink populations via an insecticide alternation strategy.

Our "other Jennifer", Jennifer Edmison, also attended this year's TMCA meetings in her capacity as being chosen at this year's recipient of TMCA's James Gus Foyle Memorial Graduate Student Scholarship. Jennifer E has also begun to mail out her questionnaire to target residences in Bryan and Houston in support of her M.S. thesis research project on determining what citizens are actually doing (if anything) to avoid contact with mosquitoes and especially to avoid getting West Nile virus.

DISTRICT NEWS

Acadia

I hope everyone survived the rains and the numerous hatches of mosquitoes that followed in the month of October. With the new tax that was passed in Acadia Parish, everyone loved us... that is until October. It is fascinating to see how short people's memories are when it comes to remembering how bad the mosquito situation was before the tax was passed. I guess that will just take many hours (or maybe years) of education for that to change.

But on a lighter note, this tax actually generated substantially more amount of revenue than was first anticipated. This will afford us the opportunity to purchase an aircraft in 2005. It will be housed on a leased site right here at the Legros Airport so everything will be close by. In phase two of this district's plans, an administrative building and a hanger will be constructed adjacent to our shop. For the time being, my office and the lab are closed off on one end of shop, which is a drastic improvement.

Calcasieu

Well, fall has arrived and winter is near, now all we need is the weather to match! With the unseasonably warm weather, it has been one of the busiest late seasons in quite some time.

Chief culprit has been wave after wave of *Oc. sollicitans*. Extremely high tides on numerous occasions have produced

multiple broods from the marshes to the south. Control of these outbreaks has been difficult due to poor weather conditions. High winds and fog delayed response and allowed these mosquitoes to quickly spread. It was not uncommon to find 10 a minute landing rates in the northern reaches of the parish, 30 miles from the nearest salt marsh.

Some *Ps. columbiae* were also present in the rice belt during late October. Most were from the ruts in cut rice fields and spawned by rains associated with the tropical system that moved across Southeast Louisiana.

West Nile virus activity has not halted much through this time. Almost all of our chicken sites have converted and dead birds tested through November have consistently been positive. Fortunately, we have had only 2 human cases reported, all 3 of these occurring in August. One of the three was asymptomatic, the result of a blood donor having their blood screened for WNV and turning up positive.

With all this activity, winter maintenance has been put on hold. We are hopeful that we can begin by the first week of December. One major project will be the required maintenance on the Islander landing gear. This repair will ground the plane for 2-3 months while the gear is shipped off to a repair station in Canada. So until we see a halt in major activity, we are reluctant to begin this process.

We will once again be looking to hire a full-time pilot in 2005. **Mike Terrell**, who filled this position for us in 2004, took a job flying supplies in Afghanistan this past September. We wish him well in this endeavor.

The budget for 2005 has been submitted, and like everyone else, is somewhat higher due to the increase load we have had to bear. Continued concerns associated with the threat of WNV is the major cause for these higher costs.

Several individuals attended the LMCA Annual Meeting in Monroe. All felt that the meeting was very informative and well organized. A huge thanks goes to all those responsible for planning this event.

With the holidays now approaching, we all here at Calcasieu want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

EBRPMARC

West Nile virus activity continues around the state this late in the year but thank goodness we have not had any positives of late. All year we've lead the state with positive human cases and mosquito pools - we'd much rather some other group have that distinction. Any volunteers???

Trap collections are still yielding *Aedes vexans* as we approach 2005. Also, *Culex restuans* activity has increased recently in our collections. With regard to Cx.

restuans, some of the data collected in 2004 reflect a possibility of this species playing some role in virus activity through the cooler seasonal periods and the early spring. We will be reviewing the data collections this winter to determine if we can draw some intelligent conclusions from it.

Another winter project will be to decrease costs by eliminating, consolidating, extending and/or reducing some operational and facility programs. A team of staff personnel has been assembled and are diligently reviewing operations and exploring all avenues available to decrease expenditures. The district's increased mosquito activities of the last 3 years have forced us to dip into our surplus funds. The staff will be working hard to minimize the further removal of funds in an effort to bring surplus levels back to pre 2002 levels starting in 2005.

In the special projects department, **Alex Folsom** and **Randy Vaeth** are locating and treating *Culiseta melanura* sites and also trying different media for gravid trap collections. **Guy Faget** and Alex are compiling *Cx. quinquefasciatus* collection data by week for 2001-2004. We may be able to draw some conclusions for treatment options as a result of the compilation of these data, also we may be better able to assess the effectiveness of our program in reducing WNV human infections during 2004. Even though we had very high infection rates in "quinks," squirrels and live wild birds, we

did not see the typical epidemic curve in the human population, so a closer analysis of the data may help us further increase the effectiveness of control.

Daniel Garrett, Wilbert Brooks and **Lawrence Mercier** will be visiting Slidell to observe and become familiar with the building of right-hand drive larviciding rigs used at St. Tammany MAD. Reducing costs might include reducing daytime operations from two-man spray rigs to one-man spray rigs. **Herff Jones** could be headed to Harris County, Texas, to look at the storm drain operations and equipment. We are looking into some modification of this type of control strategy in EBR Parish. Finally, we may do some collections of *Ae. albopictus* adults from tires and examine the ovarian tracheoles to determine if they have oviposited. We will attempt to use strategically placed tires as gravid traps. We believe using tires for gravid collections might help us draw some correlation with disease transmission.

The Islander, **Guy Faget** tells us has been down for its annual check, but will be ready to go any day now. That's good news since the weather prognosticators have told us that December weather might be conducive to increased mosquito development. So, should we have to spray aurally, the Islander will be ready to go.

The EBRMARC contingent attending the LMCA Annual Meeting returned informed, enlightened and charged with new ideas to review. We will

follow-up on these ideas in the coming year.

That's it from EBR...From all of us to all of you...Have a Merry and Safe Christmas and a Happy Mosquito Free New Year. "PEACE ON EARTH"

NOMTCB

Summer overstayed it's welcome, but alas, coolness has arrived. Fortunately, West Nile virus had a mostly unsuccessful year here. As of mid-November, it appears that activity has likely ceased. Our only human case (possibly contracted elsewhere) was in mid-October, with no positive dead birds or chickens in the past two months. Next year we will again do preemptive aerial spraying in early spring to reduce possible arboreal WNV transmission.

Director **Ed Bordes** received a 2004 Syngenta Leadership Award at the National Pest Management Convention & Trade Show in Honolulu. Three employees attended the LMCA Annual Meeting in Monroe and were well pleased with the quality of the papers and the meeting arrangements.

St. Tammany

The fall has been very busy for us as has been the case for the past several falls. Warmer than normal temperatures along with above normal rainfall set the pace for an active fall season. This October for the New Orleans metro area proved to be the warmest October on record, and

this November was the fifth warmest on record. In late September and throughout October and most of November, *Ae. vexans* have been in large numbers. Woodland species such as *Ps. ferox* and *Oc. atlanticus* were not far behind. We also experienced the usual fall increase in *Cx. salinarius*. The one mosquito that we did not have a problem with, and we didn't miss them, was *Ochlerotatus sollicitans*.

Our first and only human case of WNV as reported to us on September 30 while the onset was September 21. The case involved a lady who was found to be viremic when she went to a hospital blood bank to donate blood. At the time she had no symptoms, but 5 days later developed some flu type symptoms and was classified as a WNV fever case.

We have been very pleased with the RAMP testing method for evaluating mosquito pools for WNV. The test method is similar to the VecTest but is more sensitive. One of the advantages of the RAMP is that a quantitative value is given for each test, which eliminates some guess work. We have developed a great deal of confidence in the test and now our normal routine is to run about 1/3 of the samples each week with RAMP and send the rest off to the lab. In doing so we are able to obtain same day results and react quickly to any positives. In fact RAMP tests produced the first batch of multiple positive pools and we were able to enact controls that same day. The

positive results from the same batch of pools arrived from the lab a week later.

Plans are to continue arbovirus surveillance throughout the winter with emphasis on collecting and testing species such as *Cx. restuans* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus*. *Cx. restuans* are now starting to show up in some of the light traps, so we will be utilizing CDC's as well as gravid traps to collect them from areas that have exhibited viral activity. Hopefully, we will be able to obtain information that will give us a better idea of what is going on in the WNV cycle.

Everyone at St. Tammany Parish wishes you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tangipahoa

This has been a VERY wet year. As of the end of October, we are over 10 inches above the norm. November hasn't done anything to slow things down. The recent rainfall, combined with near-record high temperatures, has produced a bumper crop of floodwater mosquitoes—particularly *Ae. vexans* and *Ps. ferox*. An extended cool snap would be most welcome right about now.

Well, we have our 2nd mosquito season officially behind us. We are still experiencing some growing pains, but we are all very proud of the job we have been able to do so far. We will continue to add vehicles and spray units to our fleet in the coming year. It is still our hope to

be able to move into a permanent facility in 2005.

We are pleased to announce that **Lee Ann Morgan** has been hired as our Entomologist I. She worked part-time for us this year and did a very good job. She has a B.S. in chemistry and her duties will be split between arboviral surveillance and insecticide efficacy testing.

There are plans to call a vote to expand our district a few miles north of our current boundary. That item should be on the April ballot.

Vermilion

Vermilion Parish Mosquito Control is winding down from an active fall for mosquito operations. Tropical Storm Matthew passed through Vermilion Parish on Oct. 7 and 8, dumping as much as 12.5" of rain in parts of the Parish. A subsequent outbreak of *Ps. columbiae* and *Ps. ciliata* forced the department into substantial overtime sprayings, including daytime applications. The office received over 750 calls in a two-week period.

We are looking forward to a quiet winter so we can break down all of our equipment and perform annual maintenance.

➤ NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE ◀

- ◆ *Scott Willis, Chairman*
- ◆ *Dr. Harold Chapman*
- ◆ *Lucas Terracina*