

BUZZWORDS



www.floridamosquito.org

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Deadlines for submissions to be
included in the newsletter:

Jan/Feb	Feb 1
Mar/Apr	Apr 1
May/June	Jun 1
Jul/Aug	Aug 1
Sep/Oct	Oct 1
Nov/Dec	Dec 1

The mission of the FMCA is to promote *effective* and *environmentally* sound control of disease-transmitting and pestiferous mosquitoes and other arthropods of public health importance, develop and enhance public interest, awareness, and support for the control of mosquitoes, and provide for the scientific advancement of members through our meetings, training and education.

Volume 11. Number 3. May/June 2011

Upcoming Events

Advanced Mosquito Control Exam
31 August 2011
Florida Medical Entomology
Laboratory, Vero Beach, FL

—
FMCA 83rd Annual Fall Meeting
November 13 – 16, 2011
Crowne Plaza, Jacksonville, FL

<http://www.floridamosquito.org/Events/Meeting.aspx>

From the Editor

On May 26, 2011, Kellie Etherson resigned from her position as Executive Director (ED). We appreciate Kellie's long-term service to the FMCA and wish her well in her future endeavors.

According to the FMCA Bylaws (Article III, Section E) the position of ED is appointed by the FMCA Board of Directors. Since January 2011, Shelly Redovan has been assisting with the financial duties that are part of the duties of the ED, and Shelly has held the position of ED in the past. She has detailed knowledge of the processes and policies of the FMCA financial workings, and she has the support of Lee County Mosquito Control. I recommended to the Board that we appoint Shelly Redovan as ED and the Board vote was unanimously yes.

Please change your FMCA contact information to:

Shelly Redovan, FMCA Executive Director

P O Box 61598, Ft. Myers, FL 33906

Phone: 239-694-2174

Shelly will be handling all of the duties of ED; questions concerning meetings, membership, purchases of FMCA items, and dues should be directed to her.

The FMCA Board of Directors is confident that Shelly Redovan will perform the duties of ED to the satisfaction and benefit of the membership. We greatly appreciate Shelly's willingness to take on the responsibilities and the generosity of Lee County Mosquito Control for their support of this action.

Sincerely,

Roare Condy

FMCA President

***FMCA Fall Meeting
Second Call for Papers***

The Fall FMCA Meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Jacksonville, FL, November 13 – 16, 2011. This is the first call for papers and the abstract submission site will be open on May 1, 2011.

<http://floridamosquito.org/Events/2011/>

The request to present a paper will be handled on-line only – no more paper forms to fax or mail! Requests to present papers at the meeting will require an abstract of 200 words or less. In an effort to accommodate all individual members who wish to present a paper, there will be no symposia this year.

***Dr. Larry Hribar, FMCA President-Elect
Program Chair 2011***

Florida Mosquito Control Pilots Association

John Gardner, Manatee County Mosquito Control District, has temporarily taken over the Florida Mosquito Control Pilot's Association (FMCPA) in hopes of continuing the organization that Pam Jacobson and Mike Muench worked so hard to establish and keep alive. Gardner says that "with what little opportunity we have as mosquito control pilots to gather and communicate with one another, I believe it would be a shame just to let the organization fall by the wayside."

In an attempt to restart/continue the program John is asking all interested parties to contact him and provide the correct email address where you would prefer to receive information about the FMCPA.

John hope to be updating the FMCPA website soon and he welcomes any and all suggestions for improvement. He asks that if you have any pictures of your district, district's aircraft, or current projects you may be involved in that can be shared, please send the information to him so that it can be shared with others.

Contact John at johngfmcpa@aol.com

John Gardner, Chief Pilot

Manatee County Mosquito Control District

(941)-722-3720

***John Boone Retiring from Anastasia Mosquito
Control District***

Mr. John Boone will be retiring after more than 33 years of service in the field of mosquito control. He was the former Director of the Putnam County Mosquito Control program for many years and Supervisor at Anastasia Mosquito Control District Base Station (2001-2004) and North Station (2004-2011), an FMCA Board member for 2 terms (2004-2008), served on several committees for the FMCA, and was in instructor for the FMCA's Dodd Short Course for many years. We wish him an enjoyable retirement and good luck for his future.

***Volusia County Mosquito Control Hires New
Director***

Volusia County Mosquito Control is pleased to announce the hiring of James McNelly as our fourth Mosquito Control Director. Jim received his B.S. from University of Delaware, M.S. from

Rutgers and is finishing up his PhD at North Carolina State. His experience is varied, including nearly 20 years as the entomologist at Cape May County Mosquito Commission, a short stint running the statewide mosquito surveillance program at Rutgers and the last ten years at Clarke. His experience at Clarke included directing the mosquito control efforts in the NYC area during the West Nile outbreak

and recently providing customer service field support for Clarke customers. Jim's unique skill set including Open Marsh Water Management, public and private mosquito control experience makes him the ideal candidate to lead Florida's most integrated, efficient and effective program. You can contact Jim at jmcnelly@co.volusia.fl.us or 386-424-2920 after June 27th.

There is no West Nile or EEE activity in horses to report for 2011.

Recognize the achievements of your mosquito control colleagues - -

Nominations for the 2011 FMCA Awards are now open!

Any Florida Mosquito Control Association member in good standing may nominate a candidate for any of the 6 FMCA awards by submitting to the Awards Committee a short biographical sketch and an appraisal of the nominee's accomplishments deemed worthy of the award. There is no official nomination form. Endorsements and written support from other colleagues are encouraged, and all submissions will be acknowledged. **Nominations must be received by COB August, 31st 2011.**

The **Maurice W Provost Memorial Award**, established as a memorial to the first Director of the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, honors persons who have made outstanding contributions to mosquito control and/or biting fly biology in Florida. Candidates must have been instrumental in each of the following areas: developing sound management and operational methods to reduce pesticide levels and to minimize habitat alteration while reducing mosquito populations; increasing our knowledge of mosquitoes and other biting insects and their habitats; and educating students and the general public about the importance of various environmental issues facing the citizens in protecting the fauna and flora in Florida. The candidate should be an FMCA member and have made significant contributions to the Association.

The **Joseph Y Porter Distinguished Achievement Award**, which honors the first President of the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association and first State Health Officer of Florida, recognizes scientists who have made significant contributions to entomology, with special emphasis on the abatement of

arthropods of public health importance. The candidate must have meritoriously contributed to the advancement of entomology research in the field of mosquito and/or other biting arthropod control in the State of Florida. The candidate should be an FMCA member and have made significant contributions to the Association.

The **Fred Stutz Memorial Award**, which honors the former director of the Dade County Mosquito Control office, recognizes an outstanding contribution to mosquito control by development of procedures that increase effectiveness in mosquito or other arthropod control, or the design and manufacture of equipment that helped revolutionize the control of mosquitoes and/or other arthropods of public health importance. The procedures developed have been adopted and employed throughout Florida as part of their standard operating procedure. The candidate should be an FMCA member and have made significant contributions to the Association.

The **FMCA Merit Award** recognizes outstanding individual contributions in promoting control of disease-transmitting and pestiferous mosquitoes or other arthropods of public health importance, for scientific advancement of the discipline, or for developing or extending the public interest in the control of such mosquitoes or other arthropods. The candidate should represent those characteristics generally associated with responsible leadership, good citizenship and personal integrity.

The candidate should be an FMCA member and have made significant contributions to the Association.

The **James W Robinson Memorial Award** was established as a memorial to Jim Robinson, Director of the Pasco County Mosquito Control District, who was renowned for his innovative development of new equipment and adoption of new technologies. This award recognizes innovation and ingenuity in optimizing the safe and efficient operations of Florida public health pest control programs. The candidate must have contributed an outstanding improvement to existing equipment or currently employed techniques used by a non-commercial mosquito control related agency. This advancement may not be proprietary in nature, and must be freely shared with the Association.

The **Sherrie Yarberry Award**, named for a dedicated employee of the Jacksonville Mosquito Control office, recognizes continued outstanding contributions to operational program activities by veteran, non-administrative personnel of Florida mosquito control related agencies. The candidate must demonstrate exemplary performance resulting in enhanced unit efficiency or public recognition of excellence of the parent organization. The recipient of the Sherrie Yarberry Award will receive \$500 cash, a commemorative certificate, and funding to attend the FMCA Annual Fall Meeting.

Please submit inquiries and nomination documents to Eric Schreiber
Sarasota Mosquito Management Services, 5531 Pinkney Ave, Sarasota, FL 34233
phone 941-861-9723 ☐ fax 941-861-9765 ☐ e-mail eschreib@scgov.net
or on-line at www.floridamosquito.org

T. Wainwright Miller, Jr. FMCA Scholarship Application

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATION:

Four copies of application materials should be mailed to the FMC Foundation Scholarship Committee Chair, Dr. Roxanne Connelly, FMEL, 200 9th Street SE, Vero Beach, FL 32962 and postmarked on or before September 15, 2011.

The Florida Mosquito Control Foundation is now accepting applications for the T. Wainwright Miller, Jr. Florida Mosquito Control Association Scholarship. The purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and assist students having a major in Biological, Ecological and/or Entomological studies who are seeking degrees relevant to arthropod control, with particular emphasis on Public Health fields. The first place recipient will receive a one-time scholarship award of \$2,000.00; second place recipient will receive \$500.00. **The following criteria have been established to choose qualified applicants for the award:**

1. The student shall be an undergraduate or graduate. Undergraduates will have completed at least two years of academic study with a minimum of 30 credit hours.
2. The student shall be a United States citizen residing in the state of Florida.
3. Undergraduates shall have maintained an overall grade point average of 3.0 (out of 4.0) during the last 2 years of academic study. Graduate students must have completed at least one full semester of graduate course work and shall have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher (out of 4.0) for all graduate course work completed by September 15, 2011.
4. The student shall be enrolled in an accredited College or University in the state of Florida.
5. The student shall be majoring in a field of study having relevance to arthropod control and/or public health.
6. The student shall submit three letters of recommendation, two of which are from professors affiliated with an accredited College or University in which the student is enrolled.
7. The student shall be encouraged to seek summer employment with a local mosquito control district for at least one summer during the award period.
8. The scholarship recipient will be provided a gratis membership in FMCA during the period of the award. The recipient is expected to attend an annual Florida Mosquito Control Association meeting. Graduate student recipients will be required to present a paper on their research during an FMCA meeting.

A completed application must contain the following: 1. Name, address, telephone number of applicant, University or College where enrolled, major, overall grade point average, grade point average in major, and number of credit hours completed. 2. Statement from the student describing their interest in public health entomology, career goals, and other factors pertinent to scholastic ability which illustrate qualifications for the scholarship (limited to two typewritten pages [single or double-spaced] on one side only). 3. Three typewritten statements from three persons (two of which from professors from the person's academic institution) who are knowledgeable individuals attesting to entomological interests, character and aptitude. 4. An original copy of current official transcripts of college grades (this may be sent separately). Send only one set of original transcripts per application package. 5. Proof of current enrollment at a Florida College or University. 6. One photograph (black and white, passport size) per application package.

Sentinel Chicken Serology Reporting Enhancements

Florida Department of Health (DOH) Arbovirus Surveillance Program is currently in the process of automating the weekly sentinel chicken serology results report. Arbovirus surveillance in Florida includes endemic mosquito-borne viruses such as West Nile virus (WNV), Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV), St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV), and Highlands J virus and exotic viruses such as dengue virus. Specimens from humans, animals (primarily veterinary horse cases), wild birds and sentinel chicken flocks are used in this surveillance effort. Sentinel chicken flock data is particularly useful for monitoring WNV and SLE activity. Several counties in Florida maintain sentinel chicken flocks. Each week, the flocks are bled and the samples are sent to the DOH Bureau of laboratories (BOL) in Tampa. Here the samples are tested for development of antibodies to WNV, SLEV, EEEV and Highlands J virus. Newly positive samples indicate recent transmission of the infectious agent in the area of the flock. If the number of positive samples changes compared to historical or background levels, action is triggered in the form of increased public education and mosquito control efforts, as described in DOH Surveillance and Control of Mosquito-Borne Diseases guide book located at <http://myfloridaeh.com/medicine/arboviral/index.html>.

At present, the BOL analyzes the test result data and manually prepares the weekly report. Surveillance program submitters receive their data by fax and the weekly report is emailed to over 150 recipients. This is a time-consuming process, particularly when large numbers of samples are received in summer months. We anticipate that automation of the process will improve the efficiency and accuracy of the process, and will also simplify tracking specimens and setting up confirmatory assays. In addition, the enhancements will provide an automated feature to generate specimen labels and submittal forms for flock managers. FWVSS (Food, Water, Vector-borne Surveillance System) is a web based database that DOH uses for environmental health data management. Veterinary, sentinel chicken, dead bird and mosquito pool surveillance information can be entered into FWVSS, and DOH can access these data to generate surveillance reports. Nevertheless, many counties are not making use of the FWVSS for sentinel chicken submissions; the new automation process will depend upon active participation by flock managers in FWVSS.

The first step in the automation process will be setting up flock information in FWVSS. This one-time process will include providing information related to the flock manager (organization name, address, phone, fax, contact person, email), flock sites (name, address, *global positioning system* coordinates) and birds (number, date first bled/ terminated and current status). After the initial setup, the submitter will only need to enter the numbers for any replacement birds. The submitter can then use FWVSS to generate a packing slip containing individual barcodes for each sample submitted that week simply by selecting the pre-entered information (see an example provided). The barcodes will have information such as county name, site number, bird number, date collected and whether the bird is new or not. The submitter then

sends out the serum samples along with packing slip(s) to the BOL as usual.

The BOL personnel will assign lab numbers and scan the barcodes when the serum samples are received; the information stored in the barcodes is transferred to a software program in the BOL computer. Once the BOL completes their routine testing, the results will be entered into a BOL software program. The results from the program will then be automatically transferred back to FWVSS. The submitter will be able to directly access the weekly test results through FWVSS and BOL personnel can generate the weekly summary reports from that data with their computer system. When a bird or site is entered into FWVSS, the system will send report to BOL informing lab personnel that updates are available. Information from FWVSS will also be used to populate maps that demonstrate arbovirus activity across the state. Maps will include data layers relevant to specific arboviruses such as areas of local mosquito control interest (locations of water treatment plants and cemeteries).

A FWVSS training demonstration will be held for flock managers in June; meeting invitations will be sent out in the near future. The Arbovirus Surveillance Coordinator or her assistant are also available to assist flock managers anytime they have a question. Once the enhancements are in place, we believe they will make both submitting samples and receiving results easier while reducing errors and simplifying flock data management. We greatly appreciate your patience and assistance as we improve our state arbovirus surveillance reporting. If anyone has questions or needs assistance accessing the database please contact me (e mail: Leena_Anil@doh.state.fl.us or phone 850-245-4444 ext 2437).

For more surveillance information, please see the DOH website at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/arboviral/index.html>

Sample Barcode

County Name	Site Number	Bird Number	Date Collected	New Bird
Indicated by 2 digits. (assigned)	Indicated by 4 digits. (assigned)	Indicated by 4 digits. (assigned)	[Format] yyyymmdd	0 = No 1 = Yes [Checked]

Leena Anil, Ph.D.
Arbovirus Surveillance Coordinator

What is next for Florida State Aid for Mosquito Control?

It is with extreme sadness that I am writing about the unthinkable. The Florida State Legislature 2011 budget will provide \$1.29 million in support of mosquito control. This represents a 40% reduction from the \$2.16 million historically appropriated by the state for this purpose. For the past several years the Florida Mosquito Control Association has fought to keep state aid to mosquito control at the historic level of funding despite Florida's previous economic difficulties. The 2011 battle was lost at the last moment when in a final conference report the conferees agreed to the reduced appropriation. There was no prior warning that this was afoot in conference and there was no public discussion. Indeed as reported in *BuzzWords* vol.11(2), FMCA efforts in Tallahassee in March appeared promising with legislators in full support of FMCA's position for funding state aid for mosquito control. This was a dark of night decision. Unfortunately this decision, made in a final conference report, is no different than inserting funds in final conference without going through the legislative process of discussion and justification. This was done in the dark of night and represents the worst of our political system.

Each year TaxWatch provides a list of Turkey's consisting of projects funded in conference without going through the legislative process. These are projects that were not requested by the Governor or an agency or discussed as part of the legislative negotiations. The reduction of the state aid money for mosquito control should have been on this list.

On May 26, 2011 Gov. Scott vetoed ca. \$600 million in projects, many inserted at the last moment in conference. Unfortunately one of these was \$500,000 in non-recurring funds inserted in conference to maintain the PHEREC laboratory in Panama City for 1 year. I had hoped that the insertion had been legislatively justified and supported. Apparently it was not. The loss of this non-recurring support is a devastating setback to Florida. I had hoped Florida would have avoided this through either recurring funds for the PHEREC program in Panama City or the alternative to provide recurring support for the program at FMEL in Vero Beach. Though FMCA supported this latter alternative as a more realistic possibility, the FMCA proposal was never moved forward in deference to the strong opinions of some districts intent on a Panama City location as the only option they would agree to consider. I hope Florida mosquito control will return to an option to maintain pesticide related research when Florida's economy is not as dire.

I have written many *BuzzWords* columns on the significance to Florida of the state aid appropriations and there is no need to repeat this argument here; I urge readers to review these columns which can be found at <http://fmel.ifas.ufl.edu/buzz/archive.shtml>. See the references at the end of the article for a list of previous columns that address these issues.

Unfortunately with a 40% reduction, Florida will now face the reality of what FMCA had fought to avoid. This year each Florida mosquito control organization will have to adjust to losing 40% of their state aid funds. Some programs may lose a substantial portion of their budget; larger programs will lose a smaller proportion, but will still have to adjust to the loss with less support for external or related state wide efforts. In addition, Florida may have lost the opportunity to redirect state aid funds to offset some of the other reductions already made in state support for statewide mosquito control needs, particularly in the research and surveillance of arthropod-borne pathogens. Previous *BuzzWords* columns remain appropriate in the current climate as discussions begin on how to use the remaining state aid appropriation to best serve the citizens of Florida. There are many options to consider. It would be difficult to select a single option under the best of circumstances. These are not the best of circumstances. However, it is essential that Florida mosquito control begins this discussion through FMCA, the Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control, and with our colleagues in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. I submit that Florida mosquito control use state aid funds in keeping with three primary goals: 1) State aid must clearly benefit mosquito control. 2) The benefit must be more than locally beneficial, it must be essential to improve Florida statewide mosquito control. 3) The support provided by state aid must be commensurate with the local demand for mosquito control. One way to measure the local demand and support for mosquito control is by the per capita local contribution to mosquito control or the dollars per person in the county directed to mosquito control. I believe it is rather easy to say that state aid in the past has fulfilled the first goal. I think that Florida must do better in the use of state aid to fulfill goals 2 and 3. With this in mind, I submit some options to consider for distributing state aid. This of course is not an exhaustive list but I present it for consideration in hopes of starting a statewide discussion. The options are:

1. Maintain the same distribution, at a reduced level, to all participating organizations. This will likely occur until the language authorizing state aid distributions can be legislatively changed to another option.
2. Provide funding to organizations below some threshold of their annual budget, i.e., distributing the state aid at the maximum level to those below \$1,000,000 in annual budget.
3. Have varying distributions of state aid that maximize state aid to the smallest organizations with some varying distributions to other relatively small organizations within some budget range, i.e., organizations below \$200,000 receive a maximal amount, those between \$250,000- \$1,000,000 some lesser amount and organizations above \$1,000,000 receive 0 in state aid.
4. Vary the state aid distributions as 2 and 3 above but base the distribution each organization receives according to the per capita local contribution supporting mosquito control. For example, programs receiving little local support in funds for mosquito control, signifying lack of local demand, should not receive state aid. The threshold for local demand might be set as a minimum of \$5.00 annually in support of mosquito control per individual. A county with 25,000 people would then need an annual budget of \$125,000 to qualify for state aid.
5. A lesser amount to the smaller organizations approaching what they would receive under (1) above and based on some algorithm like 2, 3, 4, while using the remaining state aid to support other clear state-wide needs in research and surveillance along the lines of FMCA's redistribution proposal made in 2010. A variation of such a distribution was provided by FMCA to the Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control (see Attachment 6) and can be viewed at: <http://consensus.fsu.edu/MC/pdfs/FCCMC%20February%2022.%202011%20Report.pdf>

There are advantages and disadvantages to each of the options listed above. The decision will unfortunately be clouded by personal interests due to the effect of each option on one's own organization. For example, options 2 and 3 certainly benefit smaller programs. Option 4 requires setting a minimum per capita threshold to receive support that would keep the distribution focused at the local level. The advantage is that the distribution is based on the local demand without subsidizing programs where the citizens have decided not to support mosquito control. Option 5 provides state-wide benefits for all of Florida, for both large and small programs.

The issues on how state aid for mosquito control can best serve all of Florida posed in previous *BuzzWords* columns remain. Just what is the significance of state aid for mosquito control? What is its importance to a local district? What is its importance to public health and well-being in all of Florida? Each of the proposed options (and there are likely other options I have not included) has to be assessed in the context of the answers to these questions and to the goals of state aid that I suggested above. Just what does state aid support in specific districts? Is this support essential to the district? Is it essential to Florida? Why are funds from the state provided to districts where the public provides little per capita support for mosquito control, consistent with little interest in the need, when other districts provide local funds at a much higher per capita cost to maintain the level of mosquito control they desire?



Unless Florida mosquito ensures that every state aid dollar is justifiable and essential, there will be little chance to restore state aid in a subsequent budget cycle. I would hope that Florida mosquito will consider this essential for the next Florida budget. We must document the effects of the reduction this year to support the need for restoring this essential program. We must demonstrate that the current budget is inadequate and endangers Florida's public health and well-being.

Previously I have urged all Florida mosquito control professionals to participate in and support FMCA by participating in scheduled events like Tallahassee Days. Perhaps we would have had more success with double the participants at Tallahassee Days. There are no excuses for not participating. Several attendees at Tallahassee Days participated while on annual leave from their jobs and by paying their expenses personally. It was that important to them.

This coming year we must confront the impact of the reduced support for state aid and the loss of PHEREC. I urge Florida mosquito control professionals to do the following to in order to alter the current situation:

Join the FMCA.

Participate in FMCA.

Make your views known to FMCA directly through the FMCA Board, and/or your FMCA Regional Board Representative.

Participate at Tallahassee Days.

It is that simple. Florida mosquito control remains responsible for protecting Florida's public health and well-being. It is irresponsible to remain silent. We must speak up.



Walter J. Tabachnick
Director, Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory
Professor, Department of Entomology and Nematology
University of Florida, IFAS, Vero Beach, Florida

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