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# Buzz Words



Florida Mosquito Control Association

[www.floridamosquito.org](http://www.floridamosquito.org)

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Deadlines for submissions to be  
included in the newsletter:

Jan/Feb	Jan 15
Mar/Apr	Mar 15
May/Jun	May 15
Jul/Aug	Jul 15
Sep/Oct	Sep 15
Nov/Dec	Nov 15

Send newsletter submissions to:

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[nburkett@health.usf.edu](mailto:nburkett@health.usf.edu)

*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.*

## Upcoming Events

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*National Mosquito Control  
Awareness Week – 2013  
June 23 – 29, 2013*

*FMCA Fly-In  
January 7 – 9, 2014*

*FMCA Dodd Short Courses  
January 20 – 24, 2014*

*AMCA Annual Meeting  
Feb 2 – 6, 2014  
Seattle, WA*

## A New Era for Florida's Support for State Aid to Florida Mosquito Control

Like the mythical phoenix after being consumed in flames, and arising from the ashes, Florida's state aid for mosquito control has arisen in 2013 from the ashes of 2012. In 2013 Florida's legislators, with concurrence by Gov. Rick Scott, recognized the importance of mosquito and mosquito-borne disease control in Florida by providing \$2.66 million for mosquito control support. This included \$1.66 million for state aid to Florida's mosquito control districts, \$500,000 for Florida's mosquito and mosquito-borne disease competitive research program, and \$500,000 for The University of Florida/IFAS to establish 3 new full-time positions to conduct research on mosquito and mosquito-borne disease control issues at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory (FMEL).

Over the past several years, it has been disheartening to witness Florida eroding Florida's state support for mosquito control. During this period Florida saw a decline of ~50% of the state funds for mosquito control, and the closing of the Public Health Entomology Research and Education Center in Panama City, resulting in the loss of nearly a third of Florida's scientists focused on mosquito control related sciences, and the loss of 20% of the scientists at the FMEL as well.



***Like the mythical phoenix,  
Florida state aid for  
mosquito control arises from  
the ashes.***

The Florida Mosquito Control Association forcefully argued that such drastic reductions would have disastrous consequences for Florida's future. In 2012 Florida cut funding for the then \$250,000 that supported the annual competitive Florida mosquito research program, eliminating this critical program entirely. As a result, 2012 was the first time in the past 30 years that no Florida-supported research was conducted for improving Florida's mosquito and mosquito-borne disease control.

Why did Florida re-establish state support for mosquito control in 2013? Cynics might believe the primary reason was due to Florida's not having a revenue shortage that had been the norm during the past several years. This is true, of course, but there were ample other projects throughout the state that did not receive support for a variety of reasons. I believe that the primary difference was that Florida's legislators realized the consequences that Florida would suffer for not providing this support for mosquito control. This became evident when Florida Senator Alan Hays, Chair of the Florida Senate's Subcommittee on Appropriations, visited FMEL on Dec. 15, 2011. He learned firsthand about the importance of mosquito control in Florida, the challenges ahead, and the disastrous consequences of the continued eroding of state aid in support of district and county programs and for research. Senator Hays envisioned correcting the situation and began to work in Tallahassee to establish state aid to mosquito control. Florida owes great appreciation to Senator Hays for his vision and work to protect Florida's health and well-being.

In 2012, a proposal to add \$1 million from Florida's state budget to support mosquito control research was unfortunately vetoed by Gov. Rick Scott. Thankfully, state aid to the district and county programs that had been eliminated by the agencies earlier in the budget cycle had been restored as part of the addition, but not vetoed. However, as a result even the historic \$250,000 provided annually to support research was eliminated. The reasons for the Governor's veto in 2012 for this program were varied. Largely, the request lacked information on the return on investment to Florida's taxpayers for state dollars spent for mosquito control programs and for mosquito-borne disease control. This was corrected in 2013 when I clearly illustrated the return on investment from dollars provided for mosquito research. I provided information from a survey of several of Florida's mosquito control districts showing that every dollar spent by Florida on mosquito and mosquito-borne disease control research returns ~\$200-280 annually in savings to Florida's taxpayers while delivering effective, efficient and environmentally proper mosquito control (Tabachnick, WJ. 2013. Florida mosquito research has returned huge dividends to Florida. BuzzWords, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 13(2): 2-5).

The current state aid appropriation is a victory for all of Florida's citizens because it provides opportunities to decrease the costs and the risks from pest mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases. With this support comes great responsibilities. It is vital that these funds prove their importance to Florida. It is essential these resources demonstrate that professional mosquito control and mosquito control scientists will make inroads in improving our capabilities to protect Florida.

Every district receiving state aid must show the importance of the state funds that they receive, how they are used and the consequences to the district and to Florida if these funds are eliminated. It is absolutely vital that the competitive mosquito research program deliver essential information, first by ensuring that projects are on the priority needs developed by Florida's Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control and FMCA's Research Advisory Committee. Second, it is vital that the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and its constituted research selection committee demands credible, excellent science that provides usable and peer reviewed information. The resources provided to expand mosquito- and mosquito-borne disease control expertise at FMEL must be used prudently to expand Florida's capabilities for improving new technologies, for new products, and for addressing environmental concerns about mosquito control operations. It will be critical to bring needed expertise to FMEL of new faculty and use the funds to support their efforts. This program must recruit faculty who are leaders in their disciplines and who are capable of developing sustainable, credible and nationally competitive research programs that will bring essential extramural research dollars to Florida. That is the challenge.

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



## From your FMCA President, Robert Betts

In anticipation of another arbovirus “active” season, I am pleased to report that for mosquito control jurisdictions across the state, important advancements have been made in the protocol on the reporting of arboviral disease human cases between the county health departments and mosquito control program directors. In former years, mosquito control professionals could expect fairly broad reports on the location of human cases of mosquito-borne diseases, often limited to a zip code boundary, as reported by county health department officials. As we endeavored to exact more specific information from these folks, sometimes we were blocked by confidentiality concerns as affecting the privacy of those persons who may have had arboviral diseases such as West Nile virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis. Mosquito control directors were frustrated with trying to conduct surveillance and control activities without the full knowledge of these patients’ locations, disease onset dates, or other clues important to the performance of our duties in protecting the public’s health.

With the recent release of the “Surveillance and Control of Selected Mosquito-borne Diseases in Florida”, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) continues to protect the confidentiality of all such persons in compliance with Chapter 381.0055, Florida Statutes (F.S.). From Chapter 6. of the 2013 Arboguide, I should like to quote the following:

“However, when there is a need to protect the public’s health, the DOH is allowed to share confidential information with people who need to know, per Chapter 381.0031, F.S. Such instances include sharing mosquito exposure information of human arbovirus cases with recent disease onset with mosquito control districts (programs) to ensure appropriate mosquito surveillance and control.”

The chapter continues in its directions for this confidential sharing process, such as who may provide and receive such information, only for the purpose declared, and verbally over the phone since email correspondence is subject to public record request. Information provided should not include personal identifiers of the persons with arboviral diseases.

Exact addresses may or may not be required. What we do in our more rural and suburban Escambia County in the Florida NW Panhandle is to use block numbers with street addresses or neighborhoods, as well as zip codes. When known, the human case’s date of onset is reported. Notifications are forthcoming on both confirmed and unconfirmed “suspect” arboviral (mosquito-borne disease) human cases. As a mosquito control professional, I do not want to jeopardize anyone’s privacy, but now I will have the information needed with these significant innovations in-force.

The citation of this 2013 Arboguide is as follows:

<http://www.myfloridaeh.com/medicine/arboviral/index.html>

When you get to the DOH webpage, scroll down to see this 2013 Guidebook’s link.

Included also in the guidebook is a pre-agreed template that can be formally adopted between mosquito control programs and the county health departments for reporting human cases. With this protocol established, the mosquito control jurisdictions and the county health departments work together as partners and as stewards of the privacy of affected citizens.

The above was made possible by the collective efforts of many individuals, many from the County Health Departments, members of Florida's Department of Health, many from the mosquito control districts and county programs, and members of the Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA).

Membership in the FMCA is more than a title. It is each member's opportunity to invest in their profession. At the annual meetings, in committee meetings, short courses, and regional seminars, to name a few, members of the FMCA are asked to serve their association with countless hours of service and commitment, exercising various forms of responsibility and commitment. As this year's president, I want you to know how grateful I am for those members and their hours of dedication and service.

With FMCA membership, comes responsibility and privilege. At this coming fall's annual meeting, members-in-good-standing will exercise their voting privileges to change and amend the FMCA's Bylaws at one of our annual business meetings. While the procedure can be found on the FMCA's website, under the Bylaws tab, I would like to say that amending the bylaws of the association is more than a formality. For me, it is as honorable and essential as exercising my privileges to vote locally and nationally in elections. I have lived in a country without the freedom of voting. I have read the history of the sacrifices made by our American forefathers to gain that privilege and to keep it free.

The vote will be administered in accord with Article XIV – AMENDMENTS – of the FMCA Bylaws, as follows:

“These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members present at an annual meeting, provided the notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing to the Executive Director and transmitted by the Executive Director to active members at least thirty (30) days before the meeting, and that notice of the time that said amendment is to be voted on has been announced at least twelve (12) hours in advance of the vote.”

It should be noted that “active” members are defined as those who are present in the meeting room for this upcoming vote and who are in good-standing, a condition inherent in having their membership dues paid in full. As President, I have directed that the FMCA Executive Director will have full lists as to whom will be “in good-standing” as dues paid are concerned well in advance of that Annual Meeting's vote to alleviate any  
5 potential misunderstandings as to one's status and eligibility to participate.

In 2012, the FMCA Board of Directors discussed and unanimously voted to abolish these following committees and to make other changes as well, but due to notice and distribution restraints as stated in the FMCA's Bylaws, these changes had to wait for another year. The vote in November 2013 will provide a remedy for this formal procedure to advance.

The committees that will be recommended for deletion from the FMCA Bylaws are the "Education Coordination Committee" and one of its subcommittees, "Agency Profiles," both of which have become obsolete.

Other changes slated in the November 2013 Members' voting are, as follows:

1. To change the name of the "Historical Subcommittee" to the "Archives Committee," and promote it to Standing Committee status.
2. Likewise, the FMCA Board has voted to change the name of the "Projection/Audio Visual Subcommittee" to the "Technology/Audio Visual Committee," and promote it to Standing Committee status.
3. The "Technical Bulletin of the FMCA" subcommittee will be re-classified to Standing Committee status.
4. The former Standing Committee, entitled as the "Publications Committee," shall be abolished since its function is redundant by making decisions as affect the Technical Bulletins of the FMCA subcommittee.

In a related manner of policy and procedural remedy, a review of the FMCA's Policy and Procedures (P&P) Manual shows references made therein to the now defunct PHEREC (Public Health Entomology Research & Education Center) laboratory that was closed by actions of FAMU (Florida A&M University) of Tallahassee. The vote shall remove the reference to PHEREC from FMCA's Bylaws.

In the P&P Manual, there is a reference as to which qualified members shall serve on the Research Advisory Committee, reproduced here below for your benefit, as follows:

## **RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Research Advisory Committee is made up of eleven members. The committee is set up to make recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the needs of Florida mosquito control programs, which can be addressed through research. The members should solicit input from programs throughout the state and prioritize needed research before presenting the list to the Board of Directors for their approval. The committee advises the Board on options that deserve funding support from the research funds appropriated by the Legislature.

The committee shall have the following membership:

- Administrator of Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, Vero Beach, or a permanent designee;
- Administrator of the John A. Mulrennan, Sr. Public Health Entomology Research & Education Center, Panama City, or a permanent designee:
- Director of the USDA/ARS Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology, Gainesville, or a permanent designee;
- Director of the DACS Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control. or a permanent designee;
- Three (3) Directors of Florida mosquito control programs who will serve four-year staggered, renewable terms,
- Four (4) at-large members from the Association's membership list who will serve four-year staggered, renewable terms.

The Research Advisory Committee will recommend a Chair each third year and replacement members annually to the Association's President. No agency or district will have more than one individual on the Research Advisory Committee.

Additionally, officials from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) have expressed a desire to be removed from the Research Advisory Committee due to what they contend may be considered an "incompatible relationship" in the light of their Department's administering the mosquito control programs' state aid distributions.

In light of these requirements to replace qualified individuals from these institutions and for the FMCA to remain in compliance with its bylaws, the Bylaws Committee made the recommendation for Board Action that the two (2) identified positions (underlined above by me) shall be replaced by the addition of two more at-large members from the Association who will serve four-year, staggered and renewable terms. This addition will result in having six (6) at-large members on the Research Advisory Committee.

This Bylaws Committee recommendation was approved recently by the FMCA's Board of Directors at its meeting in Tampa on May 13, 2013, providing for a timely decision such that the FMCA members may vote on this amendment, in addition to that which addresses FMCA committees' deletions and renaming with elevations to Standing Committee status, as apply.

Prior to the notifications made to the members on their voting status, I want to say that the FMCA's administration will make full efforts to discern those FMCA members who are eligible to vote in this important upcoming election on the FMCA's Bylaws amendments. Your cooperation in this process will provide that all members who can exercise their votes shall be able to do so with honor and with pride in their accomplishment.

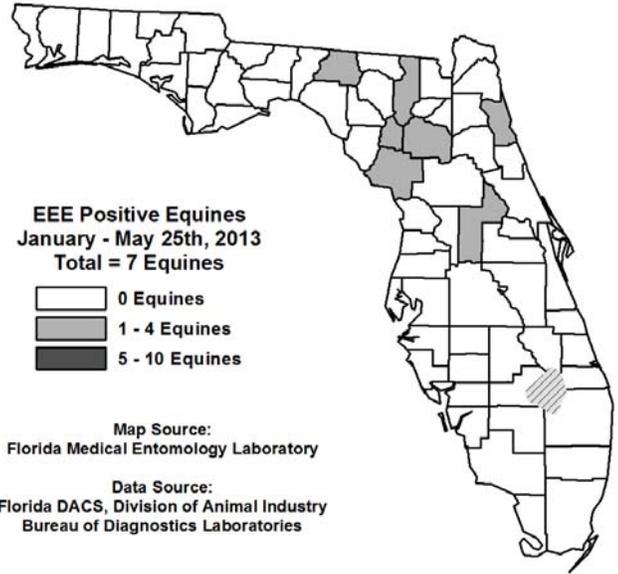
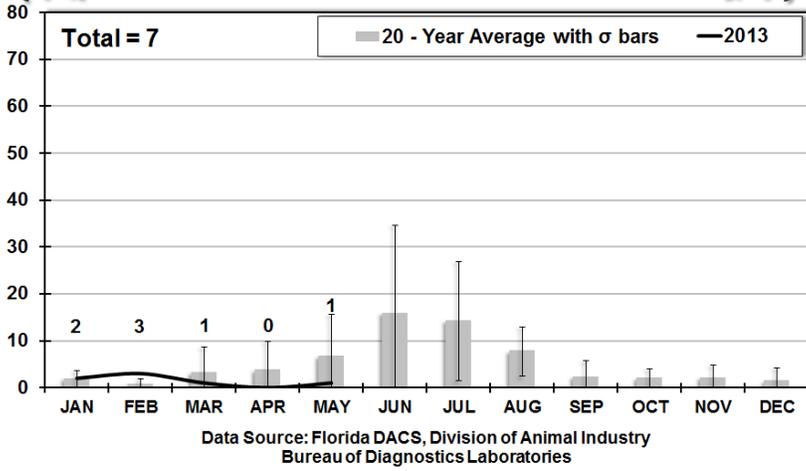
Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Betts, FMCA President

# Arbovirus surveillance, Florida 2013

## EEE



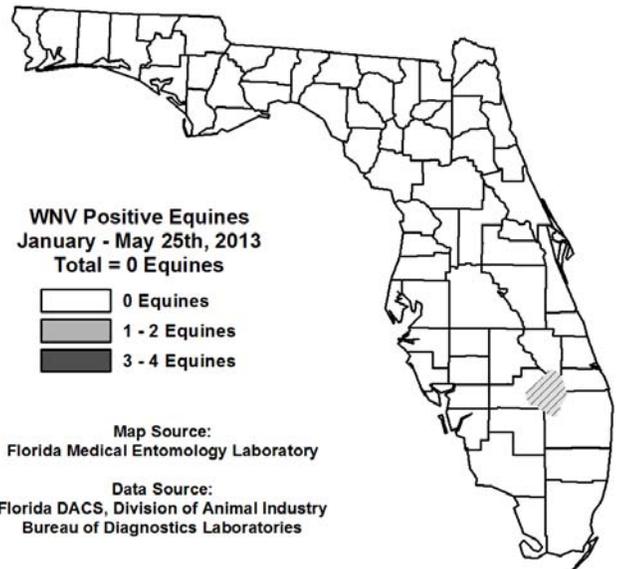
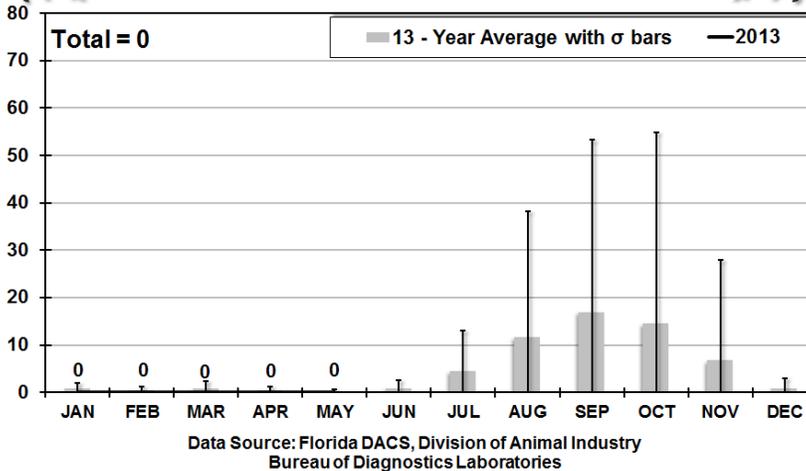
**EEE Positive Equines in Florida**  
January 1 through May 25, 2013



## West Nile



**West Nile Positive Equines in Florida**  
January 1 through May 25, 2013



# FMCA – Reports from your Regional Representatives

## Southeast Region Report, by Judy Avril

**Indian River Mosquito Control District** - The Indian River Mosquito Control District (IRMCD) office in Vero Beach Florida is proud to be the first facility in the nation to obtain Wildlife Lighting Certification. This was done primarily to raise awareness about the non-target effects of artificial night lighting on nocturnal creatures including insects. The Wildlife Lighting Program was developed by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to address light pollution issues in ecologically sensitive areas while ensuring human safety and security. Learn more about this program here: <http://myfwc.com/conservation/you- conserve/lighting/pollution/> or contact Michael Hudon at [IRMCD: m.hudon@irmosquito2.org](mailto:m.hudon@irmosquito2.org) (772-562-2393).

**Saint Lucie County Mosquito Control** - Saint Lucie County Mosquito Control Welcomes Sherry Burroughs. Sherry Burroughs (former Osceola County MC Director) joined the Saint Lucie County team on February 11<sup>th</sup> this year. Sherry said she is really glad to have the opportunity to expand her knowledge of impoundment/salt marsh mosquito control management, even though it means she has to personally meet the nasty salt marsh mosquito populations! She is also getting up to speed on beach renourishment and the artificial reef environment – very much removed from the fresh water lakes environment she came from in Osceola County. Welcome to the Treasure Coast, Sherry!

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## Southwest Region Report, by Jim Burgess

**Collier Mosquito Control District** – Collier MCD had a job posting a month or so ago for the Director's position. It's now reported that Frank Van Essen, will officially retire effective Jan. 31, 2014. He will have 28 years of service in Collier County Mosquito Control. But for some of you older mosquito people, I remember Frank worked some years in mosquito control before he went to Collier. Happy retirement. Also it was learned that in addition to Frank, Collier will be losing some other valuable employees. Vinnie Checa, helicopter mechanic, completed his last day of work at the District on April 17. He put in a total of 27 years with the District. Ralph Hall, aircraft mechanic will be retiring on May 31, 2013 after 26 years with the District.

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## Northeast Region Report, by Jim McNelly

**Anastasia Mosquito Control District** - Due to two weeks of earlier-than-normal rain, our mosquito populations got off to a flying start. CDC trap totals (n=7): May 7 (2,690), May 14 (2,409), May 21 (30,145) and May 29 (13,055). Among the collections, dominant species include *Culex nigripalpus*, *Psorophora ferox*, *Anopheles crucians*, *Culiseta melanura* and *Aedes albopictus*. Staff worked overtime to mop up hot spots over Memorial Day Weekend and not surprisingly, the presence of *Cs. melanura* has led to three (3) sentinel chickens testing positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus; one (1) horse has also tested positive for EEE. A strong applied research effort is maintained by the District, and includes evaluation of a new trap, the MOS-Hole, which will be compared to other traps currently in use. Interns are facilitating a dog heartworm survey in an attempt to delineate the public's current knowledge of this disease, as well as to identify potential transmission hot spots.

**Dixie County Solid Waste and Mosquito Control** - The area has been extremely dry and the season is off to a very slow start; no mosquitoes yet. Mosquito Control is driven by requests for service and complaints. There have been no complaints of mosquito activity. However, we are experiencing requests due to populations of yellow flies and sand gnats.

**East Flagler MCD** – The District experienced above average rainfall in May; for instance, May 2-7 averaged 7+ inches. Fortunately, little salt marsh mosquito production resulted. However, between May 9th the 21st, we treated 31,000 acres of woodlands surrounding urban areas by helicopter. In addition, truck adulticiding was initiated on May 9th and continued in earnest until May 24th. Target species included *Aedes atlanticus* and *Aedes infirmatus*, *Psorophora ciliata*, *Psorophora columbiae* and *Psorophora ferox*. The outbreak was managed in time for Memorial Day Weekend.

To date, one (1) sentinel chicken has tested positive for EEE (4/24). The District continues to evaluate the effectiveness of Altosid XRG versus salt marsh mosquito species, and is performing bottle bioassays utilizing adulticides currently in use by the District. “Our most significant challenges are funding a budget at the rolled back millage rate and surviving legislative efforts to push independent districts into county programs”.

**Jacksonville Mosquito Control** - Precipitation in 2013 is currently 1.8” above normal through May; May was wetter than normal with 5.39” of rain - more than 3” above normal. Nuisance mosquitoes, such as *Ae. infirmatus* and *Ae. tormentor* surged mid-month in pocketed areas across the county (630 service requests between 5/20-24), but the infestation was not necessarily widespread and populations were decreasing by Memorial Day. Standing water currently exists in swamps and swales that have been dry for months.

Arbovirus surveillance with five sentinel chicken sites commenced May 6. To date, no positive sentinels. Pockets of *Cs. melanura* have been collected in weekly CDC trap surveillance at sentinel sites - one site collected 170 female *Cs. melanura* in a single night. Collections of *Cx. nigripalpus* and *Cx. pip. quinquefasciatus* are considerably lower than this time last year. Entomologist Marah Clark is planning to conduct trapping in August, using a rotational trap, to study the temporal activity of *Culex* spp. in the area. This will be used to refine our adulticiding control efforts.

Jacksonville MC is challenged with maintaining adequate mosquito control in light of reduced aerial assets. However, we have successfully enhanced education efforts by including seasonal mosquito control and West Nile information in the annual senior citizens directory, and in residential electric bills. Staff initiated pro-active, early pre-season inspection and larviciding treatments in the areas where WNV was detected in 2012.

**Volusia CMC** – Above average May rainfall was also experienced in Volusia County, and significant freshwater floodwater populations of *Ae. infirmatus* and *Ps. ferox* resulted in truck ULV applications leading up to Memorial Day Weekend. The District has also seen a steady rise in both *Ae. albopictus* and *Ae. aegypti* populations over the same month. Sentinel chicken flocks have been expanded in both size -from 3 to 4 birds per flock- and geographic scope – from 8 to 12 locations. No positive birds have been identified to date.

The District has expanded surveillance efforts directed at both *Ae. albopictus* and *aegypti*, as well as an evaluation of control methodologies that was facilitated by a USDA-Rutgers cooperative effort in 2012. Larval assays utilizing spinosad are being performed versus *Culex* and *Aedes* spp with guidance from Dr. Jack Peterson, and bottle bioassays will be initiated in 2013, following guidance from both Dr. Peterson and Orange County Mosquito Control.



## Passing - LOIS M. RYAN

Lois M. Ryan was born February 10, 1923, to Theodore Lowe, Sr., and Mary Lowe in Key West, Fla. She was predeceased by both parents, her husband, Bill Ryan, the founder of "Bill Ryan Bail Bonds;" brothers Warren, Theodore, Jr., Jerry and James Lowe; and sister, Twila Mae Della Fave.

Lois was one of the first women Mosquito Control Directors in Florida, employed by the Monroe County Mosquito Control District, now known as the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, for 41 years, serving as director for 17 years prior to retiring in 1994. As Director of the Mosquito Control, she was known as a hard working public servant dedicated to providing effective mosquito control for the citizens and visitors of Monroe County.

Lois was a woman of great accomplishment. In 2001, she was honored to have the Key Largo staging area of the Mosquito Control District named "The Lois Ryan Staging Area" and its access road named "Lois Ryan Road." Miami Magazine named her "Best Unsung Employee" in 1982. She is survived by sons Michael (Christina) Ryan and Billy (Millie) Ryan of Key West; daughter Janet (John) Manuel of Naples, Fla.; siblings Bobby (Diana) Lowe of Mississippi and Edward Lowe of Crystal River, Florida; granddaughters Ashley (Danilo) Alayon, Jennifer (Scott) Wilder, and Jaclyn Gilman; grandsons Billy Ryan, Michael, Max and Mark Ryan, Devin Gilman of and Jeffrey (Leah) Manuel; nieces Faith Lowe and Debbie Vasquez; nephews Joe Della Fave and Albert Della Fave; Craig Lowe and Brian Lowe; and great grandchildren Alina and Nilo Alayon and Sky and Serena Manuel; grandnephew, Gordon Higgs, Jr. and grandniece Taylor Spoto. She is also survived by stepgranddaughter Anne Marie and her children Vincent, Jr., and Samantha. A celebration of life was held Saturday, May 18, at Dean-Lopez Funeral Home, 418 Simonton Street, Key West.

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