The Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Association Volume 7, Issue Number 2
Mar/Apr 2007

Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control Meetings

June 19, 2007 – Alachua, FL
October 22-23, 2007 – Vero Beach, hosted by FMEL
Doug Carlson to coordinate a Managed Marshes field trip

FMCA Annual Fall Meeting

November 11 – 14, 2007
Crowne Plaza, 1201 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207
904-398-8800 ext. 500; Rooms will be $119.00 before 10/11/2007

2008 Dodd Plenary Short Courses

January 28 – February 1, 2008
Ocala Hilton, 3600 SW 36th Avenue, Ocala, FL, 352.854.1400
Rooms: $109.00 S/D before 12/7/07.
On-Line reservation code will be available soon at www.floridamosquito.org

Recognize the individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Mosquito Control by nominating them for the 2007 FMCA Awards!

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 August 3, 2007.

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 one or more 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.

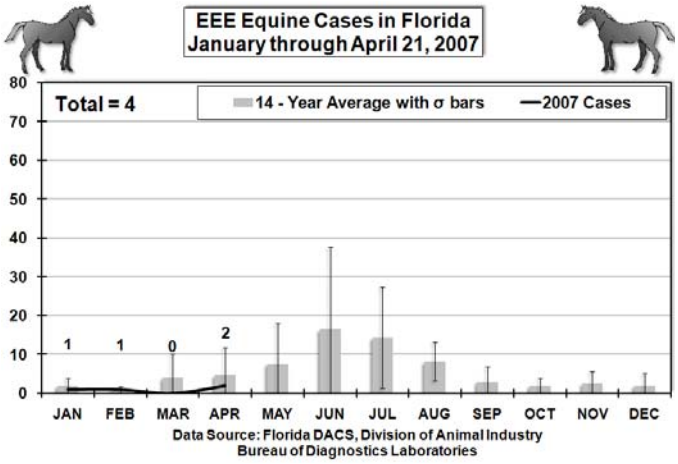
The **Fred Stutz Memorial Award**, which honors the former director of the Dade County Mosquito Control office, recognizes an outstanding contribution to mosquito control by development of procedures that increase effectiveness in mosquito or other arthropod control, or the design and manufacture of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

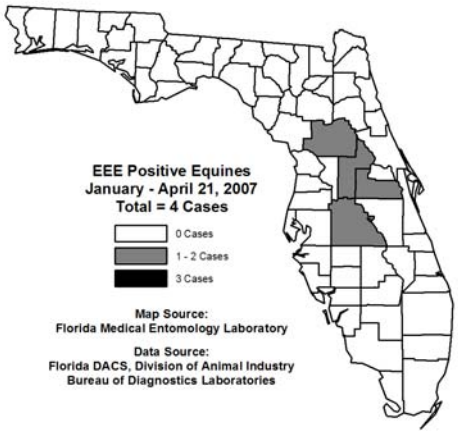
The **FMCA Merit Award** recognizes outstanding individual contributions in promoting control of disease-transmitting and pestiferous mosquitoes or other arthropods of public health importance, for scientific advancement of the discipline, or for developing or extending the public interest in the control 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.

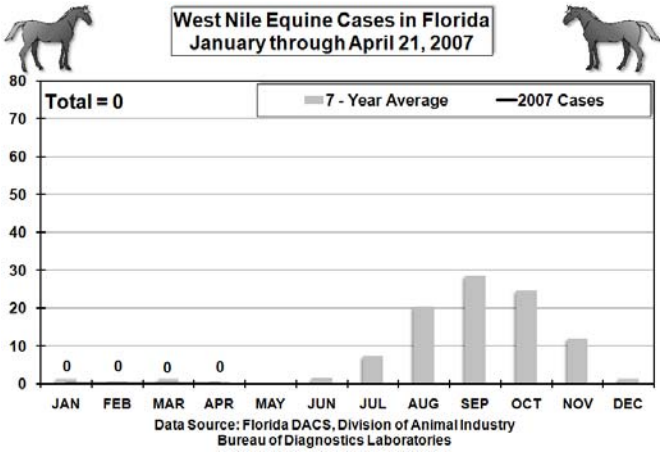
The **James W. Robinson Memorial Award** was established in 2005 as a memorial to Jim Robinson, Director of the Pasco County Mosquito Control District, who was renowned for his innovative development of new equipment and adoption of new technologies. This award recognizes innovation and ingenuity in optimizing the safe and efficient operations of Florida public health pest control programs. The candidate must have contributed an outstanding improvement to equipment or 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 recipient of the James W Robinson Memorial Award will receive $500 cash, a commemorative certificate, and funding to attend the Annual Fall Meeting.

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 Annual Fall Meeting.

Please submit inquiries and nomination documents to Awards Committee chair: Stephen L Sickerman
DACS Bureau of Entomology & Pest Control, 3920 Frankford Avenue, Panama City, FL 32405-1953
phone 850-872-4250 / *fax* 850-872-4271 / *e-mail* sickers@doacs.state.fl.us







Tough Choices for West Nile Virus Surveillance Programs

Loyal readers of *BuzzWords* are likely familiar with issues related to West Nile virus (WNV) surveillance and the related issues of decision making for mosquito control agencies. Over the past years there have been many *BuzzWords* columns on these subjects. In a recent issue of *BuzzWords*, with the help of Matt Yates of East Baton Rouge Mosquito Control District, we discussed the various advantages and disadvantages of using sentinel chickens and mosquito pools as arboviral surveillance tools (Yates, M. 2006. A Louisiana perspective on sentinel chicken surveillance for West Nile Virus. *BuzzWords* 6(6): 7-11; Tabachnick, WJ and JF Day. 2006. Sentinel chicken surveillance for West Nile virus. *BuzzWords* 6(6): 9-10.

Under the best of circumstances, I believe it is clear that surveillance for WNV is best served by a multi-pronged approach consistent with our knowledge that the surveillance options available to us provide different strengths and different types of information. For example, a tool that might be appropriate in one circumstance is not always the best tool to use. We have discussed often that mosquito pools will provide the best chance to detect the presence of WNV in an area, but may not provide realistic information that is useful for gauging the risk of human cases or mosquito transmission to humans. Although sentinel chickens provide a gauge for assessing transmission and human risk, there can be a long time lag between the actual transmission event and the appearance of a seropositive chicken. This time lag may be unacceptable in some circumstances. Hence, a combination of mosquito pooling and sentinel chicken arboviral surveillance should be considered, and there are times when one should move quickly from one type of surveillance to the other.

Unfortunately, the best of circumstances is not always a realistic possibility. At a recent meeting I was approached by two mosquito control directors from two states outside (thankfully) of Florida and presented with the following dilemma. Both individuals advised that their respective counties were cutting the resources for WNV surveillance and they could not support both mosquito and sentinel chicken surveillance programs.

I advised that this certainly placed them both in a difficult situation. I also advised that whatever their decisions were on the arboviral surveillance tool they eventually chose, the decision should be based on fulfilling their clearly stated and accepted goals for surveillance in the most cost effective manner possible. Certainly a starting point would be for each organization to have an estimate of the full costs of a complete mosquito surveillance program. This estimate should include the number of mosquitoes that would need to tested, costs of the tests, labor etc. This estimate should be weighed against the cost of a sentinel chicken surveillance program that will provide the same surveillance and risk information. Cost estimates should include the number of chickens, their maintenance, cages, labor, and costs for testing. Clearly the point here is to conduct a program that provides the biggest bang for the dollar. Unfortunately this reduction in surveillance effort may not be the best of circumstances, but the challenge is to not expend resources on either an under-funded mosquito surveillance program, or an under-funded sentinel chicken surveillance program neither of which will ultimately serve a county's arboviral surveillance needs.

Rather than repeating information on these topics here, I direct interested readers to review other *BuzzWords* columns that explain these issues. Readers can access past *BuzzWords* at: http://www.floridamosquito.org/BUZZ/index.html or
http://fmel.ifas.ufl.edu/pagestart.htm or
http://mosquito.ifas.ufl.edu/BuzzWords.htm

Below is a list of some additional *BuzzWords* references on these topics that may assist readers in making the tough decisions:

Tabachnick, W. J. 2006. Mosquito surveillance and West Nile prediction: Lessons learned. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 6(4): 9-10.
Tabachnick, W. J. & Day, J. F. 2006. Sentinel chicken surveillance: Some pitfalls in analyzing the data. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 6(5): 7-9
Tabachnick, W. J. & Day, J. F. 2006. Sentinel chicken surveillance for West Nile virus. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 6(6): 9-10.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2005. A Florida mosquito control arbovirus response plan. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 5(1): 5-6.
Tabachnick, W. J., Day, J. F. & Rutledge, C. R. 2005. Florida West Nile surveillance: Estimating mosquito transmission frequencies. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 5(2): 6.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2005. Florida West Nile Surveillance: estimating mosquito transmission frequencies. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 5(2):6.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2004. Florida's sentinel chicken surveillance program: Smart chickens. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 4(1): 7-8.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2004. Sentinel surveillance and human risk for West Nile. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 4(2): 10-12.
Tabachnick, W. J. & Day, J. F. 2004. West Nile epidemic? These are the questions we will ask. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 4(4): 7-8.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2003. West Nile in Florida: The calm before the storm. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 3(1): 11-12.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2003. The relationship of West Nile dead birds and human cases. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 3(2): 9-10.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2003. Sentinel chicken surveillance programs: Pay attention to safety. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 3(3): 10-12.
Tabachnick, W. J. & Day, J. F. 2003. WN in Florida: Detection, surveillance, human cases and Florida's response policy. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 3(5): 10-11.
Day, J. F. & Tabachnick, W. J. 2003. Great move by the Indian River County Health Department and the Florida Department of Health, September 2003. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 3(6): 12-14.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2002. West Nile virus Detection: The details are important. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 2(2): 7.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2002. West Nile virus in North America: Sorting through four years of myths. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 2(5):13-14.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2001. A West Nile virus positive bird: WN response by the numbers. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 1(1): 9-10.
Tabachnick, W. J. 2001. Florida response levels to West Nile virus detection: Options for mosquito control. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc. 1(2): 9.
Tabachnick, W. J. & Day, J. F. 2001. Sentinel chicken surveillance and West Nile virus in Florida. *BuzzWords*, Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Assoc., 1(6): 8-9.

Arboviral surveillance decisions made in response to budget reductions for WNV surveillance will not be easy and will likely result in less useful information to predict and mitigate West Nile outbreaks. Clearly, with all of our hard earned experience with WNV in the U. S., any reduction of arboviral surveillance is a move in the wrong direction. Reducing surveillance options can only serve to reduce the ability of mosquito control and public health professionals to reduce cases and protect the public health and well-being.

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The deadline for submissions to be included in the May/June 2007 issue of *BuzzWords* is June 1, 2007.

Please send change of address or newsletter submissions to:
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or buzzwords@ifas.ufl.edu