

Buzz Words



The Newsletter of the Florida Mosquito Control Association
Jan/Feb 2008

Volume 8, Issue Number 1

74th Annual Meeting of the American Mosquito Control Association
Sparks, Nevada
March 2 – 6, 2008



5th Arbovirus Surveillance & Mosquito Control Workshop
St. Augustine, FL
March 26 -28, 2008
See inside this issue of *BuzzWords* for details



The FMCA 2008 Annual Spring Meeting has been cancelled!

The FMCA Board, however, will hold a Board meeting.

**FMCA 2008 Spring Board Meeting
April 23, 2008
Ocala Hilton
3600 SW 36th Street
Ocala, FL
9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

News from FMCA

FMCA Annual Spring Meeting

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FMCA 2008 Spring Board Meeting

April 23, 2008

Ocala Hilton

3600 SW 36th Street

Ocala, FL

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Congratulations!!

Stephen Sickerman, formerly of FDACS, became the new director of South Walton County Mosquito Control District on Jan 11, 2008. His new contact information is: Stephen Sickerman, South Walton County Mosquito Control District, P O Box 1130, Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459; 850-267-2112

swcmcd@mchsi.com

Helicopter Pilot Position Open

The Citrus County Mosquito Control District is accepting applications for a helicopter pilot; \$40,768 – \$61,152 yearly. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Public Health Pest Control Certification is necessary within six month of employment. A detailed job description and application must be obtained at the Citrus County Mosquito Control District Headquarters' Office: 968 N. Lecanto Hwy., Lecanto, FL. 34461 (352) 527-7478, between 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. weekdays. Citrus County Mosquito Control District applications are required to be filled out on the premises. The Citrus County Mosquito Control District is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin,

sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provisions of services. Preference will be given to veterans. (A copy of the DD-214 must be provided.)



News from the Districts

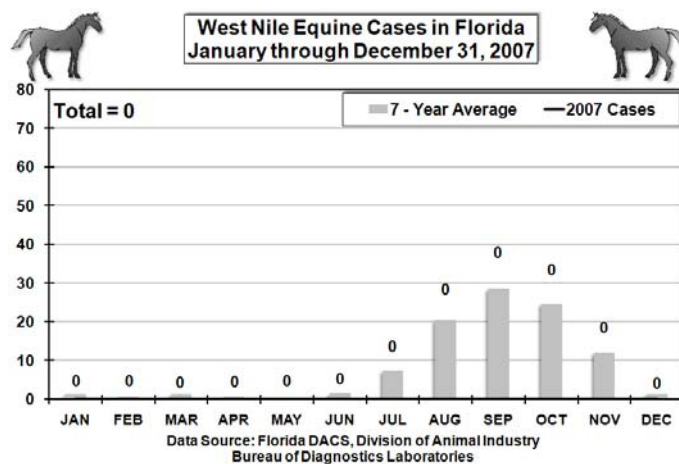
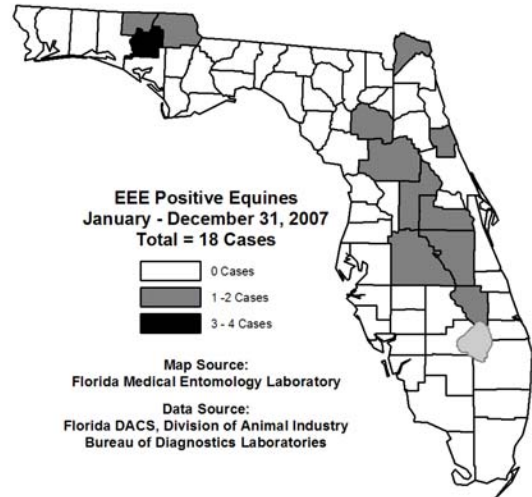
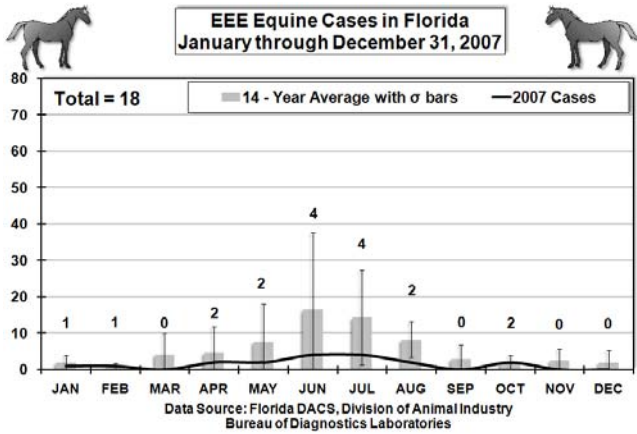
Arbovirus Surveillance Workshop

March 26-28, 2008. The 5th Arbovirus Surveillance & Mosquito Control Workshop will be held at **St. Augustine, Florida**. For more information, visit the website: www.anastasiamcd.org, AMCD contact person: Gina LeBlanc, Tel: 904/471-3107 ext.206; Fax 904/471-3189; E-mail: ginaamcd@bellsouth.net



NEWS from PHEREC

An important scientific note was published by PHEREC Hyun-Woo Park in the Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association: Park, H-W., C.M. Mangum, H. Zhong and S.R. Hayes. 2007. Isolation of *Bacillus sphaericus* with improved efficacy against *Culex quinquefasciatus*. J. Am. Mosq. Control Assoc. 23(4):478-480.



From darwinawards.com

Flyswatter: 2006 Honorable Mention

(April 2004, California) An adult education teacher gave 25 students an impromptu lesson in safety during *his safety class*. Using opaque reasoning, Teach figured the 40-mm shell he had found on a hunting trip must be inert. He kept the round and used it as a paperweight on his desk. After all, ordnance is such a unique conversation piece. But more notably, this particular ordnance was the teacher's ticking ticket to fame.

One spring morning, a bug crawled across his desk. Should he squash it with a tissue? Sweep it out the door? Leave it to pursue its happy existence, and continue on with his lesson? No; the teacher picked another alternative. He took up the "inert" artillery shell and slammed it onto the short-lived insect.

The impact set off the primer, and the resulting explosion caused him burns and shrapnel lacerations on his hand, forearm, and torso. No one else in the classroom was hurt. To the teacher's further consolation, his actions did succeed in one respect: the bug was eliminated.

Meeting of Florida Vector-Borne Disease Scientists

The University of Florida's Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory (FMEL), and the new University of Florida's Emerging Pathogens Institute (EPI) are working together to make progress in addressing mosquito-borne pathogens. The FMEL is the lead organization within the EPI on issues associated with mosquito-borne pathogens and will continue to serve Florida's mosquito control and public health agencies.

On January 7, 2008, the FMEL and the EPI jointly hosted a meeting of scientists from several institutions throughout Florida with interests and expertise in studying mosquito-borne pathogens. There were more than 60 scientists attending representing the FMEL, EPI, University of Florida's College of Veterinary Sciences, University of Florida's Whitney Laboratory in St. Augustine, USDA Center for Medical, Agriculture and Veterinary Entomology in Gainesville, University of South Florida, University of Miami, Florida's Department of Health, Florida Mosquito Control Association, American Mosquito Control Association, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Indian River Mosquito Control, Anastasia Mosquito Control, Collier Mosquito Control, Lee County Mosquito Control, and St. Lucie County Mosquito Control.

The purpose of this meeting was to gather Florida's expertise together to begin discussions that will lead to new collaborations on high priority issues to reduce and control mosquito-borne diseases in Florida, the U. S., and throughout the world. The wealth of expertise attending the meeting was impressive demonstrating that Florida is a leader in addressing mosquito-borne disease issues. There were short presentations describing the expertise and current efforts of several of the participating organizations. Discussions provided items that were identified as areas where research in Florida could make significant impact on vector-borne disease transmission systems.

Many research issues and priority needs were identified that are of interest to Florida mosquito control. These included:

- The risk of the importation of new pathogens into the state.
- Endemic / exotic risk and impact from mosquito-borne pathogens.
- The effects of global warming and climate change.
- Is it possible to have a major epidemic due to an arbovirus or malaria in Florida?
- The improvement of current notification systems and rapid diagnosis.
- Mosquito-borne pathogens of major concern include DENV, CHIKV, EEEV, RFV, SLEV, WNV, VEEV.
- Basic biological, ecological, and epidemiological studies of reservoir hosts and vectors.
- The importance of improved surveillance.
- The impact of pest insects on human health and individual reaction to mosquito bites.
- Interspecific interactions of pathogens.
- Effects of zoonotic mosquito-borne pathogens on livestock and wildlife.
- Bioterrorism.

These issues translated into some identified priority issues for research with recognition that the collaborators will need to identify audiences, stakeholders, and potential sources of funding to support the research. Some specific issues relevant to Florida that need to be pursued include:

- Disease surveillance, diagnostics, control, and prevention.
- Evaluation of the true risk represented by each pathogen.
- Accurate and population-sensitive range maps for vectors in Florida.

- Studies dealing with vector behavior, ecology, epidemiology, and vector competence.
- Extension of surveillance programs into the Caribbean where new pathogens that threaten Florida may originate.



Participants addressed the need for vector control training that could be provided by organizations like the FMEL, EPI, and other Florida Universities. The training already available in Florida provided by the Florida Mosquito Control Association Dodd Short Courses, the Mosquito Fly-In, and FMEL training courses like Advanced Mosquito ID were recognized as excellent and these were ready to expand to include the expertise represented at the workshop. The following ideas show the potential for future training opportunities in Florida using the collective expertise of the participants:

- The FMEL Advanced Mosquito ID Course.
- The FMEL Advanced Mosquito Biology course via distance learning.
- An NSF Center for Excellence on mosquito-borne pathogens and their control with vector control training opportunities.
- Training in grant writing, grant submissions by Florida collaborating organizations, i.e., other universities, mosquito control organizations, Florida Department of Health, FL Dept Agriculture and Consumer Services, and in developing countries.
- A Florida Biology of Disease Vectors Course with contributions and shared expertise of all participants in Florida for graduate students, senior scientists, and mosquito control and public health professionals in Florida, the U. S. and the world.

Florida mosquito control through the FMCA and its legislative committee provided support for the concept of the EPI that resulted in the state funding for the institute. The Florida legislature recognized the importance of mosquito-borne pathogens in Florida as one of the reasons for funding the EPI, and consequently the EPI recognizes that mosquito control issues facing Florida are of a high priority. The workshop in Vero Beach was Florida's first step toward greater progress on our shared concerns. The shared excitement and enthusiasm resulting from this first meeting was apparent. Future meetings are in the planning stage and it was agreed that at a future meeting a workshop will be held where participants will include Florida mosquito control district representatives.

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

The deadline for submissions to be included in the
Mar/Apr 2008 issue of
BuzzWords is April 1, 2008.

Please send change of address or newsletter submissions to:
Roxanne Connelly, Editor, 200 9th Street SE, Vero Beach, FL 32962
or buzzwords@ifas.ufl.edu