

# Missouri Mosquito & Vector Control Association

Ed. 3 Vol. 1

Newsletter

Aug. 6, 2001

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## West Nile Human Case detected in Tallahassee Florida

On 7-24-01 The St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Associated Press confirmed that a male in his fifties had been diagnosed as positive with the West Nile Virus. This report followed by two weeks the Florida Department of Health's announcement of West Nile Encephalitis (WNE) being found in dead crows in the northern Florida area. Other news sources have put the virus as active in the following states; DE, NY, CN, VT, PN, RI, MS, MD, VA, FA, and GA. At this time the disease is still confined to northern Florida. CDC is investigating how it missed the Carolinas.

### Next MMVCA meeting to be held on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>

Our next meeting will be held in Waynesville, Missouri. We will meet at the Laclede Electric Cooperative from 10am until 3pm. Lunch will be provided and a speaker (as yet to be announced) will be there to give us a background on what has happened with WNE this year. A map and directions will be provided for this meeting on the last page of the newsletter. There is no charge for the meeting however you must RSVP me (314-622-4252 or 314-752-0260) by 10-10-01. Waynesville is located between Rolla and Lebanon Missouri on I-44. Your feedback on this location would be welcomed as we are trying to meet in various locations across the state to make it easier for all the members to attend. If you know of any interested persons please bring them along (just RSVP). If possible letting administrators know what we are facing would be a help as they are the ones who control our ability to control the infectious vector (mosquitoes).

If anyone in the organization has an administrator who is not yet aware of the dangers from WNE or other mosquito borne illnesses please contact me and we can talk strategy in how to win hearts and minds.

## **Mosquito Control Training Classes to be offered**

The MMVCA will again offer hands on field training in Mosquito control this fall. October 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the dates. Training will once again take place in St. Louis Missouri at the City of St. Louis Department of Health's Vector Control Field Office. The office is located in downtown St. Louis at 1212 N. 13<sup>th</sup> St. There will be a cost for this training \$10.00 for dues paying members and \$50.00 for non dues paying members, \$60.00 for non members of the organization. At this time we have not determined who the speakers will be and whether lunch will be provided, you will be notified.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the focus will be on larval control techniques and adult mosquito surveillance. The 23<sup>rd</sup> will concentrate on surveillance and adult mosquito control. This course is in no way to be construed as a complete training course in mosquito control. It is nothing more than an introduction to the field. These classes will be hands on and in the field wear apparel that is suitable for going where the mosquitoes are. I guarantee you will get dirty but you will at least know where to start in your program.

## **American Mosquito Control Assoc. needs your help**

Mark F. Ritter

A recent court case in Oregon (Headwaters et al vs. Talent Irrigation District) has the potential to change the way all of us do or will perform mosquito control. In short the court decision from the 9<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals allows third party organizations to sue applicators of pesticides **even if they applied pesticides according to the label directions.** What the ruling supports is that if a pesticide applicator follows the label directions and applies a larvacide to a body of water but doesn't get a National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) they can be sued for a technical violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA). As a result of this court decision we are all at risk from lawsuits from a third party group even if we apply the product legally according to the label directions.

Now the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency doesn't think much of this court ruling and says that it will not enforce it for a year. The Missouri Department of Agriculture's Jim Lea has told me that Missouri won't enforce

## **AMCA continued**

this ruling requiring permits either. However if you have an organization in your area that tends towards the radical side of the green movement this is your wake up call. Please notify your representatives and officials with a dear colleague letter voicing your opposition to this plan. Also any grass roots appeals that you can make to cause new legislation to be passed to protect people from excess government regulation (that even the EPA thinks is excessive) would be welcome.

We must all be stewards of the environment however when we follow the rules and do our job safely and inside the rules set forth by sound scientific research we should not be penalized by some third party. Some organizations have agendas that are based on pseudo science and in some cases outright fraud, we all must do what we can to defend against this to better protect our citizens. I have included the position paper of the American Mosquito Control Association in this newsletter as well as their fact sheet.

## **MMVCA People News**

Mr. Larry Schaughnessy, our Treasurer underwent heart bypass surgery last June. Lucky for us Larry came out of it fine and will be returning to work soon. I hope you will all join in, to welcome him back.

Also this June our Vice President Barry McCauley underwent back surgery. Barry is back at work and feeling much better and just in time for the busiest part of the season!

It was a bit of a struggle to find both of these fine officers out of commission at the same time lets hope that it will not happen again our organization needs them. I wish to thank Melanie Hein for all her help when Barry and Larry were gone.

Mr. Stephan Craig of the Independence Health department has retired we would all like to extend our congratulations to Steve and thanks to him for his past contributions to the organization.

## **One Municipalities Problem**

An illness to a key staff member caught the City of St. Peters by surprise this spring. When our Larry Schaughnessy was hospitalized I received several worried phone calls from the St. Peters City Administrator. It seems he had only one licensed pesticide applicator. All of you must be aware of two critical points. First the State of Missouri, Plant Industries Division, of the MO Department of Agriculture licenses all applicators, if they apply restricted pesticides. Second, that relying on only one person on your staff can lead to a stressful situation if that person is absent. In this case the city was lucky that the county came to their rescue, but there their main man was also ill. I think that this could be a key lesson for those of us in Public Health. Cross training is necessary and in an emergency you could have your staff picked clean by a more affluent organization. Protect your citizens and your organization and train, train, train.

All of our members should be made aware of the laws and dangers inherent in this type of situation. West Nile is coming closer every day; the demand for trained mosquito control personnel is growing. To protect your citizens start training staff now and get serious about this. Otherwise you may find yourself in the situation that New York City was in, in 1999. The end result was they had to pay a contractor a very stiff price in the millions of dollars, and had to deal with the problem on an emergency basis. We all have been warned by the CDC about future disease outbreaks, if we are unprepared it is our own fault, we've been warned.