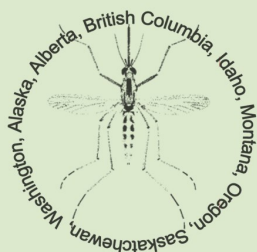




Vector News

A Publication of the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association

March, 2024



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Executive Director's Report

Hello all,

I hope everyone had a safe relaxing off-season. This has been a very mild winter with really only about a week of real winter like conditions. But who knows what could happen in the next couple months, I gave up trying to predict it a long time ago. Drones continue to be a hot topic but I noticed a new trend among districts, the use of ¾ time employees. We are also approaching our annual spring meeting and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there to kick off another mosquito control season.

Finding good seasonal help has always been a challenge, probably one of the most difficult tasks we face. Lately it has seemed like it has moved past difficult and has become next to impossible. While the use of drones has helped some, more districts are adding an employee that does not work the full year. To help ensure they return the next season districts are using methods to make the position more attractive. The two main things most districts are doing is offering a good salary and also benefits. I'm not sure how each district has this position set up, maybe a good topic for a speaker someday. At my district we structure it much like a school teacher and they do not work from November 15th to February 15th, we paid \$65,000 plus benefits over the entire year. It just so happens that the person we had last year is not returning so we will be looking to fill this position again if anyone is interested! A little plug for Yakima County, a benefit of being Executive Director.

We are just over a month and a half until the annual NW spring meeting. It will be held in Richland, Washington at the Holiday Inn, Richland on the river April 10th and a half day on the 11th. It is the same hotel we have used in the past. Shaun Calver is putting together the agenda and we are looking forward to another great meeting. Just a quick note about our spring and fall meetings; putting together the agenda is the hardest part by far. If your state rep asked for ideas for talks please try to help. If you have a trial or something interesting happening at your program reach out and volunteer to do a talk. These meetings depend on good ideas from our members. I hope everyone is happy and healthy and ready for another successful season. I look forward to seeing everyone at the spring workshop. I encourage those people who don't attend often, or even at all, to make it to these meetings. All of our programs can greatly benefit from the information provided in these talks. Sometimes what we learn outside the meetings at social events or going out to dinner can be even more valuable. Plus if you happen to have a good time that's a win win.

*Kelly Beehler,
NWMVCA Executive Director*



Holiday Inn, Richland WA

President's Message

Hello Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association members!

Winter is coming to an end, and the time to begin conducting surveillance and larviciding operations is soon upon us. In my district we're already finding winter pool mosquitoes in droves. I hope everyone had a good opportunity to learn from and troubleshoot problems that arose during last year's season over the winter.

As we enter 2024, with new ways of confronting vectors on the horizon, I am hopeful that we can continue the fight against vector-borne illness and ensure comfort and safety to our constituents and stakeholders.

I'd like to invite all of you to our yearly Spring workshop in Richland, WA on April 10th and 11th so that we can share information and collaborate. I look forward to seeing everyone old and new!

Here's to a happy season!

Sincerely,

Michael McKeague-Foster, President NWMVCA

AMCA North Pacific Director

I just want to thank everyone in the AMCA North Pacific Region for giving me the opportunity to serve and represent you as your AMCA North Pacific Director for the past 6 years. This has been a wonderful experience for me visiting all of you at various mosquito meetings around the PNW. My North Pacific colleagues never cease to amaze me with your diligence and professionalism in your mosquito control work. I want to thank the AMG management staff who always do an outstanding job keeping the AMCA Board on point. Thank you to everyone who is serving as a committee member at your local State, Regional and National level, it is such a vital part of mosquito control. Lastly, I want to thank each member who has served and is currently serving on the AMCA Board of Directors. All of you folks do wonderful things that are vital to mosquito control and the AMCA membership. Good things are coming, and we are in very capable hands with Angela Beehler as my successor. It has been my pleasure to serve you, the AMCA Membership.

Sincerely,

Greg Barron, AMCA North Pacific Director

Thank You to Our Sustaining Members!

Ada County Mosquito Abatement District
AMGUARD
Azelis
Benton County Mosquito Control
Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District
Central Life Sciences
Clarke
Frontier Precision, Inc.

Leading Edge
North Morrow Vector Control District
Target Specialty Products
Three Rivers Mosquito & Vector Control
Valent BioSciences
VDCI
Veseris
West Umatilla Mosquito Control District

NWMVCA Officers

President: Michael McKegue-Foster
President Elect: Nikki Harris
Vice President: Shaun Calver
Past President: David Boggs
Secretary/Treasurer: Chris Law
Executive Director: Kelly Beehler

NWMVCA Representatives

Alaska: Vacant
Alberta: Vacant
British Columbia: Cheryl Phippen
Idaho Rep: Chris Ocegueda
Montana Rep: Jessica Bushnell
Oregon Rep: Ken Carver
Saskatchewan: Vacant
Washington Rep: David Beus
North Pacific AMCA Director: Angela Beehler
Industry Rep: Nate Hill
Trustee Rep: Doug Shinn
Newsletter Editor: Cheyenne Keel
Webmaster: Kevin Shoemaker

Spring Workshop Speakers Needed!

Did you, or someone you know conduct an interesting field trial? Tried a new trap, application method, or a new way to educate the public? We'd love to hear about it at the Spring Workshop!

If you have something you would be willing to present or an idea for a presentation please contact either your state rep. or Shaun Calver at shaun@morrowbioscience.com

2024 NWMVCA Spring Workshop in Richland, WA April 10th - 11th at Holiday Inn, Richland on the River



Join us for our annual Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association's Spring Workshop! The workshop will take place April 10th & 11th at the Holiday Inn, Richland on the River.

Address: 802 George Washington Way, Richland, WA 99352
Hotel Phone #: (509) 946-7611

Agenda: To Be Determined, we need speakers! If interested or if you have an idea for one contact your state rep. or Shaun Calver at shaun@morrowbioscience.com

Schedule:

Wednesday, April 10th— Full day of presentations.

Thursday, April 11th— Half day of presentations.

Each individual guest must make their own reservations by calling (509) 946-7611 before 3/20/2024 and identifying themselves as members of the Group (i.e., the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association).

Room Rates: Standard room rates for a single King or Two Queen beds is \$133.00 plus tax. Rates are available for 3 days prior and 3 days after the event. All rooms include breakfast.

State and Providence Reports

Idaho

Spring is officially here! That means it's all rainbows and butterflies, right? Well, yes and no. Here in Idaho the sun is shining, the weather is heating up, the rain rolls in, and the flowers begin to blossom... but that means the irritating bugs are starting to buzz in, too... or maybe it's the phone calls that are buzzing in the office, I'm not sure. Although most insects emerge once the warm weather and long days of summer are in full swing, some insects begin flying early in the spring, often before the leaves are out. On top of the usual seasonal cycle here in Idaho, certain regions could have larger insect populations than usual – and they may be arriving earlier than usual – due to the above-average spring temperatures Idaho is experiencing. A stronger-than-normal El Niño brought record-warm temperature spells to Idaho and multiple atmospheric rivers to slam into the West Coast, bringing record rainfall to parts of the Pacific Northwest and heavy rain. In addition to the favorable conditions for the survival of over-wintering insects, the current high temperatures aren't making things any better. Even the McCall Winter Carnival had to “forget the rules” for the ice sculpture contest due to the warm weather. Nathan Mitchell, District Manager of Edwards Mosquito Abatement District reminds us “It feels like spring now, but we remain cautious, knowing that winter could return abruptly. However, this year, the early arrival of spring might hasten their (mosquitoes) return due to the minimal snowfall.”

With the public heading outdoors more often, they are experiencing the over-wintering mosquitoes and other mosquito looking insects. This is a typical trend that we see every year when we get a few days of sunny and warm weather in Idaho. These mosquitoes are ones that had been hibernating during the past few months. The warm temperatures will bring them out of resting and they are unrelenting in search of a blood meal; fortunately, these mosquitoes are not the same species that can pose a threat for West Nile virus and are considered a seasonal nuisance that is common during this time of the year.

Desiree Keeney of Ada County Mosquito Abatement District would like to invite everyone to visit the Idaho Mosquito & Vector Control Association's new website address: www.idmvca.net so look for news and updates there. IMVCA will be having our spring workshop the week of May 7-8th, 2024 with hands-on activities, drone characterization training, along with credits opportunities! Look for the agenda to come out soon on the website.

Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District has their RT-PCR up and running with crews out calibrating drones and will soon be out dipping for larva.

Ada County is hiring seasonal field technician positions, so if you know of someone interested, please contact Desiree Keeney @ dkeeney@adacounty.id.gov or 208-577-4636. The season is fast approaching here in Idaho.

Chris Ocegueda, Idaho State Rep, NWMVCA

State and Providence Reports

Montana

The 2024 MMVCA meeting was well attended and our spring workshop will be May 22nd at the Cascade County Public works building. It will be interesting to see what this weird weather will bring come spring.

Broadwater County: We're enjoying the slow season right now. Luckily, we have our only seasonal returning for the 4th year! – *Jessica Bushnell*

Jefferson County: Preparing for the upcoming season. I have one seasonal staff person in place so far. Trying to gauge what the weather will be with such a mild winter we are having. – *Jill Allen*

Flathead County Mosquito Control: After the unprecedented runoff and flooding in 2022, the Flathead County Mosquito Control program anticipated a more normal season in 2023. When the 2023 season was more "normal" and our larvicide treatments successfully controlled our mosquito population, the staff was pleased.

Currently we have hired one seasonal employee to the program and are hopeful for another before April. Due to recent mild weather, our present snowpack percentage is below average and has been gradually decreasing. Our lack of snow as well as warm temperatures will most likely result in a gradual melt off over the course of the Spring.

The Program has just over 1600 larvicide areas throughout the County, and we presume we will be adding many more this season due to the population growth in Flathead County. We are experiencing longer mosquito seasons which now run from mid-March through September. – *Brock Boll*

Cascade County: Cascade County is starting to prepare for the upcoming season starting with employee recruitment. We have multiple seasonal sprayer/operator positions open as well as our full-time field supervisor position. Other than that, just enjoying the slow season for now. – *Josh Blystone*

Hill County: With the passing of Josh Miller early last summer, we have hired Austin Nelson to be our Pilot in Command for Hill County. Austin just completed his training with Leading Edge Technologies in Florida to fly the 40X drone purchased at the NWMVCA meeting in Whitefish! We are excited to put the 40X to work this spring. – *Terry Turner*

Washington

Greetings from Washington, our report will be short and sweet. Spring is right around the corner, I think, and I'm sure everyone is gearing up for another mosquito season. With our new NPDES Permit and application process, soon to be updated WSDA pesticide examinations and some ridiculous lawsuits, we're looking forward to the mosquito season being business as usual. We've all had time to reflect on what worked and didn't work in 2023 and analyzed plenty of data; we're looking forward to getting back at it and making the necessary adjustments in our programs.

It was great seeing so many of you in the association in Whitefish in October. I thought that was an excellent conference and came away with a lot of good ideas to consider, some as creative and intriguing as mushrooms that produce CO₂ at a similar rate to dry ice for our traps. I'm sure our meeting on April 10 and 11 in Richland will be excellent as well and I hope to see many of you there!

David Beus, Washington State Rep, NWMVCA

Oregon

West Nile Virus Activity in Oregon: 2023 Year End Report

In 2023, Oregon reported a total of 70 positive mosquito pools, 3 infected horses, and 10 human cases of WNV, two of which were acquired out of state. The majority of the WNV activity occurred in Baker County, which had 29 positive mosquito pools and 3 human cases. Other counties with high WNV activity were Umatilla County (14 mosquito pools), Malheur County (11 mosquito pools and 2 human cases), and Jackson County (10 mosquito pools). The remaining WNV activity was isolated in other counties within the state. For a complete overview of WNV activity within Oregon, you can review this information on our state website (<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/WESTNILEVIRUS/Pages/survey.aspx>).

In anticipation of 2024, Oregon’s regional drought monitoring systems currently indicates limited drought conditions with just under 15% of the state classified as experiencing moderate drought conditions. Considering the above average moisture conditions for the majority of Oregon, hopefully this trend continues and potentially reduces arbovirus activity this coming mosquito season.

Vector Control Program Updates:

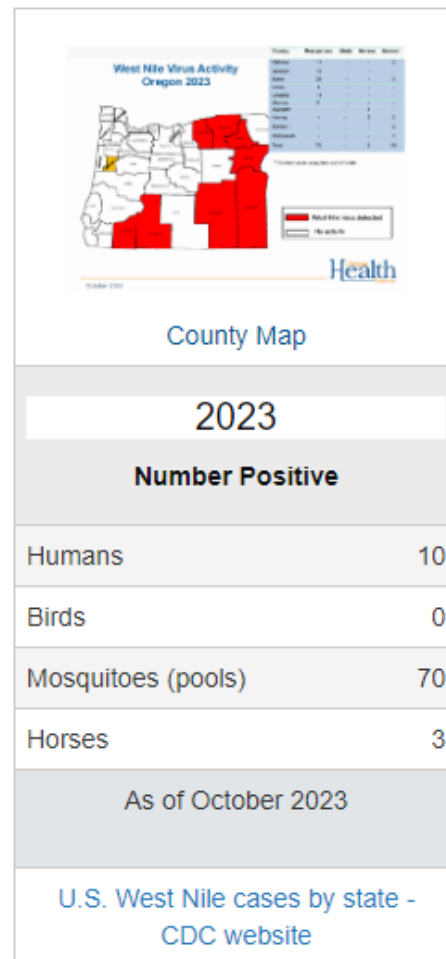
The Multnomah County Vector Control (MCVC) and Code Enforcement program, performs periodic surveillance for rodent borne diseases within Multnomah County (Portland metro area). However, since their surveillance was complaint-driven, there were large gaps in knowledge of rodent populations and disease prevalence. To better protect public health and the more vulnerable populations, they have greatly expanded their rodent program over the past three years.

Their work now includes a wider scope of proactive measures to assist and educate a greater number of constituents:

- Partnering with Food Inspections during initial licensing of food cart pods
- Attending low-income home improvement workshops and neighborhood meetings
- Working with established houseless camps to decrease favorable rodent habitat.
- Advertising our free home inspections and snap traps to County residents
- Live trapping and testing rodent populations to determine public health concerns.

Ken Carver, Oregon Rep, NWMVCA

Oregon Cases



**Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association
2024 Spring Workshop Registration Form**

April 10th-11th, 2024

**Holiday Inn Richland on the River
802 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99352**

Please use one form per registrant. Make copies if needed.

Agency

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Fax

Email address

	Member Fee	Non Member Fee	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, April 10 & Thursday, April 11, 2024	\$40	\$60	\$ _____
• <i>Breaks, and evening networking event included</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Registration Fee (after April 7, 2024)	\$10	\$10	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2024 Membership Renewal (Based on a calendar year)	\$50		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2024 Sustaining Membership (Based on a calendar year)	\$250		\$ _____
		TOTAL	\$ _____

_____ Payment Enclosed

_____ Bill Me

_____ Will Pay at the Door
(check or charge)

Refund Policy:

Registration fees will not be refunded unless a request is made prior to March 30, 2024

Please return this form and make checks payable (IN US DOLLARS) to:

Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association (NWMVCA)

c/o Chris Law

PO Box 2943 – La Grande, OR 97850

Phone: 541-963-2974 or email nwmvca@gmail.com

**Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association
2024 Spring Workshop SPONSOR Registration Form**

**Holiday Inn Richland on the River
802 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99352**

April 10th-11th, 2024

Please use one form per registrant. Make copies if needed.

Agency

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Fax

Email address

	Member Fee	Non Member Fee	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, April 10 & Thursday, April 11, 2024 • <i>Breaks, and evening networking event included</i>	\$40	\$60	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Level _____ (Platinum \$800, Gold \$600, Silver \$400)	\$ _____		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2024 Sustaining Membership Renewal (Based on a calendar year)	\$250		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2024 Regular Membership (Based on a calendar year)	\$50		\$ _____
		TOTAL	\$ _____

_____ Payment Enclosed

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