



OHIO MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER

by the OMCA Board Members

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[www.ohiomosquitocontrol.us](http://www.ohiomosquitocontrol.us)

May, 2013

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Aedes albopictus Mosquito photo  
above by James Gathany.

All photos in this newsletter are  
by James Gathany or an unknown  
photographer and were obtained  
from the CDC.

## In This Issue

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## Message from the President

As I sit down to write my first "Message from the President" column for the OMCA newsletter I find myself becoming a bit nostalgic and thinking about my early experiences with this organization. One of my earliest OMCA memories is that of being a young excited graduate student attending the annual conference at the University Plaza in Columbus in 1999. As we all know, that year was the beginning of West Nile Virus here in the United States. My memory of that annual meeting was looking around the room and thinking to myself "Wow! Look at the number of people here and the level of expertise in this room." Attendance for that conference had to be over 150 people (the room was full) with speakers from various government agencies, including the Ohio Department of Health and the CDC. In 1999, West Nile Virus put a real focus on our organization, our industry, and the important work we do.

Fast forward almost 15 years and I see that OMCA has undergone a major transformation. Politicians, political entities, and budget makers have started to forget about the impact West Nile Virus had on the citizens of our country and our state. As budget purse strings have tightened, our membership has suffered. Gone are the days when we could host a two and a half day long annual meeting and fill a conference room with 150 people. Programs and resources traditionally available to us for expert information and assistance are being threatened and eliminated. Many of the experienced and knowledgeable experts in our industry that assisted in the early years and formulation of our organization are retiring and moving on from our profession, taking with them a great deal of knowledge and historical perspective.

Things are definitely changing, and as an organization, OMCA must evolve with the times. Some changes to our organization have already taken place... we are now moving toward exclusively electronic newsletters (this will be the last printed newsletter sent to members with e-mail addresses on record) that will be posted on our new website address [www.ohiomosquitocontrol.us](http://www.ohiomosquitocontrol.us). We have phased out our involvement in the "Vector Control Workshops", turning them over to the private industry representatives. We are going to be taking on a stronger role in being the voice and advocate for our industry, beginning with letters to representatives regarding the severe cuts and elimination of the vector-borne disease program at ODH (you can learn more about this inside this newsletter). But the biggest need for our organization right now is to get the word out about what we do and encourage our colleagues and other interested parties to become active members of OMCA. With increased membership numbers our positions and opinions on important issues for our industry become stronger and more consistent, our resources more diverse, and our impact becomes greater. I invite you all to take some ownership in our organization and help move it

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forward in a positive direction that can help us in the important work we do (see our “Call for Action” column below).

My hope for this coming year is that our organization can grow in membership and become the leading source for mosquito control information in our state. This organization was founded to promote vector control in Ohio and maintain public interest in areas where mosquitoes are already being controlled, to stay current with the latest developments in control methods, to disseminate information to members and the general public, and to unite and coordinate common interests and efforts. If we can get back to the roots of why this organization was started we will be a great asset for the citizens of Ohio and the mosquito control industry.

In these trying times, where our industry is heavily scrutinized and finances are challenged, it is essential that we stand tall as professionals and show the value of the work we perform whenever possible. Have a great mosquito control season and save the date of October 21st in Richfield, Ohio for our next annual meeting.

Your President,

Paul R. Bauman, MS, RS

## Ohio Arbovirus Surveillance Data

The following charts display the data for mosquito and tick-borne disease transmitted in Ohio in 2012.

### REPORTS TO ODH OF HUMAN MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES, 2012\*

Disease	Reported	CDC Cases**	Suspect	Not a Case	Notes
Malaria	45	41	1	3	Foreign Exposure
Chikungunya	0	0	0	0	
Dengue	19	6	5	8	Foreign Exposure
West Nile Virus	351	121	31	199	Cases from 32 counties, 7 fatalities
St. Louis	3	0	0	3	
LaCrosse	18	13	0	5	Cases from 12 counties

\*2012 data provisional as of 02/14/2013.

\*\* Meeting Confirmed and/or Probable Case Definition

### REPORTS TO ODH OF HUMAN TICK-BORNE DISEASES, 2012\*

Disease	Reported	CDC Cases**	Suspect	Not a Case	Notes
Rocky Mt Spotted Fever	104	22	61	21	(Dog Tick) Cases from 16 counties
Ehrlichia	6	3	3	0	(Lone Star) Cases from 3 counties
Anaplasma	8	1	6	1	(BLT) Case from Trumbull Co.
Typhus Fever	8	0	5	3	
Lyme disease	473	67	322	84	(BLT) From 30 counties, 1 from Minn.

\* 2012 data provisional as of 2/14/2013.

\*\* Meeting Confirmed and/or Probable Case Definition

Black-Legged Ticks Identified in Ohio	
1989-2008	35
2009	16
2010	45
2011	2,014

## Call for Action

If you were wondering what you could do to help our organization, here are some items that need to be addressed to help make OMCA a stronger, more efficient, and meaningful organization...

1. Contact your political representatives to educate them on the impact of losing the ODH Zoonotic Disease Prevention Program. OMCA sent a letter to the ODH director, Dr. Wymyslo, that is posted on our website ([www.ohiomosquitococontrol.us](http://www.ohiomosquitococontrol.us)) that could be used for talking points, if needed.
2. Bring a colleague to our next annual meeting, October 21, 2013 in Richfield. This conference is a great way to boost membership and spread our message throughout the state.
3. Provide updated e-mail contact information to our treasurer, Joe Lynch at [jlynch@ccbh.net](mailto:jlynch@ccbh.net). This will allow us to move forward in our initiative to become “paperless”, saving our organization printing and postage costs. This also allows us to disseminate information in the quickest manner possible.
4. Step up and volunteer to help us out if you are a “techie”. We could use someone with computer expertise to help us update and maintain our website. If you are interested in helping, please contact Paul Bauman at [baumanp@co.lucas.oh.us](mailto:baumanp@co.lucas.oh.us)
5. As issues arise, new information is learned, or helpful experiences occur, please tell us about it. Contact one of the members of the Board of Directors and let’s make our organization the place people turn to for advice, expertise, and the latest information.
6. Remember to contact your chemical distributors to have your equipment calibrated and tuned up for the season.
7. Have a great mosquito season!

## Cuts to Zoonotic Disease Program at ODH

In April 2013, Dr. Theodore Wymyslo sent the following letter to local Health Commissioners. The impact of the cuts to the Zoonotic Disease Program will have a huge impact on our operations. OMCA responded to the letter asking that the program be reinstated.



APR 11 2013

### OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

246 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614/466-3543  
[www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)

John R. Kasich / Governor

Theodore E. Wymyslo, M.D. / Director of Health

Dear Health Commissioners,

As you are aware, the Zoonotic Disease Program (ZDP) at the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) was heavily impacted during the biennium budget for 2012-2013. At that time, ODH was able to maintain mosquito and tick identification services, as well as arbovirus testing of mosquitoes with available federal funds and a stock of testing supplies. Unfortunately, laboratory testing supplies were exhausted during the 2012 West Nile virus (WNV) outbreak.

Mosquito surveillance is one component of local health jurisdictions' WNV response plans. Other components include education to prevent mosquito bites and to reduce mosquito breeding sites and community-based mosquito control programs that may include larvaciding and adulticiding field activities. While mosquito surveillance is a valuable part of WNV response planning, the federal government has cut funding to this area and ODH does not have other funds available to support this activity.

I regret to officially inform you that due to the reduction in federal funds, starting in spring 2013, the following services will no longer be available:

- **Mosquito arbovirus testing**

ODH will no longer provide testing of mosquitoes

Weekly statewide arbovirus activity/surveillance updates will not be issued

Mosquito identification and testing options: In order to determine infection rates, it is critical that mosquitoes are correctly identified and tested by species (there are 59 species of mosquito in Ohio). ODH is exploring the possibility of offering a few mosquito identification clinics at ODH

- There are a variety of test kits (e.g. RAMP, VecToR Test Systems) that can be purchased for mosquito testing, but our recommendation is to use a qualified service that provides both identification and testing.
- Mosquito control agencies could check with their control vendors (Clarke, Univair, etc.) who may provide identification and testing or may be able to point them to a service.
- PCR is the gold standard, where RAMP and other test kits sometimes give false results. If PCR is desired and unavailable through private services, our recommendation is to check with other state public health labs which continue to provide mosquito testing.



- **Mosquito, tick and insect identification service for local health departments**

ODH will no longer provide mosquito, tick and insect identification services

Options:

- Tick identification quick key available on ODH website. It covers the 3 most common species. It is important to note that positive identification of the blacklegged tick, which looks very similar to 9 other Ohio species, may require a qualified entomologist.
- Samples may be sent to the C. Wayne Ellett Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic for a fee of \$20 per sample: <http://ppdc.osu.edu/> You may have other local options you wish to pursue for testing samples.



## OHIO MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

12300 Spruce Pointe  
Strongsville, OH 44149

### Grant-In-Aid Program

**Grant-In-Aid is available thru OMCA for up to \$1,000 to fund projects related to vector biology, ecology, surveillance or control.**

#### The Grant can be awarded to:

- Local or State mosquito control personnel
- Student research projects



#### Application requirements:

Please submit the following to the OMCA Board of Directors:

- Project description (1 page limit)
- Project time line (1 page limit)
- Proposed project budget\* (1 page limit)

\*Travel funds to present project at the OMCA Annual Meeting may be included in the budget.

#### Deadline:

All information should be postmarked by **July 1, 2013**.

#### Miscellaneous information:

- Example applications available upon request.
- Recipients are awarded a one year OMCA membership.
- Recipients are expected to present results at the first annual meeting following your proposed deadline.

#### Please mail to:

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635 N. Erie Street  
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[baumanp@co.lucas.oh.us](mailto:baumanp@co.lucas.oh.us)



### Call for Speakers

Are there specific, category credit hours that you need for your license? Have you seen a great talk or do you know of anyone working on an interesting project who you would like hear speak at the OMCA annual meeting? We are always looking for speakers who cover topics of interest to our membership.

Please contact Paul Bauman with your ideas at [baumanp@co.lucas.oh.us](mailto:baumanp@co.lucas.oh.us).

**Annual Meeting 2013  
October 21  
Days Inn and Suites  
Richfield, OH**

### Newsletter Submissions

The newsletter belongs to all association members. If you are interested in a certain topic, or if you would like to submit a short article or other item, please contact any of the board members. Our contact information is on the front of this newsletter.