



NEWSLETTER

by the OMVCA Board Members

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www.ohiomosquito.org

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Message from the President

Welcome to our spring newsletter! Inside you'll find information about National Mosquito Awareness Week, Lyme disease in Ohio, submitting mosquito and tick specimens to the Ohio Department of Health, and our fall annual meeting. We want this newsletter to be valuable and informative to you, so please feel free to provide me with your feedback.

My primary goal as your president is to provide you with support and guidance to better help you protect the public from vector-borne disease. One resource I hope can provide you with guidance is our association's website. I'm in the process of updating our website (www.ohiomosquito.org) so it can be a reliable source for you to obtain information relating to zoonotic disease, tick and mosquito identification, integrated pest management, NPDES compliance, important contacts, and educational documents. Speaking of helpful resources, I also urge you to visit the American Mosquito Control Association's website at www.mosquito.org which has a surplus of helpful resources, especially if you're a member.

It's a privilege to lead this association and I hope to see you at our fall meeting so we can share ideas and collaborate to strengthen the Ohio Mosquito and Vector Control Association (OMVCA). Several of you provided me with guidance when I was new to this field, which helped me to enhance numerous areas of the vector control program I managed from 2013 to 2015. I hope to pay it forward and help others in the same way many of you assisted me. If there are individuals you know that would benefit from joining OMVCA please encourage them to become a member and attend our fall meeting in October.

You're an asset to this association and I appreciate the contributions you make to protect Ohioans from the threat of vector-borne disease.

Your President,

Scott R. Whittaker, R.S.



2018 National Mosquito Awareness Week (June 24–30, 2018)

National Mosquito Awareness Week is an opportunity for you to get the word out about preventing the spread of mosquitoes and protecting yourself from the diseases they can carry and transmit. Luckily, the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) has created resources to help you get the word out. Here are a few recommendations to help you get started:

- Distribute a press release to local media sources.
- Contact your local radio station and offer to be a guest expert.
- Contact your local elementary school and offer to talk about mosquitoes or provide them with a demonstration (for example, pass around a sealed jar of immature mosquitoes so they can see the different stages of their development).
- Contact your local Girl Scout or Boy Scout troops and offer to teach them about mosquitoes.
- Set up an informational display in your community.
- Hold an open house at your district or department.
- Set up a tire drive.



Aedes albopictus



Aedes aegypti

For additional ideas and resources to help you with your mosquito awareness campaign please visit AMCA's webpage at www.mosquito.org/page/mosquitoweek

Mosquito Surveillance and Tick Identification

The Ohio Department of Health will begin accepting mosquitoes for identification and West Nile Virus testing on May 14th (tentatively). ODH will continue to pay for shipping and provide coolers, ice packs and tubes as needed. There are also mosquito traps, larvae dippers, aspirators, etc. available upon request. More detailed information will be sent via email. Contact Leanne Garrett with any questions at leeanne.garrett@odh.ohio.gov or **614-466-7215**.

ODH also accepts ticks for identification year-round. Testing is NOT performed on the ticks. Place the tick with a small amount of alcohol in a leak-proof vial or baggie and mail in a padded envelope to: ZDP Tick Identification, Ohio Department of Health, 8995 East Main Street, Building 22, Reynoldsburg OH 43068. In lieu of mailing the tick, high-resolution photos can be sent to zoonoses@odh.ohio.gov. Call **614-752-1029** for any tick-related questions.

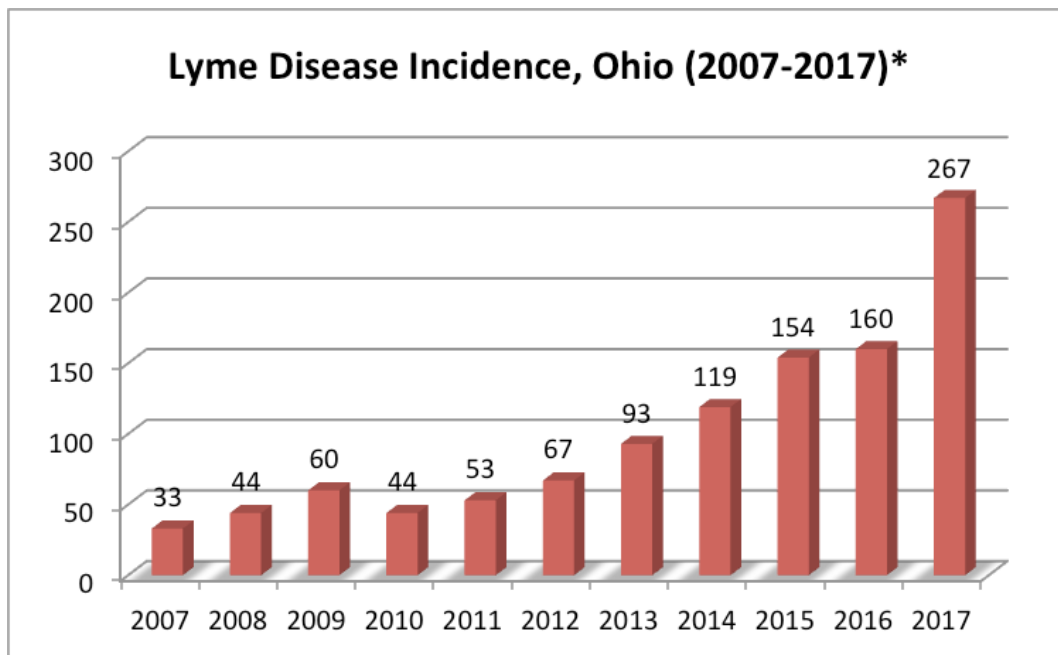


Lyme Disease in Ohio

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans (the “bull’s-eye” rash).

Lyme disease occurs primarily in the Northeastern and upper Midwestern United States. Ohio is located between these two endemic regions and reported fairly low occurrence of Lyme disease in the past. The low occurrence of Lyme disease cases in Ohio was attributed to the absence of the tick vector, *Ixodes scapularis*, known as the blacklegged tick or deer tick.

Since 2010, blacklegged tick populations in Ohio have increased dramatically, and their range continues to expand in the state, particularly in the forest habitats preferred by this tick. Human and pet encounters with this tick are sure to increase, and the number of Lyme disease cases may also rise if prevention measures are not taken for both people and pets.



Source: Ohio Department of Health *Data as of 2/14/2018





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Save the Date

This year, the OMVCA Annual Meeting will be held in the heart of Columbus at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Details about our annual meeting, including registration and room rates, will be added to our website in the coming weeks, so check back often at www.ohiomosquito.org. We hope to see you all in October!

COLUMBUS
OCTOBER
10-11, 2018



Call for Speakers

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 OMVCA annual meeting? Are you seeking specific continuing education credits to maintain a license? We are always looking for speakers who cover topics of interest to our membership. Please contact Michael Cooper with your ideas at mcooper@health.athens.oh.us.

