



OHIO MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

by the OMVCA Board Members
www.ohiomosquito.org

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Message from the President

Greetings OMVCA Members:

I hope you have all been doing well as the vector surveillance and control season begins. Since our last newsletter, there have been many changes the board members and I have made to keep this Association up-to-date and a viable resource for you. Here are a few OMVCA highlights and updates I'd like to share with you:

January 2019 – Our logo had been updated and incorporated into our OMVCA website. Our website has also been updated to include additional resources (for example, educational videos and documents).

May 23, 2019 – The Ohio Mosquito and Vector Control Association (OMVCA), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Diseases (MCE-VBD) held a 1-day insecticide resistance monitoring workshop at the Toledo Area Sanitary District (TASD).

June 4, 2019 – The Ohio Mosquito and Vector Control Association (OMVCA), in partnership with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Columbus Public Health (CPH), provided vector surveillance and control training.

July 2019 – The summer newsletter will be sent with full details concerning the fall conference and an update to vector surveillance in Ohio.

October 21-22, 2019 – The OMVCA Fall Conference to be held in northwest Ohio.

I hope to see you all at our conference this fall, and please let the board members or me know if we can help you or what we can do to strengthen the OMVCA.

Best Regards,

Scott R. Whittaker, R.S.



Save the Date

This year, the OMVCA Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Toledo Perrysburg. 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!

TOLEDO
OCTOBER
21-22, 2019

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 Jacob Sublett with your ideas at jsublett@tasd-mosquitoes.org.



ODH Surveillance

The Ohio Department of Health has begun accepting mosquitoes for identification and West Nile Virus testing. 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 leanne.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.

Legislative & Regulatory Updates

There is a lot happening on the legislative front with pesticide applications and, more specifically, applications made for mosquito control. We have seen movement with some of our longstanding regulatory issues as well as developments in some new areas. These topics will be discussed in more detail at our annual conference in October, but here are brief summaries for a few of our issues:

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits

The legislation proposed to eliminate the requirement for duplicative permitting and record keeping for lawful pesticide applications made under FIFRA was not included in the final version of the 2018 Farm Bill, as we had hoped. Initially included in the Farm Bill version passed by the House of Representatives, the NPDES fix was not included in the initial Senate version of the Bill. In conference for the combination of the two versions to form the final Farm Bill, none of the proposed environmental policy changes were adopted. The primary reasons for the exclusions can be attributed to the change in the composition of Congress from the mid-term elections and strong opposition in conference from Senator Stabenow of Michigan. The good news is that attention was again brought to the issue of NPDES permit requirements and more members of Congress were educated on the issue and it seems to be a more palatable topic moving forward. New legislation has again been introduced by Representative Bob Gibbs (R-OH-7) to try and create relief from NPDES burdens. Representative Gibbs has been a champion of this cause and his efforts should be greatly appreciated by everyone tasked with the important public health duty of mosquito control. The new legislation introduced in the House is H.R. 890 – Reducing EPA Duplication To Advance Pesticide Enforcement Act (REDTAPE Act). Please reach out to your Representatives to support this important piece of legislation.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Handbook for Mosquito Management on Refuges

In June of 2018, the USFWS released a Handbook for Mosquito Management on National Wildlife Refuges. This manual has been over twenty

years in the making and gone through several drafts before this final version was released. The USFWS did consult with the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) for input on the handbook and the overall collaboration is greatly appreciated. There are some issues with the manual that are being pursued by the AMCA, and OMVCA will keep membership updated on progress in addressing those issues. The manual can be viewed at www.fws.gov/policy/MosquitoHandbook_6_2018.pdf

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

As more species become federally listed as threatened or endangered, the role of pesticide exposure to species survival/recovery receives more attention. When active ingredients are reviewed for re-registration, the EPA uses a worst case exposure scenario that “may affect” a single individual organism of a listed species. If it is determined that a single organism may be affected, then the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) or the “Services” must consult with the EPA to formulate a Biological Opinion (BiOp) regarding the continued use of the product and its impact on jeopardizing the survival of the species, as a whole. This is a difficult task that has not always used the “best available data”. Consequently, rushed and overly conservative conclusions can be made. This was the case recently with the evaluation of malathion and chlorpyrifos, where it was determined the use of these active ingredients were likely to jeopardize many listed species and critical habitats. Unfortunately, the use and exposure data were unrealistically high, and the thresholds for finding significant impacts to listed species were absurdly low (a 1/1,000,000 chance of mortality to one organism was used to define an impact on an entire species). These types of conservative BiOps create the risk of mosquito



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control professionals losing access to the already limited tools at our disposal. As a group, we need to ask legislators to fix the process and demand that sound science and realistic exposures are used when determining the actual risk our products pose to listed species.

Lake Erie Bill of Rights (LEBOR)

In a special election held in February, the city of Toledo voters approved a Bill of Rights for Lake Erie. This landmark piece of legislation was widely viewed as a victory for the health of the lake and a clean source of drinking water for the region. This “Rights of Nature” type of legislation poses significant problems for pesticide users within the Lake Erie watershed. The LEBOR establishes “irrevocable rights for the Lake Erie Ecosystem to exist, flourish, and naturally evolve”. LEBOR also states that, “All rights secured by this law are inherent, fundamental, and unalienable, and



shall be self-executing and enforceable against both private and public actors.” LEBOR goes on to further state, “No permit, license, privilege, charter, or other authorization issued to a corporation, by any state or federal entity, that would violate the prohibitions of this law or any rights secured by this law shall be deemed valid within the City of Toledo.” LEBOR is enforceable through private citizen suits. It is currently being challenged in the courts before being enacted. One can easily see how the open-ended rights that supersede permitting and licensing could be problematic for pesticide applicators. Even following the law and conducting applications in a lawful way could result in citizen lawsuits based on opinions of harming the Lake Erie ecosystem. This is definitely an issue to keep an eye on for those in the Toledo area and could be a blueprint for other areas to pursue similar legislation around the state.