

Chatham County 2024 Update

Ture Carlson



Yellow Legged Hornet

- **April 11th – Setting YLH traps for GDA**
 - **Started with GDA GIS in early March**
 - **Run them all year**
 - **Check and replace bait every 2 weeks**
 - **YTD 11 of 67 trap locations have been positive**

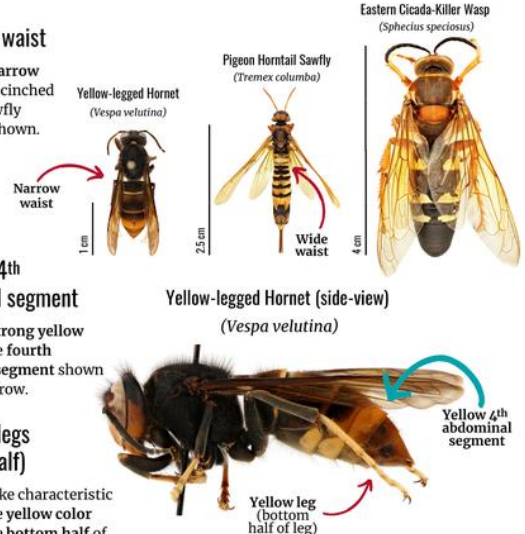
4 Identifying Characteristics of the Yellow-legged Hornet (YLH) (*Vespa velutina*)

1. Size
Adults are about 2 cm long. Comparison of common look-alikes found in Georgia are shown.

2. Narrow waist
Look for a narrow waist, more cinched than the sawfly look-alike shown.

3. Yellow 4th abdominal segment
Look for a strong yellow stripe on the fourth abdominal segment shown here with arrow.

4. Yellow legs (bottom half)
The namesake characteristic of YLH is the yellow color found on the bottom half of the insect's legs.



Eastern Cicada-Killer Wasp (*Sphecius speciosus*)

Pigeon Hornet Sawfly (*Tremex columba*)

Yellow-legged Hornet (*Vespa velutina*)

Yellow-legged Hornet (side-view) (*Vespa velutina*)

Yellow 4th abdominal segment

Yellow leg (bottom half of leg)

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



Nuisance Mosquitoes

- **April 15th – First aerial adulticiding mission**
 - The season begins
 - Typical spring nuisance mosquitoes



Honeybees

- **Beekeeper complaint made May 13th to GDA**
 - Aerial adulticide mission May 2nd
 - No violations observed, no samples taken
- **Beekeeper complaint made May 29th & 30th to GDA**
 - Aerial adulticide mission May 28th
 - 8 oz of bees collected 5/30 sample contained 0.064 ppm Dichlorvos
 - 8 oz of bees collected 5/30 sample contained 0.073 ppm Naled
 - Vegetation samples collected 5/30 nothing detected
- **2 more beekeepers reported forager loss**
- **No hive loss**
- **2 more beekeepers reported forager loss after canceled missions**



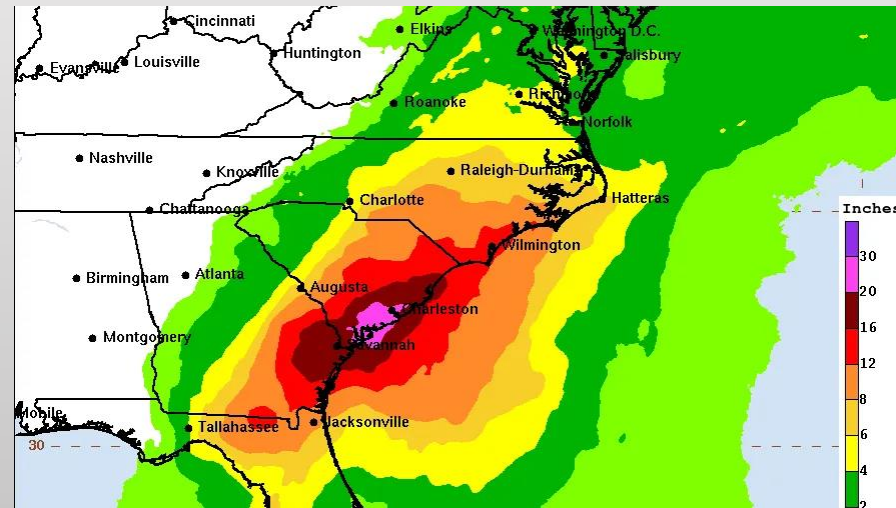
Tropical Storm Debby

- **August 4th – Call from CEMA looking for sand and sandbags**
 - **Provided City of Savannah with 54 tons of sand**
 - **Made 328 sandbags for Chatham County Facilities**



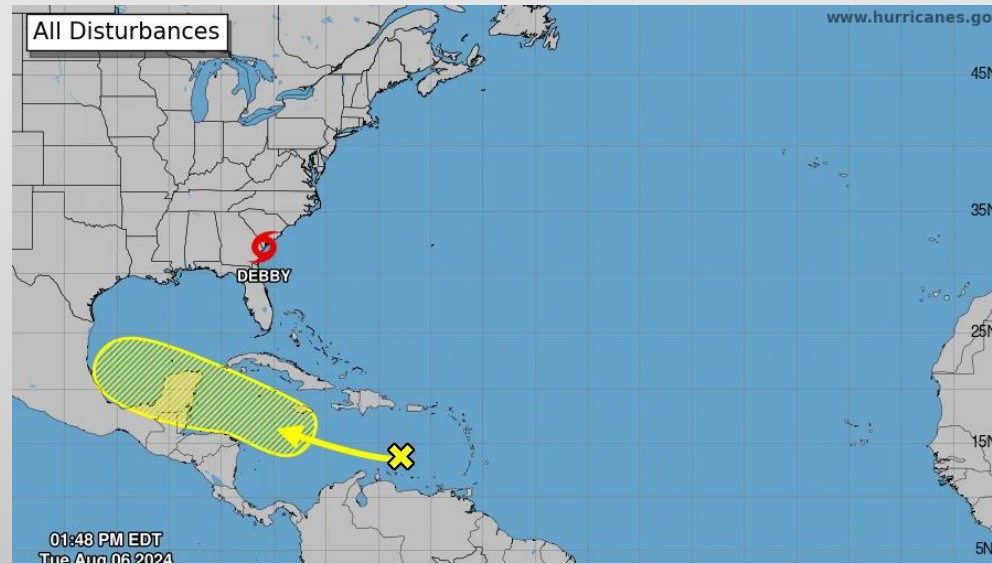
Tropical Storm Debby

- **August 5th – Delivered empty sandbags to a location with sand so Chatham County citizens could fill them as needed**
 - **Aided CCFM&O in distributing to various Chatham County Facilities**
 - **Heavy rainfall started in the afternoon**



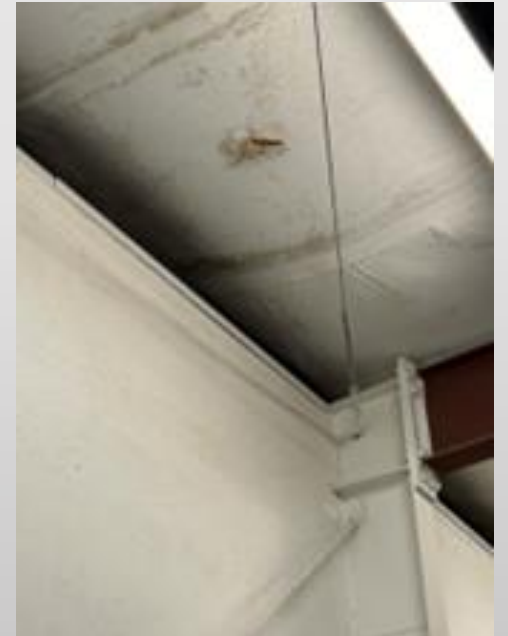
Tropical Storm Debby

- **August 6th – Chatham County closed as Debby passed over**
 - **Hurrication for staff**
 - **I had to handle Emergency Operation questions**



Tropical Storm Debby

- **August 7th – Chatham County closed as Debby passed over**
 - **Hurrication for most staff**
 - **Facility inspection**
 - **Roof leak on Sand Mixing Building**
 - **Roof leak on Administrative Building**
 - **RPZ on irrigation system failed**
 - **I handled more Emergency Operations questions**
 - **Dam breaches began upstream from Chatham County**
 - **9 dams had issues, 1 dam failure in Screven County**
 - **3 small farm dams failed**



Tropical Storm Debby

- **August 8th – Chatham County back open**
 - **Began damage assessment & inspection flights**
 - **Technicians setting traps**
 - **I handled more Emergency Operations questions**



Tropical Storm Debby Flooding



Tropical Storm Debby

- **August 9th – Ogeechee River flooding really begins**
 - **Began damage assessment & inspection flights**
 - **Technicians collecting traps**
 - **I handled more Emergency Operations questions**
 - **Made 450 more sandbags for residents**
 - **Provided 40 tons of sand for residents**

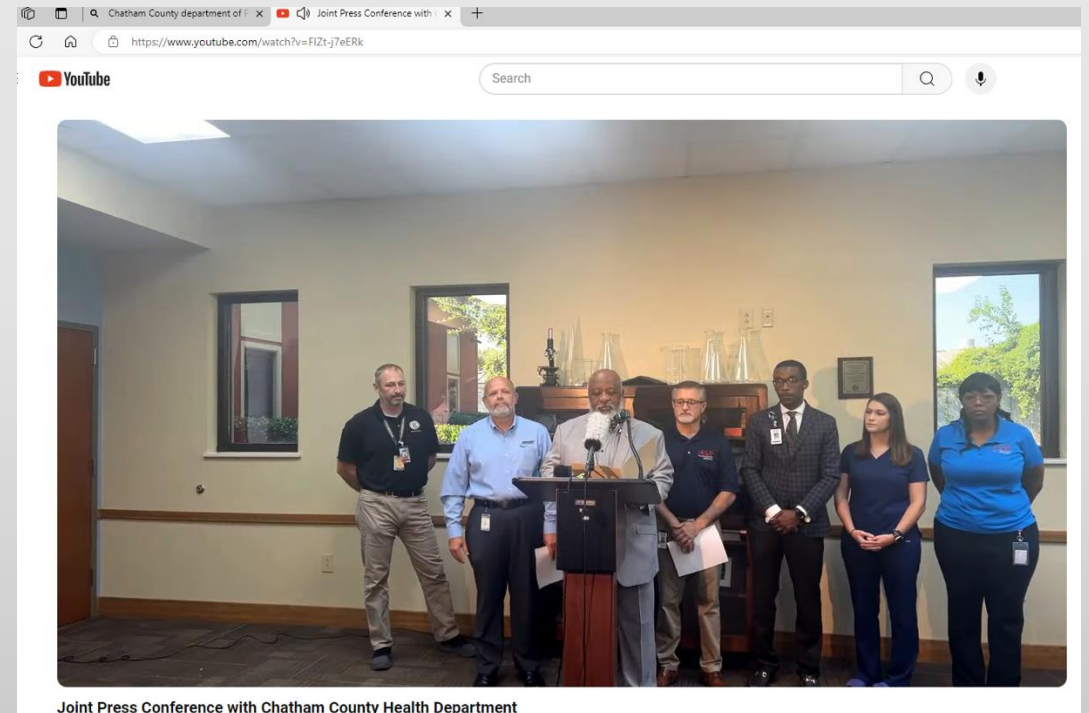


Tropical Storm Debby Flooding



Tropical Storm Debby

- **August 16th – Press Conference**
 - **With CEMA, DPH, & County Chairman**
 - **Floodwater Safety**
 - Wells
 - Septic
 - Water-borne Illness
 - Mosquitoes
 - **STAY OUT OF WATER**



Tropical Storm Debby

- **August 21st – FEMA, GEMA, and CEMA Damage Assessment Meeting**
 - **We were asked to submit “additional mosquito abatement” costs**
 - Aerial was approximately 85,000 acres @ \$1.44 per acres
 - Truck was approximately 2,800 acres and 2 products used
 - **Also submitted aerial assessment video costs**
 - 5.2 flight hours @ \$567 per hour



Tropical Storm Debby

- **September 19th – FEMA follow up email**

- **Provide documentation of the following**

- a) Before spraying, collect trap data or landing rates (for adulticide use) or dip data (for larvicide use) to verify the hazard.
- b) Before spraying, contact FEMA EHP Point of Contact below to identify spray exclusions areas due to the presence of endangered or threatened species or critical habitat. Additionally avoid spraying in National Wildlife Refuges, conservation areas, wetlands and waterways.
- c) Before spraying, ensure the chemicals are an EPA approved chemical for use in Georgia.
- d) Obtain a letter from the Department of Health indicating the presence of a serious health threat or mosquito nuisance that is severely hampering the recovery effort.
- e) Follow the manufacturer's label on EPA-approved chemicals for mosquito abatement by certified employees. Provide documentation of the chemical, application method and concentration used.
- f) Provide spray/larvicide area maps available, detailing the zones affected/treated.
- g) Provide date(s) of chemical application.

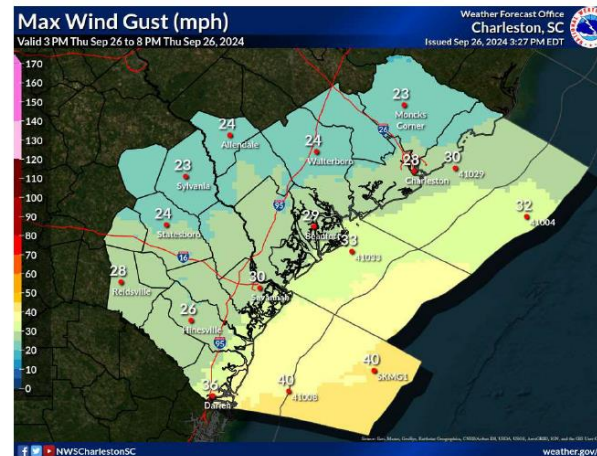


Hurricane Helene

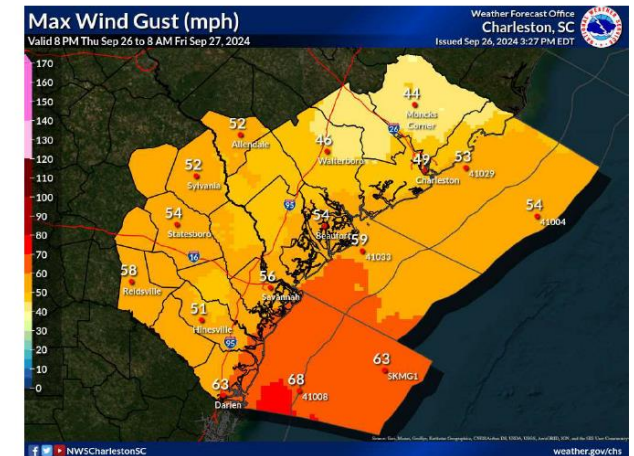
- **September 23rd – 26th**
 - Regular updates from CEMA
 - 25th pre-storm assessment flight
 - 26th 1730 last update before arrival
 - Up to 59 mph wind gusts on Tybee Island



Chatham County Hurricane Helene – 5:30 PM 9/26/24



Thursday 8am-8pm



Thursday 8pm-8am Friday

Maximum Wind Gust



Hurricane Helene

- **September 26th**
 - **Rainband passed through**
 - **NWS estimates**
 - **MosCon helps staff EOC**
 - **Get more phone calls for sandbags and sand**
 - **Not able to help this time**
 - **Area to get sand closed for the day due to USDA feral hog mitigation**



Chatham County Hurricane Helene – 5:30 PM 9/26/24



Hurricane Helene

- **September 27th**
 - **Wind gust at Savannah Airport 76 mph at 0351**
 - Skidaway Island 70 mph at 0256
 - Tybee Island 70 mph at 0426
 - Marine Air Station Beaufort 75 mph at 0420
 - **Tornados**
 - **Not much rainfall**
 - **Hurrication**
 - Some staff in to assess damage / clean up
 - Post-storm assessment flight
 - **A lot of people without power**



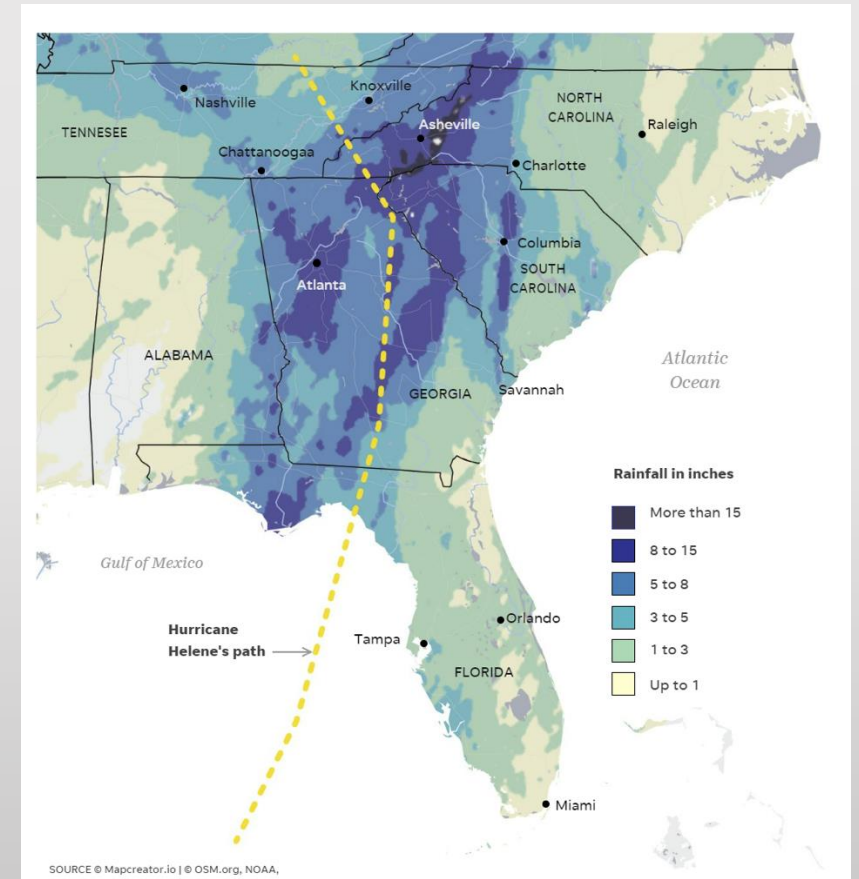
Hurricane Helene

- **September 28th**
 - A lot of people without power
- **September 29th**
 - Still a lot of people without power
 - Started running traps / larval site inspections
 - Clearing access trails
 - Email sent to FEMA to advise on Endangered Species – Response received 10/9
 - Supplied & delivered 3 industrial fans to nursing home
 - Flu vaccine stored for Employee Health Clinic

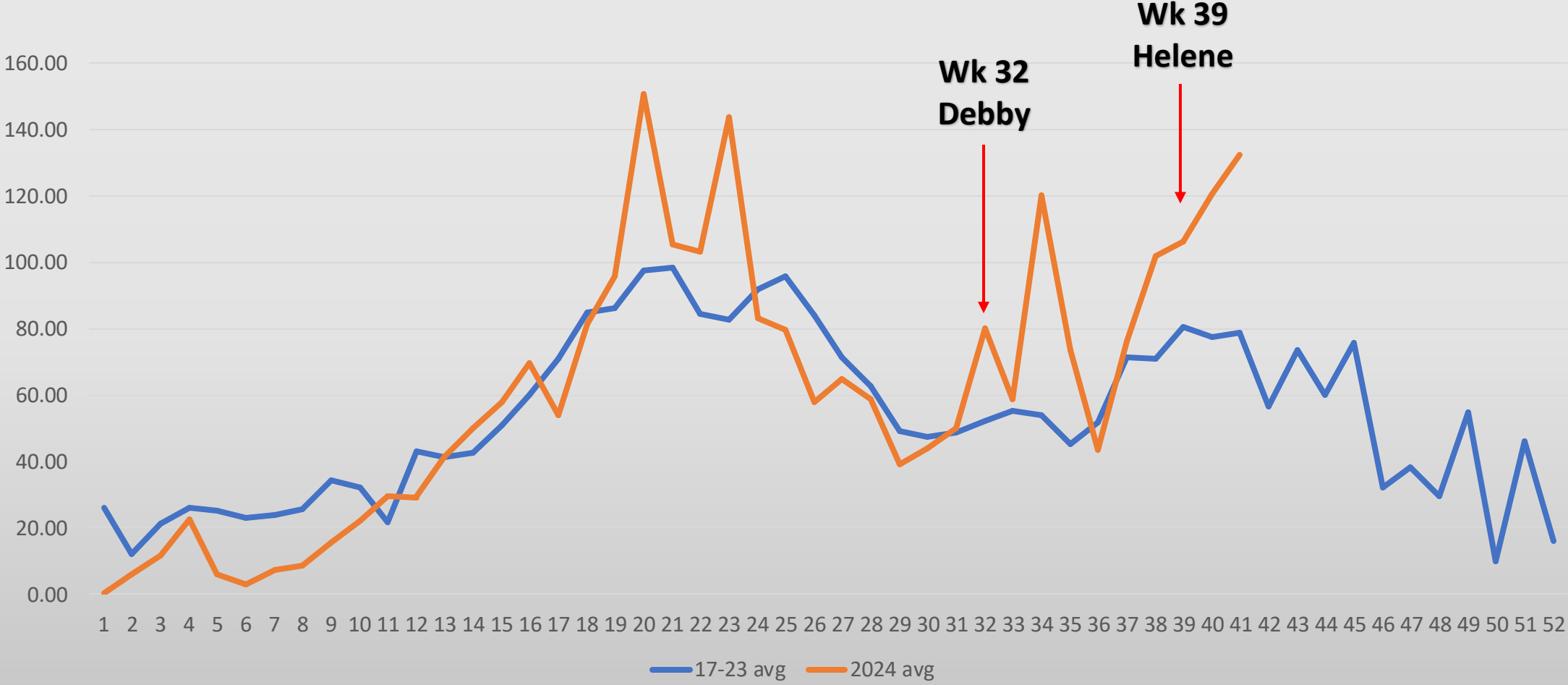


Hurricane Helene

- **September 30th – October 4th**
 - Aerial larviciding - 1260 acres
 - Ground larviciding – 55.1 acres
 - Brood hatch started October 4th
- **October 5th**
 - **Richmond County reached out regarding help with adulticiding**
 - This became very complicated very quickly
 - NPDES?, CAP, PAO
 - Set up a contingency plan with a contractor



Culex Numbers



Possible Zika Case

- **June 20th – email about suspect locally acquired case**
 - No details except no international travel
- **July 16th – email that CDC cleared the results**
 - May 27th onset of symptoms
 - June 11th seeks medical attention and blood draw
 - Only travel to North Carolina nothing International
 - Negative for JEV, Dengue, Zika, WNV, & SLEV
 - Initial test from June 11th was a false positive



West Nile Virus

- **June 18th – In-house PCR mosquito sample WNV positive**
 - Mosquitoes collected June 10th
 - Collected from the Southside of Savannah



West Nile Virus

- **July 8th – Phone call from someone saying they are WNV positive**
 - **Donated Blood July 4th**
 - **Homeless and mainly staying in a downtown Savannah shelter**
 - **Classified as WNV presumptive +**



West Nile Virus

- **August 9th – Email from GDPH about Confirmed WNV case**
 - **Symptom onset July 3rd**

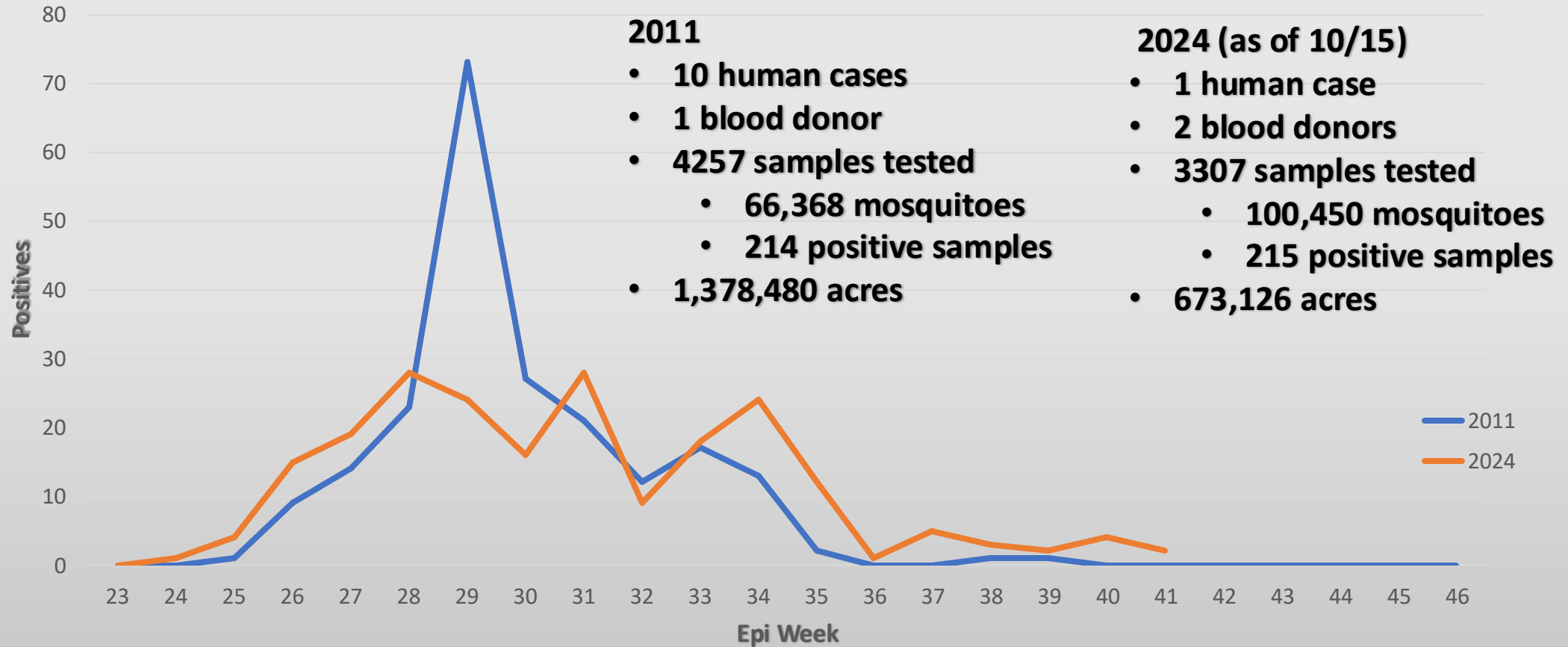


West Nile Virus

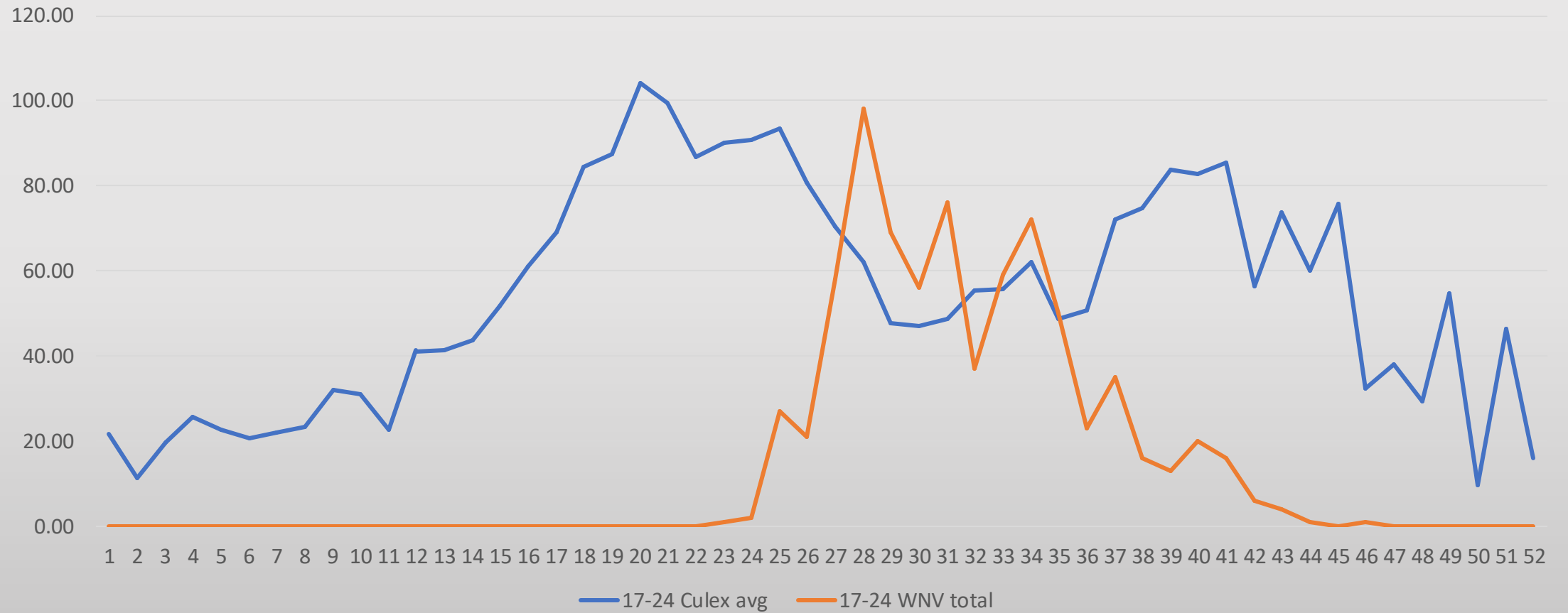
- **September 4th – 2nd Blood Donor**
 - **Donated blood in late August**
 - **Classified as WNV presumptive +**



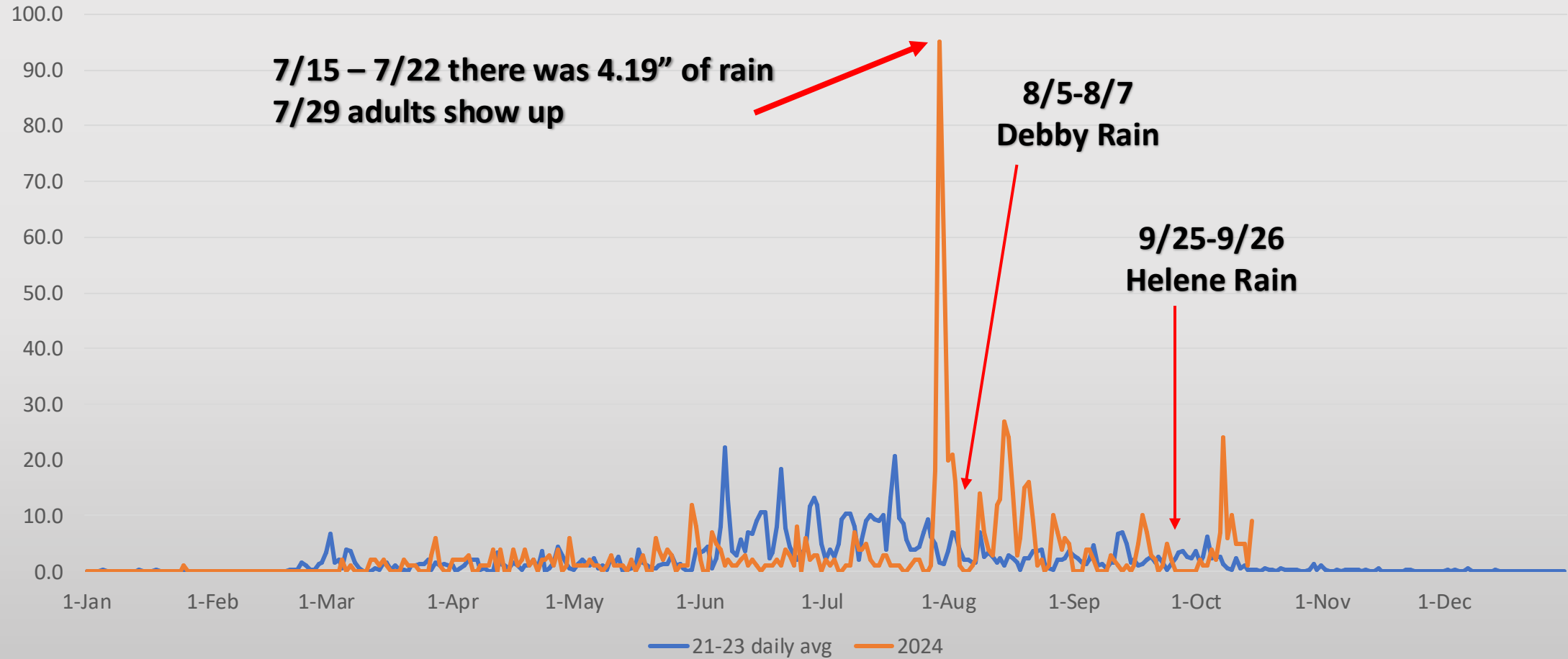
West Nile Virus 2011 vs 2024



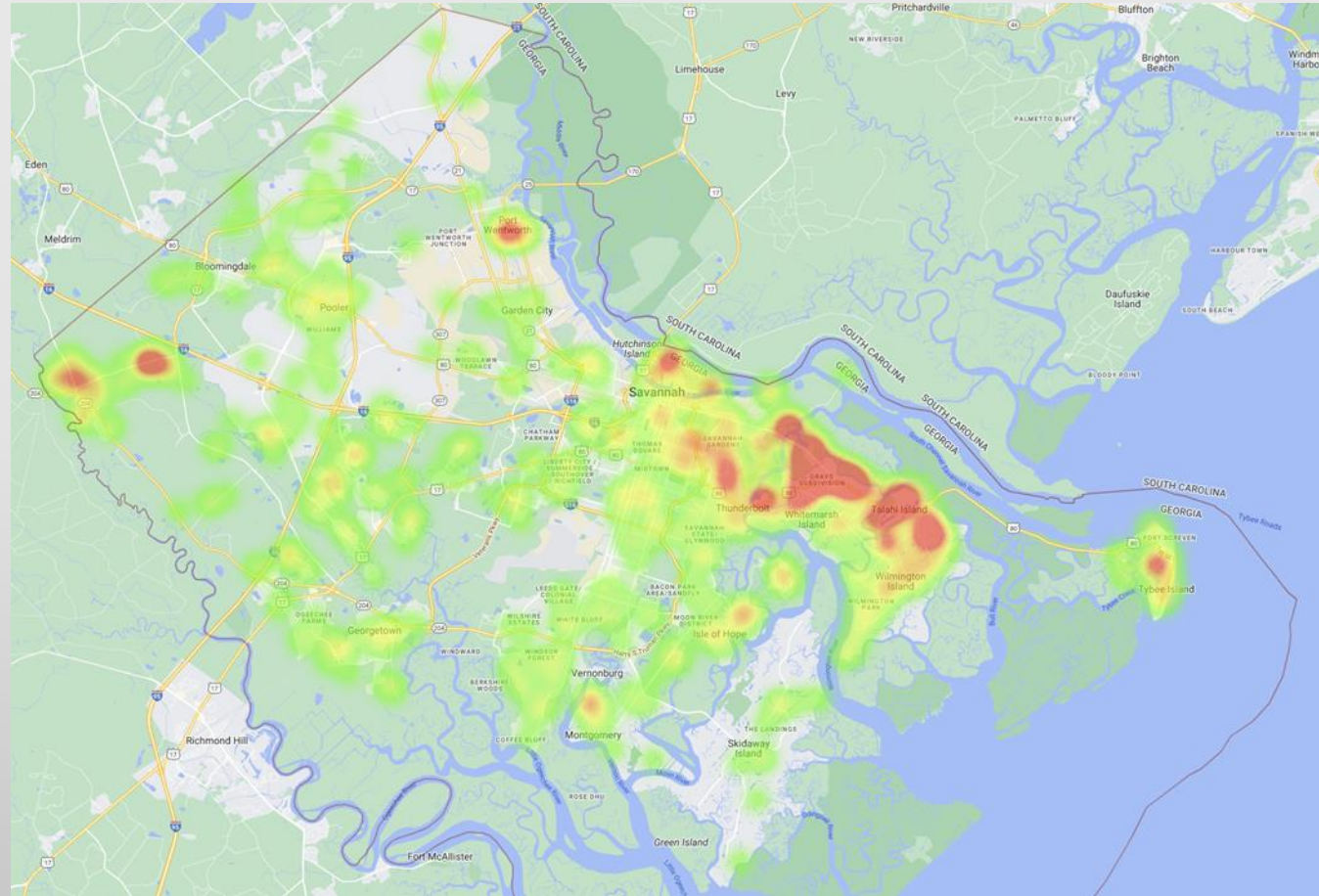
Culex & WNV



2024 Service Requests



2024 Service Requests



Questions

Ture Carlson

tacarlson@chathamcounty.org

912-790-2540

