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GMCA Newsletter

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November 27 2018

Member Awards

Annie Rich Receives IPM Award

The International Conference on IPM Award for Excellence in Master's Research was presented to Annie Rich at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Georgia Mosquito Control Association on October 18, 2018, in Athens, GA. Ms. Rich completed her master's degree in Veterinary Entomology at the University of Georgia in summer 2018 and joined Richmond County (GA) Mosquito Control as their Resident Entomologist.

The award recognizes Ms. Rich's academic accomplishments as well as her contributions to Integrated Pest Management of mosquitoes and was presented, "In recognition of excellent achievements in the area of integrated pest management in medical and veterinary entomology as a master's student." She was unable to attend the 9th International IPM Symposium in Baltimore this year, so the presentation was moved to the Georgia Mosquito Control Association's annual meeting. This was particularly appropriate because at the GMCA meeting Annie spoke on, "Academic to the Real World," describing her transition from being a graduate student to working in vector control. Dr. Ash Sial made the presentation on behalf of the group.

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Annual Meeting

Athens, GA; Oct 17-19

The 41st Annual meeting of the Georgia Mosquito Control Association focused on training opportunities, integrated approaches to management, diseases carried by mosquitoes, and the role played by commercial applicators in the mosquito control effort. There was also an open discussion on bee keeping and mosquito control, that helped to clarify some misconceptions, and hopefully created some more opportunities for discussion.

Please visit our website at <http://www.gamosquito.org/index.htm> for more information, including posted talks and notes from the meeting.

The GMCA Board of Directors for 2018-2019 is as follows:

President – Steve Pavlovich

VP – Allen Hillman

Directors:

1-year: Laura Peaty

2-year: Tiffany Nguyen

3-year: Doug Nelson

Sustaining Member – Joe Strickhouser

Secretary-Treasurer – Karin Farris

Past President – Joey Bland

Representative:

Cooperative Extension – Elmer Gray

Public Health – Rosmarie Kelly

The GMCA is sad to announce the retirement of Jeff Heusel, Director of the Chatham County Mosquito Control program. Jeff has been both President and a Board Member of the GMCA, and has been active in the Association for many years. He will be missed by us all.

The 2019 GMCA Conference will be held October 16-19, 2019 at Lake Blackshear Resort & Golf Club, in Cordele, Georgia.

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Mosquito Surveillance in Georgia, 2018

The establishment of Regional Vector Surveillance Coordinators (VSC) has helped to rebuild Georgia's capacity to detect and respond to existing and newly introduced vector-borne diseases. Nine of 18 Health Districts have been assigned a VSC, whose responsibility is to conduct and improve mosquito surveillance for arborviral diseases such as West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Lacrosse Encephalitis, Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases. Duties include:

- Establishing surveillance locations throughout the PH Districts,
- Setting up traps and collecting mosquitoes,
- Mosquito identification,
- Complaint response,
- Community assessments
- Community education programs.

When necessary, the VSC will coordinate mosquito control activities with existing city/county/contracted mosquito control agencies and assist with localized control efforts. In addition, the VSC supports the Environmental Health Team by assisting with surveillance for other public health pests of concern, including tick-borne dis-eases, rabies, and bedbugs. They also may participate in outbreak detection and response activities for emergency preparedness.

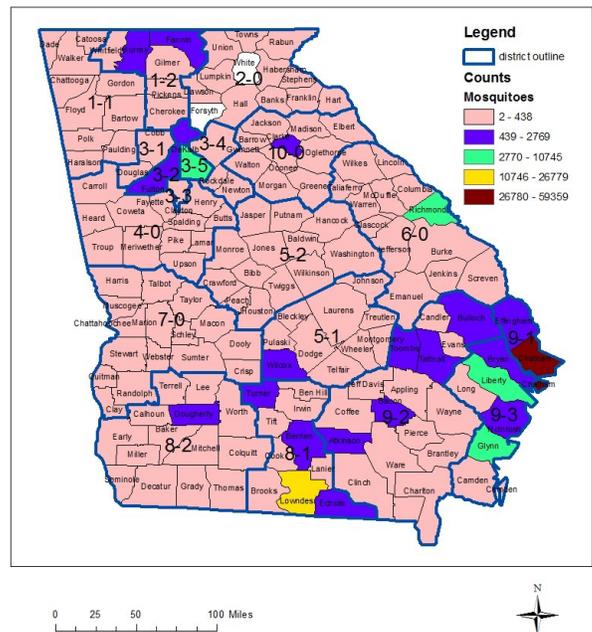
Due to limited funding, not all Health Districts were assigned a VSC to assist with mosquito surveillance. These Districts (1-1, 1-2, 2-0, 3-4, 3-5, 5-1, 5-2, 6-0, and 10-0) were assigned to the State Entomologists. However, some of these Districts already had mosquito surveillance programs, and some of them had an Environmental Health Director or Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) who had an interest in doing mosquito surveillance within their District or county.

Our goals for 2017-2018 were:

- Do some level of mosquito surveillance in every county in Georgia
- Provide mosquito surveillance equipment and train interested people in every Health District to do mosquito surveillance, ID, and control
 - With the support of Medical and EH Directors
 - With the understanding that other tasks take precedence
- Be better prepared for the next mosquito-borne virus to come along
- Have the equipment and training available to support local outreach for mosquito complaints
- Create a Statewide insecticide resistance testing program

I believe we have accomplished these goals, with the help and support of a great many people.

Mosquito Surveillance Georgia 2018 (as of 11.1.18)



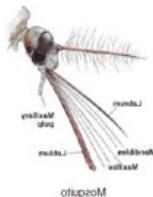
Ms. Rich's graduate research dealt with a novel adult mosquito control method using cattle as bait to lure in mosquitoes for insecticide exposure before they can locate a human host. This work was conducted in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and the UGA Animal Science Department.

Since July, Ms. Rich has been working with Richmond County Mosquito Control where her supervisor, Mr. Fred Koehle, calls her "the Energizer Bunny." He has placed her in charge of training, outreach, and new initiatives such as collaborating with the Georgia Department of Public Health to evaluate insecticide resistance.

The International IPM Award for Excellence was created to acknowledge outstanding research, teaching, and outreach efforts that advance a holistic approach to pest suppression, incorporating a range of complementary strategies and tactics.

In addition to this recognition from the International IPM Symposium, during her graduate training Ms. Rich received the following awards:

- America Mosquito Control Association's Kelly Labell Travel Award to attend the 2018 AMCA meeting in Kansas City.
- Entomological Society of America's Medical, Veterinary and Urban Entomology Master's Student Scholarship (July 2017)
- Steve Prchal Memorial Scholarship Travel Fund presented by the Terrestrial Invertebrate Taxon Advisory Group of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. (Jun. 2017)
- Pi Chi Omega Pest Control Fraternity Research Scholarship (Mar. 2017)
- American Mosquito Control Association Industry Shadowing Program Scholarship (Feb. 2017)
- H.O. Lund Outstanding M.S. Student in Outreach & Service (Aug. 2016)
- Student Travel Scholarship - Livestock Insect Workers Conference (Jun. 2016)
- Harry Hoogstraal Scholarship – Ohio State University Acarology Program (2016)



THE T. OSCAR FULTZ FELLOWSHIP AWARD

This award is the highest award given by the GMCA next to that of the immediate past president of the association. The criteria for this award are exceptional life-time contributions to the association and to the control and study of mosquitoes.

This award is not given every year and must be held in its highest distinction, not to be given lightly.

This year we did have a recipient for the Fultz Award. Elmer Gray is a linchpin in the GMCA. He is also a source of education and promotion of integrated mosquito control practices. Because of this, and his many other accomplishments, this award is well deserved.



The resort has a beautiful lake setting with fishing, swimming, boating, kayaking, and canoeing, on the Marina at Lake Blackshear, onsite golf at the Georgia Veterans Memorial Golf Course, an outdoor swimming pool with a hot tub, bicycling, and miles of nature and hiking trails.

Lodging accommodations include guest rooms in the Lodge, spacious Villa guest rooms, and scenic lakeside Cabins.

Nearby attractions include:

- SAM Shortline Southwest Georgia Excursion Train to historical sites around South Georgia: Ride in an air-conditioned, 1949 vintage train as you pass pecan groves, and scenic country farms while making stops in four towns filled with fun attractions, restaurants, and shopping.
- Andersonville National Historic Site, Andersonville – Once called Camp Sumter, Andersonville was one of the Civil War’s largest Confederate military prisons.
- Jimmy Carter National Historic Site, Plains – Visit the hometown of President Jimmy Carter and see the home he lived in.
- Historic Windsor Hotel, Americus – See a beautifully restored Victorian hotel featuring a grand dining room.
- Westville – Georgia’s Working 1850 Town, a living history museum, which depicts an 1850 west
- Georgia Village. At Westville, visitors can experience a middle-of-the-nineteenth century community in the twenty-first century.
- Americus – Discover this small town with heart and history. Its attractions include the SAM Shortline Excursion Train, 1892 Windsor Hotel, Habitat for Humanity’s Global Village and Discovery Center, and 1921 Rylander Theatre.
- Mennonite Community, Montezuma
- National POW Museum, Andersonville – A Museum that commemorates all American soldiers taken prisoner since the American Revolution.
- Cotton Museum, Vienna – The history of cotton is told with the aid of farm tools, cotton bolls, periodicals, a cotton bale, and other agricultural artifacts.
- Georgia Agrirama Agricultural Museum, Tifton
- Georgia Telephone Museum, Leslie – Displays one of the most complete telephone collections in the world, with more than 1,500 phones. Included is

the 1875 telephone the Alexander Graham Bell took to the World’s Fair in Philadelphia.

- Air Force Museum, Warner Robins
- Jefferson Davis Memorial State Historic Site
- The Plains School, Plains- Jimmy Carter’s old high school is now a museum dedicated to the 39th President.
- Macon Museum of Arts and Sciences, Macon- A multi-faceted institution featuring diverse exhibitions in fine art, astronomy and natural history.
- Tubman African American Museum, Macon- Georgia’s largest African-American museum, the Tubman museum, is dedicated to the preservation of African-American culture, history and art.
- Kolomoki Mounds Historic Park, Blakely- The seven earthen mounds within Kolomoki Mounds Historic Park date back to between 350AD and 750AD, representing some of the oldest mounds in Georgia. A museum is located on-site, displaying a partially excavated burial mound. Other park activities include fishing, boating, canoeing and swimming.

<https://www.lakeblackshearresort.com/>



Tick Surveillance Collaboration with Georgia Department of Agriculture in 2019

The GDPH is collaborating with the GDA to reach out to Georgia veterinarians in a continuation of an ongoing project at GDA to determine which species of ticks are found on Georgia’s wildlife, livestock, and companion animals.

The following info will be sent out to Georgia veterinarians:

The Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Department of Public Health are interested in a statewide tick-attach study and are looking for participation in this exciting project. To help us with our survey of ticks in the area by species and location, **please do the following:**

1. **Collect tick** from animal by firmly grasping with tweezers or gloved fingertips and pulling straight off, and **place into prepared vial** of isopropyl alcohol, seal lid.
2. Place ticks into vials (can be multiple per vial if from same animal) and *be sure to label each vial with host animal information.*
3. **Fill out a separate submission form for each species of animal** (Please complete sections 17-31).
4. Send off the specimen in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for helping us “recycle” your ticks and broaden our understanding of local tick populations around the state of Georgia.

To order additional tick collection kits, please contact Tiffany Nguyen (thuy-vithi.nguyen@dph.ga.gov).

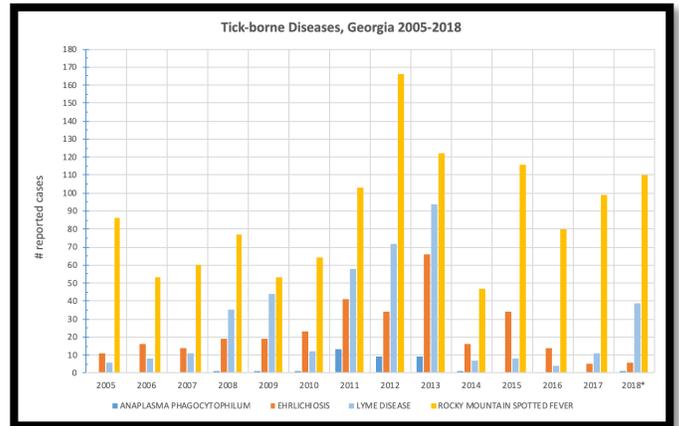
For additional information contact Tiffany Nguyen (thuy-vithi.nguyen@dph.ga.gov) Or Janemarie Hennebelle (Janemarie.Hennebelle@agr.georgia.gov)

We will also try and plan a tick ID class in 2019, and will be doing some tick surveillance through the VSC program and Environmental Health.

GDPH Tick Attach Study, 2005-2006	
species	count
<i>Amblyomma americanum</i>	322
<i>Amblyomma maculatum</i>	11
<i>Amblyomma spp</i>	4
<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i>	103
<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	6

Tick Species	females	males	nymphs	larvae	Grand Total
<i>Amblyomma americanum</i>	148	100	85	43	376
<i>Amblyomma hebraeum</i>	1	1			2
<i>Amblyomma maculatum</i>	185	164	4		353
<i>Amblyomma tuberculatum</i>			1		1
<i>Amblyomma variegatum</i>			1		1
<i>Argas lahorensis</i>			1		1
<i>Dermacentor albipictus</i>	1	2			3
<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i>	111	113	2	5	231
<i>Haemaphysalis leporispalustris</i>			1		1
<i>Haemaphysalis parva</i>			1		1
<i>Ixodes affinis</i>	11	7	1	2	21
<i>Ixodes brunneus</i>	5		3		8
<i>Ixodes cookei</i>	1				1
<i>Ixodes minor</i>	1				1
<i>Ixodes scapularis</i>	253	111	23	17	404
<i>Ixodes texanus</i>			2		2
<i>Rhipicephalus evertsi evertsi</i>	1	2			3
<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus</i>	4	4	1		9
<i>Rhipicephalus sanguineus sl</i>		1			1
<i>Rhipicephalus simus</i>		1			1
<i>Rhipicephalus spp.</i>			1		1
Grand Total	722	506	127	67	1422

Tick Species Collected off Animals in Georgia, 2005-2018



*preliminary data



**Department of Public Health Emergency Response
Mosquito Control Trailers**

Hurricane Michael’s destruction and increased rainfall gave rise to an increase in mosquito breeding habitats, furthering the public health problems around South Georgia. In response to these potential health hazards, the Georgia Department of Public Health’s emergency response strike team deployed its mosquito control trailers and performed mosquito surveillance in affected areas as well as mosquito control, by distributing mosquito larvicide and adulticide. The strike team was well-prepared and fully-equipped with vector-borne prevention supplies due to pre-purchased mosquito larvicide and adulticide and DEET mosquito repellent wipes in preparation for any type of vector-borne emergencies.

A team of five Environmental Health Strike Team members were deployed to the Albany District during hurricane response and recovery operations. In addition to local supplies, additional mosquito response supplies were available within an emergency vector surveillance and response trailer staged within the district. Other mosquito response supplies were brought in or shipped in from District 5-2 (Macon), District 10 (Athens) and the State EH Office.

In addition to assisting with reopening hundreds of restaurants, Ray King, the EH Strike Team “A” lead, noted that “The Team’s first mosquito control activity was implemented in Baker County in the City of Newton. About 100 methoprene plaster blocks were placed in areas holding water, including one about an acre in size very close to the health department. About 150 mosquito repellent packets were placed at temporary food services where people were doing food preparation outdoors, e.g., Southern Baptist Disaster Relief who prepare meals for Red Cross in Bainbridge.”

District Environmental Health also provided DEET wipes and DEET lotion to those seeking assistance within the Disaster Recovery Center.



Hurricane Michael EH Strike Team “A” members

- Ray King – Team Lead from District 1-2 EH Director
- Amy Grice – District 1-2 Cherokee County
- Pearl Gordon – District 1-2 Cherokee County
- Shane Hendrix – District 1-1 Floyd County
- Justin Robinson – District 3-2 Fulton County



The Georgia Mosquito Control Association

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