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GMCA Newsletter

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The Importance of Logos

The primary purpose of a logo is to identify...

The right logo says everything without saying a word. It connotes feelings of honor, trust, pride, excellence and integrity. It conveys a series of virtues and a set of values without pages of copy and a team of copywriters. It evokes a sense of connection between a brand and consumers. It establishes a bond between an association and its community of fans, friends, critics, allies and champions.

Logos support visual communication. Symbols appeal to human memory and emotional receptors. They encourage you to recall specific emotions, activities, or experiences again and again. When people agree on what a symbol means, you can use simple visuals to get a message across quickly. Logos become the face of your brand identity, so it's essential to be professional and consistent in your image.

By looking at a logo, people immediately make a judgement and perceive a business, product, or service in a certain way. Although a logos primary purpose is to identity, it can also be leveraged to communicate important brand messages and values.

It is with these thoughts that the GMCA Board of Directors is considering options for a new logo for the association. More information will be forthcoming.



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We are always looking for contributors to the GMCA Newsletter, so if you have an interesting story to tell about mosquitoes or mosquito control, please send it to rosmarie.kelly@dph.ga.gov.

Annual Meeting

Athens, GA; 2021

For the first time in a very long time, the GMCA did not hold an annual meeting. COVID-19 was a concern, as well as the fact that funding and travel were going to be big issues for many of our members and speakers. So, we took the realistic view and canceled the 2020 annual meeting.

From the President of Georgia Mosquito Control Association:

It is with deep regret that I must inform you that the October 2020 meeting of GMCA is being cancelled due to circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first meeting cancelled in 40 plus years.

Budget cuts, inability to travel because of restrictions, and how to accommodate the size group we normally have all contributed to this decision.

We will begin making plans for a bigger and better meeting in 2021.

As a result of no meeting and not being able to have an election, the current officers and members of the Board of Directors will remain in their positions until the 2021 meeting when we can have a regular election.

Our Secretary/Treasurer, Karen Farris, will be retiring in December. The Board of the GMCA would like to thank Karen for her service in this role. Karen has performed flawlessly in this role and all association responsibilities and obligations are fully met and executed at the end of her tenure. The Board would like to wish Karen all of the best in her retirement.

As always, we are here to serve, and we can be reached via the web site.

Please be careful in your daily endeavors and keep yourself and your families safe.

Thanks, Gerald Allen Hillman, Jr President

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Recapping the 2020 Mosquito Season in Chatham, County Georgia

The 2020 mosquito season was unlike any other that we have seen. First and foremost, there was the Covid-19 pandemic that everyone had to deal with in one way or another. It not only caused a slowdown (or total shutdown) of many businesses in the private sector, but also limited what services governmental departments, including local mosquito control facilities, could accomplish. At Chatham County Mosquito Control (CCMC) a reduced workforce mandate was put into effect during the early stages of the pandemic, which lasted for several weeks. We alternated field technicians during the week, kept nonessential employees at home, and suspended the less important duties (such as bottle bioassay work) during this period.

The pandemic changed the way CCMC conducted our daily business. A plexiglass shield was fitted at the front reception area, sanitation stations were set up at several places within the facility, and face masks were provided to staff. Our doors were locked to the general public, and we refrained from having most visitors. Those that were allowed to enter the facility were screened prior to entry with a series of questions and had their temperatures taken. Most meetings that were previously held face to face were either conducted virtually or canceled. Yet, despite the vast amount of challenges present, we were still able to conduct our annual calibration work of spray equipment, even though provisions were in place allowing for the calibration of such equipment to lapse during the pandemic. We continued to answer service request calls in a punctual manner, inspected chronic larval habitat after rain/tide events, and treated areas as needed for both larval and adult mosquitoes.

Considering all the hardships brought about by coronavirus to mosquito control facilities throughout the country, including the cancelation of state, regional, and even international mosquito control organization annual meetings, a

few changes actually benefitted our operations. One benefit from the Covid-19 pandemic came from restrictions that were set into place to protect the public during the early stages of the pandemic. The closing of schools and certain businesses certainly reduced traffic in our region and gave staff opportunities that normally would not be available. Since much of the nightlife in the city of Savannah was absent, staff treated the metro Savannah area catch basins in April with VectoLex WSP's (4800 basins) during the night. Catch basin work began at midnight and was completed in three nights by only two staff members. This was followed by treating our "normal" run of catch basins in Savannah, Garden City, and Thunderbolt with Altosid ingots (9608 basins) in early June, which appeared to have effectively reduced larval production into the fall.

Covid-19 also caused the cancelation of a number of local events, particularly outdoor weddings, family reunions, and festivals, which normally are pretreated for adult mosquitoes by our ULV ground staff. These cancelations may have directly influenced the number of "special" sprays generally conducted in the spring of the year. By comparison, a total of 90 requests for such sprays were received in the first six months of 2020, while 138 were taken during the same period in 2019. Likewise, our ground ULV operations treated 8606 acres during that stretch of 2019 but fell to 6817 acres in the first half of 2020. These drops are probably due to Covid-19 related restrictions (social distancing, self-isolation, absence of large gatherings, etc) since the total mosquito catch during those time periods in each year were very comparable (132,773 in 2019 and 130,316 in 2020), indicating that nuisance mosquito levels should have also been similar in both years.

The biggest differences in the numbers of mosquitoes collected from surveillance traps in 2020 and 2019 occurred in March, September,

and October (Figure 1). Widespread rains in early 2020 caused local rivers to remain at flood stages throughout much of March and prompted field technicians to deploy extra traps in March of 2020 to better assess mosquito populations in the county. In 2019 Hurricane Dorian brushed the coast of Georgia during the first week of September. CCMC staff made preparations for its arrival in advance, which included retrieving mosquito traps left in the field, and not setting traps as the storm approached. Thus, an entire week of trap data were absent from September of 2019. The following month, nuisance mosquito numbers shot up as a result of the storm.

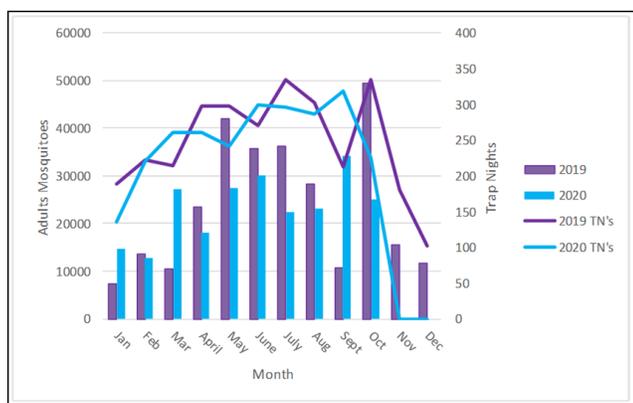


Figure 1. Comparison of mosquito catch and trap nights from Chatham County, Georgia (2019-2020).

By design, our overall aerial acreage larvicided in 2020 is running more than twice that from 2019 (7231 acres in 2020; 2950 acres in 2019). This increase is a result of a renewed emphasis to prioritize mosquito management while the insects are still in their larval stages. In Chatham County, the bulk of our aerial larviciding is completed using “altosand” (see supplemental label at <https://www.centralmosquitocontrol.com/all-products/altosid/altosid-liquid-sr-20>), a mixture of liquid methoprene (Altosid SR-20), a drying agent (Hi-sil 233) and sand (12/20) that staff concoct at our facility. The “altosand” formulation is considered a single-brood product. In 2020, several chronic coastal sites were treated with an extended methoprene product (Altosid P35) that lasted throughout the summer, and in many cases, into the fall.

In 2020, we also saw a decrease in the amount of aerial adulticide acreage completed from the previous year. For the first nine months of 2020 a total of 529,097 acres were treated by air, while over this same period in 2019 a total of 653,494 acres were treated. Keep in mind that this reduction in acres treated probably has nothing to do with Covid-19, but rather the number of West Nile positive pools recorded (Figure 2). After three consecutive years of increased West Nile positive mosquito samples, a drastic drop-off in positive pools occurred in 2020.

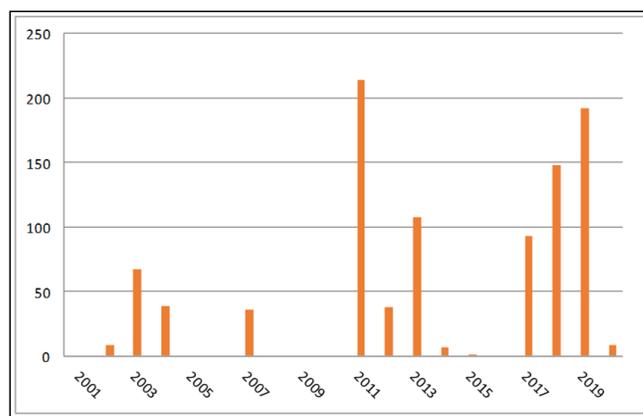


Figure 2. Positive West Nile pools from Chatham County, Georgia (2001-2020).

In 2019, the first West Nile positive pool was reported during the first week of July from mosquitoes collected on 17 June. In 2020, West Nile was not reported in local mosquitoes until the second week of August from mosquitoes collected on 4 August. This delay in initial West Nile activity curbed our need to adulticide in July and early August. In previous years when West Nile has been detected late during the season, such as 2002 and 2014, it appeared that the virus could not gain a foothold, and little virus was subsequently uncovered in the lab (Figure 3). In 2002, this was a predecessor to an extremely active year, while in 2014 it marked a substantial decline in virus activity for the next two years.

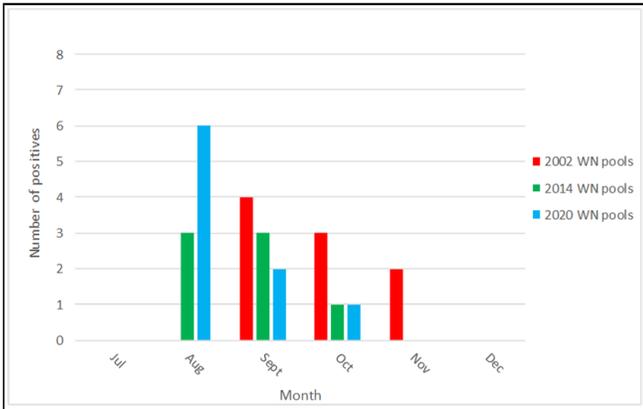


Figure 3. Positive pools by month during waning West Nile years from Chatham County, Georgia.

To this point (October 2020), a total of nine positive West Nile pools have been detected from 2972 samples submitted. Positive pools were recorded from seven different locations in the county. One sentinel chicken was also reported with West Nile virus antibodies from an additional site (Figure 4). Most of the positive pools were derived from *Culex quinquefasciatus* (7), although one positive sample contained *Culex* mosquitoes too damaged to identify to species, and another sample contained *Culex nigripalpus*.

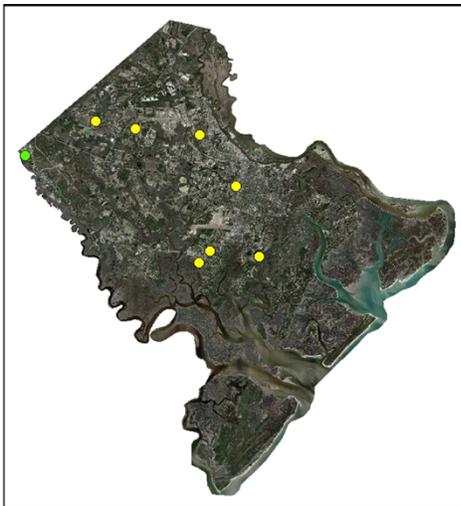


Figure 4. Locations of mosquito pools (yellow) and sentinel chicken (green) detected with West Nile virus.

Although Covid-19 prompted several changes to how mosquito control organizations reacted to various situations over the course of the season, some aspects of our work remained relatively unchanged. Our vehicle maintenance division continued to provide service to all our vehicles, including forklifts, lawn mowers, and any small

engine equipment used at our facility or in the field. Our source reduction work continued along the Savannah River under the direction of the US Army Corps of Engineers through the entire season as usual. Staff have cleared, cleaned, and ditched 109,150 linear feet, which is almost 6000 more feet than was recorded for the first nine months of 2019. This sizable increase is likely the result of changing from a clean-out bucket to a “V” bucket in one of our amphibious excavators that allowed construction of a well-defined ditch and speeded up the ditching process.

Lastly, it should be mentioned that a county-wide change to the administration of service requests began in 2020. In August a new CRM (citizen request management) system was activated. This new system, called QAlert, allows citizens to report problems or request various services online. QAlert is web-based software that allows local governments to track, manage, and resolve citizen service requests, and includes things such as reporting abandoned vehicles, a broken streetlight, or even loose animals. In addition, any problem related to mosquitoes can also be posted, and the public can easily track the status of that report or request.

In summary, the 2020 mosquito season has been quite different from any other and came with a number of challenges. On one hand, West Nile virus was detected late in the season, and the total amount recorded reached a four-year low. On the other hand, dealing with coronavirus was and still is another story. Fortunately, CCMC handled many of the hurdles brought about by the pandemic without sacrificing our abilities to manage mosquito populations. However, I’m sure all of us involved in mosquito control are waiting for a return to the times when our main attention is again on mosquito borne virus, rather than coronavirus.

Contributed by:
Robert A. Moulis
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GMCA, 2021 (from page 1)

The GMCA Board has continued to hold Board meeting virtually. It was decided to freeze the Board positions for a year, so your 2020-2021 Board will remain the same, with the exception of the position of Secretary-Treasurer. In light of Karen's upcoming retirement an announcement was posted and Ms. Kristin Reichardt, the biologist at Richmond County Mosquito Control, was selected to be our next Secretary Treasurer. The Board welcomes Kristin to this role and appreciates her stepping up to take on these responsibilities for the association.

For info on the GMCA Board members, go to <http://www.gamosquito.org/bod.htm>.

We have also continued adding content to the GMCA website, including adding additional publications of interest, many of which are authored by GMCA members (<http://www.gamosquito.org/publications.htm>). If you have a publication that would be of use/interest to GMCA members, please send us a pdf and we will be happy to post it.

We have also posted a quick evaluation tool to be used to determine areas that may need some kind of intervention – education, surveillance, or control. This is an ArcGIS Survey123 surveillance tool and currently send data to the GDPH entomologists but can certainly be used as a template to create your own quick environmental surveillance tool.

Arboviral Environmental Evaluation Survey

Older urban or suburban neighborhoods where houses are close together and shabby, yards are overgrown and unkempt, and there are numerous containers that can hold water are at highest risk for having mosquito vectors.

(<https://arcg.is/19Omue>)

The Georgia Department of Public Health also posts mosquito surveillance reports for Georgia on the GMCA website at

<http://www.gamosquito.org/mosquito.htm> to assist small programs that don't do mosquito surveillance but instead rely on complaints to determine when to do mosquito control in knowing what mosquitoes are active in their areas.

There is a lot more information available on the GMCA website, including a training video to help with studying for a CAT 41 pesticide license, information on the NPDES requirements for mosquito control, surveillance and disease information, sample forms for data collection, Items with the (soon to be retired) GMCA logo for sale, upcoming events, and any job notices that are sent to us for posting.

Speaking of the GMCA logo, we have been working on creating a new and improved logo, so keep a look out for that announcement, coming soon.

We are planning to have a 2021 meeting in October in Athens, GA, and we will need speakers. We need speakers who are willing to talk about mosquitoes, mosquito research, mosquito control, or just about any topic related to mosquitoes. We also usually have one or two non-mosquito talks. Our shortest talks are ~15 minutes, but we are happy to listen to you for an hour if you have something interesting to say. We especially like to have a good mix of operational vs research talks and talks from commercial vs municipal applicators, so please consider coming to give a talk if you are an applicator or a student doing research. We are an easy group to talk to, so no worries.

We do have some limited funding to help speakers with hotel and registration costs, and to pay for one person to attend the meeting who couldn't otherwise. Given all that, please consider giving a talk at the GMCA meeting in 2021. We all love to hear new stories from the lab and field.



The Georgia Mosquito Control Association

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