President’s Message

Hello Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association valued members! It was a warm winter here in central Washington, and spring is knocking at the door! I am not sure how the weather is elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, but I hope your spring is a little more delayed.

For those that attended the association’s annual meeting in beautiful Whitefish, Montana, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did! Great speakers, venue, conversation, and, of course, food. I received productive feedback to make the 57th annual meeting in Lake Chelan, Washington, just as memorable. Before that, the NWMVCA Executive Committee has put together a spring workshop that will be a good opportunity for us to continue our education. More information on the spring workshop can be found later on in this newsletter.

I would also like to introduce the new members of the NWMVCA Executive Committee. Coming in as the Vice President is Curtis Fediuk from Duka Environmental Services LTD. The new industry representative is Steven Ingalls with Valent BioSciences. The new state representative for Oregon is Matt Hutchison with Baker Valley VCD. Cheryl Phippen with BWP Consulting Inc. is the new British Columbia representative. Contact information for everyone on the executive committee can be found on the NWMVCA website: nwmvca.org.

I hope you all had a great “off season” and I am looking forward to seeing you at the spring workshop!

Cheers,

Ann Belchik-Moser
NWMVCA President
Executive Director’s Report

Greetings NWMVCA Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Mosquito season is coming up quickly which means that the NWMVCA Spring Workshop in Richland Washington is right around the corner. We have a unique program this year and I sincerely hope that all of you will consider attending. I would like to congratulate the Executive Committee for putting together a successful 2017 Fall Meeting in Whitefish. Our President, Annie Belchik-Moser did a fantastic job with the program as well as handling the many behind the scenes duties that go along with planning a conference that size. Attendance was fantastic, we had 113 attendees and the NWMVCA actually turned a small profit.

I would like to sincerely thank Jake Rubow for volunteering to take over as the NWMVCA Newsletter Editor. It is great to see new members step up and volunteer for the association and I know firsthand that a lot of work goes into collecting articles and organizing this document. All members are encouraged to submit articles in the future. Contact Jake Rubow or myself for more information.

Speaking of volunteering, the following standing committees are in need of members:

- Nominations Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Program Committee
- Resolutions Committee
- Awards Committee
- Public Education Committee
- Audit Committee

If you are interested in serving on a committee please contact NWMVCA Secretary/Treasurer Janie Cuellar or myself.

I look forward to seeing all of you in West Richland!

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Gerard, Executive Director
Thanks for a Great Fall Meeting!

Thank you to all of the sponsors, presenters, and organizers for the excellent annual meeting in Whitefish, Montana last October, and congratulations to Kevin Shoemaker, who received the Distinguished Service Award.

The Grouse Mountain Lodge provided a great venue for two days of interesting and informative presentations, and the weather was beautiful (a lucky break for October in Montana). Hopefully everyone had a chance to explore Glacier National Park and the surrounding area, or, at the very least, enjoy Whitefish’s Octoberfest, which just happened to coincide with the meeting.

This year’s annual meeting at Campbell’s Resort in Lake Chelan, Washington, October 3-5, 2018, promises to be a great time as well. Hope to see everyone there!
Needs Improvement…

Last October, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) released a report assessing mosquito control capabilities in the United States. NACCHO based the report on a survey examining how closely mosquito control activities follow AMCA and CDC competency standards. The study found that a “majority of local jurisdictions need improvement to protect communities from mosquito-borne disease,” with 84% of programs needing improvement in at least one core competency area.

Of the five core competencies examined (graphic below), the study discovered that a majority of vector control programs surveyed need improvement in three key areas: pesticide resistance testing, conducting routine mosquito surveillance and species identification, and treating for mosquitoes based on surveillance data. A shocking 98% of programs that ranked as ‘Needs Improvement” “lack the capability or capacity to perform pesticide resistance testing.” More than half, 52%, of these districts fail to conduct routine surveillance and species identification, and 61% lack competency in using surveillance data to make treatment decisions. These findings may be alarming, but resources are available to help change the situation.

1. NACCHO and other national public health organizations will be presenting on this topic during the Legislative and Regulatory Symposium at the American Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting in Kansas City on February 27th.

2. NACCHO will hold a vector control summit, “Itching to Improve: Building Local Mosquito Control Capacity,” March 13-15, 2018, in Orlando, Florida. The summit will focus on the themes of integrated mosquito management, pesticide resistance testing, and licensing and ordinances, and will feature speakers from abatement districts, local health organizations, universities, the CDC, and the AMCA. Registration is free, but space is limited and priority will be reserved for respondents to the recent “Vector Control and Surveillance Assessment” survey. More information about the summit can be found HERE, and the full NACCHO report, Mosquito Control Capabilities in the U.S., can be found HERE.

3. The NWMVCA Spring Workshop, to be held April 11th-12th, 2018, at the Benton County Mosquito Control District in West Richland, Washington, will feature a larviciding bioassay on the first day, and an AMCA “Train The Trainer” workshop on the second. The “Train The Trainer” workshop will be limited to 35 attendees. (Further information below, or available at nwmvca.org)

4. Guidelines for evaluating insecticide resistance using the CDC Bottle Bioassay are available HERE. Specific guidelines for monitoring insecticide resistance in Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus are available HERE.

The above resources can help to address shortcomings in resistance testing, routine surveillance and identification, and incorporating surveillance data into treatment decisions, but these shortcomings ultimately represent symptoms of the underlying problem of funding. The report concluded that the cyclical nature, or outright lack, of adequate funding and resources for mosquito control creates a situation where “local vector control programs are left understaffed, undertrained, and underfunded, and the public is left vulnerable to the next impending mosquito-borne disease threat. Funding opportunities and resources may be limited, but hope could be on the horizon. Senate Bill 849, the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act passed the Senate last September, and the House version, H.R. 1310, is currently before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. The SMASH Act could make additional vector control funding available through CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grants allocated for use at the local level. The NACCHO findings clearly support the need for such funding in vector control. Please keep an eye out for information from the NWMVCA and AMCA about the AMCA Annual Meeting, Washington Days Conference, and other opportunities to share your own concerns and experiences with your representatives.
Legislative and Regulatory Update

In other legislative news, the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association signed on to a pair of letters recently (attached) in support of including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) “fix” language in the 2018 Farm Bill. The bill language clarifies that pesticide applications are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and should not be doubly regulated under a second federal law, the Clean Water Act, by requiring that applicators obtain NPDES permits for pesticide applications made to, over, or near waters of the United States. This federal requirement is especially burdensome to mosquito control programs in the Northwest working on federal and tribal lands, because it adds confusion on matters such as; who has decision-making authority, who is responsible for monitoring and reporting, and who regulates the pesticide application, the federal or the state agency? Thank you to those organizations that signed on to the letters, and please continue to support NPDES legislation by contacting your legislators at their home offices, or better yet, attend the AMCA Washington Conference in Alexandria, Virginia on May 14th-16th, 2018 and tell your story on Capitol Hill.

Regulatory happenings- In January, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a biological opinion concluding that uses of malathion, diazinon, and chlorpyrifos jeopardize salmon’s survival. The opinion gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) one year to put protective measures in place. EPA Administrator Pruitt said recently that the Endangered Species Act has generally been a source of "a lot of confusions and difficulties." He signed a Memorandum of Agreement (attached) with the Departments of Commerce and Interior aimed at better coordinating their work on endangered species issues. The goal, he said is to deal "with the Endangered Species Act in a way that is cooperative, as opposed to adversarial." In the meantime, the AMCA Chemical Control and Endangered Species Act Subcommittees are collecting comments from mosquito control operators that will be compiled and submitted to the regulatory agencies involved. The process currently used to evaluate pesticide uses in endangered species habitat is so conservative that it is unlikely any mosquito control products will “pass the test”, which could result in the loss of tools that are necessary to protect public health and prevent pesticide resistance. For questions, contact Angela Beehler.

Angela Beehler
Legislative and Regulatory Chairman
American Mosquito Control Association
Get Ready for the 2018 Spring Workshop!

This year’s Spring Workshop will be held April 11th and 12th at Benton County Mosquito Control District, 4951 Van Giesen Street, West Richland, WA 99353, (509) 967-2414. The workshop will be two full days, with a day of training on the 11th, and the 12th dedicated to the AMCA Train the Trainer program (with an attendee limit of 35). The Spring Workshop agenda and registration forms are attached. Clarke will also sponsor a half-day workshop on April 12th for those not attending the Train the Trainer workshop. See below for more information.

The 11th will consist of a Larviciding Bioassay in the morning and Customer Service Training in the afternoon. Lunch and breaks will be provided.

The social will be April 11th from 5-7 pm at Atomic Ale Brewpub & Eatery in Richland, Washington. For more information please visit http://atomicalebrewpub.com.

The 12th will consist of the Train The Trainer program. This program is normally a 2 day workshop, but we will be fitting into 1 jam-packed day. Please limit attendees for this portion of the workshop to 2 per District/Organization. This is in place because we will be limited to 35 total attendees for the Train The Trainer (3T); this limit does NOT apply to the workshop first day (April 11th). 3T is NOT intended for seasonal staff. For more information you can go to AMCA’s Train The Trainer, and scroll down to “Track 2”. Breakfast, lunch and breaks will be provided for this day. If you would like to see a sample timeline for the 3T program please click; Train The Trainer Sample Timeline

Please use the following steps to make a reservation:

1. Call 1-800 REDLION (733-5466)
2. Ask to make a reservation at the Richland Red Lion
3. Let them know you are with a group on April 10th, 2018
4. Give them the group block code NWMO0410
5. Complete your individual reservation with an agent.

A block of rooms is available at the Red Lion Hotel in Richland, WA for the Spring Workshop.
Not attending the Train The Trainer Workshop?

Clarke will sponsor an IMM workshop the same day for those still wishing to receive CEU credits.

**When:** April 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2018  \hspace{0.1cm} 8:30 to noon  
**What:** Clarke sponsored workshop  
**Where:** Red Lion, Richland, WA  

**Details:** IMM workshop with lunch provided afterwards  
* For those of you who have staff attending the NW Spring meeting, but not going to the Train The Trainer day this is an opportunity to receive credits.

**Credits for Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana**  
Agenda will be sent to all parties interested  

**Please RSVP no later than April 6\textsuperscript{th}, 2018**

David Boggs: Dboggs@Clarke.com  
Drew Hunter: Dhunt@Clarke.com
State and Provincial Reports

Idaho

It’s spring time again, or at least it had started to feel that way here in Idaho. With all the dreaded talk of “we are going to have another winter like in 2016-2017”, the winter failed to meet expectations and was seemingly more like the 2015-2016 winter, with little to no major winter storms except in the mountain locations where it was needed. Many of the reservoirs are currently at 60-100% capacity and the snowpack is still in the mountains despite some above average temperatures during January which left many of us believing that spring was already on its way! In general however, most of the districts believe it’s been a mild winter with the possibility of early “nuisance” species hatches to be expected this year, which as always, will be dependent on spring weather. One thing it seems we all have in common in Idaho, is that we are all looking for new personnel, some seasonal field technicians or some full time positions. With the improved economy, the eligible, qualified labor force to choose from has decreased options for great employees; many previous seasonal employees have found full time work or budget constraints for some districts have limited options for better qualified applicants.

Other News-

Southeast:
Bannock County MAD happenings in southeast Idaho are much different than a year ago. Last year they were digging out of snowfall after snowfall, this season no snow seems to be the conversation. Because of weather they feel that they won’t have flooding as much but on the same hand they are seeing their sub-water marshes fill up. One fun fact, they did get an application drone and completed hands-on training, and are completing their paperwork with the FAA now so they are ready to go this spring. They purchased the DJI MG-1S and say it is a very well built and an easy to use piece of equipment.

Central:
Twin Falls PAD has had a warm winter as well with only a few winter storms; however the reservoir is at 100% capacity currently, so even with no more rain or snow they will have full irrigation season and full water flows producing more black flies. They expect a normal mosquito season as well. There will also be another Bee Awareness and Mosquito Abatement Class this year, similar to last year except it will be offered on 2 days for more options for districts on May 23rd and 24th, check out http://www.tubbsberryfarm.com/shop/honey-bee-awareness-for-mosquito-control-operations/ for more information or to sign up.

Southwest:
Ada County MAD is adding more staff and expanding components of their program, for example using bikes in areas where it may be more efficient to treat. Ada County continually keeps hitting the “Top 10 Places to Live or Visit” lists in the US and suburban development and urban sprawl continues creating more vector species habitat with storm drains. They will continue increasing storm drain and container source management and increase public education and awareness efforts in the community.

Canyon County MAD will be looking for Saint Louis encephalitis more this year due to last season the disease being found in nearby districts in Idaho and Oregon. They expect early hatches of nuisance mosquitoes from the mild winter especially around the Deer Flat National Refuge in early spring and a more typical mosquito season later this summer.

Gem County MAD is looking at another annexation election, the 3rd one in the past 3 years. They also are breaking ground this spring on their new administration building located on their current property, expected to be completed this year.
Montana Report

The Montana Mosquito and Vector Control Association held its annual meeting in Great Falls this January. The first day offered an update on the statewide adult trapping and West Nile Virus testing program, followed by an entertaining installment of the “Joe Conlon and Stan Cope Show.” The second day’s presentations covered the use of Remote-Piloted Aircraft, safety in the field, home solutions for mosquito control, an update on label changes and record keeping from the Montana Department of Agriculture, tips for positive interaction between beekeepers and mosquito control applicators, and a general meeting. The association also recognized the long and excellent service of Clay Williams, Dean Gaiser, and Rennie Kubik, whose efforts will be sorely missed when they begin their well-deserved retirements.

Special thanks to Stan and Joe for traveling such a long way to enjoy January in Montana, and to all of the presenters and sponsors for making the meeting possible. Thank you to all of the vendors and members who traveled the snowy roads to attend. And, finally, thanks and congratulations to the new MMVCA President, Stone Tihista, for organizing a wonderful meeting, and to Janice Stroud for keeping everything running.

The Montana Department of Agriculture printed a first run of the new Mosquito Abatement Training Manual in December. This manual replaces the previous version from 1991. The full color manual features a variety of photographs, figures, and identification keys, and covers mosquito biology and habitat, identification, IMM and strategies for managing a comprehensive control program, and mosquito control equipment and calibration. Each section also includes sample questions for the updated mosquito abatement applicator exam in effect this season. The manual is available for purchase at www.mtplants.mt.gov.

Flathead County

Despite what seems like a slow winter for snow so far, snowpack in Flathead County is sitting at 124% of normal. If the warm, wet weather continues we could be in for a busy spring. Everything is sure to run smoothly, though, with two of our outstanding veteran crew members returning for their second and third seasons. We are busily preparing for the upcoming season, and counting the days until we can go play outside.

Hill County

Thanks to everyone that helped run the annual meeting while I was sick with a severe case of bronchitis. Glad everything went well. In Hill County we have had pretty good snow which may lead to a lot of water this spring.

-Terry Turner
MMVCA, Glasgow

Greetings,

The MT Mosquito conference was a great success, even with a few technical difficulties. We had great attendance this year. Of course, the number of attendees versus speakers or chemicals representatives is usually equal. Thankfully no one has complained. However, the meeting was quite a show as the first day was almost all about Joe Conlon and Stanton Cope. The second day was filled with safety discussions, backyard remedies for the home owner, tips on how to get your license to fly a drone and a visit with a backyard beekeeper enthusiast. Overall, it was a great success. The Montana Mosquito Association would like to give a "Thank You" to the chemical representatives for supporting our group. Also a "Thank You" to the speakers that came from near and far.

On the home front of things, the 2018 summer season looks to be right on track. We can only hope for a normal-ish summer in this part of the world. Now the small amount of time I have been a mosquito district supervisor I can say I have seen it from both extremes of too much rain, to where is all the rain. One thing in common is there are always plenty of mosquitoes. Battling the constant source of irrigation fields being flooded at various times makes for a long summer. Thankfully attending these meetings and meeting folks that have similar problems makes it fun to visit and share strategies.

Sincerely,

Stone Tihista
President, MMVCA
Glasgow Mosquito District Sup.

Oregon Report

With the mark of the New Year, it makes me wonder, where did the offseason go? Before we know it, spring will be upon us and our work will begin to shift from the office and into the field. The opportunity to spend less time in the office chair and more time in the hip boots is always a welcome change for me, and if the weather pattern continues on the trend it has been on, mosquito season may come early this year for all of us.

So far, this winter has been a stark contrast to last winter. At this point last year, Oregon was in the midst of a banner year for snowfall, with snowpack levels throughout the majority of the state above average, combined with very cold temperatures. This year’s winter on the other hand has been quite mild, with snow pack levels tracking below average. February and March can be big snow months for the mountains in the Pacific Northwest, so there is still plenty of time for those snowpack levels to jump closer to average, only time will tell. But not to worry, many of the reservoirs throughout the state are holding at or near average, so there should still be plenty of mosquitoes around to keep everyone busy.

Matt Hutchinson
Oregon State Representative
Upcoming Events

February 26—March 2, 2018: AMCA 84th Annual Meeting, Location: Kansas City, Missouri

March 13-15, 2018: NACCHO Summit, “Itching to Improve: Building Local Mosquito Control Capacity” Location: Orlando, Florida

April 11-12, 2018: NWMVCA Spring Workshop, Location: West Richland, Washington

April 12, 2018: IMM Workshop and Lunch, Sponsored by Clarke, Location: West Richland, Washington


May 30, 2018: Montana Mosquito and Vector Control Association Spring Workshop, Location: Great Falls, Montana

October 3-5, 2018: NWMVCA Annual Meeting, Location: Campbell’s Resort, Lake Chelan, Washington
2018 NWMVCA Annual Spring Workshop
Hosted by the Benton County Mosquito Control District
4951 W Van Giesen St, West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-2414

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 11th
7:30am - 8:00am    Registration

8:00am - 8:10am    Opening remarks and welcome - Ann Moser, President, NWMVCA

8:10am - 8:20am    AMCA updates – Jason Kinley, AMCA President-elect

8:20am – 9:00am    How to Conduct a Bioassay - Lecture and Hands on Demonstration, Peter DeChant, Valent BioSciences

9:00am – 10:00am   Factors that can Contribute to a Perceived Product Failure - Discussion of Factors to Consider Before Making an Assumption About Product Failure

10:00am – 10:15am  Break

10:15am – 11:00am  Mechanisms of Resistance to Pesticides in Mosquito Larvae – Discussion of Resistance Mechanisms including Biochemical, Physiological and Behavioral

11:00am – 12:00pm  Strategies to Reduce the Possibility of Pesticide Resistance in Mosquito Larvae – Discussion of Resistance Management Followed by Questions about Topics Discussed in the Morning Session

12:00pm - 1:00pm   Lunch

1:00pm – 3:00pm    “How Can I Help You?” Customer Service Training – Lauren Hall, Better Business Bureau NW

3:00pm – 3:15pm    Break

3:15pm – 4:00pm    Customer Service Training – Spencer Rockwell, Special Districts Association of Oregon

4:00pm – 4:30pm    Sponsor Introductions
5:00pm-7:00pm  Networking Event – Atomic Ale Brewpub and Eatery, 1015 Lee Blvd., Richland, WA

**Thursday, April 12th**  AMCA Train the Trainers Program

7:30am - 8:30am  Breakfast (provided)

8:30am – 10:00am  TTT Introduction, Goals, Surveillance – AMCA Master Trainers – Marcia Reed, Samer Elkashef, Paula Macedo

10:00am - 10:15am  Break

10:30am – 11:30am  Mapping

11:30am – noon  Lunch (provided)

12:00pm - 2:00pm  Action Thresholds, Mosquito Control

2:15pm – 2:30pm  Break

2:30pm – 6:00pm  Capstone Activity
Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association
2018 Spring Workshop and AMCA TTT
Registration Form

April 11-12, 2018

Benton County Mosquito Control District
4951 West Van Giesen St.
West Richland, WA 99353
(509) 967-9414

Please use one form per registrant. Make copies if needed.

________________________________________
Agency

________________________________________
Name

________________________________________
Address                  City          State          Zip

________________________________________
Telephone number          Email address

Check each day you will be attending.    Member Fee    Non-Member Fee

☐ Wednesday, April 11th
   • Program includes larvicide resistance testing and customer service training
   • Lunch, breaks, and evening networking event included
   $30          $40          $_______

☐ Thursday, April 12th – space limited
   • Agenda is AMCA Train the Trainer Program
   • Includes Wednesday evening social event
   • Thursday breakfast, lunch, and breaks included
   $10          $20          $_______

☐ Late Registration Fee (after April 4, 2018)
   $10          $10          $_______

TOTAL $_______

☐ Payment Enclosed        ☐ Bill Me        ☐ Will Pay at the Door

Refund Policy:
Registration fees will not be refunded unless a request is made prior to March 30, 2018

Please return this form and make checks payable (IN US DOLLARS) to:
Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association (NWMVCA)
c/o Janie Cuellar
3005 S First Street – Hermiston, OR 97838
OR email janie.cuellar@wumcd.org
Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association
2018 Spring Workshop SPONSOR Registration Form

Benton County Mosquito Control District
4951 West Van Giesen Street
West Richland, WA 99353

April 11-12, 2018

Please use one form per registrant. Make copies if needed.
SPONSORSHIPS INCLUDE ONE FREE PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

Agency

Name

Address  City  State  Zip

Telephone  Email address

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Sponsorship fees will not be refunded

Please return this form and make checks payable (IN US DOLLARS) to:
Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association (NWMVCA)
c/o Janie Cuellar
3005 S First Street – Hermiston, OR 97838
OR email  janie.cuellar@wumcd.org
Grant County Mosquito Control District #1, Moses Lake, WA 98837

Position: Assistant Manager

Reports To: District Manager

Directly Supervises: Vector Ecologist and Field Supervisor

Starting Salary: $70,000/year with opportunity for yearly salary increases. Position is non-exempt regular full time with benefits (medical insurance, paid sick leave, 7% retirement in 403(b), and other paid time off).

Position Characteristics:

The Assistant Manager is a professional and management-level position that directly supervises the Vector Ecologist and Field Supervisor of Grant County Mosquito Control District #1. Under the direction of the Manager, the Assistant Manager assists in the day-to-day operation of the District. The incumbent coordinates and assists in the supervision of all vector control inspection, surveillance, and control activities. The Assistant Manager conducts and executes various aspects of the District’s technical program, applying the knowledge associated with the scientific disciplines of biology, ecology and integrated pest management. The Assistant Manager is the District safety officer, and enforces all District policies, programs, and standards. The Assistant Manager serves as Acting Manager in the Manager’s absence, and performs related work as required.

For more information, please contact Ann Belchik-Moser at amoser@gcmcd1.org.