



Vector News

A publication of the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association

Summer 2021



Executive Director's Report

Hello Members,

As things inch closer to normal there are still several challenges programs face; some still related to COVID, some operational issues we face each year, and some that are new to this season. As we navigate through 2021, there is light at the end of the tunnel, as we will be having our annual meeting return this fall. We will all be able to get together and discuss the successes and failures we've experienced over the last couple years. Hearing these stories and experiences and learning from others has always helped our members in making decisions for their own programs.

Returning to normal in 2021 hasn't gone as quickly in some areas as it has in others. While vaccines have allowed us to "get close" again, in most cases challenges still remained, such as the ability to hire seasonal help. Personally, I did more to look for possible applicants in 2021 than any other year, yet it produced the lowest number of applications I've ever seen. If anyone has any tips or tricks that you have used to recruit people, please share it with other programs, as it has been a big struggle.

Being in the Northwest, most programs are used to dealing with the heat that we experience here, but this season has gone beyond the normal hot days we generally experience. Not only does it shorten the time needed for the mosquito larvae to go through its life cycle, but it presents issues with spraying that we have to adapt to. One of those issues is just keeping people out in the field; at what point do you decide that it's not safe to have them out there? For a couple of programs it's upper 90's, say 98, which we have seen as early as 10:00 a.m. this year. It can also affect nighttime spraying, delaying our start times. I have found myself starting an hour or two later this year and some days not being able to get out at all.

Now to some good news- the fall meeting is back on! It is back in Boise, Idaho, and has a new look this year. We have high hopes that each person who attends will have a great time and learn some valuable information along the way. It will start Wednesday, October 6th with a district tour of Gem, Canyon and Ada County, but make sure your there on the 5th so you don't miss the bus. The tour will be followed by an off-site social event that evening, so we can all relax and catch up. Thursday will be an all day meeting at the hotel where Randy Gerard has put together a great group of speakers. The President's reception and banquet will follow like normal, but the difference is this year this will conclude our meeting, no half day to follow.

I look forward to seeing you all there and hope you have fared well since the last time we all got together. We faced many challenges, please accept that as long as you gave it your best effort, you're doing the best you can do. We know we're never going to get all the mosquitoes, or operate "normal" during times that don't allow that to happen. Make the biggest positive change you can and be proud of yourself for doing so.

Kelly Beehler
NWMVCA Executive Director

Points of Interest

Executive Director's Report

59th Annual Meeting

State/Provincial Reports

Registration Forms

NWMVCA Sustaining Members

Adams County MCD
ADAPCO

AMVAC Environmental
Products

Benton County MCD
Canyon County MAD
Central Life Sciences
Clarke

Frontier Precision, Inc.

Gem County MAD

Grant County MCD #1
North Morrow VCD

Leading Edge Associates

Target Specialty Products

Univar USA

Valent BioSciences Corp.

Vector Disease Control, Inc.

West Umatilla MCD



Check It Out!
We are on the web at:
www.nwmvca.org

**NWMVCA
OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT
Curtis Fediuk

PAST PRESIDENT
David Herter

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Randy Gerard

VICE PRESIDENT
Dave Boggs

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kelly Beehler

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Chris Law

INDUSTRY REP.
Tim Bennett

TRUSTEE
Doug Shinn

AMCA REP.
Greg Barron

Newsletter Editor
Jake Rubow

NWMVCA 59th ANNUAL MEETING

October 5-8, 2021

Location: The Hilton Garden Inn - 348 S 13th St., Boise, ID 83702

Room Rate: \$169, plus \$15/day for parking

***Please Note: Rooms must be reserved before September 7th at 5pm**

October 5: Arrival and possible meet and greet

October 6: District Tour

7-8am: Breakfast

8am-5pm: Tour of Gem, Canyon, and Ada County Districts

Social Event to follow in the evening

October 7: Presentations

7-8am: Breakfast

8am-4:30pm: Meetings

6-7pm: Reception

7-10pm: Banquet Dinner

October 8: Checkout

7-8am: Breakfast

Online registration will not be available for this meeting. Please mail registration forms, with payments to:

NWMVCA

C/O: Chris Law

PO Box 2943

La Grande, OR 97850

or email, without payment to: nwmvca@gmail.org

Printable registration forms may be found on pages 7 and 8, or PDFs are available here: [STANDARD FORM](#), [VENDOR FORM](#)



Check It Out!

**We are on the web at:
www.nwmvca.org**

NWMVCA State & Provincial Representatives:

ALASKA

Vacant

ALBERTA

Vacant

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Cheryl Phippen

IDAHO

Desiree Keeney

MONTANA

Jake Rubow

OREGON

Matt Hutchinson

SASKATCHEWAN

Vacant

WASHINGTON

David Beus

State and Provincial Reports

Washington

Summer punched everyone in the face in Washington back in June, like everyone else in the Northwest, and it hasn't decided to let up much. I don't know a ton of what's going on in counties other than my own, but I know that Benton County has their drone program up and running and it sounds like the results are positive at this point. From what I understand Franklin County liked their drone so much last year they bought another one. For us in Adams County the results have been fantastic so far. The speed and precision that the PrecisionVision 35 treats larval habitats is impressive. It was a big expense, but with it's efficiency and time-saving it won't be too long before it's paid for itself. We also purchased a small surveillance drone (Franklin and Benton Counties did as well) and that has made a huge difference in our ability to identify problems areas or find water sources that were previously difficult to identify. These new tools have changed our program quite a bit for the better. I apologize for not having more, I'm sure there are really good things happening in all the other districts in the state, but it's July and we're all in the thick of it.

The following email was received a few days ago from John Betz of the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association if anyone is interested:

Hello, I would like to reach out to any individuals who would be interested in contributing to our New Jersey Mosquito Control Association newsletter (NJMCA). It would be great to join efforts and share information, research, etc. We currently work with many partners in the Northeast. We would love to be able to share and collaborate with the Northwest Mosquito Association. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. If you need more information, I would gladly forward. A response would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for your time.

John Betz

Program Chair, NJMCA Biologist

Cumberland County Mosquito Control Bridgeton, New Jersey

Phone 856-690-6694

Email johnbet@co.cumberland.nj.us

David Beus

NWMVCA Washington Representative



Oregon

Many areas in Oregon closed out winter with decent snowpack's, but that quickly dwindled with warm temperatures and well below average moisture throughout the spring. Most of Oregon is in severe or extreme drought, and conditions continue to worsen with persistent hot and dry weather. The majority of Oregon districts are reporting an increase in Culex mosquitoes and that much of the larval habitats in their districts are beginning to dry up. There has been no WNV activity reported in the state as of right now, but since WNV can be more prevalent during years of drought, and since there has been activity reported by our neighbors in Washington & Idaho, everyone is on high alert. As with many employers, Districts have struggled with finding technicians, making it hard to keep up with the normal workload our busy season brings. On a brighter note, I am thrilled to hear that we are planning on an in-person event this fall. It will be great to see everybody and get to catch up. In the meantime, I hope the rest of everyone's busy season is a safe & successful one.

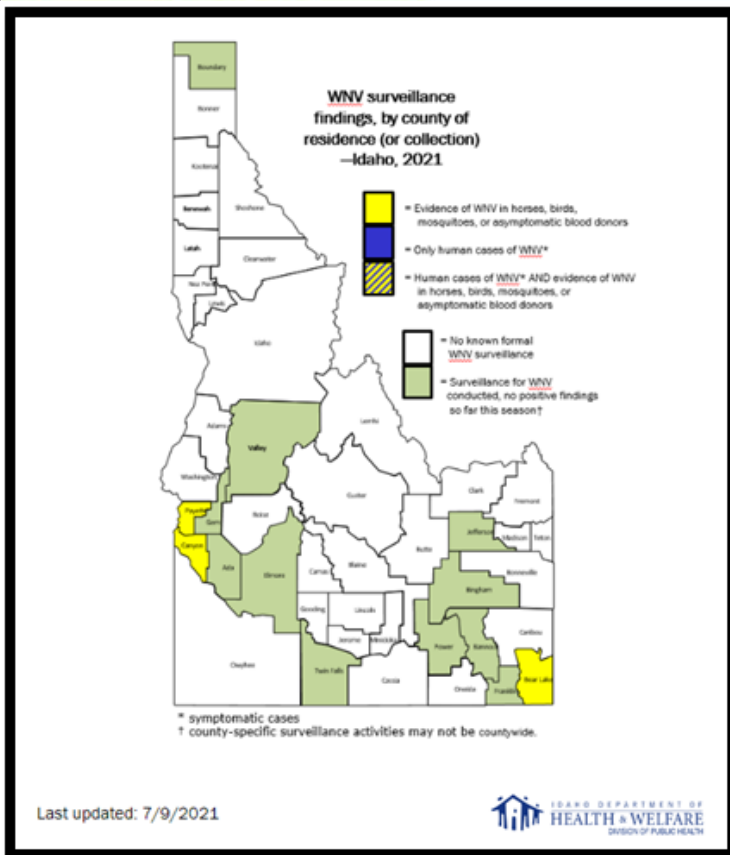
Matt Hutchinson
NWMVCA Oregon Representative

Idaho

Summertime fun in good ol' Idaho has been a welcoming and progressive theme this year post COVID-19; however, many of us (and sounds like surrounding states as well) are still experiencing the COVID-19 hangover. While Idaho 'opened up' quickly following the release of vaccines (though many communities never really shut down here), mosquito control districts were finding themselves in a delayed haze that is continuing today. Many districts reported a shortfall in staff and applicants for full time or seasonal work leading us to try to be even more competitive within our allowed budgets and still get work done with limited resources. Even now, districts are reporting about 80% staffing filled as more people are still banking on unemployment support as well as getting to be picky on where to work for competitive wages.

More and more people are moving into our great state and not understanding where they are moving to with comments like, "I didn't even know there were mosquitoes here, let alone districts" and they have gone on public platforms stating "they want to change the laws here to be more like [insert a state here]...and stop poisoning us". So public awareness and education continues to be at the forefront of our battles in addition to the changing landscapes through development and urbanization which leads to an increase in vector habitats.

More districts in Idaho are utilizing and purchasing application UAV's (drones) in the last year and have reported cost savings and time savings which is helping to maintain the shortfall of personnel. By the end of the year, at least 6 districts have or will have their own UAV, which is doubled from last year and will likely continue to increase in the near future. I have found that we have had to spend more funding on long term products this year due to less staffing to treat all our known mosquito development sources in hopes that it will get us through the season, so it looks like the proof is in the pudding and UAV's will likely be a staple tool for mosquito control programs.



WNV showed up in late June this year and a few districts completed aerial applications by the first weekend of July. Currently (as of July 20th), only 3 counties have found positive WNV mosquito pools (see map), but with the heat wave, droughts, staffing shortages, and in some cases increased vector abundance, it may end up be a hot WNV year yet, only time will tell.

Our state lab had volunteered to run mosquito pools for WNV, WEE and SLE “for free” for districts since they have a new machine that can run multiple samples much more quickly than their old way. Unfortunately, there is still an inconsistent lag time in reporting back to the districts using this resource instead of in-house testing options. Some Idaho districts have also been working with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and VectorSurv to get IdahoSurv up as a reporting and data sharing platform and database to improve communication and timely information for species abundance and district sharing and collaboration at a regional level within Idaho.

There has also been a push and passing of tax reform at the state legislative level in Idaho that will have some impact to mosquito districts budgets in the future fiscal years, I hope to have more of an update on this at the district level later this winter.

Finally, Twin Falls Pest Abatement District reported one of their more successful Bluegill catch days with almost 1000 fish netted and over 40 people and kids helping to capture the game fish as part of their IMM program. They typically see an increase in interest in mosquito control especially with the kids and the community as well as an increase in service requests and mosquito awareness.

See you all soon for the NWMVCA Annual Fall Conference in Boise, Idaho, October 6th-8th! We hope to have some new and fun in-person events for the conference after a long COVID-19 hangover!

~Desireé Keeney, NWMVCA Idaho State Representative



Montana

Like everywhere else in the Northwest, “hot and dry” gives a pretty good description of the season so far in Montana. Snowpacks were generally below normal across the state, leading to pretty manageable runoff and early flooding. Even so, a warm spring and heavy spring/early-summer rains made things a bit hectic for some of us along streams and rivers. Rain is now a distant memory for most of us; however, and larval habitats are drying up quickly.

Many districts are encountering the same difficulties with hiring that everyone else seems to have run into, and with everyone in the country apparently intent on moving here, demands on existing personnel, budgets, inventory, etc., have been a challenge this season. Drone use is growing among Montana districts, and will likely increase as programs grapple with growing populations and development in the face of personnel shortages.

No WNV activity has been reported in Montana yet this season, so hopefully that remains the case.

Hill County

We started Adulticiding June 1st because of complaints and pockets of large populations and then the heat hit. Mosquitos left the county looking for water! Actually, caught the few that stayed behind in our trap. Not very many but a few. Still trying to find days that the wind is not blowing over 30 to finish up drone training. Leading Edge tried to get us up and running with our 35X. We will be using for pelleting and weed spraying. Other than that, we are waiting to see everyone in Boise. Check us out on facebook under Hill County Weed and Mosquito District. Have a great summer.

-Terry Turner

Cascade County

We have had a fairly hectic spring – aside from being short-staffed we had a few major rainfall events making floodwater mosquito populations explode the last few weeks.

The MMVCA annual meeting is confirmed for Thursday January 13th at the Celtic Cowboy in Great Falls (1 full day). We have a block of rooms available for the nights of January 12th and 13th.

Cheers!

-Josh Blystone

I’m very excited to see everyone again in Boise, and anyone who can make the trip at the Montana Mosquito and Vector Control Association Annual Meeting in Great Falls, MT, January 12th and 13th, 2022.

Thanks,

Jake Rubow

NWMVCA Montana Representative



Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association 2021 Annual Meeting Registration - **Standard Form**

Dates and location:

October 5-8, 2021

Hilton Garden Inn
348 S 13th Street
Boise, ID 83702



Please return this form to:

NWMVCA
C/O: Chris Law
PO Box 2943
La Grande, OR 97850
Or EMAIL: nwmvca@gmail.com

Please use one form per person

Full Name	Agency
Address	City, State, Zip Code
Phone Number	Email Address

Check Box	Item	Cost Each	Qty	Sub-Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	NWMVCA Member Registrations (Includes receptions, breaks, and banquet)	\$200		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Member Registration	\$275		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guest Registration (Includes receptions and banquet)	\$120		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extra Banquet Ticket	\$60		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Registration Fee (After September 19th)	\$50		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	NWMVCA Annual Membership	\$50		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	NWMVCA Sustaining Membership (Includes one membership)	\$250		\$
Total:				\$

Payment Enclosed Will pay at the door (cash, check, or charge) Bill me later

Make Checks Payable to: Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control

Refund Policy: Registration fees will not be refunded unless a request is made prior to **September 10, 2021**



Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association 2021 Annual Meeting Registration - **Vendor Form**

Dates and location:

October 5-8, 2021

Hilton Garden Inn
348 S 13th Street
Boise, ID 83702



Please return this form to:

NWMVCA
C/O: Chris Law
PO Box 2943
La Grande, OR 97850
Or EMAIL: nwmvca@gmail.com

Company Representative

Additional Registrants

Address City, State, Zip Code

Phone Number Fax # Email Address

Check Box	Item	Member Cost	Non-Member Cost	Sub-Total
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vendor Booth Registration (Includes 1 registration for meeting, receptions, breaks, and banquet)	\$250	\$500	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional Company Registrant (Each)	\$175	\$250	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guest Registrant	\$125		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	NWMVCA Sustaining Membership (Pre-approved by program director)	\$250		\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Event Sponsorship (See attached request)	Event _____		\$
Total:				\$

Payment Enclosed Will pay at the door (cash, check, or charge) Bill me later

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