

# Illinois Mosquito & Vector Control Association

## NEWS



## LETTER

Spring 2015

### President's Report

In January, I announced my retirement as Director of the North Shore M.A.D. The effective date is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Fortunately, by the wisdom of the IMVCA Constitution authors I am able to remain a member of the Executive Committee Board and serve out my 2015 term as President.

Therefore, I look forward to the challenges of 2015 and the Annual Meeting in Champaign, November 19-20 this year.

For the past several years we have been able to conduct annual meetings with planning and management that kept costs within our planned budgets. Going forward, the economy has improved and we find in planning for 2016 and 2017 that the hotels have increased rates and fees significantly. Since the meeting last November, Board members have been negotiating with hotels to find the most reasonable rates and charges. The results of these negotiations as well as ongoing discussions of IMVCA budget management considerations are offered elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Executive Committee has also had an extended conversation about the presentations at the annual meetings with respect to program content as it reflects the interests of our membership demographics. This conversation began at the Committee meeting immediately following the annual meeting in Springfield; it is in response to member comments and Board members' observations. Changes decided upon will be reflected in the 2015 Annual Meeting program.

I am pleased to welcome our newest Board member, Kathryn Nelson from the Will County Health Department. See you in November.

Sincerely, Robert Berry, 2015 IMVCA President.

### Notes from the Secretary-Treasurer's Desk

Greetings from your new secretary-treasurer and thank you for making the Annual Meeting a success. It's been less than a year since I took over the position from Allison and I've found there are more responsibilities than I imagined. Plus I'm not a good secretary (thanks Barb for taking notes), I tend to miss deadlines (thanks Jack for all the warnings), and I'm a penny-pinching treasurer (sorry Executive Committee for always saying, "We can't afford that!"). When I retired

last June from the Illinois Natural History Survey after 25 years, the sec.-treas. job seemed like a good way to stay busy and to keep in touch with my IMVCA friends. Little did I know retirement would actually mean I was busier than ever and juggling a long list of responsibilities. Nina and Allison made the IMVCA job look easy, I thought I only had to work on it from August to November (wrong!).

Despite the initial shock of duties (and not always getting things done on time), I will try to do better. Unfortunately, that list of things to do on my refrigerator is getting almost to the floor. Which brings me to a few overdue financial issues:

1. Thank you sponsors for your support. Your generosity helps make the meetings great.
2. Membership dues should be received before JULY 1 (\$15) or a late fee is charged (\$20). I may have been late sending notices but you still have almost 3 months to pay.
3. Voting member dues from MADS (\$65) are also to be paid now.
4. Due to rising costs and dwindling reserves, the Annual Meeting registration will increase this year, 2015 (\$80 for members, \$100 for non-members, and \$120 for payments at the door).
5. Membership costs will also likely increase in 2016 to \$25 per person, if an amendment to our bylaws is passed at the 2015 annual business meeting in Champaign.
6. Our 2016 meeting will be back in Springfield.

REMEMBER TO USE THE NEW ADDRESS for any IMVCA correspondence.

Rich Lampman, Sec.-Treas. IMVCA  
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Thank you for your help. I would like to pass along a comment from my wife, the lady at the registration desk. On the way home after the meeting, she turned to me and said, "That was the friendliest and most polite group of people I've ever seen at a professional conference". That's why I took the job.

Rich

## **News from the IMVCA Student & Intern Competition**

ISU's Peter Brabant *Traps* a  
Ruth L. Kirschstein NIH Pre-doctoral Fellowship  
Joy Joyce, *IMVCA Trustee Representative*

Peter Brabant, a Henry M. Lawicki Student/Intern Competition past participant awarded third place in 2013 and Honorable Mention in 2014, is the first-ever recipient of an NIH (National Institute for Health) pre-doctoral fellowship at ISU. Brabant, a doctoral student in the lab of Professor of Biology Steven Juliano, indicated that he came to ISU specifically because of the way Juliano runs his lab in allowing students to work on concepts they find interesting. Brabant's education at University of California at Riverside first engaged his interest in insects, thus influencing his decision to major in entomology. Later, while at University of Kentucky for

his master's, Brabant studied the Asian Tiger mosquito. Now at ISU in Juliano's lab, Brabant is moving forward with his research and offered these answers to questions posed to him.

**Pete Brabant (ISU) Responses for IMVCA**

**What will you be doing with the NIH award that you could not have done without it?**

The biggest thing that I gain with this award that I otherwise don't have is time. I am no longer required to teach, so I now have much more time to focus on my research. With this focus I will hopefully be able to perform more experiments and replicates than I would otherwise.

**Whom will your work likely affect?**

My work seeks to identify the effects of container characteristics on mosquito larvae competition and observe the effects that contribute to the spread of *Aedes albopictus*. I hope to be able to identify conditions that contribute to the success of *Aedes albopictus* and other mosquitoes based on differences in the larval habitat. I believe my research will be applicable to pest control technicians and vector ecologists, who may wish to augment their pesticide applications based on the containers noted in the area, or look for different containers based on the primary mosquito in the area, or they simply wish to track the spread of *Aedes albopictus* in the treatment area.

**Where will your research take you?**

Because I am looking at the spread of *Aedes albopictus*, I need to be able to sample areas with high numbers, low numbers, and lacking numbers of *Aedes albopictus*. This means that I have to travel all around Illinois collecting mosquitoes, all the way from the southern tip of the state near Metropolis to the northwestern edge of the state.

**When do you think you'll complete your work?**

I hope to finish within the next four years.

**Why are you doing this research - both in a serious and a humorous or joking way?**

[Humor first] Because, if you want to know how to properly kill your enemy, you must first study where they live. On a more serious note, I do intend to seek a job as a vector ecologist once I attain my PhD, and the knowledge that I gain from this project should greatly assist me in my intended career.

**What problems might you encounter?**

The largest problem I am currently running into is maintaining all of the colonies required for my research at one time. My research requires 12 different colonies of mosquitoes at the current time, and several of the colonies have been experiencing excessive mortality lately, so I will need to go out this summer and collect as many mosquitoes as possible in order to reinvigorate my colonies.

**Who else that you know has won similar NIH awards.**

To my knowledge I am the first person at ISU to win this award.

**Might you come back to the IMVCA Student Competition in November?**

I plan to, unless it is scheduled for the same week as the Entomological Society of America meeting.

More information can be found about IMVCA's Henry M. Lawicki Student/Intern Competition at <http://imvca.org/annual-meeting/student-competition-at-imvca-annual-meeting/>



## **Additional Information on the Henry M. Lawicki Student/Intern Competition from November 2014**

In the picture left to right: Tyler Hedlund, University of Illinois (U of I), Phil Scheibel, Western Illinois University, Surendra Karki, U of I, Lindsay Shand, U of I, Peter Brabant, Illinois State University, Keeley Morris, Loyola University & IMVCA Competition Coordinators Jack Swanson and Joy Joyce. It was a fun & fierce competition last year and everyone was a winner. First place (\$500) went to Keeley, the two runner ups (\$100 each) were Tyler and Phil. The others, Honorable Mentions, all received a framed photo of work done by Alex Wild. Topics included a variety of things such as a prediction model for mosquito infection rate, risk factors for West Nile virus (WNV), spread of ticks and disease in the Chicago area, arbovirus surveillance in rural Illinois, effects of an invasive mosquito on a native mosquito and landscape features and vectors in a WNV hotspot.

### **POETRY CORNER**

The mosquito is a funnybird, it breeds in watery places. Then when it hits maturity for human blood it races. To golfers, gardeners, fisherman, this bug will give their due...  
Then when you slap and kill it, it bleeds YOUR blood on you.

Rolfe Peterson

## ***Aedes japonicus* continues expansion in Illinois Counties**

Jack Swanson, *IMVCA Newsletter Editor*



**AEDES (OCHLEROTATUS) JAPONICUS JAPONICUS**

As of the end of 2014 *Aedes japonicus* has been found in 29 Illinois counties. The newest additions are Boone, Vermillion and Fulton Counties. Illinois' surveillance for invasive mosquito species has been largely a passive system meaning new county reports are added when they come from sources doing other projects such as West Nile virus surveillance, tire removal projects, etc. We may be seeing more active surveillance in the near future.

There has been more interest lately regarding invasive species including the Tiger Mosquito *Aedes albopictus* with new or invasive mosquito borne diseases such as Chikungunya now in the news in the U.S. DuPage County has expressed interest in more specific traps for this purpose. Students from Western Illinois University are interested in more rural areas particularly regarding the La Crosse encephalitis virus as well as new and emerging tick borne diseases. All of this is good news for us living in Illinois and members of IMVCA.

## **Mosquito News Hot Off the Press or on the Web**

### **Genetically modified mosquitoes could be released in Florida**

<http://news.yahoo.com/gmo-mosquito-plan-sparks-debate-florida-021146335.html>

At the time of this newsletter the debate is continuing with both sides having valid concerns.

### **New Virus Discovered in Kansas**

Man dies after becoming ill from presumed tick borne illness.

The discovery of this new virus, called the Bourbon virus (for the county in Kansas, not the adult beverage) will be reported by CDC in their Emerging Infectious Diseases publication May 2015. This may be something to watch for in the Midwest including Illinois. You can read this news story at: <https://www.aacc.org/publications/cln/cln-stat/2015/march/19/New-Virus-Discovered-in-Kansas>

## **FTC Swats Anti-mosquito Band Maker's Marketing Claims**

Thinking of using a wristband to repel mosquito bites? Think again! A company has been charged with "Deceptively Marketing Mosquito Repellent Wristbands". See the press Release from the Federal Trade Commission. <http://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2015/02/ftc-charges-company-owner-deceptive-marketing-mosquito> then scroll down to February 20, 2015.

## **NEJM Report Reviews Global Spread of Mosquito-Borne Chikungunya**

A new report in the New England Journal of Medicine, March 26, 2015, summarizes currently available information on this disease. With the spread of the disease throughout the Caribbean and into much of Central America, further spread in the Americas seems likely. For more information please see <http://www.bioquicknews.com/node/2471> . Thanks to Linn Haramis, Ph.D. & Dr. Fred Echols both of IDPH for bringing this to our attention.

## **West Nile Virus Activity from 2014 in the U.S. & Illinois**

As of January this year the numbers for West Nile virus activity are pretty close to final numbers. For the 2014 U.S. totals, the USGS website has 2,658 positive birds, about 1,000 more than 2013. Positive WNV mosquitoes were down a bit from the previous year 13,331 vs. 13,897. Horse or vet cases reported were down from 395 in 2013 to 143 last year. The CDC reports for human cases were also down from the prior year with 2,122 people and 85 deaths. The final numbers from 2013 were 2,469 cases and 119 deaths. As for Illinois, all our numbers were down from those reported for 2013. People reported as positive stand at 42 with 3 deaths vs. 117 and 11 deaths in 2013. Positive mosquitoes for 2014 were 1,271 as compared to 2,713 which led the nation in 2013. Our positive birds reported to IDPH in 2014 were about ½ of those for 2013, 41 vs. 88. The number of horses reported in 2013 was 16, the most since 2006. Last year we only had one positive horse. Only time will tell what 2015 will have in store but spring has been cool. At the time of this writing the only U.S. activity I could find was in California where they report five counties with positive birds in Alameda, Santa Clara & San Diego and mosquitoes in Santa Barbara & Los Angeles counties.

## **And Now A BIG Shout Out and THANKS! To All our Sponsors & Exhibitors for the Annual Meeting**

Remember without these fine folks our meetings could not be as good as they could be. Just listing these in alphabetical order: ADAPCO, Central Life Sciences, CLARKE, UNIVAR Environmental Sciences, Valent BioSciences, VDCI (Vector Disease Control International) and ZOECON Professional Products. This is a good place to thank our **members** since they bought almost \$500 of raffle tickets for the iPad donated by Univar which will go to UNICEF. Thanks!