



ILLINOIS MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Historical information about this association's origins and the beginning of mosquito control in the state of Illinois can be traced back to the time when malaria was a problem in the 1800's and early 1900's in the upper Mississippi River Basin. A limited mosquito control effort was started in 1921 by the Sanitary District of Chicago. That effort was replaced and much expanded in 1925 by the Anti-Mosquito Board of Metropolitan Chicago.

In the southern parts of the State, the Illinois Department of Public Health started a vigorous malaria control campaign in Carbondale in 1922. These efforts were so successful and well accepted that on July 7, 1927 the General Assembly of the State passed the Mosquito Abatement Districts Act, permitting the creation of tax-based mosquito abatement districts (MADs). Illinois was the fifth State to pass laws governing the organization of MADs. Almost immediately after passage the first two organized were the Carbondale and Des Plaines Valley MADs. By 1942, another six districts were formed. Currently, there are 21 formal MADs in Illinois with the largest and the majority of these located in the northeastern region supported by those population centers.

The Illinois Mosquito Control Association (IMCA) was founded in 1950 but without strong support it floundered and did not regain prominence until 1955. Then it was reorganized and supported by several prominent district directors and other groups with common interests such as local and state health departments, the State Department of Conservation, the Natural History Survey, the University of Illinois Department of Entomology, the Agriculture Experimental Station and several commercial concerns.

Shortly after 1985, along with a name change to the Illinois Mosquito & Vector Control Association (IMVCA) and an updated Constitution and Bylaws, was a Mosquito Control Policy that included surveillance, integrated control, training of mosquito control personnel and public education. The new goal for the association was education and communication. The annual meetings focused on the exchange of information and ideas including successes as well as problems encountered. It was also at that time we saw a revival of the IMVCA Newsletter.

Today those meetings bring together various groups including increased interest from public health since the introduction of West Nile virus to Illinois in 2001. In the last few years the Annual Meeting has averaged around 130 people attending. When we put these into general groups the attendance turns out to be health departments around twenty eight percent, MADs twenty two percent, university/academic including research at twenty one percent, industry and operational at sixteen percent and miscellaneous thirteen percent.

Illinois has a rich history of mosquito research mainly from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign along with the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) and its Medical Entomology Program as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health. Just looking at the list of IMVCA Presidents, where they were from and what they have done since then, makes us proud.

Starting with the IMCVA President of 1981-1982, Gary Clark was the chief of the Arbovirus Surveillance Program at the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). He was the lead author of "California Group Virus Infections in Illinois" published in the Illinois Medical Journal. He was President of the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) in 1997 - 98. More recently, Gary was with the USDA-ARS Center for Medical, Agricultural & Veterinary Entomology assisting with the first edition of the Armed Forces Pest Management Board's Technical Guide compiled in January 2012.

Next, we have Linn Haramis who was the IMVCA President 1985-86, 1991-92 & 1995-96. Linn helped with the IMVCA Newsletter starting in 1984 while he was with the North Shore MAD and was an editor or co-editor through 1998. He was then with IDPH as the Vector Control & Arbovirus Program Manager from that time until his retirement from IDPH. Earlier in his career, when he was in the Vector Biology Laboratory at the University of Notre Dame with Dr. G. B. Craig,

Linn was the author of “*Aedes triseriatus*: A Comparison of Density in Tree Holes vs. Discarded Tires” published in Mosquito News of the AMCA.

Next, we see Donald Baumgartner while in the University of Illinois School of Medicine at Rockford he was the IMVCA President 1989-90 and was a co-editor of the IMVCA Newsletter with Linn from 1988 to 1992. Don is now with the US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 as a Medical Entomologist with the Pesticide Section.

After this is Robert Novak, from the INHS who was IMVCA President 1990-91, 1994-95 and 1998-99. He was also an AMCA President 1996-97. While with INHS he started the Medical Entomology Program. Also, early in his career he was a student under Dr. Horsfall at the University of Illinois (U of I). Along with many mosquito publications, Bob was instrumental in helping get legislation passed in Illinois regarding used tire management, after the introduction of the invasive mosquito *Aedes albopictus* in 1986.

Next on this impressive list is Mike Szyska who was with the Northwest MAD while IMVCA President 1993-94. A regular presenter during the IMCVA Annual Meetings in November he kept us up to date on the mosquito collection records kept by that MAD for many years which were particularly useful after the introduction of West Nile virus into Illinois in 2001. He was also the North Central Director with the Board of Directors of AMCA 2013-2015.

This brings us to Carl Jones, while at the U of I in Urbana-Champaign’s School of Veterinary Medicine, was IMVCA President 1997-98. Carl along with Uriel Kitron were some of our states early tick trackers following the spread of the ticks involved in Lyme disease transmission and adding new county reports and sharing these findings with IDPH. They were helping keep the state maps current after the first reports were started in 1989 by John Bouseman at the INHS, adding new counties at a rate of about one or two per year.

One more person that would have been a President for IMVCA was John-Paul Mutebi. He was selected as the IMVCA Vice-President for 2008, while he was with the Chicago Health Department but took a new job with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Early on John-Paul was at Notre Dame University with Dr. George Craig’s lab and was an AMCA Student Paper Competition winner in 1991.

That brings us up to some more current information with Richard Lampman who is now retired from INHS but was a past President of IMVCA 2000-01, 2007-09 and 2011-12. Rich was the IMVCA Newsletter editor starting in 2001, is our current Secretary/Treasurer and is an advisor to the Executive Committee. He assisted Jack Swanson in getting the IMVCA Henry Lawicki Student/Intern Competition started in 2005.

That note makes a perfect transition to some of our Student Competition participants and what they have done since or are doing now. My list starts with Allison Gardner who, when she was at the U of I, was the winner of the 2015 competition. She was the first author of a paper published in Parasites & Vectors investigating how invasive plants can alter the ecology of the West Nile virus vector, *Culex pipiens*. Most recently I found her study in The Royal Society looking at the use of ecological traps to minimize human risk of mosquito-borne pathogens, while an assistant professor at the University of Maine.

Next, I found that Katie Westby, a student at Illinois State University in Steve Juliano’s lab and runner up from the 2012 competition, had an article in the AMCA’s Mosquito News. Her study published in 2015 found the La Crosse encephalitis virus in *Aedes albopictus*, *japonicus* & *triseriatus* mosquitoes in Tennessee, while she was working for the Tennessee Department of Health’s Vector-Borne Disease Section.

Also, a runner up from the 2011 competition, Imelda Moise with the U of I at the time, was published in the Journal of the AMCA 2019. She had worked with others on a paper titled “Rescuing Troves of Hidden Ecological Data to Tackle Emerging Mosquito-Borne Diseases” while working at the University of Miami’s Department of Public Health Sciences and Geography & Regional Studies.

More recently Lee Ann Lyons from the U of I was a runner up 2018. She is now with the I-TICK program in Illinois, a collaboration with several other groups in the state. Just to name a few others that were in the IMVCA Student/Intern competition, Muturi Juma Ephantus, Brian Allan and Gabe Hammer from 2005 - 2008. There will be more, and we are proud of all of them.