The mission of the FMCA is to promote effective and environmentally sound control of disease-transmitting and pestiferous mosquitoes and other arthropods of public health importance, develop and enhance public interest, awareness, and support for the control of mosquitoes, and provide for the scientific advancement of members through our meetings, training and education.
Northeast Region Report by Peter Jiang  
City of Gainesville Mosquito Control Services

Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD): Director, Dr. Rudy Xue

Dr. Rudy Xue, Director of Anastasia Mosquito Control District reported that St. Johns County had a confirmed case of travel-related Zika in February. AMCD still collected Aedes albopictus, Aedes aegypti, Culex quinquefasciatus, and Anopheles crucians every month during the slow seasons. Former Commissioners Ms. Janice Bequette and Ms. Vivian Browning retired from the Board after two terms (8 years) of service. Mrs. Gina LeBlanc and Mrs. Jackie Rock have been elected as the new Commissioners. Congratulations on Ms. Bequette and Ms. Browning’s retirement and welcome Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs. Rock on the Board. AMCD hired Mr. Tom Columbus as the Station Supervisor, Ms. Molly Clark as the Education Specialist, and promoted Mr. Morgan Duett from seasonal employee to full time mosquito control technician and Mr. Morgan Duett from seasonal employee to full time mosquito control technician. AMCD welcomes them on board. Mr. Mike Smith, Field Biologist retired after 34 year services. Congratulations to Mike. AMCD is preparing for hosting the 14th Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Workshop, March 28-30, 2017. The workshop will be in conjunction with the NE 1443 Regional Project’s 3rd Annual Meeting.

City of Gainesville Mosquito Control Service: Director, Dr. Peter Jiang

We continue to monitor Aedes albopictus populations through the winter season in our area with ovitraps. Aedes albopictus eggs were still collected in relative high numbers in winter season this year, however, no eggs were collected around this time of year in the last two years (late November to early March). Interestingly, no eggs hatched since the late October.

Peter Jiang, along with Mike Riley and Eva Buckner are organizing the 3rd Annual FMCA Dodd Entomologist/Biologist Workshop. The workshop will be held at Manatee County Mosquito Control District on May 3, 2017, 10:00am to 2:00pm. PHPC CEUs will be awarded for this workshop. The workshop agenda will be announced at a later date.

The FMCA NE Region spring meeting will take place March 29 from 12:00-1:00pm at Anastasia Mosquito Control District in conjunction with the 14th Arbovirus surveillance and mosquito control workshop. Please bring your issues, questions and concerns at the meeting.

Jacksonville Mosquito Control: Superintendent, Richard Smith

Mr. Randy Wishard joined the City of Jacksonville leadership team on March 1 as the new Chief of the Mosquito Control Division, having recently retired from the Georgia Department of Public Health, where he served for 30 years in Environmental Health for Richmond County Health Department. Among other environmental responsibilities, Randy served as Environmental Health County Manager and the Director of Richmond County Mosquito Control. In Jacksonville, Randy will be the senior administrator of the Mosquito Control Division, working with other Division Chiefs for the Director of the multi-faceted Neighborhoods Department. During his tenure in Georgia, Randy implemented innovative strategies of weed control in retention ponds, closed abandoned swimming pools to prevent mosquito breeding, and responded to multiple cases of West Nile virus illness in area residents. He has coordinated budgets on county, state and federal schedules. Jacksonville faces many of the same challenges Randy confronted in Georgia. We welcome Randy’s talent and perspective!

Mild temperatures have dominated our weather this winter. Mosquito counts have shown a seasonal decline, but a springtime drought may be more effective in curtailing mosquito development than the brief cold snaps. Service requests have trickled in all winter, especially during the warm spells. Currently, sand gnats are causing a lot of annoyance.

The process of recruiting a professional advisor to assist JMCD with locating and evaluating a suitable turbine helicopter is in progress. When bids for aircraft are eventually tallied, the city’s agent will be invaluable in assessing the aircraft condition and monetary value.
Collier Mosquito Control District: Public Relations Specialist, Robin King

Collier County is enjoying a dry start to 2017, which has provided the District with ample opportunity for equipment maintenance and our staff’s professional development. Nine of our team members attended Dodd Short Courses in Orlando, and in February two traveled to the AMCA Annual Meeting in San Diego. Thanks to the decrease in our mosquito populations, our inspectors were able to take some time away from the field to attend hazmat training. We’ve added a BG-Counter to our arsenal, and the research staff is impressed with its reliable data reporting. It’s proving to be a significant time saver while reliably providing valuable information. A Buffalo Turbine was brought into our fleet, too, which will help us better target Aedes aegypti populations.

There are some new faces around our Collier Mosquito Control District office. The fall election resulted in a new commissioner on our board, David Chapman, who attended his first board meeting in January. Robin King is now on board as our Public Relations Specialist, and Dr. Keira Lucas joins the research team as arbovirus surveillance biologist. We are pleased to add these talented professionals to our staff and look forward to their contributions.

Hernando County Mosquito Control District: Director, Sandra Fisher

Hernando County has been busy in the off season with DODD courses, workshops and other training opportunities. We received our new chicks for 2017 at the beginning of January and they are growing strong, getting ready for the season as well. The "Snow Moon" and high temperatures in mid-February saw a brood of salt marsh mosquitoes pop off in our coastal area prompting treatments not usually performed in winter months. We continue to find container mosquitoes in various areas throughout the county, and surprisingly in culverts and equalizers. We will begin sampling with ovicups and BG traps to gauge population levels and execute control strategies. It appears the season will begin early this year, at least for us.

Lee County Mosquito Control District: Deputy Director of Education and Communication, Shelly Redovan

Dr. Jonathan Hornby, Deputy Director of Operations and Scientific Intelligences for Lee County Mosquito Control District retired January 31, 2017. Katie Baker was promoted to that position. Besides Jon’s scientific work and creating all LCMCD programming such as service request, inspection, treatment, and surveillance searchable data bases; he designed the first program for meeting registration in 1993 when the AMCA meeting was held in Fort Myers. From that point until 2012, the FMCA relied upon Jon’s program which he graciously updated as needed.

Pasco County Mosquito Control District: Director, Dennis Moore

During the first quarter of 2017 several of our staff members were heavily involved in preparing for the FMCA Dodd Courses which continues to be an excellent venue for training and education in Florida. Additionally, several staff attended the sessions during the week-long event. Several staff members also attended the FMCA Aerial Short Course held at Lee County MCD and the Annual AMCA meeting in San Diego, CA. Three staff members are attending Tallahassee Days on March 14/15 to represent our program. Hopefully, representatives of other districts will attend this important legislative event to represent those programs and meet with local legislators.

We are in the final stages of interviews for our new Entomologist position and should have a decision made within the next few weeks. We are also seeking good applicants for an Aircraft Mechanic, so please pass the word if you know someone interested.

We are gearing up for the coming mosquito season and getting all of our equipment in prime condition. Several projects are being discussed so we can continue to evaluate products and improve our surveillance and control efforts.

Pinellas County Mosquito Control & Vegetation Management: Assistant Operations Manager, Glen-Paul Edson

Howdy from Pinellas County. For most of the country they are starting to come out of the freeze and winter off-season, but as everyone knows in Florida we don’t really have an off season. We continue to have new PUI (Patient under Investigation) cases coming in that we act upon, while still having good amount of mosquito activity. We have
started running a domestic specific trapping program to get a better understanding of the *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* populations that we have here in Pinellas County. So far the BG traps are collecting good numbers of all types of mosquitoes including the target species. It will be interesting to see what the spring rains and summer heat do to the BG trapping numbers versus our normal trapping program. We have a new hire in as a mosquito tech. We welcome Jay Heckathorn to the program! He comes to us from our vegetation department and is already eager to learn and help anywhere possible. So here’s to a mild summer and no virus activity for everyone.

**Sarasota County Mosquito Management: Director, Matt Smith**

It’s been a slow winter for mosquitoes in Sarasota but has given us much needed time for finalizing organizational changes. In order to maximize the potential of our superb staff of field technicians, we have created 3 new Tech Specialist positions to provide expanded work opportunities. We will now have specialists that work in areas such as Outreach, Sentinel Chickens, Safety, Disease surveillance, and Data management system maintenance in addition to their regular duties of keeping the county safe from mosquito-borne disease. We believe that providing opportunities to showcase and grow talent greatly adds value to our organization.

We were also very excited to have Biologist Chip Hancock present two talks at the AMCA annual meeting in San Diego. One talk focused on a research project testing the effectiveness of the Larvasonic devices manufactured by New Mountain Technologies. The second talk detailed modifications made to gravid traps to maximize their effectiveness and facilitate ease of use. Both presentations were well received and hopefully will benefit other agencies.

Winter has also given us time to finish some final upgrades to our Integrated Aquaculture and Aquaponics system. To overcome limitations on the size of our return sump tank, we have installed a simple Pond water feature to boost our available volume in the sump area. The area also serves as a demonstration area for decorating with native Florida aquatic plants (right). We hope to be able to discourage homeowners from using dangerous invasive aquatic plants in their water features by showcasing how beautiful native plants can be. A third benefit of the water feature is a workplace wellness function by providing a peaceful place to relax and unwind as staff sit and listen to the waterfalls and watch “Skeeter” the Koi swim around in his new home.

Finally, our Administrative Specialist III, Becky Tavares, is retiring as of March 31st. Becky has been with the department for almost 4 years and has been an indispensable member of the team. Becky has kept all the financial affairs of the department in order and has helped the district grow tremendously over the past 4 years while helping maintain a flat budget. She will be missed.

**Northwest Region Report** by Cindy Mulla, Beach Mosquito Control

**2017 Spring Training in Northwest Florida:** Northwest Florida has experienced a very mild winter with fluctuating temperatures and rainfall. Currently, all mosquito control operations are in spring training gearing up for the 2017 mosquito season opener. They’re all anticipating Mother Nature’s future lineup not knowing what curve ball she may pitch everyone this season.

**Beach Mosquito Control District: Director, James Clauson**

In addition to taking inventory, calibrating equipment, raising a new sentinel flock and completing winter projects BMCD has been very busy. The district has been preparing for the new 2017 season by continuing to keep employees current on CEU’s and up-to-date with current mosquito control topics and shared knowledge. Mr. Clauson attended the Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control at the Whitney Laboratory Marine Land. A large number of BMCD employees attended the annual Dodd Short Courses. Congratulations to Kyle Pridgen for passing the Advanced Mosquito Control exam at Dodd.

As soon as school resumed after the winter break, BMCD’s education program did too. Newly elected district commissioner, Brandon Caldwell began his term. A total of four district employees and two commissioners (Brandon Caldwell and Larry Couch) attended the American Mosquito Control Association in San Diego, California. Congratulations to BMCD employee Danny Ray Hood one of the recipients of the “Grass Roots” award. Cindy Mulla and Michael Riles gave presentations and Director James Clauson both gave a presentation and moderated an Adulticiding Session. Beach Mosquito Control has been very busy.
Bay County Mosquito Control: Director, Fred Wakefield

Five employees attended the annual Dodd Short Courses held in January at Altamonte Springs. Trapping began the first week of February. Mosquito counts have been like a roller coaster up and down just like the weather temperatures. The District is hoping for extended cooler temperatures to prolong Adulticiding.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has assisted in the removal of one waste tire pile located in the northern part of the county. The DEP is currently working at another site in a residential area on the outskirts of town. Reducing these tire disposal areas will significantly reduce mosquito populations and the potential to for mosquito-borne diseases this season.

Callhoun County Mosquito Control: Director, Jace Ford

Jace reports that he had the pleasure of attending the DODD short courses for the first time earlier this year, learning a lot and receiving new helpful information and methods to incorporate with current mosquito control operations. One particular topic is the increase in adulticide resistance. Calhoun County Mosquito Control with the help of FDACS plans to begin participating in the program that has been established to check for resistance in our local mosquito populations. Also, Calhoun County has been selected to participate in the support of House Bill 2127. This bill will allow CCMC to be able to increase mosquito surveillance and testing efforts. Jace was able to go to the state capital last week and participate in the legislative process and show support for the bill.

Escambia County Mosquito Control: Acting Director, Matthew Mello

The district is springing into action preparing for the new season.

Gadsden County Mosquito Control: Director, Jamison Spencer

As of Feb 28th, spraying in Gadsden County has resumed. The district is currently in the process of trying to add an OPS Mosquito Technician to help mainly with night spraying efforts and preparing to add a second spray truck to the program in the near future. FAMU/UF graduate student and GCMC intern, Whitley Stewart, has received her Public Health Applicator License.

Franklin County Mosquito Control: Director, Dewitt Polous

Everything is running smoothly. The area is experiencing unseasonably warmer weather which assisted with the continuation of ditching.

Gulf County Mosquito Control: Director, Austin Horton

Gulf County Mosquito Control shuts operations down for the winter. During this down time employees are temporarily shifted to the Public Works Department. Mosquito control operations resumed on February 20, 2017. Rainfall has been significant and temperatures warmer than normal. Therefore, technicians during preseason treatments located plenty of larvae. Two part time sprayers returned back from last season, leaving two positions vacant to be filled in the near future.

Jackson County, Environmental Health: Director, Tommy Harkrider

Busy preparing for the season: calibrating, maintaining and completing training for the 2017 seasonal staff. The past couple of weeks have already received a few telephone service requests. The local BOCC allowed us to utilize some of the Zika funding provided by the Department of Health to purchase adulticide and larvicide products for the municipalities within our county that do not receive any state funding. The thinking behind this was, if we could help them with these products that they could use funding they had allocated to upgrade equipment and to build up additional manpower. “I believe these partnerships are going to be very beneficial for all of us.”

Leon County Mosquito Control: Director, Glen Pourciau

Leon county has been engaged in repair and maintenance of equipment, mosquito habitat monitoring and source reduction. Also, our area received slightly more than 7 inches of rain in January. This along with the unseasonably warm weather has lead to unexpectedly high mosquito populations. Over the past two months we received over 200 customer service requests.

North Walton Mosquito Control: Director, Brenda Hunt

Everything has been routine. Our district had 2 employees attend the Dodd Short Courses. Our newest employee attended the intro course and the other the advanced mosquito control class. This way, we are well balanced and prepared. We are doing preseason routine maintenance to equipment and updating district information. Updating our spray zone data has been a priority so the technicians know where bee keepers, no spray and special requests are located as well as everyday surveillance larvicideing locations are located.
Southeast Region Report by Terry Torrens
Osceola County Mosquito Control

Greetings from the South East Region, regional Representative Terry Torrens!

Things have been relatively steady through this winter. We haven’t had much in the way of frost so we are still pretty active with surveillance, although our trap counts are all over the place! Keeps us on our toes! We are currently putting together our best effort to get out in front of the upcoming season. Osceola County is a County funded program with lots of competition for those general fund dollars, so it’s hard to be as staffed and equipped as we would like to be. Thanks to the Florida Department of Health funding, we have been able to expand our capacities substantially that we would not otherwise have been able to do. Continued support for vector control is a critical component of continuing the mission of the emergency declaration. I am hoping that continued evaluation of the current ranking will take tourism into account. Osceola County only has 300,000 residents, and on most days we have an additional 1.2 million to 4 Million during busy times, many of whom are traveling from countries with ongoing arbovirus transmission. I believe that we are certainly in the highest of risk categories despite being re-ranked over the winter. We are also going over all of our work plans and budgets for 2017/2018. It is certainly interesting to try to anticipate your needs in an ever changing environment. I am requesting additional staff this year to accommodate the demand for services and hoping for a successful effort.

On another note! As your Regional representative for the SE region, I can plan and pay for a regional meeting or training. If this is something that you in the SE region would be interested in, please shoot me an email at Terry.Torrens@osceola.org. Also, if you have any questions or issues for the board, I am happy to help in any way!

Indian River Mosquito Control District: Entomologist, Sherry Burroughs
Staff has been busy calibrating equipment, performing routine maintenance activities, repairing sentinel cages and otherwise preparing for the upcoming summer. We had good participation at Dodd this year, both as students, instructors and assistants. Permanent control staff has been steadily working on finishing up repairs to damaged impoundment dikes, especially the pump station at Sebastian Inlet State Park. They also installed four new culverts in the Oyster Bar Impoundment (164-acre impoundment on the barrier island). Oyster Bar has been under RIM since 2012 and the addition of these culverts will provide greater function and control within the impoundment. The project was a cooperative effort between the Indian River Land Trust, St. Johns River Water Management District and IRMCD. After the AMCA annual meeting, we were pleased to host Dr. Pat Dale, Professor Emeritus at the Environmental Futures Centre at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. Dr. Dale has over 30 years of experience in mosquito control with a major research focus on salt marsh and mangrove ecology. She provided two presentations to District staff, as well as some FMEL personnel, on comparing costs of mosquito control methods - planning for the future and mapping larval saltwater habitats by integrating hydrology, GIS and remote sensing.

Orange County Mosquito Control District: Director, Kelly Deutsch
Orange County is busy planning for the summer season. We have been interviewing candidates for full time and part time positions. We are also refurbishing many of our traps that have been in the field for years. Staff is busy making connections with restaurant owners and managers in areas where there are many travelers and that have outdoor dining options. We hope to have targeted messaging and marketing materials ready soon for that group. We’ve enjoyed having an intern with us for the past few months. Johanna Ortiz is pursuing her Masters of Public Health degree. Since she’s experienced dengue fever and chikungunya first hand in the Dominican Republic, she knows the importance of mosquito control. She plans on taking her knowledge back to DR to help in any way she can. Johanna is medically trained and she’s turned out to be one of our best chicken bleeders! Thanks for the hard work Johanna!

The Georgia Department of Public Health will be offering two free mosquito ID classes, one adult and one larval, this year in May. May 1-2 Larval ID @ UGA Griffin Campus & May 8-9 Adult ID @ Berry College. Georgia CEUs for Georgia Pesticide License CAT #31 and 41 will be granted for each class. If you from a different state and desire CEUs for attendance, contact Rosmarie Kelly in advance. Attendees should bring their own dissecting stereoscope. Contact course organizer / instructor Rosmarie Kelly ASAP if you plan on attending, and in which class(es), as space is limited.

Rosmarie Kelly, PhD MPH
Public Health Entomologist
Vector-Borne & Zoonotic Diseases Team

Arbovirus surveillance charts and maps will return in the next BuzzWords. Very little activity to report in 2017 so far
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Helicopter Pilot, Application Dynamics
Year Round Employment. Salary: $50,000.00 - $75,000.00 per year based on experience plus medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, paid holidays, and paid vacation.

**DEFINITION:** performs specialized work in the field of mosquito control by applying control measures in conformance with state laws, regulations, pesticide labels, and program policies; exercises considerable judgment in all assignments; and performs related duties as required.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:** Ability to carry packs and sprayers weighing up to 40 pounds; field exposure to temperature exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit for prolonged periods of time; working in densely vegetated, flooded environments that are difficult to traverse; assisting in the preparation and field application of pesticides and biological control agents.

**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:** Education/Experience: High school graduate or equivalent with experience working in a comparable position. Knowledge of: General biology; safe handling of pesticides; routine maintenance of equipment used in mosquito control operations and safety precautions is desirable.

**Salary Range**
$97,391.58 - $154,174.02

Please submit application to Williams@applicationdynamics.net by March 31, 2017

A&P/Ground, specializing in turbine helicopters, Application Dynamics
Help maintain/build aircraft and equipment ground support in the field.

**Salary:** $30,000.00 - $45,000.00 per year based on experience plus medical insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, paid holidays, and paid vacation.

Please send resume to: williams@applicationdynamics.net by March 31, 2017

Mosquito Control Manager, Miami-Dade Mosquito Control Division
Come join our nationally recognized Mosquito Control team in the following management position: **Salary Range** $97,391.58 - $154,174.02. Nature of work: This is a highly responsible position directing the countywide mosquito control functions within the Department of Solid Waste Management. The position is responsible for providing strategic, operational and administrative leadership for the County’s Mosquito Control Program by closely collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Agriculture, local, state, national and international entities, to establish and implement goals, strategies, action plans and policies for the control and eradication of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses, to include exploration of emerging technologies.

**Minimum Qualifications:** Doctorate degree (PhD) in Entomology, Public Health, Natural Sciences, Engineering or related fields from an accredited college or university is required. Five years of experience in mosquito control. A valid Public Health Pest Control Applicator License (PHPC) and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) Public Health Director Certification are required. DACS' Public Health Director Certification may be obtained within three months of appointment. Miami-Dade County's Mosquito Control program has a decades-long history of managing mosquito populations and reducing the transmission of mosquito borne illnesses. Our program has successfully managed arboviruses like dengue, Chikungunya and most recently Zika. The selected executive will have the unique opportunity to develop and implement a leading-edge mosquito control program that will include collaborative research and introduction of innovative surveillance tools and treatment methods that will position Miami-Dade County as a leader in the mosquito control arena. Director, Mosquito Control Division Department of Solid Waste Management Solid Waste Management Department Mosquito Control Division 8901 NW 58 Street, Miami, FL 33178 www.miamidade.gov/solidwaste Contact Judith Deutsch at 305-375-2687 or Judith.Deutsch@miamidade.gov Please apply at: www.miamidade.gov/jobs

Deputy Director, Florida Keys Mosquito Control District
**Location:** Marathon, FL. **Pay Range:** $78,700 - $122,100 annual, based on qualifications

**Basic Scope/Purpose:** The Deputy Director is required to develop, evaluate, and administer all aspects of the District’s operations including but not limited to ground and aerial operations, aircraft and airport facilities, operational budgeting, construction, safety, and other general operations. This is an experienced administrative/technical/logistical position involving the coordination of the District’s operations, maintenance, building, and safety programs. This position requires substantial travel throughout the District.

**Reporting Responsibilities:** The Deputy Director reports to the Executive Director.

**Working Conditions:** The Deputy Director will be exposed to both inside and outside environmental conditions, noise, vibration, close proximity to moving parts, working in high places, exposure to chemicals, fumes, odors, and oils and may be required to wear a respirator. This position is such that the person filling it will be expected to perform heavy work from time to time (exerting up to 50 lbs. of force frequently to lift, carry, push, pull, or otherwise move objects).

For more information visit: http://keysmosquito.org