

Mosquito Control Update **April 20, 2015**

Recent rainfalls have flooded many mosquito producing areas throughout St. Tammany Parish, which caused the production of a very large population of floodwater mosquitoes. Most of the mosquitoes are still in the in larva or immature stage of development, but within a couple days they will emerge as adult mosquitoes. The mosquito larvae are in different stages of development, because the rainfall has occurred over a period of several days. Each rain event has the potential of hatching more eggs, as more areas are flooded. As a result, the mosquitoes will not be emerging all at once but staggered over several days, and some have already emerged. Mosquito control biologists and inspectors have sampled a multitude of breeding sites in the parish and have found that the predominated species involved are *Aedes vexans*, the inland floodwater mosquito, and two other floodwater species, *Aedes atlanticus* and *Psorophora ferox*. Many of the sites have been pre-treated with methoprene, a synthetic insect growth hormone which keeps the mosquito in the immature stage and does not permit it to emerge as an adult. However, the breeding is so extensive that the area will still encounter a sizeable adult mosquito population over a period of several days.

Aerial and ground treatments are planned throughout St. Tammany Parish as the mosquito adults emerge. Since the populations will not be emerging at the same time, but over a period of several days, re-infestation will result in treated areas. As a result, it will take a few days to bring the total population under control. Additional rainfalls will only exacerbate the problem by producing more populations. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate so that we can employ our control efforts.