

Mosquito Control Update **May 7, 2015**

As reported in the previous "Mosquito Control Update", St. Tammany Parish encountered an enormous mosquito outbreak brought on by woodland floodwater mosquitoes resulting from heavy rainfalls two to three weeks ago. Since then, mosquito populations have been greatly reduced throughout the parish. Since Tuesday, April 28, a total of 168,960 acres have been aeriually treated for the control of adult mosquitoes. The treatment areas included the greater Folsom area, the community of St. Tammany, greater Mandeville, greater Covington, Talisheek, Bush, Sun, Slidell, Pearl River, and Hickory. In addition the entire parish was treated by truck mounted aerosol sprayers. Some locations were treated more than once due to re-infestation. Post treatment mosquito counts indicated that excellent control was achieved. There still remain a few pockets where additional treatments are needed, however within the next couple of days, District personnel will spray those areas.

The mosquito problems that we have encountered are not West Nile virus related. So far this year a total of 611 mosquito pools have been tested from throughout the parish and all have returned negative for West Nile virus. Also, the woodland mosquito species that have caused the problem are not good vectors for West Nile virus. The District will continue to test for West Nile virus activity in the mosquitoes, especially with *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the southern house mosquito, the primary vector for the virus. This mosquito species breeds in roadside ditches that are high in organic content. These ditches are routinely treated once every 5-7 days for the control of this species.