

# Monthly Report

November



MOSQUITO ABATEMENT  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH

2019

# From the Director:

Whether your family explicitly lists what you are thankful for every Thanksgiving or not, we should all be thankful for a quiet hurricane and arbovirus season. I am certainly thankful for that as well as the dedicated staff in the office, in our spray trucks, helicopters and airplanes, and in the field every day. These are the true first line of defense keeping our community safe from mosquito-transmitted pathogens and making our communities livable. I am also thankful for the safety of our team in conducting this public service. Our pilots risk their lives while providing this service. A fact that we are reminded about every April on the anniversary of the loss of our pilots, Don Pechon and Wayne Fisher.

We are thankful for the consistent cold fronts of November that trigger lower mosquito activity. Despite colder weather, mosquitoes are still abundant on occasional warm days in November. Winter-time mosquitoes tend to emerge in pulsed hordes due to delayed development when water temperatures are low. Those that do emerge often rest in alcoves and vegetation and are frequently found in Christmas tree lots this time of year.

Operations have scaled down for the year during November. Our nighttime spray operations (by airplane, helicopter, and truck) have likely ended for the year, but will be ready if mosquito numbers rise. In addition, our daytime crew of larviciders (pictured on the cover), who treat roadside ditches, ended their operations for the year prior to Thanksgiving.

Our team is thankful for the opportunity to serve St. Tammany Parish.

Happy Holidays,



Kevin A. Caillouet, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.  
Director



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*On the cover:* St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement Larviciders had their final day of the 2019 mosquito season on November 22. Pictured from left to right: James Mobilia, Rickey Hursey, Paul Burke, Femi Jimoh, Joe Harrison, Doug Williams, Danny Butt, Bill Palen, Leo Dominique, and Don Graff. Not Pictured: Harris Faulk.

5,075  
 trapped in  
November

7   
service requests  
completed

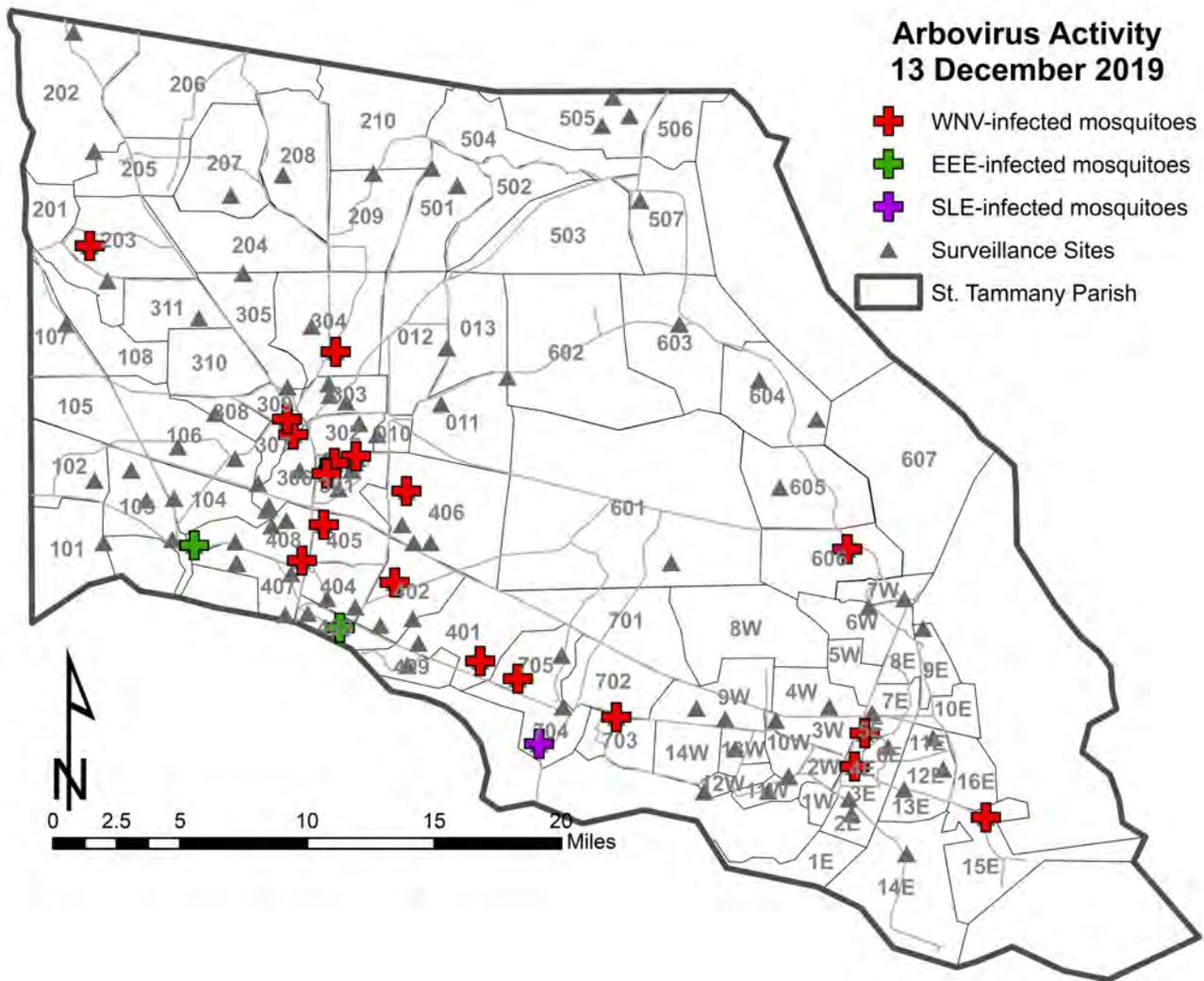
42,277  
acres treated  
by ground

40   
# of ground spray  
missions in November



The 2019 St. Tammany  
Parish Mosquito  
Abatement Team

# Arbovirus Report



None of the 112 pools of mosquitoes, tested from specimens collected in November, were positive for *West Nile virus* (WNV) infection. Adult mosquitoes are collected using a variety of devices and tested in pools (or groups) via RT-PCR, by the Louisiana Arbovirus Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) in Baton Rouge. The absence of WNV in mosquitoes indicates a low-level risk of WNV infection to people in St. Tammany Parish.

A total of 2,202 mosquitoes were collected in November from across St. Tammany Parish and tested for arboviruses. Populations of the secondary WNV vector, *Aedes vexans*, consisted of 33.1% of the mosquitoes collected and tested for WNV. *Culex salinarius*, another secondary WNV vector, accounted for 30.4% of mosquitoes submitted for virus testing. For a complete breakdown of the mosquito species and collection methods of the pools submitted for arbovirus testing see Tables 1-3 at the end of this report.

The Louisiana Department of Health has reported two human cases of WNV this year-to-date in St. Tammany. Earlier this year, LDH reported two cases of EEE-infections transmitted to horses in Slidell and Bush.

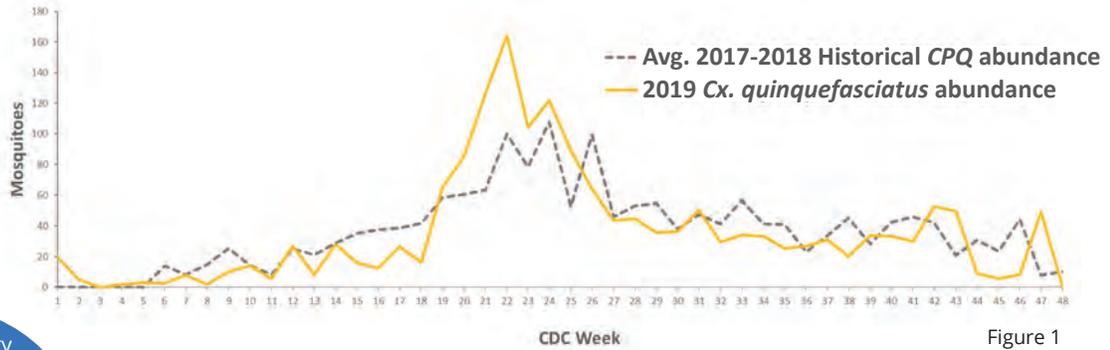
## Arbovirus Risk Level

the current risk advisory is:

<b>High</b>	Parish-wide arbovirus risk is at low level. Residents are recommended to still take precautions to minimize exposure by wearing mosquito repellent approved by EPA/CDC, avoid peak mosquito biting times of one hour before & after sunrise and sunset, and wear long sleeve shirts and pants.
<b>Moderate</b>	
<b>Slight</b>	
<b>Low</b>	

# How Bad are the Mosquitoes?

## Culex quinquefasciatus



**Common name:**  
The southern house mosquito

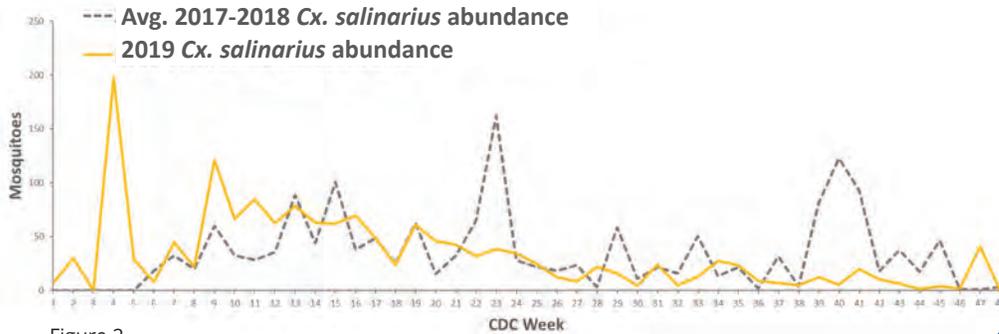
As the primary local WNV vector this mosquito primarily bites birds and occasionally bites people. It prefers to lay its eggs in sewage-associated water. As it readily enters structures, it is named the "house" mosquito.



**567**  
trapped in November

**11%**  
of all mosquitoes trapped in November were *Cx. quinquefasciatus*

## Culex salinarius



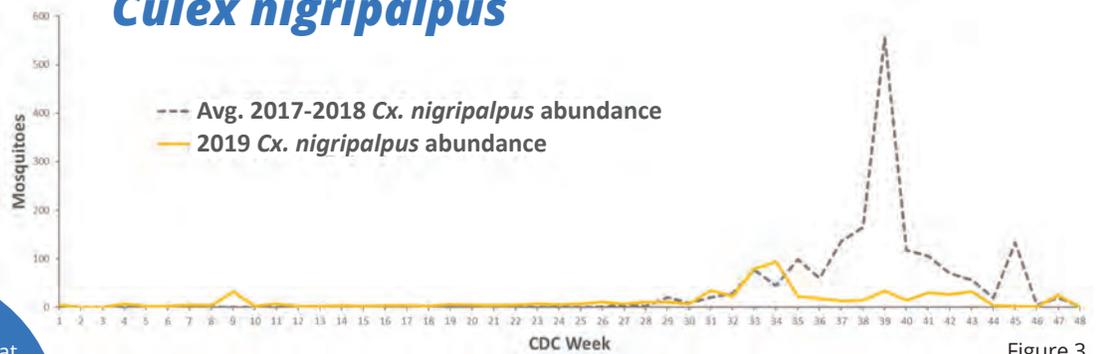
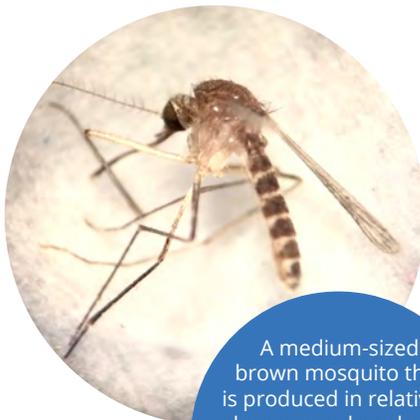
**932**  
trapped in November

**18%**  
of all mosquitoes trapped in November were *Cx. salinarius*

A serious pest that is produced in fresh to brackish marshes. It frequently bites large mammals including people and birds. Considered an important secondary WNV vector.

**Common name:**  
The brackish marsh mosquito

## Culex nigripalpus



**Common name:**  
The Florida SLE mosquito

A medium-sized brown mosquito that is produced in relatively clean ground pools and roadside ditches. Abundant in the early fall, *Cx. nigripalpus* is an effective WNV and SLE vector.



**371**  
trapped in November

**7%**  
of all mosquitoes trapped in November were *Cx. nigripalpus*

**Table 1.** Summary by species of mosquito pools submitted for arbovirus testing during November 2019 in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Species	Pools		Mosquitoes		WNV-infected pools
	Number	%	Number	%	
<i>Aedes vexans</i>	33	29.5	729	33.1	0
<i>Culex erraticus</i>	1	0.9	5	0.2	0
<i>Culex nigripalpus</i>	10	8.9	194	8.8	0
<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i>	35	31.3	477	21.7	0
<i>Culex salinarius</i>	14	12.5	669	30.4	0
<i>Culiseta inornata</i>	2	1.8	28	1.3	0
Mixed species	17	15.2	100	4.5	0

**Table 2.** Summary by collection method of mosquito pools submitted for arbovirus testing during November 2019 in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Collection Method	Pools		Mosquitoes		WNV-infected pools
	Number	%	Number	%	
NO LIGHT CO <sub>2</sub> -baited CDC trap	74	66.1	1,019	46.3	0
CO <sub>2</sub> -baited CDC light trap	38	33.9	1,183	53.7	0

**Table 3.** Summary by week of mosquito pools submitted for arbovirus testing during November 2019 in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

Week of year	Pools		Mosquitoes		WNV-infected pools
	Number	%	Number	%	
45 (November 3 - 9)	50	44.6	844	38.3	0
46 (November 10 - 16)	-	-	-	-	-
47 (November 17 - 23)	35	31.3	765	34.7	0
48 (November 24 - 30)	27	24.1	593	26.9	0