



MOSQUITO ABATEMENT  
— ST. TAMMANY PARISH —

November  
MONTHLY  
**Report**

2020



# Why you should participate in LMCA's free insecticide resistance program

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MOSQUITO ABATEMENT  
ST. TAMMANY PARISH



On the cover: Marisol Mosqueda pooling mosquitoes for arbovirus testing.

Above: Screenshot captured of Entomologist Nick DeLisi during his LMCA presentation given in the Insecticide Resistance session.

## From the Director:



The more frequent cool fronts of November usher in a quieter routine at Mosquito Abatement offices across Louisiana. Though mosquitoes are dependent on warm temperatures for their host-seeking activity and development rate, make no mistake they are still out there! Some mosquito species hunker down in their version of hibernation for the winter, but many mosquitoes wait for those 70° F warm afternoons to ambush you at the bus stop. Both types of our adult mosquito operations (i.e., trucks and aircraft applications) are also dependent on warmer temperatures. Although these cooler temperatures “cool-down” our control operations, planning and training for next year’s operations are starting to “heat-up”.

Every year, the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association (LMCA) holds their annual conference during the first week of December. During the 63-year history of the LMCA, 2020 was the first year this event was not held in-person. Instead, our state organization met via Zoom Webinar on December 8 & 9. Forty-three presentations over nearly nine hours educated and updated LMCA members on challenges facing mosquito management, new research advances, and general safety standards. St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement had a large part in the planning, execution, and participation of this event. STPMAD personnel presented five separate talks on our accomplishments this year. Our Education and Public Outreach Coordinator, Jennifer Bushnell, produced an excellent magazine-quality conference program. Given the travel-associated costs, STPMAD usually sends fewer than ten employees to this conference each year. Since the registration costs were minimal given the online format, this year all our daytime operations and administrative staff (thirty-three employees) participated.

Though we hope to see our LMCA counterparts in-person next year, we hope to continue a new virtual tradition so that more of our staff can benefit from this event each year. We are all too happy to put 2020’s mosquitoes to bed, meanwhile we’ll start planning how to do next year better!

*K. Caillouet*  
Yours in health,



Above: Cover art for the 2020 LMCA Annual Conference program.

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



# NOVEMBER MOSQUITO CONTROL STATS

**23,040** acres treated by fixed-wing airplane

**68,460** acres treated by ULV spray truck

**20,281** total mosquitoes trapped

**753** miles of ditch treated with larvicide

**39** service requests received

## ARBOVIRUS REPORT



None of the 326 pools of mosquitoes, tested from specimens collected in November, were positive for West Nile virus (WNV) infection. Adult mosquitoes are collected using No Light CO<sub>2</sub>-baited CDC traps 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 8,780 mosquitoes were collected and tested for WNV in November across St. Tammany Parish. *Aedes vexans*, a secondary WNV vector, accounted for 59.0 % of mosquitoes submitted for virus testing. Populations of our primary WNV vector, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, consisted of 21.0 % of the mosquitoes collected and tested for WNV.

The Louisiana Department of Health has reported one asymptomatic human case of West Nile virus which was detected in a blood donation.



# How Bad are the Mosquitoes?



## 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.

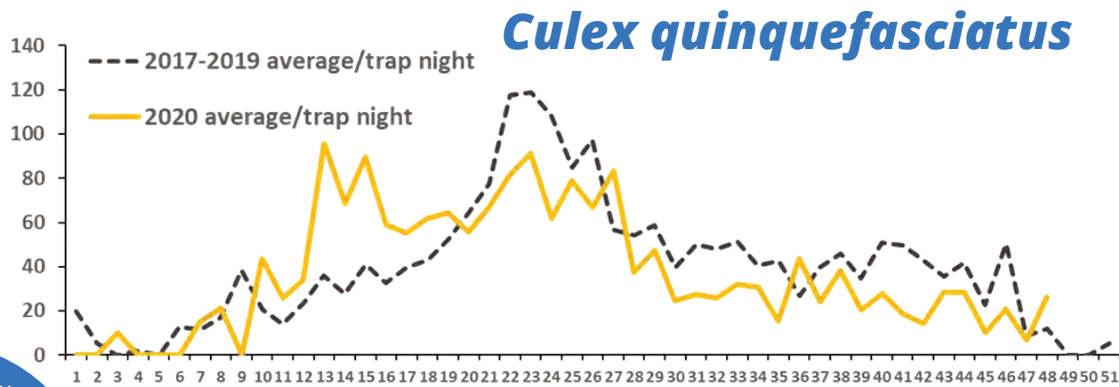


Figure 1



2,369  
*Culex quinquefasciatus*  
trapped in November

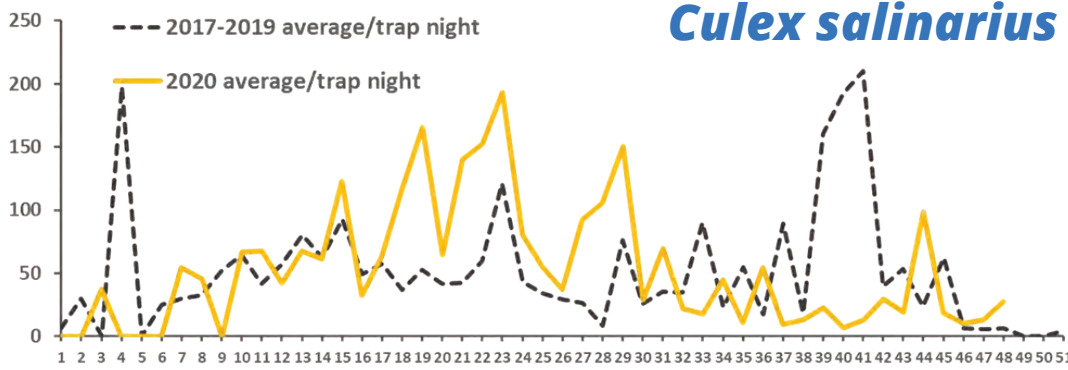


Figure 2



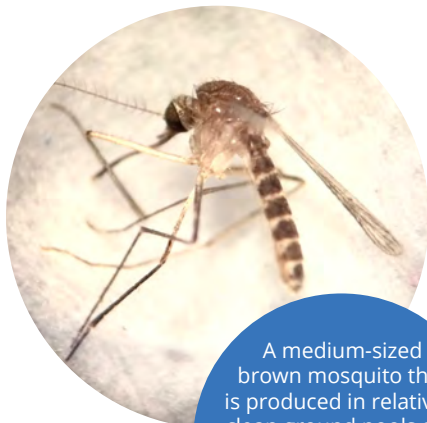
1,964  
*Culex salinarius*  
trapped in November



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



## 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.

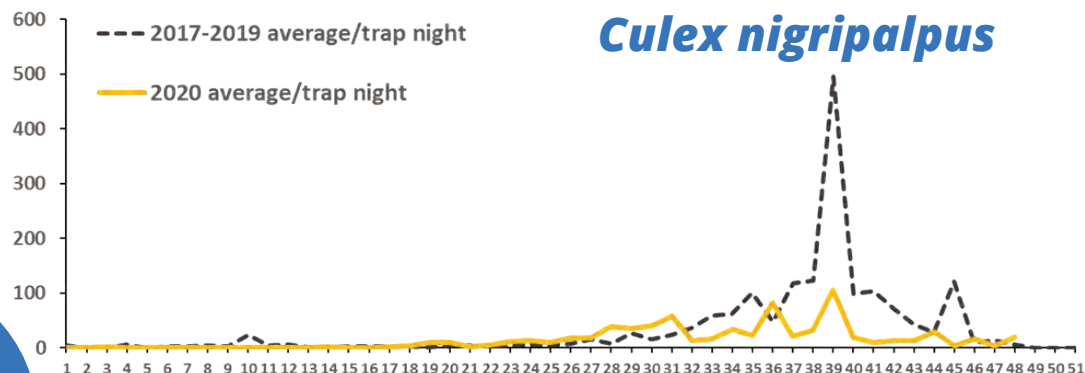


Figure 3



1,373  
*Culex nigripalpus*  
trapped in November