

# MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH



# 2024

## FEBRUARY monthly report

St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement



# Letter from the Director



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

The relatively cool winter of January gave way to a relatively warmer than usual February. The onset of the warmer weather brought hordes of crane flies and mosquitoes. In particular, woodland groundpool mosquitoes, *Aedes vexans*, and those that inhabit our coastal marsh, *Culex salinarius*, were particularly abundant. These mosquitoes were nearly five times more abundant than they were in February of 2023. In fact, one trap near the coast in Slidell collected over 34,000 mosquitoes in just one night.

Corresponding with this quick start to 2024 were truck-based ULV adulticiding measures over 48 missions treating a total of 29,351 acres. The aerial operations team completed three missions in the Bell helicopter to bring relief to another 38,804 acres.

Earlier starting and longer lasting mosquito seasons have become more commonplace. Fortunately, our dedicated staff of mosquito biologists set traps year-round to monitor mosquito populations. Though we can't prevent every mosquito bite, our goal is to respond promptly when mosquitoes get out of hand. If you experience more mosquitoes than usual, please reach out to us to let us know by completing this form online: <https://stpmad.org/service-request-form/>.

Yours in health,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Caillouet".

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



Field Biologist takes airboat out to inspect marsh for larvae.

## On the cover (clockwise from the top):

Field Biologist David Giron performs a service request in Slidell.

Approximately 34,000 mosquitoes collected from a single trap near Carr Drive in Slidell.

Trap net filled with *Culex salinarius* mosquitoes from a trap set in a coastal Slidell area.

Night Driver Dave McGregor tests equipment before heading out for a treatment.

# Top Two Species Trapped in February



***Culex salinarius***

126,336

Trapped in February

**Common name: brackish marsh mosquito**

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.



***Aedes vexans***

17,413

Trapped in February

**Common name: inland floodwater mosquito**

This floodwater mosquito lays its eggs in areas above the waterline where the area will eventually be flooded after a rain event. It frequently bites large humans and birds and is competent at transmitting West Nile virus.

Pictured below clockwise from top left - Pilot John Sable; Trap set in north Covington; Biologist Briana Hornsby; Night Driver Kyle Swan.

**38,804**

acres treated by helicopter



**149,972**

total mosquitoes trapped



**29,351**

acres treated by truck



**137**

property inspections



## February Arbovirus Report

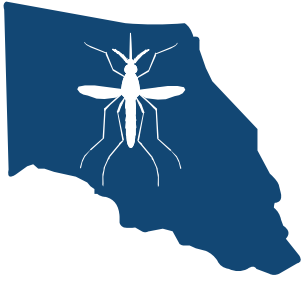


**None of the 754 pools of mosquitoes tested from specimens collected during February 2024 were positive for West Nile virus (WNV).**

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.

A total of 38,710 mosquitoes were collected and tested for WNV during February 2024 across St. Tammany Parish. Populations of *Culex salinarius*, a secondary WNV vector, accounted for 72.9% of mosquitoes submitted for virus testing. *Aedes vexans*, another secondary WNV vector and second most abundant species comprised 21.3% of the mosquitoes collected and tested for WNV.

**The Louisiana Department of Health has reported no cases of West Nile disease year-to-date in region 9, which contains St. Tammany and four other neighboring parishes.**



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