

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MARCH

monthly report

St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement



Letter from the Director



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

As temperatures warm and Spring turns into summer, mosquitoes are ready for their annual explosion. Our team of mosquito control professionals are ready to serve our community. St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement consists of four teams of field personnel dedicated to diagnosing sources of mosquito infestations and bringing multi-modal mosquito management strategies to reduce mosquito populations to tolerable levels. Our laboratory services team supports these field teams with diagnostic services. No matter the tools or resources available, it is our team of experts that deliver service to St. Tammany – without these professionals

environmentally sensitive mosquito management is impossible.

The front line of mosquito control is our mosquito biologist team led by Field Operations Supervisor, **Josh Foulon**. Ten **Mosquito Biologists** cover regions across St. Tammany responding directly and usually within 24 hours to residents calls for service and surveying mosquito populations. Last year this team responded to 1,626 calls for service and deployed over 3,000 mosquito traps collecting over 800,000 mosquitoes.

If the Mosquito Biologist team is our eyes and ears, the hands of our operations are our team of **Larviciders**. Nine larvicide control personnel are seen throughout the parish daily from March—November treating roadside ditches in right-side drive Jeeps. Application of larval mosquito control products is needed to curb the production of the southern house mosquito, our primary West Nile virus vector. The southern house mosquito proliferates in more than 600 miles of sewage-polluted ditches resultant from the discharge of unmaintained onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). St. Tammany Parish has more OWTS than any other parish in Louisiana.

By night **Mosquito Truck drivers** apply adult mosquito control insecticides to reduce biting mosquito populations. The application of these insecticides is confined to the period of peak mosquito activity beginning a half hour after dusk. Adult mosquito control insecticides are applied only when needed in accordance with thresholds set forth in our **Integrated Mosquito Management Plan**. In 2024, this amounted to treatments of 736,078 acres across the parish.

Our Aerial Operations team is led by **Paul Spadoni** and includes **A & P Mechanic Guthrie George**, and Pilots **John Sable** and **Charles “Buddy” Hollis**. The STPMAD aerial team is the best in the business and they maintain the most capable aerial fleet in Louisiana. The De Havilland Twin Otter airplane can deliver





adult mosquito control insecticides to over 30,000 acres in a night, considerably greater coverage than other aircraft in the state. In addition to the Twin Otter, the STPMAD Bell 407 GXi can treat for adult mosquitoes with precision as well as larval mosquitoes. Together the aerial team brought mosquito control to over 1.2 million acres in 2024.

Though the Mosquito Biologist team may be the brains, and the Larvicide and Mosquito Truck Drivers along with our Aerial Operations team may be the hands and feet of mosquito control none of it would operate efficiently without the Laboratory Services crew. **Nicholas DeLisi** manages an amazing deeply knowledgeable and skilled team. **Lisa Rowley**, Taxonomist, has been identifying St. Tammany's mosquitoes to species (there are >60 species in Louisiana) for going on 20 years now. **Molecular Biologist and UAV pilot Tara Richard** conducts genetic analysis of mosquito specimens in a twice weekly search for the arboviruses they transmit such as West Nile virus. **Entomologist Mollie Davies** studies the ecological drivers of mosquito populations associated with invasive aquatic plants such as water hyacinth and salvinia. These mosquitoes annually plague coastal St. Tammany communities.

Our team of professionals is ready for the 2025 mosquito season. We are focused on providing prompt, exceptional service to all of St. Tammany's residents. Should you need us we are always a phone call or a webform (<https://stpmad.org/service-request-form/>) away from help!



Yours in health,


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

On the cover (clockwise from the top):

- St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement 2025 Team
- Mosquito Biologists Olufemi Jimoh and Whitney Look, and APHL Fellow Angela Smith
- Mechanic Robert Crowell and Larvicider Harris Faulk.

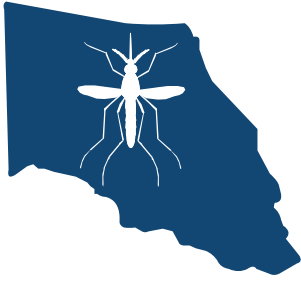
Photo captions continued on next page

March Arbovirus Report

One of the 516 pools tested were positive for West Nile virus (WNV). Adult mosquitoes are collected using No Light CO₂-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 18,687 mosquitoes were collected and tested for WNV during March 2025 across St. Tammany Parish. Populations of *Aedes vexans*, a secondary WNV vector, accounted for 67.2% of mosquitoes submitted for virus testing. *Culex salinarius*, another secondary WNV vector, and second most abundant species comprised 23.8% of the mosquitoes collected and tested for WNV.

The Louisiana Department of Health has no reported cases of WNV Neuroinvasive Disease in St. Tammany Parish, this year to date.



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Page one (top to bottom):

- A&P Mechanic Guthrie George, Biologist David Rainey, Field Ops Supervisor Josh Foulon, Asst. Field Ops Supvsr. Briana Hornsby
- Biologists David Giron, Larvicider James Mobilia, and Lab Manager Nick DeLisi
- Larvicider Don Graff and Joe Harrison
- Biologists Richard Frazier and Taxonomist Lisa Rowley
- Night Driver Supervisor Dave McGregor, Larvicider Bill Palen, Biologist Anthony Baldini

This page (clockwise from top left):

- APHL Fellow Heather Penton, Microbiologist Tara Richard, Biologists Jericho Gremillion
- Pilot John Sable and Intern Alyssa Luke
- Research Assistant Meghan Lackner, Research Entomologist Dr. Isik Unlu, Biologist Chad Kirkley
- Larvicider Paul Burke, Pilot Buddy Hollis, Larvicider Doug Williams, Aerial Manager Paul Spadoni



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