

## From the President's Desk

by Walker Rayburn

Well the annual meeting is over. The new officers are elected and we are starting to function. I want to thank all of you for electing me your president for 2006.

There are two issues that need to be worked on this year. Neither will be resolved this year but we must continue our efforts.

The first is more recognition for our members as professionals. To do the job right we must have detailed technical knowledge and the wisdom to apply that knowledge for the public good. Getting the Public and Administrators to appreciate and acknowledge this fact is a long-term project that your Executive Committee will address.

The second is "Pesticide Stewardship". Most of our programs rely on pesticide applications at some time, either adulticides or larvicides. NCMVCA is actively involved with EPA's "Pesticide Stewardship" Program but we report through AMCA. I see two

threats to pesticide availability and usefulness. First, overuse or incorrect use of any pesticide over time will cause mosquitoes to become resistant to it. An integrated approach to mosquito control using pesticides only when truly needed will prolong the useful life of any product. I overheard a comment at one of our meetings "I don't give a d--- about butterflies." This is a very wrong attitude! Admitting to this will cause the anti-pesticide types to go after you, and when you are killing butterflies you are not killing mosquitoes. You should find out what is going on and correct it. You may be spraying the wrong time of day.

This all brings me back to monitoring. We need to know which of the 60 species is our target species. We should target the few pest species not just "kill skeeters".

## Using the Data your Program Collects

Rick Hickman & Jeff Brown  
Brunswick County Mosquito Control

This is the first in a series of topics we plan to submit to the Biting Times. In the future we plan to discuss precipitation data, temperature data and tide data. Every year mosquito programs collect mosquito light trap data. Weekly data collection allows us to target our spray trucks to areas where we need to provide relief from mosquitoes. Assessing mosquito populations in real time is the operational tool we often take for granted. The question becomes what can be done with the data after we've gone to all the trouble of collecting, identifying and recording the data?

In Brunswick County we use

three New Jersey light traps that are collected 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Trap data is entered into its own Excel spreadsheet daily. The daily collections are converted to weekly, monthly and annual data sets. Each year the data is archived into a yearly folder. Can the historical data be used to identify seasonal mosquito trends against an average? For example, what time of year can you expect to see *Aedes vexans*? Using the weekly trap data from the last 5 years we can find the weekly totals for *Ae. vexans*. When the weekly totals are averaged for the last five years we come up with an average *Ae. vexans* population over time. Next we can compare this

average population to the upcoming *Ae. vexans* population as the data comes in weekly.

Does this mean we can predict what *Aedes vexans* populations will do in the future? Definitely not, mosquito populations are dictated by weather patterns. If the weatherman can only forecast the weather a week in advance (sometimes not all that accurately) there is little possibility we can predict what a given mosquito species will do in the long-term.

What then, can we glean from comparing weekly trap data against an average? Basically

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# THE BITING TIMES



**Make a Note:** The schedule for Spring 2006 Commercial Pesticide Applicator/Dealer Schools has been posted. Please visit <http://www.ipm.ncsu.edu/pesticidesafety/> for more information. **The only Category B class currently scheduled is March 7-8th in Plymouth.**

## From the Newsletter Staff

Season's Greetings from the editorial staff. Hopefully everyone has wound down from another summer of battle & is looking forward to a (relatively) quiet winter. The annual meeting at the Atlantic Beach Sheraton was a big success, despite the absence of some of our colleagues who were dealing

with a late season rain that caused some unexpected problems. We have included a photo montage from the banquet, where a good time was had by all. Also, congratulations to Jim Bryant, who was awarded the Hamilton Stevens Award for 2005. For the spring, please don't hesitate to

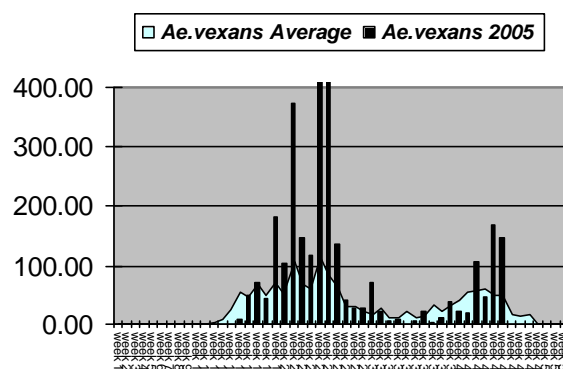
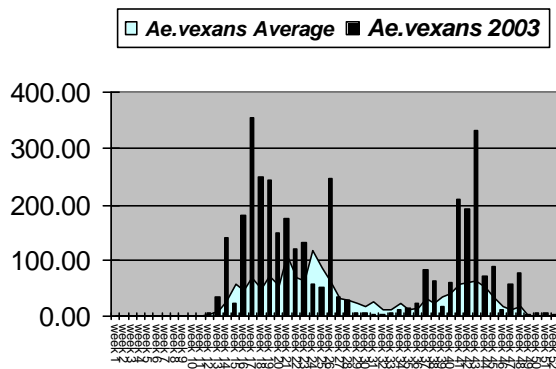
send me articles & items for the newsletter. I'll take all I can get, plus any amusing misadventures you'd care to share in the "It Happened To Me" feature.

Have a great holiday, & let's all be prepared for 2006!

## Using the Data your Program Collects (cont.)

that a given mosquito population is above or below an average population for a specific time of year. An additional benefit is that we can evaluate a current year's population against what happened during previous years. For example, *Aedes vexans* populations in 2005 (Figure 1) most closely resembled the 2003 (Figure 2) weekly trap data from the same location. That being said, can you suggest that a large spring population of *Ae. vexans* could potentially lead to a large fall population of *Ae. vex-*

*ans*. Theoretically yes, but let's go back to the weatherman's predictions. The weather changes daily. We must keep in mind that evaluating this data is not a prediction of things to come; it simply shows the potential of what may happen. Regardless of the outcome for a given year, using historical data will allow our program to prepare for whatever Mother Nature decides to throw at us.



## 2006 Committee Assignments

President: Walker Rayburn  
Vice President: Eugene McRoy  
Sec/Treas: Robert Collins  
Past President: Joe Garcia

Executive Committee:  
Ryan Harrison  
Dennis Salmen  
Joe Rowell  
Clifton Woods  
Tim McGonegal  
Tommy Bowen  
Ray Silverthorne  
Joe Andrews  
Barry Engber  
Vicky Avino

Awards:  
Jeff Brown '03

Walker Rayburn '04  
Jim Bryan '05  
Membership:  
Chair: Eugene McRoy  
Joe Andrews  
Marcee Toliver

Finance:  
Robert Collins  
Vicky Hudson  
TBA

Web Site:  
Ryan Harrison

Legislative:  
Chair: Dennis Salmen  
Walker Rayburn  
TBA

Newsletter:  
Joe Rowell (Editor)

Walker Rayburn  
Eugene McRoy  
Robert Collins  
Vicky Hudson

Auditing:  
Clifton Woods  
Courtney Silverthorne  
Jerry Robinson

Resolutions:  
Tim McGonegal  
Ron Lewis  
Jane Stevens

Constitution/By-Laws:  
Chair: Tommy Bowen  
Bruce Harrison  
TBA

Ex-officio: Robert Collins

Parliamentarian:  
Ray Silverthorne

Nominating:  
Joe Andrews  
Nolan Newton  
Ken Manuel

Local Arrangements:  
Barry Engber  
Clifton Woods  
Courtney Silverthorne

Program  
Chair: Eugene McRoy  
Parker Whitt  
TBA

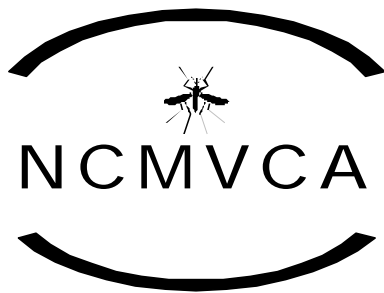
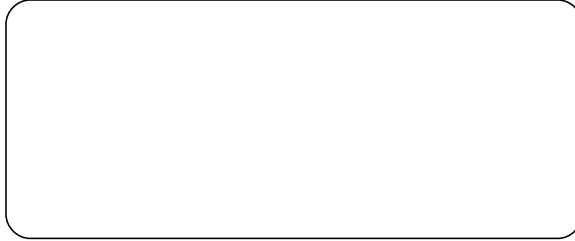
Members at Large:  
Vicky Avino  
Nolan Newton

# 2005 Banquet Highlights



Robert Collins  
Secretary/Treasurer  
NCMVCA

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## New Membership Application and Membership Renewal Form N.C. Mosquito and Vector Control Association

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Company \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Payment for Year \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: (\$5.00/year) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to NCMVCA and mail to:

Robert Collins  
City of Rocky Mounty, NC  
PO Box 402  
Rocky Mount, NC 27802