PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Tadhgh Rainey

Well, I can’t believe it’s May already. To all of our veteran members—thank you for your hard work in the past year. I thought our annual meeting was quite informative. As is usually the case, the success of this event is completely dependent on your participation and contributions. And to the new members in our group—welcome aboard, I look forward to your thoughts and contributions this year as well.

There are a variety of initiatives we intend to pursue this year; some are in progress as we speak. For example, as you know our trustees committed financial resources to Dr. Gordon Patterson in his endeavor to document the history of mosquito control in the United States. Dr. Patterson will be visiting New Jersey in the near future. Should you have any input regarding our history, please touch base with him during his visit—I’m sure he would appreciate your thoughts.

I have had an ongoing conversation with several colleagues regarding the training we provide our members. There seems to be a general feeling that we should offer or at least support initiatives that would broaden the scope of the training that currently exists. For example, Heather Lomberk reported to us at our annual business meeting that the Professional Training Committee is considering incorporating a water management-training component. There are several other possibilities, and I have some thoughts on how to incorporate these ideas. These topics will be discussed at our upcoming Executive Committee meetings. If all goes well, perhaps there will be some proposals for the trustees to consider this calendar year.
In the near future an updated committee list will appear on our website...for the moment, just a couple of comments regarding committee assignments for this year. Past President Crans felt strongly that we should make a concerted effort to engage our retired members into association business. I feel this is important as well. As recent examples, Howard Emerson and Rod Schmidt donated their time at our annual meeting in the registration booth and Henry Rupp has dedicated countless hours to the Editorial Board. It is my pleasure to announce that Judy Hansen has volunteered her time as well. Judy has agreed to chair our University Liaison Committee. I think Judy’s years of experience will be of tremendous assistance to the new NJAES director.

Speaking of NJAES, as I’m sure you know, the station is facing potentially crippling budget reductions. I have spoken to Dr. Goodman and offered our support. Should he request our support, I ask that you do whatever you can to assist in this matter. In the past this has involved a variety of things, including testimony to our state legislature on the importance of mosquito control.

Finally, as reported to us by Dr. Goodman at our annual meeting, NJAES and Rutgers are committed to rebuilding the entomology and the mosquito research program on campus. Obviously, when money is tight this becomes a difficult task to accomplish. Our membership has a tremendous amount to offer NJAES to ensure success in this endeavor. I have asked Judy in her capacity as chair of the University Liaison Committee to make this topic of primary importance with her committee’s interaction with Dr. Goodman and his staff.

In the meantime, if you have creative thoughts, please present them to me. As we have seen in the past there are many ways to approach the attrition and resource problems in the mosquito program. I personally have disagreed with some of the approaches we have taken in recent years. Whatever the case, everyone’s input is important and the only way we will discover innovative solutions is if everyone participates.

Sincerely,
Tadhgh Rainey, President NJMCA
Hunterdon County Mosquito & Vector Control

PEOPLE NEWS

Tom & Jamie are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter
Victoria June Scott!
Born: 3:00 a.m., Saturday, April 22, 2006

Mom, Dad, and baby are all home and doing well! Thank you for your good wishes, prayers, and support!
Gregory M. Williams:
Greg took over as Program Coordinator of the Mosquito and Vector Control Unit for the Hudson Regional Health Commission on February 27, 2006. A New Jersey native, Greg received his Bachelor’s degree from Rutgers in 1997 with a minor in entomology. From there he continued on to receive his Master’s degree in Entomology in 2002 from North Carolina State University where he studied cockroach IPM in schools. After that, he went on to the University of Delaware where he received his Ph.D. in medical entomology in 2005. There he used mosquito and sentinel chicken surveillance to study the levels of West Nile virus activity in crow roosting areas. That research earned him the Gerald Hollandsworth award from the AMCA in 2004. Before accepting his current position, Greg worked for Cooper Pest Solutions in Lawrenceville, NJ where he conducted contracted research for several chemical manufacturers and helped develop a comprehensive bed bug program for the company. Greg currently resides in North Brunswick with his wife Kelli and 18-month old daughter Ava. Contact Info: Gregory M. Williams, Program Coordinator-Mosquito and Vector Control, Hudson Regional Health Commission, 595 County Ave., Bld. 1, Secaucus,NJ07094. Phone:(201)223-1133. Email: gwilliams@hudsonregionalhealth.org

Jennifer Gruener:
Sussex now has four full-time employees and plans to hire a part-time secretary along with two seasonal staff. Jennifer Gruener took a position at Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control. She started as the Chief Inspector on March 8, 2006. Jennifer is in the process of writing her thesis in order to obtain a Master of Science in Entomology from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. While at Rutgers, Jennifer focused her field research on the West Nile virus mosquito vectors to horses. As a Graduate Assistant at Rutgers Mosquito Research her responsibilities included WN virus & EEE surveillance, data entry, coordinating the courier service and supervising the seasonal staff. She was originally introduced into the mosquito world when she took a seasonal job for Warren County MEC as the Black Fly Coordinator after obtaining her Bachelor’s degree from East Stroudsburg University.
Mark Vlazny:

As of March 6, 2006 Mark has filled the position of Biologist at the Morris County Mosquito Extermination Commission. Education: Mark has a B.S. in General Biology from the University of Maryland. Experience: Assistant Biologist at the NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination, Lab assistant/Field technician Hunterdon County Mosquito Control.

Mark is fitting in nicely and is a valuable addition to the Morris County program. He has already scouted out new sites for fish stocking and is also setting up containers where we can test copepods. At this time, he is also working with the Inspectors to control larvae from the heavy rains we had 10 days ago. He is right at home on an ATV, applying Vectobac 12AS to substantial areas of the Passaic River floodplain. More importantly, he is a Yankee fan!

We will also be adding another college graduate in June. Marc Grossman (yes, that makes 3 of us) will join us after obtaining his degree in Biology from Muhlenberg. Marc worked for us in the summer of 2004 and we look forward to having him here full time.

Contact Info: Mark Vlazny Morris County Mosquito Extermination Commission P.O. Box 405 Morris Plains, NJ 07950 (973) 538-3200 mvlazny@co.morris.nj.us

New Jersey Mosquito Control Assoc., Inc. Awards and Resolutions that were given out on March 16, 2006.

The Recipient of the 25 Year Service Award certificate was William Reinert from Atlantic County. His name was also added to the 25 Year Service Roll.

Bunnie Hajek Award, The Association’s most prestigious Award, is presented to those whose efforts and contributions extend beyond that which is expected in the normal performance of their duties.

The Bunnie Hajek Award was presented to Richard Candeletti, Assistant Superintendent of Ocean County. Richard started in Mosquito Control in May of 1976. Richard exhibited an immediate interest in the Water Management program. On June 1977 Richard was appointed to the title of Marsh Specialist.

Richard worked closely with the pioneers of Open Marsh Water Management, Fred Ferrigno and Joe Shisler. Open Marsh Water Management, developed in New Jersey, was new and still being refined and many of the techniques used today. Richard worked with George O’Carrol and Ken Bruder to develop the best Management practices for Mosquito Control in fresh water wetlands.

With Richard at the helm of Ocean County’s Water Management program, they were the first Mosquito Control programs in the Country to obtain a 5-year blanket permit for Open Marsh Water Management for the entire country. Today Ocean County’s Open Marsh Water Management program in the largest in the country with 5 machines working and Richard coordinating the work.
The present “State of the Art” Open Marsh Water Management equipment, the Amphibious Hydraulic Rotary Excavator, was brainstormed in the early 1980’s at a meeting in Ocean County with Richard’s direct influence in the design.

Resolutions were presented at the Banquet meeting to:

Aaron Rappaport who passed Away in August 2005 and also
Martin Chomsky who passed away on January 2006.
Bill Fisher, of Salem County passed away July 2005.

Nominating Committee
The NJMCA nominating committee met prior to the start of the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 15th.
A slate of NJMCA members was developed and voted on for Officers, Trustees at Large and Executive Committee members. These individuals’ names were then presented to the general membership at the business meeting later that same morning and were elected as follows:

OFFICERS:
President: Tadhgh Rainey
1st VP: Doug Guthrie
2nd VP: Rich Candeletti
Secretary: Lisa Reed
Treasurer: Vicki Thompson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (from Board of Trustees including Trustees at Large members below):
Officers* See Above
Past President* Scott Crans
Trustee: Glen Levinson
Trustee: Carolyn Vollero
Trustee: Kris McMorland

* As outlined in Association Bylaws

TRUSTEES AT LARGE
(from General Membership):
Member: Sean Healy
Member: Kris McMorland
Member: Heather Lomberk
Member: Mike Romanowski
Member: Bob Duryea

Submitted on behalf of the Nominating Committee,
Christine Musa, Chair

Attention
We would like to distribute the majority of future NJMCA Newsletters via email. In order to accomplish this, we need your email addresses.
Please get in touch with Bob Duryea (bduryea@nac.net) or Ary Farajollahi (afarajollahi@mercercounty.org) and provide them with this info.
AMCA Meetings in Detroit

By
Ary Farajollahi

The 72nd annual meeting of the American Mosquito Control Association was held this year at the spectacular Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan. The meeting was hosted by the Michigan Mosquito Control Association during the last week of February and was well attended by representatives from New Jersey.

As always, the meetings offered insight into a variety of subjects concentrating around vector surveillance and control. The keynote address was given by Dr. Richard Merritt on the role of insects in crime scene investigations and a memorial lecture was given by Dr. Grant Campbell to honor the contributions of Dr. William C. Reeves. A historical presentation was given by Dr. Gordon Patterson on the origins of malaria control in the United States. This was a very eloquent speech; with no PowerPoint presentation, however, when he mentioned the rich history of mosquito control in New Jersey at the end of the speech and how NJMCA is really the direct ancestor of AMCA, I had goose bumps in the audience (Parenthetically, Dr. Patterson is writing a book on the history of mosquito control, a project that our association should be proud to fund.). In addition, the attendees were offered updates on the operational measures of mosquito abatement districts in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, updates on the arthropod-borne disease activities from various national and international regions, information on new and innovative larval and adult control measures/equipment (including a remote control unmanned mini helicopter with a 50-lb load capacity), and interesting insights into the biology of many vector species.

Furthermore, although plagued by technical difficulties, an effort was made nonetheless to provide an all day hands-on training session to introduce mosquito personnel to GIS technology and its applications for integrated pest management. Although our free time at the meetings was extremely limited, the hospitality and reception hours provided ample time for discussions and to network with colleagues from around the world.

During the banquet dinner, John Phelps, the Wetlands Specialist from Mercer County Mosquito Control was awarded the 2006 AMCA Grass Roots Award. This award has been created to award non-supervisory field staff and technicians for excellence by providing funding for participation at the AMCA annual meeting. John has always gone above and beyond the call of duty during his tenure at Mercer County and has conducted himself in a professional and proficient manner. He has worked for Mercer County since the fall of 2002, having received his initial training under the tutelage of Tadhgh Rainey as part of the Hunterdon Mosquito and Vector Control Department. He has been an integral component of the Mercer County Mosquito Control program and has been active in every aspect of our operations ranging from calibrations, control, fish program, research, surveillance, and more recently with increased involvement with GIS technology through the use of hand-held Tremble units. He has been and continues to be a model employee with keen interest in all topics relating to our field. Give John a sincere congratulations; he has deserved it. In addition, Bill Reinert (Atlantic County Mosquito Control) was sworn in during the business meeting as the Northeast Region representative for the AMCA.
A special congratulations also goes out to Bill for his dedication.

In closing, I would like to urge the members of the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association to think seriously about attending the next annual meeting of AMCA. I cannot stress enough how important it is to attend national meetings and be introduced to topics that we are normally not exposed to at regional or state meetings. Furthermore, I would also like to urge you to think about submitting a presentation or a poster at the next meeting. We are sadly underrepresented in the program at these national meetings and it is time that we change this. We pride ourselves in our professionalism and history; it is time that we show the rest of our colleagues from around the world what we are doing. Shake It Up!

Report From the AMCA
Bill Reinert, North Atlantic Regional Director to the AMCA

I’m sitting here enjoying the train ride back home after experiencing my first AMCA “Washington Day” event. The train is great; no traffic concerns, relaxed, the movement of the train almost mesmerizing, the socially responsible thing to do, and at $3.00/gallon for gas, the cheap way to travel.

It’s been an interesting and busy experience since assuming the role as North Atlantic Regional Director to the AMCA at the national meeting in Detroit this past March. My first reactions are; the AMCA does a lot more to benefit all in mosquito control then I had ever realized, and I’m still learning all the AMCA does, and, like most organizations, there are a few people that put in an awful lot of time and effort that make this Association work as well as it does.

The Association pays a management company to manage the administrative affairs of the AMCA (Association Headquarters, Inc), and an independent contractor to act as Technical Advisor (Joe Conlon), but it’s the membership who decide where the AMCA is going, what the AMCA should be doing to continue benefiting all those involved in mosquito control, and along with the technical advisor, do much of the leg work involved in most of the AMCA’s many functions.

A few of the functions the AMCA has been involved with over the past few months include; negotiating with and commenting to the EPA during the re-registration process of several mosquito adulticide products; providing input relating to “risk assessments” and pesticide label changes related to PR 2005-1; continuing discussions with the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding mosquito control on National Wildlife Refuges; and protecting the AMCA from infringements on it’s name from private entities, and use of the AMCA with deceptive claims of product support; just to name a few.

“Washington Day”, a 2 ½ day event, probably is the AMCA’s biggest event second only to the AMCA’s annual meeting. It’s a great opportunity to learn about legislative and regulatory issues occurring on a national level that will affect the business of mosquito control, and to meet with and provide input to the elected representatives regarding those issues important to us. It’s also another opportunity to meet with and share experiences with other mosquito control professionals from around the country.
This year there were approximately 90 individuals from around the country registered for “Washington Day.” I can proudly say the 7 people from New Jersey were third in number only to Florida (20 registrants) and California (19). The New Jersey delegation included Vicki Thompson, Scott Crans, Bob Kent, Glen Levinson, Sean Healy, Lisa Reed, and me. All 12 NJ Representatives offices were visited as well as the offices of both Senators. Also from the North Atlantic region were Wally Terrel and Norm Dobson from Massachusetts who visited the offices of both MA’s Senators, and Jacqueline Hakim representing Pennsylvania, who successfully visited 2 PA Representative’s offices and both PA’s Senator’s offices.

The top issues we were encouraged to address on these visits were; protect and enhance federal funding, which included restoring WNV funding to the CDC along with insuring at least stable funding from the CDC to the state health departments for WNV activities; protecting pesticides from over regulation and unjustified regulation in part by encouraging support of the EPA’s ruling on Clean Water act, FIFRA, and NPDES permits, and by supporting the Otter/Cordoza bill; and then asking for support necessary to ensure the ability to continue to do appropriate and effective mosquito control on National Wildlife Refuges.

UPCOMING NJMCA TRUSTEES-MEETING DATES
Thursday July 20th at Headlee labs at 10am

Wednesday Nov. 1 at Headlee labs after Associated execs meeting.

Wednesday Dec. 6 at Assunpink (Monmouth ) after Associated Execs. meeting

Certainly none of these issues were put to bed during our visit or as a result of our visit. Participants need to make follow up contacts, and continued input from all the AMCA membership pertaining to these issues will be helpful. All ten of the “position papers” developed for “Washington Day” with more detailed explanations of the issues can be accessed at the AMCA web site, www.mosquito.org, by clicking on the news heading.

Good luck as we head into the 2006 season!

New Jersey Mosquito Control Association
President
Tadhg Rainey, Hunterdon County Mosquito and Vector Control

1st Vice President
Doug Guthrie, Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission

2nd Vice President
Richard Candeletti, Ocean County Mosquito Extermination Commission

Secretary
Dr. Lisa Reed, Rutgers Mosquito Research and Control

Treasurer
Vicki Thompson, Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission

Newsletter Committee
Anthony Aquaviva
Tadhg Rainey
Ary Farajollahi
Bob Kent
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Phone:(908)453-3585
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How I wish, 
how I wish you were here.

We’re just five lost souls 
swimming in a fish bowl, 
year after year,
Running over the same old 
ground.

What have we found?
The same old ‘skeeter.

Wish you were here.

Some of the Jersey Fresh attendees at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the American Mosquito Control Association. Sitting from left NJMCA president Scott Crans, Ary Farajollahi, Sean Healy. Standing from left Deepak Matadha, Glenn Levinson, Jamie Scott, Vicky Thompson, Bill Reinert, Marc Slaff, Hank Savroski, John Phelps.

Ary and John celebrating John’s reception of the AMCA Grass Roots Award during the banquet dinner.

Bill Reinert (4th from right) being sworn in as the Northeast representative by AMCA President Bill Opp.