President’s Message

There is an old adage that says “be careful what you wish for because you might actually get it”. Well it suddenly hit me as I wrote this article that I did get this job and now I have to do it. Let me begin by saying thanks to all who made the VMCA annual meeting in Hampton a success. Despite some cold and rainy weather, traffic accidents that blocked both bridge tunnels at the same time causing hours of delay, and dramatically reduced travel budgets in many agencies, the meeting was indeed a success. Our sustaining members and our guest speakers deserve special recognition for a job well done. Perhaps the greatest praise should go to the many volunteers who donated their time and talents to ensure that everything went according to plan.

Outstanding Service Awards were presented to Justin Anderson for his wonderful work with the SKEETER and to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Labs-Vector Management and the Pennsylvania Department of Health-Bureau of Labs for their help in confirming positive mosquito pools from Virginia. Congratulations go out to Jay Kiser on being elected as First Vice President. This election was of major significance because it was done electronically for the first time-welcome to a brave new world VMCA! If you have not volunteered to serve on one of the many Committees that make the annual meeting possible, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Board members. If you did not purchase one of the awesome new shirts at the annual meeting, it is not too late. We still have some available. Contact Penny Smelser for details.

As we look ahead, please mark your calendar for February 12-14, 2014 for the annual meeting at the Hilton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. This is an outstanding venue for our meeting - great food, sunrise over the ocean, and night life to keep you jumping. Make your plans now. A committee is already hard at work securing a location for 2015.

The Education Committee is again planning an adult mosquito identification course tentatively scheduled for May 15 & 16 at the Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission headquarters at 900 Hollowell Lane in Chesapeake. This is an excellent opportunity for interns, new hires or old folks as well to learn the basics of mosquito identification and biology.

On a less than happy note, James Will, VMCA president-elect, has resigned from his position. Jim will be moving out of state to be with his family and we will sorely (see Joe, page 2)
Announcements

Upcoming meetings

VMCA Adult Mosquito ID Course
May 15-16, 2013
Chesapeake, VA
See Page 3 for more information!

Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting
November 10-13, 2013
Austin, TX

American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene Annual Meeting
November 13-17, 2013
Washington, DC

American Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting
February 2-6, 2014
Seattle, WA

Virginia Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting
February 12-14, 2014
Virginia Beach, VA

Have information on meeting that may be of interest to VMCA members?
Attend a meeting and want to submit a summary?
Send it to the editor (see page 12)!

(Joe, continued from page 1)

miss him here in Virginia. All of us wish him the best of luck in a new job and a new home.

A news reporter asked me recently what kind of mosquito season lies ahead. I told him that if he can tell me what the weather is going to be for the next six months, then I will predict the mosquito season. We have had a more “normal” winter this year in most of Virginia which may have helped reduce overwintering mosquitoes but we have also had a lot of rainfall. The swamps and wetlands in southeastern Virginia are full and overflowing. If this pattern continues into the warm days of spring and summer, we may be in for another record season. We can only hope that the West Nile outbreak seen last year across the country does not expand into Virginia. Remember that what we do is important to the health and comfort of the people that we serve. Good luck in the new season.

Joe Simmons, VMCA President
The VMCA is holding a FREE adult mosquito ID course on May 15th and 16th. It will be conducted by the combined efforts of local mosquito control biologists. This is not taxonomy or a refresher course but a more practical training geared toward seasonal interns, summer part-time biology positions or mosquito biologists new to the area. Class size is limited to 20 so please make every effort to send eligible participants. We will take other participants on a first come first serve basis. Please sign up early. This information is also posted on the VMCA website (http://mosquito-va.org/formstraining.htm).

Supplies and microscopes are limited but we will have a few extras on hand. If possible, please bring the following items: microscope with lamp, power strip, extension cord, forceps, Petri dishes, wipes, alcohol and notebook. The course will be held at Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission, 900 Hollowell Lane, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320.

Lunch is on your own but there are plenty of places to eat within a short drive. An on-site refrigerator is available. We will provide coffee, donuts, sodas, and water for both days.

Please e-mail Brian Prendergast (brian.prendergast@med.navy.mil) with participant’s name and city or county and what supplies you lack from the provided list.

### VMCA Adult Mosquito ID Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday, May 15</th>
<th>Thursday, May 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:30  Light refreshments</td>
<td>Early morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 8:45  Course overview</td>
<td>Biologists return with traps from their districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 10:00 General mosquito information</td>
<td>9:00 - 9:30 Identification overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 - 10:10 Break</td>
<td>9:30 - 9:45 Sorting exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10 - 10:40 Disease &amp; economic impact of mosquitoes</td>
<td>9:45 - 12:00 Identify mosquitoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40 - 11:10 Introduction to traps &amp; setup demonstration</td>
<td>12:00 - 1:00 Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 - 11:40 Environmental concerns of field work</td>
<td>1:00 - 4:00 Identify mosquitoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40 - 12:00 Lab protocol</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (on your own)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 1:30  Aedes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 - 2:00  Psorophora</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 - 2:30  Culex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 - 2:40  Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:40 - 3:00  Culex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 - 3:20  Anopheles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20 - 4:00  Ochlerotatus &amp; salt marsh mosquitoes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What’s That?

Photo: R. Bartz, Wikipedia

Answer on Page 6.
2013 Annual Meeting Recap

Pictures from the meeting. Top left: Lisa Wagenbrenner receives recognition of her year of service as president from incoming president Joe Simmons. Top right: Lane Carr accepts Justin Anderson’s Outstanding Service Award for his work on The Skeeter. Left: Outstanding Service Awards were given to the Pennsylvania Bureau of Labs-Vector Management and Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Labs. Accepting on their behalf are (l to r): Dreda Symonds, Tim Dubois, Penelope Smelser, Jay Kiser, and Karen Akaratovic.

Annual Meeting Survey Results

A total of 33 surveys were filled out about this year’s meeting. Results are shown at left. Thanks to everyone for taking the time to fill these out. Your comments and suggestions are very helpful in making each meeting such a great success. We received many ideas to better our meeting and plan to implement them in the upcoming year. Thank you again for your input.

Submitted by Jennifer Pierce
Left: The August page of the York County Beautification Calendar emphasizes citizens of the county to get involved in controlling the mosquito population.

Mosquito Control update

Volunteers are needed in the Mosquito Management program to help fight the bugs. No previous experience is required! Volunteers will be trained and provided with a light trap for monitoring the mosquitoes. As a volunteer mosquito monitor, you will play an important role in protecting mosquito counties, which will directly affect the ground and/or aerial spraying program.

This one-of-a-kind program involves citizen volunteers and has won national recognition as being unique in playing an important role in the mosquito control effort. To volunteer, call 800-7071 no later than Friday, March 29.

Leave your name, address, and telephone number. You can also submit this information to galler@yorkcounty.gov. Volunteers will be notified of the scheduled two-hour training session in mid-April.

Mosquito drums and mosquito fish are available to citizens for use in breeding situations such as unused swimming pools or ornamental ponds. The drums and mosquito fish are being offered again this season on a first-come, first-served basis. One two-drum pack is available per household and must be picked up by the homeowner. Some by the Waste Management Center at 14586 York Road. Additional mosquito drums can be purchased at local hardware stores, garden centers, and home improvement stores.

For more information, contact the York County residents by calling 800-7071 or via e-mail (as shown above). Leave your name, address, and telephone number along with the size dimensions of your unused swimming pool or backyard ornamental pond. Fish deliveries will make every month until June and residents will be notified of the delivery date.

Mosquito season usually begins in mid-May. The start of the season depends on the amount of rain we receive this spring, the amount of standing water, and the water temperature. The mosquito spray hotline will be activated on Monday, May 16 and will provide information on where and when spraying is being conducted (dependent on the need for spraying and weather conditions). The spray information is updated daily at www.yorkcounty.gov/mosquitocontrol.

To report a mosquito concern, call 800-7071.

Right: The York County Division of Mosquito Control reaches out to its citizens via the spring edition of the York County Citizen News.

Below: Similar emphasis on getting the populace involved can be found on their website, as seen in this image.

Submitted by Tom Gallagher
Virginia Arbovirus Cases, 2012

During 2012, the following arbovirus diseases were reported in Virginia:

West Nile virus
- 30 cases
- 4 fatalities
- 3 positive blood donors
- 1 equine case, fatal

La Crosse virus
- 2 cases (Wise Co.)

Eastern equine encephalitis virus
- 1 case (Portsmouth)

Dengue virus
- 17 cases, imported from Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Thailand, Viet Nam

Tick-borne encephalitis virus
- 1 case, imported from Czech Republic

Submitted by David Gaines

What’s that? Answer
That is an engorged *Ixodes ricinus*, the most common vector for tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV), which was imported into Fairfax County in 2012 (see above). TBEV is a member of the *Flaviviridae*, which includes such vector-borne viruses as West Nile virus and the dengue viruses. TBEV causes over 10,000 cases of encephalitis annually over large swaths of northern Europe and Asia, especially in Russia; mortality rates may reach 20%. The virus may also infect a variety of animals. Dogs and horses may develop neurological disease, while goats, sheep, and cows may pass virus in the milk, including to humans.

VMCA organizational mailing address
Make sure you send all forms to the proper address.
Virginia Mosquito Control Association
Penelope Smelser, Secretary/Treasurer
2800 Tarrant Street
Norfolk, VA 23509
Phone (757) 683-8662
Email Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov
FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFERS WEST NILE VIRUS TESTING

Effective April 2013, Fairfax County Health Department Laboratory will offer West Nile virus PCR testing of mosquito pools and RAMP test samples. RT-PCR is the gold standard for WNV testing and confirmation. Our target turnaround time will be 72 hours for mosquito pools or RAMP confirmation.

If you are interested in information regarding pricing, submission requirements, or would like to set up a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Fairfax County Health Department Laboratory, please contact the Fairfax County Health Department Laboratory Director, Deborah K. Severson or Laboratory Supervisor, Barbara Beatty at the numbers listed below.

Deborah K Severson  
FCHD Laboratory Director  
Deborah.Severson@fairfaxcounty.gov  
703-277-3253

Barbara Beatty  
FCHD Laboratory Supervisor  
Barbara.Beatty@fairfaxcounty.gov  
703-277-3251

Submitted by Joshua Smith

Telling Our Story

The Virginia Mosquito Control Association has begun to tell our story of mosquito control in 2013.

The Public Relations Committee has submitted our request to Governor McDonnell’s office to recognize National Mosquito Control Awareness Week in the Commonwealth June 23-29.

As we begin our mosquito control operations this spring, please send photos and notes of your operations to myself, Justin or Joe Simmons. We want to tell our story to the rest of the Commonwealth via Facebook and our website to show how we protect public health and make our communities a better place to live!

Let’s tell our story!

Submitted by Caleb Stitely
### VMCA Committees

VMCA cannot function without the help of its members. Consider becoming involved in one of the committees listed below. Contact a member of the Executive Board.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VMCA Committees &amp; Chairs</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Committee Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legislative Committee</strong></td>
<td>NPDES, VPDES, PESP</td>
<td>Lane Carr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Buchanan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>By Laws</strong></td>
<td>By Law Revision and Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>George Wojcik</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting (Program/Agenda)</strong></td>
<td>65th Annual Meeting Program</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Pierce (Pres Elect)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting (Vendor Planning)</strong></td>
<td>Commercial Packets to vendors, Vendor Presentations set up</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Kiser</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting (Local Arrangements)</strong></td>
<td>Locating a place for the Annual Meeting</td>
<td>George Wojcik, Lane Carr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Dubois/Lisa Wagenbrenner</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Audit</strong></td>
<td>Annual Audit</td>
<td>Ann Herring, Mitch Burcham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Dehart</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elections Committee</strong></td>
<td>Finds candidates for the next election. Prepares the ballot and coordinates/checks the election process-Verifies on-line voting</td>
<td>Connie Gregg, Ann Herring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Wagenbrenner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Awards</strong></td>
<td>R.E. Dorer Outstanding Service Awards</td>
<td>Phil Meekins, Kirby Foley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Pierce</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>Recertification, Adult ID, Larval ID</td>
<td>Lisa Wagenbrenner, Jennifer Pierce, Jay Kiser, Karen Akaratovic, Dreda Symonds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Prendergast</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Historian</strong></td>
<td>Historical archives</td>
<td>Andy Lima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Dubois</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Information</strong></td>
<td>Skeeter</td>
<td>George Wojcik, Andy Lima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Anderson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAMCA</strong></td>
<td>Virginia Update for the MAMCA meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Dubois</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Membership</strong></td>
<td>Keeps an updated list of membership</td>
<td>Randy Buchanan, Ann Herring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penny Smelser</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photography</strong></td>
<td>Photo Contest Collects Photos throughout the year for the website, Skeeter, and for distribution</td>
<td>Lisa Wagenbrenner, Andy Lima</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Dubois</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Relations</strong></td>
<td>Poster Contest, Mosquito Awareness Week, Photo Contest Outreach, Education and Fundraising</td>
<td>David Gaines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Stitely</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TMVCC</strong></td>
<td>TMVCC representatives, Gives TMVCC updates</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LaToya White</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TRAST</strong></td>
<td>TRAST Representatives, Gives TRAST updates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Kiser</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
<td>Maintains and revises website as necessary</td>
<td>Penny Smelser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lane Carr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Media</strong></td>
<td>Facebook, Twitter</td>
<td>Justin Anderson, Andy Lima, Rachel Kempf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Stitely</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ad hoc (Mosquito Distribution Map)</strong></td>
<td>Documenting mosquitoes found throughout Virginia</td>
<td>Jennifer Pierce, LaToya White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Kiser</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitality</strong></td>
<td>Annual meeting Hospitality Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Herring</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VMCA Membership Application and Renewal Form

Virginia Mosquito Control Association
New Membership & Member Renewal Application

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:  ( ) RENEWAL ( ) NEW
Mark an “X” in the appropriate box

Membership payment is by calendar year

| NAME: | Regular $15.00 |
| PHONE: | Associate $10.00 |
| ADDRESS: | Student: *Enclose proof of student status $10.00 |
| E-MAIL: | |
| ORGANIZATION: | |

TOTAL SUBMITTED

Please “X” here if you cannot receive the newsletter by email

Questions or comments can be directed to Penelope Smelser, Secretary-Treasurer, 757-683-8662 or mail to: Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov

Send payment (made payable to VMCA) and mail/fax this form to Secretary/Treasurer –or- fill out the form, save and submit by email.

Penelope Smelser
VMCA Secretary-Treasurer
2800 Tarrant Street
Norfolk, VA 23509
757-683-8662 office phone
757-683-2500 office fax

**Regular Member** - VMCA Newsletter, hold office, serve on committees, propose motions, vote, and participate in business meetings.

**Associate Member** - VMCA Newsletter, participate in business meetings.

**Student Member** - VMCA Newsletter, serve on committees and participate in business meetings.
(Student must be enrolled at least 1/2 time in an accredited college or university and produce valid College/University ID Card.)
2013 Sustaining Members

The VMCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members for 2013. Without their generous contributions, much of what we do would not be possible. Please do not hesitate to contact them. They are here to help you!

Ted Bean
(814) 671-6516
tbean@myadapco.com

Peter Connelly
(772) 563-0606
peterc@amvac.net

Charlie Pate
(706) 338-4734
cpate@central.com

Jeff Hottenstein
(703) 498-9362
jhottenstein@clarke.com

Matt Crabbe
(804) 334-7370
.crabav@gmail.com

Joe Andrews
(888) 603-1008
joa@allprovector.com

Caleb Stitely
(540) 828-6070
cstitely@dynamicaviation.com

Doug Hill
(804) 512-2676
dhill@nikon.net

Zachary Cohen
(800) 227-8664
zcohen@summitchemical.com

Mike Leahy
(804) 615-8648
Mike.leahy@univarusa.com

Jim Andrews
(910) 547-8070
j.andrews@valent.com
Virginia Mosquito Control Organizations & Other Resources

As a result of revisions to the VMCA By-Laws, the organizational member category was eliminated. In order to facilitate communication among mosquito control districts, those that have traditionally been organizational members are listed below along with their websites. If there are other sites that should be listed, please submit them to the editor.

**Virginia Mosquito Control Organizations**

- Boykins, Town of
- **Chesapeake Mosquito Control Commission**
- Emporia, City of
- **Fairfax County Health Department**
- Fort Eustis
- **Gloucester County**
- **Hampton, City of**
- Henrico County
- **Newport News, City of**
- Richmond, City of
- **Suffolk, City of**
- US Air Force / Langley Air Force Base
- **York County**

**Health Information**

- Virginia Department of Health
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

**Other Mosquito Control Organizations**

- Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association
- American Mosquito Control Association

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AMCA/Fairfax County Education and Outreach Materials

Not a member? Join us at: [http://www.mosquito-va.org/membership.htm](http://www.mosquito-va.org/membership.htm)

Annual dues for 2012 are:
- Regular member $15
- Associate member $10
- Student member $10
- Sustaining member $400

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**Submissions wanted!**

Have something you’d like to include in the next issue of *The Skeeter*? We are looking for organizational updates, operational news, education and other outreach activities, pictures, stories, or other vaguely vector-related items to include in an upcoming newsletter.

Please send all items to Justin Anderson at janderson152@radford.edu.

The deadline for inclusion in the next issue is: **June 30, 2013.**
Take the time to volunteer on a committee. An active membership makes for a stronger organization. Contact anyone on the Board to participate.

2013 Virginia Mosquito Control Association Officers

President: Joe Simmons  (757) 382-3450 jsimmons@cityofchesapeake.net
President Elect: Jennifer Pierce  (757) 426-5420 JPierce@vbgov.com
Vice President: Jay Kiser  (757) 514-7608 jkiser@suffolkva.us
1st Vice President: Jeff Hottenstein (interim)  (703) 498-9362 jhottenstein@clarke.com
Secretary / Treasurer: Penelope Smelser  (757) 683-8662 Penelope.smelser@norfolk.gov
Past President: Lisa Wagenbrenner  (757) 673-3932 lwagenbrenner@cityofchesapeake.net
*TMVCC Representative: LaToya White  (757) 514-7608 lnwhite@suffolkva.us
*MAMCA Representative: Tim DuBois  (757) 727-2808 tdubois@hampton.gov
*Non-voting member of the Board

The Skeeter is the official publication of the Virginia Mosquito Control Association. The VMCA membership is encouraged to submit articles, reviews, and any other interesting facts or tidbits for publication. Submissions can be sent to Justin Anderson at skeeter@radford.edu.
Committee Chair / Production: Justin Anderson, Radford University
Distribution: Penelope Smelser, Norfolk
Editorial review: All the members of the board.
Production advisor: George Wojcik, City of Portsmouth