

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT
RODERICK A. WELLS
ANNUAL 2011

The last two days of November and the first day of December the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association held its annual meeting at the Clarion Inn and Suites in Covington. Herff Jones and others along with the St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement district staff put on an excellent meeting which consisted of over 30 papers. Several employees from our district attended the two and one half days of presentations, food and fun. Those attending this year; Matt Yates, Rod Wells, Guy Faget, Randy Vaeth, Fred Augustine, Larry Hudson, Emmanuel Osagie, and Kenny Ricard. One paper was presented by Randy Vaeth. The title of Randy's paper was, "Sewer Overflows: Surveillance and response in East Baton Rouge Parish." He did a wonderful job. Also, Herff Jones passed on his presidential duties to his vice president Billy Noegel. Shannon Rider Director of Ouachita Parish Mosquito Abatement district was elected vice president. Finally, Chuck Palmisano was presented the 2011 Hathaway-Ritter Distinguished Achievement Award.

A recap of our year in public information and education reveals that we made presentations thirty-nine different times at a variety of places. Our program had a number of our employees attending and making presentations at our national meeting; specifically, the AMCA Annual Meeting. We participated in State programs as well: the Louisiana Police Jury Association Meeting (LPJA); the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association (LMCA) Workshop in March, and the LMCA Annual Meeting held in November.

We aired our video spot during National Mosquito Awareness Week (nationwide) and Pilez Mosquito Week in the state of Louisiana this year. The video is called "Pilez the Mosquito." It promotes emptying containers holding water during peak WNV activity in the summer months. The video spot was developed by the director. As employees have come and gone we've had to revise our spot with current personnel. We've replaced Nicole Lockett and Jennifer Bodin with Ashley Spears and Lance Nicoll. The voice over is done with a Cajun speaking male's voice stressing the importance of emptying containers and promotes routine at home inspections with weekly trash pickup days. We feel it has been a huge success and it will continue to be broadcasted. Also, "Jezebel" our mechanical mosquito was featured in the East Baton Rouge Parish main library on display along with educational handout materials. The folks at the library are always pleased to have Jezebel on display and she is always a tremendous hit with the kids.

Charlene Scott and Marilyn Payne directed the efforts to educate young people in the parish on mosquitoes and mosquito abatement this summer. They brought the word to daycare centers and summer camps all over the parish. We are very pleased with the program and as of the end of the summer; the program had reached a grand total to 1277 kids in our parish. We've thoroughly enjoyed the service they have given to the young people of East Baton Rouge parish and we look forward to continued success.

On the local scene, we participated in twenty-two community events, eighteen of which were Health Fairs. Others include Baton Rouge Earth Day, School Science Fairs, First United Methodist Church Mission Sunday, Homeland Security Executive Education Seminar, Operation Restore Pride Neighborhood Cleanup Campaign, Ocean Commotion, and National Night Out Against Crime. We were on the radio, in the newspaper and on local television a total of fifteen times. A special thanks to all the employees of the district who were helpful in making our efforts successful. Without their assistance none of this would have been possible. Also, Randy Vaeth kept citizens abreast of our activities at EBRMARC through our Facebook® page. We have moved into the 21st century with this social media outlet. (See Chart)

Earlier this year four members from our district attended the American Mosquito Control Association Annual conference in Anaheim, California. The association has an international membership including insect control workers, university researchers, industry personnel, state and federal health officials, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and military personnel. William Frederick Augustine, Randy Vaeth and I participated in the educational activities at Benito Juarez Elementary School during AMCA Education Day. Truc Dever of Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control was the education coordinator for this “Education Day” event. The meeting will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 2013.

Guy Faget, Randy Vaeth, Jennifer B. Prestridge, and Lance Nicoll made presentations this year at the Louisiana Mosquito Control Associations Annual Workshop held in Alexandria-Pineville La. on March 1, 2, and 3. The LMCA workshop is conducted each year as a training session to certify mosquito control workers throughout the State as mosquito and rodent control applicators. Randy conducted sessions on Calculation and application of Infection Rates and Mosquito Resistance Monitoring. Jennifer handled the materials on Mosquito Identifications in the hands on session. The advanced session of the workshop featured Brian Irby of Clarke Mosquito, and Patrick Sutton of Adapco Incorporated who were there to demonstrate spray truck calibrations to many of the cities with one truck operations.

We conducted our annual night foggers training session again this year. Lewis Combs, Nathan Tircuit, and I conducted the training this year. There were 6 personnel in attendance from another parish. Ascension parish sent 6 crew members for the training which was twice as many as last year. There were 31 of EBRMARC full-time and part-time employees in attendance for a total of 37. The annual “Registered Technician” training which is approved by Louisiana Agriculture and Forestry was again a huge success.

All during the year we try to keep our employees up to date with training opportunities. This year we held training on Mosquito Identification, Spill Procedures and Reporting, Use of Gravid Traps in Mosquito Surveillance gathering for West Nile Virus, Positive Wild Birds and What It Means, Drug Ordinance and Testing Procedures, and Hand Fogger Use. Additionally, we monthly receive really interesting safety information on various topics which can affect daily work. It comes via email from the city-parish Safety and Risk Management department. Their focus is to reduce accidents city-parish wide by putting greater emphasis on safety awareness.

Finally, our safe driving record did not carry through to the end of the year. At one point during the year we'd driven safely for 289 days or 76%, until an accident broke our string. We started over, went up to the 4th quarter of the year and had driven safely for 121 days or 33%, until the director was rear ended totaling his vehicle. We are hopeful we can improve next years driving percentage beyond 76%. We will not give up on our good driving habits which we know have been better in past years. We ended the year with 22 days of accident free driving.