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N.M.C.A.

NORTHEASTERN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

the NORTHEASTER

October 2007★ No. 22

~ IN THIS ISSUE ~

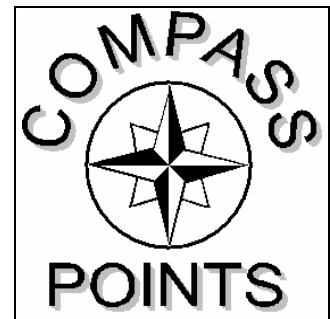
- ◆ NMCA Contact Information
- ◆ NMCA Annual Meeting Information – 2007-2009
- ◆ NMCA Scholarship information
- ◆ “The Mosquito Roundup” - News from around the membership
- ◆ NMCA Call for Papers (insert)
- ◆ Scholarship applications (inserts)
- ◆ and so much more!!

next deadline: January 5, 2008

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I am amazed at how quickly the summer season actually flies when you look back at it. Much like having your kids grow up, (and many of you have not only heard this but have experienced it first hand) it seems as though when you are in the actual moment it crawls by but then all of a sudden you look back and poof it is gone. I can say all this with relative safety as here it is October already, mosquito complaints are dwindling, temperatures are dropping, there would not seem to be a foreseeable end to the drought-like conditions here and plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held in Plymouth, MA are well underway... of course this is New England and if you don't like the weather stick around a few minutes.

Despite the high pressure summer we have all endured the Executive Board has been hard at work firming up locations for our 2008 as well as our 2009 Annual Meeting. I am entirely thankful for having this truly competent Board and they have stepped up when called upon at a moment's notice. For 2008 the NMCA will be making a long anticipated return to the City of Providence. This in itself is a somewhat historic event in that the last time the Association was there was for its Third Annual Meeting in 1957 with past president Lewis F. Wells, Jr. Anybody go to that one besides Dave Colburn? The Providence Marriott offers meeting space galore topped with freshly renovated deluxe accommodations amidst fantastic views of the historic east side, College Hill and the Capitol dome. In 2009 we will be back in the reliable hands of the Sturbridge Host Hotel located in charming Sturbridge, MA. Sturbridge has the benefit of being centrally located and has many treasures to explore outside the Hotel as well.



(continued on page 3)

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WEBSITE AT www.nmca.org

~ NEWS YOU CAN USE ~

Check this issue for information on the next three annual meetings!!

Send your comments to: newsletter@nmca.org

SUPPORT NMCA

The NMCA Editorial Staff would like to thank the sponsors of this issue, and would like to ask the membership to take notice of the advertisements in this issue and please support our sponsors.

~ NOTE FROM THE EDITOR ~

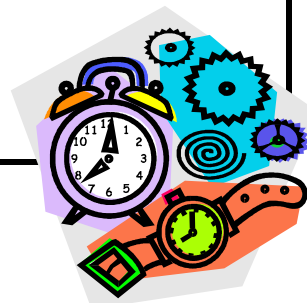
PLEASE CONSIDER A SUBMISSION

The strength of this newsletter is the submissions from the membership – from you!! This is a great opportunity to share your success (and failures) with others in our industry. We all have a lot to share, and learning from each other is a great way to improve yourself and your program.

Short paragraphs, full articles and if you have ideas for a column, that would be great, and will strengthen the outreach of our Association.

Please see the contact information on the back page, and consider a submission to the next issue – **deadline is January 5, 2008.**

DON'T FORGET –
TURN YOUR
CLOCKS BACK
NOV. 4!!



The Board has carefully selected both these locations to accommodate the membership at every level. (Please check out the website for more details).

The Board is just now finalizing details for this year's upcoming meeting. (Don't forget to submit your Call for Papers now and please don't get left out in the cold, book your rooms early and often.) Thankfully we have secured a great bunch of people to the NMCA's Committees to help in this ambitious schedule. The NMCA's Committees are comprised of exceptional individuals that are committed to producing educational opportunities in great learning environments for years to come. The combined effort of some new faces in addition to some old, promises to add new vigor to an already top notch organization. If you would like to be a part of this team in any capacity please let us know. We continue to welcome and invite new energy and ideas from the membership so please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Board member for information on what you can do to become involved. Hope to see you in December!

- Emily Sullivan, NMCA President

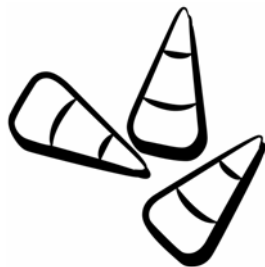
~ NMCA SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS ~

The NMCA Executive Board wants to remind everyone it's the right time to consider candidates for the various scholarships, grants and awards that the NMCA offers to the membership each year.

- ◆ **The Bob Armstrong Award:** is given to a NMCA member for meritorious service to NMCA and mosquito control
- ◆ **The McColgan Grant-in-Aid:** will go to an individual whose work is directly related to the advancement of operational mosquito control.
- ◆ **The Jobbins Scholarship:** will go to a student whose work is in an area relevant to mosquito or biting-fly control in the Northeast.
- ◆ **The Dave Scott Memorial Award:** This award may acknowledge an improvement in a procedure, a practice, any of the many operational strategies that we perform in mosquito control on a day-to-day basis.
- ◆ **The David H. Colburn Award:** This award is dedicated to David H. Colburn, charter member of NMCA, in recognition of his service to mosquito control and his perfect attendance for the first 50 NMCA Annual Meetings. NMCA members in good standing for at least 2 years and with 20 years consecutive or cumulative in mosquito control are eligible.



For more information on these awards, please contact **Emily Sullivan**, Scholarship/Awards Chair at **(978) 474-4640** or check the website at www.nmca.org on the Annual Meeting page.



2007 ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

The 53rd Annual NMCA Meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel at Plymouth Harbor in Plymouth, MA from **December 3-5, 2007**. Room cost for NMCA will be **\$98 per night** (single rate – plus 5.7% Mass tax and 4% local tax) - please specify the "Northeastern Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting" when you book your room. **This special rate is only effective until Nov. 19, 2007** so please book soon!!

The Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor



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Fax: (508) 746-2609

E-mail: info@radissonplymouth.com

Website: <http://www.radissonplymouth.com/>



~ UPCOMING NMCA ANNUAL MEETINGS ~

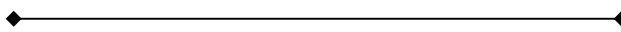
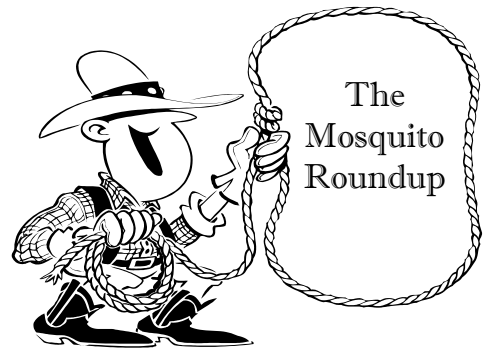
The NMCA Executive Board has been busy and has secured sites for the next two annual meetings after 2007:

2008: The 54th Annual NMCA Meeting will be held at the Marriott Providence Downtown Hotel in **Providence, RI** from December 8-10, 2008. Room cost for NMCA will be \$134 per night (plus tax) - please specify the "Northeastern Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting" when you book your room. This special rate is only effective until Nov. 17, 2008.

2009: The 55th Annual NMCA Meeting will be held at the Sturbridge Host Hotel in **Sturbridge, MA** from December 2-4, 2009. Room cost for NMCA will be \$119 per night (plus tax) - please specify the "Northeastern Mosquito Control Association Annual Meeting" when you book your room. This special rate is only effective until Nov. 10, 2009.



In this column, you will find **mosquito** and **arbovirus news** from the membership, from New England to New Jersey. Haven't submitted anything for this issue? Look for the contact information at the end of this newsletter and submit news from your organization next time. A paragraph or two is all that's needed. Give it some thought.



Northeast Mass. Mosquito Control & Wetlands Mgmt. District – As I have driven into the office the past few mornings the coastal vista off the right side of my car as I wind along the country roads (tough commute) has been extraordinary. The great thing about the salt marsh is it always changing, but this was something I have never seen in September; sea smoke. You know when the water temperature is warmer than the air. Typically we see this on extremely cold days in February. But here we are in mid September with water temperature in the high fifties and low sixties and early morning air temperatures in the high thirties and low forties. This was an incredible sight of thick bellowing sea smoke coming off the marsh and estuaries, accented by the rising sun. Wish I had a camera it would have made a great entry for the photo solon. I guess we can take this as a sign that the season is winding down. But I hope it's not an indication of a long cold winter.

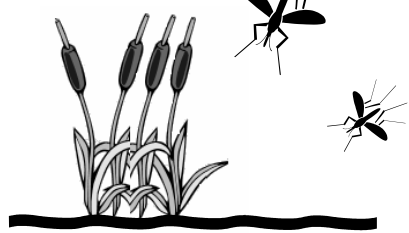
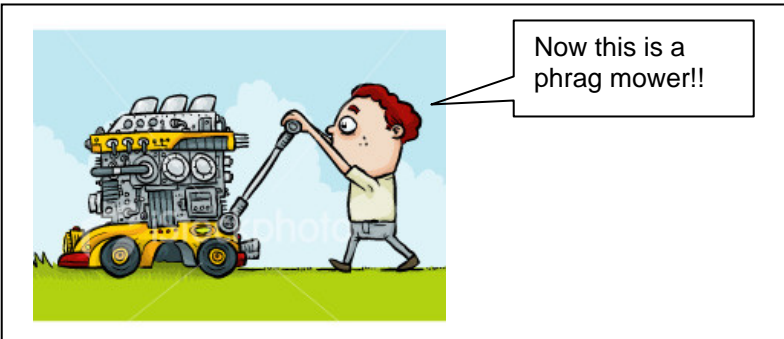
We experienced a fourth consecutive year of EEE and hope we don't share upstate New York's experience of a fifth consecutive year next season. EEE was found in two pools of mosquitoes and there were two human cases in southern New Hampshire. Unlike last season EEE stayed just over the NH border. I not sure this means anything as the border between the States in this area is geographically seamless. Perhaps it's because it's a primary election year and those conservative NH mosquitoes won't venture south into liberal territory. In response to EEE activity just over the border and our own surveillance data, preemptive strategies were employed to reduce risk in our border communities. Preemptive strategies is politically correct mosquito control lingo, translated in means we sprayed the grab out of everything; just kidding.

We had 12 positive pools of WNV from our southern coastal communities where WNV appears to endemic. I am convinced however that it is drought years that triggers increased WNV activity. As wetlands dry back to small isolated, highly organic pools they provide ideal habitat for *Culex*. A slight sheet flow from just a small amount of rain, car washing and lawn watering is enough to keep catch basins and storm water structures hopping.

The crew is wrapping up surveillance, pulling in greenhead traps, phrag spraying, flail mowing and getting their flannel shirts out of the closet. As always I am very much looking forward to seeing you all at the annual NMCA meeting.

- Walter Montgomery, Supt.

A biology class student conducted an experiment on what would happen to a grasshopper if its legs were taken off. He pulled off one of its legs and yelled "hop!", and the grasshopper hopped. Then he took another leg and yelled "hop!" and the grasshopper hopped. Then he took all of its legs and yelled "hop!" but the insect did not hop. He yelled again, but the insect did not hop. So he came to the conclusion that when all the legs of a grasshopper are removed, it will become deaf.



What do you call a mosquito on holiday? An itch-hiker.....What do you get if you cross Zorro with an insect? The Masked-Quito.....What has antlers and sucks your blood? A moose-quito.....What has six legs, bites and talks in code? A Morse-quito.....What is small and grey, sucks blood and eats cheese? A mouse-quito.....Why are mosquitoes annoying? Because they get under your skin.....What is a mosquito's favorite sport? Skin diving.

Suffolk County (NY) Department of Public Works Division of Vector Control - The 2007 mosquito season ended quietly. The late brood of salt marsh mosquitoes we normally get in early September did not appear, much to the relief of children on the bus stops in certain areas. Apparently, relatively low tides and cool weather with north winds did the trick. Virus activity was low this season, with only 12 isolations in mosquitoes, all *Culex spp.* The primary battles were regulatory and procedural in nature. There continues to be an effort by a small but dedicated group of activists to eliminate methoprene use in the salt marsh, despite our \$4.5 million Generic Environmental Impacts Statement. The County did agree to work with mainstream groups on a Pesticide Reduction Action Plan that makes the guidelines under which we apply larvicides more explicit and pledges assistance on implementing wetlands management to reduce the use of all larvicides. The bottom line is methoprene is still very much part of the program, although we treat more acres with bacterials. The anti-methoprene group has some allies in the NY State DEC unit that manages some State wetlands, and the use on methoprene on this 17% of the wetlands we treat remains problematic, although the State does not seem to mind it on the other 83% or so of the salt marshes we treat. This will be an issue we will have to live with for the foreseeable future. The activists will never be satisfied with any data we can present on methoprene, and we have no intention of relying solely on bacterials, much as we like them and use them whenever we can. The only way forward will be to get more folks on board with improved wetlands management.

Part of the issue regarding control in the salt marsh is disagreement over the role of salt marsh mosquitoes in impacting public health. Recent work done by our laboratory has reminded us that *Aedes spp.* are not the only "salt marsh mosquitoes". Improved survey techniques have shown us the *Culex salinarius* uses larval habitats in the salt marsh and turns up in high numbers (up to 900/trap/night) in baited CDC light traps in some of our coastal areas. Ironically, it seems to favor the upper margins of relatively undisturbed marshes, although we find it in degraded areas as well. Few will doubt the importance of this species in WNV transmission.

Speaking of restoring disturbed wetlands, we continue to get good results from the Integrated Marsh Management (IMM) project at Wertheim NWR. Larviciding has been virtually eliminated in one 40-acre section of the marsh, and greatly reduced in another 40-acre section. A few simple "tweaks" could completely eliminate the problem areas. The natural resources results also continue to look promising, and a full report on the first three years of post-project monitoring will be out this winter. We are in the early stages of a County Wetlands Stewardship Program that is supposed to guide future projects. Part of that effort will be a workshop to bring together experts in the field to define things like what techniques work and how do we measure that. Some NMCA members that have expertise in these matters will be invited to participate. Once again, we see the importance of sharing information and ideas around the region and around the country.

- Dominick V. Ninivaggi, Supt.



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A centipede is an inchworm that has switched to the metric system....A snail got mugged by two tortoises. When he went to the police, they questioned him as to what happened. He said, "I don't know, it all happened so fast!"... How many flies does it take to scow in a light bulb? Two, but how the heck do they get in there?....

Plymouth County MCP – On July 15th this Project celebrated our “50th Anniversary” serving the citizens of Plymouth County. Starting this season we were listed as in the “moderate level” for EEE activity and advanced to “high risk” on August 20th in eighteen of our twenty eight town Project. Based on field tests conducted in NE Mass. MC District this summer we switched three of our eight Beeco ULV sprayers to Duet, a dual-action adulticide with favorable results. All ULV sprayers utilized the Data Master GPS Systems with minimal problems. Talking to folks in other parts of the Country, these units may well be mandated in the not to distant future.

The “final curtain call” for adulticiding was Friday, September 29th, the same as last year. We received 12,191 requests for service (2006- 13,708). As usual we had another active year with eighteen EEE positive pools (two bridge vectors) out of twenty six for the entire state. WNV activity at present stands with thirteen WNV positive pools and ten WNV birds reported. Approximately thirty birds were handled through this Project as a dead bird repository. I'm happy to report that 63,588 catch basins were treated with larvicide in ALL of our towns.

At the upcoming NMCA meeting I hope you once again enjoy the Town of Plymouth, “America’s Hometown.” Ellen Bidlack will be giving a paper on “Comparison of CDC and ABC Trap Results.” Dan Daly, our Community Liaison, will be giving a paper on “Maintaining Positive Relations with School and Boards of Health while implementing the Provisions of the Children’s Protection Act.”

I look forward to seeing everyone in Plymouth at the annual NMCA meeting and to compare war stories.



- Ray Zucker, Supt.

Have you heard about the mother weevil who had twin sons....one of them went out to the west coast and became a big movie star and made lots of money, the other stayed home and did nothing but eat cotton and get on people's nerves...needless to say that the one who stayed home was considered the lesser of the two weevils

CT DEP – Mosquito Mgmt. Program – Following a surge in WNV activity in early August, Governor Rell, announced the DEP would hand out larvicides to any town that requested it to control mosquito larvae that might carry WNV. We were concerned because initial discussions involved providing larvicide to those towns that had current WNV activity or a recent history of activity, however when the press release finally came out, ALL towns (169!) could take advantage of this opportunity. Only 32 towns asked Roger and I about product. We ordered \$86,000 worth of larvicides and handed this product out to the towns. This money to purchase the product came from our Mosquito Management Program budget, we hope to get reimbursed from OPM, we will have to see what happens. We ended up the season with four human cases, but lots of WNV positive mosquitoes. An interesting note: in our light traps, there were lots of Culex species mosquitoes which was to be expected as Culex numbers (and often WNV activity) are typically higher during drought years. We had larvicided natural wetland areas at some of these trap sites but were still getting high numbers of Culex. Upon further investigation, the surrounding neighborhoods had containers with standing water full of larvae. So even though we are asking the citizens to empty water containers to prevent breeding, hardly anyone is doing it. Several towns did block by block surveys and sent letters around to ask people to empty containers of water or they would be fined per the public health code. One town did a backyard barrier adulticide treatment to reduce the Culex numbers. Because of the increase in free larviciding products and the towns' abilities to apply them quickly, we think this had a positive effect on decreasing mosquito populations. The MMP program would like to recommend to the Governor that this be done every year (to make larviciding products available by August 1). The cost of this program would be about \$100,000 per year. We will have to see how discussions go this winter. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Plymouth.



- Paul Capotosto & Roger Wolfe





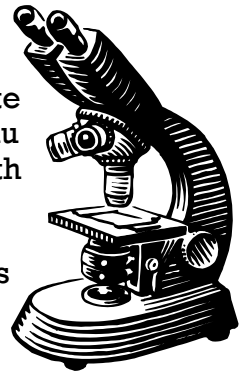
ENTOMOLOGIST

Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project in Norwood Mass. <<http://www.massnrc.org/nmcp/>> is looking for an **ENTOMOLOGIST**.

The Entomologist will oversee all Project surveillance programs, conduct educational programs and, if needed, assist with Project control programs. Must have at least a bachelor's degree, but ideally a master's degree in Entomology or related field and be able to identify mosquitoes and other arthropods of medical and ecological importance.

The Entomologist must possess a valid Massachusetts driver's license within +/-30 days of employment. The Entomologist must obtain a state Mosquito and Biting Fly certification from the State Pesticide Bureau (category 48) within +/-3 years of start date. Salary commensurate with qualifications.

For full details on this position please access <http://www.nmca.org/news.htm>.



~ 19th ANNUAL PHOTO SALON ~

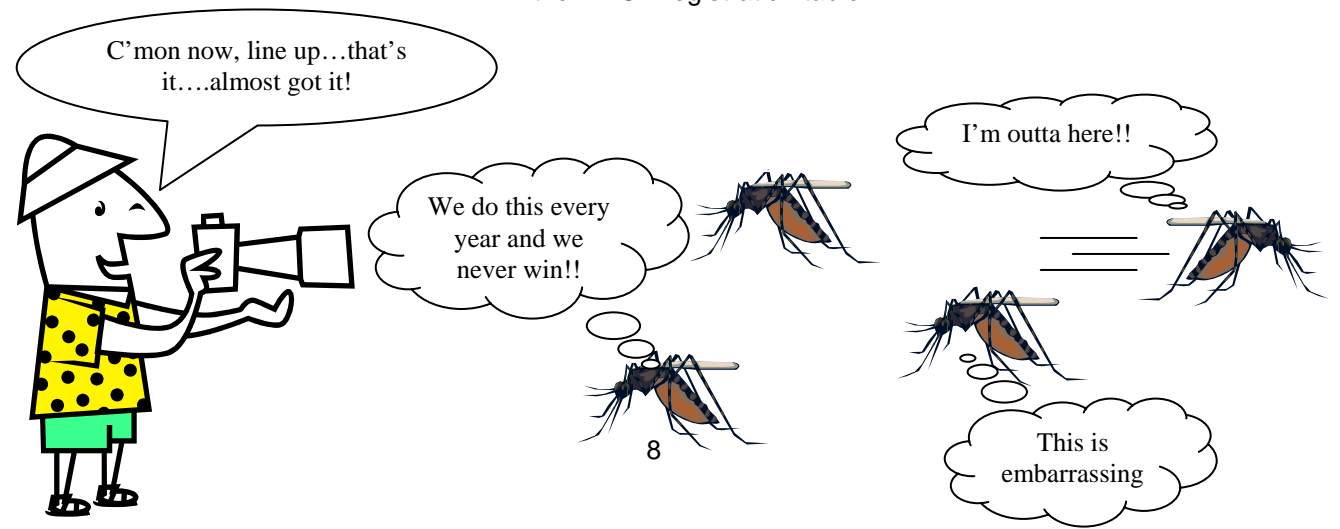
Submit up to 3 of your favorite photos in the 19th annual NMCA Photo Salon!! Compete with your peers to see who will be chosen the best in each category. Photos can be e-mailed to Dave Lawson anytime before the contest. Send them to saltmarsh@attglobal.net. Prizes Awarded.

CATEGORIES:

- General Wildlife
- Other Insects
- Mosquito Habitat & Sampling
- Research Project
- Comical
- Wetlands Management
- Educational
- Landscape

RULES:

- 1) Submit only one entry per category in up to three categories
- 2) E-mail entries or submit entries at the NMCA registration table before noon on Tuesday
- 3) No Slides please. If you have slides, please convert them to digital format.
- 4) A panel of judges will pick the winning entry in each category, and a prize will be awarded to the winners at the banquet.
- 5) No professional presentation slides and no text slides please.
- 6) Media will be available for pick up on Wednesday morning at the NMCA registration table



ITEMS



Since our move to Delaware the end of June, Nancy and I have been going through our stuff and finding a lot of things we no longer need. Some of the things I found were the equipment and supplies I used in calibrating ground and aerial ULV applications for my great customers.

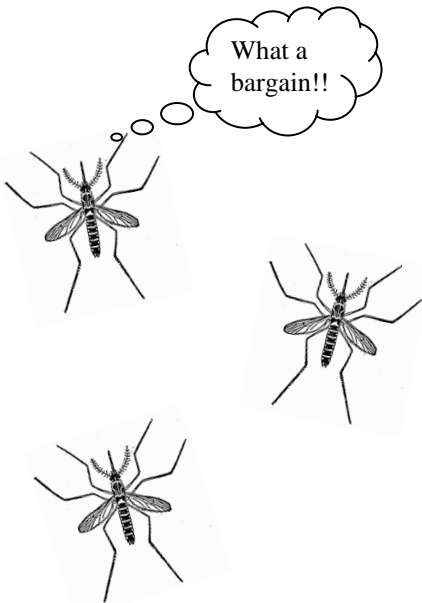
Following is a list of items I will sell at a phenomenal going out of business sale. Everything can be sold as one lot or as individual items.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5 John Hock slide rotators | \$50.00 @ (I can ship them with the 9 volt batteries, but that will make them heavy.) |
| 1 Flashlight aspirator | \$ 5.00 |
| 5 boxes Teflon coated slides | \$25.00/ box of 25 |
| 16 - 5 slide mailer containers | \$ 1.00 @ |
| 3 bags of 50 Spraying Systems oil and water sensitive 52 x 76 mm cards | \$ 5.00 / bag |
| 5 bags of 50 Spraying Systems oil sensitive 2" x 3" cards | \$ 5.00 / bag
(These cards are great for checking swath width) |
| 1 Macroscope 25 monocular in original pouch | \$75.00 |

With these prices, I will have to charge shipping (by mail).

If anyone can use these supplies, please give me a call.

Bill Zawicki
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 Selbyville, DE 19975
 302-988-1113; cell 908-902-3907
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State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division
Wetland Habitat and Mosquito Management (WHAMM) Program

Controlling *Phragmites australis* in Connecticut's Fresh and Salt-water Marshes

By Paul Capotosto and Roger Wolfe

Introduction

Phragmites australis (Phragmites) is an aggressive invasive plant species that has taken over thousands of acres of marsh in Connecticut. The State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection's Wildlife Division, Wetlands Habitat and Mosquito Management (WHAMM) Program has been doing Phragmites control since 1997. Over sixty-six sites have been under the WHAMM Program's control.

Control Methods

The objective of Phragmites control is not to completely eradicate the species, because in certain circumstances it may contribute to overall habitat diversity of tidal wetlands, but rather to reduce the extent of monotypic stands that have invaded brackish and tidal-fresh water wetlands. There are two methods commonly used to control the spread of Phragmites:

1) **Restoring Salt Water Tidal Flows:** The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Long Island Sound Programs, Tidal Wetland Restoration Program uses this method for restoring degraded tidal wetlands. Since Phragmites is intolerant of salinities greater than 18ppt, reintroduction of salt water results in a gradual replacement of Phragmites by native vegetation. However, this generally takes between ten to twenty years. Planting of native vegetation is usually not necessary because of abundant natural seed sources. Since 1980, this restoration technique has been applied to approximately 1500 acres in Connecticut.

2) **Three-year Herbicide Application and Mowing:** Glyphosate, Habitat and Renovate are aquatic herbicides used to control dense stands of Phragmites in brackish tidal marshes of Connecticut. An aquatic surfactant (sticking agent) is typically mixed with the herbicide prior to its application. Spraying occurs during the mid summer months until the first frost. A month after the spraying, mowing can begin and is done with low ground pressure equipment. This ground spraying and mowing is done for three successive years. About eighty percent of the Phragmites will be eliminated after the first year.

Since 1997, the WHAMM Program has controlled 1,497 acres.



DEP WHAMM Program's Igp ARGO with tower and tank with high-pressure sprayer.



DEP WHAMM Program's Posi-Track ASV MD2810 Low Ground Pressure Mower.



DON'T FORGET!!
 Items are always needed for the
Silent Auction!!
 Please support NMCA &
 others with your donation.

THANK YOU!!



Please consider a silent auction item or cash donation to the NMCA Benevolent Fund, administered by the NMCA Charitable Committee. Please see any NMCA Officer for more information.



NMCA WANTS YOU.....

Looking for a few good photos of NMCA members to enter in this year's "Guess Who?" Contest. A clear photo print or digital image will be needed. Include baby pictures, school pictures, etc. – and of course a current photo for the grand finale. It's been a long season and what a better way to lighten up a bit and laugh. Prizes Awarded.

Photos will be returned upon request. Please submit all photos with attached name to Emily Sullivan at the NE Mass. Mosquito Control & Wetlands Mgmt. District, 261 Northern Blvd., Newburyport, MA 01950 or call (978) 463-6630 with any questions and comments.



Ray Newcomb
 President
 Email: ray@jbihelicopters.com

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<http://www.SummitChemical.com>

~ SUBMISSION INFORMATION ~

Do you have news about your program, interest in writing a column, or any type of submission for the newsletter? Please send it in any one of these ways:

- **E-mail:** newsletter@nmca.org
- **Fax:** 508.393.8492
- **Phone:** 508.393.3055
- **Postal Mail:** c/o CMMCP 111 Otis St. Northboro, MA 01532
Attn. Tim Deschamps, NMCA Editor

Thank you in advance for any and all ideas - TD.



NORTHEASTERN
MOSQUITO
CONTROL
ASSOCIATION

mosquito control for health and comfort

the Northeaster

Newsletter of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association
c/o Central Mass. Mosquito Control Project
Attn. Tim Deschamps, NMCA Editor
111 Otis Street
Northborough, MA 01532