**Lemon Fair Insect Control District (“LFICD”) 2023 Summer Newsletter**

**Summer Salutations!!**

**Field Conditions.** The mosquito season started with a lengthy period of dry weather. However, recent rains have increased the woodland mosquito population. Floodplain mosquitoes are still relatively scarce. We have trapped 3,500+ mosquitoes between the last week in May and the end of June compared to 22,881 mosquitoes trapped for the same period in 2022.

 Early season light traps results have primarily been ***Oc. excrucians***, “snowmelt mosquitoes”. These are the first mosquitoes of the season and are typically univoltine, meaning females require one blood meal to lay one batch of eggs, then die. Many of these mosquitoes come from upland forests and field habitats away from the floodplain and swamp. More recently ***Cq. perturbans***, the “Cattail Mosquito” is increasingly common in light traps. This is a difficult mosquito larva to track down since they live underneath wetland plants and cannot be collected in a traditional “dipper cup.”

In Weybridge, we treated large concentrations of larvae in puddles on the Lemon Fair River floodplain. The treatment was 100% successful on two levels. One, the product was effective in knocking down the larvae. Two, we had help from Mother Nature. The puddles dried up and any surviving larvae died as a result.

In Cornwall, we have distributed 170 “Sustained Release 45 Day Microbial Briquettes” (Bti\*) over 3.5 acres of the Cornwall Swamp in anticipation of increased water and mosquito larva. The advantage of treating prophylactically is, that when the swamp becomes wet with standing water again, the briquettes will release *Bti* immediately. This approach allows us to treat areas like tree crypts where ***Cs. melanura*** (potential EEE mosquito vector) depends on these unique habitats.

**LFICD Interns.** The LFICD has hired two Summer Interns. Audrey Maxwell from Middlebury College and Ramsey Anis from UVM. Both interns just finished their sophomore years. They bring with them a wealth of data entry skills which they put to use recording field work results. They participated in the Weybridge and Cornwall mosquito abatement.

**LFICD Open House.** Please stop by the Lab/Office on July 22 from 9:00 AM to 2:00PM, for an update on the 2023 mosquito season. You can also meet Audrey and Ramsey. We will have microscopes set up, posters of research conducted by past interns, and this year “Story Telling” about the significance of mosquitoes and how they’ve shaped the Civil War and tales of the Gallinipper. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture will also be showcasing their new Tire Sidewall Cutter. Farmers, come check this out and learn how you can reduce mosquito habitat by modifying your tire piles.

**LFICD Board**. We are very pleased to have Bob Cluss join the LFICD board as a Cornwall representative. Bob is a professor of biochemistry at Middlebury College. Bob is replacing Wendy Lynch We are very appreciative of Wendy’s contributions, and we wish her well. We are still looking for new board members for Bridport, Cornwall and Weybridge. David Dodge will be resigning from the LFICD board in October after 11 years as board chair.

**Contact**: LFICD Mosquito Hotline: 802-349-5407, Email info@lficd.org, Website www.lficd.org

\*Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies israelensis (Bti) bacteria is found in soil. Bti is used as a larvicide to kill larvae before they can grow into adults that can bite people. Bti has been used for mosquito control for more than 30 years.