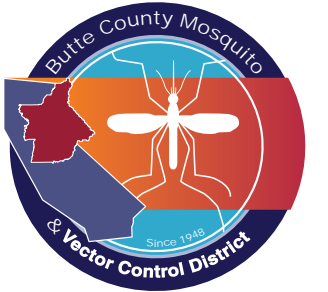


BUTTE COUNTY MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



1st Quarter, 2020

Newsletter

2020 SURVEILLANCE

The 2020 mosquito season has started and the District's surveillance program is now underway. The District's 54 sentinel chickens will arrive on April 23rd and 42 of the chickens will be evenly distributed to one of the seven flocks located throughout the District. Blood samples are taken from the chickens bi-weekly and tested for mosquito-borne viruses. The District's 31 gravid traps and 28 New Jersey light traps will be in place on April 13th and 14th respectively. The District utilizes the trap counts from these traps to focus the efforts of the Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists throughout the County. Along with the surveillance program, mosquito control has once again commenced. Urban and residential areas are areas of concern for spring hatch mosquitoes, for these are the mosquito species that can carry and transmit such diseases as West Nile virus (WNV). Larval inspections and larval control are currently underway in municipal and private sources such as storm drains, catch basins, retention ponds, detention ponds, and other man made mosquito-breeding sources. Floodwater sources are also being monitored and treated as needed. Identifying mosquito sources early in the spring and eliminating the mosquitoes in their larval state is essential to the overall success of lowering the adult populations that will threaten communities in the summer.



2019/2020 TICK SURVEILLANCE

The District remains committed to lowering the risk of tick bites and tick-borne disease through public education and outreach. The District routinely conducts tick surveillance in high use public land areas, such as Upper Bidwell Park and the Lake Oroville Recreation area to provide the public with the knowledge of where and when ticks are abundant and key places to avoid while enjoying the outdoors. The tick species of highest concern to the District is the Western black-legged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*), commonly referred to as the deer tick. The heightened concern with this tick is due to its ability to transmit Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. Residents are reminded that the best way to avoid getting a tick-borne illness, such as Lyme disease, is to ensure that you don't get bitten by a tick. A good precaution to take after visiting an area that possibly had ticks is to thoroughly check yourself, your children, and your pets for ticks. For more information on ticks the District has a brochure and other informational pamphlets which are available to the public at the District office and they are also posted to the District's website at www.ButteMosquito.com. In the future, the District plans on experimenting with new control methods to achieve lower tick populations thus reducing the risk of tick-borne disease to the County's residents.



Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
5117 Larkin Road
Oroville, CA. 95965

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District is primarily to suppress mosquito-transmitted disease and also to reduce the annoyance levels of mosquitoes and diseases associated with ticks, fleas and other vectors through environmentally compatible control practices and public education.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District
5117 Larkin Road, Oroville, CA. 95965
Phone: (530) 533-6038, (530) 342-7350
Fax: (530) 534-9916
Website: www.BUTTEMOSQUITO.com

"FIGHT THE BITE!"

MOSQUITOFISH

With the current COVID-19 mandate of "shelter in place", Mosquitofish are currently unavailable to the public. Mosquitofish operations will return to normal once the State mandate has been lifted.



DEAD BIRD HOTLINE

The California Department of Public Health's dead bird hot line is staffed with live operators from April 13th through mid-October. Residents who find dead birds are urged to call the West Nile virus hot line at 1-877-968-BIRD (2473). The hot line is available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The public can also report dead birds online at www.westnile.ca.gov or by visiting www.BUTTEMOSQUITO.com

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AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

For the fifteenth year in a row, the District has contracted with an aerial surveillance service to survey un-maintained swimming pools and other possible mosquito breeding sources (target areas) in the District. This year, the District has again contracted with Ron O'Hanlon and Associates. Ron O'Hanlon has an extensive background in geographic imaging having spent many years creating maps for the United States Forest Service. O'Hanlon and Associates can effectively snap photos from a helicopter or a fixed wing aircraft over "suspected un-maintained swimming pools" and record the location using global positioning systems (GPS). A report is then constructed from this data. The report, containing maps, aerial photographs, and GPS fixed positions of possible mosquito breeding sources, is then submitted to the District. The District's Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists can take these reports into the field and investigate all of the targeted areas. "Finding mosquitoes before they become adults is vital and this program gives the specialists the ability to see a lot of mosquito breeding sources that otherwise would not be seen" said Matt Ball, District Manager for Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District, "effectively controlling the mosquitoes in their larval state is the most effective form of mosquito control. Additionally, the District will again commence the "fixed" wing aerial surveillance program. This program focuses on the surveillance of large properties such as duck clubs, artificial wetlands, and periodic flooding of large areas such as wildlife areas. The District's pilot utilizes a Cessna aircraft that can hold up to four individuals (three Mosquito Control Specialists and the pilot). From the air the Mosquito Control Specialists can take aerial photographs and plot the movement of floodwater and fix a location using a GPS unit. This information is then taken to the field and the appropriate action is taken if mosquito larvae are found.



Example of an aerial photograph

2020 PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Currently, with the State mandated "Shelter in Place" for COVID-19 (Corona virus), the District's public education campaign for 2020 is in a state of flux.

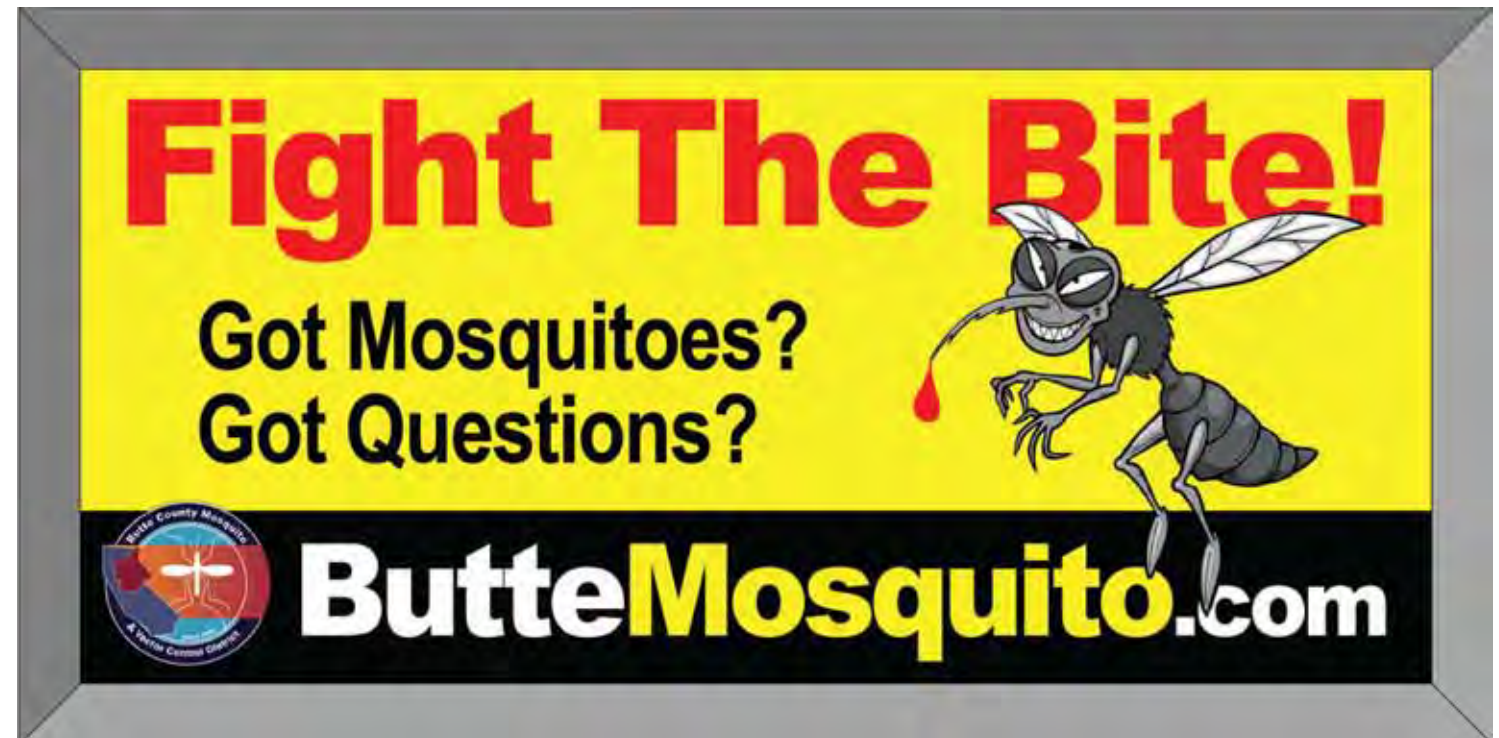
So far, the Chico Home and Garden Show, located at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds has been rescheduled from its original date in April, to July 25th and 26th. Gold Nugget Day in Paradise is scheduled for April 25th, but with current events the District will be looking for a reschedule of this event too.

The public education department is looking forward to other events this year. These events include Feather Fiesta Days in Oroville, Red Suspenders Day in Gridley, Forbestown Daze, Biggs National Night Out, the Butte County Fair in Gridley, and the Salmon Festival in Oroville. The District realizes that some of these events could be cancelled this year and that others may be rescheduled. All of the events that the District attends have an excellent insect display put together by District Entomologist Eric Gohre, as well as a mosquitofish and mosquito larvae display. At these events the District also hands out, free of charge, fly/mosquito swatters, tick identification cards, recyclable shopping bags, and mosquito repellent.

The District also gives classroom presentations at local schools in Butte County. The classroom presentations include "Trouble with Ticks" and "Fight the Bite".

The District will again partner with Stott Advertising on a billboard campaign. This year's slogan is "Fight the Bite!". The six billboards will rotate throughout the county from May through September. The new billboard uses the District's new website address "www.ButteMosquito.com".

The District has also contracted with Action News Now, for a 30 second mosquito awareness animated commercial. Also, the District will continue with its radio advertising, and also its print advertising.



2020 Billboard Campaign