



For Immediate Release

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Contact: [Alia Faraj-Johnson](#), 850-212-8317

Florida Mosquito Control Association Installs New Board, Discusses Disease Prevention Strategies at Annual Board Meeting

CAPE CORAL, FL – At its annual meeting November 13-16, the [Florida Mosquito Control Association](#), (FMCA), reviewed this year’s successes combating invasive mosquitoes that carry dangerous diseases and installed new leadership as the new year nears. The installation of new board members representing various regions of the state, took place with over 250 attendees from mosquito control districts, higher education, young professionals, and more.

This year, Florida experienced mosquito-borne illnesses that grabbed national headlines, such as malaria and dengue fever. Working with health departments, scientists, and the media, FMCA members limited health risks by deploying high-tech tools, ranging from drones in the field to disease detection in the laboratory.

“For 100 years, FMCA and locally based, highly trained professionals have been at the heart of ensuring public health safety,” said Sandra Fisher-Grainger, outgoing president who presided over FMCA’s annual meeting. “While success is never final when battling the world’s most dangerous animal, Floridians can be proud of the work our tireless public servants perform 24/7.” Fisher-Grainger will also continue to serve and advise the board as immediate-past president.

Presentations at the annual meeting included a review of legislative and regulatory issues, disaster response following Hurricane Idalia, new technologies including drones and 3D printing, novel control methods for larval and adult mosquitoes, and more.

Additionally, commissioners from several of the independent mosquito control districts toured Charlotte County Mosquito Control District's facilities and learned about their operations. Charlotte County is one of Florida's 42 county-managed mosquito control programs. Sharing experiences and best practices is a constant way for all programs, whether at independent districts or county run offices, to ensure the best use of manpower and advanced technology.

Building on a stout disease response mounted in 2023, FMCA welcomes new officers including **President Richard Weaver, President-Elect Dr. Jorge Rey, and Vice President Dr. Peter Jiang.** *(The complete list of new board members is included below.)*

"I am proud of the work by mosquito control professionals in every county in the state to help prevent health risks by controlling mosquitoes with cutting edge technology and 24/7 diligence," said Richard Weaver, the newly installed FMCA president and Business Manager at the Anastasia Mosquito Control District in St. Johns County.

"Mosquitoes don't recognize county boundaries and our success in Florida is due to a strong partnership between local districts and scientific partners that work to ensure the safety and health of Floridians and visitors year-round."

Of the 67 mosquito control districts in the state, 15 are independent districts and recently they were subject to reviews by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government (OPPAGA), the Florida legislature's research arm. This year's reviews highlighted their collective and individual successes in providing a critical public health service in an efficient manner. The [overall review is summarized here](#) and individual reviews are [also available online](#).

The FMCA Board for 2024 was set at the meeting and newly elected members include the following:

- Richard Weaver - President (Anastasia MCD)
- Dr. Jorge Rey - President Elect (University of Florida - IFAS, Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory)
- Dr. Peter Jiang - Vice President (Indian River MCD)
- Dr. Abdullah Alomar - Representative at Large (Indian River MCD)
- Roger Jacobsen - SE Regional Representative (St. Lucie County MCD)
- Sean Heylek - Industry Representative (Target Specialty Products)
- Darrin Dunwald - continuing as NW Regional Representative (South Walton MCD)

Additionally, many of the state's top professionals and leaders were recognized at the annual meeting and include the following:

- Joseph Y. Porter Distinguished Achievement Award – Dr. Kenneth Linthicum (United States Department of Agriculture)
- Joseph Y. Porter Distinguished Achievement Award – Dr. Daniel Hahn (University of Florida – IFAS)
- James W. Robinson Memorial Award – Rufus Butch May (Collier Mosquito Control District)
- Meritorious Service Award – Rob Chouinard (Citrus Mosquito Control District)
- Meritorious Service Award – Tarolyn Frisbie (Citrus Mosquito Control District)
- Meritorious Service Award – Robin King (formally Collier Mosquito Control District)
- Sherrie Yarberry Award – Sandra Jackson (St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District)
- T. Wainwright Miller Scholarship – Miranda Tressler (East Volusia Mosquito Control District)
- Cyrus R. Lesser Student Paper Competition – Hunter Martin (Collier Mosquito Control District)
- Poster Competition – Charlotte Addae (University of Florida)
- Presidential Award – Dr. Keira J. Lucas (Collier Mosquito Control District)

In January 2024, members of the FMCA will visit the state capitol during the 2024 Legislative Session for Tallahassee Days to elevate interest, awareness, and support for mosquito control programs and the critical role mosquito programs play in protecting the state’s health, economy, and quality of life.

For more information about the FMCA please click [here](#).

#