

Florida Mosquito Control Association

In the Spotlight



Nominated by
Director Dr. David Hoel of
Lee County Mosquito Control District

June 2024
Spotlight Recipient



Sean O'Neill
Chief Financial Officer



"Sean O'Neill has served as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the Lee County Mosquito Control District (LCMCD) since 2019. Sean has been instrumental to the accomplishment of many projects pursued by LCMCD including procurement of federal and state grants, employee handbook updates and suggested changes, payroll and information technology software updates and implementation, and administrative policy changes to the benefit of LCMCD employees. Sean manages the purchasing and stockroom operations, the Information Technology department and the Risk Manager, a team of eleven employees. Sean is a tireless employee working past closing hours on most days and comes to work at the district most weekends during the year. He is proactive, has a very positive attitude and never complains about his long work hours or having new emergencies dropped in his lap for quick resolution. Sean manages all our financial data for our mosquito control district, the Lee County Hyacinth Control District, and our OPEB retirees, well over 100 members in addition to the 100 employees of both the mosquito and hyacinth control districts. In addition, he handles almost all contracts, bids, and board meeting items and agendas every month, and works with the three law firms we use to handle contract, purchasing and personnel issues. He is well-liked and respected by our lawyers, board members, contracting personnel, and everyone he works with, including those who work for him."

What do you love about your industry?

The challenges and diversity of all the different things that occur in mosquito control on a daily basis. There never seems to be a dull moment or a day that does not present some kind of new challenge. It seems like there are many "you-can't-make-this-up" days every year.

In Finance here at LCMCD, we pretty much get to see it all and be involved in everything that happens. We perform Information/Technology services, Purchasing and Inventory, Accounting/Payables/Payroll, and Risk Management. Whether we are paying for it, managing grants for it, budgeting for it, filing insurance claims for it, inventorying it, seeking to buy it or seeking to sell it, it all seems to come back to Finance. This definitely keeps the job interesting.

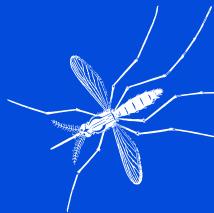


Most people do not realize just how much is involved in running a mosquito control district behind the scenes. They are only familiar with the helicopter flying overhead or the truck driving down their street, but it is a business, and you have to take that approach.

Everything from buying fuel and chemicals, negotiating with vendors, preparing and monitoring the budget, making payroll, managing the district's cash and investments to make sure funds are available, and making sure the IT network is up and running supports on all of the people that the public see every day.

On top of that, there are special projects like acquiring and financing major capital assets and the regular financial audits and monthly reports required by Florida Statutes and FDACS each year.

While mosquito season is typically cyclical with its ups and downs, Finance has to support all district operations like this all year long.





In the Spotlight

Who inspires you?

People who do not give up. People who trooper on despite setbacks and have perseverance. People who follow the rule of "Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome" when faced with challenges. I enjoy reading history because it tells the story of these kind of people throughout.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to enter your field?

Don't do it!! Run away! Live a normal life! LOL

Seriously, the best advice, I think, would be to always find a good solution. Ask questions and be willing to listen. Gather information about the issue and think it through. No one knows everything, so asking questions and getting information is critical. Collaboration, most often, brings about the best results when working through complex issues.

How do you define success?

Taking a task to completion by bringing all the relevant parties together to get it done. It takes teamwork to get things done right and getting the relevant parties together and following through is what makes a successful outcome.

What is your favorite hobby?

Fishing! I do not get to do that enough.



Small Bass



Black Drum



Small Snook



Bass from the Okeechobee

What is one thing - either industry related or not - you have learned in the last month?

I have learned how important it is to take time off. When there is a lot going on at work, it is easy to lose sight of the importance of taking time to turn it all off and get away (and go fishing!). Everyone needs that downtime to recharge their batteries and clear away the mental clutter that comes from being constantly busy.

What is a fun fact that not many people know?

I really like listening to classic 70s rock. I found the coolest channel on Sirius XM called Classic Vinyl and it's very relaxing to me.

Last book you read?

"Isaac's Storm" by Erik Larsen; it was very interesting, especially after surviving Hurricane Ian. I am currently reading "Rebel Yell: The Violence, Passion and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson" by S.C. Gwynne. I enjoy reading about history.

What can you not live without?

The Bible. I read it every single day. It keeps me grounded and its God's way of reminding me to practice patience and mercy in the challenges each day brings.

First concert?

Chicago; that was a really cool group.

What's the next place on your travel bucket list?

North Florida! I have not spent much time in the panhandle but I have been reading about it lately

Thanks for taking the time to read about this incredible person!

Directors, if you would like to nominate someone for a 2024 Spotlight, please email Daniela Vintimilla at dvintimilla@cmc-associates.com with the following information:

- Full Name
- Title
- District Name
- Email
- Share why you believe they should get the spotlight!

