

The history of the Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE), 1968-2004

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Editorial Note: The following is a brief history of the Society for Vector Ecology as we complete the 30th year of journal publication.

The idea for the Society for Vector Ecology was primarily that of Harvey I. Magy, a public health biologist with the California Department of Public Health, Bureau of Vector Control (BVC), Los Angeles, California. During the late 1960's, Harvey was concerned that there was no professional society that represented the needs of vector ecologists. The existing societies in 1967 were either too narrow in scope or did not include the concerns of vector ecologists. Richard F. Peters (Chief, BVC) also foresaw this need, provided the necessary support, and encouraged Harvey to pursue the formation of this Society.

On April 19, 1968, Harvey organized a meeting of 17 people working in either vector control or entomology from eight agencies in southern California. This meeting was held at the Orange County Mosquito Abatement District. The meeting opened with a presentation by William G. Waldron and Minoo B. Madon on "The Distribution and Ecology of *Loxosceles* spiders in Southern California." A lengthy discussion on the initial steps necessary to form an organization that represented the needs of vector ecologists followed, which resulted in the founding of the California Association of Vector Ecologists (CAVE). The first officers elected were Roy E. Eastwood as President, Harvey Magy as Vice President, and John G. Shanafelt as Secretary-Treasurer. The goals of CAVE were to bring together individuals from diverse professional entities and backgrounds (e.g. biologists, entomologists, mammalogists, vector ecologists, microbiologists, epidemiologists, and engineers) to clarify and solve vector problems and to promote vector ecology as a discipline.

The following individuals were named as the founders of CAVE (drafted in the By-Laws and Constitution, Article V, Membership. Section 2, Founders): Kenneth Birbeck, Allison D. Blevans, David H. Byers, Charles E. Culley, Roy E. Eastwood, Jim Gates, Ronald E. Hall, Richard A. Mackie, Harvey I. Magy, Minoo B. Madon, Robert G. Prochaska, Frank W. Pelsue, Donald L. Rohe, John Ruddock, John G. Shanafelt, Uhl Dean Soles, Robert H. Soroker, and William G. Waldron. The first annual meeting was held in Fresno, California on March 20, 1970, with Harvey Magy presiding. Harvey gave a presentation entitled "The genesis and goals of the Society of Vector Ecologists" at the 39th Annual Conference of the California Mosquito Control Association (CMCA), January 25-27, 1971. This was published in the Proceedings and Papers of the CMCA in November 1971. Harvey wanted to develop CAVE into an international organization, but his

vision wasn't realized until 1986, seven years after his death. In 1980, he was awarded the fifth Honorary Membership posthumously. His exemplary legacy was that of a kind, compassionate, and caring person who had helped and mentored many people in the profession.

In March 1971, CAVE was renamed the Society of Vector Ecologists (SOVE). This reflected one of the principal objectives of the Society, which was to promote the discipline of vector ecology. At the 1971 meeting, the membership discussed the possibility of expanding nationwide and perhaps worldwide. Some members wanted the name to reflect an international organization. One of the changes in the by-laws allowed for regions to be established. This proved to be a thorny issue over the years as to where to draw the boundary lines and how to obtain enough members in the new regions.

John Shanafelt, or "Shanny" as he was known, retired in 1971 and devoted his time to his hobby, which was printing. This was most fortunate for SOVE in the early years because Shanny, helped by Minoo Madon, printed the *Vector Ecology Newsletter* and the *Bulletin of the Society of Vector Ecologists*. The *Newsletter* was first issued in 1971 and the *Bulletin* followed in 1974. Shanny and Minoo were totally responsible for gathering, printing, proofing, and issuing the *Newsletter* and the *Bulletin*. These were difficult and time-consuming tasks in the days when archaic equipment for typesetting and printing were employed. Shanny rarely charged SOVE for his time and supplies. The headquarters for SOVE from 1968 to 1982 was John Shanafelt's home in Orange, California. Minoo served as the first editor of the *Bulletin*, from 1974-1982. James P. Webb was editor from 1983-1991, and Marc J. Klowden, the present editor, was selected in 1992. The journal name was changed to the *Journal of Vector Ecology* in 1994 and has just completed its 30th year of continuous publication.

Minoo Madon served as the secretary-treasurer from 1977-1983, Frank Pelsue from 1984-1987, and in 1988, Gilbert L. Challet, then Manager of Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCVCD), was elected secretary-treasurer of SOVE, a position he served with distinction for 10 years until 1998. In 1982, the SOVE headquarters was relocated to OCVCD. Justine Keller, administrative secretary at the district, assumed some of the day-to-day duties of SOVE from John Shanafelt in 1974. Her contributions to the Society over a quarter of a century were immeasurable and have been outlined in the *Vector Ecology Newsletter* (Vol. 31, No. 3, Sept. 2000). Major S. Dhillon, manager of the Northwest

Presidents of SOVE

1969	Roy E. Eastwood
1970	Harvey I. Magy
1971	Howard R. Greenfield
1972	William G. Waldron
1973	Marvin C. Kramer
1974	Earl W. Mortenson
1975	Roy E. Eastwood
1976	Calvin Rogers
1977	Richard C. Husbands
1978	Gilbert L. Challet
1979	Martin Christiansen
1980	Charles P. Hansen
1981	Charles M. Myers
1982	Russell E. Fontaine
1983	Mir S. Mulla
1984	Jay Graham
1985	Robert J. Tonn
1986	Becky Brown-Westerdahl
1987	Cluff E. Hopla
1988	Minoo B. Madon
1989	Chester G. Moore
1990	Glen C. Collett
1991	James P. Webb, Jr.
1993	Norbert Becker
1994	Susan M. Palchick
1995	Bruce F. Eldridge
1996	B. Fred Beams
1997	Michael W. Service
1998	Rex E. Thomas
1999	David A. Dame
2000	John D. Edman
2001	Marc J. Klowden
2002	Robert S. Lane
2003	Andrew Spielman
2004	Thomas Scott
2005	Uriel Kitron
2006	Jonathan Day

Honorary Members

1977	Thomas D. Mulhern
1979	Richard F. Peters, Marvin C. Kramer and Richard C. Husbands
1980	Harvey I. Magy and John G. Shanafelt, Jr.
1981	Howard R. Greenfield
1982	Minoo B. Madon

Distinguished Service Awards

1985	Russell E. Fontaine
1986	Mir S. Mulla and Gilbert L. Challet
1987	James P. Webb, Jr.
1991	Justine Keller
1992	Hilton B. Munns
1993	B. Fred Beams
1996	Minoo B. Madon
1997	Norbert Becker
1998	Christine Dahl
2000	Marc J. Klowden
2001	Romeo Bellini
2002	Major S. Dhillon
2003	Nancy Hinkle
2004	Cluff E. Hopla

Distinguished Achievement Awards

1988	William C. Reeves
1989	Richard F. Peters
1991	D. Bruce Francy
1992	Telford H. Work and A. Ralph Barr
1993	Michael W. Service
1994	Cluff E. Hopla
1995	George B. Craig, Jr.
1996	Robert K. Washino
1997	Paul Reiter
1998	Bruce F. Eldridge
1999	Jean Mouchet
2000	Willy Burgdorfer
2001	Willem Takken and William K. Reisen
2002	Hans Briegel
2003	Wayne Crans
2004	George O'Meara

Mosquito and Vector Control District, Corona, California, was elected secretary-treasurer in January 1998, and the headquarters was relocated again to Corona, California. Major is ably assisted by Lori Beehler, the current webmaster.

In 1988, SOVE had to incorporate as a business for tax purposes and it changed its name to the Society for Vector Ecology (the acronym still remains SOVE). This made the Society a tax-exempt corporation and enabled the membership dues to be tax-exempt. The primary purpose is now to promote the science and education of vector ecology, not simply the professional individuals interested in vector ecology.

The society that began as a small group of professionals mainly from California had grown to 124 members by 1974, but still relatively few (14) were from outside of California. By October 2000, however, the SOVE membership had increased to 658 from 45 countries, including 40 student members. At its peak in 1993, the year of the First International Congress, the membership consisted of 865 individuals

engaged in diverse professional activities.

Since its inception, SOVE has emphasized the application of sound ecological principles to solve vector problems. The membership places great value upon preserving and protecting the integrity of the environment while managing vector populations. The other emphasis of the Society has been the progressive development of its Annual Conferences and International Congresses. The highly successful format includes only invitational talks with a sufficient amount of time set aside for both the presentation and discussion, with no concurrent sessions.

During an International Congress of Entomology in Hamburg, Germany in 1986, SOVE members Michael W. Service, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Norbert Becker, Director of the KABS (Mosquito Control Program),

Heidelberg, and Mir S. Mulla, University of California at Riverside, met to discuss the establishment of a SOVE region in Europe. The suggestions and recommendations from this informal meeting were sent to the SOVE Board of Directors who agreed with the proposal, and a SOVE European Region was established that same year with a membership of 50 individuals. The first European Regional Meeting was held in Montpellier, France on September 11-12, 1986 and Michael Service served as the first European Regional Director. Michael Service, Norbert Becker, Christine Dahl, and Maria Zgomba were instrumental in recruiting and expanding the membership of *SOVE* in Europe.

In 1998 at the 10th European meeting of SOVE in Strasbourg, a group of members of Euro-SOVE discussed their concern about the status of recent knowledge of European mosquitoes. The name MOTAX was adopted by Euro-SOVE and it was decided by these members of Euro-SOVE should actively work to promote mosquito taxonomy. Since then, projects have been carried out by their own initiative and finances; the projects were discussed at meeting workshops in a spirit of confidence. At present, three publications with different approaches and dealing with the entire European mosquito fauna are available. New data on vector species are the continuous concern of Euro-SOVE.

In 1988, the concept of an International Congress of Vector Ecology, to be sponsored by SOVE, was suggested by Minoo Madon during his Presidential Address at the 20th Annual SOVE Conference in Palm Springs, California. The First International Congress of Vector Ecology was held in San Diego, California at the Hanalei Hotel on October 3-8, 1993. This Congress commemorated the 25th Anniversary of SOVE. There were 354 delegates from 35 countries. The Second International Congress of Vector Ecology was held in Orlando, Florida at the Holiday Inn International, from October 19-24, 1997. This Congress attracted 452 delegates from 40 countries. The Third International Congress of Vector Ecology was held in Barcelona, Spain, from September 16-21, 2001. There were approximately 322 attendees despite the disruption caused by the tragic events of September 11, 2001, which prevented most U.S. delegates from attending the Congress. Our Fourth International Congress of Vector Ecology will be held in Reno, Nevada, on October 2-7, 2005.

The two publications produced by SOVE are the *Vector Ecology Newsletter* and the *Journal of Vector Ecology*. The *Newsletter* has been published continuously since 1971, and the *Journal* (formerly *Bulletin of the Society for Vector Ecology*) from 1974-1994. Both of these publications have improved significantly over the years and are used as a recruiting tool for new members because of their high quality. The *Journal of Vector Ecology (JVE)* is currently ranked 13th in impact among the top 64 entomological journals by the Institute for Scientific Information. It may be well to emphasize that the *JVE* is the first peer-reviewed publication dedicated to diseases transmitted to humans by invertebrate and vertebrate vectors. In 1998, through the initiative of European SOVE, the *European Mosquito Bulletin (EMB)*, was initiated. Since 2002, the *EMB* has been sponsored by the European Mosquito Control Association (EMCA). This journal still deals exclusively with European mosquito taxa.

The objectives of SOVE have remained much the same since 1968, but they have evolved as new knowledge was gained. They are to promote the exchange of research and pertinent information in the field of vector ecology, to encourage the study of and suppression of disease vectors and public health tasks utilizing biological and microbial control strategies when necessary, occasionally supplemented by safe and cost-effective chemical control agents, and to understand the interrelationship between vector species and the organism(s) they transmit to vertebrate hosts. Without such basic knowledge, the relationship of vectors to their vertebrate hosts and associated agents of disease cannot be clearly understood and effective strategies for their prevention and control developed and implemented. With the ongoing rapid developments in molecular biology, and the recent emergence and resurgence of vector-borne diseases worldwide, the future of SOVE and its members promises to be exciting.

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