



# SOVE Newsletter

## Regional Report



*Eva Veronesi*

It has been a very peculiar period climate-wise in Europe over the last few months. Serious flooding events have left parts of Europe in critical conditions, increasing the proliferation of new breeding sites for mosquitoes, which in turn leads to vector abundance and the occurrence of vector-borne disease outbreaks. In mid-May of this year, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia experienced the worst flooding in history, since the beginning of record keeping in the region, affecting about 2 million people, with 60 deaths and over 60,000 people displaced in the three countries (European Center

### EUROPEAN REGION

**Eva Veronesi** , regional director

for Disease Control [ECDC], Communicable disease risks, June 18, 2014). Although the water level is now back to normal, the risk of increasing abundance of exotic mosquito species (e.g., *Aedes albopictus*) or indigenous ones (*Culex pipiens*) is very high. This of course could lead to the transmission of the pathogens of vector-borne diseases such as West Nile, chikungunya, malaria or even dengue introduced by visitors from endemic areas.

Since the beginning of 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported the first two cases of West Nile virus (WNV). In contrast, no new cases of WNV have been reported from Serbia following their first reported case on June 1 2013. There are no reports of WNV from Greece at present, but new cases of both WNV, in particularly co-infections of WNV and Toscana virus, have been recorded in Turkey (Erdem et al., CMI) (central Anatolia), where cutaneous leishmaniasis also continues to increase in the same country (southern Anatolia).

Bluetongue virus (BTV) is continuing to spread among the Mediterranean countries. A novel strain of BTV has just been detected in Corsica (France). Full genome sequence of this isolate has shown close relationship with BTV-25 and BTV-26 serotypes. Despite 56 goats seroconverted, no clinical signs were detected to BTV-25 and BTV-26, previously discovered in Switzerland (2008) and in Kuwait (2010), respectively. It has been suggested that this could be a new serotype (BTV-27). Ongoing phylogenetic analysis will help in defining its origin. Other strains of BTV are continuing to spread such as BTV-1 in the southern part of Italy (Calabria) and BTV-4 in Greece with a total of 22 outbreaks so far, all in the Peloponnese region, spreading very rapidly.

....see Veronesi—p. 2

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## Veronesi— continued from p. 1

A new invasive mosquito, *Ae. koreicus*, has been discovered in 4 provinces of northeastern Italy colonizing areas where *Ae. albopictus* is absent. Both species are container breeders, but whether they coexist in the same containers at low altitudes needs to be investigated. Preliminary studies on vector competence have linked *Ae. koreicus* to be a competent vector *Dirofilaria immitis*.

*VectorNet* recently started with a high level kick-off-meeting on June 10 in Stockholm. This network of scientists is the follow-up of VBORNET and aims to generate a database for collection of information and data on the presence, distribution, abundance and control of vectors or potential vectors of human and animal pathogens, in line with the EU one health concept. A major added value compared to VBORNET is that EFSA is now joining with ECDC. As a result the network will now also cover the animal side and will include veterinary entomologists. The main novelty is that *VectorNet* will have significant funding available over the next 4 years to conduct additional field work all over Europe to contribute to fill the gaps in maps and consolidate spatial risk model outputs.

And finally, it is my pleasure to remind you of the bi-annual event for medical and veterinary entomologists, the [19th European SOVE conference \(E-SOVE\) to be held October 13-17, 2014 at the Makedonia Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki, Greece.](#)

We are putting together a very special program, which will tackle the thin demarcation between epidemics and endemics. Together with our high standard scientific program, we will also host several keynote speakers talking on eradication of

vectors and/or vector-borne diseases, efficacy of control efforts in preventing an epidemic becoming endemic, and innovative integrated control methodologies in both epidemic and endemic situations. Talks will be followed by an open round table discussions among speakers and participants.

Social activities will also be part of this important event with unique local live music entertainment arranged by our Greek organizing E-SOVE committee (Ecodevelopment S.A., Thessaloniki, Greece). Moreover, included in the registration fee is a one-day excursion at your choice: Mount Athos—a world heritage site, consisting of 20 monasteries of traditional Macedonian and Byzantine architecture, or Vergina—an archeological site of the Macedonian dominated period of the Greek history). Please visit our web page at <http://www.sove.org/European%20SOVE%20folder/greecemain.html> for more details and for conference registration and abstract submission. Another important highlight of the event is a 2-day training course on the ecology and control of vectors, jointly organized by E-SOVE and the European Control Mosquitoes Association [EMCA]). The course is structured in 4 parallel sessions on mosquitoes, ticks, *Culicoides*, and sandflies, with lectures followed by hands-on lab or field work. The purpose of the course is also to give an update on the European guidelines for vectors and vector-borne diseases control. For more information please visit the E-SOVE webpage at <http://www.sove.org/European%20SOVE%20folder/homeesove.html>.

*See you in Greece!*

## Regional Reports



### NORTHWESTERN USA

#### David G. Sullivan, regional director

Northwest weather has been cooler and wetter than normal and not much vector activity. Very little mosquito activity in the NW, except for Southwestern Idaho. Montana had a small snow storm in the western mountains last week (June 23-29) and night time temperatures have continued to remain in the low 40's in most of the state throughout June.

The Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association (NWMVCA) meeting date is Oct 8-10. The meeting location is at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The resort is on the lake and is one of the best managed hotels that I have been to.

The AMCA's Washington Day in May was well represented by Northwestern States:

- Washington: Angela Beehler, Benton CountyMAD
- Idaho: Jason and Anne Kinley Gem County MAD
- Oregon: Jim Lunders, Jackson County MAD and Greg Baron, North Morrow County MAD
- Montana: Will Patterson, Cascade County MAD; Janice Stroud, ADABCO; David and Maralee Sullivan, Zancor Ind.
- Wyoming: Stephanie Whitman, Valent BioSciences

From Chester Moore in Fort Collins , Colorado.

Interestingly we had a series of early predictors that suggested potential for a heavy WNV transmission year: higher than normal precipitation, warmer than normal temperatures in mid-March to late May. How-

ever, since then we have had more moderate temperatures with night-time temperatures below where *Culex* probably are actively seeking blood meals. As a result our surveillance collections are substantially below normal for this time of year. Also, we have yet to see our first WNV-positive pool, even though several surrounding counties have positives (Weld, Boulder, Adams Cos.).

On the bio-political front, the local anti-pesticide folks have managed to convince the city council that no adulticiding should be done unless there are multiple WNV cases being reported (at least 2 in the same week). This essentially renders the monitoring program worthless. The vector index (VI, infection rate X females/trap night) has successfully predicted outbreak conditions 3-4 weeks before human cases are reported, allowing for a realistic adulticiding control effort. We were able to show that, in 2013, some 85% of individuals who eventually were diagnosed with WNV had already been infected by the time 2 human cases finally got reported. Of course this lets the "anti's" say "well, the adulticiding really didn't have a significant impact on the disease." Yes, of course, because the active transmission was over before anything could be done.

NCAP v. EPA Settlement – Endangered Species Act. EPA and the Northwest Coalition Against Pesticides (NCAP) have reached a settlement in the last remaining lawsuit that was spawned in the 2001 suit, Washington Toxic Coalition v. EPA over the potential effect of pesticides on threatened and endangered salmon. The NCAP lawsuit was an attempt to force EPA to implement the first two Biological Opinions (BiOp) written by the National Marine Fisheries Service following the settlement of the original lawsuit. The first BiOp was invalidated by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals as arbitrary and capricious. The settlement (which is not final as of this writing) reinforces buffer zones, but exempts public health mosquito control programs from these restrictions.

## Regional Report



### SOUTHCENTRAL USA

#### Steven M. Presley, regional director

As the new director for the South Central U.S.A. Region, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation, as well as that of the members of this region, to my predecessor, Dr. Richard Duhrkopf. Rick is a longtime and active member of SOVE, and has devoted his career to furthering the understanding of disease vector biology and ecology – thank you for your service to our society and profession Rick. As a bit of introduction, I am a professor in the Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas. My teaching and research focus is on identifying and understanding the biotic and abiotic environmental factors that influence the transmission dynamics of vector-borne zoonoses, as well as diseases of wildlife and domestic animals that are of economic importance.

Vector-borne zoonoses, particularly those that involve wildlife species as reservoirs, are of critical economic and public health significance throughout the South Central Region. There are several emerging and resurgent infectious diseases that are becoming increasingly significant in our region. With the occurrence of imported chikungunya virus cases in the United States (including cases in AR, OK and TX), combined with the long-established enzootic foci of West Nile virus throughout the region and the increased rainfall across the region this spring, mosquito-transmitted diseases may pose a significant threat to public health this summer and fall. Recent information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention (CDC) estimates that more than 300,000 persons living in the United States are infected with *Trypanosoma cruzi*, with most cases imported and occurring in the South Central Region. The current status of other vector-borne diseases occurring in our region reported by CDC for cumulative cases during 2014 include nine cases of Lyme disease (KS = 4, LA = 1, TX = 4), 309 confirmed and probable cases of spotted fever group rickettsiosis (AR = 194, LA = 3, OK = 65, TX = 47), and 63 cases of ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia chaffeensis*) (AR = 45, LA = 1, OK = 15, TX = 2).

In other regional news, I would like to welcome Dr. David Florin to Texas and the South Central Region. David has been hired as the Texas State Entomologist at the Texas Department of State Health Services – welcome onboard David. If you have any regional or national SOVE.-related news to report, including awards and grants, promotions, relocation, new equipment, methodology, programmatic issues, conferences, meetings, job opportunities, etc., or need assistance that I might be able to provide, please feel free to contact me by email at [steve.presley@ttu.edu](mailto:steve.presley@ttu.edu).

Do not forget this year's annual meeting of the SOVE will be held in San Antonio, Texas as follows:

*Society for Vector Ecology  
September 28 – October 2, 2014  
San Antonio, TX*

Contact [valerie@sove.org](mailto:valerie@sove.org)

## Regional Reports



There is a lot of concern and interest in the southeastern region, particularly in Florida, concerning chikungunya and dengue. To address these concerns, several workshops have been held, which focused on these diseases and their known vectors, *Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*. The Nay Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE), Jacksonville, FL, held their First Annual Symposium for Disease Vectors and Control Techniques on March 14, 2014. Emphasis was on chikungunya. On June 3-4, 2014, the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory hosted a workshop in Fort Pierce, FL, entitled: "Protecting Florida from dengue and chikungunya through control of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*." Steve Mulligan and Jodi Holeman, Consolidated Mosquito Abatement District, Selma, CA, participated in the workshop.

Drs. Gary Clark and Dan Kline received Certificates of Achievement, 2014 Team Excellence Award from Rutgers University for their participation in the 5 year Asian Tiger Mosquito Area Wide management program, with team of Rutgers-based researchers (Dina Fonseca, P.I.).

### SOUTHEASTERN USA

**Dan Kline**, regional director.

Despite numerous requests, I have not received any information on activities of vector ecologists from other states in the southeastern region. Please send us information on your research activities, awards and other news.

Effective June 1, Jodi Scott, education specialist from Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD), St. Augustine, Florida joined the Navy. She will continue her Ph.D. study about impact of Attractive Toxic/target Sugar Baits (ATSB) on non-target honey bees at Anastasia Mosquito Abatement District (AMCD) for next 2 years. Christopher S. Bibbs with an M.S. in entomology from University of Arizona, Tucson will replace Jodi at AMCD. Three new student interns (Codi Anderson from University of North Carolina, Kelly Seeger from John Hopkins University, and Derrick Conover from University of Florida) will join the AMCD's summer internship program for 2-3 months. They will be doing research on partial ATSB and machine evaluation projects.

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*Annual Meeting  
Society for Vector Ecology  
September 28 – October 2, 2014  
San Antonio, TX  
Contact [valerie@sove.org](mailto:valerie@sove.org)*

## Young Scientist Profile



Rebecca Tiffany Trout-Fryxell

For some time I have wanted to initiate a series that features a scientist in the southeastern region, especially those recently launching their careers. With this newsletter, I finally begin to do that and the first individual I would like to feature is Rebecca Tiffany Trout-Fryxell (rfryxell@ut.edu), an assistant professor (90% research, 10% teaching) at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. She teaches a Medical and Veterinary Entomology course to upper undergrads and graduate students. She has a diverse research program. A fundamental focus of her research program is clarifying the role of each arthropod involved in disease transmission and determining the underlying factors (from molecule to ecosystem) that contribute to vector-borne diseases. Current research projects in her laboratory are focused on the ecology of ticks, mosquitoes and muscid flies. In the area of tick-borne disease ecology she has initiated a multi-year study at Ames Plantation Research and Education Center in Grand Junction, TN. This is an ideal site to conduct tick ecology studies since it is located in the center of a Rocky

Mountain spotted fever hot zone (as well as *Ehrlichia*) and provides habitats and hosts for a variety of tick species. In the area of mosquito-borne diseases her focus has been on the medically important La Crosse virus and veterinary important canine heartworm and avian malaria. Her research will contribute to the prerequisite information that integrates mosquito-borne diseases with molecules and landscapes, and the initial step for developing an innovative management plan. She has also initiated research on the impact of flies on livestock health and comfort; muscid flies are among the most important pests in livestock and poultry production systems. Two species in particular, the house fly (*Musca domestica*) and the stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*), are responsible for an excess of a billion dollars per year in the United States for damage and control costs. She has initiated research in collaboration with the Animal Science and Food Science departments at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture to identify the contribution flies have in dispersing bacterial pathogens (human and animal health) and how the flies affect animal production and comfort. While each of these projects has different goals and specific outcomes, the unifying aspect is that arthropods are transmitting serious pathogens and together these data set the argument for a One Health model for vector control. She will make a presentation at the SOVE meeting in San Antonio entitled, "Vector Ecology: from molecule to ecosystem."

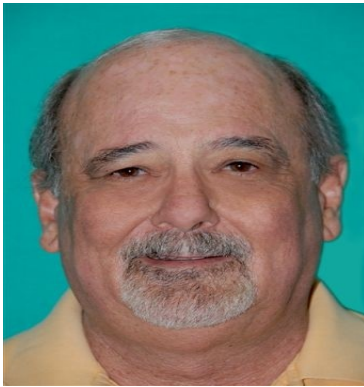
by

*Dan Kline*

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*In Memoriam*  
**B. Fred Beams**

April 20, 1939 - April 2, 2014



Fred Beams passed away April 2, 2014, at age 74, in Troutman, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife Georgia, their two daughters Tracy and Amy, and two brothers and a sister. Fred was born on April 20, 1939, in McAlester, Oklahoma, and moved with his parents to Orange County, California, at an early age. In 1957 he graduated from Rancho Alamitos High School in Garden Grove, California. Fred married Georgia on August 12, 1961. They moved to Troutman, North Carolina, in 2009 from Mission Viejo, California, where they had lived for over 30 years.

Fred Beams was Assistant Manager of the Orange County Vector Control District when he retired in 1996. He was hired on June 3, 1960, as a Mosquito Control Operator, when the District was known as the Orange County Mosquito Abatement District. Fred left the District in November 1961 to enter the U.S. Air Force, and in November 1965 he returned to work for the Orange County Mosquito Abatement District. While in the Air Force he served as a maintenance technician mainly in Tucson, Arizona, and Del Rio, Texas. He also did temporary duty in Vietnam and while there served in a squadron that flew U2 aircraft. During the years he served the public at the Orange County Vector Control District, Fred was promoted to a Supervising Vector Control Technician in January 1975; later in June 1975 he was promoted to Educational Coordinator; and in June 1987 he was promoted to Assistant Manager.

Shortly after Fred left the Air Force he started ci-

vilian pilot training and received his commercial pilot's license as well as a flight instructor rating. In addition, Fred received a Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, and in 1981 he received a Master's degree in Environmental Science, also from California State University, Fullerton. Since Fred was working around bugs and entomologists, he took courses in entomology, and he also taught Environmental Studies at Fullerton College. Fred enjoyed insect collecting trips to southern Arizona with other District members and had a collection of tiger beetles.

Fred was very active in the Mosquito and Vector Control Association (then known as the CMVCA). He was Chairman of the Training and Certification Committee from 1986 to 1992 and served on this committee until his retirement in 1996. In 1987 to 1989 he was Chair of the Video Tape Recording Committee. He was also Chair of the Africanized Honeybee Committee. In addition, he was on the Public Information Committee and very active in the local arrangements committee for the joint AMCA/CMVCA meeting in San Diego in 1994. In 1996 the MVCAC voted Fred to be an Honorary Member of the Association. Fred was the author/co-author of five CMVCA papers.

Fred was President of the Society of Vector Ecologists in which he was an early and active member. He also served on the Board of Directors and numerous committees.

Fred was selected to be on the Orange County Grand Jury for 2000-2001 and served on several investigative committees.

It is not often in life that we get to work with people we admire and are of the mindset to do the very best job possible. Fred was bright, energetic, motivated, and had a great sense of humor. He would joke that he was a native entomologist because his father was born in Bugtussle, Oklahoma. He would do every job and assignment to the highest standards. He was a person you would like to be around because he was upbeat, interesting, and just fun to be with.

*Gilbert L. Challet*  
 Manager OCVCD 1974 -1998

***In Memoriam***  
**Raymond Gruffaz**

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Dear friends and colleagues,

I am sorry to announce that our dear friend Raymond Gruffaz passed away on 22 April, at the age of 76. Raymond was Director of the EID Rhone-Alpes for 30 years and a pioneer of the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*. He was always passionate for contacts and exchanges of knowledge. He very much enjoyed the exchanges between fieldwork and university, in France as well as abroad (I don't think he missed one eSOVE meeting, even after he retired in 2001), and also between mosquito control groups. He organized the first European mosquito control meeting in Chindrieux in 1996, and put his continuous enthusiasm and willing help into the founding of the European Mosquito Control Association of which he was the first President.

We will have a thought for him and his family on Saturday when the funeral takes place in his little village in Savoie.

With kind regards,

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## For Your Calendar

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Annual Meeting  
Society for Vector Ecology  
September 28 – October 2, 2014  
San Antonio, TX  
Contact [valerie@sove.org](mailto:valerie@sove.org)

European SOVE Conference  
October 13–17, 2014  
Thessaloniki, Greece  
Contact: [eva.veronesi@pirbright.ac.uk](mailto:eva.veronesi@pirbright.ac.uk)

5th International Forum for Sustainable Management of Disease Vectors to be held November 2-6, 2014 in Qingdao, Shandong, China. Visit [www.chinavbc.cn/forum/](http://www.chinavbc.cn/forum/)

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Workshop to be held in Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD), St. Augustine, FL, March 24-26, 2015. Visit [www.amcdsjc.org](http://www.amcdsjc.org).

81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
American Mosquito Control Association  
March 29–April 2, 2015,  
New Orleans, LA,  
Contact: [www.mosquito.otg](http://www.mosquito.otg).

4<sup>th</sup> International Forum for Surveillance and Control of Mosquitoes and Mosquito-borne Diseases  
Organizers: Entomological Society of China, Asian Society of Vector Ecology and Mosquito Control, Beijing Institute of Microbiology and epidemiology  
May 25 – 28, 2015, Guangzhou, China  
Contact: [xueamcd@gmail.com](mailto:xueamcd@gmail.com)

The International Symposium on Ectoparasites of Pets, the Livestock Insect Workers Conference, and the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP) will hold a joint conference in Boston, July 11-14, 2015. Visit [AAVP.org](http://AAVP.org) for deadlines and other information, or e-mail [NHinkle@uga.edu](mailto:NHinkle@uga.edu).

XXV International Congress of Entomology  
September 25-30, 2016  
Orlando, Florida, USA  
<http://ice2016orlando.org/submit-to-ice-2016/>

## Resources

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**FREE Resources for Investigators** are available!

Please visit:

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/labsandresources/resources/dmid/Pages/default.aspx> to see the full range of available services that provide access to research tools and technologies and preclinical and clinical services to facilitate product development.

### Vector Biology Resources

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID) provides product development services, and research tools and biological materials for researchers developing diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics, and for studying vectors of human pathogens.

Visit [Vector Biology Resources for Studying Vectors](#) for a listing of available resources. Key among the resources for studying vectors is provision of LIVE vectors and reagents and genomic materials offered through the [BEI Resources Repository](#). (See Vector Resources in the [BEI online catalog](#).) These resources are available free of charge to REGISTERED users in domestic and foreign institutions and NIH grant funding is not required. For information on all resources for researchers provided by DMID, visit the [DMID Resources for Researchers website](#).

Also, for the KEYSTONE SYMPOSIUM : The Arthropod Vector: The Controller of Transmission?? Here is the link to promote the meeting and to encourage submission of abstracts for consideration for the meeting.

[www.keystonesymposia.org/15E2](http://www.keystonesymposia.org/15E2)

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**We are on the Web!**  
[www.sove.org](http://www.sove.org)

### About SOVE . . . . .

The Society for Vector Ecology is a professional organization formed in 1968 by a group of individuals involved in vector biology and control programs in California. The membership has since grown to represent an amalgamation of diverse research and operational and extension personnel from all over the world. The Society is committed to solving many complex problems encountered in the field of vector biology and control. Among these are the suppression of nuisance organisms and disease vectors through integration of control elements, such as environmental management, biological control, public education, and appropriate chemical control technology.

The Society publishes the biannual Journal of Vector Ecology that contains research and operational papers covering many phases of vector biology, ecology, and control. The Society also distributes a periodic newsletter and holds an annual conference in the months of September/October.

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