

LFICD Spring 2021 Field Report

Craig Zondag; Field Coordinator/Biologist

So far this year, we have experienced isolated pockets of mosquito larval activity. Even with sustained flooding in Weybridge following the early spring snow melt, larval thresholds were far below treatment levels as the flood plain quickly dried. Light traps on Swamp Road (Otter Creek flood plain) have yielded the largest adult counts with 100 to 1000 mosquitoes in a 12-hour nighttime period. To date, we have been unable to determine the source of these mosquitoes. Prevailing south and southwesterly winds may be blowing mosquitoes from the Bond Island wetlands in Orwell right over the Cornwall line. There also have been far fewer upland mosquitoes probably due to drier conditions as well.

The LFICD has hired Mia Handte-Reinecker, a UVM student, as a Field Technician Intern this year. Once again this internship opportunity provides invaluable “boots on the ground” experience for students exploring Field Biology. Mia will also receive 3 credits from UVM for her work with us. Middlebury College has supplied a Geographic Information System (“GIS”) Mapping Intern to the LFICD. The Middlebury intern is Sam Chester who is working with Bill Hegman, Middlebury College Teaching Fellow and GIS Specialist. Sam and Bill’s objective is to help us better understand drainage patterns and areas that sustain flooding and mosquito hatches in the Lemon Fair between Routes 74 and 125. Precisely mapping these areas should improve surveillance and treatment effectiveness.

Remember to protect yourself from mosquito bites, tip and drain all items in your yards that may be breeding areas for mosquitoes, clean gutters. Learn more about what you can do to eliminate mosquito habitat on your property by attending the LFICD Open House on July 24 from 9:00-2:00. Meet our interns. Also, check out our web page at www.lficd.org.



L to R: Sam Chester, Middlebury College, '22, GIS-LIDAR Mapping Intern; Bill Hegman, Middlebury GIS Specialist/Teaching Fellow; Mia Handte-Reinecker, UVM, '22, LFICD Field Tech Intern

Notes from LFICD Chair, David Dodge

We are pleased to have the interns, Mia and Sam from UVM and Middlebury College. We are also very appreciative of Bill Hegman's GIS expertise. His Middlebury College research includes Natural Resource Allocation and Community Development and Planning

We are still looking for LFICD Board Members: 1 to 2 from Weybridge and 1 from Cornwall. If you are interested, please call me at 802-462-3898.