

To: Southwinds Association, Inc. Home Owners
From: Fred L. DeCrescentis
Re: Mosquito Mitigation: Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) Virus
Date: October 10, 2019

As a follow up to information received from Essex Town Hall, Department of Health, regarding the above captioned, I called Mr. Roger Wolfe, DEEP's Wetland Restoration Biologist. I inquired about options available to our Association to mitigate mosquitoes at our fourteen-acre pond, including the floating dock and picnic areas during the spring and summer months. The following is information received from Mr. Wolfe:

1. Large bodies of water are not the primary source of mosquito larvae hatches because of predatory fish and birds that live in or around the pond that feed off the hatches. The exception would be if the pond had dense stands of cattail plants, which could prevent natural predators' access to areas that may have mosquito larvae. Our pond does not have these dense stands;
2. One of the primary sources of mosquitoes includes areas of water that collects near and around our respective homes (e.g. clogged rain gutters, children's pools, bird baths, etc.) where water is stagnant for periods of a week or longer. Mr. Wolfe emphasized that home owners need to be vigilant about removing these sources of standing water during the summer at least weekly;
3. There are fifty-four different species of mosquitoes in Connecticut and not all mosquitoes carry the EEE virus, including other diseases. Only the female mosquito feeds off humans and animals, as she is seeking a blood meal to produce more eggs. Both the male and female also feed on plant nectar for a food source;
4. This year there are four confirmed human cases of the EEE virus (including three deaths) in Connecticut. Our first confirmed human case of the EEE virus was in 2013;
5. There is a product that home owners can use to mitigate their mosquito population. The product is called "Mosquito Dunks" which can be purchased on-line and various box stores (i.e. Walmart, Home Depot, etc.). The product should be used beginning in April. This bacterial product is placed in stagnant water areas and is used to control mosquito larvae. Mr. Wolfe emphasized that when using the product, read the product label and follow the directions;
6. The adult population of most of our mosquito population is eliminated as a result of the first fall frost, although some species do survive over the winter, including eggs that hatch in early spring; and
7. For more information, please refer to the following website:
<http://www.portal.ct.gov/mosquito>.

Mr. Wolfe was very responsive and informative. I hope you find this summary of our conversation helpful.