



## Charleston County News Release

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### **Mosquito Control's Citizens' Awareness Campaign Starts Feb. 8**

*Mosquito Control employees educate the public on ways to eliminate mosquitoes*

[Charleston County Government](#)'s Mosquito Control Division employees will be going door-to-door from Feb. 8 - March 8 as part of its annual Citizens' Awareness Campaign.

County employees will visit the following neighborhoods between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to distribute educational materials and check yards for containers that could lead to mosquito breeding problems:

- North Charleston: Whipper Baroney Subdivision
- West Ashley: Bolton's Landing
- James Island: Riverview and Bayview Farms
- Mount Pleasant: Enclave, Belle Hall and Charleston National

"This is an excellent opportunity to talk with people in person and answer their questions and concerns," said Randy Miller, a [Charleston County Public Works Department](#) foreman with the [Mosquito Control Program](#), who will be leading the door-to-door campaign this month. "We will give people information on the mosquito life cycle and tips on how to eliminate mosquito egg-laying sites around their homes in order to help reduce the number of mosquitoes in their neighborhoods."

Did you know that only the female mosquito bites? Did you know that South Carolina has native fish that eat mosquito larvae?

During the Citizens' Awareness Campaign, Mosquito Control employees will teach residents about these and many others facts, including how people can help get rid of the pests on their own.

"The first thing we need to know is where mosquitoes breed and how they live their life cycles," said Donna Odom, [Charleston County Mosquito Control](#) Superintendent. "Mosquitoes carry diseases including West Nile Virus, Dengue Fever, Malaria, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Heartworms. The public has to be an integral part of our fight against mosquito-borne diseases."

The young mosquitoes, or larvae, cannot live and become adult mosquitoes without water. So the key is to get rid of the containers that hold water around homes, yards, schools and businesses. The public must help by flushing water out of birdbaths and pet dishes with a garden hose. Keep anything that has potential to hold water, such as toys, buckets, cans and bottles, turned over and emptied.

Working together, Charleston County Mosquito Control and the citizens of Charleston County can reduce the mosquito population so that residents can continue to enjoy outside activities and minimize the occurrence of mosquito-carried disease.

### **SIDEBAR**

#### **WAYS THE PUBLIC CAN HELP REDUCE MOSQUITOES:**

- Every three days, flush birdbaths, potted plant saucers and other containers that hold water
- Keep yard clean and cut
- Remove items from yard that hold water and are not needed outside

- Keep lawn and gardening equipment indoors
- Fix leaky faucets
- Keep gutters clean
- Fill in tree holes with sand or concrete
- Change pet water dishes regularly
- Chlorinate pools and clean the pool and filters
- Add fish to ponds

**MOSQUITO FACTS:**

- A mosquito's life revolves around water; a female mosquito lays her eggs in water or in areas expected to flood.
- Once they hatch, a larvae mosquito must remain in water until it emerges as an adult approximately one to two weeks later.
- Mosquitoes can become infected with the West Nile Virus when they feed on infected birds.
- Mosquitoes can transmit heartworm disease from an infected dog or cat to a healthy dog or cat.

**TO REQUEST SERVICE OR INFORMATION**

- To request service or to get information on Charleston County Mosquito Control activities, call (843) 202-7880.
- For information on educational programs and presentations available from Charleston County Mosquito Control, call (843) 202-7886.
- To see more information online, visit the County's Mosquito Control Web page at <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/Departments/PublicWorks/MosquitoProgram.htm>.

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