

Pesky Asian tiger mosquito biting during daylight hours

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Mosquitoes are annoying enough at night, but now along comes the Asian tiger mosquito that will put the bite on you during daylight hours.

Kyle Rossner, an entomologist with the county Department of Mosquito Control, visited a Borough Commission work session Oct. 9. He said mosquitoes seemed to swarm in the borough at dusk and dawn from both the direction of Pond Creek and the state park.

Mosquitoes are tested for the possibility of carrying diseases such as West Nile Virus and Eastern equine encephalitis, Rossner said. He said a joint effort was organized among mosquito control, the Nature Conservancy and the state park to treat water areas with a biological larvicide known as BTI.

"It's a naturally occurring soil bacteria that was formulated I believe in the 1950s," Rossner said. "In the right doses, it kills only mosquito larvae."

"Our idea is always to work from the ground up," he continued. "So we start with water management source reduction."

He said all mosquitoes as larvae need to be in water of some type. Some mosquito larvae is found in freshwater, some in saltwater, according to Rossner. Temporary rain puddles can provide a breeding area.

"We have 45 species of mosquitoes in Cape May County," he said.

Rossner said the Asian tiger mosquito is a foreign visitor that came to the county around 2002, found in a yard in West Cape May. He called the Asian tiger mosquito an "extreme pest," and a persistent biter throughout the day often targeting the feet and ankles of its human victims.

The bites may not be felt until the mosquito has drawn a good size blood meal, Rossner said. The Asian tiger mosquito has been known to carry West Nile Virus and dog heartworms. Holes in trees and natural cavities are the preferred spot for Asian tigers to lay their eggs but they also find a good home in any small to medium-sized container holding water, he said.

He said when answering complaints of mosquitoes in the borough, 80 percent of the properties were found to be producing the Asian tiger.

"The female will lay her

eggs around the waterline in the edge of a container of water," Rossner said. "When that water rises and soaks the eggs, they hatch down into the container."

The Asian tiger is only in the larvae stage for one week at most. They molt into a pupa that very quickly becomes an adult mosquito. The females seek out blood meals to produce more eggs, he said.

The Asian tiger mosquito is black with white patches and has a shiny caste to its black scales and silvery white scales on its proboscis and on each segment of its legs as well as patches of silvery white on the abdomen and a white stripe down the center of the thorax. The abdomen narrows to a point at the end, according to mosquito control.

The seasonal nature of Cape May Point causes fountains, birdbaths and trashcans to be left unattended and holding water for weeks at a time during mosquito season and throughout the winter, he said. Rossner said mosquito eggs will last through the winter and sometimes for several years.

Untreated rain barrels can fill with mosquito larvae. Water in birdbaths should be drained before being refilled, he said. Children's toys left outdoors can hold water, as well as clogged rain gutters, Rossner said. He said unattended septic systems can hold water due to breaks in the cap.

"You can produce millions of mosquitoes in a season from a single septic tank," Rossner said.



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Kyle Rossner, an entomologist with the county Department of Mosquito Control, said mosquitoes swarm in Cape May Point at dusk and dawn from Pond Creek and the state park.

Mosquito Dunks, a biological mosquito control product available at home and garden centers and hardware stores, can be placed in water-collecting items in yards, he said.

Deputy Mayor Anita van Heeswyk said mosquito control would provide mosquito larvae-eating fish to homeowners with ponds. She said she has used Dunks for years in her birdbaths.

Rossner said only a small portion of a Dunk is needed for effective control in a birdbath. He said Dunks are a bacterium and it tends to spread itself. He said tree cavities can be filled with mortar or sand. Holes can be drilled in the bottom of trashcans and recycling cans to prevent them from holding water, Rossner said.

A resident said she placed a "decoy bucket" filled with water in her yard treated with a Dunk to draw and kill mosquito larvae. Rossner said mosquito control would come to a home free of charge when there is a mosquito infestation.

He said if Asian tiger mosquitoes are biting you in your yard, it means somewhere very close is a larval habitat because the pests rarely venture more than 500 feet from where they were born.

"In Cape May Point, we get calls about nuisance mosquitoes and people want us to spray their area, their yards with adulticides," Rossner said. "Sometimes that is the appropriate method of control but for this species of mosquito, it is absolutely not the appropriate method of control."

He said the borough is a very sensitive area being at

the tip of a peninsula filled with migrating monarch butterflies and birds that rely on insects for food. Rossner said a number of residents are very opposed to any mosquito spraying.

Habitat management alone may be able to control the mosquito population, he said.

"With any mosquito control, you want to get them before they are on the wing," Rossner said.

Catherine Busch, chairwoman of the borough's Environmental Commission, asked about private companies that will spray properties.

"I can say that it doesn't work, usually," he said. "What they are applying is a barrier spray."

Rossner said mosquito control did not know what pesticides private contractors were using. He said his office never applies pesticides as a barrier spray, applying it to plants in an effort to repel and kill mosquitoes when they land on the plants.

"It's probably not preferred that you have a pesticide that is intended to persist on plant surfaces when you have other things landing and feeding on it," he said.

Borough Commissioner Robert Mullock asked if Lake Lily was a source of mosquitoes. Rossner said the lake was not a producer of mosquitoes due to its population of fish, dragonflies and backswimmers.

"Female mosquitoes can sense predators in an area, it's the reverse of what a pheromone would be, so they'll actually avoid laying eggs anywhere near predators unless that absolutely have to," he said.

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TIDES : Oct. 17-24, 2018

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
17	3:02	3:20	8:44	9:42
18	4:03	4:18	9:45	10:34
19	4:57	5:10	10:40	11:19
20	5:44	5:56	11:30	
21	6:26	6:39	12:00	12:15
22	7:05	7:19	12:37	12:58
23	7:42	7:58	1:13	1:39
24	8:19	8:37	1:48	2:20

MOON PHASES

Full moon, Oct. 23 • last quarter, Oct. 30

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Cape May City Recycles

DON'T JUST DO IT...DO IT RIGHT!

Do Recycle

CANS & BOTTLES

Glass Bottles
(green/brown/clear)

Aluminum Can
Steel (tin) Cans

Plastic Bottles #1 thru 7

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Computers & TV's

RIGID PLASTICS

Help maintain the quality of recyclables sold as secondary raw material. Place for recycling collection only the items listed under "Do Recycle."

Do Not Recycle

The Following Items are NOT ACCEPTED for Recycling Collection and must be Placed in Trash.

PAPER PLATES & PAPER CUPS, ALUMINUM FOIL & ALUMINUM PIE PLATES, POTS & PANS, MIRRORS, WINDOW GLASS

WE DO NOT PICK UP BRANCHES. TAKE BRANCHES TO RECYCLE YARD.

Yard Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30am - 3:15 & Sat. 8am-noon- closed Wed.

We are closed Holidays - pick up will be the following day for each holiday.

Picking up trees Starting 12/26

Please Remember ...

All Cape May City properties are entitled to a once a week curbside pickup of recycling.

This includes: Bottles, Cans, Plastic and Glass Jars, Newspapers, Corrugated Cardboard, Office Paper, Junk Mail and Magazines

- Please do **NOT** use plastic bags for anything.
- Recycling will **NOT** be picked up if it contains any type of contaminant



PAPER SHREDDER AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Labels for Recycling Containers are available on request or can be picked up at City Hall or Recycling Office located at the Public Works Complex on Canning House

Any questions call the Cape May City Recycling Office at 609-884-9570

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Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

3-month	2.10 % APY*	Minimum deposit \$1000
6-month	2.30 % APY*	Minimum deposit \$1000
1-year	2.50 % APY*	Minimum deposit \$1000

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 10/08/2018. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).



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Leaf Collection Schedule

Loose leaves raked to the curb will be collected on the day/week of your scheduled street maintenance route.

LEAVES CONTAINING DEBRIS, TRASH OR BRANCHES WILL NOT BE COLLECTED

ZONE 1

All streets running North, South, East & West

Beach Avenue to West Perry Street

3rd to Ocean Street

Oct. 29th to Nov. 2nd and Nov. 19th to 23rd

ZONE 2

All streets running North, South, East & West

Ocean Street to Madison Avenue

Beach Avenue to Lafayette Street

Nov. 5th to 9th and Nov. 26th to 30th

ZONE 3

All streets running North, South, East & West

Madison Avenue to Wilmington Avenue

Beach Avenue to Lafayette Street includes Clay Street & St. James Place

Nov. 12th to 16th and Dec. 3rd to 7th

Leaves, Branches, and Grass may be dropped off at the Recycle Yard
830 Canning House Lane, Cape May
For more information call The Public Works Dept. 609-884-9570