Persistent Pests
Mosquito commissions in Cape May, Atlantic counties track the insects at thousands of sites; test for disease; kill adults, larvae

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY — Every day at the Cape May County Department of Mosquito Control, a few employees identify up to thousands of mosquitoes collected from sample sites across the county.

Their counterparts in Atlantic County are doing similar work.

Cape May County is home to fewer species of mosquitos than Atlantic County — about 45 compared with 63 — but there is plenty of water for the insects to breed.

The Department of Mosquito Control collects thousands of sites for mosquito, and Cape May County is home to species that live in salt and fresh water.

“We live in Cape May County and have lots of salt and fresh water,” said Kyle Rossner, Cape May County Mosquito Control entomologist.

“We have a lot of standing water, and where you have standing water you are going to have mosquitoes.”

He added that the county is “very busy” in its mosquito management efforts.

In this region, mosquito populations are highest beginning around early May and into early October.

Mosquitoes, however, can be found nearly all year long.

“There is a couple mosquito species that are around all year round,” Rossner said. “If it gets warm enough, there are mosquitoes who either spend the winter as adults or as larvae or eggs, depending on which mosquitoes they are.”

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