

PENNSYLVANIA VECTOR CONTROL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Graduate State College
October 19-21, 2026

Agenda

Monday, October 19, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Registration**

1:00 p.m. - 1:10 p.m. **Welcome/Opening Remarks**
Ray Buckley, PVCA President

Session 1

Moderator: Chris Hooper

1:10 p.m. - 1:40 p.m. **Pollinator Presentation and
Personal Experience with a Tick Bite**
Dr. Jamie Kopco, Penn State

1:40 p.m. - 1:55 p.m. **Personal Testimony - Tickborne Illness**
Denny Keen, PA DEP

1:55 p.m. - 2:25 p.m. **Journey with Lyme Disease**
Harold (TJ) Coder

2:25 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. **What's Bugging Homeowners? Experiences with Professional
Vector Management**
Dr. Erika Machtinger, VectorED Network/Penn State University

2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m. **Reserved Program Time**

2:55 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. **Break**

Session 2

Moderator: Christian or Brooke

3:20 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. **Novel Detection of *Babesia* spp. in the soft bat ticks,
Alectorobius kelleyi, (Acari: Argasidae) and big brown bats,
Eptesicus fuscus, (Chiroptera) in North America.**
Jim Occi, Ph.D., Public Health and Environmental Labs at NJ
Department of Health

3:50 p.m. - 4:05 p.m. **Invasion Dynamics of *Aedes albopictus* over a Quarter Century
in Pennsylvania**
Ann Yaa Safo, Penn State University Grad Student

4:05 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Reserved Program Time
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Vendor Presentations
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn Ray Buckley, PVCA President
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Vendor Social

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet Available
8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.	Introduction Ray Buckley, PVCA President
	<u>Session 3</u> <u>Moderator: Andy Heydt</u>
8:35 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.	Integrated Vector Management and the Gulf South VECTOR Program Dr. Claudia Riegel, Gulf South Vector
9:35 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.	2026 Black Fly Program Update Steve Means or Other Black Fly Program Rep., PA DEP
9:55 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.	2026 Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program Update Jen Stough, PA DEP
10:10 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.	2026 Tick Program Update Christian Boyer, PA DEP
10:25 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	Break

Session 4
Moderator: Ray Buckley

10:40 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.	Vector Management Lab Update Dr. Keith Price, PA DEP
10:55 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.	AMCA Update Priscilla Matton, AMCA North Atlantic Director
11:10 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.	New Jersey 2026 Season Update Michael Hoban, NJDEP Office of Mosquito Control Coordination

- 11:25 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. **2026 Human Arbovirus Season Update for Pennsylvania**
Krystal Mason, PA Department of Health
- 11:40 a.m. - 11:55 a.m. **Department of Health Updates on Tickborne Diseases**
Leah Lind, PA Department of Health
- 11:55 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. **Reserved Program Time**
- 12:05 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Lunch and Photo Salon/Awards**

Session 5

Moderator: Ray Delaney

- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Health Risks of Urban Rodents and Their Management**
Dr. Changlu Wang, Department of Entomology,
Rutgers University

Dr. Xiaodan Pan, Department of Entomology,
Rutgers University
- 2:00 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. **The Mosquito Menu: Genes, Odors, and Host Choice**
Megan Fritz, University of Maryland
- 2:20 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. **Student Award Winner Presentation #1**
Speaker and Presentation Title TBD
- 2:40 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. **Small Bugs, Big Picture: A Brief Intro to Macro Photography**
Ben Burgunder, Chest County Health Department
- 2:50 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. **Break**

Session 6

Moderator: Lauren Holder

- 3:20 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. **White-Nose Syndrome - Bats**
Greg Turner, Pennsylvania Game Commission
- 3:50 p.m. - 4:40 p.m. **Reserved Program Time**
- 4:40 p.m. - 5:10 p.m. **Vendor Presentations**
- 5:10 p.m. **Adjourn**
Ray Buckley, PVCA President

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet Available**

8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m. **Introduction**
Ray Buckley, PVCA President

Session 7

Moderator: Dr. Jamie Kopco

8:35 a.m. - 9:05 a.m. **Beyond the Bite: What Metagenomics Reveals About Tick-Borne Pathogens in Central Pennsylvania**
Dr. Regina Lamendella, Professor of Biology, Juniata College

9:05 a.m. - 9:35 a.m. **Comparing Mosquito Gravid Trap Attractants in Different Habitats in Central Pennsylvania**
Drew Lysaker, Penn State University

9:35 a.m. - 10:05 a.m. **Reading the Sky: Practical Meteorology for Mosquito & Vector Control**
Mark Baker, Monmouth County Mosquito Control

10:05 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Reserved Program Time**

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. **Break/Checkout**

Session 8

Moderator: Brooke Coder

10:45 a.m. - 11:05 a.m. **How warming and urbanization are reshaping insecticide-resistance genes and lineage composition in mid-Atlantic *Culex pipiens* mosquitoes**
Benjamin Gregory, PhD Candidate, University of Maryland

11:05 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. **Student Award Winner Presentation #2: RTS,S Malaria Vaccine Efficacy Study**
Ann Yaa Safo, Penn State University Grad Student

11:25 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Business Meeting/Door Prizes**
Ray Buckley, PVCA President

12:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Ray Buckley, PVCA President