



# Alabama Vector Management Society

[www.alabamavms.org](http://www.alabamavms.org)

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## 21st Annual Meeting Wrap-up

The 21st annual meeting of the Alabama Vector Management Society was held March 17th and 18th in Auburn, Alabama. The meeting was highlighted by a number of exciting presentations given by a variety of speakers.

The 2010 meeting began when honorable Bill Ham, mayor of Auburn welcomed the group with some delightful rhetoric. Presentations followed, with Dr. Nancy Hinkle (UGA), Frank Boyd (USDA Wildlife Services), Cheryn Jones (EPA), Dr. Dan Szumlas (US Navy), and Dr. Faith Oi (UF) each giving informative and interesting presentations on day one of the meeting. On day two, the audience was treated to presentations by Dr. Dee Jones (ADPH), Dr. Rosmarie Kelly (GDPH), Dr. Fudd Graham (Auburn University), Steve Sullivan (Bell Labs), Dr. Charles Ray and Dr. Nathan Burkett-Cadena (both of Auburn University).

Topics covered by the speakers included poultry pests, wildlife diseases, regulating pesticides, Navy entomology, regulatory concerns of pesticide applicators, rabies, Chikungunya virus, IPM, rodent control, invasive

insects and targeting vector control using surveillance. AVMS is hoping to gather abstracts from all presenters and post them on our website. Stay tuned for additional information

The two-day venue was a big hit among AVMS members. This new format requiring only one over-night stay made the meeting more affordable for all.

Another highlight of the meeting was the evening banquet, which was held at the Auburn University Fisheries Pavilion and was catered by Catfish Country from Wetumpka. Delicious catfish, chicken and hushpuppies were fried on-site and were accompanied by coleslaw, baked beans, and banana pudding. The society would like to give a most sincere thanks to Univar, Central Life Sciences and Adapco for contributing funds to cover the cost of the banquet.

The membership voted on officer positions, which are covered in page 4 of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at the 22nd meeting of the AVMS in 2011!

Visit the AVMS website  
<http://www.alabamavms.org/>

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### Dates To Remember:

#### **May 10-12, 2010**

12th Annual Washington Conference of AMCA

#### **June 20 - June 26, 2010**

National Mosquito Control Awareness Week



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2010-2011**

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**The AVMS is grateful to have the support and sponsorship from industries.  
Below is a list of sustaining members for 2009.**

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Phone #</b>
Central Life Sciences/Zoecon	256-536-3134
Gil Manufacturing Inc.	334-284-8111
Univar USA	251-666-5995
AllPro	888-603-1008
ADAPCO Inc.	888-400-9085
Bell Laboratories Inc.	404-644-5150

**CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBERS OF THE  
ALABAMA VECTOR MANAGEMENT SOCIETY**

**Preamble:** The purpose of the Alabama Vector Management Society is to promote the management of public health pests and arthropod vectors of disease, provide for the educational and scientific advancement of members, encourage scientific research in vector management and public health pests, promote an exchange of information among members, and to extend and develop public awareness and interest in the discipline.

Public health pest and vector management provides services that are extremely important to the health, welfare and progress of society. Those employed in the public health pest and vector management profession have the responsibility to render effective and professional service to humanity, in keeping with high standards of ethical conduct. Therefore, in striving to advance and maintain the honor and dignity of the profession, the Alabama Vector Management Society (AVMS) has established the following code to

define the conduct and ethics due the profession. This code is binding on the membership of the AVMS.

AVMS members will use their knowledge and skill for the betterment of human welfare.

- Members will, at all times, strive to maintain the public trust, and advance the standards and principles established by the AVMS.
- Members will cooperate in the exchange of information and technology for the growth and progress of the public health and vector management profession and the AVMS.
- Members will not cause dishonor to the Society through their actions while representing the AVMS.
- Members will comply with all laws and regulations that apply to our science and profession.
- Members will promote solidarity, harmony and support among members and fellow workers. They will not undermine, vilify, berate or otherwise intentionally injure the work, accomplishments, efforts or professional reputation of another.
- Members will not conduct or in any way participate in a fallacious review of the work of a fellow worker or other member.

# Letter from Steve McDaniel, AVMS President

HELLO TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA VECTOR CONTROL COMMUNITY.

It has taken me a few weeks to get back to things after the great conference in Auburn. Thanks so much to Jeff Beck, Nathan Burkett, Kelly Stevens, Fudd Graham, Rachael Beck, Mark Tow, Jimmy Quint and all those who worked so diligently to make the two days at the Lexington Hotel and Conference Center in Auburn such a great success and overall learning experience. I was particularly pleased with the great emphasis on IPM, education, and the development of vector control products within new regulatory standards, which, after all, is at the heart of our organization. My biggest thanks goes out to all the vendors who so generously supports our society and its efforts to become better professionals in the field of vector control.

I officially took on the role as your new president at the end of the conference during the Annual Business Meeting. I am both honored and happy to be taking over this responsibility from Jeff Beck from Gulf Shores / Baldwin County, who has done such an exemplary and effective job over the last two years. Thanks to you Jeff for setting the high standards for me to follow and for all of your contributions.

Looking ahead, there are as many challenges being presented to us, as there are great opportunities. We as a "Society" are coming together more closely when it comes to vector control and protecting public health. Whether it is WNV sweeping through southern Alabama and parts of South East, the re-emergence of tick born illness, the continuing fight against all forms of encephalitis, or the looming specter of another flu pandemic and the hugely growing impact of other potential vector borne diseases, we have many challenges to meet to keep our state healthy and safe. Many of these challenges relate to the training, mentoring and education that we as an association can offer.

I could chat on, but won't for now, except to say that I will be regularly reaching Alabama Vector Management Society (AVMS) members in the Newsletter. We must keep up with new challenges, and work together with other like-minded professionals. To achieve this, we must continually expand our membership, so that the AVMS can not only meet its current goals, but also reach new heights through new energy, volunteered time and better financial performance.

We are an organization of volunteers, with a great Board of Directors, but, we need more volunteer members, more energy, to keep us going in a direction that will be satisfying and honorable. I will continue from time to time remind our members of the many areas where one can volunteer time, experience and expertise.

I look forward to contributing to the growth and effectiveness of the AVMS over the next year. Thank you for placing your confidence in me. I will work to ensure that the AVMS continues to be an organization we are proud of and one that continually makes an ever-greater contribution to Alabama's health...through our particular mission of Education.

Bye for now...Sincerely,

Steven McDaniel  
President, Alabama Vector Management Society  
Director, Solid Waste Vector Control Branch  
Alabama Department of Public Health

# Meet your AVMS board members

The board are those members of the society who have been elected by the membership to serve in various capacities. One of the primary responsibilities of the board is to work together to plan the annual meeting. Other duties include keeping the (financial) books, transcribing the minutes of meetings, and producing the quarterly newsletter. Positions such as president, editor, secretary and treasurer are elected annually, whereas director positions have two-year terms. The AVMS welcomes three new members to the board for 2010-2011: Dr. Dee Jones (Alabama Dept. of Public Health),



## **2010-2011 AVMS Board members**

**Front row** (L to R) Steve McDaniel (president), Jennifer Wroten (director), Kelly Stevens (secretary), Rachel Beck (treasurer), Dee Jones (director)

**Back row** (L to R) Nathan Burkett-Cadena (editor), Jason Carlee (director), Fudd Graham (president-elect), Mark Tow (director), Jeff Beck (past president)



# Vector Spotlight

*Ctenocephalides felis*

“The cat flea”



Fleas are flightless insects in which the adults are blood-feeders which usually live on their host animal. Flea larvae are worm-like, legless creatures which do not live on animals or feed directly on host blood. Instead, they live at ground level, indoors (in carpet) or outdoors (in the soil and leaf litter) and feed on a variety of foods. They receive much of their nutrition by consuming the feces of adult fleas, which is composed of partially digested blood from their host animal. This dark fecal material, called flea dirt, is a common sign of a flea infestation. Adult fleas are known for their jumping abilities, and have been estimated to jump around 200 times their own body length.

**Cat fleas** are found around the world on dogs and cats. In the U.S. they are the most common fleas found on domestic animals, but may also feed many species of wild animals, such as bobcats, coyotes, foxes, and possums. Cat fleas sometimes infest rodents as well.

Cat fleas can transmit a number of deadly pathogens, such as those which cause plague and murine typhus. However, transmission of these pathogens by cat fleas transmit is rare. Cat fleas can also serve as intermediated hosts for the dog tapeworm. Flea larvae sometimes ingest eggs of the tapeworm and are themselves eaten by dogs or cats (usually when the animal grooms itself). When this occurs dogs, cats (and sometimes humans) can become infected with the tapeworm.

Allergic responses to flea bites are a growing concern for humans and animals. One common problem is flea allergy dermatitis, in which affected animals develop allergic reactions to components in flea saliva. In the U.S. pet owners spend millions of dollars each year to treat this condition.

Effective control of cat fleas requires eliminating fleas from the pet, the home, and the yard. Removal of fleas from the pet alone is only a temporary fix, as immature fleas (eggs, larvae, and pupae) which are in the carpet and yard will quickly develop into new adults and then cause a new infestation. A number of chemical and cultural control practices are available.



Adult cat flea

Photo by Nathan D. Burkett-Cadena



Cat flea larva

Photo by Nathan D. Burkett-

ALABAMA VECTOR MANAGEMENT SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mail to: Rachel Beck  
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**For Vender Information Contact:**

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- PRE- REGISTRATION (BEFORE MARCH 1, 2011)                      \$75.00  
 REGISTRATION (AFTER MARCH 1, 2011 OR ON SITE)              \$100.00  
 STUDENT REGISTRATION    \$25.00  
AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

**Alabama Vector Management Society**

I UNDERSTAND THAT, AS A MEMBER OF THE AVMS, I AM EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE AVMS CODE OF ETHICS.

\*Registration/Membership dues are for AVMS membership year 2010 ALABAMA VECTOR MANAGEMENT SOCIETY



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