

mos-qui-to

[muh-skee-toh]
noun
 plural mos·qui·toes,
 mos·qui·tos.

a slender long-legged fly with aquatic larvae. The bite of the bloodsucking female can transmit a number of serious diseases including malaria and encephalitis.

Don't forget bug spray, the mosquitoes are BAD this year

Gargrave: 'The sheer amount of water we had is reflecting how many mosquitoes we had too'

By Trevor Greene
 OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

With long winters in the Northwoods, many people can't wait for the weather to warmup and to get outside. However, one of the first things everybody is reminded of each summer is mosquitoes. And this year, that reminder was rather harsh. The increased presence of these tiny bloodsuckers is undoubtedly evident, as they've wasted no time this year to make their presence known to all.

North Lakeland Discovery Center naturalist and residential program liaison Hannah Gargrave, who also has a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Management from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, said the increase in mosquitoes is likely the result of the

record snowfall this past winter.

Gargrave indicated the late season snowfall mixed with the back-and-forth of warm and cold temperatures in March and April also played a role.

"The repeated cycle, I think, created really good conditions for mosquito breeding," she said. "And they need that water and the melt-off from the snow to breed, that's where they lay their eggs. So, I think just the sheer amount of water we had is reflecting how many mosquitoes we had too."

Mosquitoes, she explained, lay their eggs in water, which then hatch as aquatic larva.

Dragonflies, bats, birds and frogs are just some of the predators Gargrave mentioned that consume

mosquitoes.

"Honestly, within this

past week, I've noticed quite a few more (dragonflies)," she said. "The dragonflies kind of have the same sort of life cycle. They're also drawn to wet areas."

According to Gargrave, male mosquitoes' lifespan is short; only about a week. But females are the ones that bite, she said, and their lifespan is longer; up to three months.

For those who spray their yard with chemicals to limit the itch, Gargrave said it's a complicated situation because some sprays affect more than just mosquitoes.

"They're going to affect all the other insects," she said. "Some of which are important pollinators that live in that area."

Gargrave said her biggest piece of advice, even though it's warm, is to wear long sleeves or bug nets if you plan to be out in mosquito-heavy areas.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also suggests people wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants — specifically, clothing treated with 0.5 percent permethrin.

Using insect repellent is another precaution the CDC recommends. It provides a list of repellents registered with the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency on its website.

To control mosquitoes indoors and out, the CDC says to use air conditioning and fans if available.

By limiting mosquitoes from laying eggs in or near water on or by your property, the CDC also suggests once a week to empty, scrub, turn over, cover or throw away items that hold water.

Ray Christenson, assistant manager of a local hardware store, said he "absolutely" has seen an

increase in sales with regard to mosquito repellent.

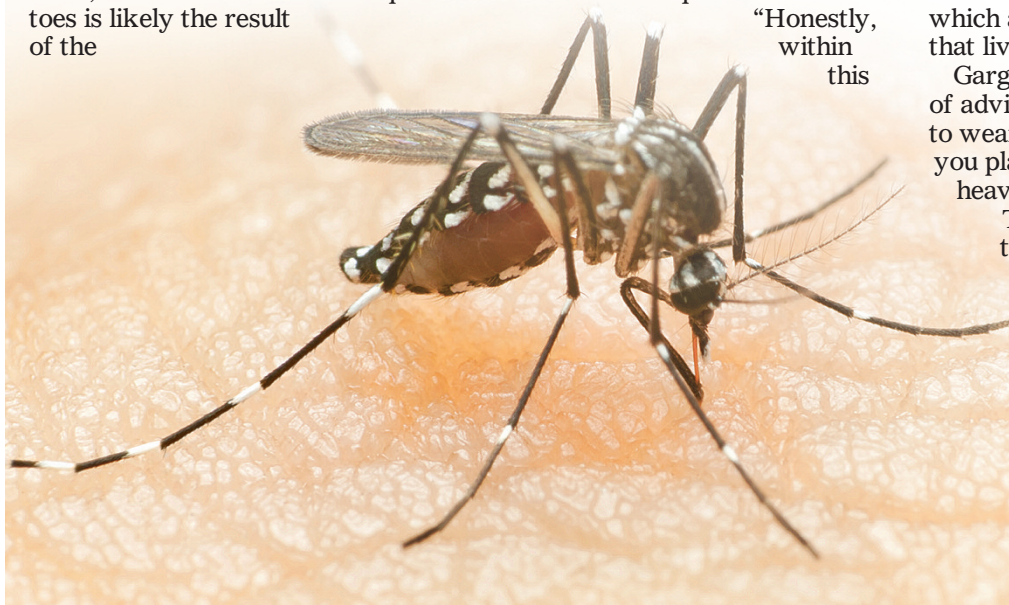
"Our inventory, when we get it in, it sells almost immediately," he said. "Our shelves are a lot better now, but when the mosquito crop first hatched, we could not keep enough on the shelves ... it was the week of Memorial Day."

Christenson said he had customers tell him they've "never seen (the mosquitoes) this bad" and "I can't even go outside."

He said he remembers another summer about eight years ago when the mosquitoes were just as bad.

"So, yeah, we've seen a very large increase in sales for anything to combat mosquitoes," Christenson said. "From foggers to actual bug zappers and all that stuff."

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Boulders

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tion (DOT) had placed there in November of 2022, after the company created access without obtaining DOT permits.

"Those highway markers are ugly as hell," Fricke said.

Pertile responded and said he will follow-up with DOT staff about the two concrete barriers.

"As long as it's in the schedule so we can get rid of those," Fricke said. "We want to make the whole northbound look nice and we got these Oneida County highway markers sitting there because we gotta deal with him (Bangstad)."

The motion to direct Pertile to place boulders along the town's right-of-way adjoining MBC and regrow grass in the damaged area passed unanimously.

Other matters

The town board at its June 6 meeting also approved:

- Another six month moratorium on the placement of portable shipping containers in the town.
- A request by Pertile to seek funding to repair a Price County Road culvert.
- The extension of the Minocqua adhoc committee's work on labor and housing for an additional six months.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPH

Tire tracks from visitors of Minocqua Brewing Company prompted the Minocqua town board to direct director of public works Mark Pertile to place boulders along the pork chop-shaped right-of-way during its meeting on Tuesday, June 6.