



# SOVE Newsletter

## 6th International Congress 2013

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### Congress Sponsors

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The 6<sup>th</sup> International Congress of SOVE was held September 22-27, 2013 in La Quinta, California. Except for the field day trip, all congress activities were held at the La Quinta Resort and Club facilities. The congress attendees (350) came from 28 countries—6 in Africa, 5 Asia, Australia, 13 Europe, 2 North and South America, all sharing the same purpose of vector ecology and control. The congress offered a variety of opportunities to learn and share new research findings and new approaches used in the ecology and control of disease vectors. The congress program had 16 symposia (including three student symposia), two poster sessions (85 posters), and an ecological field trip. The congress was announced open with a welcome address by congress president Mir Mulla, followed by presidential address by SOVE president William Walton, announcements by secretary/treasurer Major Dhillon, award presentations by vice president Bulent Alten (see SOVE awards p. 8), and before the break, a presenta-

tion, “Integrated vector management has theory turned into practice” by the keynote speaker Bart Knols from The Netherlands.

The congress symposia in the order presented were as follows:

- 1: Tick-borne diseases
- 2: Sterile insect technique for vector control
- 3: Genetically modified vectors
- 4: Cross-roads of vector genetics and behavioral ecology
- 5, 6 and 7: all student presentations coordinated by Mulla and Walton
- 8: Repellents and new products
- 9: Vector trapping technologies
- 10: Zoonotic diseases
- 11: Population genomics
- 12: Genomic and bioinformatics
- 13: Bluetongue
- 14: Integrated vector management
- 15: Dengue and chikungunia with a keynote address, “Global strategy for the prevention and control of dengue” by Raman Velayudhan,WHO,
- 16: Leishmaniasis.

Besides symposia and poster sessions all offered indoors, there was a full day of an ecological field trip a to the Joshua Tree National Park, about an hour from the Resort. At the Park the vis-



tors were allowed to get acquainted with the landscape ecology of the Park especially the unique flora and an amazing rock formation.

Finally, the 6th Congress had a record number of student attendees (85), all sponsored either by the Bill and Belinda Gates Foundation (38), or the SOVE funds (47).



## William Walton, Outgoing SOVE President

It has been a privilege to serve as President of the Society for Vector Ecology this past year. I had the opportunity to meet the officers, board members and members of the newest branch of SOVE, the Asian Society of Vector Ecology and Mosquito Control, in Suzhou China, as well as meet new members and rekindle friendships with current members at the very successful sixth International Congress in La Quinta, California. I thank Greg Lanzaro and the members of the Program Committee, the symposia organizers, and the speakers for an outstanding scientific program. Kudos go to Lal Mian, Bob Cummings and Steven Su for organizing the poster sessions and to the poster presenters for very interactive and informative sessions. I also want to acknowledge the efforts of Mir Mulla and the members of the International Organizing Committee. Mir did a fantastic job organizing a very large number of oral presentations into the seventeen symposia.

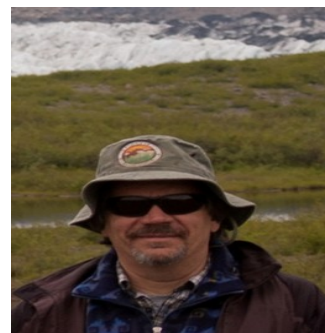
As I mentioned in my comments opening the International Congress, two aspects of SOVE that I am especially proud of are our journal, the Journal of Vector Ecology, and SOVE's support of students. The Journal of Vector Ecology provides open access to its content and offers members an opportunity to publish their scientific findings at a reasonable cost. Online open-access publishing continues to increase its representation in scientific publication and the JVE will evaluate its publication policies to remain a cost-effective, high-quality venue for publishing results. The 5-year impact factor of the journal is 1.35 and the ranking of the journal among all entomology journals is close to the top one-third. I thank Marc and Anne Klowden for their efforts to ensure the timely publication of high quality articles.

Funding for students to attend the International Congress was provided by a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and by SOVE. The support of the SOVE Board is acknowledged. SOVE also appreciates the support of the corporate sponsors. SOVE thanks the Board members and staff of Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District, Corona California for providing expert and administrative support for the congress. I especially want to thank Valerie Montigny, Marian Shannon and Pash Dhillon for their unflagging efforts. SOVE also thanks the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District,

the Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District and Consolidated Mosquito and Vector Control District for coordinating the local arrangements and providing expert audio-visual support.

I look forward to continue working with our President Doug Norris, President-Elect Bulent Alten, Vice-President Dan Kline, Secretary-Treasurer Major Dhillon, the Presidents of the SOVE branches - Eva Veronesi (European SOVE), Tong-Yan Zhao (Asian SOVE) and Paulo Pimenta (Brasil SOVE) - and the other members of the SOVE Board of Directors. Major Dhillon has served as the Secretary-Treasurer of SOVE for nearly 20 years and he was awarded a well-deserved Lifetime Service Award for his tireless efforts coordinating meetings, working with the Board of Directors, and other behind-the-scenes activities that make the job of President such a pleasant experience. Last, but certainly not least, I acknowledge Sabrina White of the University of Florida who is currently developing a Twitter and Facebook page for SOVE; the links will appear soon on the SOVE web page. Keep an eye out for these links as well as links to the new web pages of Asian SOVE and European SOVE.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve as President of SOVE. I thank you for your support. I look forward to the new developments that are the result of our concerted effort to understand the ecology of vectors and vector-borne diseases, and to reduce the threat of vector-borne disease worldwide.



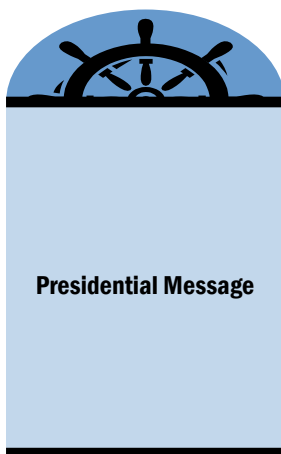


## Douglas E. Norris, Incoming SOVE President

I am honored to serve as President of the Society for Vector Ecology for 2014. I thank outgoing President William Walton for his leadership and service to SOVE. In his message, William has given a comprehensive overview of our recent International Congress in La Quinta, California, and the highlights of SOVE activities during 2013. I will not reiterate other than to thank the very many people that were involved in the organization and execution of one of the best conferences I have been to in a long time. Our members are fantastic and it is our collective effort, interaction and collegiality that make the meeting and strengthen our society. It was especially wonderful to see the participation of so many students from around the world. Our recent SOVE Congress was also a great platform to showcase the diversity of our many members, with exciting research

spanning diverse disease and arthropod systems, and equally diverse ecologies. Also evident was research extending from classical ecology, biology and behavior to application of the most current and cutting-edge molecular technologies. It is with the blend of these approaches and resulting knowledge that we may be most successful at addressing the global challenges of the vector-borne diseases that we study.

The venue for our 2014 SOVE Conference has not yet been set, but stayed tuned as an announcement will be made in the near future. Vice-President Dan Kline and his Organizing Committee will be assembling an informative and exciting scientific program. I hope that the last few months of the year are productive and pleasant, and I look forward to seeing you in September 2014!



## Vector Biology Resources

- ◆ The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID) provides product development services, and research tools and biological materials for researchers developing diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics, and for studying vectors of human pathogens. Visit Vector Biology Resources for Studying Vectors for a listing of available resources. Key among the resources for studying vectors is provision of LIVE vectors and reagents and genomic materials offered through the BEI Resources Repository. (See Vector Resources in the BEI online catalog.) These resources are available free of charge to REGISTERED users in domestic and foreign institutions and NIH grant funding is not required. For information on all resources for researchers provided by DMID, visit the DMID Resources for Researchers website:

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/LabsAndResources/resources/dmid/Pages/default.aspx>

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Vector Biology Program Officer, DMID/NIAID/NIH/DHHS



**Ary Farajollahi, Northeast Regional Director**

Most programs on the east coast are wrapping up the 2013 field season and getting ready for a productive fall/winter of writing and disseminating recent findings. *Aedes albopictus* has been continuing the expansion of its range along the eastern seaboard and with increasing global temperatures, this trend will probably not cease in the near future. There is an immediate need for the development of novel control strategies to target container-inhabiting mosquitoes in urban/suburban areas where the potential introduction of an exotic pathogen such as chikungunya virus is high. We experienced normal West Nile virus activity during 2013 in the northeast, but there is a looming concern over the potential resurgence of eastern equine encephalitis in this region, and many researchers are currently undertaking novel investigations into the various factors of EEE ecology with the hopes of developing better surveillance and control measures to prohibit human and veterinary disease. I am also happy to report that Dr. Theodore Andreadis has been promoted as the Director of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Congratulations Ted!

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**David Sullivan, Northwest Regional Director**

#### West Nile Virus

As can be expected, West Nile virus (WNV) varied greatly from State to State. Idaho had the hottest and driest season since records have been kept with temperatures rising in May and staying there throughout the summer. Montana on the other hand had mixed weather with a cool spring and summer in some parts of the state staying cool until August. As of September 19, 2013, the number of mosquito pools, equine, and birds tested, and human cases respectively by state were: Idaho (>150, 9, 0, 24); Montana (16, 17, 1, 15 with 2 deaths); North Dakota (23, 1, 8, 79); Oregon (88, 2, 1, 4); South Dakota (337, 3, 8, 106); Washington (19, 1, 0, 1 out-of-state); Wyoming (50, 18, 5, 29). Note that Idaho, Oregon and South Dakota had almost or more than 100 position mosquito pools. South Dakota had the most human cases, 106. Montana had 15 human cases with the only 2 deaths in the region. This represented approximately 6% of the USA WNV deaths (33) as of September 19, 2013.

#### Brandon Wildlife Refuge

Two years ago the USFW completed the restoration of the Brandon Marsh by removing 2 ½ miles of levies that protected former cow pastures that had been there for more than 90 years. Mosquitoes became the new tenants. The locals were being attacked with vengeance. The USFW decided to partner with Oregon State University and Multnomah County Vector Control District to do surveillance. After flood events caused by high tides, mosquito dip counts exceeded 300 and CDC traps were collecting 2000-5000 mosquitoes per night. After receiving considerable letters of complaint, the Governor, Senators: Merkley and Wyden and Representative DeFazio began calling the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to deal with the problem they had created and kill the mosquitoes. After many meetings and discussions the USFWS agreed to pay for the mosquito control program at least in part. On September 9, 2013, a town hall meeting was held where 150-200 people attended (most were against spraying). The Xerces Society spokesman was the first speaker and only 3 or 4 of 60 speakers were pro treatment. On September 12 a formulation of S-methoprene was applied to 300 acres of the marsh that will probably be the only treatment this season. What will happen next year?

There are bad guys and good guys that are in play with this marshland. The good guys are people like Jimmy Lunders, Jason Kinley, Angela Balint in the Northwest and Joe Conlin at AMCA. The bad guys are more numerous and do not need to be mentioned. USFWS has actually stepped up and paid for a treatment that protects neighbors of the marsh. Will they do it again?





**Eva Veronesi**, European Regional Director

West Nile virus (WNV, lineage-2) is continuing to spread in the European Region (Italy, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Greece and more recently Turkey). As of October 19, there have been 221 human cases of febrile form of WNV form have been reported in the Region (ECDC reference), and 3 deaths from the neuro-invasive form in Serbia and Greece, where last year this strain moved 250 km east of Thessaloniki. In last 3 years, 45 WNV cases have been identified from the Aegean coast as well as the European part (Thrace) of Turkey with 7 human deaths.

Of other arboviruses, Dengue virus (DENV-1) continues to spread in Madeira but no other cases have been reported also where in Europe. No new cases of chikungunya virus have been reported in the region since 2010. In Sweden, Ockelbo virus seems to have spread further north, with up to 26 new cases reported in the last weeks. In the endemic area in central Sweden no cases were reported probably due to the very dry 2013 season with low number of mosquitoes. Tick-borne encephalitis has increased in Germany, with case counts of 424 in 2011 and 195 in 2012.

New outbreaks of Bluetongue virus has been recorded in Italy (Sardinia and recently in the mainland across, in the Tuscany region) and France (Corsica). Schmallenberg virus (SBV) continue to spread all over Europe with up to 18 countries affected: Ireland, UK, Spain, France (including Corsica), Belgium, Netherland, Italy (including Sardinia) Switzerland, Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Slovenia, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Luxemburg. Continuous transmission of Usutu virus in Zurich (Switzerland) is causing severe mortality among birds in the zoo.

In 2011, 2012, Greece had experienced some double-digit cases of vivax malaria, but none so far in 2013. In neighboring Turkey, malaria cases went down to 11 in 2013, thanks to a successful anti-malaria campaign of launched by the Ministry of Health. However, this number could change as the human movement from the Middle East and Asian countries to Europe continues over Turkey.

For tularemia some 150 cases have been reported from the northernmost county of Norrbotten, This is the highest number ever recorded for this area. Moreover, the incidence of Lyme disease in the UK has been increasing in recent years which highest rates in Scotland.

The invasive mosquito species are continuing to spread around the Region, with new introductions of *Aedes albopictus* in Balearic Islands (Spain) and new foci in The Netherlands. In 2012, this species was identified in the European Part of Turkey with a small-established population. The breeding habitats were found very close to Greece border. *Aedes japonicus* is continuing to spread in Germany and Switzerland since 2008, and Austria and Slovenia 2011. *Aedes atropalpus* has no longer been detected in Europe. *Aedes koreicus* was first detected in Italy in 2011 where it is not spreading further north (Veneto region), while it has just been detected for the first time in the southern part of Switzerland. *Aedes aegypti* was eliminated in the Netherlands in 2010 but is still present in Madeira since 2004.

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We would also like to highlight here interesting platform, infrastructure, networks and meetings that are occurring in the European Region.

INFRAVEC ([http://www.infravec.eu/index.pl?pos=03.07&lbl=active\\_calls](http://www.infravec.eu/index.pl?pos=03.07&lbl=active_calls)) provides a platform or general resources access is available, which allows external users to have the opportunity to access a wide range of experimental activities (from high-throughput sequencing to genetic manipulation of mosquitoes, from bioinformatics analysis to mosquitoes confined release exercises) in the form of defined experimental work packages to be carried out at the infrastructure facilities.

The Centro Agricoltura Ambiente (CAA, Bologna Italy) is an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Collaborating Centre (2011-2016) capable to host young researchers sponsored by IAEA for work on mosquitoes sterile insect technique.

The Biosafety level 3 lab facilities (affiliated with the Institute of Laboratory Animal Science in Zurich - Switzerland) are available for collaboration and hosting of external researchers for its use (after attending an introductory course and by paying some bench fee).

As a useful platform on mosquito control, we would also like to remind here the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) “Guidelines for the surveillance of invasive mosquitoes in Europe” (<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu>).

There are 3 large-scale collaborative projects on vectors and vector-borne diseases in Europe. One of them is named VBORNET (the European network for arthropod vector surveillance for human public health). The main purpose of the VBORNET is to support ECDC in strengthening vector surveillance activities to improve preparedness towards vector-borne diseases in the European Union.

The second project is called EDENEXT (Biology and control of vector borne infections in Europe) supported by the European Union. The 4-year project started in 2010 with the collaboration of 46 institutions from 22 countries. The EDENext Programme aims to describe and model the processes leading to the introduction, establishment and spread of vectors and the diseases they transmit for the purpose of improving public health through acquisition of new knowledge and development of new tools and assist the design of appropriate control strategies where necessary.

The last project is a brand new named EURNEGVEC (European network for neglected vectors and vector-borne infections) supported by EU-COST. The main objective of the Action is to advance knowledge and to increase the medical and scientific awareness of the importance of implementation of new technologies and transdisciplinary research and surveillance tools in the field of vectors and zoonotic vector-borne pathogens (VBPs), all integrated under the “One Health” concept.



**Bulent Alten**, former European Regional Director also contributed to the above report.

## Students Corner

Owing to record student attendance and participation at the congress, for the first time the newsletter is devoting a new page, Student Corner, to be used for student news and matters of student interests. Student attendance was also visible at the SOVE Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, September 22, 2013. The student representative, Sabrina White, volunteered to arouse more interest among student about SOVE and its mission through social media such as as *facebook* or *twitter*. Ms. White was even quick in submitting her own story for the Student Corner.



*Sabrina White*

As an undergraduate entomology major, I have worked in several labs and conducted some of my own research but, at that time, I had not yet had the opportunity to attend a professional conference or give a presentation. However, quite serendipitously, the opportunity to give a poster presentation at SOVE presented itself while I was researching in Thailand. Through one of my professor's connections, I had been conducting a small research project using essential oils as repellents for *Aedes albopictus* at Kasetsart University in Bangkok. I noticed that some of the Thai students were working on abstracts for their oral presentations at SOVE and I quickly rushed to the professor and asked if I could also attend. SOVE sounded like a perfect fit for my interests and would allow me to gain valuable experience and connections before graduate school. So, with my professors blessing, I began emailing Dr. Mulla regarding the poster presentation. From the start, he was extremely supportive of my research and attendance. SOVE was even kind enough to help financially support my attendance.

After finishing my Thailand research and returning to Florida, I began a brutal class schedule, which was complimented by an overly ambitious research and volunteer schedule but I loved everything so it was all fun. The week before SOVE was quickly approaching and I printed my poster and packed my bags but still didn't really know what to expect. I left my last class on Friday and immediately drove to the airport to catch my evening flight. I was ready to do this: I had printed business cards, resumes, packed my poster and suit, highlighted exciting seminars on the schedule and was ready to seize every opportunity that presented itself. I wanted to be ready for everything, but I would never have expected that the SOVE 6th international congress would completely surpass my expectations.

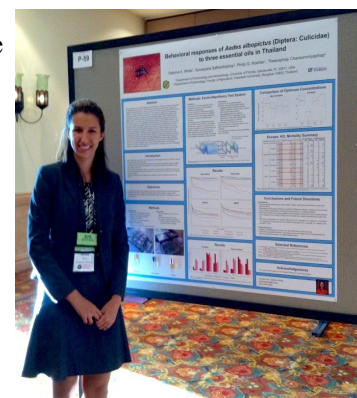
I met several of the Thai students in the LA airport and we drove together to La Quinta, California. As we arrived at the resort on Saturday, I was immediately blown away; it was utterly gorgeous. The resort was like a tropical paradise, every detail was considered and everyone greeted you with a genuine smile. This was off to a good start and it only got better. At the start of the conference, we were all gathered in the seminar room and it was an expected, yet very unexpected, scene. It was an entire room filled with brilliant and successful entomologists from all around the world. Everyone was eager to share their expertise with students and to learn more about them in return. It was a true information exchange where everyone learned and taught something. It was such an amazing experience. I was initially a little nervous about interacting with so many established professionals, I was afraid that my knowledge would be lacking and I would embarrass myself. However, I quickly learned that everyone was extremely friendly, open and happy to discuss his or her research. As I spoke with more people, I became less nervous and was eager to talk to and learn more about everyone that was there. There was even a very fun field excursion to the Joshua tree National Park, where I was able to see some beautiful California landscapes.

I met so many extraordinary people, professors and students alike. It really feels like I have become a member of the SOVE family.

Welcome to the family, Sabrina.

SOVE

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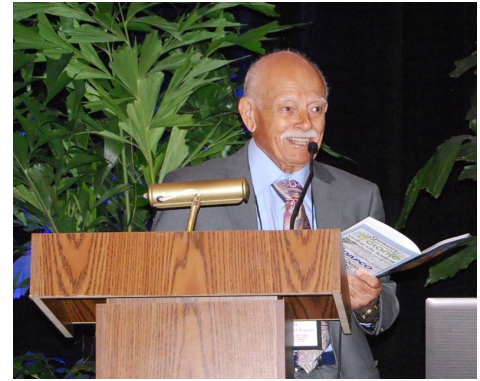
## Awards

News from the Florida Entomological Society: Florida Entomological Society presented the 2013 annual achievement award for research to Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director of Anastasia Mosquito Control District at its 96th annual meeting, Naples, Florida, July 14-17, 2013. The award is to recognize his outstanding contributions in developing integrated pest management strategies for Florida container-breeding mosquitoes.

### SOVE Awards

This year's awards went to the following individuals:  
Marija Zgomba, Distinguished Achievement Award  
Major Dhillon, Lifetime Service Award  
Gregory Lanzaro, Distinguished Service Award  
Robert Novak, Distinguished Service Award  
Congratulations!

## Congress Photos



Congress President, Mir Mulla opening the congress



Marija Zgomba



Major Dhillon



Walton to Norris—gavel change



Robert Novak



Gregory Lanzaro



Bulent Alten—announcing the awards



## *For Your Calendar*

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Mosquito and Vector Control of California  
2014 Annual Conference  
February 18 – 21  
San Diego, CA  
For more information, visit [www.mvcac.org](http://www.mvcac.org) .

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American Mosquito Control Association  
79th Annual Meeting  
February 2 – 6, 2014  
Seattle, WA  
For further information, go to [www.mosquito.org](http://www.mosquito.org).

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26th Vertebrate Pest Conference,  
an educational event for discussing and exchanging information on human-wildlife conflicts, will be held 3-6 March 2014 at the Hilton Waikoloa Village, Big Island, Hawaii. Abstracts for presentations should be submitted by 14 July 2013. Students are especially encouraged to submit, and may apply for a \$500 travel grant. See [www.vpconference.org](http://www.vpconference.org) or contact John Eisemann ([John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:John.D.Eisemann@aphis.usda.gov)) for details.  
(Dirk Van Vuren, Publicity Chair  
Vertebrate Pest Council, UC Davis)

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The 11th Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Workshop will be held in Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD), St. Augustine, Florida, March 25-27, 2014. The workshop is co-sponsored by AMCD and the US Department of Agriculture — Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology. For more information about the workshop and previous workshop programs, please visit our website at [www.amcdsjc.org](http://www.amcdsjc.org) or contact Dr. Rui-De Xue at [xueamcd@gmail.com](mailto:xueamcd@gmail.com). For workshop publications in Technical Bulletin of the Florida Mosquito Control Association, please visit the website at [www.floridamosquito.org](http://www.floridamosquito.org) .

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3rd International Forum for Surveillance and  
Control of Mosquitoes and Mosquito-borne Diseases  
organizers: Entomological Society of China, Asian Society  
of Vector Ecology and Mosquito Control, Beijing Institute  
of Microbiology and epidemiology  
May 27 – 31, 2013  
Suzhou, China  
For more information, contact Rudy Xue, [xueamcd@gmail.com](mailto:xueamcd@gmail.com)

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The next 19th European SOVE (eSOVE) meeting will be held in the splendid town of Thessaloniki in Greece during the second half of September 2014 (date to be confirmed). During the 2014 eSOVE conference, a 2-days course on monitoring, surveillance and control of vectors (mosquitoes, ticks, sandflies and *Culicoides*) will be organized in collaboration with EMCA, which it will be run by top experts in these fields. Details for registration and programme to be followed.

A joint meeting of VBORNET (the European network for arthropod vector surveillance for public health funded by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)) and EMCA (European Mosquitoes Control Association), will be held in Antwerp, Belgium (28th - 29th of November) on invasive mosquitoes and public health in the European context (<http://www.vbornet.eu>). (Courtesy: Eva Veronesi)



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**We are on the Web!**  
[www.sove.org](http://www.sove.org)

## About SOVE . . . . .

The Society for Vector Ecology is a professional organization formed in 1968 by a group of individuals involved in vector biology and control programs in California. The membership has since grown to represent an amalgamation of diverse research and operational and extension personnel from all over the world. The Society is committed to solving many complex problems encountered in the field of vector biology and control. Among these are the suppression of nuisance organisms and disease vectors through integration of control elements, such as environmental management, biological control, public education, and appropriate chemical control technology.

The Society publishes the biannual Journal of Vector Ecology that contains research and operational papers covering many phases of vector biology, ecology, and control. The Society also distributes a periodic newsletter and holds an annual conference in the months of September/October.

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