



# NuisanceNews

A bimonthly publication from the Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement Department

## In This Issue:

Hands On Mosquito Spring Workshop

Things You Can Do To Prevent Mosquito Breeding

Geocaching

Find us on Facebook

Have You Seen This Noxious Weed?

Recycling Matters

Meet Our New Mosquito Division Coordinator

Flood Areas Along Boise River Treated

Dates To Remember

## Hands On Mosquito Spring Workshop

Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement hosted the 2011 Mosquito Hands On Spring Workshop. The workshop was presented by Adapco, the world's largest distributor of innovative insecticide products, technology, and equipment to the professional mosquito control industry. Topics included mosquito biology, surveillance traps, larviciding logic, field dipping for larva, and application of larvacides. The workshop was a huge success and several counties from around the state were represented.



Dean Oster, BASF demonstrates proper larviciding techniques



Participants look for mosquito larva in a cattail field in Eagle.

Mosquito season is kicking into high gear and Ada County mosquito crews are hard at work treating 406 square miles of residential Ada County. It's not possible to eliminate all mosquito populations, so Ada County Mosquito Abatement uses an integrated pest management plan to make summer months safe and nuisance-free for Ada County residents. Workshops like this help keep Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement on the cutting edge of mosquito management technology and provides valuable training to our staff.

## Things you can do to prevent mosquito breeding:

1. Avoid over irrigation.
2. Remove excess vegetation from ponds.
3. Empty artificial containers.
4. Change water in bird baths and dog bowls.
5. Frequently clean roof gutters.
6. Fill tree holes.
7. Filter swimming pools regularly, and cover.
8. Cover cesspool and septic tanks.
9. Flush horse troughs out every 3 days.
10. Drain incidental standing water.





# Our Geocaching Program Is Back Up & Running

Following a long winter, our damaged and even missing geocaches have now been replaced. Geocaching is a treasure hunting game where you use a GPS to hide and seek containers with other participants in the activity. Geocaching.com is the listing service for geocaches around the world. We have caches carefully placed throughout the county. Each one specific to a particular noxious weed describing what they look like, where they might be located, and the effect they have on our environment. We have taken this very popular game and turned it into a way to educate the public. Please log on to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and look for us under Ada County Weed Mgmt. This is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and learn more about the noxious weeds that threaten our county. Happy Hunting!

*Hidden cache somewhere in Ada County*



## Find Us On Facebook



On April 15, 2011 we launched our new facebook page. This page is designed to keep Ada County residents updated on all the current events and announcements put out by Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement. This page will be updated frequently so please check back regularly for important information regarding weed control, pest management, and mosquito abatement issues. Please notify your friends about this new page and let them know the importance of controlling and managing these nuisances. Together we can all help make life in Ada County more enjoyable for everyone.



## Have You Seen This Noxious Weed?

### Yellow starthistle

Yellow starthistle is a winter annual with winged stems that can grow several feet tall. The plant's most distinguishing feature is sharp long spines that grow in bracts underneath the bright yellow disk flowers. Leaves are grayish to bluish-green with fine, cobwebby and short, stiff hairs. Yellow starthistle is toxic to horses, causing chewing disease. It grows in canyon grasslands, in rangelands, pastures, cultivated fields and in disturbed sites or along roadsides. Please notify our office if you come across this weed.

# Recycling Matters at WP&M



*The ISDA CROP truck visited our site this spring and turned our empty pesticide containers into plastic chips.*

Ada County Weed, Pest and Mosquito Abatement cares about our environment. We work with the Idaho Department of Agriculture, who offers a free program to chip clean empty plastic pesticide containers. CROP (Container Recycling Operation) is the name of the plastic pesticide container recycling program. Its purpose is to recycle non-degradable plastic pesticide containers rather than have them burned, illegally dumped, or placed in a landfill. Recycled chips are used in wood-substitute products such as pallets, fence posts, signs, speed bumps and parking lot stops. The containers must be triple rinsed. The CROP truck comes to our site a few times a year and chips HDPE #2 plastic. The chipper equipment can handle containers up to and including 5 gallons whole. Thirty-gallon and 55 gallon containers must be cut up prior to chipping. If the 5 gallon containers are thick-walled they must also be cut up prior to chipping. Donations enable the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to purchase this self-contained mobile chipping unit. The Agricultural Container Research Council (ACRC) subsidizes the program by purchasing the chips through a subcontractor, Ag Plastics Recycle (APR) at a subsidized price. To make the program self-sufficient and thereby ensure facilitation of the program at no cost, sponsors are needed for the CROP collection days.

## Meet Our New Mosquito Division Coordinator

welcome  
**LORI GIBBS**

Lori graduated last year from Boise State University with a degree in Environmental Biology. She also holds a BA with an emphasis in Cultural Anthropology. Lori's internships have included working as a Research and Lab Tech. for the USGS, Service Learning for the Department of Fish and Game, and a Research Assistant for the Department of Environmental Studies at Boise State. Graduate work includes Symbiosis, Sensory Ecology, Environmental Risk Assessment, Marine Geology, Elasmobranch and teleost Biology (I, II), Marine and Fresh Water Chemistry, Marine and Fresh Water Law, Marine and Fresh Water Ecology, and Marine and Fresh Water Pollution. Lori is a Boise Native who loves to swim, fish, hike, go camping and spend time with family and friends. She has one son who was born in the same hospital room she was at St. Lukes Hospital in Boise. Lori is very excited to be working for Ada County as the Mosquito Division Coordinator and is very happy to be providing the community with a public service to identify mosquito vectors that may carry West Nile Virus. Lori considers it an honor to work with experts in the field who will be guiding her progress as she transitions into her new position with Ada County. She is a great addition to our team.

*To learn more about the noxious weeds found in Ada County, visit [www.adaweb.net/weedcontrolguide](http://www.adaweb.net/weedcontrolguide). This PDF document takes time to download. The handy guide is filled with detailed photographs and tips on effective mechanical and cultural weed control methods as well as a chemical control time line.*

# Mosquito Abatement Crews

## Treat Flooded Areas Along The Boise River

On May 10th and 11th, Ada County Mosquito Abatement crews treated over a hundred flooded sites along the Boise River. Flood waters are creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes and once temperatures remain consistently warm, the mosquito population could explode. In 2006 and 2007, Ada County faced a similar situation where high numbers of mosquitoes were recorded following weeks of flooding along the Boise River. Learning from past experiences and to combat this potential outbreak head on, crews treated areas from Barber Park to Star. These areas were first inspected for larva and once found, product was applied. All products used are biologically safe for the environment and are specifically formulated to treat mosquitoes at their larva stage. They are safe for fish, plants and other aquatic life. Treating mosquitoes at their earliest stages of development helps ensure low mosquito counts this summer. The river will be monitored every 2 to 3 weeks and retreated when necessary. This summer, residents who frequent the green belt and who own nearby homes, should benefit from this effort.



*Flooded locations like these along the Boise River are target areas for abatement crews and will continue to be monitored throughout the summer.*

### Dates To Remember:

Noxious Weed Awareness Week

June 13th - June 17th 2011

Mosquito Abatement Awareness Week

June 26th - July 2nd 2011