

**Luzerne Conservation District****2026 Mosquito Team:****Program Coordinator: Lauren Holder**

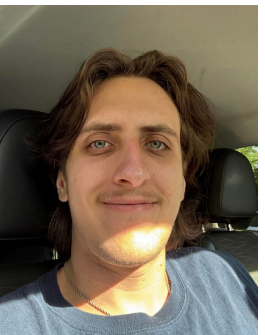
This is Lauren's fourth summer with the MDC Program and first summer as coordinator. Originally from Western North Carolina, she has a degree in Environmental Studies with a Concentration in Ecology from University of North Carolina at Asheville. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, knitting and playing pinball.

**Program Technician: Julia Graziano**

This is Julia's first summer working with the MDC Program. A NEPA native, she attended Wilkes University and is pursuing a career in Wildlife and Conservation Biology. When she's not catching mosquitoes, she can be found hiking, fishing, and drawing.

**Program Technician: Logan Dickson**

This is Logan's first season working with the MDC Program. Originally from Fort Walton Beach, Florida, he graduated from Wilkes University with a degree in Environmental Science with a focus on Biology and a minor in Geology. He aims to become a marine biologist in the future. He enjoys nature in his free time.

**Mosquito Season off to an Early Start!**

With the early season warm temperatures paired with the county's inundated floodplains, the Mosquito-Borne Disease Control District staff, assisted by DEP staff, started large scale larval treatments in April to avoid an early emergence of mosquitoes. Staff treated approximately 17 acres of larval habitat so far this season.



An early season backpack larval treatment

**MDC Program Contact Information:**

**(570) 674-7991x9**  
**lauren@luzcd.org**



www.luzernecd.org | 570-674-7991

## New Sprayer Purchase:



To better control the mosquito populations in Luzerne, the MDC program is purchasing a second ULV truck sprayer. This will allow us to have more efficient and thorough coverage when mosquito numbers are high and disease is detected. This purchase will allow us to have two trucks conducting control on the same night.

## Educational Event Highlight

The Luzerne Conservation District MDC Program tabled at the "Nature Discovery Day along the Susquehanna" sponsored by the Riverfront Parks Committee at Nesbitt Park. Approximately 500 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders came from local schools to learn about their local environment. Staff brought live mosquito larvae and adults so students could familiarize themselves with their appearance and be on the lookout for them around their home.



Students smell "stink water" which is used to attract the mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus, photo courtesy of Mary Therese Biebel from The Times Leader

Students learned about the trap types and how to protect themselves from mosquitoes and ticks. Staff brought pelts sprinkled with poppy seeds so students could familiarize themselves with just how small deer tick nymphs are.

## Cleanup Highlight

The Luzerne Conservation District co-organized a cleanup event with EPCAMR to remove tires and trash from along Pine Run Road and Pine Creek in Hanover Twp. Over 30 volunteers collected over 60 bags of trash, 120 tires, rugs, metal and other illegally dumped items.



The cleanup restored the natural aesthetics of the area while eliminating mosquito breeding habitat.



Visit DEP's Vector Management page for more information and season updates!

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/integration/vector-management>



**LUZERNE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**