

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

By: Philip LaBerge

Today I met with Carol Primeaux with the City of Coppell Environmental Health Department. I had called her and asked her to meet with me at our spillway and address some of our homeowner's concerns about mosquitos. Here are some bullet points of what she said:

- Mosquitos only breed in water that is still, stagnant, and in the shade.
- They do not breed in water that is clear, that is wide open in the sun.
- If the water is moving, mosquitos will not breed.
- She was not concerned about mosquitos breeding in the pond.
- Mosquitos with West Nile Virus don't usually appear until August or September.
- Mosquitos breed often on homeowners property in bird baths, buckets that collect water, and any place with stagnant water in the shade.
- The species of mosquitoes which breed in the Spring and Summer (April through July) do not carry West Nile. Those mosquitos are referred to as "nuisance mosquitos."
- She had with her a water cup on a long stick and took about 10 water samples from small pool of water and grass along the spillway behind 851 to 839 Applecross Court. She did not find evidence of **ANY** mosquito larvae.
- They are easy to see if you collect a cup full of water. If you look closely, they are about 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch and will be swimming around.
- When we walked down the sidewalk behind 824 Kilbridge, she took a sample from the two drainage pipes that go under the sidewalk to the spillway. She saw one mosquito larva swimming around. The larva are referred to as "wigglers."
- I told her that we were letting the grass grow along the spillway in order to slow down the flow rate of the water coming down the hill. She said it would be better to mow those areas so that they dry out quicker.
- She agreed that grading a ditch or putting in a concrete v-ditch or sidewalk would help drain the spillway better in that area.
- We then drove over to Turnberry and walked back along the spillway behind 752 to 736 Kilbridge. There was no evidence of standing water, but we have had a number of dry days.
- She is happy to address our homeowner's concerns. She gave me a box of mosquito dunks to throw in areas where we thought mosquitos might be breeding.
- I asked her to attend our Spring Fling this year which will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and talk to all of us.
- Her contact info is:
- **Carol Primeaux**  
**Environmental Health Specialist**, phone: 972-462-5177, [cprimeaux@coppelltx.gov](mailto:cprimeaux@coppelltx.gov)
- Web site: <http://www.coppelltx.gov/government/departments/environmental-health>