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On World Mosquito Day & Beyond FKMCD Spreads the Message: Mosquitos in the Keys are a Public Health Issue

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD) is using the occasion of **WORLD MOSQUITO DAY, 2023** (Aug 20) to remind visitors and residents in the Florida Keys that aside from being an unwanted nuisance, certain mosquito species have the potential to carry and effectively spread multiple diseases.

The Florida Keys are home to more than 50 species of mosquitos including the ***Aedes aegypti*** which is a known vector of Yellow Fever, Dengue Fever, Zika and Chikungunya.

On Sunday, WORLD MOSQUITO DAY, FKMCD staffed an informational table at the John Pennekamp State Park Welcome Center in Key Largo. Visitors were able view ***Aedes aegypti*** mosquito larvae up close and learn first hand why that particular mosquito is a disease threat that thrives in local, urban settings.

By making a thorough inspection of their property, visitors and residents of the Keys can greatly reduce the likelihood that their property will become a breeding ground for potentially dangerous biting mosquitoes, such as ***Aedes aegypti***, which prefers to live around human hosts.

FKMCD reminds residents and visitors that a handful of simple tasks can greatly diminish the chances of contracting dengue or other mosquito-borne diseases:

- Walk around property and dump ANY standing water.

- Cover or turn over **anything** that might catch and hold water during a rain.
- Flush bromeliads and other water-holding plants every few days.
- Wear long sleeves and pants if going outside.
- Keep homes mosquito-free by checking and repairing all screens.
- Keep doors and windows closed.
- Use EPA-approved insect repellent when going outdoors.

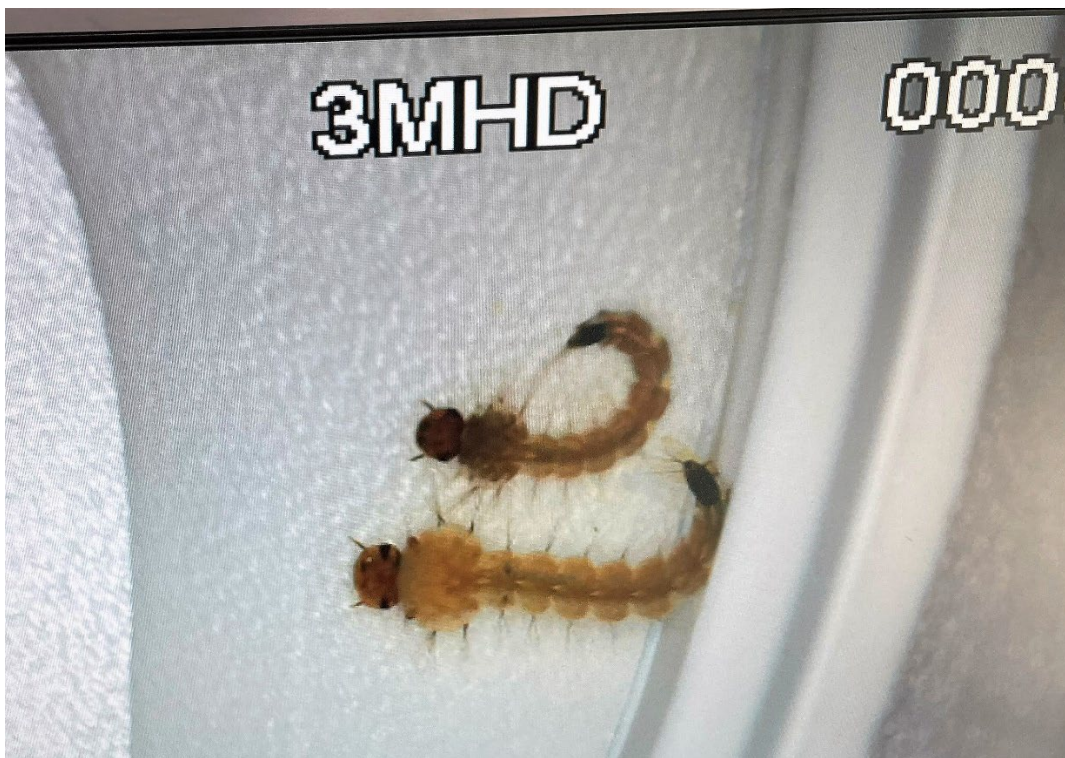
2023 has already been a prolific year for mosquito-borne disease in the state of Florida. Locally originated cases of malaria have been recorded for the first time in two decades near Sarasota. Closer to the Florida Keys, neighboring Miami-Dade continues to record cases of Dengue Fever.

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District remains ready to help with any mosquito issue a Monroe County resident may have. Service requests can be submitted by calling **305-292-7190** or online at keysmosquito.org.

About the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

The mission of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District is to control the mosquito population using the most effective methods, techniques, equipment and insecticides; thus enhancing the quality of life for all residents and reducing the possibility of mosquito-transmitted diseases.

Follow FKMCD on Twitter at [@FIKeysMosquito](https://twitter.com/FIKeysMosquito) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FIKeysMosquito). For more information about the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, please visit www.keysmosquito.org.



Michael Boehmle, FKMCD Biologist educates young visitors to John Pennekamp State Park about the life cycle of the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

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