

MIFD Report
Lyme Disease Prevention Program
May 26, 2018

I: Purpose:

- Good Morning, I'd like to update you on the MIFD Lyme Disease Prevention Program.

II: Current Status:

Earlier this winter we emailed the sign-up information twice to all residents for this year's program and for residents to report incidents of tick transmitted diseases in 2017. We received a total of 131 responses to our emailing representing a 70% response rate. This response rate is down somewhat from last year and our historic average of 80%. Results are as follows:

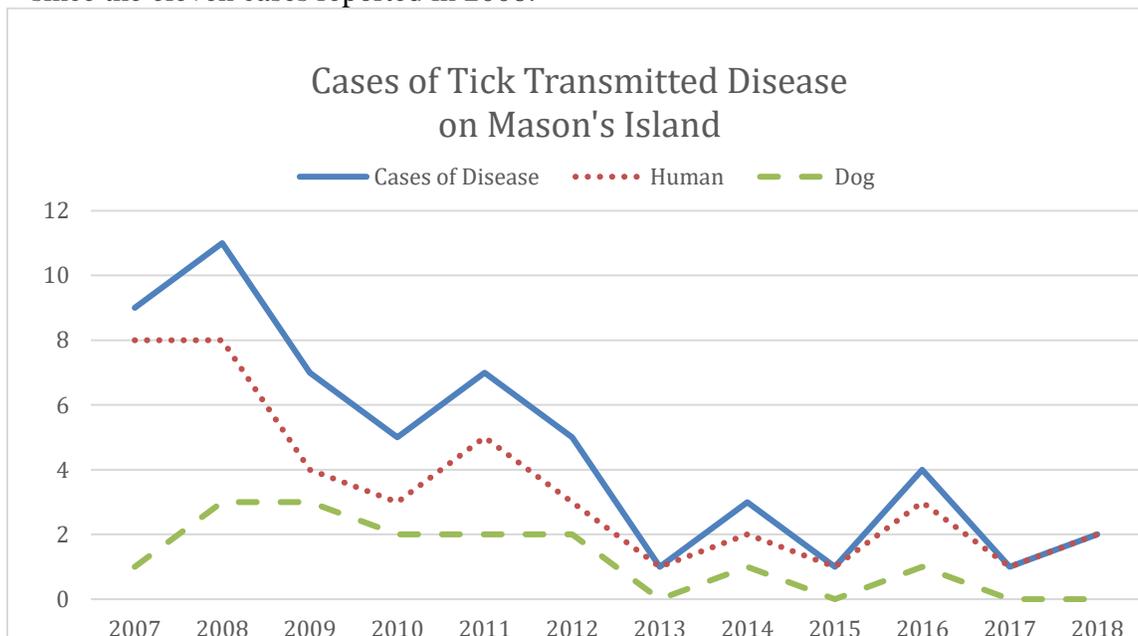
- SeaScape Lawn Care Inc. and BioTech Pest Control will be treating a total of 110 properties this year compared to 107 last year.
- Another 18 property owners reported they had engaged in some other form of tick control.
- In addition, MIFD contracts for treatment of the trails through the Island, the Skiff Boat launch area and the community garden.
- **This brings the total number of MIFD properties with tick control to 128 or 64% of properties.**

This coverage rate is on target with our historic average of 65%. For those of you who have chosen to not treat your properties, please consider engaging in some form of tick control. The more universal our tick control is, the more we are all protected from Lyme and other tick borne diseases.

SeaScape began the first application of the MIFD tick control program on May 8th. There will be two additional SeaScape applications this season; one in mid to late summer and one in early fall. Bio Tech completed their 1st the same week and will do one more in late fall. Biotech is now using a cedar oil based product for their organic treatment.

III: Survey Results for 2017:

There were two reported cases of tick transmitted disease for the 2017 season. No pets were reported to have contracted Lyme disease. These results are consistent with prior years and the significant reduction since the eleven cases reported in 2008.



III: The 4-Poster Program:

- Mary McAuley continues to run the “4-Poster Deer Treatment System” on Mason’s Island and we are 9 ½ years into our original 3-year scientific study. Data indicates the 4-Poster Program, begun in the fall of 2008, has significantly enhanced our Lyme Disease Prevention Program, however CT DEEP testing was discontinued in 2012.
- The 4-Poster system is designed to kill the adult ticks on deer’s ears, heads, necks, and shoulders where 90% of adult ticks are attached. The device uses corn to attract deer and, as the deer feed on the corn, they rub their head against EPA approved pesticide-impregnated rollers.

IV: Research:

- Earlier this month the CDC reported that tick, mosquito and flea diseases tripled in the US since 2004 and that nine additional diseases have been identified. We continue to research the issue of tick control with the goal of developing the best possible community wide program. Our primary goal continues to be to have a program that is 1) effective at preventing Lyme Disease, 2) affordable and 3) environmentally neutral. Over the years, we have had conversations with various tick scientists asking for guidance as to how to proceed. All have recommended tick avoidance, which they refer to as “Integrated Tick Management” (ITM).

V. Recommended Actions for Homeowners:

For homeowners, they recommend creating a tick-safe zone on their landscapes:

- Selective use of insecticides combined with a comprehensive property management program
- Property owners should continue to exercise good tick management techniques such as
 - Treat pets with tick control products,
 - Wear protective clothing and shower after working outside,
 - Keep areas under bird feeders clean,
 - Place three foot wide barrier of wood chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas to restrict tick migration into recreational areas, and
 - Remove leaf litter, brush and weeds at the edge of lawns.
 - Check yourselves, your children and your pets frequently for ticks and tick bites.

VI: Going Forward:

- Our plan is to continue with the current MIFD program through 2018.
- We anticipate some changes for next year’s program. We will request that you pay your tick tax by check made out to MIFD at the time you sign up. We wish to consolidate and simplify the number of emails and tax billing steps. I will be asking for volunteers to help with follow-up of property owners that we do not hear from promptly. Please be sure that MIPOA has your best email address.
- Also, I will be working to get the MIPOA website updated with the latest program details.
- I want to thank Mary McAuley for her guidance and Lydia Herd for all her follow-up with individuals and the tax billing process. Lydia’s help this year was invaluable to making the program a success.
- Feel free to contact me with questions: Jean M. Anderson

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