

# NC Environmental Health Brief

Volume I, Issue III

Third Quarter 2016

Published by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health



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Edited by: Jennifer Stewart	

## Wake County Receives National Award for Food Safety

With more than one million residents living in Wake County now and countless visitors coming here each year, the safety of restaurants, food trucks and other food establishments in our community is vital for the health of all who eat and work at these locations. Wake County's Food, Lodging and Institution Section understands that, and recently received the [2016 Samuel J. Crumbine Award for Excellence in Food Protection](#) for its commitment to inspecting these food establishments.

"It is an honor to receive the prestigious Samuel J. Crumbine Award for our program's commitment to excellence in food safety," said Wake County Environmental Health and Safety Director Andre Pierce. "The goal of serving safe and wholesome food can only be achieved in collaboration with industry partners, policy makers and regulators. This award is a testament to those relationships that support and promote food safety every day for citizens and visitors to Wake County."

The Samuel J. Crumbine Award is a national honor given annually to local environmental health jurisdictions that demonstrate unsurpassed achievement in providing outstanding food protection services to their communities. As of Jan. 1, there were 3,207 food establishments to inspect in the county, including restaurants, food stands, nursing home kitchens and school lunchrooms. Wake County has 26 environmental health specialists who inspect these establishments with the goal of reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses. The county's Food Lodging Institution Section also participates in the [Voluntary FDA Retail Program Standards](#), which focus on quality improvement,

and has contributed to the success of the program.

The Samuel J. Crumbine Award is supported by the Conference for Food Protection, in cooperation with the American Academy of Sanitarians, American Public Health Association, Association of Food and Drug Officials, Foodservice Packaging Institute, International Association for Food Protection, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Environmental Health Association and National Sanitation Foundation International.

Wake County received the Crumbine Award at the Annual Educational Conference of the National Environmental Health Association June 16, 2016 in San Antonio, Texas.



Pictured from left: Andre Pierce, EH&S Division Director, Christy Klaus, EHS, Food Lodging Institution Section, Frances Breedlove, Food Lodging Institution Section Chief, Bob Custard, President of the Board of Directors for National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

## Employee Spotlight: Terry Chappell, Regional Environmental Health Specialist, Pools, Tattoos, and State Institutions Program

Please tell us about your experience in

**public/environmental health?** I started as an Environmental Health Specialist in Franklin County in 1985. In 1989, I began working in Wake County. While in Wake County, I worked in soils, lead investigations, indoor air quality, then moved into Food Plan Review in 1997. From 2006 until my retirement, I was the Section Chief for the Plan Review and Recreational Sanitation Program, which includes pool and restaurant plan review.

**What is your favorite memory from your previous job?**

Too numerous to count! My career was filled with very memorable events and positive experiences. Of course, there were a few instances I wouldn't mind forgetting.

**What are your short term goals in this position?**

This newsletter is published to keep you updated on EH news and topics of interest. Suggestions are welcome

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To learn everything I can about the tattoo program and inspecting state institutions. I'm pretty well versed in the swimming pool program, but Wake County had its own rules.

**What is at least one long term goal you have for this position?** To help improve the program to be the best it can be. Help the team in every way that I can.

**What do you like best about living in NC?**

I can get to the mountains or the coast from my home in a few hours. The weather here in the winter is tolerable.

**Tell us about one of your hobbies and why you enjoy it?**

Golf. I love everything about golf.



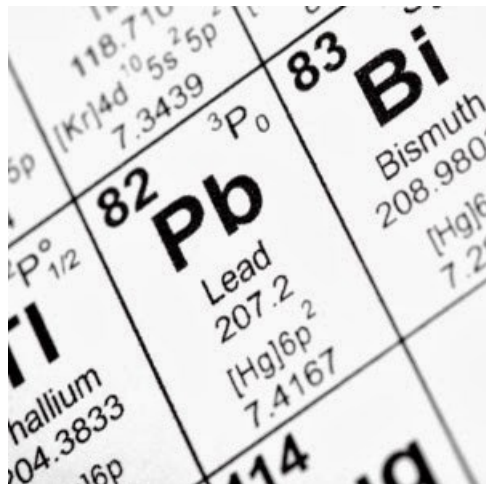
## NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Updates

### Lead Trainings Serve Clinical and Environmental Health Professionals

Throughout the summer and fall of this year, staff in the NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which is housed in the NC DPH Environmental Health Section, are promoting the program's educational opportunities for clinical and environmental health professionals. Over the summer, nurses, health

educators, case managers, and child care employees attended trainings hosted by the NC CLPPP outreach staff in Union, Chatham and Lenoir Counties. Participants were introduced to lead exposure sources, the health effects, and strategies for educating families

on ways to reduce lead exposure. Data manager Tena Hand and public health epidemiologist Kim Gaetz are hosting a series of webinars to assist clinical and environmental health professionals in navigating and entering data into the NCLEAD Surveillance System. NC LEAD is modeled after the NC Electron-



ic Disease Surveillance System (NCEDSS) to monitor the incidence of childhood lead poisoning in North Carolina and inform prevention efforts. NCLEAD provides direct access to clinical and environmental data and immediate notification to public health professionals who provide clinical and environmental follow-up for children with elevated blood lead levels. The first webinar was conducted on August 30 and can be viewed at <http://nchealthyhomes.com/resources/>. The next webinars will be conducted live on November 17 and December 2 between 8:30 and 9:30 am. NC CLPPP staff are working with the NC Environmental Health State of Practice (SOP) Committee to promote and conduct the annual Lead Investigation and Remediation SOP Training at the NC Zoo on October 26-28. Information on cost and registration can be found at <http://ncehsop.org/cms-sop/>.

### North Carolina Environmental Health Programs Recognized at NEHA Conference

This summer the NC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (NC CLPPP) had an opportunity to showcase the work of state and local partner health agencies in addressing lead exposure among small children and pregnant women. The Wake County Lead Program has been a leader in the state in identifying sources of high levels of lead in some spices and folk art. Environmental health specialist Christy Klaus has partnered with state public health epidemiologist Kim Gaetz and other members of the NC Lead and Healthy Homes Outreach Task Force to explore strategies for preventing exposure to contaminated spices and folk art among families entering the United States for the first time. Because of this work, Klaus was invited, as an NC CLPPP partner, to present at the joint annual National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Education Conference and HUD's Healthy Homes Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Klaus and Neasha Graves, NC CLPPP outreach coordinator and UNC Institute for the Environment environmental health educator, conducted an interactive session during the conference, sharing insight on state and local collaborations in North Carolina and helping programs in other states brainstorm strategies for building similar partnerships. Klaus was among fifteen professionals awarded NEHA scholarships, and during the conference she joined Wake County Environmental Health and Safety Director Andre Pierce and other colleagues on stage as the recipient agency of the annual Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award.

### NC CLPPP Partners with OEEB to Protect Children from Take Home Exposures

In the past several months, the CLPPP, along with OEEB and other partners, investigated several instances of take-home lead exposure associated with manufacturer's in NC that utilize or produce lead. If you have such industries in your county, please provide them with resources such as OSHA's **Lead: If**

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### You Work Around Lead, Don't Take it Home!

**QuickCard** (available at <https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.html>) to help prevent take-home lead exposure or contact the NC OEEB to assist with worker education. If you find instances of take home lead exposures in your childhood lead investigations, please note the company's name and/or type of work in NCLEAD or in your lead investigation report.

## Employee Spotlight: Josh Jordan, Regional Environmental Health Specialist, Food Protection Program

**Please tell us about your experience in public/environmental health?** I started at Davidson County, in February of 2008, with the on-site wastewater group in the health department. I was eager to learn as much as I could and was authorized in on-site wastewater and in private drinking water wells. At the end of 2009, I was given an opportunity to cross-train in the food, lodging and institution group. I was authorized for food, lodging and institution sanitation, child care sanitation, and swimming pools in 2010. I was later authorized for childhood lead poisoning prevention the beginning of 2011. It was a great advantage for me to work in the on-site group before working with the food group. It not only provided me with more knowledge, but allowed me to work closely with all employees of the health department. I always felt that I was able to better serve the public with having the multi-disciplinary training. Davidson County afforded me many opportunities to better myself professionally and to become a better leader. In 2013, I began work in the public health preparedness field and was able to meet numerous great people from not only my county, but the State. I also started my term as Treasurer with West Piedmont Environmental Health Section (WPEHS) that same year (currently finishing my term as President). Being involved with WPEHS has been excellent for networking and has allowed me to become better acquainted with regional staff as well industry partners. During my last couple of years with Davidson County, I became involved with Quality Improvement (QI) efforts within the department. This was such a rewarding experience to work and learn from others in the health department about how they serve the public. While working on QI projects, I realized the bigger picture of public health by focusing on how to improve customer service. I have only been in the public/environmental health field for 8 ½ years, but have accomplished so many things, met many great people that have taught me how to become not only a better Environmental Health Specialist, but a better servant for the greater public health.

### **What is your favorite memory from your previous job?**

I have so many memories and stories, especially funny inspection ones that I cannot share in public. My favorite memory

would have to be of my co-workers. They are a great group of people; all caring and hard working. They have supported me through the birth of my children (2 boys and 1 girl), times of need and my career changes. I have gotten to know them very well over the years and will miss working with them on a daily basis.

**What are your short term goals in this position?** I want to get out to the counties in my territory and see what I can do to help as soon as possible. I want to get to know my team-



mates better. I want to be standardized (this is something that I was just getting ready to begin in Davidson Co.).

**What is at least one long term goal in this position?** I want to help in making the State great and a place where people look with confidence for expertise. I want to help bridge gaps between different State agencies such as the NC Department of

Agriculture and the Division of Public Health by networking with those agencies and better understanding their duties.

**What do you like best about living in NC?** What's not to like about living in NC? Living here my whole life may make me partial, but the fact that my family and I can be in the mountains or at the beach within a few hours is priceless.

### **Tell us about one of your hobbies and why you enjoy it?**

I'm an avid sports fan. I love the Wolfpack, the Panthers and the Cubs (WGN Superstation growing up). I love to coach my kids' sports teams and play the occasional golf game, pickup basketball game or softball tournament. I may be a little bit competitive

## NC Well Owner's Guide

by Andrew Morgan

The Well Owner's Guide is now available at no charge for well contractors and county environmental health personnel to distribute to well owners. Well owners may also request copies for themselves. The Guide is an informative 2-pocket folder with room for two business cards that helps a well owner keep all their well-related information together while providing general information about wells in North Carolina and contact information.

Well contractors and local health departments may request 10-100 copies of the Well Owner's Guide. Photos of the guide are posted on [www.wellcontractors.nc.gov](http://www.wellcontractors.nc.gov) on the "Publications" page.

To request copies email staff at

[Joanne.Rutkofske@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Joanne.Rutkofske@dhhs.nc.gov),

[Andrew.Morgan@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Andrew.Morgan@dhhs.nc.gov) or call 919-707-5882.

## Collaborative Training Efforts in the Food Protection Program

By: Veronica Bryant, REHS

With the Food Protection Program at full staffing level for the first time since the three additional positions were created, the Food Protection Environmental Health Regional Specialists (EHRS) have been able to spend time developing short, targeted training to help REHS with specific field concerns.

Delivered for the first time in July, a short course with the working title "HACCP Verification for Regulators" was debuted and delivered for approximately 15 CE in Fayetteville, NC. This course was designed by the regional staff involved in the Variance Committee as a regulatory follow-up to the "Validation and Verification of HACCP Plans" course developed by Dr. Ben Chapman. Where Dr. Chapman's course, as well as the FD312 Special Processes Course offered by FDA, were able to provide the scientific and academic framework needed to recognize specialized process and work through a HACCP Plan, this developed short course was designed to fill in the regulatory gaps for REHS. This course was developed with the specific objectives to provide guidance and support for the approval process, the verification visit compliance and enforcement components of regulating an establishment that participates in a specialized process. Using the Turning Point technology that was able to be purchased with FDA Retail Program Standards grant money, this course was able to be more interactive, with active polling of

participants to get involvement from all audience members. This course was successful and will be offered in Wake County in December.

The EHRS were able to help facilitate a tabletop exercise for a foodborne illness outbreak in July. This tabletop exercise was developed specifically in conjunction with Wilkes County to fulfill requirements of the FDA Retail Program Standards. A simulated outbreak was followed by members of the Wilkes County Epi Team, as well as some participants from other counties. In this tabletop exercise, the participants were able to engage in interview exercises, discussion of sampling protocol, and line list review. There was also a sample environmental health onsite investigation video developed with the help of Gaston County Environmental Health Specialists to simulate the actual investigation process and how to interpret the findings. This course was also very successful, and is to be offered in Cumberland County in September.

As you can see, there is so much collaboration occurring to meet the needs of REHS throughout North Carolina. Anyone with a training need is encouraged to work together with your Environmental Health Regional Specialists, as well as other counties, to find collaborative and creative ways to accomplish this! If your jurisdiction is interested in hosting one of these trainings please contact Veronica Bryant ([veronica.bryant@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:veronica.bryant@dhhs.nc.gov)) or Jennifer Moore ([jennifer.e.moore@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:jennifer.e.moore@dhhs.nc.gov)).

Online at <http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/>

## Zika Virus and Mosquito Spraying

By: Jennifer Stewart, MS

Recently South Carolina made the news by performing aerial spraying for mosquitos and inadvertently causing a bee kill. Florida continues mosquito control efforts around the transmission of Zika virus in two separate locations in the state. When these events make the news the public naturally becomes concerned with what could be happening in their own backyard. Here is an update on Zika and mosquito activities occurring in North Carolina.

NC has no cases of Zika virus that have been acquired in the state. Cases continue to occur in persons who were exposed outside of the country and have travelled back home to NC. Women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant should determine if the location they are planning to visit has active spread of Zika virus prior to making travel plans. A list of places where Zika virus is being transmitted can be found here: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-information>

The mosquito survey in NC continues as we have not finished this year's mosquito season. At this point no *Aedes aegypti* species mosquitos have been trapped in NC. *Aedes aegypti* is the species of mosquito responsible for the spread of Zika in Central and South America, as well as in southern Florida. A related species *Aedes albopictus* is present in large numbers in NC. This species is felt to be capable of spreading Zika virus but not as efficient. To date, *Aedes albopictus* has not been found to be spreading Zika virus in any location. The NC Department of Health and Human Services in conjunction

with university and local health department partners continue to monitor the situation. Final results of the mosquito survey will be published as soon as it is available.

Mosquito spraying in NC is done under the auspices of the local health director. NCDHHS does not perform any mosquito spraying activities. Some LHD or county municipal agencies do perform spraying or fogging to control mosquitos. Aerial spraying has been done in NC in the past. This spraying was done almost exclusively following widespread flooding events. There is no spraying (either aerial or truck mounted) occurring in NC to control Zika vector mosquitos. Some spraying does occur to control 'nuisance' types of mosquitos or salt-marsh and floodwater mosquitos. This summer has been unusually dry, and many LHD's are reporting they have sprayed far less than usual. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture runs a voluntary apiary registry to allow beekeepers to register the location of their hives. That link can be found here: <http://ncagr.gov/spcap/bee/>

Local beekeepers are encouraged to contact the LHD to determine when and where spraying is occurring, and to inform them of the location of their hives.

Questions about Zika virus or mosquito control can be directed to Jennifer Stewart at [jennifer.stewart@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:jennifer.stewart@dhhs.nc.gov).

