

October is the time of year for vibrant autumn colors, scary costumes for Halloween, and the end of mosquito surveillance for 2023 in Beaver County.

In October, we set 6 BG Sentinel traps and collected 327 mosquitoes.

We conducted 1 adult mosquito control event via backpack spray.

We had 1 call of concern for mosquitoes.

The call of concern stated that there were tons of large mosquitoes flying out of the lawn and clinging to windows and the sides of homes. Investigating the area resulted in finding the culprit, Craneflies!

Although they do look similar to an extra-large mosquito, they are harmless to humans. The adult Crane Fly only has a life span of approximately 10-15 days and although they look intimidating and seem to be everywhere, they do not bite and are actually mating. Crane flies are usually found in moist woodlands and along streams but can also be found in moist lawns where larvae hatch out and the adults look to mate. They mate in the spring and early fall and are only around for a short time, they are a great source of food for birds, frogs, and other insects.

A good way to differentiate between Crane flies and mosquitoes are mosquitoes are much smaller and mosquitoes have a proboscis (elongated sucking mouthpart) with which the females bite us. This is not present or much reduced on the crane fly.



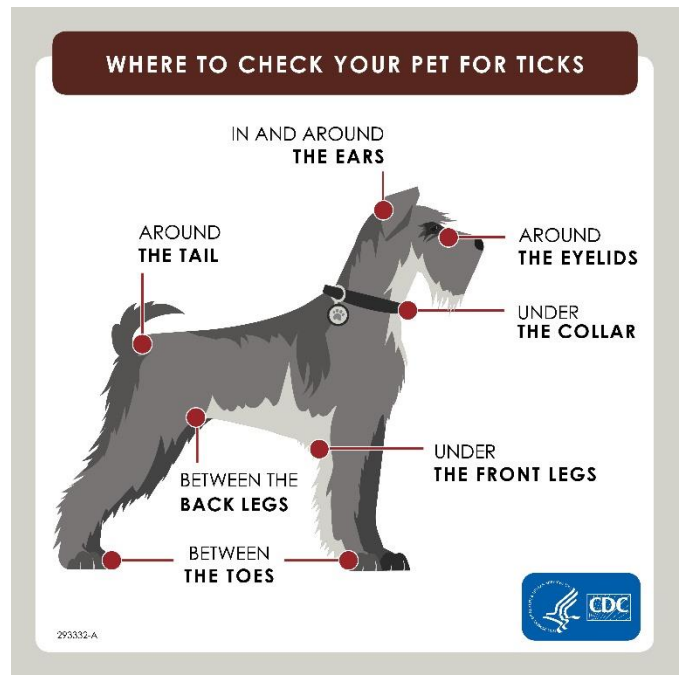
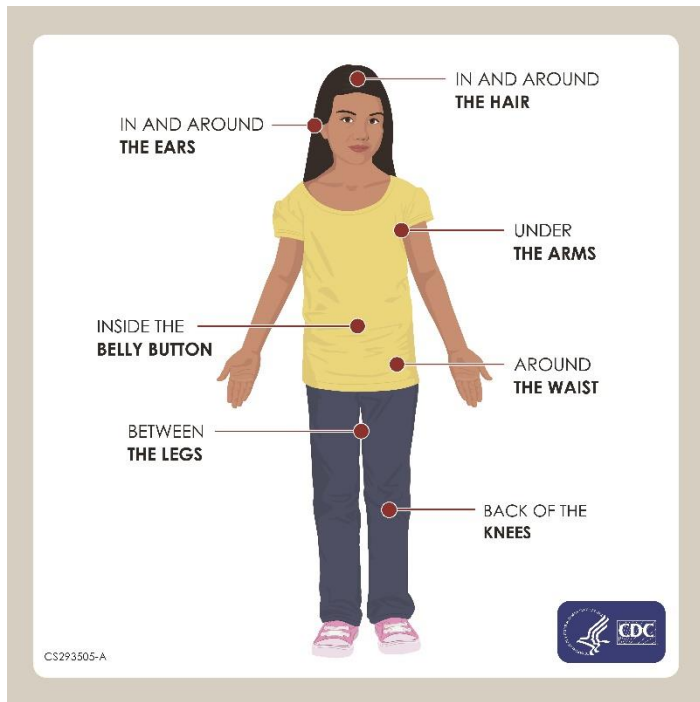
Crane Fly



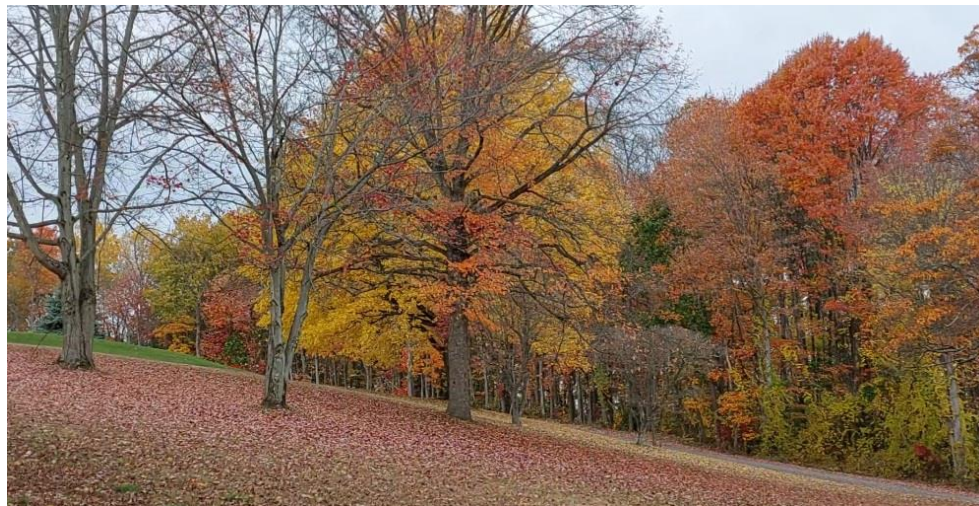
Mosquito

Beaver County Conservation District is also participating in winter tick collections in collaboration with PA DEP. In October, we have conducted 5 tick drags across the county and have collected approximately 97 ticks. With the unusually warm October temperatures, more people are out enjoying the fall leaves and taking walks in the woods and ticks are out and active. We would just like to remind everyone to stay safe from ticks and the diseases they can transmit, like Lyme Disease, and protect yourself during outdoor activities.

- Wear Long sleeved shirts and long pants, with pants tucked into socks.
- Wear insect repellent, like DEET or treat clothing with Permethrin.
- Do a tick check when returning indoors, don't forget to check pets too!



We would also like to remind everyone that we have free Tick Kits available at the District Office. They are offered with help from funding through the PA DEP and the West Nile Virus grant. It is a small zip pouch that can be taken on walks and hikes and contains tweezers, repellent wipes, bandages, etc.



Have a beautiful fall!