

Just scratching the surface?

63 mosquito types identified

By Lem Messee
staff writer

Here's something you may be itching to find out:

There are 63 identified species of mosquito in Michigan.

That's a kind of offhand fact you can toss out and say "Hm" before you move on to something tougher, like scratching your ear, maybe.

But it's not the kind of thing that's easy to find out for yourself. Elizabeth Waffle, a parasitologist at Eastern Michigan University, is living proof. She's interested in finding out how

outdoors

many of those 63 species of mosquito carry heartworm, a potentially fatal disease of dogs.

She does it by taking two dogs out and sitting around waiting for them — and her — to get bit.

Dr. Waffle does this at four sites on 15 undeveloped acres near Milan, three of the sites wooded and one grassy. So

far, she has identified four species of mosquitoes new to Michigan. She plans to continue her work "indefinitely."

"We just don't know enough about the basic behavior of mosquitoes in nature," she says.

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O&E series takes national award

An Observer & Eccentric series of stories, "Group Homes: Suburban Conflict," won a national honor recently for increasing public understanding of people who are mentally retarded.

The articles, which were published Feb. 5, were written by staff writers Leonard Poger, Sherry Kahan and Margaret Miller. The series was planned by Poger, editor of the Garden City Observer. Poger

wrote about the 25 hours he spent at a state institution and a group home for the retarded.

Fifty entries from 20 states were recognized by a panel of judges in the contest.

This award will be presented to the Observer & Eccentric in a ceremony on June 11 by One to One. This organization has helped over 300 non-profit retardation organizations

in developing community alternatives to government institutions for the retarded. In the Observer & Eccentric series, Poger took photographs of the state facility at Livonia. Ms. Miller wrote about the historical perspective of the conflict of group homes in neighborhood subdivisions. Ms. Kahan wrote stories about retarded residents living in group homes.

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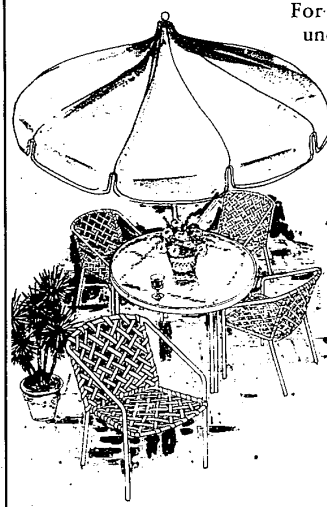
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