



# Newsletter

of the

# Alaska Entomological Society

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## Announcements

### New research to assess the risk of ticks and tick-borne pathogens in Alaska

The geographic range of many tick species has expanded substantially due to changes in climate, land use, and animal and human movement. With Alaska trending towards longer summers and milder winters, there is growing concern about ticks surviving further north. Recent passive surveillance efforts in Alaska have revealed that non-native ticks—some with significant medical and veterinary importance—are present in the state. There is a new collaborative effort between the University of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Office of the State Veterinarian to understand the risk of ticks and tick-borne pathogens in Alaska. UAA Professor of Environmental Health, Dr. Micah Hahn, is leading the project, which includes multiple methods for tick collection. A statewide passive surveillance program, titled the Submit-A-Tick program, asks veterinarians, researchers, and the public to submit found ticks through the Office of the State Veterinarian. This program will work in concert with active surveillance of ticks in parks and recreational areas in Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula. Additionally, Dr. Frank Witmer, an associate professor of computer science and engineering in UAA’s College of Engineering, and his team are developing a habi-

tat suitability and probabilistic establishment model to discover the climatic limits and probability of tick survival in Alaska. For more information on ticks in Alaska and to learn how you can Submit-A-Tick, please visit: <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/ticks> (website is in development) or contact Dr. Micah Hahn ([mbhahn@alaska.edu](mailto:mbhahn@alaska.edu)).

### 69<sup>th</sup> Western Forest Insect Work Conference

The 69<sup>th</sup> Western Forest Insect Work Conference will be held April 22–25 2019 in Anchorage, Alaska at the Anchorage Marriott Downtown. Details are available at <http://wfiwc.org/content/next-meeting-anchorage-ak-april-23-25-2019>.

### Thirteenth Annual Meeting, January or February 2020

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Alaska Entomological Society will take place in Anchorage in January or February 2020. Check for updates on our events page as the meeting date approaches.