



Got a question
about mosquitoes
or mosquito control?

Mosquito Program

*Welcome to the Town of Wilton.
We are proud to welcome you as a new
member of our growing community.*

The Town contains a vast number of contained pools of water and with that, comes a large mosquito population. As a remedy, we have developed a mosquito program to enhance outdoor enjoyment among our residents.

In early spring, the Town of Wilton's Mosquito Program offers mosquito dunks to residents free of charge. Mosquito dunks are a biological larvacide that are placed in a contained pool of water that is not classified as State or Federally regulated wetlands. The larvacide is a naturally occurring bacteria otherwise named BTI and will eliminate mosquito and black fly larvae. The larvacide is distributed in a small donut shaped form called a "dunk."

Placement of these dunks in standing water on your property will greatly diminish your home mosquito population. Gutters, old tires, flower pot saucers, birdbaths, swimming pool covers are a few examples of places where water collects and stands for more than a few days. Regularly cleaning these areas will help eliminate breeding sites from your property.

The Wilton Town Board works very hard to meet the needs of the community. The mosquito dunks are available to the town residents free of charge.



TOWN OF WILTON

Mosquito Program

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*Bringing solutions to
community concerns*

22 Traver Road
Gansevoort, NY 12831

Phone: (518) 587-1939

Fax: (518) 587-2837

E-mail: info@townofwilton.com

Visit us on the world wide web at
www.townofwilton.com



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FAQ'S

When are dunks available?

- April through August. We advertise pick-up days and times in the Wilton Report and on the Wilton Web at www.townofwilton.com.

I have State or Federally regulated wetlands. Why can't I get dunks?

- The Town of Wilton must comply with DEC regulations and can no longer supply dunks to State or Federally regulated wetland areas. However, snow pools or other contained standing water areas may receive dunks for treatment.

Is there a cost to receive dunks?

- No. Dunks are distributed free of charge.

Why won't the Town spray?

- The Town must comply with DEC regulations and is prevented from spraying due to the protection of the Karner Blue Butterfly. There are also public health concerns with aerial spraying. Petitions from homeowners opposing aerial spraying in most areas prevent this method. We encourage all residents to use the mosquito dunks.

What is a mosquito dunk?

- This biological pest control product kills mosquito and black fly larvae. It is completely non-toxic to fish, birds, wildlife and pets. Each dunk lasts up to 30 days and covers 100 sq. ft. They are safe to use in any area where standing water is a possible breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Posted on Thu, May 22, 2008

Wilton declares war on mosquitoes

By PAUL POST, The Saratogian



Wilton Town Councilman Larry Gordon tosses mosquito "dunks" into standing water near the newly constructed shelters at Camp Saratoga on Scout Road Wednesday.

WILTON —The town is helping residents wage war against mosquitoes, which appear to have an upper hand in early stages of the battle.

The nasty little insects are making life miserable for everyone who ventures outdoors, especially people who live in wooded areas or near fields where standing water abounds.

There is hope, however, in the form of mosquito "dunks" that the town is distributing by the thousands.

The doughnut-shaped items are placed in shallow, stagnant pools where they kill larvae that ingest the chemical product, which is harmless to people and animals, including domestic pets.

"If someone comes in and they qualify, they're given an appropriate number of dunks for the water on their property," Councilman Larry Gordon said. Last spring's extremely high water table produced standing water in places it had never been before. Combined with this year's heavy snowfall and the wet conditions it produced, Wilton has been hit with a mosquito double-whammy of sorts.

"There's a massive amount of unhatched eggs out there," Gordon said.

The first wave of adults began emerging in April when temperatures warmed up into the 70s and 80s. That would have been the best time to distribute dunks, but many people were preoccupied with simply enjoying nice weather following a long, hard winter.

Then there was a brief period of rain, when residents didn't want to go out in bad weather. Meanwhile, mosquitoes began hatching by the thousands.

"They're hatching as fast as they're dying," Gordon said.

It isn't too late to fight back, however. The town will continue distributing dunks into early July, the same as every year. Gordon said that Wilton has budgeted about \$16,000 for this year's insect control program, which will see about 20,000 dunks handed out for free. Products may be picked up from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Town Hall, 22 Traver Road. To qualify, people and property must meet several conditions. They are:

- Dunks may only be given to people who own or rent where water is located.
- The product should only be applied to shallow standing water less than a foot deep.

"They are ineffective and do no good on moving water or drainage ways," Gordon said.

- Dunks may not be placed in federal or state wetlands.

Gordon said that one dunk covers a roughly 10-foot by 10-foot area (100 square feet).

"They dissolve in the water, a film floats on the water and the larvae come up and ingest it," he said.

At one time, the town had an aerial spray program that targeted adult mosquitoes that had already hatched. But so many people objected that it had to be discontinued, because spray can't be dropped on one property without drifting onto a neighboring parcel.

Also, there were concerns about the spray's impact on the endangered Karner blue butterfly.

However, the town does have a couple of trained volunteers who apply dunks to a limited number of specific parcels, after obtaining the property owner's permission. The product may not be applied to state lands or parcels owned by groups such as The Nature Conservancy.

Gordon offered several helpful hints to help people with mosquito problems:

- Use insect repellent.
- Dress properly — long sleeves, pants, hat.
- Where possible, use a fan to keep air moving.

For more information, call Wilton Town Hall at 587-1939.