

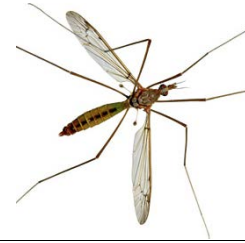


## Conservancy Advisory Living with Mosquitos on the Santa Lucia Preserve

**Mosquito**  
Size: 1/8 to 1/4 inch  
Habitat: any still water



**Crane Fly**  
Size: 3/8 to 2 1/2 inch  
Habitat: humid areas



*Actual size of Mosquito vs. Crane Fly*

Springtime often brings warm and wet conditions that stimulate the hatching of a variety of insects, including both mosquitos and crane flies ‘as depicted above.’ Crane flies, also called mosquito hawks, resemble gigantic mosquitos but are harmless to humans. Both Crane flies and mosquitos are important for ecosystem health, providing food for many animals including song birds and bats.

Mosquitos are challenging to control in large natural areas like The Preserve. Mosquitos breed most effectively in standing water and moist organic material including over-watered soil and mulch. ‘Best practices’ for managing this challenge on your property and on the trail include:

### IN YOUR HOMELAND:

#### Minimize breeding habitat

- Eliminate standing water by circulating or draining fountains, basins, and bird baths
- Clear roof gutters of debris
- Avoid overwatering landscape and repair outdoor irrigation leaks
- Clean pet dishes and bird baths once a week

#### Other important measures

- Keep screen doors closed particularly during morning and evening hours
- Consider non-toxic repellents
- Use the link below for appropriate insect repellent Use and Safety:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/repellent.html>

### ON THE TRAIL:

- Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing
- Wear long sleeves, pants, and socks
- Treat clothing with permethrin or purchase pretreated clothing
- Use lotions, sprays, or other repellents when necessary – consider non-toxic varieties
- Take extra care during early morning as well as late afternoon and early evening hours, when mosquitos are most active