

Drumright Learns About West Nile Virus and Prevention Techniques

September 14, 2012

At Friday's Drumright Rotary Club's meeting, Rotarian, Kay Murphy, introduced her guest, Beth Smith, from the Creek County Health Department. Beth spoke to our club about West Nile Virus and prevention techniques.

West Nile Virus originated in Africa, western Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The first case of West Nile Virus was diagnosed in New York in 1999. Since then every year, cases have been reported in the United States, according to Beth.

This year has been the worst year for Oklahoma and Texas. West Nile Virus is spread by mosquitoes that feed on infected birds and then bite humans. According to the Creek County Health Department, eighty percent of people infected will not have any symptoms with twenty percent of people infected reporting flu-like symptoms. Of those twenty percent, less than one percent has severe reactions. If an infected person has symptoms the symptoms usually occur two to fourteen days after a bite from an infected mosquito. West Nile Virus is not contagious from human to human, according to Beth.

Currently, there isn't a vaccine for infected humans. However, a vaccine for horses does exist. The best cure is prevention. Beth spoke of the four "D's" to help us remember the most effective prevention techniques: use Deet insect repellent, avoid spending time outside during Dusk and Dawn, Dress appropriately (mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing) and finally, Drain any standing water.

Beth provided our club with some great handouts and took the time to answer all of our questions at the meeting. Thank you, Beth, for addressing our club about West Nile Virus.

If you would like more information about West Nile Virus, please contact the Oklahoma State Health Department at <http://ads.health.ok.gov>.

Other guests included Steve Brown of Sprit Bank, Dawn Baxstrom of Drumright and August Students of the Month, McKenzie Hitch and Holland Gray.



L to R: Beth Smith, Kay Murphy

Please visit us at Friday's meeting hosted by Rotarian, Dick Seeberger.

If you would like more information about Drumright Rotary Club, please contact us on our FaceBook page, Drumright Rotary Club, or go to our newly up-dated website <http://drumrightrotary.wix.com/drumright-rotary>.

Written by Jena Drake, Rotarian