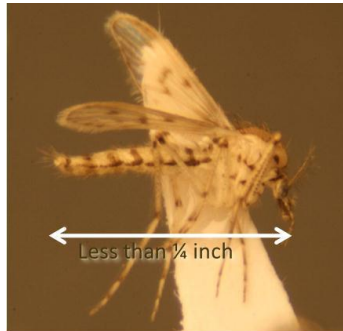




LAKE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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Clear Lake Gnat, *Chaoborus astictopus* Family Chaoboridae (Phantom midges)



Clear Lake gnat adult

This tiny insect emerged from Clear Lake in tremendous numbers in the 1940s and 1950s, prompting the establishment of the Lake County Mosquito and Gnat Abatement District. Measuring less than 1/4" in length, it made up for its small size in sheer numbers. Millions of these gnats emerged nightly from Clear Lake, and long-time Lake

County residents remember drifts of dead gnats a foot deep under lights. At times, the Clear Lake gnat swarms were so thick that drivers had to pull over every quarter-mile to scrape the dead gnats off their cars' headlights and windshield!



Adult Clear Lake gnats covering a resort sign.



Clear Lake gnat larva

The Clear Lake gnat is still present in Clear Lake today, but its population is much smaller than it used to be. It is believed that the introduction of two fish species (Inland Silverside and Threadfin Shad) into Clear Lake have helped to keep it from reaching nuisance levels.

For more information about gnats or other Lake County insects, please contact Lake County Vector Control District: 263-4770 www.lcvcd.org