

# NEWSLETTER



Edited by Dr. Kelly Weinersmith | Layout by Dr. Joanna Cielocha

## The President's Corner By Julián Hillyer

(Published on ASP's Blog on October 26, 2019)

Welcome to my first installment of the President's Corner! Three months after our annual meeting in Rochester, MN, I am still thinking of the successes of that gathering. The scientific sessions were, as always, conceptually stimulating. The symposia had something for everyone: from practical advice on the different career paths related to parasitology to lessons in clinical parasitology to how arthropods interact with their pathogens. The keynote addresses enthralled us with the peculiar biologies of *Giardia* and trypanosomes, the workshops at the Mayo Clinic were technologically and practically impressive, and President John Hawdon taught us, among other things, ASP's glorious history in hookworm research. And as always, the ASP meeting was welcoming to trainees, as evidenced by our investment in the Vortex and Student Reception, and the Dresden awards that financed student travel to and from the meeting. Producing a conference that runs as smoothly as the Rochester meeting requires a huge amount of planning, and for that I thank Program Officers Kelli Sapp and Herman Eure, Secretary-Treasurer Lee Couch, President Hawdon, the local organizing committee led by Bobbi Pritt, and all others that donated their time and effort.

But the Rochester meeting was also about planning for our future. ASP's Council had a marathon meeting where numerous policies and procedures were adopted, all with the goal of further enhancing the value of membership while preserving the stability of our Society. The Education Committee, for example, will continue to work toward developing a website with teaching materials related to parasitology. Newly formed committees will re-evaluate the insurance needs of the Society as well as our investment strategies. New or revised policies are in place regarding ethics and travel, and on the heels of ASP becoming a founding member of the Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM, Council voted to create a new committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Over the next year that committee will evaluate our current policies and practices, and will recommend changes designed to ensure that the ASP experience is welcoming to everyone. As all of this is happening, both *The Journal of Parasitology* – led by our Editor-in-Chief, Richard Clopton, and his team of Associate Editors – and the ASP Newsletter – led by Kelly Weinersmith and the Public Relations Committee – continue their vibrant reinvigoration.

Reasoned and measured change is always good, and now the Society finds itself in the process of searching for a new Scientific Program Officer. After many years of service, Program Officers Sapp and Eure are retiring from this role. This is all part of the natural cycle, and I am hopeful that the new Program Officer will continue the traditions that make our annual meetings a success, while providing the innovation needed to deliver an improved and more valuable experience.

With that in mind, it is worth emphasizing that the planning for the 2020 annual meeting is well on its way. The meeting will take place July 16-19 at the InterContinental Hotel at the Plaza in Kansas City, MO. I hope to see you all there, so, mark your calendars!

To conclude, remember that the American Society of Parasitologists is your Society. If you have any recommendations as to how to enhance the ASP experience, please share your thoughts with me and the rest of the ASP leadership.

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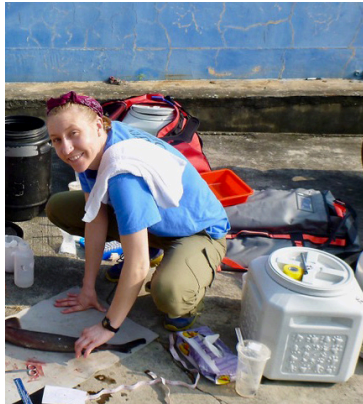
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# A Note from the Student Rep

By Kaylee Herzog Published on ASP's Blog on September 10, 2019

My name is Kaylee Herzog, I am a doctoral candidate working with Dr. Kirsten Jensen at the University of Kansas, and I am the newly-elected student representative to ASP Council for the 2019–2020 academic year. The 2020 meeting of the ASP in Kansas City, Missouri will represent my eighth consecutive ASP meeting since I first presented a poster as



an undergraduate in 2013. I truly consider the ASP to be my societal home, and thus I am honored and humbled to serve in this roll. I endeavor to earn the trust the membership has placed in me by dutifully advocating for students' interests to the Society's leadership, and continuing to incorporate and improve student-relevant programming at our annual meetings. I would like to acknowledge the dedication, creativity, and enterprise of our 2018–2019 student representative, Dr. Christina Anaya, and seek to follow in her excellent example.

Over the next year, I endeavor to accomplish three main goals in my role as student representative. First, I will strive to establish a system of organizational memory for student representatives to all ASP committees to combat the confusion caused by the annual or biannual turnover that characterizes these positions. Second, I seek to organize an engaging student symposium that is of interest to all student members. Third, as part of my role on the Society's Local Organizing Committee (LOC), I will work to ensure that skills workshops of broad interest are available at the 2020 meeting in Kansas City. The clinical parasitology workshop organized by Dr. Bobbi Pritt for our 2019 meeting in Rochester, Minnesota was incredibly well-received, and so I and the rest of the Kansas City LOC wish to ensure that hands-on workshops of interest to students become a yearly staple at ASP meetings. I seek to accomplish all three of these goals within a framework of promoting a Society that is seen by all students as welcoming and inclusive.

I look forward to beginning the work of student representative, and hope to see you all for what promises to be a spectacular meeting in Kansas City!



# Updates from the 94th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists

By Kelly Weinersmith;

Photos by Kelly Weinersmith & Christina Anaya

Published on ASP's Blog on August 12, 2019

The American Society of Parasitologists (ASP) held our 94th Annual Meeting in Rochester, MN on July 11–14th. (For a funny and brief overview of the meeting, check out Resolutions from the 94th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists on ASP's blog.)

The meeting kicked off with two free Clinical Parasitology Wet Lab Workshops organized by Dr. Bobbi Pritt (who also runs the Creepy Dreadful Wonderful Parasites blog). Participants who were new to parasitology got to see some amazing specimens for the first time, and those of us who have been at it for awhile were thrilled at the chance to see some parasite “old friends”. (I haven't seen *Echinococcus* in a lab in ages!) We reveled in live specimens, including leeches, mosquito larvae, ticks, and a filarial worm (!), as well as preserved specimens including lice, *Plasmodium falciparum*, and *Giardia*. There was also a demonstration on how to make thick and thin blood smears, which are harder to make than they look!



The next day we rose bright and early to enjoy Dr. John Hawdon's President's Symposium entitled “Entomopathogenic Nematodes: Parasitism in Three Acts”. These nematodes are symbiotic with bacteria, and together they infect and kill insect hosts. Drs. Heidi Goodrich-Blair, Ioannis Eleftherianos, and Adler Dillman kept us entertained with talks about the symbiotic relationships between nematodes and bacteria, the use of fruit flies to understand the insect immune response to entomopathogenic nematodes, and how nematodes also cause pathology in insect hosts (pathology is typically attributed to the bacteria). The stop-motion animation of the entomopathogenic nematode life cycle created by Adler was particularly memorable, as was the video he shared of thousands of nematodes streaming from their dead insect host.

The topic of this year's ASP Students' Symposium (organized by ASP Student Rep, Christina Anaya) was “Preparing for and Navigating Your Parasitology Future”. Talks were given by Christina Anaya, Susan Perkins, Bobbi Pritt, Blaine Mathison, and me. There were some surprising common themes that arose during the talks. In particular, nearly everyone on stage left a grad program at some point, and all of us took fairly tortuous paths on our journeys to becoming parasitologists.

# Updates from 94th ASP cont'd

Christina Anaya was an unstoppable force this year. In addition to organizing the Students' Symposium, Christina oversaw the Vortex (a speed-meet event where students ask various professors questions over the course of an hour), started the "Meal with a Mentor" program (where mentors volunteer to meet with students over a meal, and students pick the mentor with which they'd like to chat), and the "Palettes and Parasites" competition (where ASP members submit their artwork, and folks vote for their favorite piece during the poster session). There were some amazing SEMs on display and some inspired parasite-themed artwork. The winner was Staci Dreyer, for her cross-stitched her work entitled: "Parasites, Vectors, and Microbes, Oh My!"



The 29th Annual ASP Student Auction was a huge success, raising over \$10,000! This money will go towards Marc Dresden Student Travel Grants, to support students attending future meetings. We were also extremely thankful for the \$5,000 donation from Dr. William Campbell, who sold a commissioned painting and requested that the funds be donated for ASP Student Travel Grants! Thanks so much to everyone who donated to or purchased items from the auction, and thanks to Dr. Campbell for his continued support of ASP students. And many, many thanks to Lee Couch and Kelly Sapp – who have served ASP as our auction organizers for over 10 years, and are stepping down this year. We all have great memories from the auctions they've organized, and many students have received support to attend our meetings due to their hard work.

John Hawdon's Presidential Address was called "Hookworm and the ASP: A Presidential Perspective". Many of ASP's early Presidents (including Stiles, Cort, Hall, Chandler, Stoll, and Schad) studied hookworms and their implications for human health, and, as John told us, "It's fair to say hookworm courses through the guts of our society". (I'll note that we all voraciously enjoyed our lunches after hearing this analogy, which tells you something about the kinds of people who attend ASP meetings.)



This year's Stoll Stunkard Lecture was presented by Dr. Andre Buret, who discussed his research exploring how infection with enteropathogens can alter the microbiome and trigger downstream conditions like inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Jayne Raper then presented the R. Barclay McGee Lecture, presenting on her work to understand the arms race between trypanosomes and their hosts, and her ambitious efforts to make a transgenic cow capable of resisting trypanosomes in Africa.

The winner of this year's Henry Baldwin Ward Medal Lecture was Matthew Bolek, who gave an incredible lecture called "Parasites in the secret garden: the ultimate teachers of natural history". Matt became enamored of the idea of studying nature in



a secret garden when his mom read him *The Secret Garden* as a kid. We learned that Matt was born in Poland, moved to Libya to escape Communist Poland, spent time at a refugee camp in Italy, and his family eventually settled in midwestern USA. Through it all he was fascinated by wild animals and their parasites, and worked on setting up "zoos" wherever he went. It's always a relief to learn that our parasitology heroes are humans like the rest of us, and so I appreciated that Matt shared that his grades weren't always great, and that he puked due to nerves before giving his first scientific talk. Matt eventually found his own secret garden in the Cedar Point Biological Station, and I hear he has an amazing "zoo" at his house to this day.

We closed out the meeting with our annual ASP Awards and Business Meeting. ASP awarded Timothy Geary the Clark P Read Mentor Award, and Tim's acceptance speech had loads of valuable advice. He taught us that mentoring is different than advising – mentoring means welcoming the people you're responsible for into your family and investing in their lives. The theme that life is not linear arose in the Students' Symposium and was heard in Tim's speech as well. Tim urged us to make the best of things, and learn to make wherever you are a good place to be.

It was a banner year for "Tims", as we next awarded the 2019 American Society of Parasitologists Distinguished Service Award to Tim Yoshino. Congratulations, Tim! ASP also bestowed the 2019 Ashton Cuckler New Investigator Award to Graham Rosser (who, in addition to being a great parasitologist, had an amazing Van Gogh-inspired piece of parasite artwork in the Palettes and Parasites exhibit). Congratulations, Graham! Thanks to Augustín Jimenez and the rest of the Awards Committee for all their hard work!



# Updates from 94th ASP cont'd

Every year ASP recognizes the best oral presentations given by students at our annual meeting. This year's Outstanding Student Paper Awards went to Anneke Lincoln Shoeman and Micah Warren! Our Meritorious Student Paper Awards went to Scott Malotka and Adefunke Ogunkanbi. Congratulations to these amazing students, and to all of the students who presented this year! There were many excellent talks.



We also recognized students who were awarded Willis Read Student Research Grants and Marc Dresden Student Travel Grants earlier this year. Tyler Achatz and Ryan Shannon were awarded Student Research Grants, and our Student Travel Grants were awarded to Tyler Achatz, Christina Anaya, Candace Ashworth, James Bernot, Seth Bromegan, Sara Carpenter, Haley Dutton, William Ellenburg, Thayane Fernandes, Demi Gagnon, Rita Grunberg, Collin Horn, Rachel Imai, Ryan Koch, Scott Malotka, Joshua Marquez, Nicholas Mathy, Brian Mullin, Adefunke Ogunkanbi, Brittany Pulkkila, Evelin Rejman, Anneke Schoeman, Ryan Shannon, Douglas Stephan, J. Trevor Vannatta, Fiorella Vialard, Micah Warren, and Elizabeth Zeldenrust. Congratulations to all!



Congratulations to ASP's student members for all your hard work! We're thrilled you joined us at this year's meeting, and hope to see you again next year!

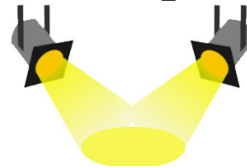
At the Business Meeting we also announced that this year ASP became a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization! Many, many thanks to Lee Couch, who did most of the legwork to make this happen!

A lot of the behind the scenes work done this year involved updating our procedures to fit nonprofit requirements and best practices. This ended up being a huge amount of work, and we thank President Hawdon for the countless hours he spent researching administrative rules and writing updated procedures so ASP could become and subsequently stay compliant. John tells me he eventually came to enjoy researching non-profit rules. Whatever John was taking that allowed him to reach this administrative state of Zen – we hope he saved some for incoming President Julián Hillyer, who took over ASP's reigns at the end of the meeting. Congrats, Dr. Hillyer!

A huge thanks to our local organizing committee, which included Bobbi Pritt, Robert Sorenson, Andrew Dahl, Kirsten Jensen, Deb Clopton, Rich Clopton, Reginald Blaylock, Kaylee Her-

zog, and Sarah Orlofske! After 20 years of service, Herman Eure and Kelli Sapp have announced that they're stepping down from the Scientific Program Officer positions. Thank you so much for your service to the society, and for 20 years of amazing meetings!

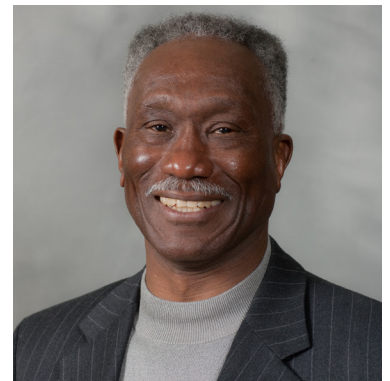
## Member Spotlight



### Dr. Herman Eure

By Abigail Kimball Published on ASP's Blog on September 17, 2019

This month's ASP Member Spotlight features Dr. Herman Eure, Professor Emeritus of Biology at Wake Forest University. For more information on Dr. Eure, [check out this excellent interview Wake Forest Magazine](#) did after Dr. Eure was awarded Wake Forest's Medallion of Merit (the highest honor this University confers).



### *What drew you to parasitology in particular?*

I went to undergraduate school at a small historically black college on the eastern shore of Maryland called Maryland State College (now The University of Maryland Eastern Shore). My biology Professor during my second year there was a man named Dr. James B. Abram. He was from Oklahoma and he had just completed his doctorate at Oklahoma State University, and his area of concentration was parasitology. He had worked on the intestinal parasites of the muskrat, *Ondatra zibethica*, that inhabits the wetlands of Oklahoma. I was fascinated by his work and being from a rural town in eastern North Carolina I had always been a student of the out of doors. Actually, there was nothing else to do but roam around in the woods and streams in the countryside. So, discovering that one could be outside and do work that would eventually lead to an advanced degree was very appealing to me. He became my advisor and mentor and I took every course that he taught, including parasitology and ecology, which I really liked. I found that I could combine the two into a study of parasite ecology, so I decided that I was going to go to graduate school if I ever got the chance.

Of course during those days there wasn't a large pool of money for blacks to attend graduate school. I worked everyday that I attended college and during my last year there I worked for the secretary of the college president, Ms. Steele. Ms. Steele would often leave me notes for the work that she wanted me to do and one day she left me an application announcing a new program through the Ford Foundation called Doctoral Fellowships for Black Students. I applied, got the fellowship, and thus had funds (5 years of funding, plus a stipend to live on) for graduate

## Member Spotlight cont'd

school. I chose Wake Forest because the University was starting a new Ph. D program and I thought that it would be good getting in on the ground rung of a newly minted doctoral program. During my second year at Wake



I started to work with Dr. Gerald Esch, another person who had attended school in Oklahoma, but OU, not OSU. He too, was a parasitologist and was just beginning to work in the area of ecological animal parasitology after spending his entire career up to that point as a biochemical parasitologist. He, Clive Kennedy, Al Bush, John Janovy, John Holmes, and Brent Nichol were the first to work extensively in this new area and it dovetailed perfectly with what I wanted to do. After my course work was completed at Wake I spent two years at the Savannah River Ecology Lab in Aiken, SC working on the parasites of largemouth bass in one of the heated reservoirs on that site. Long story, but that is how I got into parasitology.

### What is your most exciting discovery?

One of the parasites that I found in the bass was a tapeworm called *Proteocephalus ambloplitis*. Freeman and Esch had both previously worked on this tapeworm in Canada and Gull Lake, Michigan, respectively, and had found that the migration of this tapeworm from parenteric to enteric sites occurred in late spring and summer. It was theorized that, among



the triggering cues for migration, one was a change in the water temperature as temperatures rose in those latitudes. The change in temperature range was thought to be an increase from 7 to 12 degrees. Thus, adult tapeworms only appeared in the guts of bass in late spring, summer, and fall and persisted until the winter freeze occurred. Well, in South Carolina water temperatures never get to either of those temperatures because the lakes don't freeze, plus there was also thermal input from the reactors that were cooled by the reservoir waters. And, I discovered adult tapeworms in fish in December and January! Esch did not believe me until he came down to Aiken from Winston-Salem, NC and I dissected a fish in front of him and extracted adult tapeworms! The theory of the temperature increase triggering migration had to be revisited. Ultimately we postulated that a change in water temperature could be one of the cues and it could be a temperature approaching the 12 degree range as suggested, but that change would occur from fall to winter in southern latitudes, thus triggering enteric migration. In addition, if the range is cor-

rect that temperature would only be seen as temps dropped, not rose, in the south during the winter months. The concept of latitudinal shifts in parasite life cycles thus added to our many questions of parasite ecology and how environmental factors drive parasite population occurrences and densities.

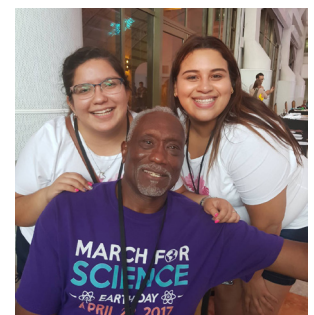
### Any advice on maintaining work-life balance as a scientist?

Enjoy what you do as a career, but remember that people and family are the real substance of a rich and fulfilling life. Try to expose yourself to as many different life experiences as you can, especially if you are an academic. I love biology, but I never allowed it to be my sole area of exposure or enjoyment. I got involved in a lot of activities throughout campus, and that enriched my professional associations and led to situations where I could teach in different ways. The bane of an academic life is that most of us don't really know how to do anything else but teach and work in our labs or in the field, so when our science slows or we reach the later years we are lost. Never let your job be both your professional and personal means of enjoyment. If you do, when you retire, you will be miserable! I saw this when I was one of the associate deans in the college. Many of my colleagues in the college had no idea what they were going to do when they retired. Never let your career be the sole means of your identity or feeling of self worth. Spend time with your family and friends and you will discover that it helps to rejuvenate your professional juices when you return to your job. Life is too short to spend all of your time in a lab or in the field, even if you love what you are doing when you are there. With family, some moments cannot be recovered, or recreated if you were not there when they first occurred.



### What do you think is the best way to reach traditionally underrepresented groups in science?

The first thing we need to do as a profession is to hire more of these groups, minorities and women, as colleagues. Some people still think that when universities state that they are looking for minorities and women for faculty positions (affirmative action) that those folks are automatically going to be less qualified than their majority counterparts. My response to that assertion when I hear it is that most minorities and women have Ph. D degrees from majority institutions and those institutions don't let us get out without being qualified!! Their reputation is at stake so they are not going to risk that. Then we need to recruit students in their first years in college and tell them that this career is available to them. Seeing someone like yourself in a profession and knowing that you too can be a scientist if you work hard is the only thing some students, who never thought of that career need.



## Member Spotlight cont'd

We then grow our own using these students to recruit others. We need to be fair, upfront about why we need them, and honest about what it will take to succeed. We MUST also provide funding opportunities for graduate study. If it had not been for the Ford Foundation I might not have gone on to graduate school. They allowed me to pursue my dream and provided the resources to make it happen. We must remove this obstacle from that career path. We also need to have career seminars in our science departments that let these students know what we do as scientists and why it should be important to them. Many parasitic diseases disproportionately affect the brown and black peoples of the world and we need to tell them that they need to have a stake in eradicating these diseases. Being a stakeholder radically change one's mind about career choices. We need to encourage these students to do research in our lab, and take them to scientific meetings, thus exposing them to the field. In short, we need to mentor these students just as you would any other student. Getting them in the door is the first step, and a welcoming attitude goes a long way in achieving that goal.

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Do you know an ASP member we should Spotlight? Check out ASP's blog for more Member Spotlights (including a spotlight of [Dra. Ma. Leopoldina Acuirre-Macedo!](#)). Have a member you'd like us to spotlight? Send your suggestions to [Kelly.Weinersmith@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.Weinersmith@gmail.com).

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## Field Notes: Finding More Than Parasites North of 60°

By Demi Gagnon    Published on ASP's Blog on April 30, 2019  
Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba

As part of my master's research, I was interested in investigating how geographic isolation influences trematode speciation. I set out to collect specimens from each host in the life cycle (snails, muskrats, and voles) at the northern and southern extent of my study system's, *Quinqueserialis* spp., range. However, I did not know how far north this endeavor would take me. In September 2017 we received 42 muskrats from a collaborator, Dr. Jeremy Brammer (Environment and Climate Change Canada), from the Mackenzie River delta in Northwest Territories. After long and seemingly never-ending days of necropsies, we found that muskrats from this region had a 100% *Quinqueserialis quinqueserialis* infection prevalence, and the highest intensities we had ever encountered! It was then that I knew exactly how far north I would have to go...beyond the arctic circle.



Arctic field work requires months of planning and networking with local, territorial, and sometimes federal agencies. Seven months before my collection trip I was sending proposals to agencies, applying for permits, and establishing collaborations. The long process of planning was completely worth the experience. Once I arrived in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, I contacted the Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committee to hire a local fur trapper to guide me to one of the locations where the muskrats sent by Dr. Brammer were harvested. I got lucky and was out collecting snails in the river delta the next day! My guide, Hank Angasuk, watched me curiously from the boat as I waded into creeks and combed through aquatic vegetation in search of tiny planorbid snails. He would chuckle when I celebrated after finding snails and when I complained about the cold water. Evidently, my field collecting wasn't that entertaining as the next day he brought a fishing rod. If only *Q. quinqueserialis* was a fish parasite...



During my 3-week stay in Inuvik, I worked with two other fur trappers, Ryan McCleod and Scott Kasook. Every day for over a week, I set traps for voles with Ryan. On about the third day, he asked if he could bring his daughter out with us. The next day, Ryan's daughter tagged along and helped recover voles from traps. I was impressed by Ryan's daughter's keen interest in not only learning how to trap animals, but also learn their biology. As we walked along our trapline, she would ask questions about what voles ate, where they lived, and why they got parasites. In return, she taught me which berries made for a good snack along our walk.

After my time with Hank and Ryan, my collections were complete at one of my locations of interest, so it was time to move on. For five days, I travelled for two hours by boat into the Mackenzie River delta with Scott Kasook to collect at my next location. This time, after our first day together, Scott asked if his mother could tag along since she had not been out in the delta for a while. Even in the dreary weather, Scott's mother Rachel made our collection trips a fun event. She would bring us tasty snacks, like smoked inconnu (*Stenodus leucichthys*), for the boat ride, and point out places in the delta she used to visit as a child. She pointed out one place, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, where there used to be a "store", where people living throughout the delta could obtain various foods and supplies. Both Rachel and Scott shared my excitement when we recovered voles from the traps, and when we found planorbid snails hiding beneath a log submerged in the water. I was extremely lucky to have shared this experience with people who are passionate about the land and about learning. Without their knowledge of the delta, I would not have been able to have successfully collected my specimens at the same locations where the muskrats we originally necropsied were obtained. Each of them taught me that simple things, like snacks or story-telling, can make field work in dreary situations, like 35 F weather, an enjoyable

## Field Notes cont'd

affair. On top of the memories made, I was successful in collections and returned with larval and adult *Quinqueserialis* specimens, checking off the most northern location in my sampling.

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Have a story you want to share? We'd love to hear it! Email [Kelly.Weinersmith@gmail.com](mailto:Kelly.Weinersmith@gmail.com) with your Field Note ideas.

Check out the [ASP blog](#) with more Field Notes, including recent notes from Drs. Joanna Cielocha, Mike Kinsella, Janet Koprivnikar, and John Janovy, Jr.

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## Regional Society News & Upcoming Meetings

Click [here](#) for a list of ASP regional societies' websites.

### Annual Midwestern Conference of Parasitologists

Mark your calendars! AMCOP 72 will be held on May 28 - May 30, 2020, at St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI.

### Helminthological Society of Washington

HelmSoc's anniversary dinner meeting was held Nov. 2nd at the Old Stein Inn in Edgewater, MD.

#### Other News:

- You can now become a [HelmSoc member by joining online!](#)
- HelmSoc (and ASP) member [Dr. Anna Phillips' new paper in the Journal of Parasitology](#) got loads of press for her discovery of a new leech species in the Washington DC area! Here is coverage from [The Washington Post](#).

*Spring 2019 Meeting Summary*, By Kelly Weinersmith (originally published on ASP's Blog on April 10, 2019)

The Helminthological Society of Washington (HelmSoc) held its 721st meeting at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA on April 6th. The day was filled with great talks and poster presentations! Faculty talks included Dr. Ralph Eckerlin's history of HelmSoc's journal (*Comparative Parasitology*), and Dr. Michael Zimmermann's discussion of how hybridization in sunfish species impacts their parasite community (answer: it's complicated!).

HelmSoc's graduate student members made an excellent showing at the conference. John Sanders from Virginia Tech gave a talk about his exciting work using Cry5B from *Bacillus thuringiensis* to reduce the burden of *Haemonchus contortus* in sheep (some of us audibly gasped at his results slide). This talk earned John the Stirewalt-Lincicome Student Award! The runner-up for this award was Brandi Griffith (Shippensburg University)! Brandi shared with us her finding that the parasites infecting brook trout in mountain streams in Pennsylvania harbor higher iron concentrations than their brook trout hosts, suggesting the parasites may be useful biomarkers for metal contamination.

We also enjoyed talks by HelmSoc's talented undergraduate members! Greg Lutz (Penn State York) won the Judith Humphrey Shaw Undergraduate Award for the presentation of his work examining the mechanisms through which *Hymenolepis diminuta* manipulates its beetle host (*Tribolium confusum*). Candace Ashworth and Nicole Shannon (Shenandoah University) gave excellent talks on their work quantifying differences in the parasite communities infecting male bluegill sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*) morphotypes, and the pathology these parasites cause in their hosts. Candace was the runner-up for the Judith Humphrey Shaw Undergraduate Award, and Nicole received the honorable mention. Congratulations HelmSoc's student members on their great talks!

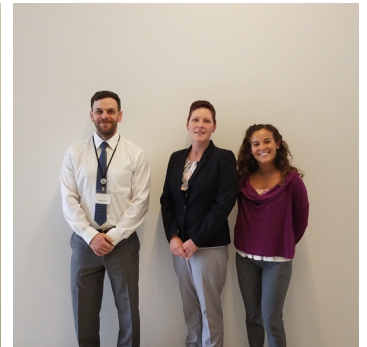
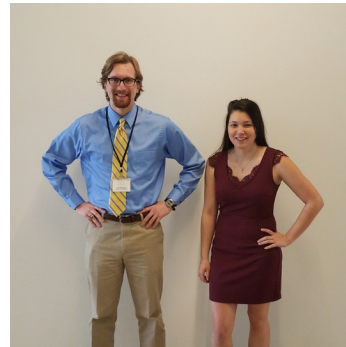
At this meeting we also unveiled our awesome HelmSoc-branded swag! Freya Goetz recently brought to life a logo idea that was the brainchild of HelmSoc President John Hawdon. The logo has been placed on shirts, pins, and mugs, and our swag is guaranteed to bring you joy. I mean, just look how happy President Hawdon looks with his shirt.

If HelmSoc-branded swag isn't a sufficient enticement to purchase, note that all profits go toward student travel grants! Keep your eyes open at upcoming ASP meetings and future HelmSoc meetings for your chance to get in on the latest in parasite-themed fashion.

At the Business Meeting we welcomed Dr. Autumn Smith-Herron, the new editor of *Comparative Parasitology*! Autumn wrapped up her first solo-edited volume of *Comparative Parasitology*, and we're thrilled to have her on board.

We also discussed topics ranging from the society's finances (we're lookin' good!), proposed changes to our by-laws, and the now nearly complete Discrimination Policy.

Special thanks to Dr. Michael Zimmermann for hosting, Dr. Anne Vardo-Zalik for organizing, and all for attending! See you in the fall at the Anniversary Dinner!



# Society News cont'd

## Northern California Parasitologists

During this summer we worked with the Southern California Parasitologist to have a joint Spring 2020 meeting at a mid-state location. Unfortunately, previous commitments and schedule conflicts prevented this joint meeting. We will try again in the future.

The NCP now has tentative plans to have our Spring 2020 meeting in late February at California State University East Bay, Hayward, CA. The program will include a guest speaker and our student competition papers. The first place paper will qualify for the Marc Dresden Travel Grant and both first and second places will receive \$100. Occasionally we award an Honorable Mention.

## Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists

Report on the 50th Annual Meeting of RMCP, [By John Shea](#) (originally published on ASP's Blog on October 1, 2019)

On September 5th, 2019 over forty parasitologists converged upon the beautiful [Cedar Point Biological Field Station](#) in Ogallala, NE to participate in the 50th annual meeting of the [Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists](#). The festive occasion began with a delicious Welcome Reception that featured a variety of hors d'oeuvres, delectable desserts and many fine adult beverages.



On the following morning, President John Shea welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. We then enjoyed eleven excellent talks, one of which included a sing-along to the tune of "Yellow Submarine." The day concluded with a poster session, a sumptuous dinner and two engaging lectures. John Hawdon delivered the Newton Kingston Memorial Lecture on Hookworm Larval Activation and Armand Kuris delivered the Gerald D. Schmidt Memorial Lecture on Infectious Disease in a Changing World. Both speakers engaged the audience and elicited thought-provoking questions.

The final day began with two more talks. Kirsten Jensen presented on The Phyllobothriidea Decluttered while John Shea gave "The Other" talk, which described his journey to becoming a Jesuit priest. The morning concluded with the business meeting and awards. Olivia Pletcher, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earned the William C. Marquardt Award for Best Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation, Emily Sarvis,



University of New Mexico, earned the Datus M. Hammond Award for Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation and Jasmine Nejad, Colorado State University, earned the Datus M. Hammond Award for Best Graduate Student Poster. Winners received an engraved plaque, a one year ASP membership and a \$100 check. President Shea passed the gavel to incoming President Kirsten Jensen who thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting. Our next meeting will occur on September 10-12 in the same great location. Please consider attending, especially if you haven't experienced a RMCP meeting before.

## Southern California Society of Parasitologists

The fall meeting of SCSP will be hosted by Dr. Ryan Hechinger, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, on November 22, 2019. The meeting will include presentations on the research goals of the Hechinger lab, ongoing research projects and a demonstration on experimental design related to horn snail mudflat mesocosms and use of fish arrays in experimental infection of *Digenea*.

## Southeastern Society of Parasitologists

Mark your calendars! SSP's next meeting will be April 16-18, 2020 at [University of Southern Mississippi's Marine Education Center](#) in Ocean Springs, MS. Special rates for student housing in the dormitory at Gulf Coast Research Laboratory will be available, and a government rate at a nearby hotel has been negotiated for non-students.

## Southwestern Association of Parasitologists

Report on the 52nd Annual Meeting of SWAP, [By Joanna Cielocha](#), photos by Alan Fedynich (originally published on ASP's Blog on May 12, 2019)

[The Southwestern Association of Parasitologists](#) met for their 52nd annual meeting on the grounds of the University of Oklahoma Biological Station located on Lake Texoma, Oklahoma. The meeting kicked off on Thursday, April 25th with more than 60 attendees familiarizing themselves with the grounds and presenters loading their presentations. Friday consisted of a whirl-wind day of parasitology, with 21 Oral Presentations—18 of which were given by undergraduate and graduate students, a President's Reception, the Business Meeting, and a Poster Session featuring 9 presentations. Saturday morning consisted of two additional faculty presentations prior to adjournment.

Elections and awards were announced during the business meeting. Matt Bolek was appointed as the SWAP representative to the ASP to replace Kirsten Jensen who was elected as an ASP Councilmember. Joanna Cielocha was elected President-Elect. The results of the Student Presentation Awards and Student Research Awards are as follows:





# Society News cont'd

## David A. Becker Memorial Award for Best Student Presentation:

Awarded to Emily P. Harders for her presentation entitled "Manipulation of host cricket immunity, growth, and reproduction by the parasitic horsehair worm." Emily's co-authors were Brenda T. Huynh and Amy M. Worthington. She is an undergraduate from Creighton University, Omaha, NE.



## Mark Dresden Award for Runner-Up Best Student Presentation:

Awarded to Micah Unruh for his presentation entitled "Characterization of attachment in a species of *Tetragonoccephalum* (Cestoda: Lecanicephalidea) from the whipray, *Urogymnus asperrimus* 1." Micah's coauthor was Joanna J. Cielocha. He is an undergraduate from Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO.



## Honorable Mention Graduate Student Presentation:

Awarded to Jeremiah Leach for his presentation entitled "Experimental determination of the substrate-encystment selection for the cercariae of *Philophthalmus gralli* (Trematoda: Philophthalmidae), with observations on cercarial behavior." His co-authors were A. E. Scott, N. White, and D. G. Huffman. He is a graduate student from Texas State University-San Marcos, San Marcos, TX.



## Honorable Mention Undergraduate Student Presentation:

Awarded to Logan Tarter for his presentation entitled "A preliminary report on tapeworm diversity in the Atlantic Stingray, *Hypanus sabinus* (Chondrichthyes: Myliobatiformes: Dasyatidae)." Logan's coauthor was Joanna J. Cielocha. He is an undergraduate from Rockhurst University, Kansas City, MO.



Three students were awarded Research Grants for their research proposals. Kaci Waddle's proposal was entitled "Integrative taxonomy of *Posthodiplostomum*." She is a student at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, TX and mentored by Kristin Herrmann. Montserrat Santos's proposal was entitled "Surveying Haiti for nematomorphs: a search for hidden Gordian treasure." She is mentored by Heather Stigge at College of Saint Mary in Omaha, NE. Ryan Koch's proposal was entitled "Discovering an elusive intermediate host of a turtle parasite." He is a student at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK and mentored by Matt Bolek.



## ASP 2020 Call for Award Nominations

Each year, at the annual meeting, ASP presents awards to honor the achievements of our members. This year, ASP will be bestowing awards for excellence in research at various career stages (the Henry Baldwin Ward Award, Ashton Cuckler New Investigator Award, and Eminent Parasitologist Award), and an award for excellence in mentorship (the Clark P. Read Mentor Award). ASP members must be nominated by their colleagues to be considered for these awards. Please consider nominating your deserving colleagues by January 24, 2020. [Click here for more information](#) about the awards and the nomination process.

## ASP 2020 Call for Officer & Representative Nominations

ASP's Nominating & Tellers Committee would love to hear from you. The Nominating & Tellers Committee's job is to find candidates to run for Vice-President, Council Members-at-Large, the next Nominating & Tellers Committee, and Student Representative to Council. Nominating someone (and yes, you can nominate yourself!) is an important way for you to help shape the future of ASP. The [ASP website has more information here](#) about how to submit your suggestions or recommendations, and to find out more about what each of these positions entails. Recommendations are due by **November 30, 2019**.

## Membership Category Updates & Find-an-Expert

ASP has rolled out some new-ish membership categories, and website features. Mike Moser was kind enough to summarize some of these changes for us:

**Associate Membership:** We are committed to welcoming our colleagues in developing countries (as defined by the International Monetary Fund) to become members of ASP, and take advantage of the benefits of membership and collaboration with our members. Our Home Page contains numerous links and resources (e.g. Newsletter, Find an Expert, Facebook, Twitter) that are easily accessible and informative. Associate Membership also includes the online edition of Journal of Parasitology. This membership category is currently significantly less than the regular active membership dues (\$50 verses \$150). Associate Members are in Good Standing and enjoy all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of membership.

**Sponsored Memberships:** A person can be sponsored for any of the categories of membership. It is a good tax deductible way to introduce a colleague to ASP. For example, a mentor can sponsor a student or a local colleague who would benefit from belonging to ASP. Members who sponsor foreign parasitologists have found it very rewarding. Some foreign colleagues cannot afford the dues regardless of the cost. Other foreign parasitologists can have trouble transferring funds to the US. This sponsorship is mutually beneficial. The sponsored member receives the full benefits of ASP membership, and the sponsor often establishes a professional and personal relationship with the person they sponsored.

**Find an Expert:** This link on the Home Page is a valuable resource for members, specially for students, to have specialists answer their questions. Currently there are almost 20 areas

## Society News cont'd

in parasitology that have “experts” that invite questions from members. A member can become an “expert” by simply identifying their area of expertise. This is a member-only link to avoid the “experts” being swamped by spam or bogus questions.

## Report on Parasite Day 2019

By Kelly Weinersmith & the ASP Public Relations Committee (originally published on ASP's Blog on March 26, 2019)

On March 4, 1999 (the anniversary of H.B. Ward's Birthday), ASP's Education Committee kicked off the first “Parasite Day”. The event was a great success, reaching around 1,370 people. Twenty years later, ASP's Public Relations Committee resurrected this event. Our goal is to make Parasite Day an annual and international celebration of careers in parasitology, and the fascinating world of parasites.

For our first year, the PR Committee focused on connecting parasitologists with classrooms through video conferencing, and generating enthusiasm about parasites on twitter using the #ParasiteDay2019 hashtag. ASP members also engaged in in-person outreach, and used Virtual Field Trips to reach classrooms throughout Nebraska. Approximately 1,200 students were reached on Parasite Day 2019 (this excludes folks reached through the twitter account, as this type of reach is difficult to quantify). We summarize the reach of these activities below.

**Video Conferences with Classrooms:** ASP's Public Relations Committee put out an open call for parasitologists and K-12 teachers to sign-up for video conferences, and matched parasitologists with 27 classrooms. Twenty-two parasitologists participated, including 7 graduate students, 4 postdocs, and 11 folks who are professors, research scientists, and/or curators. We were thrilled to have international participation, with parasitologists hailing from the USA (N=16), Canada (N=1), Scotland (N=1), Ireland (N=1), England (N=1), Spain (N=1), and New Zealand (N=1).

We spoke to students that varied in age from elementary school (N=4 classes), junior high (N=7), high school (N=15), and 1 undergraduate class in Malaysia. Over 800 students were reached, including 200 students in a large assembly who had the privilege of learning about parasites from Dr. John Shea.

We received great feedback from the teachers who participated in our Parasite Day 2019:

“We really enjoyed the experience and enthusiasm that each of the scientists had! Thank you for an amazing opportunity!”

-Monica Kelley (Geneva High School, NY)

“Wonderful experience! Our presenters were interesting, prepared and engaging. Hoping to participate next year!!”

- Dr. Amber Struthers (Tempe High School, AZ)



The American Society of Parasitologists

“My students LOVED it! I had prepped them briefly on Friday so they came in ready to ask questions. Dr. Mora stepped in at the last minute and did a stellar job. My kids are already thinking about the different jobs she shared about.”

-Jan Kragen (Suquamish Elementary, WA)

“I was great! Kaitlin [Gallagher] showed us a wonderful power point that was totally related to our AP biology class: she spoke of evolution, food chains, life cycles, DNA analysis and scientific method. She answered our questions clearly and we all enjoyed that she will be able to name a tapeworm after her mom. Wonderful idea and hope to participate next year too.”

-Natasha Schaefer (Woodcreek High School, CA)

The PR committee looks forward to doing this again next year!

**Virtual Field Trips:** Dr. John Janovy Jr worked with Annie Mumgaard and the University of Nebraska State Museum to reach 261 students through the Virtual Field Trip program. This included 12 classrooms, with students ranging from 6th to 12th grade.

Annie Mumgaard had this to say about John's work with the Virtual Field Trip on Parasite Day: “Congrats to Dr. Janovy for taking up the challenge of seven virtual connections to nine different classrooms to reach over 230 youth! The goal of our virtual program is to use 21st century technology to extend the walls of the University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History to promote scientific literacy and classroom enrichment. That most certainly happened with Dr. Janovy. He was asked about the impact of parasites, about his favorite parasite, about what one had to do to become a parasitologist, and so much more. We were thrilled to partner with Dr. Janovy to celebrate National Parasite Day!”

Here is what John had to say about the experience: “I thought it was a great experience, I had a whole lot of fun, and the teachers were very much engaged. Hopefully some of those young people will end up in the parasitology classes at Cedar Point Biological Station and on the UNL campus. The University of Nebraska State Museum, which supports this community engagement, is a big time tourist attraction. I also did some follow-up with the Norfolk school, sending them some material on evolution, some primary literature related to a couple of student questions, and a web site link. The teacher at Norfolk thought it was great that I referred to the cell phones as infectious agents spreading through the population like an epidemic and advised them to turn them off when they got into university classes.”

**In-Person Events:** Dr. Kristin Herrmann did an in-person presentation at Alvarado High School, which reached 110 9th grade biology and AP biology students. And [click here for a report from Dr. Chris Blonar](#), whose love for parasitology could not be constrained to just one day! Chris celebrated Parasite Month with Nova Southeastern University's (NSU) Parasitology Club by setting up a “Parasitology Pit Stop” near the student lounge, hosting a parasite-themed movie panel, and sharing the parasitology research done at NSU. March was a busy month for NSU's Parasitology Club!

## Parasite Day cont'd

**ASP on Twitter:** #ParasiteDay2019 was a huge success! The American Society of Parasitologists' twitter account (@AmSocParasit) encouraged folks to share their favorite parasite photo or video. This generated over 100 tweets with parasite photos or videos that included the #ParasiteDay2019 hashtag. Some of these tweets were particularly successful, including a tweet by Dr. Amandine Guerin with a video of *Toxoplasma gondii*, which was retweeted 489 times and liked 1,600 times as of March 12, 2019.

Parasite Day 2019 fell on the same week as International Women's Day 2019. To celebrate IWD2019, Dr. Susan Perkins and members of the PR Committee generated tweets for the ASP's twitter account highlighting women in parasitology.

A huge **THANK YOU** to all of the parasitologists, teachers, and students who participated in Parasite Day 2019!

**Please consider joining us for Parasite Day 2020 in March!**

## Keep In Touch with ASP

You can find us on Social Media

Twitter: [@AmSocParasit](https://twitter.com/AmSocParasit)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

Visit the [ASP Blog](#) for more:

Field Notes

Member Spotlights

& ASP News

Finally: Join our [ASP Listserv](#) to stay up-to-date on other society communications.

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## ASP 2020

**The 95th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists**

will be held in Kansas City, Missouri

at the InterContinental Hotel-Kansas City at the Plaza

on July 16–19th.

The Local Organizing Committee is busy working on the official Call for Papers, planning fascinating workshops, and organizing an exciting meeting. We hope to see you there!

Watch social media & the ASP listserv for the Call for Papers and the launch of the meeting website.

