

NEWSLETTER

Edited by Kelly Weinersmith | Layout by Joanna Cielocha



The Presidents' Corner

In the American Society of Parasitologists, a person elected as Vice President is actually elected to hold 4 positions, each for 1 year. In the first year, they are Vice President. After that, they transition to President-Elect, then President, and then Immediate Past President. Below are messages from the President and President-Elect.

President - Anindo Choudhury

Hello, fellow ASP members!

Spring season greetings to all. Up north, it's still cold, wet, and even snowy. In the Upper Midwest, we eventually dug ourselves out of a historic snowstorm. Meanwhile, our friends farther north in the U.S. and Canada are still dealing with snow. Perhaps our more southern members, especially our friends in the southwest and in Latin America can send some warm weather our way. In our beloved ASP, we are gearing up for another wonderful annual meeting, this time in warm and sunny Orlando, Florida. The local organizing committee and the program chairs are busy getting everything ready. We want to see all of you there, so please submit abstracts and register for the meeting.



This year, we were able to launch the Bernie Fried Student Research Grant. An ad hoc ASP Bernie Fried Research Grant Committee solicited and received 26 graduate student applications and 4 undergraduate student applications. Five graduate awards of \$1000 each and four undergraduate awards of \$1,250 each were awarded, totaling 9 awards and \$10,000 in award funding. In addition, one graduate student was awarded \$1000 from the Rausch Award fund. Congratulations to all recipients and heartfelt thanks to all applicants. We want to see all of you talented and budding parasitologists become active members of our Society.

In other news, we are currently conducting a search for a new Editor of the *Journal of Parasitology*. If you are interested and feel qualified, please contact Steve Nadler – chair of the search committee – to explore the possibility or to formally apply. Our current editor, Rich Clopton, has graciously agreed to help in any way he can, so feel free to contact him if you would like to learn more about what the work entails.

On a personal note, I was delighted to attend the annual meeting of the Northern California Parasitologists (NCP) at UC Davis on March 7. I was graciously invited by the organizers to say a few words, which allowed me to bring greetings on behalf of ASP and later discuss matters of mutual interest to both societies, including ideas about a future ASP meeting on the west coast.

I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando. Stay well!

President Elect - Kelly Weinersmith

Howdy, ASP!

I can't wait to see everyone in Orlando! Please come say "hi" to me, and let me know if there is anything you'd like to see me working on during my upcoming tenure as President. I'd love to hear from you!



Table of Contents

The Presidents' Corner.....	1
Upcoming Meeting Information	2
Palettes & Parasites	2
Parasite Week Update.....	2
Call for Editor-in-Chief	3
News from the Museum of SW Biology.....	3-4
Regional Society Updates	4-6
Resources	6
Sponsored Membership	7
Keep in Touch with the ASP	7

The Journal of Parasitology

Be sure to check out the [Journal of Parasitology \(JP\) website](#) for new papers, and information on how to submit your paper. With the continuous publication model, manuscripts go online as soon as formatting is complete.

ASP members do not pay page charges for publishing in the JP. Open Access rates are \$800 for members, and \$1,100 for non-members.

If you'd like to review for the Journal and have not already signed up to be a reviewer, please consider signing up [here](#).



Upcoming Meeting Information

Join us for the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists — Sunday, July 26 through Wednesday, July 29 — at the beautifully inviting Rosen Plaza Hotel, located in the heart of Orlando on International Drive. The ASP room rate for the meeting is only \$149 per night, and guest rates are good 3 days before and 3 days after the conference. So bring your family and stick around for some fun in Orlando! With its prime location just minutes from world-famous theme parks the hotel offers a perfect blend of scientific engagement and family-friendly fun under sunny skies. Across the street lies Pointe Orlando, a vibrant hub of dining and entertainment—ideal for networking after a day of parasitology sessions. From poolside chats about host-parasite interactions to strolls on I-Drive after the poster session, this setting lets you bring together the joy of summer and the rigor of our discipline. We hope you'll plan to attend, present your latest work, and soak in both the science and the sunshine! [Click here for more information.](#)

Looking even farther forward, our 2027 meeting will be held in July in Auburn, Alabama! See you there!



Palettes & Parasites



At the American Society of Parasitologists Annual Meeting

Have a creative side to your science? Palettes & Parasites is your chance to share it!

We invite attendees to bring and display their parasite-inspired creations—whether it's artwork, photography, crafts, or scientific imagery. From paintings and sketches to scanning electron micrographs, mixed media, or models—this is a space to showcase the beauty, complexity, and creativity of parasitology.

- ✦ Open to all skill levels.
- 🖼 Display your work.
- 🌟 Celebrate parasites through art and science.

Let's highlight the artistic side of parasitology—bring your work and be part of the exhibit! You must be in attendance at the annual meeting to participate.



Parasite Week Update

Submitted by John Shea

Thanks to everyone who generously gave their time to speak in classrooms about parasites in honor of Parasite Week. During this time, 14 parasitologists spoke to almost 500 students across the United States infecting others with their passion for parasites! Special shout out to Tyler Achatz and Maggie Young who spoke to 216 students in eleven classes in Forsythe, Georgia! I'm especially grateful for everyone's help because I was out of the country and could not participate this year.

Call for Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Parasitology*

The American Society of Parasitologists (ASP) is seeking candidates to serve in the position of editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Parasitology*. The selected candidate would begin his or her official term following the summer 2027 ASP meeting but would need to receive training from the current editor (Professor Rich Clopton) prior to that date.

The Journal of Parasitology is an international print and online peer-reviewed journal that was founded in 1914 and publishes papers on all aspects of parasitology, including molecular biology, organismal biology, systematics, and ecology. *The Journal of Parasitology* is the official journal of the ASP.

General Qualifications

The editor-in-chief should be a recognized scientist whose reputation brings prestige and visibility to *The Journal of Parasitology*. The ideal candidate should have significant experience in the writing, editing, and reviewing of scientific research manuscripts. A comprehensive background and broad experience in the field of parasitology is strongly desired.

The editor should be able to devote the time and energy necessary to ensure that published articles are of the highest quality and of scientific interest to the journal's readers, including the membership of ASP. He or she should also be willing to work closely with the Associate and Consulting Editors to advance the quality and reputation of *The Journal of Parasitology*.

Responsibilities

- Provide scientific leadership for the journal, working to ensure that articles published are of the highest quality and scientific interest, and that the peer review process proceeds smoothly.
- Direct manuscripts to appropriate Associate Editors (who oversee the reviews of research manuscripts), and make decisions on acceptance, rejection or revision. In 2024, *The Journal of Parasitology* received 152 manuscript submissions that were handled for review by the Associate Editors. In 2024, JP published 81 manuscripts submitted between 2022 and 2024. For any given year, JP usually accepts 60% of submitted manuscripts, rejects 30%, and the balance are withdrawn after initial review.
- Personally handle submissions that fall into special categories (for example, Book reviews, In memoria, Announcements, Award lectures, Presidential addresses).
- Work with the copy editor to ensure accuracy of content published in *Journal of Parasitology*.
- Recommend candidates for the positions of Associate and Consulting Editors.
- Participate, along with *The Journal of Parasitology* Consulting Editors, in decisions on authors' appeals.
- In cases of potential author misconduct, conduct initial investigations and, if necessary, serve along with the consulting editors on author misconduct panels.
- Participate as a voting member of ASP's Council.

The editor-in-chief will have access of up to \$5,000 per year for the reimbursement of Journal-related expenses and receives a \$10,000 institutional stipend in support of their laboratory. The editor-in-chief must be a member of ASP at the time of appointment. The term is

five years, with the possibility of renewal. The current editor, Professor Clopton, will conclude his term with the 2027 ASP meeting. The ASP administrative executive secretary who assists the editor (Vickie Hennings) will step down December 31, 2027. She will assist the new executive secretary with the "December" issue in production through its completion in 2028. The new editor will choose the next executive secretary, who is paid by ASP (20+ hours/week). It will be important for the new editor to train with Professor Clopton and for the new executive secretary to train with Vickie Hennings prior to their end dates.

The deadline for applications is **May 1, 2026**. Interested candidates should submit the following to Professor Steve Nadler via email (sanadler@ucdavis.edu):

1. Cover letter describing their qualifications for the position, including a statement of editorial philosophy and vision for the journal;
2. Curriculum vitae;
3. Names and email addresses of three references (at least one should be a member of the ASP).

For additional information about position responsibilities, contact the Search Committee Chair, Steve Nadler.

News from the Museum of Southwestern Biology Division of Parasites (MSBP) at the University of New Mexico

Dear ASP members,

We are excited to share a recent change in the curatorial team for the Museum of Southwestern Biology Division of Parasites (MSBP) at the University of New Mexico. In January 2026, Kaylee Herzog assumed the position of curator of the division, joining collection manager and immediate ASP past president Sara Brant. We would like to acknowledge the past leadership of distinguished professor emeritus Eric "Sam" Loker, who served as curator for 15 years, from the division's establishment in 2011 through 2025. As MSBP's first curator, Sam was an exceptional leader who made significant contributions to the division, particularly through his incredibly successful and productive research program exploring the immunobiology and global diversity of schistosomes. Sam's legacy of excellence leaves big parasitological shoes to fill.



The MSBP houses the third-largest museum collection of parasites in North America, following the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the US National Parasite Collection at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. The division's diverse holdings include collections with strengths in mammal and seabird hosts from the Arctic and Antarctic; small mammal hosts from the desert Southwest; raptor hosts from the Midwest; and gastropod hosts from around the world; as well as expansive collections of trematodes (Family Schistosomatidae) and horsehair worms (Phylum Nematomorpha). It also houses the lifetime collections of notable parasitologists Robert and Virginia Rausch, Ralph Eckerlin, Norman Dronen, Albert Grundmann, Eric Hoberg, and Mauritz "Skip" Sterner.

As the MSBP steadily builds a reputation as a world-class repository for parasite natural history specimens, we hope to highlight the collection as an evergreen resource for ASP members. The MSBP is equipped to accept all varieties of type and voucher specimens from parasitology projects, including slides, fluid-preserved specimens, SEM stubs, and even nucleic acids and frozen tissues. In addition to supporting new specimen deposition, the MSBP issues loans to encourage the use of existing collections in ongoing research. Kaylee and Sara will both be in attendance at the annual meeting of the ASP in July 2026. When you see us at the meeting, please say hello, and share with us your thoughts on opportunities for the MSBP to meet the museum-based needs of the growing community of researchers in parasitology. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando!

Your MSBP Curatorial Team,
Kaylee Herzog & Sara Brant



Regional Society Updates

Helminthological Society of Washington

<https://www.helmsoc.org/>

The 735th meeting of the Helminthological Society of Washington was held on April 24 and 25, 2026 at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA. We also celebrated our Anniversary Award recipient, Dr. Anna J. Phillips, who was unable to accept her award at the Fall meeting due to the government shutdown.



Congratulations to our student award winners for their excellent presentations!

- The Stirewalt-Lincecome award for best overall presentation went to **Jake Metzger** for The Role of Diplostomid Parasites in the Maintenance of a Subordinate Mating Strategy of Bluegill Sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*).
- The award for best graduate student presentation went to **Meghan Nadzam** for Tricky Trematodes: Identifying patterns in parasite diversity in snail hosts inhabiting seagrass ecosystems.
- The Judith Humphrey Shaw Award for best undergraduate presentation went to **Skyleigh D'Ambrosia** for Behavioral responses of *Tenebrio molitor* to volatile cues linked to parasite transmission, and second place went to **Eleanor Pace** for The Impact of Eutrophication on Parasite Diversity at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center.
- The best graduate student poster award went to **Garrett Maggio** for Investigating the Population Genetic Structure of Mudsail-Specific Trematodes as Bioindicators of Definitive Host Biogeography.
- The best undergraduate student poster award went to **Kiersten Jewell** for Understanding the parasite Didymozoida within Atlantic Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*).

HelmSoc is also excited to announce our 2026 Bernard Fried Student Research Grant Recipients! We funded three proposals, for a total of \$10,023 dollars:

Julia Rennels (Bachelor's/Master's - Advisor: Amy Fowler): Shell-Associated and Internal Parasites of the Long-Clawed Hermit Crab (*Pagurus longicarpus*) Along the U.S. Atlantic Coast (\$3,348).

- Biography: Julia is a Senior at George Mason University pursuing both a B.S. and M.S. in Environmental Science through the Accelerated Masters program. She is passionate about sustainable management and restoration of coastal ecosystems in order to promote biodiversity, while understanding the changing environment. She further expanded her interest in this field through her time spent at the National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute. She is looking forward to continuing her education and professional career in conservation and sustainability.
- Project Summary: My research looks at parasites in long clawed hermit crabs (*Pagurus longicarpus*) and how they affect things like reproduction and survival.



Garrett Maggio (Graduate student - Advisor: April Blakeslee): Investigating the Population Genetic Structure of Mudsail-Specific Trematodes as Bioindicators of Definitive Host Biogeography (\$3,675)

- Biography: I'm an aspiring ecological researcher and educator with research interests at the intersection of conservation biology, molecular ecology, and parasitology. I am currently a PhD student in Dr. April Blakeslee's lab at East Carolina University. My dissertation research aims to use parasite population genetic structure to study the biogeography of vertebrate hosts that are rare, elusive, threatened, or otherwise difficult to study. I previously earned an MS in Environmental

Science from Dr. Mike McCoy's lab at FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, including a thesis project on a trematode parasite specific to diamondback terrapins. I was born in southern California but grew up in Massachusetts, where I found my passion for the environment and started pursuing a career in science while enrolled at Wheaton College MA.



Project summary: This project will investigate the population genetic structure of all 9 digenean trematode parasites known to use the eastern mudsnail *Ilyanassa obsoleta* as an intermediate host. I expect patterns in structure to broadly reflect the dispersal capacity of each parasite's definitive host, with the terrapin-dependent parasite likely exhibiting lower population connectivity than those reliant on mobile birds or fish. I will investigate parasite structure in relation to contemporary biogeographic breaks and try to infer the recolonization of northern habitat after the last glacial maximum ~20kya.

Jasmine Groves (Graduate student - Advisor: Jasmine Childress): Unlikely Filters: Helminths as PFAS Bioaccumulators in Osprey (\$3,000)

Biography: My name is Jasmine Groves and I am currently a



1st-year PhD student for Dr. Jasmine Childress at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. I got my bachelor's degree at the University of Colorado - Boulder where I conducted research with Dr. Pieter Johnson. I spent two years with Dr. Johnson as a research technician before moving to Madison, Wisconsin to pursue my PhD. I have always been fascinated with the creepy-crawly aspect of science. I was first attracted to my undergraduate position because it involved dissection and that was where I fell in love with parasites. I am excited for the opportunity to conduct my own research projects and build my dissertation from the ground up with Dr. Childress.

Project Summary: My project will be a pilot study where I will determine whether endoparasites (acanthocephalans, cestodes, nematodes, and trematodes) can be used as bioaccumulators for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in birds. Various disposal methods have led to PFAS leaching into the surrounding environment, which has led to the near

ubiquitous contamination of every type of ecosystem. PFAS has been found in sediment, water, and animal tissue, but parasites have yet to be tested. We plan to collect bird carcasses in collaboration with rehabilitation centers around the Great Lakes area, where PFAS have been especially prevalent in the freshwater systems. Broadly speaking, my PhD dissertation will focus on understanding how different contaminants introduced by anthropogenic influences parasite transmission and diversity.

Congratulations to the awardees! We look forward to hearing what you learn!

Northern California Parasitologists (NCP)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/113205405356309/>

The Northern California Parasitologists 2026 Spring Meeting was on March 7, 2026 at the University of California, Davis. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Shahid Siddique, UC Davis. The title of his presentation was "Peptide Mimicry and Metabolic Exchange in Host-Nematode Interactions". Dr. Siddique studies soil nematodes. It was an excellent presentation on this topic. It was also interesting to compare the soil nematode interactions with plants to nematodes that infect animal hosts.

There were three student presentations:

- Winner of the Balamuth-Horen Award for the Best Student Presentation: **Stephanie Martinez-Beltran**, University of California, Davis, "Parasitophorous Vacuole Membrane Composition Shapes IFN γ -Mediated Restriction of *Toxoplasma gondii*."
- Winner of the Walter Carr Award: **Lilly Raphaelian**, San Francisco State University, " "Russian Doll Virus": Using RNAscope in-situ hybridization to reveal host-virus interactions of Matryoshka RNA viruses within Avian Haemosporidian parasites."
- Meir Zhang, Santa Clara University, "Anti-Toxoplasma Effect of FDA-approved Proteasome Inhibitors."

The Northern California Parasitologists encourage mentors and students to invite their colleagues to attend and participate in our annual meetings. California has a diverse population and is a hub for national and international travel. It is important that the public be protected from local and introduced parasites. We hope to expand our membership to meet this need.

Southeastern Association of Parasitologists (SSP)

<https://southeasternsocietyparasitology.org/>

The annual meeting of the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists was held from March 19-21, 2026, and was hosted by the College of Charleston at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Resources Research Institute in Charleston, South Carolina.

New England Association of Parasitologists (NEAP)

The New England Association of Parasitologists are meeting at the University of New Hampshire on Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 8:30AM to 5PM.



The poster for the 2026 New England Association of Parasitologists Meeting features a dark blue background with white text and a QR code. It includes the NEAP logo, the University of New Hampshire logo, and an aerial view of the Spaulding Hall building. The text provides details about the meeting date, time, location, and registration fees for students and faculty. It also includes a registration link and contact information for Dr. Vicki Jeffers.

2026 New England Association of Parasitologists Meeting
Come learn about the parasite research happening New England!
May 2, 2026 8:30 am-5 pm
Spaulding Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham
Registration Fee: Students \$10
Faculty \$20
Interested? Register here! → [QR Code]
Questions? Contact Dr. Vicki Jeffers at Victoria.Jeffers@unh.edu

Southwestern Association of Parasitologists (SWAP)

<https://aspmeetings.wixsite.com/swap>

The Southwestern Association of Parasitologists held their 59th Annual Meeting at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station April 9-11th. There were 65 paid members for 2026, with 62 people attending the meeting. The membership consists of 23 faculty members and 42 student members from 8 states. This was our largest meeting since before the COVID pandemic. Another point of importance was that SWAP returned to the OUBS after a 2-year hiatus due to maintenance and renovations.

A total of 25 oral presentations and 10 poster presentations were given at the meeting. Student Awards were as follows:

John Janovy Best Student Poster Presentation Award

- **Sarah Palmeri:** Characterization of the gut microbiome in blackflies across developmental stages and seasons
Honorable Mention—Undergraduate Student

- **Sierra Vermeer:** Prevalence of Chagas Disease in Southeastern Nebraska Shelter Dogs
Honorable Mention—Graduate Student

Honorable Mention—Graduate Student

- **Allison Bryant:** The first North American evaluation of parasites in the component community structure in invasive tropical house geckos from Florida
Marc H. Dresden Award

Marc H. Dresden Award

- **Celina Eberle:** Parasitological perspectives on the invasion of bullfrog in New Mexico
David A. Becker Award

David A. Becker Award

- **Maria Bollinger:** Population Genetics and Parasite Communities of a disjunct woodfrog population in Arkansas
Student Research Grant

Student Research Grant

- **Cecilia Phan:** Myxosporean (Cnidaria) Parasites of Fishes from East Texas.

Officers for 2026-2027 will be Kyle Gustafson, President; Brandon Ruehle, President-Elect; Joanna Cielocha, Secretary-Treasurer; and Nick Negovetich, ASP Representative.

The 60th Annual meeting will take place at OUBS April 8-10, 2027.

Resources

The Membership Committee, led by Mike Moser, put together a list of resources that may be helpful to the parasitology community. Enjoy!

1. ASP Home Page has links to programs from some of our past meetings: <https://www.amsocparasit.org/past-meetings>

2. Despommier's Parasitic Diseases, 8th ed (Griffin, Gwadz, Hotez, Knirschhttps) can be downloaded for free here: <https://parasiteswithoutborders.com/parasites-without-borders-announces-release-of-8th-edition-of-textbook/>

3. Parasitic Diseases - Clinical Appendix 7th ed can be downloaded for free here: <https://parasiteswithoutborders.com/books/>

4. Gerald D. Schmidt and Larry S. Robert's Foundations in Parasitology 8th ed (Roberts and Janovy) downloaded for free here: https://deevesacb.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/foundations_of_parasitology.pdf

5. Scott Gardner's Manter Lab at the University of Nebraska can be found on social media Facebook at <https://facebook.com/manterlab> or Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/manter_lab/. Scott and Sue Gardner's book Concepts in Animal Parasitology can be downloaded for free here, or you can purchase a hard copy using the same link: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/zeabook/160/>

Other books affiliated with the Manter Lab:

Parasites: The inside story: <https://press.princeton.edu/ideas/parasites-and-the-interconnected-biosphere>

An Evolutionary Pathway for Coping with Emerging Infectious Disease: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/zeabook/148/>

Parasites: The Inside Scoop (smaller version of the inside story - for teaching): <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/zeabook/106>

Dictionary of Invertebrate Zoology (online or can be printed in Lulu press): <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/onlinedictinvertzoology/>

6. Podcasts

This Week In Parasitism (TWIP): <https://www.microbe.tv/twip/>

Parasites Without Borders: <https://parasiteswithoutborders.com/all-courses/>

7. Classes

Cedar Point Biological Station in Nebraska offers summer classes. Find more information here: <https://cedarpoint.unl.edu/>

If you have additional resources you'd like to share, please email Mike Moser (mmoser@berkeley.edu) to add them to our list. Thanks!

Sponsored Memberships

The ASP has created a Sponsored Membership opportunity where members are able to give a gift of an online membership to a colleague. A Sponsored Membership may be given as an Active, Student/Post Doc, or Associate membership, and can be for one or three years. Sponsored members having had the prescribed dues paid are Members in Good Standing and enjoy all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of Membership.

If you are a Sponsor who desires to establish a Sponsored Membership for someone, you may do so by contacting the ASP Business Office by phone at +1 785-289-2056 (M-F 8:30am-4:30pm Central Time) or email us at asp.ks@kwglobal.com.

When contacting the ASP Business Office to sponsor a membership, please provide the following information for the sponsored member(s):

- Full name of sponsored member(s)
- Membership category for sponsored member(s)
- Full postal address of sponsored member(s)
- Email address of sponsored member(s)
- Phone number of sponsored member(s)

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