Annual Newsletter and Bibliography of the International Society of Plecopterologists



***Perlesta nelsoni* Stark, 1989 (adult female)**
Pale Stone
USA, North Carolina, Wilkes County, Mulberry Creek, SR 2333, 36.17684, -81.10663, 24 June 2026, reared. (credit – Chris Verdone)

PERLA – Volume 44

5 November 2026

Published at the University of Illinois, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois, USA, 61820

Managing Editor: Scott A. Grubbs

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Acknowledgements

Audrey Harrison generously shared the eulogy that she prepared and delivered during Dr. Stark's celebration in life (see pg. 17). Her narrative is emblematic of the profound impacts that we, as research scientists working in a broad array of professional environments, can have on younger generations who, in turn, can pay those important experiences forward at a later time. We are continually and profoundly appreciative of Manuel Tierno de Figueroa and Manuel J. López-Rodríguez (Granada, Spain) for preparing and sharing an extensive 2025–2026 bibliography. Society members continue to kindly contribute updates on research activities (see "Member News"). Finally, several members contributed images for consideration to represent the cover page of this volume, but the decision was made to present an excellent habitus picture of a species described by Dr. Bill Stark. All other submitted images are provided at the end of this issue with full information as supplied by each individual.

International Society of Plecopterologists Policy

The International Society of Plecopterologists (ISP) no longer (since 2021) requires dues for receiving *Perla* nor for membership. *Perla* is presently completely electronic. Due to the size of the issue, Society members will be given notice when and where the issue is ready to be downloaded.

Membership is maintained by the Managing Editor as a Google Sheet and new names are added when they appear in articles added to Plecoptera Species File. Others may request addition to the list of members by sending an email request to the Managing Editor at scott.grubbs@wku.edu. The list is private but may be shared with those who have direct business with the Society (e.g., hosting the joint mayfly and stonefly meetings).

International Society of Plecopterologists Funds

R. Edward DeWalt continues as Treasurer for the International Society of Plecopterologists. Funds are managed by the University of Illinois. DeWalt will provide reports of income and expenditures annually or as requested from the Chair of the Standing Committee. Requests for disbursements may be sent by email to Dr. DeWalt (dewalt@illinois.edu). Please provide at least one month to arrange for payment to recipients. A brief Treasurer's report will be provided to Society members with each *Perla* issue. Accounting of the funds beginning January 1 2026.

Date	Income	Expenditure	Balance	Notes
2024-01-01			15500.00	Initial balance transferred from CSU. Noted in Perla 41.
2024-03-01		9226.20	6273.80	Four student airline tickets purchased for 2024 MF/SF Joint Meeting attendance.
2024-05-01	10088.59		16362.39	RED personal donation and stonefly book sales.
2024-08-01	1000.00		17362.39	Donations from individuals and silent auction proceeds from 2024 MF/SF Joint Meeting.
2024-09-18	28.00		17390.39	Stonefly book sales.
2025-01-28	2531.10		19921.49	Revenue from the 2024 MF/SF Joint Meeting.
2025-02-28	59.60		19981.09	Stonefly book sales.
No expenses or income registered in 2026.				

Given rules at the University of Illinois for managing our "Custodial Funds", the University accepts donations to support the fund in the form of a check made payable to the "University of Illinois" with "Perla Fund" written in the memo line or as cash provided to the Treasurer in person at the Joint meeting. A receipt will be provided. The checks can be sent directly to the Treasurer at the following address.

R. Edward DeWalt, Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois, 1816 S Oak St., Champaign, Illinois, USA

Plecoptera Species File

From R. Edward DeWalt

Please remember to pass along stonefly papers as pdf files for inclusion in Plecoptera Species File (PlecSF). If you notice omissions or errors in PlecSF, please let me know and I will fix them. Please cite PlecSF in your papers where it makes sense. Citations help me to justify to supervisors my continued work on the file. Plecoptera names and classification are shared with Catalogue of Life Foundation (Foundation) on a frequent basis. Their data product, also called Catalogue of Life (https://www.catalogueoflife.org/), is now the taxonomic backbone for the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF, https://www.gbif.org/). Because of this data sharing, all ca. 1 million stonefly occurrence records in GBIF use PlecSF names.

Dr. William (Bill) P. Stark

30 December 1943 – 10 July 2026

Bill Stark Personal Obituary

Bill Stark with a light trap along the Tennessee River in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. (credit - Audrey Harrison)



Dr. Stark crafted arguably the most impressive and productive career amongst plecopterologists starting in the early 1970s, namely with taxonomic treatments of the Nearctic, Neotropical, Oriental, and Palearctic fauna. Highlights of his extraordinary career include nine stoneflies and two caddisflies named in his honor.

Plecoptera

Agnetina starki Du & Chou, 1998
Allocapnia starki Kondratieff & Kirchner, 2000
Anacroneuria starki Fenoglio & Morisi, 2002
† *Billoperla starki* Chen & Xu, 2021
Isoperla starki Szczytko & Kondratieff, 2015
Neoperla (*Neoperla*) *starki* Zwick, 1986
Styloperla starki Zhao, Huo & Du, 2019
Suwallia starki Alexander & Stewart, 1999
Taeniopteryx starki Stewart & Szczytko, 1974

Trichoptera

Neotrichia starki Harris & Armitage, 2019
Rhyacophila starki Smith & Weaver, 1984

He was a recipient of a Plecoptera Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 (together with his good friend and long-term colleague Dr. Richard W. Baumann).



Bill Stark (left), Ken Stewart (middle), and Dick Baumann (right) at the XI International Conference on Ephemeroptera and the XV International Symposium on Plecoptera held on August 22–29, 2004 at the University of Montana's Flathead Biological Station, USA. (credit – **Perla 2005**).

Dr. Stark had an extensive research record of ca. 240 articles published in the peer-reviewed literature, including the descriptions of **nearly 440 species(!!)**. Publications dating from 1973–2005 were taken from Perla 2005 and from 2005 and forward with the assistance of specific prompts with Claude.ai. The latter were vetted for accuracy.

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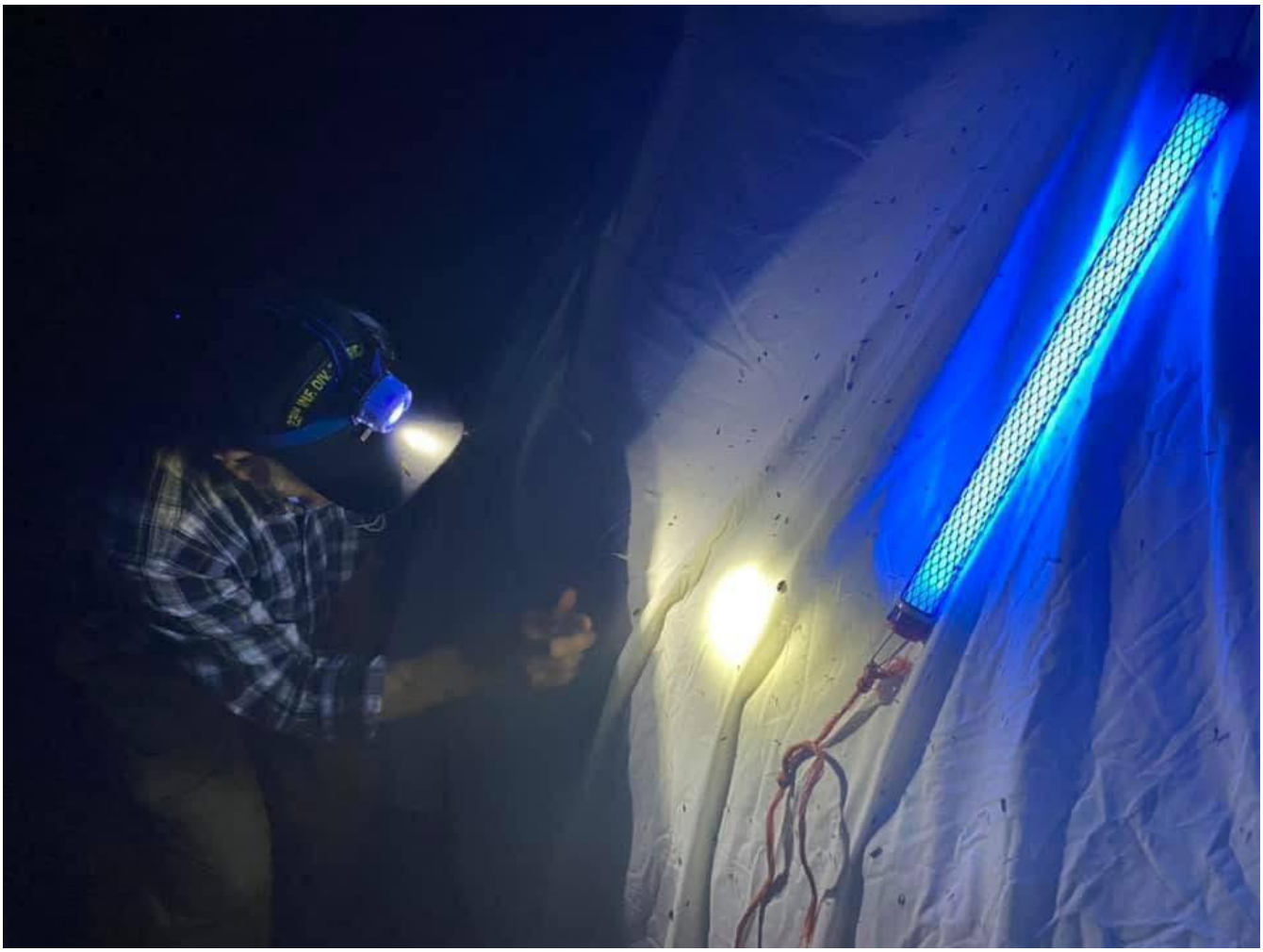
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Bill picking insects off a UV light sheet, Tallahatta Creek, Newton Co., Mississippi, USA. (credit – Audrey Harrison).

The Life of Bill P. Stark – by Audrey Harrison



Bill and Audrey Harrison at Tallahatta Creek, Newton Co., Mississippi, USA. (credit – Audrey Harrison)

Dr. Stark told Mrs. Lida that he wanted this service to be short and to the point...But he can't really control that, can he? I'll do my best, though it is hard to capture the big life of Dr. Stark in any small number of words.

Dr. Bill Stark is the single most influential person in my life, and over his 82 years, has touched many other lives as well, some of them not stoneflies... It's very difficult to speak about Bill Stark without at least some laughter because this man was one of the funniest people to have ever lived. In every one of his classes, there were about three students who realized that. I remember my first class with Dr. Stark - majors Biology 102 - the second semester of my freshman year. I was a teacher's pet as usual and sat in the front row, center seat, which was audacious considering how we met the previous semester. I had already made this quiet, seemingly private man uncomfortable, when I ran up to him while he was getting food in the cafeteria and proceeded to word vomit about my childhood experiences at Entomology Camp. After my tizzy, he only said "very cool" and gave me a shy smile. When I sat eagerly in that front row, I couldn't help but hang on his every word. I would look behind me in dismay while slapping my leg and laughing out loud at his lecture commentary, while other students stared blankly or were asleep. Dr. Stark had the greatest dry humor.

When Courtney called to tell me about Dr. Stark's passing, I was struck with a deep feeling of loss that was met with an immense sense of relief. Relief that he was no longer living outside of his preferred modes of routine and service. Most of you know Dr. Stark from one or more of his many roles in this community. And if you knew him in one of these roles, you will agree that Bill Stark lived a life of quiet, steady service. He was probably the most routined individual I've ever met, consistent you could say. Here at Northside, he showed up early to set the thermostats, make the coffee, and singin the choir. At the Nature Center, which he helped charter and build, he opened and closed the gate daily, worked on the trails on Saturday mornings, and cleaned the bathrooms each weekend. Dr. Stark served Mississippi College for 45 years, most of the time as the first to arrive in the building every morning. I appreciated each time I called extension 3340 and heard that wonderfully consistent, "Biology, this is Stark" greeting when he picked up the phone. Dr. Stark adored his family, and their commitment to routine meant that

you could and still can find them supporting any number of local restaurants or stores predictably.

On trips, we loved watching Dr. Stark get a little giddy when Mrs. Lida would call to check in with him in her excited way, always supportive of his work and travels. He would light up as he opened his little flip phone and we could always hear her on the other end telling us how glad she was that we were in beautiful places, finding what we were looking for, and having a good time. His Saturday routine was always one of my favorites. I loved stopping by his office to visit or work with him after his trail work at the Nature Center was done. Predictably, he would get a phone call from "the ladies" who would stop by to get the credit card to go shopping and to lunch. These routines are one of my favorite parts of remembering him. As I've gotten older, I appreciate consistency as one of many measures of character. It signals a comfort with oneself. Dr. Stark was routined and consistent in sometimes unseen, but always meaningful ways. The routine and consistency by which he lived, coupled with the support of his family was evident in the monumental work Dr. Stark contributed to science and to local ecosystems. He would never speak of himself in this way, but our personalities are very different and I surely don't mind bragging on him - he is easy to put on a pedestal. This man was a titan in his field. His dedication to the study of insects resulted in him publishing more than 240 scientific journal articles and describing over 400 stonefly species new to science. To put that into context, there are around 4,000 stonefly species known globally. Dr. Stark noticed, studied, appreciated, and gave names to 436 individual species. Naming and describing species is very serious work, and Bill Stark took it seriously, but not without inserting his own twist. While most of his species epithets were descriptive of an anatomical characteristic of the organism like *Acroneuria apicalis* or paid homage to place or people groups like *Zealeuctra cherokee*, Dr. Stark also had some fun naming species. Some of my favorites are *Anacroneuria carole* and *Anacroneuria taylori* honoring Carole King and James Taylor, though my ultimate favorite may be *Diamphipnoa colberti*, named for Stephen Colbert.

Bill Stark was world-renowned. Globally, he was known, loved, and respected, and his loss is felt in places near and far. Scientists like Dr. Stark are rare, and oftentimes experts with a record like his are unbearable due to their large egos and arrogance. Not Bill Stark. In fact, I bet some of you are hearing of his powerful scientific legacy for the first time. His commitment to science extended into the community. Some of you have had him provide monarch caterpillars to your classrooms, or have had him help you pick out plants at a plant sale. Maybe you've seen him helping Tom move salamanders across the Natchez Trace Parkway on rainy winter nights, in an effort known as the "Bucket Brigade." In all of these ways, he supported discovery, curiosity, and conservation, all while moving the science of the world's stoneflies forward in a landmark way. Bill Stark was a dedicated and genius scientist.

Dr. Stark was inspirational to Mississippi College students. Of all the many ways that he impacted my life and the lives of other students, I would say that traveling with him left the greatest mark on us. Stoneflies only occur in the most pristine streams and rivers; chasing them introduced us to the world. On our adventures, Dr. Stark took joy in feeding our excitement of exploring new places and expanding our horizons. Last Friday night, I pulled out this old journal, which includes a detailed commentary on "The Way out West: Stonefly Adventure 2009", which is the title Dr. Stark gave to the trip that marked my introduction to the American West. Reading the words of my 20-year old self as my world was opening brought me laughter, embarrassment, and tears. My entries capture the very essence of road tripping with Bill Stark, including his dedication to lodging at Motel 6s and eating breakfast every morning at McDonalds. This being mine and Kelly Keith's maiden voyage west, Dr. Stark would quickly pull off any busy interstate in that 15-passenger van to take our picture at each state line we crossed. He played "Rocky Mountain High" as we traversed switchbacks in Colorado, and "Wild Montana Skies" as we entered the Bitterroot Valley. He was fun! And he made life and travel fun! After college, most of our travels were just the two of us. In 2014, we drove to Oregon for 3.5 weeks in the MC van. To this day, my mother asks, "what in the world could you possibly talk about all that way? He's so quiet!" I don't think we ever even turned on the radio that trip. I lived for the stories Dr. Stark would tell of his life as a child from a poor family in Red Oak, Oklahoma, to meeting Mrs. Lida, serving in Vietnam, raising his girls, enjoying his grandsons, and of course, the wildest imaginable stories of collecting stoneflies with his students and colleagues. I got to learn about his life and know him in ways made possible only by the abundance of miles and time together.

I just returned from driving solo to and from Montana for work. I listened to some music and kept in touch with my friends and family, but mostly I just thought. And, I thought a lot about Dr. Stark and who he was, how he lived, and all he taught me. He was open minded and progressive. He was an artist; he painted, wrote poetry, and made jewelry. He never shied away from politics. He tipped 100%. He was incredibly patient. He believed that anger was unproductive. He voluntarily enlisted in the Army to serve in a war during graduate school. He was deeply invested in his community.

He shaped who I am as a person. He introduced me to native plants. He helped me publish my first journal articles and took me to my first scientific conference. He introduced me to Jan Hoover, who hired me at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center , where I still love my work every single day. He helped me navigate graduate school and served on my Ph.D. committee. And to think...these are the gifts he gave to just one student. I struggle to fathom the cumulative impacts Bill Stark had over his life and career. It was my great joy and the privilege of my life to know and love him. **What a life, indeed.**

Carlo Consiglio (1929-2026): The Man and the Scientist – by Romolo Fochetti



Participants of the First Symposium on Plecoptera in Lausanne, Switzerland (L–R): J. Illies, J. Rauser, H.B.N. Hynes, C. Consiglio, P. Brinck, J. Aubert, and Pomeisl.

When I began studying Plecoptera—the order of insects of which Carlo Consiglio was one of the earliest and leading modern scholars at both European and international levels—he had already been drawn, driven by a pragmatic yet "restless" intelligence, toward the world of protection, conservation, and management of what would later, in poor managerial jargon, be termed "wildlife resources". Due to generational differences, our paths hardly crossed, even though his presence hovered through the corridors of the then Institute of Zoology at La Sapienza University of Rome—a true powerhouse of systematic zoologists and faunists—alongside anecdotes about his lectures, television appearances, and boundless zoological knowledge. These were the 1970s and 1980s, vibrant with the enthusiasm for field research on terrestrial, inland water, and marine fauna. This work gave rise to numerous research groups that later achieved global renown, and Carlo Consiglio can rightly be considered one of their founding fathers.

In the solemn academic tributes dedicated to a deceased professor, reference is always made to their professional life, and I shall not refrain from doing so. However, I would like to emphasize that Carlo Consiglio himself would likely have laughed at this, fully intent as he was on living his life to the fullest—not only as a zoologist, but also as a free thinker, ecologist, environmentalist, naturist, and, why not, "polyamorous"—embracing a consensual relational orientation not based on monogamous love. In this regard, I invite you to read the pages he dedicated to these topics on the website he maintained until a few years ago: a delightful read, filled with subtle irony and disarming candor. (**https://www.carloconsiglio.it/**; retrievable via **https://web.archive.org/web/20160304044236/**)

Carlo Consiglio was born in Rome on January 24, 1929. He graduated in Biological Sciences from the University of Rome in 1950 with top honors (*110/110 cum laude*). He first served as a temporary assistant for the Chair of Zoology at the University of Rome, and later as a tenured assistant for the same chair until 1970. He earned his habilitation in Zoology in 1960 and in Entomology in 1963. After serving as an aggregate professor of zoological subjects at the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Rome, he became full professor of Zoology in 1973 until 1997, when he voluntarily chose to retire.

Throughout his career, he held leadership positions at the National Institute of Entomology, served as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Washington Convention on

International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and was a member of the Nature Conservation Committee of the National Research Council (CNR).

A scholar of exceptional zoological expertise, his scientific interests led him to conduct research on the systematics, faunistics, ecology, and ethology of Odonata, as well as the systematics, faunistics, and biogeography of Plecoptera. He also studied the ecology of Birds and the chorology, ecology, and ethology of Cetaceans when, in his own words, he "stopped killing insects" on an uncertain date around the 1980s. He was the author or co-author of 163 books and printed scientific publications (attached list).

In his research, he described 1 new genus, 19 new species, and 1 new subspecies of Plecoptera, as well as 4 new species of Odonata. None of these new taxa were subsequently relegated to synonymy. Several authors dedicated new animal species or subspecies to him: *Habrophlebia consiglioi* Biancheri, 1959 (Ephemeroptera, Leptophlebiidae), *Protonemura consiglioi* Aubert, 1953 (Plecoptera, Nemouridae), *Pericoma consigliana* Sarà, 1953 (Diptera, Psychodidae), *Stenosis consiglioi* Canzoneri, 1973 (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae), and *Tinodes dives consiglioi* Botosaneanu, 1980 (Trichoptera, Psychomyiidae).

However, a remembrance of Carlo Consiglio would not be complete without mentioning his activism in defense of animal species (what we would call today biodiversity), the broader environment, and against research involving invasive methods on animal models. His sensitivity led him to abandon scientific research that required the sacrifice of animals. In his own words: *"However, a contradiction arose between my new convictions and the scientific research I was conducting in the field of insect systematics and zoogeography—mainly Plecoptera and Odonata—which generally required killing the insects themselves. I resolved this issue by shifting my research focus toward Vertebrates, specifically the ecology and reproductive success of Passeriform, Coraciiform, and Pelecaniform birds, as well as the distribution and behavior of Cetaceans. I continued to work on Odonata but strictly limited to their behavior. These new research directions relied primarily on observation and did not require killing the study animals."*

This new outlook led him to found and preside for a long time over the *Lega per l'Abolizione della Caccia* (League for the Abolition of Hunting) and to join the *Movimento Antispecista*, an association dedicated to promoting *"a non-speciesist culture toward all sentient and non-sentient beings, human and non-human, who must be recognized as having the right to life, well-being, freedom, respect, and non-discrimination, within the scope of the needs of their respective species."* In this regard, he published a series of books on the topic, arguing for the necessity of abolishing hunting based on scientific deductions rather than merely personal ethical beliefs, which as such would remain open to debate.

Carlo Consiglio was also a forerunner of dietary choices that later gained widespread popularity. First a vegetarian and later a vegan, he combined this ethical stance on food with a deep passion for hiking in nature, a practice he maintained throughout his life, which also served his zoological research. In line with these choices, he gave up driving in favor

of public transportation, even authoring books on hiking excursions across various regions—primarily mountainous areas—accessible via public transit.

Carlo Consiglio was also a decidedly unconventional individual. Always dressed in bright colors, almost invariably in shorts and sandals, he practiced and advocated naturism. As can be seen, Carlo Consiglio's stature as a scholar, his vibrant intelligence, and his complexity as a man cannot be summarized in a few stereotyped lines or rigid formulas that would likely have felt too restrictive for him. The distinguished zoologist and the committed advocate blended together in him to form a unique individual who resists conventional categorization.

We will certainly miss his smile, his vitality, and his inner strength.

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Summary

XIV North American Plecoptera Symposium
12–14 May 2026
Highland Biological Station
Western Carolina University
Highlands, North Carolina, USA

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AGENDA

- **Day 1: Tuesday, May 12th**
  - Check in at HBS beginning at 10:00 am
  - Lunch/Meeting welcome and participant introductions 12:00–1:00 pm
  - Welcome to the Highlands Biological Station 1:00–1:15 pm
  - Stonefly presentations 1:20–5:00 pm
  - Dinner at HBS 5:30–6:30 pm
  - Optional local collecting 6:30 pm–dark

- **Day 2: Wednesday, May 13th**
  - Breakfast and coffee at HBS 8:00–9:00 am
  - Stonefly presentations 9:00–11:45 am
  - Lunch at HBS 12:00–1:00 pm
  - Stonefly presentations 1:00–3:00 pm
  - Macro photography workshop 3:30–5:00 pm
  - Dinner at HBS 5:30–6:30 pm
  - Optional local collecting 6:30 pm–dark

- **Day 3: Thursday, May 14th**
  - Breakfast and coffee at HBS 8:00–9:00 am
  - Meeting Summary and business meeting (XV NAPS) 9:00–10:00 am
  - Field trip (Wayah Bald) 11:00 am–4:00 pm (boxed lunches)
  - Dinner in town 5:00 pm
  - Stonefly trivia 7:00–9:00 pm

- **Friday, May 15th**
  - Disperse



It was an honor and a joy to host the 14th North American Plecoptera Symposium (NAPS). I had excellent help from the friendly and knowledgeable staff at the Highlands Biological Station (shout out to Sarah Vickery!) and from the caterer (Ms. Suzanne), owner/operator of The Kitchen. The success of this meeting was ultimately the result of the amazing participants. Just a bunch of friends hanging out and talking stoneflies–what could be better? Though I tried my best to spend time with everyone, staying up late into the night, the days simply weren't long enough. I guess we'll have to hold another meeting!

DAY-BY-DAY SUMMARY

Monday 5/11

John Sandberg, David Harwood, and I arrived early to set up the seminar room and the silent auction, which consisted of stonefly-themed office supplies, photo prints, and even stone drink coasters and a puzzle, among other things. Bob Zuellig, Rob Hood, and Phillip Hogan arrived around dinnertime, and we all went into town for pizza and got to know each other, with many of us meeting each other for the first time. Late that evening, after a 15-hour drive from Plattsburgh, New York, Luke Myers and Maria Jankowski arrived and were greeted with a cold beer.

Tuesday 5/12

Check-in began at 10 a.m., coffee machines were brewing, and people began trickling in one carload at a time. We had 22 people in attendance representing eight U.S. states ranging from California to New York. Our first order of business, once everyone had arrived, was lunch. This gave us all an opportunity to converse and catch up with one another. After lunch and introductions, we dove right into presentations, which included a welcome from the assistant director of the Biological Station, Jason Love, followed by talks summarizing the fauna and distributional patterns of Plecoptera in North America (Phillip Hogan), data management (Lily Hart, Maria Jankowski, and Phillip Hogan),

stoneflies of West Virginia (Theodore Cook), and an overview of the USGS aquatic insect reference collection (Rob Hood).

After a brief break, we were back at it with talks on drumming (John Sandberg), the Plecoptera of Pennsylvania (Scott Grubbs), and a review of the conservation efforts of the Virginia Natural Heritage Program (Steve Roble). The talks concluded with a rhyming poem by yours truly about new observations of setae and spines on various larval stonefly eyes. After dinner, the remainder of the evening was spent collecting stoneflies around the biological station, squeezing and identifying said stoneflies, and conversing over a few craft brews. I recall lots of laughing, particularly as a result of Katie Cody's wry wit.

Wednesday 5/13

The spacious accommodations meant that most of us only had to share a room with one other person, and several people even enjoyed private rooms. So, despite the late night, most of us appeared well rested. David Smith even found time for a six-mile run before breakfast! Maria Jankowski started us off with an update from her study of the stoneflies of Vermont, which previously had only 27 reported taxa. Spoiler, there are many more than 27! Then, we had another talk on drumming from John Sandberg, followed by an update on the stoneflies of Arkansas from Lily Hart. Steve Beaty then provided us with a sneak peek at his Southeastern *Isoperla* larval key, which we're all anxiously awaiting. Rianna Soltis then presented on the status of the Endangered Species Act candidate species, *Allocapnia cunninghami*.

After lunch, Bob Zuellig presented on the newly formed Native Aquatic Invertebrate Species Conservation Program in Colorado. Hopefully, some other states will institute something like that as well. Talks continued with topics ranging from the impacts of Hurricane Helene and subsequent recovery of macroinvertebrates, including a few stoneflies (David Harwood), to an overview of recent changes to the Waters of the United States (Rainee Tetreault). Unfortunately, the changes aren't likely to help conserve stoneflies. Then we had Hannah Slattery give us the rundown on her future work on the molecular systematics of eastern Nearctic *Alloperla*, including the species of conservation concern, *Alloperla stipitata* Surdick. Our last stonefly presentation was given by Eric South, who was investigating the validity of *Acroneuria petersi* Stark & Gaufin.

Before dinner, and after some last-minute adjustments resulting from my forgetting a critical connecting cable, we concluded our day with a pseudo-demonstration of macro-photography and photo editing. After dinner, we once again partook in some local craft beer, talked stoneflies, and busied ourselves late into the night in the microscope lab. The night ultimately concluded around the campfire, wishing the fun could go on just a little bit longer.

Thursday 5/14

After increasingly necessary coffee and breakfast, we held the business meeting. Bob Zuellig offered to host the 15th NAPS, which will likely be held in Missouri in 2028. We also discussed formally incorporating the North American Plecoptera Society to gain nonprofit status to help support future symposia. Then the real fun began…

For our field outing, we went to one of Bill Stark's favorite collecting locations, Wayah Bald. Numerous creeks originate from this area of Nantahala National Forest. We stopped at the headwaters of Wayah Creek, where John Sandberg collected a female *Oconoperla innubila,* SWEEET! We then laid waste to Robin Branch, Rattlesnake Spring, Dirty John Creek, Wine Spring Creek, and a small unnamed tributary. Other stoneflies collected that day that I can remember included *Isoperla cherokee*, *I. starki*, *I. arcana*, *Tallaperla maria* complex, *Viehoperla ada*, *Beloneuria georgiana*, *Eccoptura xanthenes* and surely some *Leuctra* too.

We returned to the Biological Station around 5 p.m. After getting cleaned up, we all meandered into town to enjoy dinner at the Ugly Dog Public House, where I'm sure the gang of 21 stonefly biologists blended in seamlessly with the ritzy Florida vacationers.

Following dinner, I broke out the beer cooler containing Costco's finest, and we began what will hopefully become a fixture of future NAPS: stonefly trivia. The teams were split into academics, students, and bioassessment. Following four rounds of questions testing their knowledge of systematics, ecology, biogeography, and plecopterologists, the academics emerged victorious. We'll see if they can defend their title in 2028. That evening, we also presented the award for best student presentation: a stonefly bier stein. All the presentations were great, and the scores were quite close, but Lily Hart edged out the competition with her talk on Arkansas stoneflies. Or maybe that happened the night before, it's all a bit of a blur.

Friday 5/15

We woke, we packed, we cleaned, we said our goodbyes. Until next time.



Paragnetina ichusa. USA, North Carolina, Graham County, Snowbird Creek, Cornsilk Road, 35.30322, -83.873617, 29 April 2026. (Credit – Chris Verdone)

NAPS 2026 participants as seen in group photo below (next page, from left to right): Chris Verdone, Phillip Hogan, David Harwood, Katie Cody, Steve Roble, Luke Myers, Rainee Tetreault, Scott Grubbs, Bob Zuellig, Rob Hood, Hannah Slattery, Rianna Soltis, Theodore Cook, Melanie McMillan, Maria Jankowski, David Smith, Lily Hart, Ed DeWalt, John Sandberg, Moshe Piltz, Eric South, Steve Beaty (not pictured).



From top to bottom: Group photo of NAPS 2026 participants (names on previous page). The gang intently listening to Scott Grubbs presentation of Pennsylvania stoneflies (legs and shoes only!). Leaving no stone unturned at Wine Spring Creek and an unnamed tributary (bottom).



From top to bottom and left to right: Lily Hart giving her award-winning talk on Arkansas stoneflies. The bioassessment team deliberating over a trivia question. I spy some spines on stonefly eyes. Chris Verdone editing an image of *Acroneuria internata*. Ed DeWalt enjoying the ambiance of Wayah Creek. Bob Zuellig introducing us to his new aquatic insect conservation program.

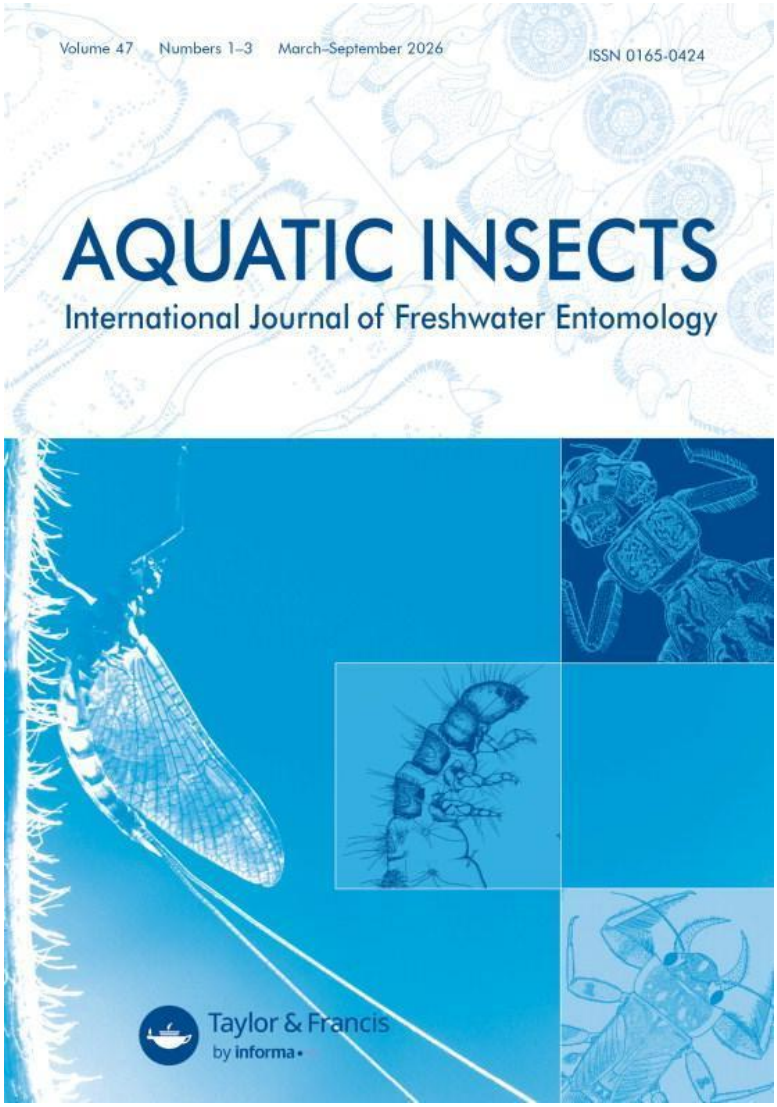


From top to bottom and left to right: Scott Grubbs and Luke Myers scrutinizing the day's catch. Lily Hart and Phillip Hogan wading through the lush vegetation on Wayah Bald. Late night campfire keeping us warm and entranced. The gang enjoying dinner and each other's company.

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Aquatic Insects (Volume 47, Issues 1-3, 2026)

Special Issue: Proceedings of the 2024 Joint Meeting of the XVII International Conference on Ephemeroptera and XXI International Symposium on Plecoptera, Turin (Italy)



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- Checklist of mayflies (Ephemeroptera) of Thailand. *Boonsatien Boonsoong and Nisarat Tungpairojwong*
- Ephemeroptera research in Ireland: past, present, and future directions—filling the gaps. *Georgia Miles and Helen Barber-James*
- Changes in the Ephemeroptera assemblages of the Mignone River (Central Italy) over 42 years: taxonomic and ecological implications. *Chiara Giusto, Adriana Bellati and Carlo Belfiore*
- Where we come from and where we would like to go: approaching the Pandora's box of Italian mayflies (Ephemeroptera). *Andrea Buffagni, Marcello Cazzola, Simona Cislaghi, Simone Cardoni, Stefania Erba and Carlo Belfiore*
- The distribution of Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera in a Norwegian alpine catchment in relation to environmental gradients. *Nina Kristine S. Helland and John E. Brittain*
- Patterns and surrogates of EPT taxa (Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Trichoptera) in glacier-fed streams: insights from Western Italian Alps. *Marta Moriondo, Francesca Bona, Tiziano Bo, Silvia Piovano, Alex Laini and Simone Guareschi*
- If you build it, will they come? Macroinvertebrate community recovery patterns in 'successful' agricultural restoration efforts. *Brianna Levenstein and Alexa C. Alexander*

Obituary

- In memoriam Terence (Terry) Hitchings (1927–2024). *Tim Hitchings*

Announcement

2027 XVIIIth International Conference on Ephemeroptera and XXIInd International Symposium on Plecoptera
(Nanjing, China)

Schedule and tentative program for participants

Date	Time	Program	
26 July 2027 (Monday)	12:00-22:00	Arriving, Onsite Registration, Welcome	
27 July 2027 (Tuesday)	8:00-9:00	Onsite Registration, Welcome	
	9:00-10:00	Opening ceremony	
	10:00-10:30	Tea break	
	10:30-11:30	Plenary speeches (two)	
	11:30-12:30	Oral presentations, Session 1	
	12:30-14:00	Lunch	
	14:00-15:30	Oral presentations, Session 2	
	15:30-16:00	Tea break	
	16:00-17:00	Poster presentations	
	17:00-20:00	Visit butterfly garden and view fireflies	
28 July 2027 (Wednesday)	9:00-10:00	Plenary speeches (two)	
	10:00-10:30	Tea break	
	10:30-11:30	Oral presentations, Session 3	
	11:30-12:30	Oral presentations, Session 4	
	12:30-14:00	Lunch	
	14:00-15:00	Oral presentations, Session 5	
	15:00-15:30	Presentation of next meeting proposals	
	15:30-16:00	Tea break	
	16:00-18:00	Meetings of the Permanent Committee of Ephemeropterologists	Poster presentations, specimens examining
		Meetings of the Permanent Committee of Plecopterologists	Expert-youth talking

29 July 2027 (Thursday)	7:30-18:00	Mid-conference field trip to Yixing and the Yixing Ceramic Museum
30 July 2027 (Friday)	9:00-10:00	Plenary speeches (two)
	10:00-10:30	Tea break
	10:30-11:30	Oral presentations, Session 6
	11:30-12:30	Oral presentations, Session 7
	12:30-14:00	Lunch
	14:00-15:00	Oral presentations, Session 8
	15:00-15:30	Silent Auction
	15:30-16:00	Tea break
	16:00-17:00	Common meeting of the Permanent Committees of the Ephemeropterologists and Plecopterologists
	17:00-18:00	Electrical vehicle or/and robot show
31 July 2027 (Saturday)	9:00-10:00	Plenary speeches (two)
	10:00-10:30	Tea break
	10:30-11:30	Oral presentations, Session 9
	11:30-12:30	Oral presentations, Session 10
	12:30-14:00	Lunch
	14:00-15:00	Oral presentations, Session 11
	15:00-15:30	Tea break
	15:30-16:30	Oral presentations, Session 12
	16:30-17:30	Awards, Concluding remarks and Closure
	17:30-20:00	Social dinner and banquet
1 August 2027 (Sunday)	8:00-16:00	Post-conference trips (optional) (1) Nanjing (one day tour) (2) Yangzhou (one day tour) (3) Shanghai (two days) (4) Beijing (two days) (5) Suzhou (two days) (6) Xi'an (two days) (7) Huangshan Mt. (two days)

Schedule and tentative program for accompanying guests

Date	Time	Program	Brief introduction
26 July 2027 (Monday)	12:00-22:00	Arriving, Registration	
27 July 2027 (Tuesday)	8:00-12:00	City Wall Museum https://en.travelingtonanjing.com/	The Nanjing City Wall, constructed in 1366, is the largest city wall in China and the world's largest city fortification. Completed in 1393 after 28 years of construction, it consists of 350 million bricks – a testament to the remarkable engineering achievements of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).
	12:00-18:00	Confucian temple (complex) https://en.travelingtonanjing.com/	The Confucius Temple stands on the bank of the Inner Qinhuai River and is one of China's Four Great Confucian Temples. The Confucius Temple–Qinhuai Scenic Belt is a 5A-rated national scenic area that integrates ancient sites, classical gardens, ornate boats, historic streets, pavilions, and folk customs. With the Qinhuai Lantern Festival, folk heritage sites, and local delicacies, it enchants visitors from around the world.
28 July 2027 (Wednesday)	8:00-16:00	Niu-Shou Mountain (Buddhist holy relic-Usnisa) https://en.travelingtonanjing.com/	Niushou Mountain Cultural Tourism Area takes its name from its twin eastern and western peaks, which resemble the horns of an ox. It is a sacred Buddhist mountain in China and the birthplace of the Niutou (Ox-Head) Chan school of Buddhism. The area's natural scenery is breathtaking, and its intricately crafted palace, pagoda, and temple complex inspires awe. The world-renowned skull relic of Shakyamuni Buddha is enshrined here for the veneration of pilgrims from around the world.
29 July 2027 (Thursday)	7:30-18:00	Mid conference field trip to Yixing and the Yixing Ceramic Museum	The Yixing Ceramics Museum, situated in the heart of Yixing, China, is a testament to the rich history and vibrant culture of ceramics in this region. Established as the first specialized ceramic museum in China, it traces its roots back to the Yixing Ceramic Company Exhibition Room and the Yixing Ceramic Exhibition Hall. With nearly half a century of history, this museum stands as a guardian of the remarkable heritage of Yixing ceramics.

30 July 2027 (Friday)	8:00-16:00	Xiaoling Mausoleum https://en.travelingtonanjing.com/	Though more than 600 years have passed, the layout of the imperial Xiaoling Mausoleum still preserves its original grandeur. The underground burial chambers remain untouched, and many of the key structures and stone carvings—such as Rectangular Citadel, the Ming Tower, the Treasure Mound, Precious Dome, as well as the Xiamafang, Great Golden Gate, Sacred Virtue Stele, the Sacred Road, and the stone sculptures along the Shixiang Road—have survived through hundreds of years. Together, they retain the authenticity of the mausoleum's architectural features and the integrity of its spatial arrangement.
31 July 2027 (Saturday)	8:00-16:00	Yangshan Stele Https://en.njysbc.com	Yangshan Stele Attraction is a national 4A tourist attraction and national key cultural relic protection unit, which, as an indispensable part of Nanjing cultural heritage from Ming Dynasty, has been listed into the Guinness World Records- the largest monument stone blocks in the world. Yangshan Stele Attraction is made up of three parts- the Ming cultural village displaying the construction site of monument stone blocks, high-rise Yangshan Strange Stone Forest and the world's largest Yangshan stele.
1 August 2027 Sunday	8:00-16:00	Post-conference trips (optional)	(1) Nanjing (one day tour) (2) Yangzhou (one day tour) (3) Shanghai (two days) (4) Beijing (two days) (5) Suzhou (two days) (6) Xi'an (two days) (7) Huangshan Mt. (two days)

Time and place

Nanjing, China – July 26–31 2027.

Registration and estimated costs

Register at the meeting website (will open in 2027), presentations (PPT) and abstracts should be uploaded via website or emailed to the organizer (conference email will be open in 2027).
Conflict in the world is imposing cost uncertainties and these events are beyond our control. Please be aware that the costs we present below could increase by 10-15%. We hope that the costs are settled by January.

Registration fee for international members

Senior participants:

- Early registration (until April 30th): $350
- Standard registration (May 1st – June 10th): $400
- Late registration (June 11th – July 10th): $450

Students

- Early registration (until April 30th): $250
- Standard registration (May 1st – June 10th): $300
- Late registration (June 11th – July 10th): $350

Registration for participants (seniors and students) includes tea breaks, all meals, the mid-conference trip (includes lunch and dinner), and the social dinner & banquet.

Accompanying persons:

- Early registration (until April 30th): $100
- Standard registration (May 1st – June 10th): $150
- Late registration (June 11th – July 10th): $200

The registration fee includes dinner, the mid-conference trip (includes lunch and dinner), the social dinner & banquet. The additional tour fee in the city will be paid directly to the agency organizing it (more information will be provided onsite).

To register for the conference, the total fee can be paid in advance via bank transferring or onsite in cash (just for some attendees with difficulty to transfer fee via bank). **Payment must be done in USA dollars only**. Please confirm that the final quantity is correct according to the information provided here, the date of registration and the activities in which you and your accompanying person (if so) are going to participate.

Cost of the optional post-conference trip will depend on the trip chosen and will be paid directly to the agency organizing it. More information can be seen onsite in early 2027.

The account information for the payment is the following:

- Account Holder: CHANGFA ZHOU （周长发)
- Account Number: 6217 8561 0010 9577 152
- Bank Name: BANK OF CHINA JIANGSU BRANCH
- Bank Address: No. 6 Wenlan Road, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China
- Mongolia Swift Code: BKCHCNBJ940
- Concept: REGISTRATION FEE FOR 2027 JOINT MEETING

Registration fee for Chinese members

- Senior participants(2000¥)
- Students (1800¥)

Cancellation policy

- If you need to cancel your registration, please, contact the Organizing Committee at zhouchangfa@njnu.edu.cn.
- Registration cancellations until June 30th: refunded at 50%.
- Registration cancellations after June 30th: no refund will apply.

Registration confirmation

You will receive a confirmation email upon receipt of the payment. Please allow 4–5 days for processing time. A formal receipt will be provided to you during the meeting.

Connecting and communication

1. All information about the 2027 joint meeting can be found in our meeting website, which will open in 2027.
2. A special WeChat ID and WeChat group for the meeting will be established in 2027. All participants are encouraged to use this App to communicate.
3. Emails of organizers:
   - Chang-Fa ZHOU, College of Life Sciences, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing 210023, China: Email: zhouchangfa@njnu.edu.cn.
   - Yu-Zhou DU, School of Horticulture and Plant Protection, Yangzhou University, Yangzhou 225009, China; Email: yzdu@yzu.edu.cn.
4. Email to conference mailbox (will be open in 2027).

Accommodation and meeting hotel

All participants (seniors, students, and accompanying persons) are encouraged to stay at the meeting hotel (Xindi Hotel and its affiliations). This is located near our university campus and surrounded by shopping malls, supermarkets, various restaurants, fast foods restaurants, and bars.

Prices of the hotel rooms

- **Standard bedroom** (two beds, each 1.35 m × 2.0 m, at least 55 m^2, with a balcony; includes breakfast for two people): $**60**
- **King bedroom** (one bed, 1.8 m × 2.0 m, at least 55 m^2, with a balcony; includes breakfast for two people): $**60**

or

- **Standard bedroom** (two beds, each 1.35 m × 2.0 m, at least 55 m^2, with a balcony; excludes or includes breakfast for one person): $**55**
- **King bedroom** (one bed, 1.8 m × 2.0 m, at least 55 m^2, with a balcony; excludes or includes breakfast for one person): $**55**

Participants can book their rooms by themselves online or let the organizers book for them. All necessary information and links will be provided on the meeting website in 2027. Please note that there are several additional hotels and motels nearby our meeting place, with similar pricing.

CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

The joint International Conference on Ephemeroptera and International Symposium on Plecoptera usually takes place every three years. As noted above, the next joint meeting will take place in NanJing, China in July 2027. Please consider hosting the meeting in 2030.

- Proposals should be sent to the chair of both standing committees: International Conferences on Ephemeroptera to Frederico Salles (frederico.salles@ufv.br) and International Society of Plecopterologists: R. Edward DeWalt (dewalt@illinois.edu).
- Proposals should be submitted by e-mail at least one month prior to the 2027 meeting, facilitating distribution of the proposal to the members of the standing committees.
- Proposals should contain detailed information regarding plans to host the conference including proposed venue with some detail on travel, types of hosting accommodations, dates of the conference, activities that include plans for accompanying guests, and general cost estimates.
- Questions about hosting may be directed to Federico or Ed.

CONFERENCE TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

The standing committees of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera and the International Society of Plecopterologists invite applications for travel scholarships for the upcoming NanJing, China Joint Meeting to be held in July 2027. Eligible applicants include graduate students, early career scientists, and scientists lacking institutional support. Awards are to defray costs of travel, may include partial cost of accommodation, and conference registration may also be considered.

Applications should contain:

- Short curriculum vitae, including a list of any publications
- Budget for travel expenses using the cheapest economy air fares and total sum requested
- Other sources of funding
- A provisional abstract of the proposed presentation or poster
- Contact addresses (postal address and e-mail)

Selection of awards will be based on:

- Financial needs
- Topic of presentation
- Direction of previous research

Applications for scholarships should be sent by e-mail to Professor Javier Alba-Tercedor, University of Granada, Spain. Email: jalba@ugr.es. The applications will be forwarded to the Chairs of the standing committees of the mayfly and/or stonefly committee for distribution to respective committees for evaluation.

Applications should be emailed as soon as possible and no later than 30 November 2026.

Member News

R. Edward DeWalt activities in 2026 in nine USA states

DeWalt, R. E. University of Illinois, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL USA 61820, dewalt@illinois.edu

I am sprinting to the finish of a long career, shooting for mid-2028 and trying not to leave behind the kind of mess for which taxonomists are infamous. I have hoped for a slowdown in my work load, but this has not happened! A tremendously busy field season has seen me conduct 128 site-date events across nine USA states: in Arkansas with master's student Lily Hart; in West Virginia, with recently graduated master's student Theodore Cook; and mostly on my own in Connecticut (with Will Tangredi, University of Connecticut), Massachusetts, Maine, New York, New Hampshire (with Istvan Miko, University of New Hampshire), Ohio and Vermont. Work in the latter states support finding and assessing 33 species of regional conservation concern and the updating of checklists in Northeast USA states (a project shared with Scott Grubbs, Luke Myers, and our students). I am finished identifying this material for 2026 and the specimens will occupy 500 fully labeled vials--digitization is still to come. My colleagues, students, and I have also identified, imaged over 1000 vials and pins of borrowed material used in the three mentioned projects and in Phillip Hogan's PhD thesis on Midwest stoneflies and an *Allocapnia* revision. Most of these borrowed specimens are now ready to be returned to several institutions and individuals.

Theodore graduated in May of this year and published a data paper and digital data set from his work that is now being used by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources to build conservation rankings for many of the 150 species verified from the state by Theodore (Cook et al. 2026). Theodore has begun transferring his second chapter into a Biodiversity Data Journal with species accounts and geographic atlas of the species. Lily is making great progress on building a comprehensive specimen dataset for Arkansas Version 2 and conducting a phylogenetic analysis of the *Acroneuria evoluta* group (redefined as males having an aedeagus with a narrow ventral strap of setae connecting the basal and distal ventral patches). She will graduate in May or August, 2027. Phillip just published a data paper on a 30 year effort to document stoneflies of seven Midwest USA states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) (Hogan et al. 2026). New papers from him will appear over the next year that document changes in species richness and distribution across these mixed-land use lands and examine how changes in temperature have shifted adult presence. He and I agreed that he will graduate in August of 2027.

One of my happiest experiences this year was attending the 14th North American Plecoptera Symposium at Highlands, North Carolina. There were six graduate students whose study is fieldwork based, who are all using Darwin Core Archive data standards and metadata in

compiling and sharing their data. This will allow others (colleagues, NGOs, government agencies) to more easily use the data for biodiversity and conservation purposes. It was also gratifying to see two Boris Kondratieff trained colleagues (Bob Zuellig and Rob Hood) attend after a long absence. I feel good about our chances to maintain Nearctic stonefly expertise long into this century.

References

Cook TZ, DeWalt RE, Grubbs SA, Hogan PN, Hart L, Clark SM, Baumann RW, Burton DK, Myers LW (2026) The stoneflies (Plecoptera) of West Virginia: a new occurrence dataset. Biodiversity Data Journal 14: e185229. https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.14.e185229

Hogan PN, DeWalt RE, Grubbs SA (2026) Stoneflies (Insecta, Plecoptera) of the Midwest, USA: species checklist derived from nearly 170 Years of collection records. Biodiversity Data Journal 14: e208358. https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.14.e208358

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Maribet Gamboa, Lab of eco-evolutionary dynamics. Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción, Chile.

We have been studying stoneflies from remote and largely inaccessible areas of Chilean Patagonia, with a particular focus on species associated with extreme alpine and glacial environments. During our fieldwork, we discovered an intriguing ice-associated stonefly belonging to the family Gripopterygidae. Preliminary molecular analyses based on both mitochondrial and nuclear markers indicate a distinctive evolutionary history.

Its close association with glacier environments is particularly noteworthy because it occurs in highly specialized and extreme habitats characterized by very low temperatures, seasonal ice dynamics, and limited suitable habitat. Our genetic results indicate substantial divergence from pre-glacial populations in southern South America, raising the possibility of an ancient glacier-associated evolutionary lineage that has persisted through major climatic and glacial changes.

We are currently combining molecular phylogenetic, population genetic, and divergence-time analyses to investigate the evolutionary origin and history of this lineage. Understanding the evolutionary persistence of organisms living in glacial environments may provide important insights into how extreme habitats influence diversification, lineage persistence, and responses to long-term climatic change in Patagonia.

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Scott A. Grubbs, Department of Biological Sciences, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA

There are several active projects in my lab, with a combination of graduate students and fellow colleagues. Except for faunistic projects, essentially all research is taking an integrated morphological-molecular approach to address conservation, systematics, and taxonomic questions. Current projects include:

- Distribution patterns of Pennsylvania stoneflies
- Genetic structure of rare Karst Snowfly *Allocapnia cunninghami* Ross & Ricker, 1971
- Systematics of the *Leuctra biloba* Claassen, 1923 and *L. tenuis* (Pictet, 1841) species groups
- Systematics of eastern Nearctic *Alloperla*
- Conservation status assessment of the Smokies Needlefly *Megaleuctra williamsae* Hanson, 1941
- Northeastern USA Regional Assessment of Stonefly (Insecta: Plecoptera) Species in Greatest Conservation Need

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Phillip Hogan, Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois, USA

I spent this past year as a fellow at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., where I examined types, imaged specimens, and gathered occurrence metadata from the Capniidae collection. Also this year, R. Edward DeWalt, Scott Grubbs, and I published the largest compilation of stonefly occurrence data to date: approximately 200,000 specimens collected in the north-central United States from 1860 to the present (Hogan et al., 2026). With verified identifications and detailed locality data, this dataset offers a rare opportunity to address broad questions in stonefly ecology, conservation, and phenology. As I begin the final year of my PhD, several manuscripts drawing on this dataset are forthcoming.

Hogan PN, DeWalt RE, Grubbs SA (2026) Stoneflies (Insecta: Plecoptera) of the Midwest, USA: species checklist derived from nearly 170 years of collection records. Biodiversity Data Journal 14, e208358. https://doi.org/10.3897/BDJ.14.e208358.

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Maria C. Jankowski, SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh, NY, USA

A preliminary analysis of the spatial distribution and species richness patterns of Vermont stoneflies (Insecta, Plecoptera)

The Northeast (USA) Regional Conservation Needs grant program has tasked our group (Luke Myers – SUNY Plattsburgh, Scott Grubbs – Western Kentucky University, and R. Edward DeWalt – Illinois Natural History Survey) with providing updated formal conservation

assessments of 33 Regional SGCNs stoneflies in the 13-state U.S. Fish & Wildlife Northeast region. Understanding fundamental information on distributional patterns and habitat preferences of an individual species is important to guide future conservation efforts and decisions, especially for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) presented in State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs). The goals of this study are to conduct a thorough inventory of the stonefly fauna of the state, while examining richness patterns across U.S EPA Level IV Ecoregions, USGS HUC8 watersheds, and elevation bands. Recent field work has focused on recovering new distributional records of SGCN. We highlight important trends in distributions and present an updated dataset of Plecoptera for the state of Vermont in Darwin Core Archive format.

Previous reports of stoneflies from the state are sparse and scattered across individual species descriptions, revisions, reports, and one newsletter. Thus far, we have accumulated 1,402 records from Vermont from 465 unique locations. Data were sourced from trusted literature sources, numerous institutional and personal collections across the country and recent fieldwork. Recent field work has spanned two seasons (2025 and 2026), with seasonal targeted sampling from 240 sites across all 15 Vermont counties. Sampling included handpicking, beating sheets, kick netting, black light trapping and rearing. We report 95 species across Vermont, 43 of which are new to the state. A Chao1 analysis predicted 111 species from the state, indicating that further targeted research may add to our list. Five of 33 Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN) have been found in Vermont. Prior to 2025-2026 fieldwork, only nine records of RSGCN species were recorded from Vermont. Field work found 23 more records, bringing the total to 32 records. Previously, in 2015, three Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) were included in the Vermont SWAP. Species originally included on the SGCN list included *Alloperla voinae,* Ricker 1947, *Hansonoperla appalachia,* Nelson 1979, and *Pteronarcys comstocki,* Smith 1917. These species had a total of 115 records. Field work added 28 records of SGCN's to the state, totalling 143. This research resulted in five species added as SGCNs to the draft 2025 Wildlife Action Plan and one removal of stonefly species. *Utaperla gaspesiana* (Harper and Roy, 1975), *Leuctra maria* Hanson 1941, *Ostrocerca prolongata* Claasen 1923, *Alloperla leonarda* Ricker 1952*,* and *Rasvena terna* (Frison 1942) were added based on their perceived rarity across the state. The Spiny Salmonfly, *Pteronarcys comstocki,* Smith 1917, was removed from the SWAP due to being more common than previously thought. The total number of stoneflies on the Vermont Wildlife Action Plan now has the following seven species on the SGCN list pending final edits:

Alloperla leonarda Ricker 1952
Alloperla voinae, Ricker 1947
Hansonoperla appalachia, Nelson 1979
Leuctra maria Hanson 1941
Ostrocerca prolongata Claasen 1923
Rasvena terna (Frison 1942)
Utaperla gaspesiana (Harper and Roy, 1975)

Records cover 13 of 14 USEPA Level III Ecoregions. The Green Mountains (Ecoregion 58c) is the richest with 75 species represented. Eighteen of nineteen HUC 8 watersheds have been sampled. The Winooski River is the richest HUC 8 watershed. Regarding elevational span, the dataset includes elevations from 30 m to 1,184 m asl (= top of Mt Killington). The 200 m and 300 m bands held the highest richness. However, richness per km^2 was in the High Peaks of Vermont.

Sampling concluded in July 2026 but work continues with additional identification and data cleaning. Once the dataset is compiled and analyses are finished, the results will be communicated via a written thesis and thesis presentation on December 4, 2026 at SUNY Plattsburgh. A publication submission will also be forthcoming together also with Chris Verdone – North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Lindsey Pett – Norwich University, and Tim Mihuc – SUNY Plattsburgh.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the following for their assistance in funding, collecting, curating, loans of specimens, data wrangling and general support: U. S Fish and Wildlife Service, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Center for Earth and Environmental Science (SUNY Plattsburgh), Lake Champlain Research Institute, Illinois Natural History Survey (L. Hart), Cornell University Insect Collection, (J. Dombroski), Colorado State Insect Collection (C. Harp), University of New Hampshire (I. Miko), Brigham Young University (D. Baumann), U.S National Museum Insect Collection (T. Dikow), University of Vermont (S. Helms Cahan), University of Minnesota (R. Williams), Vermont DEC (C. Quinn, A. Moore), University of Montreal (C. Favret, E. Normandin), University of Massachusetts Amherst (J. Roch), A. Byrne, M. Arwine, S. Lubell, R. Eckhart, G. Buckardt, S. Brito, M. Sabourin, M. Hallahan, H. Crowle, C. Foster, C. Alexander, H. Frison, H. Ross, C. Johnson, R. Daggy, L. Lund, Shay, J. Halman, V. Royce, S. Rhode, S. Saunder, A. Grooves, B. Kondratieff, Lopez, W. Rhode, J. Lackey, D. Burnham, K. Chang, T. Greaves, T. Hanson, J. Esden, M. Blust, J. Myers, Daggy, Nutting, Marsh, D. Narango, J. Hill, J. Kart, M. Ferguson, K. Stepunuck, L. Hart, M. Alldred, B. Baran, L. Hart, M. Graziosi, M. Sabourin, T. Hanson, D. Burnham, M. Blust, K. Chang, S. Fisk, K. McFarland, J. Heisler and D. B.

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Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, 2015, Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan 2015, https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/sites/fishandwildlife/files/documents/About%20Us/Budget%20and%20Planning/WAP2015/__2015-VT-Wildlife-Action-Plan.pdf

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José Moacir Ferreira Ribeiro

I am a Brazilian researcher with an established career in **Entomology** and **Zoology**, specializing in **Plecoptera** and Amazonian biodiversity. My work combines basic research (taxonomy and systematics) with applications in ecology and conservation. My participation in national and international networks and high-prestige publications demonstrates significant standing in the scientific community. I have authored and co-authored numerous scientific papers, including research addressing gaps in the taxonomic and ecological knowledge of aquatic insects of the order Plecoptera, a group that remains understudied in the region. My work has contributed to expanding taxonomic knowledge, conserving aquatic ecosystems, training entomology specialists, and strengthening Brazilian scientific collections. My research encompasses multidisciplinary studies, including conservation, knowledge gaps regarding aquatic insects, and scientific planning and biodiversity policy. The impact of my research is evident in his high level of expertise regarding an understudied taxonomic group (Plecoptera), contributions to the study of adult and immature Amazonian and Pará-state Plecoptera, integration of classical taxonomy with ecology, participation in international studies, and output applied to environmental conservation. My international engagement is demonstrated by a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian, publications in international journals, and co-authorships with foreign researchers that foster collaborative research networks.







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José Moacir Ferreira Ribeiro

A new trap for capturing adult Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera and Trichoptera (EPT) designated the Portable Light Trap (ALP) is being introduced by researchers Dr. José Moacir Ferreira Ribeiro and Dr. Inocêncio de Sousa Gorayeb from the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi in Belém, Pará, Brazil. The trap is an adaptation of the "Luiz de Queiroz" trap (Silveira Neto & Silveira, 1969). The trap's performance was remarkable; deployed along the banks of Amazonian streams, it operated from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM daily over a six-month period. A total of 18 orders and 93 families were collected, comprising 8,278 insect specimens (with 5,410 or 65.3% collected by the ALP). The most abundant orders were Diptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Isoptera, Trichoptera, and Ephemeroptera. The most abundant families were Chironomidae, Cecidomyiidae, Ceratopogonidae, Cicadellidae, Polycentropodidae, and Membracidae. Significant differences ($p < 0.001$) were observed in the catches of the 15 families compared against the other trap. Regarding EPT specifically, 505 specimens were collected using the ALP, compared to 222 specimens with the other trap. The results indicate that the ALP trap was more efficient in terms of the number of specimens collected.



Light trap being installed along an Amazonian stream.

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José Moacir Ferreira Ribeiro

A new methodology for rearing and associating Plecoptera nymphs is being developed by researchers **José Moacir Ferreira Ribeiro** and **Inocêncio de Sousa Gorayeb**; this work forms part of the doctoral research conducted by José Ribeiro at the Emílio Goeldi Museum (MPEG) in Belém do Pará, Brazil. The method involves handling late-instar nymphs and rearing them—either in fibercement tanks or directly in the stream—within standardized containers covered with fine mesh, with the aim of obtaining the adult form from the immature stage. The method also enables the identification of late-instar nymphs down to the species level. The article is scheduled for publication in the *Boletim do MPEG* later this year.



Rearing and keeping Plecoptera nymphs in a fiber-cement tank.

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Currently, we are ending the sampling campaigns of our project on several sites from two streams in Sierra de Almijara (Granada, Spain) in which we are analysing the effects of dispersion on the taxonomical and functional structure of macroinvertebrate communities, and the life histories of some species of Plecoptera and Ephemeroptera. In the next months, we will expand the study to new areas of this mountain system.

In May 2026 the Ph.D. Thesis of Alejandra Tierno-Cinque entitled "Cross-sectional study of the metacommunity of aquatic organisms of the Guadiana River basin (Iberian Peninsula) in the framework of Global Change" that we supervised was successfully defended. As part of that research, we hope that an article derived from it on the biology, demography and conservation of some species of stoneflies could be published soon.

We carry on involved in the project entitled "Advanced tools for the assessment of the ecological status of Mediterranean temporary rivers during the dry phase", compiling information on traits of Mediterranean stoneflies and other macroinvertebrates to build a database that will be useful for further functional diversity studies. This project will finish next year, and we hope to begin to publish its results.

On the other hand, we are currently working in a study on patterns of sampling effort and completeness of inventories congruence in the Iberian Peninsula stoneflies from the occurrence data base of Plecoptera (recently published together with that of other Iberian Arthropod orders) within the project "Towards the conservation of Iberian Arthropods using digital tools" in collaboration with our colleagues C. Sánchez-Campaña, D. Fernández, E. García Roselló, etc.

We carry on maintaining collaborations with some colleagues for particular studies, such as drumming on French stonefly species (with A. Ruffoni), long-term population dynamics and biocoenosis diversity of Croatian Plecoptera (with M. Vilenica and M. Ivković), biology of Italian stoneflies (with T. Bo, S. Fenoglio, M. Moriondo and A. Marino), Algerian stonefly diversity, distribution and ecology (with S. Bemmoussat-Dekkak, B.M. Dambri & G. Vinçon), and Mediterranean stonefly biology and conservation (with R. Fochetti).

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As every year, the OPIE-benthos working group organized a weekend dedicated to exchanging knowledge and experiences on aquatic insects (with the help of Gwenole Le Guellec). This year, it took place in the southern Alps, near the Verdon, in Saint-André-les-Alpes. Fourteen participants, together with members of the local fishing association, took part in the event. The weekend included one day of presentations and one day of field trips.

Opie and INRAe continue to work on a barcoding project for mayflies and stoneflies, particularly on a gap analysis and a related sampling strategy.

Regarding my own projects, they remain the same as in 2026, with the hope of quickly finalizing the work on new species closely related to *Isoperla moselyi*. Together with Manuel Tierno de Figueroa from the University of Granada, we will probably work on a new paper dealing with communication of *Nemoura* species from France.



Perla ravizzaorum



L'Issole River



Opie-benthos weekend 2026

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The *Bisancora pastina* (Jewett 1962) and *Taenionema grinnelli* (Banks 1918) drumming descriptions mentioned in last year's PERLA are now reviewed, accepted and in-press this year. A big thank you to all who reviewed. In early 2027 I will try to collect *T. grinnelli* in Ventura County, California for one last attempt to record the video of the new non substrate contact, tremulation tap like drumming method. Thank you Chris Verdone and Riley Nelson for providing the first large and collectable population in California. In northern California *T. grinnelli* is present in very low numbers and always mixed (hidden) within large *T. californicum* populations in non-perennial streams.

A second drumming description manuscript for five capniid species has been completed this year and is currently being reviewed. The habitats were distinctive with four species collected at the same nonperennial *Taenionema* sites from above (excluding the Ventura County site) and

occurred within the Central California Foothills and Coastal Mountains EPA Level III Ecoregion 6.

A third drumming project has been started by recording the *Yoraperla nigrisoma* male tri rub call from presumably the last of this year's presence at Domingo Spring Campground, Plumas County, CA. Adults were not reared, and the collected females didn't answer indicating they had presumably mated before capture. This effort will update the previous preliminary description by Maketon & Stewart (1988).

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Additional digital images that were submitted for the cover page:



***Hemimelaena falviventris* (Pictet, 1841)**
Adult - River Despeñaperros, Sierra Morena, Southern Spain (credit - Manuel J. López-Rodríguez)



***Taeniopteryx nelsoni* Kondratieff & Kirchner, 1982**
Cryptic Willowfly
Mature larva – USA, Virginia, Grayson Co., Lewis Fork (credit – Phillip Hogan)



***Sweltsa lateralis* (Banks, 1911)**
Curved Sallfly
Adult – USA, Vermont, Bennington Co., Bromley Brook, Winhall (credit – Maria Jankowski)



***Aphanicercella cassida* Barnard, 1934**
Adult – South Africa, Grey Dam, Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa, -33.325694, 26.529222, 20 June 2026. (credit – Abigail Kirkaldy)



***Perlodes intricatus* (Pictet, 1841)**



***Diamphipnopsis virescentipennis* (Blanchard, 1851)**
Adult (credit – Phillip Hogan)