

ANNOUNCING THE 52ND ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE OF PARASITOLOGISTS

The 52nd annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists will be held on September 9th, 10th, and 11th, 2021 at the Cedar Point Biological Station (University of Nebraska). Cedar Point is located on the south shore of Lake Ogallala about eight miles northeast of the city of Ogallala, in beautiful western Nebraska. The welcoming reception will be on Thursday evening (September 9th) from 7-9 P.M. at Goodall Lodge. Posters may be set up Friday morning before the meeting starts or over the lunch break Friday afternoon.

Poster and paper sessions will convene Friday and Saturday morning following breakfast at Goodall Lodge. Highlights of the meeting will include the Newton Kingston Memorial Lecture, an evening banquet, and the Gerald D. Schmidt Memorial Lecture. The Saturday morning paper session will be followed by a short business meeting, with adjournment scheduled for around 11:30.

Housing is available at Cedar Point, but you must supply your own toiletries and linens (sheets, pillows, towels). Faculty housing units are \$140 for two nights. Rooms include a private or semi-private bath and are air conditioned. Most have twin beds, but a few have a full-size bed. Student units house 4 individuals per cabin and everyone shares a central wash facility. The rate for student housing is \$75 for two nights. Cedar Point housing costs include all meals—breakfast (starting at 7:00) on Friday and Saturday), lunch on Friday, and the Friday night banquet. Alternatively, hotels are available in Ogallala and include Days Inn, Quality Inn, Rodeway Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Super 8, and Travel Lodge. Rates vary from \$75-\$130 per night. For those staying in Ogallala, but eating at Cedar Point, there will be an extra charge of \$25 for meals.

If you plan to stay at Cedar Point, **Reserve Housing** by mailing Jon Garbisch, jgarbisch2@unl.edu Payment for housing and meals are made directly to Cedar Point. **Students desiring** reduced cost for housing and food may apply to work in the kitchen by contacting Jon prior to the meeting. Meeting registration (\$20) and annual membership dues (\$10 regular, \$3 students) are payable separately to RMCP during the meeting. Registration fees help pay for student awards and housing costs for guest speakers.

Abstracts for oral papers and posters should be sent as a Microsoft Word Document or a PDF file in an e-mail attachment to Ron Hathaway, rhathaway@coloradocollege.edu Along with the abstract specify in the accompanying e-mail if the presentation is an Oral Paper or a Poster, and if the individual presenting the paper or poster is an Undergraduate or a Graduate student. The deadline for receiving abstracts is **Monday, August 30th**.

Guidelines for abstracts:

Use Times New Roman with a font size 12. That style and size is easily readable without taking up extra space.

The entire title should be in capital letters and **bold** face type. The name(s) of author(s) and their affiliated institution(a) should be in lower case and immediately follow the title.

If a paper has more than one author, designate the individual presenting the paper with an asterisk.

Double space between the title/author heading and the abstract text. Begin the abstract text at the left margin and do not divide the abstract into paragraphs.

Abstracts should contain fewer than 300 words.

Adherence to these guidelines ensures a uniform appearance of the program.

Sample Abstract:

ANALYSIS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF *OECIACUS VICARIUS* IN CLIFF SWALLOW COLONIES. Olivia M. Pletcher*¹, Sebastian Botero¹, Charles R. Brown², Gigi S. Wagnon², and Scott L. Gardner¹. ¹Manter Laboratory of Parasitology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and ²Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Tulsa.

The ectoparasitic swallow bug (*Oeciacus vicarius* Horvath) occurs in the nests of cliff swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota* Vieillot, 1807) in western Nebraska. As a blood feeding ectoparasite, the effect of these bugs on growth of nestlings has been studied, but little is known of the local distribution of these bugs among nests in a colony. Swallow bugs spend their lifecycles on the surface of cliff swallow nests and feed on both adults and nestlings during the three-month breeding period of the birds. These bugs have been shown to overwinter.....