



**Draft Agenda for the 14th North American Plecoptera Symposium
12–14 May 2026**

**Highland Biological Station
Highlands, North Carolina
Western Carolina University**

The North American Plecoptera Society will host the 14th North American Plecoptera Symposium from May 12–14, 2026, at the Highland Biological Station in Highlands, North Carolina [35.05389, -83.18938]. We invite you to join us in scenic Highlands—one of the highest elevation towns in the Appalachians—for a gathering of stonefly researchers and enthusiasts. This meeting offers a chance to share research, spark new collaborations, reconnect with colleagues, and, of course, collect some *sweet* stoneflies!

Host: Chris Verdone, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Biological Assessment Branch. *Email:* verdonec@gmail.com, *Phone:* 720-934-5187.

Draft Agenda

• Day 1 Tuesday, May 12th

- Check in at Highlands Biological Station beginning at 10 am.
- Lunch/Meeting welcome and participant introductions 12–1 pm.
 - History of the Highlands Biological Station 1–1:30 pm.
 - NAPS 2029 proposal 1:30–1:40 pm.
 - Stonefly presentations 1:45–4:45pm
- Dinner at Highlands Biological Station 5–6 pm
 - Optional local collecting 6:30 pm–dark

● **Day 2 Wednesday, May 13th**

- Breakfast and coffee at Highlands Biological Station at 8–9 am.
- Stonefly presentations 9–11 am.
- Lunch at Highlands Biological Station 11 am–12 pm
- Stonefly presentations 12–3 pm
- Photo editing workshop 3–5 pm
- Dinner at Highlands Biological Station 5:30–6:30 pm.
- Stonefly trivia 6:30 –8:30 pm

● **Day 3 Thursday, May 14th (Optional)**

- Breakfast and coffee at Highlands Biological Station 8 am.
- Stonefly presentations (if needed) 9–11 am
- Meeting Summary and business meeting 11–11:30 am
- Field trip (Wayah Bald) 11:30–5 pm (boxed lunch, eat on the go)
- Dinner in town 6pm.

Friday, May 15th

- Disperse

Registration

The anticipated maximum cost for the meeting, including meals (except Thursday dinner), is \$254/person. There is a two-night option for attendance at \$200/person, which includes breakfast Thursday morning. An announcement email with a link to the registration page will be sent out on December 1, 2025 and I will be accepting registrations until March 31, 2026.

Housing

Residences are on site and have a hostel-like atmosphere with bedrooms that sleep 2–4 people. All station beds are extra long twins. Attendees will need to provide their own sheets, pillow and towels. Each residence has access to a fully-equipped kitchen, laundry and common areas. <https://highlandsbiological.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Highlands-Biological-Station-Visitor-Information-Guide.pdf>

Meals

Meals will be provided by a catering service. However, we will be hitting the town for dinner on the last night (this meal is not included in the registration cost). Please email verdonec@gmail.com if vegetarian or vegan meals are required and if you have a food allergy. I will be happy to accommodate your needs.

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts will be accepted February 1 through April 15, 2026. Please send abstracts to verdonec@gmail.com

Presentations

Options include oral and poster presentations. Oral presentations should be 15–20 minutes, but longer presentations may be given if requested. Presentations may be emailed to verdonec@gmail.com or brought to the meeting on an external drive.

Swag

A meeting themed T-shirt (\$20) and hat (\$15) will be available for purchase. Orders may be made at registration. Payment for the shirt or hat will be accepted at the meeting by cash or check. Additional swag items will be available through a silent auction. Proceeds from the auction will go towards funding student scholarships for the next NAPS meeting.



Travel

Highland Biological Station in Highlands, North Carolina [35.05389, -83.18938].

- Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport – 2 hours drive time
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport – 2.5 hours drive time
- Charlotte Douglas International Airport – 3.25 hours drive time

Final note

We can accommodate up to 30 people at the Highlands Biological Station. We encourage recipients of this newsletter to forward this invitation to fellow workers that are involved in any aspect of stonefly systematics. There's always room for one more!