



Southeastern Society of Parasitologists

An Affiliate of the American Society of Parasitologists

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2025 Annual Meeting Program Report

The annual meeting for the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists (SSP) was hosted by the Southeastern Cooperative Fish Parasite and Disease Laboratory, School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences, and College of Agriculture at Auburn University on April 10-12, 2025. Members gathered at the local rooftop bar in downtown Auburn for the welcome reception and enjoyed many top-notch food options throughout the meeting. Student registration was free this year, and we had a total of 74 participants attended, including 46 students and 28 faculty from 18 institutions. There were 29 oral presentations and 17 posters. The passing of Dr. Byron Blagburn (SSP member since 1982, President, 1993) was recognized with a moment of silence at the annual business meeting. His career is memorialized in Journal of Parasitology (<https://doi.org/10.1645/24-77>).

The Byrd-Dunn Award, named in honor of founding members of the Society, Elon E. Byrd (University of Georgia) and Mary C. Dunn (Middle Tennessee State University), was presented to Daniel Gordillo-González, Auburn University, Auburn, AL for his presentation entitled "*Histopathology and molecular detection of a pathogenic infection of Mycobacterium gordonae among captive-held, federally-endangered laurel dace, Chrosomus saylori (Leuciscidae: Laviniinae) from a closed recirculating aquaculture system*".

The Enrique "Rick" Ciordia-Bonner Stewart- Dale Porter Award, honoring their lifetime contributions in parasitology and support of the Southern Conference on Animal Parasites and Animal Disease Research Workers of the Southern States, was presented to Lauren E. Strock, University South Carolina, Aiken, SC for her presentation entitled "*Occurrence of pyrantel pamoate resistant strains of the canine hookworm, Ancylostoma caninum in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)*".

The SSP Poster Award was presented to Maggie A. Young, Middle Georgia State University, Macon, for her poster entitled "*Diversity and interrelationships of diplostomids (Digenea: Diplostomoidea) parasitic in kingfishers*".

Officers of the society for 2025-26 are: President – Stephen "Ash" Bullard, Auburn University; President-elect and Program Officer – Kristina M. Hill-Spanik, College of Charleston; Vice President and Student Awards - Elliot A. Zieman, Eastern Illinois University, Secretary-Treasurer – Dr. Charles Faulkner, College of Veterinary Medicine, Lincoln Memorial University, and Kamila Cajiao-Mora DVM, Auburn University, Student Representative.

The 2026 meeting will be held at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC and hosted by Dr. Kristina M. Hill-Spanik (SSP Pres-elect) and Dr. Isaure de Buron.

Respectfully Submitted,

Haley Dutton, Ph.D.

(SSP Representative to ASP Council)



Daniel Gordillo-González 2025 Byrd-Dunn Award Recipient w/ Ash Bullard SSP President, and major advisor (right).



Lauren Strock, 2025 Ciordia-Stewart-Porter Award Recipient w/ Derek Zelmer SSP *Poet-Laureate*, and major advisor (right).



SSP membership present at the 2025 Annual Business Meeting, in front of the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn Alabama. April 12, 2025.