



AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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--Dates & Deadlines--

- A.A.S. Research Fund 30 Nov. and 30 May. (Pg. 11)
- Arachnology Course: Highlands NC, 13 - 24 July; 1998; (Pg. 14)
- 1998 C.I.D.A. & A.A.S., 27 June - 3 July, Chicago IL USA
- 1999 Univ. of West Indies, Trinidad ; 28 June - 3 July
- 2000 University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY USA
- 2001 Keene, New Hampshire USA
- 2002 Riverside, California USA

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Report On The

1997 A.A.S. Meeting

Dan Mott reports from the 1997 A.A.S. Meeting:

The 1997 meeting of the AAS was held July 19-23 at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, ND. The hosts, Dan and Linda Mott were ably assisted by Dr. Eric Hugo, Sandy Bates, and the student workers, Clay Comstock, Ben Gress, Jackie Solberg, Eleno Vallejo, and Annette Zimmerman. This year's T-shirt design was a solpugid indigenous to North Dakota, and was produced by Robert Holmberg and Sandy Bates.

The event kicked off Saturday night with a well attended social at the Hartfiel Inn, a charming Bed and Breakfast with gracious hosts. The weather was cooperative, and after a brief period of showers Saturday afternoon, remained glorious for the duration of the meeting. The temperatures hovered in the upper 70's, the humidity was "high" at approximately 30%, and there was just a gentle "mosquito disturbing" breeze.

In preparation for next year's International meeting, the executive committee met for many hard working hours on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Approximately 80 people registered for the meeting and we felt honored to once again host Dr. Kim and his group from Korea. In addition, a few of the other, oft heard from, but rarely seen members of our society, Robert Holmberg from Athabasca, AB (yes there is something way north of Dickinson, ND) and Hank Guarisco from Lawrence, KS were in attendance.

The paper presentations began promptly sometime after 8 a.m. on Sunday following our welcome to the campus by Dr. Richard Brauhn, now Vice-President of Academic Affairs at DSU. I think all would agree that the high standards of quality in the society were maintained by the 30 oral presenters and the 12 poster presenters.

Sunday evening culminated with a gathering at the Rattlesnake Bar and Grill. This new microbrewery provided the snacks and a delightfully eclectic jazz trio consisting of four members (I have forgotten the names of three of them, but the bass player was Caleb Mott). Monday the paper presentations concluded and were followed by a field trip to the Schell Ranch in Richardton, ND. This 2000 acre property is controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, who invited us to use it. The weather was glorious, and all took the opportunity to examine the short grass prairie (ex-cow) habitat, collect some spiders, engage in wonderful conversations and irritate a porcupine or two.

Tuesday morning, the meeting broke into groups with the majority taking the 45 minute ride north to the Killdeer Mountains. This historic group of hills offers some magnificent views (after a 45 minute climb), varied habitat, and decent spider collecting. Others visited the DSU Medora Research Area "Freeman's Frontier." This area has yielded many solpugids in the past even if Ann Rypstra couldn't find any this year. Tuesday afternoon was for poster presentations, again of high quality. The banquet was held Tuesday evening, and all in attendance were treated to good Midwestern fare and friendship. The meeting concluded Wednesday at noon after a morning business meeting.