

Preliminary Announcement of 2003 North American Plecoptera Society Meeting

The Seventh North American Plecoptera Symposium is tentatively scheduled for 6-8 June 2003 to be held at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, U.S.A. Western State College, at 7,703', is the highest elevation, four-year college in the United States. Nestled in the Gunnison Valley, the College is within minutes of vast stretches of high country wilderness, sage-brush steppe and a variety of streams. The Sawatch and West Elk ranges of the Rockies shelter Gunnison on the east and west while the Elk and San Juan ranges border it to the north and south. The area provides vast recreational, research and exploration opportunities. In fact, a Western Professor of geology has called the Gunnison Country "one of the world's great natural laboratories."

Travel to and from Gunnison can be made by automobile on U.S. Highway 50 or the airport in Gunnison is served by several flights daily. Lodging is available in college dormitories reserved for our symposium or through a variety of local hotels. A variety of restaurants can be found in Gunnison and for a short 30-mile drive; Crested Butte offers more selections.

The beginning of June is a beautiful time of year in the valley with high temperatures typically in the low 70's F (22°C) and the lows in the 30's F (1°C). The days are typically clear and sunny but an occasional rain or snow shower is possible.

Nearby activities include a visit to the Black Canyon National Park or the historic mining and ski town of Crested Butte. Trout fishing is available on the world famous Gunnison and Taylor Rivers or at a variety of high elevation streams. Arrangements can be made for guided fly-fishing trips through a local stonefly enthusiast who works as a fishing guide.

This valley has been a center for much research in Plecoptera and should make an exciting setting for the meeting. To complete the meeting we are planning on spending an evening at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (weather permitting) located in the historic mining town of Gothic, and a day collecting stoneflies at several sites in the Gunnison basin.

These dates have been scheduled to work best with local conditions and to avoid conflicts with other meetings. If you have or know of a serious conflict, we could alter the timing to accommodate as many participants as possible.

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