

## Joint Annual Meeting 2024

**The Southeastern Society of Parasitologists  
&  
The Helminthological Society of Washington  
Lexington, VA  
Hosted by Virginia Military Institute  
April 18-20, 2024**

The Department of Biology at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) cordially invites members of the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists (SSP) and the Helminthological Society of Washington (HelmSoc), and their guests, to the 2024 joint annual meeting hosted at its campus in Lexington, VA. VMI, founded in 1839, is a state-supported, coeducational military college located in Lexington, VA. A small town nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Lexington, VA, boasts a vibrant downtown with many cultural, historical, and outdoor recreational activities to explore in the area.



**REGISTRATION:** Registration is \$95 for non-student members of either society and \$75 for student members of either society. For SSP members only, annual dues are also collected during registration and are \$10 for regular members and \$5 for students. Payments should be made through our online payment portal prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>. After that time, a \$10 late registration fee will be applied to all registrations received after March 15<sup>th</sup>. Your registration fee includes the food and beverages offered at the meeting. If you pre-register but cannot attend the meeting you will be refunded your entire registration fee if we receive notice two weeks prior to the meeting. Late registration will be possible at the meeting site. All

meeting events will occur at VMI's Center for Leadership and Ethics (CLE). The meeting will begin on Thursday evening and run through Saturday afternoon.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Fifty rooms (8 single King; 42 double Queen) have been reserved at the **Best Western Plus Inn at Hunt Ridge** which is about 7 minutes from the conference venue. The hotel is located at 25 Willow Springs Rd, Lexington. Rooms include a microwave, mini-frig, and coffee maker. Several king rooms are ADA compliant. The hotel also offers a free continental breakfast (although breakfast will also be offered at the conference), gym, and indoor pool.

Please click [here](#) to make your reservations online or you may call the hotel directly at 540-464-1500 and say that you're with the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists (even if you're with HelmSoc, the block is listed under SSP but *all* are welcome to book them). Our room rate is \$112 / night.

**Following the cut-off date which is "March 18, 2024"** the hotel will release all un-booked rooms for other guests, so it is important that you make your reservations before then.



**FOOD:** The Thursday night social will include drinks and appetizers. Should people wish to get dinner afterwards, there are a variety of dining options in downtown Lexington. All meals will be provided on Friday and breakfast and lunch will be provided on Saturday.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** On Thursday night, we'll open the conference with the President's Invited Keynote Speaker's Talk which will be done by Dr. Holly Gaff from Old Dominion University, followed by a Welcome Reception at which appetizers and drinks will be served. Come and enjoy a fascinating talk, followed by a relaxing evening of meeting new folks

and catching up with old friends.

Friday will be filled with meeting presentations and a poster session and will conclude with a dinner, followed by live old-time music and a square dance for those who wish to stick around for a little fun! No experience necessary, we have a fantastic caller who will teach you the dances! We'll end the evening with an open old-time jam, so bring along any string instrument and play along – all levels welcome. Saturday will be more presentations and conclude in the afternoon with the combined luncheon, business meeting, and student awards presentation.



## CONFERENCE FACILITIES & PARKING:



All conference events (including meals and social events) will be held in spaces within VMI's Center for Leadership and Ethics (CLE) which is at VMI in Marshall Hall, 500 Anderson Dr., Lexington, VA. A limited number of parking spots (including handicapped spots) are available in the lot next to Marshall Hall (#1 on detailed map below). If anyone with a physical disability or limitations would like to ensure they have a parking space next to Marshall Hall, there are a limited number of parking spots available for reservation by contacting Ashleigh Smythe: [smytheb@vmi.edu](mailto:smytheb@vmi.edu). Otherwise, overflow lots are labeled with #2 on the detailed map below - down the hill between Paulette Hall and Drill field #1 or any of the Institute Hill parking lots near North Main St. If you are able to walk uphill for about 3-5 minutes, please consider parking in one of the secondary lots as spots in the lot next to Marshall Hall may get full on Friday morning.

[Click here for a complete map of VMI](#)

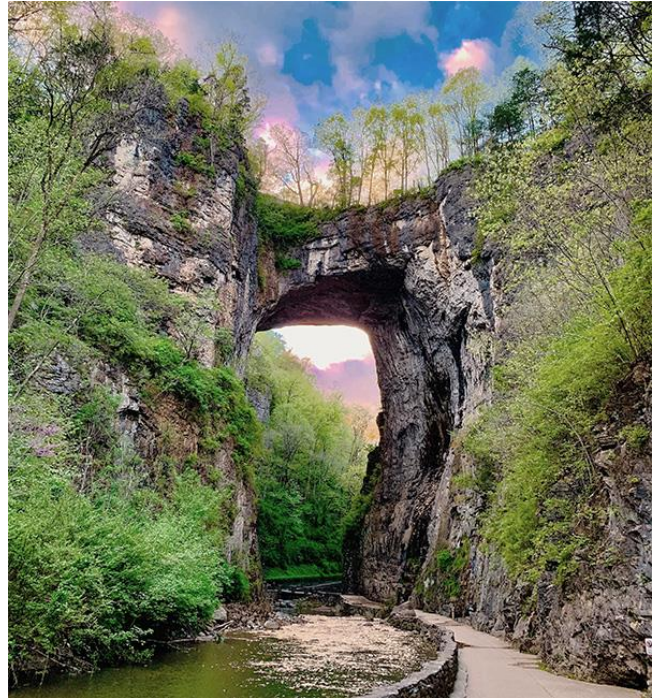
Detailed map of area around Marshall Hall and parking options:



**TRAVEL:** Lexington, VA is in southwestern Virginia and easily accessed from I-81. The closest airports are Roanoke-Blacksburg regional airport which is about 50 minutes away or Lynchburg Regional Airport which is about an hour and 10 minutes away.

**RECREATIONAL/LEISURE ACTIVITIES:**

There's so much to do in and around Lexington. A few highlights include exploring the quaint downtown Lexington, checking out the amazing trails and 30-story rock arch at Natural Bridge State Park, or grabbing a beer at one of the many breweries. VMI also has an excellent museum that includes a world class historic firearms collection, and you could also take a cadet-led tour of Post (campus). Not to mention the many amazing hikes and historical sites in the area. For more ideas, including specific hikes, restaurants, breweries, and more, check-out the Lexington, VA visitor's guide [here](#).



**ACTIONS REQUIRED:**

1. **Reserve accommodations at the Best Western Plus Inn at Hunt Ridge before March 18, 2024.**  
Use [this](#) booking link or call the hotel directly at 540-464-1500 and say you're with the Southeastern Society of Parasitologists (even if you're with HelmSoc).
2. **Submit your abstract [here](#) no later than March 15, 2024.**
3. **Complete the meeting registration [here](#) by March 15, 2024 to receive the "early bird" rate.**  
You may register after this but will just pay a higher rate.
4. **Questions regarding local arrangements can be directed to Dr. Liz Gleim:**  
[egleim@hollins.edu](mailto:egleim@hollins.edu) or Dr. Ashleigh Smythe: [smytheab@vmi.edu](mailto:smytheab@vmi.edu)
5. **Questions regarding receipt of abstracts should be sent to Dr. Charles Faulkner:**  
[charles.faulkner@lmunet.edu](mailto:charles.faulkner@lmunet.edu) .
6. **Questions about the scientific program should be directed to Dr. Ash Bullard:**  
[sab0019@auburn.edu](mailto:sab0019@auburn.edu)

**The Southeastern Society of Parasitologists**  
*An affiliate of the American Society of Parasitologists*  
<https://southeasternsocietyparasitology.org/>  
&  
**The Helminthological Society of Washington**  
<https://www.helmsoc.org>