

National Shellfisheries Association

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

ORONO, ME



President's Message

Time flies. Are you keeping up?

A number of NSA deadlines just passed and others are around the corner. I trust you're paying attention and have met those deadlines that have recently passed – the ballot to create a new position on the Executive Committee, the 101st Annual Meeting abstract deadline, the student travel award deadline, the Carriker and Castagna Student Research Grant application deadline. I remind you that others are rapidly approaching..... January 31st is the early bird registration deadline for the 101st Annual Meeting. By registering for the meeting before January 31st you save \$50 over the regular registration rate and \$100 over the late registration rate. Also, don't forget that by renewing your 2009 membership before January 31st you not only get the lower member rates at the Annual Meeting, but also avoid the JSR back issue surcharge. All of this can be accomplished conveniently through your personal login at the NSA website www.shellfish.org.



The 101st meeting is approaching quickly. Lou D'Abramo and LeRoy Creswell are creating an excellent program at an outstanding venue in Savannah. I visited the meeting site in mid-November and can personally vouch for Lou's praise of the site. For those of you chomping at the bit to see who will be presenting what, the program should be posted on-line shortly after you receive this Newsletter. From what I've seen, the program provides regional flavor while maintaining a broad interest for all with over 200 abstracts submitted to date. So don't delay in getting your dues renewed, your registration submitted and your travel plans arranged. Applications for Student Travel Awards are being reviewed and applicants should hear very shortly about the status of their application to help them finalize their travel arrangements.

Speaking of Student Travel Awards, another deadline that is approaching is the end of the Centennial Campaign for the Student Endowment Fund (see page 11). Created back

in 1989, NSA has been working to build the fund so that it is self-sufficient. Supporting students has long been a hallmark of NSA and I'm certain we will eventually reach this goal. But the sooner the better! To do this we need the fund to grow to a minimum of \$100,000 so that awards can be paid from interest earned on investments. Once this goal is accomplished, resources and fundraising efforts can be redirected to other needs such as reducing JSR page charges, keeping membership dues affordable and holding meeting costs down without cutting corners. While proceeds from the SEF Auction and the NSA Sales booth

Continued on page 2



Plans for the 101st Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA from March 22-26, 2009 are well underway. Southern hospitality and a wonderful venue await y'all.

In this issue:

- *Annual Meeting Information*
- *Georgia Shellfish*
- *Membership Update*
- *Book Review: Marine Ornamental Shrimp*

President's Message... Continued from page 1

contribute two to four thousand a year, we really need everyone to donate to the campaign to reach our goal. When you renew your dues this year, please consider adding a donation to the SEF fund – there's a line on your renewal form just for this purpose. Alternatively, you may send a donation directly to our Treasurer, Chris Davis, at the address on the back of this Newsletter. We appreciate the help and you'll be happy knowing you contributed. To those of you that have already contributed.....THANK YOU!

The Executive Committee (EXCOM) continues to work behind the scenes on many tasks. As you know from your last Newsletter, the EXCOM proposed creating the position of Association Financial Officer (AFO) as an appointed position to the EXCOM. I'm happy to tell you that the membership voted in favor of this proposal and that the first AFO will be George Abbe. George has served as Audit-Budget-Finance (ABF) Committee Chair for more than 20 years with his only break in service occurring when he served as President in 1998-9. As outlined in the previous Newsletter, the AFO position is basically an elevation of the ABF Chair so that this critical position becomes a voting member of the EXCOM. The duties remain essentially the same as the ABF Chair who has traditionally been invited to all EXCOM sessions and provided advice to the Board. The transition for George will be seamless and I'm certain that he will continue to serve NSA with the same integrity and dedication he has in the past.

NSA's membership represents a diverse cross section of researchers, resource managers and members of the shellfish industry. We contain an equally, if not larger, diversity of opinions and ideas on various shellfish-related topics. As such, NSA strives to be a conduit for the exchange of information, ideas and perspectives. Recently, the EXCOM has been approached to take stands or sign statements about various issues that are often quite controversial. While many of us have strong opinions about many different issues, we do not all agree. This is even true among the various members of the EXCOM. In the interest of maintaining an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information as well as opinions, so that research can ultimately be conducted to provide scientifically based answers or guidance, the EXCOM has avoided signing or drafting opinions on issues of policy. NSA encourages its members to stay informed and involved in shellfish issues where their expertise can have a positive impact, and encourages scientific inquiry to promote science-based decision making regarding shellfish resources. NSA refrains from expressing opinions which are not likely to represent a uniform voice of its membership because we cannot take positions that may alienate segments of our membership and potentially curtail

productive exchanges and interactions. We must maintain a professional environment where we can come together as shellfish researchers, growers, fishers and managers and discuss the issues before us. We may, on occasion, need to simply agree to disagree and then press on to find common ground and solutions to problems that we face. NSA has done this for 100 years and I believe that our current membership and leadership, despite any differences of opinion they may hold, is prepared to continue this tradition and press on beyond the fray to keep our Association healthy, productive and relevant well into the future.

Dave Bushek
President

Romancing the Clam

Scheduled to coincide with the 2009 Annual Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association will host a clam tasting event "Romancing the Clam" at The Historic Bryson Hall in Savannah, GA. On March 23rd, chefs from across the nation will assemble to demonstrate regional clam dish preparations for immortalization on video. At the event, invitees and food writers will sample an array of different dishes and compare raw hard clams from various growing areas up and down the coast.

Sponsors of the event include both the East Coast and the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Associations, Cherrystone AquaFarm, the South Carolina Seafood Alliance, and Florida Sea Grant. Dr. Steve Otwell's research group from the University of Florida will attempt to translate their Oyster Sensory Profile work into clam terms, and attendees will have an opportunity to match their tastes with those of trained professionals.

For more information or to reserve a seat, contact Cassy Davis at (912) 598-2348 or Cassy.Davis@skio.usg.edu.



Annual Meeting Update

Plans are progressing for the 101st Annual Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association to be held at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront Hotel on March 22 - 26, 2009. A link for making hotel reservations is now available through the NSA Website at <http://shellfish.org/101stAnnualMeeting>.

The meeting program will offer over 200 oral and poster presentations on an array of topics related to seafood science, shellfish biology and management, and aquaculture. The program reflects many sessions of interest to broad audiences, such as the Special Session leading off the program, "Shellfish and the Environment". More focused subjects will be covered in sessions like "Promises and Pitfalls of DNA-based Parasite Diagnostic Methods", and several sessions address regional issues, such as "Blue Crab Biology and Fisheries". The Industry Committee will be returning with the popular "Out on the Water" (a repackaged version of "Down on the Farm"), an interesting selection of case studies and real life experiences from commercial shellfish farms. The Student Committee is planning their traditional session designed specifically for NSA's growing student membership...more to come later!

Other special sessions being organized are listed below. The full program for the meeting will be included in the next issue of the NSA newsletter and available through the NSA website in mid-January.

Other Sessions Include

- The Threat of Human and Shellfish Vibrios
- Shellfish Genetics and Genomics
- Introduced and Invasive Species
- Oyster and Habitat Restoration
- Crustacean Shell Diseases
- Archeomalacology
- Hard Clam Fisheries and Culture
- Shellfish Quality and Safety
- Recent Advances in Crustacean Fisheries

I'd like to thank all of the session organizers for their dedicated efforts to contact their colleagues and solicit their contributions. It is an altruistic cause which places each of you at the risk of harassment by your friends and associates and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Leroy Creswell
Program Chair



Shellfish Industries in Georgia

Georgia is the largest State east of the Mississippi River in terms of land area. Yet, we only have a 100 mile coastline. The Georgia coastline has a vast and extensive *Spartina* salt marsh system of approximately 115,740 hectares, the high productivity of which supports coastal commercial and recreational fisheries. The salt marshes serve as valuable nursery grounds for the majority of our marine invertebrate and vertebrate species. Many of the marsh land protection laws for the United States resulted from the research conducted in the 1960's and 1970's at the Marine Institute on Sapelo Island, GA by scientists such as Eugene Odum, Larry Pomeroy and John Teal.

Shellfish have been the mainstay of Georgia's fisheries for centuries. The presence of massive shell middens located along the coast attests to the importance of oysters to Georgia's Native Americans. During the colonial period, oysters provided not only food for the European settlers, but oyster shell also served as construction material in building Tabby structures along the coast. Today, the leading fisheries for Georgia are the peneaid shrimp and blue crab industries. Shrimp fishers landed 2.5 million pounds of brown, pink and white shrimp valued at \$7.1 million in 2006, with white shrimp being the more valuable product. Blue crab fishers landed 4.1 million pounds of crabs valued at \$2.9 million.

The important molluscan fisheries in Georgia are the oyster, whelk and hard clam industries. Georgia led the nation in oyster landings in 1908 with over 8 million pounds of meat being harvested. Most were canned by the numerous canneries located along the coast. By the 1930's, the industry was in decline as overharvesting and mismanagement led to the demise of the resource. Today, most oysters are consumed locally in fall and winter oyster roasts. In 2006, oyster landings were only 14,480 pounds of meat valued at \$55,000. The whelk industry started in 1980 and occurs primarily offshore. Some shrimp boats changed gear at the close of the shrimp season and trawled for whelks from January to April. The industry peaked in 1990 when 1 million pounds of meat valued at \$508,000 were harvested. The fishery did well until 2001 when the industry collapsed due to overfishing. The hard clam fishery which started in 1980, landed 46,000 pounds of clam meat valued at \$298,000 in 2006. Peak landings valued at \$658,000 occurred in 2005. Most clams come from nine clam farms along the Georgia coast. Clam farming in Georgia was a result of the University of Georgia's Marine Extension Service and local fishers working in cooperation with and with funding from the Georgia Sea Grant College Program and the Sapelo Foundation. Today, clam farming is the only growing fishery in Georgia.

Randy Walker
Local Arrangements Chair

Industry Perspective

Oyster Seed: (1) juvenile oysters harvested from natural oyster reefs for extensive cultivation; (2) a cyclical exhibition of biological oceanography within an estuarine system; (3) a product of hatchery technology; (4) a source of oyster farmers' frustration resulting from failed production goals.

Regardless of which coast you are visiting, oyster seed can be the main topic of discussion among oyster farmers. When visiting Connecticut last spring for the Providence meeting, seed was not the issue; it was plentiful and leases were fully planted, awaiting a big harvest year. On the West Coast, hatchery production goals have not been reached for nearly two years, due to *Vibrio tubiashii*, and dependent oyster companies are in dire need of quality seed and plenty of it. On the Gulf Coast, four major hurricanes within four years over oyster grounds from Louisiana and Texas have caused disruption of seed supply, mostly from overburden of sediments and vegetation, not to mention infrastructure and fleet damage.

To the molluscan shellfish industry, seed is everything. From business plans submitted to lenders for investment capital to discussions over morning coffee at the dock store, seed availability is the most important parameter that dictates production. Whether it is natural spatfall on an old or new cultch plant, weeks of bedding luggers full of seed from state grounds, or produced from remote setting tanks to near-shore nursery areas, seed sets the financial rhythm of the industry. It reminds me of shells as wampum.

There is a duality in everything. As a biologist, I have seen incredible exponential increase in production on oyster reefs following a freshwater event, after being fallow for years from high salinity exposure. As a technologist I place great value in a well run hatchery using superior broodstock and in man's ability to create when nature can't, which of course, sets me up for a fool. I find myself sympathizing with the dilemma of West Coast hatcheries as I do for the thousands of man-hours replanting the gulf's oyster farms.

At the 101st NSA meeting in Savannah, there will be sessions addressing oyster seed availability as a subject or underlying topic. The Threat of Human and Shellfish Vibrios, and Out on the Water: Industry Activities and Perspectives are just two of them. I look forward to attending all of them, as all industry members should.

John Supan
Chair, Industry Committee



Pacific Coast Section News

Dig it! The new Pacific Coast Section limited edition, anatomically correct, geoduck t-shirt was a huge hit at the joint annual conference with the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association in early October. We still have a few shirts left at a cost of \$18 per shirt plus shipping. If you are interested in purchasing one, contact me - Teri King at guatemala@u.washington.edu - for information on sizes and colors.



PCS members enjoyed the presentations and catching up with old friends at our annual meeting. It was a close competition for the student paper awards this year. Dan Cheney did a great job chairing the student judging committee and many wonderful student presenters participated. Lisa Crosson from the University of Washington won the best student paper competition at the meeting with her presentation "Application of a quantitative PCR assay to assess the impact of bitter crab syndrome on tanner crab populations in Alaska." She will use the award to help pay for her travel to the NSA national meeting in Georgia. We encourage all of our student members to participate in the national meeting and take advantage of student scholarship opportunities.

The PCS annual membership meeting was highly productive. The members decided to produce a new 2010 photo calendar, the sales of which will support the Ken Chew Student Endowment Fund. P. Sean McDonald is chairing this endeavor. Information about submitting photos for consideration will be posted on the Chapter Website soon (www.nsapcs.org). We hope to have the calendar available for sale at the Georgia meeting as well as at our joint conference next fall.

Elevating the recognition of NSA-PCS in the region and promoting opportunities for our members has been a long-term discussion item. At the membership meeting a committee was established to look at ways within the region to increase the visibility of PCS. The membership also voted to send a contribution to the NSA Student Endowment Fund. New officers for the section were also elected at the meeting. Congratulations go to Lisa Crosson, University of Washington, Kristi Straus, University of Washington and Tamara Gage, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. Thank you to outgoing board members Jennifer Whitney, Tina Blewett, and Lisa Hillier for your service and Don Velasquez in your continuing role as past chair. We are happy that you have all agreed to continue helping the PCS.

Teri King
Pacific Coast Section Chair

Recruits' Corner

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Hi Recruits! I hope this headline grabs your attention and that you all read Sandy Shumway's excellent article on volunteerism in the last Newsletter. If you were inspired to act, then do I have an opportunity for you. Become part of the NSA team as a leader of the student Recruits. I have been a Recruits co-chair for a while now but will be wrapping up my student years soon. As you also read in the last Newsletter, my former co-chair just "retired" (THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING DANE!!), so we need a few volunteers to step up and take the reins.



Historically the Recruits have been led by a single student, a whole committee, and everything in between. It would be great to have representatives of the three major shellfishery regions – East Coast, West Coast, and Gulf Coast. Fear not, you will have plenty of free time to complete your research, as the duties of the Recruits co-chairs are not too time consuming. Our major duties include representing the NSA student members at the Executive Committee meeting (held on the Sunday afternoon right before the Annual Meeting), writing Newsletter articles 4 times a year, and maintaining contact, through e-mail and the Website, with the NSA student membership to inform them of opportunities and events. At the NSA Annual Meetings, we put together an orientation session and informational workshop for the students, organize the student workforce, and generally make sure that everyone is having a good time and getting the most out of the meeting. With two or three people to split these responsibilities the time commitment will be minimal.

In return for your volunteer time, you get these fabulous prizes: A big boost to the service section of your CV's (and don't think this doesn't count, future employers want to see that you can work well with others), excellent networking opportunities (there are some pretty well-known shellfish scientists on NSA's committees and they will get to know you), and the satisfaction of knowing that you have done your part to help a professional scientific society that is truly invested in its student members.

There are plenty of other benefits and I would be happy to chat with you further about them anytime. As is so often the case, the opportunity is what you make of it and for me it has been fantastic. It would be great to have new co-chairs overlap with me for a while, so that I can show you the ropes before we take your training wheels off. So, please contact me – Nature McGinn, namcginn@ucdavis.edu – position will be open until filled.

**See you in Savannah,
Nature McGinn, Recruits Chair**

International Conference on Shellfish Restoration 2008 held in Charleston, SC November 19 - 22nd

It was a sunny and chilly visit to Charleston, South Carolina for the 11th ICSR. Pre-conference field trips included a boat trip on the SCDNR educational vessel, Discovery, to explore the Charleston waterways, a trip to the Folly Beach Barrier Island, and a Golf Tournament for the hearty few who could play in mittens! The theme for the conference - improving the health of coastal ecosystems through shellfish restoration - was well served by the meeting program. This year's meeting highlighted the role of shellfish in the development of society, ranging from the coastal tribal nations in the United States to the Maori in New Zealand, from early settlers in Brittany to Canada's First Nations.

Rick DeVoe and his team assembled an interesting series of presentations for the 130 attendees, including 40 oral presentations and approximately two dozen posters. In addition, there were several panel discussions covering topics of current concern to the shellfish industry including Best Management Practices for East Coast Shellfish Aquaculture, Sharing the Rights to Our Shellfish Resources, and Shellfish Reefs at Risk. Kudos to the organization teams: Organizing Committee (Rick DeVoe, Elaine Knight, Dorothy Leonard, Susan Hill, Katherine Luciano and William Rickards), and the Planning Committee (Bill Anderson, Dave Bushek, Loren Coen, Bill DuPaul, Gef Flimlin, John Kraeuter, Mark Luckenbach, Sandy Macfarlane, Geoffrey Scott and LaDon Swann).

The meeting was generously sponsored by South Carolina Sea Grant, ISSC, Marine Institute (Galway, Ireland), National Institute of Standards and Technology, the NOAA Hollings Marine Laboratory, Hawai'i, and the Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, New York, North Carolina and Virginia Sea Grant Programs.

**Sandy Shumway
University of Connecticut**



Veteran shellfish scientists Vic Burrell (SC) and Sammy Ray (TX) thank shellfish lease holder and former South Carolina State Legislator Robert Barber for welcoming the ICSR'08 attendees to Charleston, SC

In Memoriam

William Jennings Hargis Jr

1923 - 2008



William Jennings Hargis Jr. spent his childhood summers at his maternal grandparents' home on Tangier Island, where he fell in love with the Chesapeake Bay. Although his original career path led him toward pharmacy school, William left school after only a year and worked a number of odd jobs. He soon returned to school after

realizing his passion for Marine Biology, earning a B.S. degree in 1948 and a M.S. degree in 1951 from the University of Richmond, and a Ph.D. from Florida State University in 1954.

Dr. Hargis began his research career in 1955 at the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory in Gloucester Point, Virginia, which later became the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). After just four short years, he became the Director of the lab and during a 22 year tenure as Director was instrumental in building the Institute from a single building to a 40 acre campus with 11 research and education buildings as well as a field lab on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

Dr. Hargis focused on making sure VIMS became both an important advisory service provider for the state of Virginia, and a world-class graduate school educating future marine scientists. Due to Dr. Hargis' efforts, VIMS faculty and staff today offer unbiased scientific advice to the Marine Resources Commission, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health, the General Assembly and industry on decisions affecting Virginia's marine resources and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Dr. Hargis was also prominent in science policy and advocacy at the national level. He was appointed Vice Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere by President Nixon in 1971, and was later appointed Chair of the same committee by President Ford. He served on the Coastal Plains Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Biological Task Force and was a consultant to the National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development, Office of the Vice President and Oceanographer of the Navy.

Dr. Hargis recognized the importance of education, and during his tenure as Director of VIMS he established the Master's and Doctoral Programs in Marine Science, personally recruited many students, and initiated VIMS' current relationship with the College of William and Mary.

His devotion to educating future marine scientists is exemplified by the Hargis Student Scholarship Fund, an annual fellowship he founded to recognize first-year graduate students who have demonstrated superior academic performance and exceptional promise in marine research. This fellowship has, to date, benefited more than 15 VIMS students.

In the midst of his administrative duties, Dr. Hargis managed to find time to conduct research and was an internationally renowned marine parasitologist. He studied monogenetic trematode parasites of marine fishes which led him and his students on collecting trips to Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica, Africa and the Indian Ocean. He compiled the Bibliography of the Monogenea literature of the World, 1758 to 1982. Dr. Hargis spent his retirement years focusing his research on the imperiled oyster industry of the Chesapeake Bay, examining the role of oyster reefs on the ecology of the Bay.

During his impressive career, Dr. Hargis wrote more than 130 research publications, 22 essays and testimony statements to the U.S. Congress, and more than 40 reports, essays and educational pieces on marine science and resource management. Among the many awards and honors bestowed on Dr. Hargis during his career are the Neptune Award from the American Oceanic Organization (1971), the National Wildlife Federation Special Conservation Award (1976), the Mathias Medal for contributions in Marine Science for Policy and Education (1997), the Thomas Jefferson Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Natural Science (2003), Virginia's Life Achievement in Science Award (2003) and VIMS' Lifetime Achievement Award (2004). Virginia's General Assembly also passed legislation in 2004, renaming the VIMS library in Dr. Hargis' honor.

Dr. Hargis passed away on Friday, October 17, 2008. He is survived by his beloved wife, Marcia McKenzie Hargis; six children, Laura Baxter and husband John, Jonathan Hargis and wife Sharon, Susan King and husband Richard, Emily Irvin and husband David, Ronald Hargis, and Patrick Hargis and wife Michele; and 15 grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, James H. Hargis and wife Grace and Richard C. Hargis and wife Helen, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Melissa Southworth
NSA Reporter



Book Review

Marine Ornamental Shrimp: Biology, Aquaculture and Conservation by Ricardo Calado. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2008, 263 pages, ISBN -13: 1405170867, \$200 (hardback).

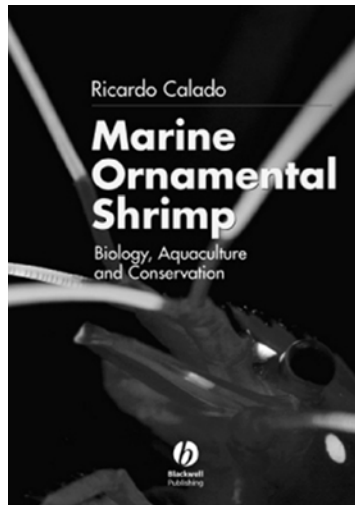
When I received the invitation from Sandy Shumway to review this book by an “old” friend of mine, Ricardo Calado, I had mixed feelings of joy, pride, surprise and yes, sadness. I was glad to see that a book devoted to marine ornamental shrimp has finally been published and by a young and accomplished scientist, during a hectic period of his life (just starting a new family and “real job”).

The sadness is a bit harder to explain. Seventeen years ago, I landed a “real job” after sending out many applications and receiving almost as many rejections. I was eventually asked to lead the small Aquaculture Program at the Florida Institute of Technology. Shortly afterwards, I decided that the program needed to change direction and focus its teaching, and especially research, efforts on ornamental aquaculture. At the time, marine ornamental aquaculture was still in its infancy and Florida was the center of ornamental production (virtually all freshwater species) and trade. I worked with LeRoy Creswell, an “old timer” in the shellfish aquaculture world, to secure what was perhaps the first Sea Grant funding for marine ornamental shrimp aquaculture. Very little was known about the biology and aquaculture of these fascinating species. The major reason for developing marine ornamental aquaculture is to reduce the highly destructive cyanide fishing to supply the aquarium species (and if you can make money on the venture it is a bonus). Over the last 10 years, a lot of research and several conferences (e.g., Marine Ornamental Meetings) have been devoted to the aquaculture, biology and conservation (ABC) of marine ornamental species. Unfortunately, while much progress has been made in understanding the biology (e.g., the discovery and subsequent intensive study of the unique protandric simultaneous

hermaphroditism in the *Lysmata* species) and developing culture protocols for many marine aquarium species, commercial production of marine ornamental species has progressed at a slow pace and the interest for marine ornamental aquaculture and conservation seems to have declined in recent years (as evidenced by the decreased attendance and enthusiasm for the marine ornamental conferences). As pointed out by Ricardo in the book, to effectively reduce wild collection, the developed knowledge in ornamental aquaculture needs to be shared with exporting countries to provide an alternative way of life for local populations. Limited efforts have been made in this regard.

The book is an accomplishment to be admired for its broad as well as in-depth coverage, drawing from the author’s own research and experiences, as well as an extensive literature review. The text first provides background information and a detailed review of many marine ornamental shrimp species, covering topics such as taxonomy, distribution, ecology, behavior (e.g., parasite cleaning and symbiosis), reproduction, larval morphology and development. Ricardo includes an in-depth discussion of the details of hatchery (spawning and larviculture) and grow-out techniques and processes and concludes with a thorough discussion of conservation issues. Although I am quite familiar with the literature in these topics, I still discovered new information and many new and valuable resources while reading the book. The book also includes an extensive reference list (55 pages of references and most of them published in the last 10 years!) for this relatively new field and a helpful glossary. Although the price is a bit steep, the book contains several nice color plates. The book is easy to understand and read, without compromising scientific “sophistication” and value, a tall task, especially for someone whose native language is not English (as for yours truly). It is sure to be a valuable resource for aquaculturists, researchers and resource managers alike.

Junda Lin
Florida Institute of Technology



2009 ELECTION UPDATE

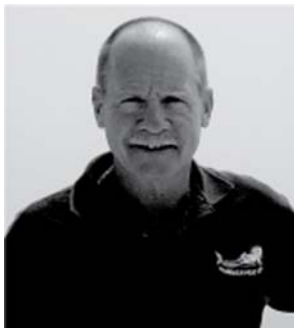
Nominations have closed and a slate of candidates has been cleared for the 2009 election to fill vacancies in the NSA offices of President-Elect, Vice President, and Member-at-Large. Thank you to all who have volunteered to stand for these positions. Ballots will be mailed shortly after the 1st of January and please remember to vote.

Shellfish Industry Pioneer

John H. Volk

1946 - 2007

John Henry Volk was a unique blend of scientist, experienced harvester (with time in the wheelhouse and on the foredeck), and a personable man who wanted to see the shellfish industry flourish. He graduated cum laude from the University of New Haven with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and began his shellfish career as the principal biologist for Long Island Oyster Farms and collaborated with the Milford NMFS Lab monitoring oyster setting in Long Island Sound.



John was the Director of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture from 1982 to 2003 with many supporters describing him as the “right person for the job.” During the 1980’s, John also chaired the Legislative Aquaculture Commission and the Aquaculture Committee for the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Commission. His efforts laid the framework for aquaculture development in Connecticut. John was a major advisor for the State’s development of two regional vocational aquaculture schools. In 1987, John was selected as an Aquaculture Ambassador for the People to People Program, Shellfish Research and Production Delegation to the Peoples Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). He became a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Aquaculture Coordinators in 1993 and supported the establishment of the CT Seafood Council. John fostered the growth of the industry and protection of this most valuable natural and renewable resource in 1997 by engaging State Legislators to have funding bonded for an oyster cultch program enhancing recruitment of oysters to the State natural beds.

John was an active member of several other boards and commissions including; NESSA, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Connecticut Coves and Embayment Advisory Board, and the Connecticut State Aquaculture Commission. He received several awards including the Rhode Island House of Representatives Citation for Expertise in Aquaculture, and the CT Governor’s Award for service to the State.

John’s greatest challenge, the Cross Sound Cable project, was placed in service during the early 2000’s. John worked to limit adverse impacts from the project and advance our understanding of the consequences of cable placement and operation. As he did previously with the Iroquois Gas Pipeline and the Norwalk power cables, John worked

tirelessly to negotiate for monitoring and mitigation plans that would protect CT shellfish and harvesters. We are the better for his efforts and regulators grappling with cabling projects routinely refer to the guidance generated by the monitoring program for this project.

More on John’s contributions can be found in “The Dredge” Vol.2(1) Winter 2007/2008 (www.ctseagrant.uconn.edu). If you would like to help continue John’s legacy, please consider making a donation to The Sound School – John Volk Memorial Scholarship Fund. Care of: Steven Pynn, Principal, The Sound School, 60 South Water Street, New Haven, CT 06519.

Lori Romick
The Shellfish Sister, LLC

Don’t Forget!
Pay Dues by January 31st.
You can even pay on-line
www.shellfish.org

Request for Nominations for David H. Wallace Award and Honored Life Member

Nominations are requested for recipients of the David Wallace Award and/or the Honorary Life Member Award of NSA. The David H. Wallace Award honors those individuals whose actions most demonstrate the principles and actions, as exemplified during the lifetime of Mr. David H. Wallace, relative to shellfisheries, aquaculture, and conservation programs that promote understanding, knowledge, and cooperation among industry members, the academic community, and all levels of government. In particular, the nominee must have an outstanding record of success in bringing together shellfish scientists and industry officials for the benefit of shellfisheries. The Honored Life Member Award is a recognition based upon exemplary service to NSA or to the profession. Past recipients of both awards are listed on the National Shellfisheries Association website. The NSA Awards Committee reviews nominations and selects recipients based upon demonstrated fulfillment of the criteria for qualification. A nomination should include a brief summary (no more than 2, double spaced, typed pages) of why the nominee deserves recognition. and should be sent to Dr. Lou D’Abramo at Ldabramo@cfr.msstate.edu or Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University, Box 9690, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

International News

The VII Latin American Congress of Malacology

The beautiful island of Teja, in Valdivia Chile, provided the background for the VII Latin American Congress of Malacology, hosted by Universidad Austral de Chile from November 3rd to the 7th. More than 280 registrations and 374 accepted abstracts from researchers in 16 countries made this event the largest CLAMA in the 17-year history of the conference. More than 130 graduate students from Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Japan, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela attended the meeting. Student attendance was aided by grants, affordable lodging, and registration waivers provided by CONICYT and other donors. The meeting was organized by Dr. Carlos Gallardo and Dr. Laura Huaquín. They were assisted by professors, students, and volunteers from Universidad Austral, Universidad de Chile, and the Malacological Society of Chile, headed by Dr. Sergio Letelier, and were supported by Sociedad Chilena de Ciencias del Mar, Universidad de Valparaiso, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Sociedade Brasileira de Malacologia, CONICYT (the Chilean research funding agency), and the Latin American Association of Malacology (ALM).

Meeting activities started on Monday afternoon with talks by Dr. Dalila Aldana Aranda on the status, farming and conservation of *Strombus gigas* in the Western Atlantic and by Dr. Juan Carlos Castilla on the history of exploitation and management of *Concholepas concholepas* (loco) in Chile. In addition, Dr. Pablo Penchaszadeh presented a new book on marine invertebrates from Patagonia. A welcome reception at the Aula Magna of Universidad Austral, later that day, was warm and enjoyable with entertainment that included a guitar soloist and a colorful, traditional dance show. The day ended with a welcome cocktail on the terrace of the Contemporaneous Art Museum with a view of the sunset over Valdivia.

The VII CLAMA hosted six symposia addressing mollusk fisheries and their sustainable management in Latin America (organized by Dr. Dalila Aldana Aranda), mollusk invasions (Dr. Gustavo Darrigran), the biology of molluscan handedness (Dr. Takahiro Asami & Dr. Toshie Kawano), Caenozoic paleontology (Dr. Thomas De Vries & Dr. Sven N. Nielsen), the contribution of *Biomphalaria* to the development of malacological research (Dr. Toshie Kawano), and links between mollusks of the Antarctic and Magellanic provinces (Dr. Jesus Troncoso & Dr. Cristian Aldea). Additional invited lectures were provided by Dr. Dirk Schories on the importance of knowing the geographical distribution of mollusks for monitoring and management, Dr. Fernanda Britto da Silva on the phylogeography of species of *Donax* and *Mesodesma* in South East Brazil, Dr. Jan A. Pechenik on using Calyptraeid

gastropods as models of functional and evolutionary diversity while the closing lecture by Dr. Winston F. Ponder illustrated the importance of museum collections as a source of information on the historical distribution of mollusks. Contributed talks were distributed in 24 separate sessions, included papers on the biology, ecology, biodiversity, systematics, genetics, physiology, parasitology, reproduction, fisheries, and farming of mollusks.

During the Latin American Association of Malacology (ALM) session on Tuesday afternoon, the lasting contributions of Dr. Cecilia Osorio and Dr. José Stuardo to malacology were recognized with life-achievement awards. In the same meeting, an emotional tribute to the life and work of late Louis Di Salvo and Mel Carriker were presented by Dr. Juan Cañete and Dr. Pablo Penchaszadeh. At the close of the congress, best student papers were awarded the third edition of "Dr. Antonio García-Cubas Prize." Awards went to undergraduate students Vanessa Sanchez from Venezuela (poster) and Daniel Coscarelli from

Continued on page 10



The lifetime achievements of two extraordinary malacologists, Louis Di Salvo and Mel Carriker, were recognized during VII Latin American Congress of Malacology. Dr. Pablo Penchaszadeh, shown here, presented the tribute to Mel Carriker and his contributions to malacology. Dr. Roberto Cipriani (not shown) also recounted Mel's support for the Latin American Association of Malacology.

More on Mel Carriker, his career and his contributions to science and society, as well as remembrances from colleagues and friends can be found at Carrikerfest 2001, a Website maintained by John Ewart at

<http://darc.cms.udel.edu/carrikerfest2001/cfestindex.html>

CLAMAContinued from page 9

Brazil (talk), and to graduate students Cintia Pinheiro from Brazil (poster) and Claudio Gonzalez from Chile (talk).

Additional activities associated with the VII CLAMA included field trips to the Parque Nacional Oncol and the Península de San Ramón and several workshops offered Saturday the 8th and Tuesday the 11th. These workshops focused on tools for age determination in bivalves, using interacting keys for mollusk identification, classifying and studying feeding in chitons, writing scientific papers, reconstructing 3D computer images of molluscan anatomy, applying molecular tools in the analysis of molluscan evolution, and evaluating the status of the conservation of mytilid and ostreid bivalves in Latin America and were organized by Christopher Richardson, Dr. Winston Ponder, Boris Sirenko, Jan Pechenik, Gregorio Bigatti & Timea Neusser, Fernanda Britto da Silva & Suzete Rodriguez Gomes, and Alvar Carranza & Dr. Omar Defeo, respectively.

The active participation of students and researchers alike and the high quality of all the contributions presented at the VII CLAMA set a high standard for the next meeting. The VIII CLAMA will be held in 2011, the 20th anniversary of the congress, and will be organized in Puerto Madryn, Argentina, by Dr. Gregorio Bigatti and a group of young and enthusiastic researchers from Centro Nacional Patagónico.

Dr. Roberto Cipriani

President, Latin American Association of Malacology



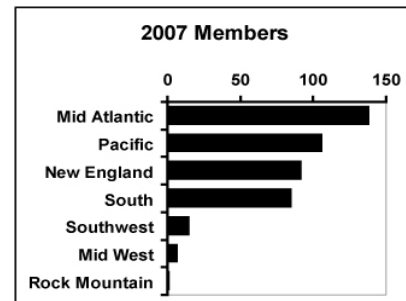
Membership Update

Membership has been exceptional this year! Through November, we have 749 members making 2008 our second highest membership year, ever. And we still have until the end of December to break the 2006 high mark of 761! Please take a moment to consider any colleagues, students or family members that you can recruit into the Association (shellfish.org/join.htm) to make 2009 an even bigger success.

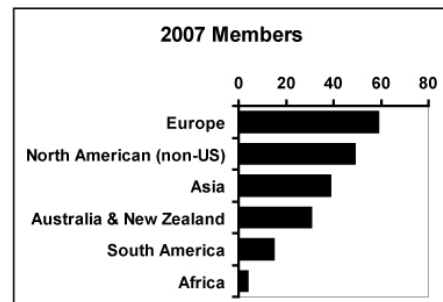
Students are a key part of our success as a society, now and into the future. Personally, I was urged to go to a meeting by my advisor – and I've been a member ever since! Whether you are faculty, a researcher, or an industry member, if you know of a student involved in shellfish research ask them to join. At current rates, it's one of the best deals out there!

This year, the new members you recruit could help you win a new membership drive competition! The U.S. and international region with the highest percentage increase in paid members from the prior year will be highlighted on the NSA Webpage and we will announce the 2008 membership drive winners at the meeting in Savannah. Any members from the winning regions attending next year's Annual Meeting will be assured seating in the highly sought after front-row seats at the Student Endowment Fund Auction!

Regionally, 2007 U.S. membership drew most heavily from the Mid Atlantic region from New York to Virginia. Can they keep the top spot in 2008 or will some other region emerge as the leader?



Typically, a considerable portion of our membership is from outside of the U.S. In 2007, more non-U.S. members were from Europe than any other continent. Which international region will be at the top of the list in 2008?



The Membership Committee is finalizing a colorful poster to aid recruiting efforts. If you're heading to a meeting or have a prominent location at your business or institution where you think you can attract members, please contact me and I will send you some flyers as soon as they are available.

Lastly, the Membership Committee (myself, Maille Lyons, Philippe Soudant and Kristi Straus) gladly welcomes any feedback on your membership experience as well as suggestions for ways to increase membership. Please feel free to contact me (wwalton@whoi.edu) if you have any feedback for the Committee.

Bill Walton

Chair, Membership Committee

Centennial Campaign Update

\$100,000



The Centennial Campaign to provide long-term financial stability to the Student Endowment Fund continues to December 31st of this year. As of December 1st, \$18,036 has been received from the membership and friends of NSA in support of the Campaign. A sincere THANK YOU to those of you who have given to the Centennial Fund to date – you are directly and effectively helping to ensure the future of NSA’s unique role in helping meld students’ needs with their professional development. NSA has always focused on nurturing and supporting students and their professional development. NSA has also sought to bridge the generational gap between younger members and our old guard. By honoring those leaders and special members who

have led NSA in years past, newer and younger members gain insights into our history as well as developing an appreciation for the social linkages that substantively contribute to our Association – now into its second 100 years.

Our long tradition of providing financial assistance for students to conduct shellfish research and to present their research at annual meetings is one of the most direct ways in which we can nurture students and their research. Our Centennial (Capital) Campaign is critical to building the Student Endowment so these mentoring activities remain strong. No donation is too small as we strive to reach our goal of \$100,000 by the end of the year. You can download a donation form off the NSA Website (www.shellfish.org) and donate via credit card. You can also send a check directly to our Treasurer (Chris Davis - see address on the back of the Newsletter).

The students are our future so please make an extra effort to make this campaign a success.

NSA Executive Committee

Upcoming Events

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Meeting: January 3-7, 2009 at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel, Boston, MA, USA. For information visit <http://www.sicb.org>.

Aquaculture America: February 15-18, 2009, Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Washington, USA. For information visit <https://www.was.org>.

29th Milford Aquaculture Seminar: February 23-25, 2009, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Meriden, Connecticut, USA. For information contact Walter Blogoslawski (wblogosl@clam.mi.nmfs.gov) or 203-882-6535.

National Shellfisheries Association, 101st Annual Meeting: March 22-26, 2009, Savannah Marriott Riverfront, Savannah, Georgia, USA. For information visit www.shellfish.org.

17th International Pectinid Workshop: April 22-28, 2009, University of Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain. For information contact Luís Sánchez (bnluis@usc.es) or Luz Pérez-Parallé (bnmalu@usc.es).

World Aquaculture Meeting: May 25-29, 2009, World Trade Center, Veracruz, Mexico. For information visit <https://www.was.org>.

International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety: June 14-19, 2009, Nantes, France. For information and to register online visit <http://www.icmss09.com>.

The Crustacean Society Summer Meeting: September 20-23, 2009, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Shinagawa, Tokyo. For information visit <http://www.vims.edu/tcs>.

If you would like to announce a meeting, conference, workshop or publication that might be of interest to NSA members, please contact Paul Rawson (prawson@maine.edu).



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