

National Shellfisheries Association

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

July 2009

ORONO, ME



President's Message

I am honored to begin serving my term as President of the National Shellfisheries Association. Though we face severe economic challenges as a nation, the financial health of NSA remains excellent, as do the prospects for continuing our work as a scientific society.

I want to first thank outgoing President, Dave Bushek for the many hours he devoted to help advance the viability and visibility of our Association during his Presidency. Dave



was dedicated to conducting the daily business of NSA, and was particularly committed to improving the NSA web portal for our members. I am also very thankful to Sandy Shumway for coordinating so many of the inner workings of NSA, and for her dedicated service as the Editor of the *Journal of Shellfish Research*. As the "Belle of the North" at this year's Student Endowment Fund Auction, Sandy raised the stakes for both North and South alike and ensured a record level of giving to the Fund. Similarly, I would like to particularly thank Chris Davis for his many hours of service as NSA Treasurer and Lou D'Abramo for his continuing dedication to NSA as he completes his tenure as the immediate Past President of the Association. There are many others who deserve acknowledgment, but the point to be made is that NSA operates through volunteers who are dedicated to the advancement of our Association.

Looking ahead, plans are well underway for the Aquaculture 2010, the Triennial Meeting of National Shellfisheries Association, the World Aquaculture Society, and the American Fisheries Society Fish Culture Section, which will be held March 1-5, 2010 in San Diego (see page 3 of this Newsletter for more information). I urge all members to make plans to attend and bolster the presence of NSA at this exciting international conference. Members who have committed to coordinating sessions should be busy now lining up presenters and ensuring that abstracts are submitted by the August 31, 2009 deadline. In addition, planning for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Baltimore has

already begun. Sandy Shumway and our new Member at Large, Steve Allen, have been busy scoping out specific venues and dates. Look for much more information on this meeting in later columns and on the NSA website.

I would like to welcome the newly elected individuals who will be joining NSA's Executive Committee (EXCOM) this year. Congratulations are due to LeRoy Creswell (President-Elect), Bob Rheault (Vice President) and Steve Allen (2009-2012 Member at Large). Sincere thanks go to Leslie Sturmer and Bill Walton, exemplary candidates who will hopefully run for NSA office again in the future. The work of our

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Incoming President Joth Davis recognizes the dedicated service of outgoing President Dave Bushek at the recent NSA Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA.

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committees is vital to a well functioning Association and I want to recognize the Committee Chairs for 2009-2010. First, Susan Ford has stepped down from her role as NSA Historian and will be replaced by Tom Soniat who has graciously agreed to take on this important position. George Abbe will continue to serve as Audit, Budget, and Finance Chair, while the Awards and Elections Chair will rest with immediate Past-President Dave Bushek. The Membership Committee, under continuing Chair Bill Walton, is charged with maintaining and growing our pool of members, an ongoing area of concern for NSA. The Publications Committee will continue to be Co-Chaired by Susan Ford and John Kraeuter. The Resolutions Chair for next year will be incoming 2009-2012 Member-at-Large, Steve Allen. Endowment and Student Awards Co-Chairs will be newcomers, Chris Dungan and Marta Gomez-Chiari with help from outgoing Co-Chairs, Ryan Carnegie and Ami Wilbur. Industry Committee Chair duties will be shared by John Supan, Bill Dewey and Rick Karney to ensure at least a tri-coastal perspective. Incoming Student Recruits' Co-Chairs will be Maxine Cheney and Stephanie Reiner, and Paul Rawson will happily accept your articles, information and other timely input as he continues as NSA's Quarterly Newsletter Editor. A sincere thanks is due all these individuals - we cannot operate without them.

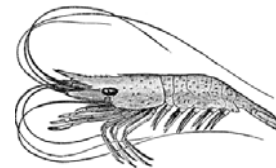
I believe we need to maintain our core mission as a scientific society focused on shellfish research and the dissemination of scientific information and expertise to the research community, the shellfish industry, policy makers and the public, in general. NSA is remarkably open and energetic in fostering and nurturing the development of student members and newcomers to shellfish and shellfish biology. We need to continue to support student involvement in NSA on many levels. To succeed, we need to continue to bring our membership an outstanding journal and newsletter and annual meeting that enables scientists, government representatives, and industry members to meet to present and discuss relevant and timely research issues relating to shellfish. We also need to continue to support our Student Endowment Fund which will provide greater assistance for students to attend meetings and present their research findings.

I strongly encourage NSA members to become personally involved in our Association. I know this is a regular plea and whether you work in academia, State or Federal agencies or the shellfish industry, we are all increasingly stressed by financial concerns, the pressures of surviving and working in academia, and a seemingly unending series of meetings and commitments. Nonetheless, I urge you to support three specific activities associated with NSA. Contribute your science for publication in *JSR*. Contribute your time as a manuscript reviewer for *JSR* and contribute your expertise by organizing and chairing a session at an

Annual Meeting. These and other volunteer activities are critical to maintaining both the core and strength of NSA.

NSA is a unique organization in my opinion. Our diverse membership includes shellfish growers, the agency folks who regulate the industry and fund the science we conduct, as well as a core group of researchers who have an interest and focus on shellfish. We need, however, to think about how to ensure the relevance of NSA in an increasingly complicated world. Think about sessions for our Annual Meeting that cut across the grain of different disciplines. Think about people and expertise we can attract to our Association whose participation will help generate new collaborations that will move shellfish research forward. I am pleased and honored to take the lead, and with a lot of help from you we can help NSA prosper.

Joth Davis
President



Congratulations JSR!

The *Journal of Shellfish Research* has just been named one of the 100 most influential journals in biology and medicine over the last 100 years! The award was bestowed by the BioMedical & Life Sciences Division (DBIO) of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) on the occasion of its centennial. *JSR* shares this honor with publications such as *Science and Nature*. For a list of all 100 journals see <http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/publications/resources/dbio100.html>.

The SLA is a professional organization of subject specialist librarians, information managers, and publishing industry representatives, and is composed of many topical divisions. Last year, one of the divisions, DBIO, convened an international panel of nine eminent subject experts to compile a ballot for an electronic poll of its membership, asking them to vote on the 100 most influential journals in biology and medicine during the 100 years of SLA's existence. Congratulations to Editor-in-Chief, Sandy Shumway, to previous editors, and to all those individuals who have contributed and reviewed articles for *JSR* over the years.

Susan Ford & John Kraeuter
Co-Chairs, Publications Committee

Recruits' Corner

THANK YOU RECRUITS! Regular readers of the Recruits' column will recognize this as our annual post-meeting Newsletter Thank You article. And I do really want to thank all of the students that worked at the meeting – both the award recipients and the volunteers. The sessions, the sales booth, and definitely the auction ran smoothly because of your help, so THANK YOU!

This is also my opportunity to thank the student members, and NSA for opportunity to serve you as the student representative (a.k.a. the Recruits' chair) these past few (or more) years. By way of introducing your new student reps, I would like to thank Maxine Chaney, University of Southern California, and Stephanie Reiner, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, for volunteering to take the reins from Dane and me. Student members have always been a great help to me when I have asked for suggestions, comments, and especially volunteers, so please remain active NSA members and help Maxine and Stephanie when they ask. You will find their contact information on the back of this Newsletter. And be sure to look in the next Newsletter for their first brilliant Recruits' column.

One last thing before I go, please remember that the next NSA Annual Meeting will be Aquaculture 2010 in San Diego. Abstracts are always due earlier for these big triennial meetings, so have your best stuff together and ready to submit by August 31, 2009.

Then, I will see you next March in sunny SoCal!

**Thanks for the memories,
Nature McGinn
Outgoing Recruits' Chair**



Outgoing Recruits' Chair Nature McGinn (center) passes the reins to incoming Co-Chairs Stephanie Reiner (left) and Maxine Chaney (right)

AQUACULTURE 2010

Aquaculture 2010, the Triennial Meeting of National Shellfisheries Association, the American Fisheries Society Fish Culture Section, and the World Aquaculture Society will be held in San Diego, CA from March 1-5, 2010. NSA is the lead organization for this Triennial and those who were able to attend the last one in San Antonio, TX know this is a conference you don't want to miss.



The Triennial is the largest aquaculture conference in the world with over 4000 attendees and always includes a spectacular trade show with over 200 booths. Conference sponsors are busy putting together an extensive scientific and technical program with approximately 15 concurrent sessions and workshops covering topics such as Down and Dirty with the Hobbyist and Small-scale Shellfish Farmer, Sea Urchins, New Shellfish Species for Culture, Citizen Science and Water Quality, Genetics and Genomics, Crustacean Diseases, Shellfish Stock Enhancement, Shellfish Diseases, Primary Productivity and Bivalve Aquaculture, Abalone, Geoducks, Best Management Practices, Biosecurity, Vibrios, Impacts of Shellfish Aquaculture on Benthic Environments, Quagga Mussels in the Western United States, Cultivation and Stock Enhancement of Crabs and Lobsters. Nearly all species and issues facing aquaculturists around the country will be represented.

The conference will take place at the Town and Country Hotel and Conference Center. The weather in southern California in March promises to be mild and comfortable. San Diego is one of top-rated destinations in the U.S. and there is easy access to many local attractions from the Town and Country. Early registration is available through January 25th, 2010 at a reduced price and a limited block of hotel rooms have been set aside at a special rate so book early and don't be left out of the fun and excitement. Please note that if you are planning on presenting at this conference abstracts must be submitted by **AUGUST 31, 2009**. For more information contact Sandy Shumway, Chair of the Steering Committee (sandra.shumway@uconn.edu). Abstract forms and instructions, and registration materials can be found at <https://www.was.org/WasMeetings/meetings/Default.aspx?code=AQ2010>.

NSA's 101st Annual Meeting a Huge Success

The 101st Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA was a huge success thanks to Past President Lou D'Abramo and Local Arrangements Chair Randy Walker who worked tirelessly with staff of the Savannah Marriott Riverside Hotel to ensure that meeting events were well orchestrated. Sincere thanks to past Program Chair LeRoy Creswell, Karolyn Mueller Hansen and Sandy Shumway for ensuring that this year's program was well integrated and one of the best ever. Overall, there were 287 meeting registrants including 71 students and 68 non-member and daily registrants. A total of 236 abstracts were submitted for oral and poster presentations in 22 regular and special sessions. A major thank you is due to all session organizers for putting together diverse and informative sessions.

At the Business Luncheon, several richly deserved awards were presented including the Honored Life Member Award presented to Eugene M. Bureson of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the David A. Wallace Award presented to Sandra E. Shumway of the University of Connecticut. Student Awards Committee Co-Chairs, Ami Wilbur and Ryan Carnegie again had the enormous task of organizing the judging and awarding of student presentations and posters in addition to the tremendous effort they expended during the year coordinating judging for the Student Travel Awards. Industry Committee Chair, John Supan coordinated the plethora of seafood donated by a variety of industry members and supporters that we enjoyed at the President's Reception and Auction.

I want to specifically recognize the work of outgoing Student Recruits' Committee Chair, Nature McGinn, who has been a stalwart for NSA the last few years. I wish her well as she makes her move onward from graduate school; we will miss her smile and hard work coordinating NSA student members to help make the Annual Meetings run smoothly.

Of course, it wasn't all work. The President's Reception held in the spacious atrium of the Savannah Riverfront Marriot was well attended and featured seafood donated by a variety of shellfish producers. A major highlight of the meeting was the always popular and highly entertaining Student Endowment Fund Auction with Sandy Shumway as Auctioneer. Sandy appeared in costume as the "Belle of the North" and kept the Auction moving at such a brisk pace that when all was said and done the Auction netted a record \$3,182 for the SEF. Many folks also enjoyed a classic Georgia Low Country Boil at the historic Old Fort Jackson and the East Coast Shellfish Grower's Association's Romancing the Clam event that celebrated the gastronomic virtues of clams.

Finally, the Savannah meeting was blessed with financial sponsorship from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the Florida, Georgia, Mississippi-Alabama, South Carolina and Virginia Sea Grant Programs and donations from Taylor Shellfish Farms Inc., Little Skookum Shellfish LLC, Baywater Inc., Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, Georgia Marine Extension Service, Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, Pemaquid Oyster Company, and the Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative. On behalf of NSA, I extend a sincere thank you to all our sponsors whose contributions helped make this meeting a success.

Joth Davis
NSA President

Romancing the Clam Event a Big Hit

The East Coast Shellfish Growers Association hosted "Romancing the Clam" a special event in conjunction with NSA's 101st Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA. The event was held in Bryson Hall, Chippewa Square in downtown historic Savannah and featured clams supplied by growers from Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Washington.

Nine chefs, including Xinh Dwelley of Xinh's Clam & Oyster House, Shelton, WA; Peter Stefani, The Island Room Restaurant, Cedar Key, FL; Cal Berry, Berry's Catering & Floral, Augusta, GA; William Edmondson, Aqua Bay Creek Resort and Club, Cape Charles, VA; Peter Kornack, T.W. Graham & Co, McClellanville, MA; Philip Cragg, Academy of Culinary Arts, Mays Landing, NJ; Jeff Cincotta, Charles River Club, Newton Centre, MA; Peter Hoffman, Savory and Back Forty Restaurant, New York, NY; and Joe Elliott, Providence Westin, Providence, RI prepared a wide array of clam dishes from Chef Xinh's Vietnamese Style Geoduck Salad to Chef Jeff Cincotta's Southwestern Clams with Tasso and Rouille. A raw bar, hosted by the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, featured hard clams on the half shell from along the east coast. University of Florida provided sunray venus clams, while Taylor Shellfish Farms in Shelton, WA provided Manila clams for the tasting. By all accounts, the event was a huge success, and Dr. Alan Power deserves ample praise for making this event happen.

Randy Walker
University of Georgia



Congratulations to Student Presentation Award Winners!

Congratulations to the following students who received awards for their presentations at the 101st Annual Meeting in Savannah Georgia.

The **Thurlow C. Nelson Award** for outstanding student oral presentation was presented to David A. Stick from Oregon State University for his talk, "Analysis of genetic structure within and among remnant populations of the Olympia oyster, *Ostrea conchaphila*". Honorable mention for outstanding student oral presentation was awarded to Benjamin Daly from the University of Alaska Fairbanks for his presentation, "Effects of diet, stocking density and substrate on survival and growth of hatchery-cultured red king crab in Alaska, USA", Brandon J. Puckett from North Carolina State University for his presentation, "Metapopulation dynamics of oyster reserves in Pamlico Sound", and Kristina Hill from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for her presentation, "Understanding *Bonamia* parasites by exploring their, phylogeny, their hosts, and their past".

The **Gordon Gunter Poster Award** for the outstanding student poster presentation was presented to Maria Rosa from the University of Connecticut for her poster titled, "The role of particle surface characteristics in particle selection in eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) and blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*)". Honorable mention for outstanding poster presentations was awarded to Mark Sherman from the University of North Carolina Wilmington for his poster entitled, "Genetic structure of bay scallop populations in North Carolina coastal waters" and Jacquelyn Shelton from the University of Rhode Island for her poster titled, "Diagnosis of oyster disease using histological and molecular techniques".

Thank you to all of the members who judged the 28 student talks and 23 posters that were presented during the



Lou D'Abramo presents Mickael Perrigault the Melbourne Carriker Research Award at the Annual Business Luncheon in Savannah this past March.

meeting. Judging is a time consuming but important task, and the NSA greatly appreciates your efforts. Judges at this year's meeting were Steve Allen, Bill Arnold, Corinne Audemard, Shirley Baker, Karen Burnett, Sarah Culloty, Chris Dungan, Susan Ford, Jessica Moss, Gulnihal Ozbay, John Scarpa, Roxanna Smolowitz, Melissa Southworth, Brad Stevens, Nancy Stokes, Linda Walters, Bill Walton, and Yongping Wang.

Please consider volunteering to judge student presentations at the 102nd Annual Meeting in San Diego and help our student members hone their presentation skills. For information on the Nelson and Gunter Awards or to volunteer as a student presentation judge contact incoming Student Endowment and Awards Committee Co-Chairs Chris Dungan (cdungan@dnr.state.md) or Marta Gomez-Chiari (gomezchi@uri.edu).

Ami Wilbur
Ryan Carnegie
Student Endowment and Awards Committee

Students Presented Carriker and Castagna Research Awards

Graduate students Mickael Perrigault and Aaron Galloway are the recipients of the 2009 Melbourne Carriker and Michael Castagna Research Awards. These students were selected by the NSA Awards Committee based the quality of their research and how it best exemplifies the spirit and specific intent of each award. The Carriker Award recognizes excellence in scientific research in the area of shellfish biology. The recipient of this award, Mr. Perrigault, is a student of Dr. Bassem Allam in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at the State University of New York in Stony Brook. The title of his project is "Comparative study of two defensins from *Mercenaria mercenaria*: recombinant production and gene expression after challenge with bacterial and protistan pathogens".

The Castagna Award recognizes excellence in applied research in the area of shellfish science. The recipient of this award, Mr. Galloway works with Dr. Glenn VanBlaricom in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington. His project is entitled "Culture practices and structure effects of intertidal geoduck aquaculture operations in Puget Sound: an evaluation of the influence on mobile macrofauna". The award were announced during the Business Luncheon at the Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA. Each student received an award of \$1,250 to support their research projects.

Congratulations to Mickael and Aaron.

Eugene Burreson Receives Honored Life Member Award

The Honored Life Member Award is the highest honor bestowed by the National Shellfisheries Association and is awarded to an individual who has provided exemplary service to the Association and profession. The NSA Awards Committee, chaired by the immediate Past President, reviews nominations and recommends a candidate for the Award to the Executive Committee. The Awards Committee and EXCOM have recognized Dr. Eugene Burreson as the 54th recipient of this distinguished award.

Dr. Burreson is recognized around the world as one of the most significant figures in shellfish pathology. Although initially a finfish pathologist, Dr. Burreson has conducted pioneering shellfish research in a number of areas including, the epizootiology and environmental influences of dermo disease, the diversity and phylogenetics of *Perkinsus spp.* parasites and haplosporidians, haplosporidian ultrastructure and taxonomy, and the development of procedures for continuous in vitro culture of *P. marinus*. In so doing, Dr. Burreson has authored over 70 publications related to shellfish pathology and papers reporting the results of many of his important studies have been published in the *Journal of Shellfish Research*. He has been an active, longtime member of the NSA, provided consistent diligence and integrity as an expert reviewer for journals including *JSR*, and has actively promoted submissions of first-quality research papers to *JSR* among his peers.

Congratulations are extended to Gene for receiving NSA's Honored Life Member Award.



Eugene Burreson (at right) of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science is the 54th recipient of NSAs Honored Life Member Award. Susan Ford (at left) presented a summary of Gene's contributions and accomplishments during the Business Luncheon at the NSA 101st Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA.

Thank You Nature and Dane

Nature McGinn (left) and Dane Frank (right) were presented with plaques recognizing their dedicated service to NSA upon their "retirement" as the Co-Chairs of the Student Recruits'. Their hard work and smiling devotion has been a boon to everyone, not just to NSA's student members. All of us in the NSA would like to wish them well wherever their metamorphosis from graduate school takes them.



Nominations Requested for 2010 Officers

The NSA Election Committee seeks nominations for the offices of Vice President, Secretary and a Member-at-Large with terms beginning immediately after the Business Luncheon at the 102nd Annual Meeting, March 1-5, 2010 in San Diego. The Vice President serves a one year term, the Secretary a two year term, and the Member-at-Large a three year term. Details of the duties of each position are provided in our Constitution and By-Laws available on our website (www.shellfish.org/about.htm). The Election Committee will review all nominations and propose two candidates for each office to the Executive Committee. Once the EXCOM approves a slate of candidates, a brief biography along with a statement of interest for each candidate will be distributed with ballots to all NSA members.

Any member in good standing can run for office and members can nominate themselves or be nominated by another member. Please check to see if your colleague is willing and able to serve before nominating them. Nominations should be sent to David Bushek, Chair of the Elections Committee (bushek@hsrl.rutgers.edu). Complete contact information is provided on the last page of this Newsletter.

Audit, Budget, Finance News

Total revenues for the 2007-08 fiscal year (October 2007 through September 2008) were \$434,391 and expenses were \$436,137 for a decrease of \$1,746, not counting \$13,471 in net Student Endowment Fund activity. Our overall balance ended the year at \$233,273. Student Endowment Funds account for more than \$70,000 of our total assets which now exceed \$300,000.



Administrative revenues and expenses for 2007-08 were \$84,543 and \$68,619, respectively, for an increase of \$15,924. Publication revenues totaled \$168,693 and expenses were \$235,934 for a decrease of \$67,241, because of publication expenses incurred the previous year, but paid for in the present. Revenues from the centennial meeting in Providence were \$181,155, and expenses were \$131,584, for a gain of \$49,571. This made the Providence meeting the most profitable in NSA history and greatly helped our bottom line.

The proposed budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2009 projects a decrease of \$5,000 from administrative activities, a gain of \$4,600 from publications, and an increase of \$17,000 from our "Aquaculture 10" triennial meeting in San Diego in March 2010. If these revenues and expenses are realized, the NSA balance will increase by another \$16,600 by the end of the next fiscal year. Because the Journal of Shellfish Research is our most important product, and because it is expensive to produce with the quality we expect and receive, we realize that its production cost will normally exceed publication revenues. This is not a problem; it's just a fact of operations. Administrative Revenues (primarily Member Dues), Institutional Subscriptions and Meeting Revenues help subsidize these excess costs. We occasionally receive Special Issues as a bonus of membership, and having these issues fully paid for by sponsors is a great help to our financial stability.

Although our balances declined a few years ago, we have now seen increases during three of the last four years, and our financial condition is excellent. With adjustments made to improve our revenue stream, the financial strength of NSA should continue.

George Abbe
Financial Officer, Audit-Budget-Finance Chair

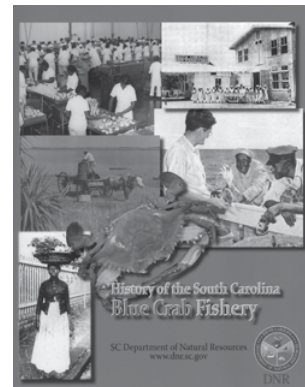


2009 International Conference on Shellfish Restoration

The International Conference on Shellfish Restoration (ICSR) brings together harvesters, researchers, resource managers and community leaders from around the world to exchange information on successful approaches to restoring shellfish populations and coastal ecosystems. The theme for ICSR-09, which will be held on Prince Edward Island from September 15-18, 2009, is "Healthy Environmental Conditions for Successful Shellfish Restoration". The conference is being sponsored by the Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development and Fisheries and Oceans Canada and co-hosted by the Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association. PEI is a fitting location as both government and industry have been involved in the restoration and enhancement of public oyster grounds for more than 35 years and the restoration efforts of the Prince Edward Island Shellfish Association is a success story that will be highlighted at the conference.

Experts from around the world will present the most recent research results and approaches to shellfish restoration. Topics to be covered include improving water quality, shellfish enhancement strategies, invasive species, controlling predators, aquaculture and food safety. This meeting has always attracted a good share of NSA members. The conference is timed to coincide with the Prince Edward Island International Shellfish Festival, (Sept. 18-20, 2009), which will provide outstanding opportunities for attendees to experience the taste and quality of PEI shellfish products while learning more about how shellfish are grown and harvested locally. Visit www.gov.pe.ca/shellfishconf/ for more information on both events.

NEW BOOK



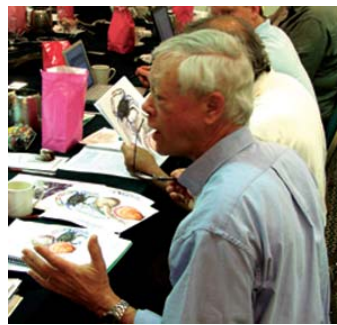
Be sure to pick up your copy of the latest title by
NSA's Vic Burrell

IMAGES FROM THE 101ST ANN



Special thanks to Peter King

ANNUAL MEETING IN SAVANNAH



ingsley-Smith for photography

Industry Stirrings



It has been a busy spring for the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association. I have been drumming up support for an East Coast Shellfish Breeding and Genetics Center, building on Stan Allen's earlier efforts to establish a mid-Atlantic collaboration. The concept was refined at a recent molluscan genetics workshop held in Savannah, Georgia prior to NSA's

Annual Meeting in March and I have been working to generate political support for the concept in Washington, DC. Meetings with Jeff Silverstein, who heads the Aquaculture section of the USDA's Agriculture Research Service (ARS), were encouraging and Senator Reed's (D-RI) office recently submitted an appropriations request for \$3M for the Center. It will be amazing if the proposal survives the budget process in this fiscal year, but we have great support from several key Senators and crazy things are happening in DC this year, so anything is possible. If the Center gets funded it will allow us to sequence the genome, unlock the genetic basis of disease resistance and speed our efforts to select for lines of clams and oysters that have superior production traits.

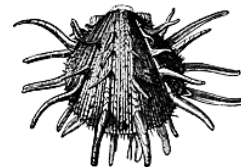
Shellfish Aquaculture Sustainability Standards - The World Wildlife Fund has been working for some time to establish an eco-label / sustainability-label for the shellfish aquaculture industry. The Global Steering Committee (GSC) for the Bivalve Aquaculture Dialog GSC met April 25-27 in Brussels to create measurable, performance-based standards that will help minimize the key environmental impacts associated with shellfish aquaculture. The GSC is composed of a mix of growers, scientists and NGOs from three continents. I went into the meeting with much trepidation, fearing that there was great opportunity for the wheels to come off and the process to become an unworkable mess similar to the proposed Organic Standards for cultured shellfish. I had attended several preliminary Dialog meetings where the broad outlines were laid out, but I perceived significant challenges. Fortunately we had a bunch of smart, creative people in the room for three days, and I think that when the draft standards are released for comment, most growers will have to do little to modify their farms to qualify for certification. While polls show that most consumers don't care about sustainability, the larger buyers such as Sysco and Darden are driving the process.

GSC members will refine the draft standards over the summer and we hope to release draft standards for comment in the fall. Meanwhile the WWF has announced the formation of the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) as a counterpoint the Marine Stewardship Council which is a certification group that evaluates the sustainability of wild fisheries. It will likely take a few years to get the ASC up and running, and Bill Dewey, Sandy Shumway and I will continue to stay engaged

in the process to ensure that standards are realistic, practical and affordable. For more information contact Colin Brannen at colin.brannen@wwfus.org.

If you are not yet a member of the ECSGA you can join online at www.ECSGA.org. While there you can sign up for our LISTSERV to keep apprised of all things shellfish. Thanks for your support.

Bob Rheault
Executive Director, East Coast Shellfish Growers Association



Book Review

GOOD TIDINGS: The History and Ecology of Shellfish Farming in the Northeast. Barbara Brennessel. University Press of New England. 214 pp. \$29.95.

Upon seeing the title and reading the quotes on the cover, 'if you are interested in what it takes to grow an oyster or a clam, this book is for you', and 'thorough enough to serve as a text for an aquaculture course...', I was excited to obtain a copy. Upon reading the first half, I was quickly disillusioned, finding the contents to be a superficial collection of facts, some correct, some vague and some simply wrong, cherry-picked from an extremely limited number of sources. The book, purportedly a history, is lacking key references and reference to leading players in the field, and demonstrates a lack of understanding of the topic. It is an outsider's attempt to assemble a myriad of facts, many taken out of context, or generalized to the point of ludicrous. As a historian, the writer could quite easily have spoken with, or at least contacted, the original workers and visited some commercial hatcheries. While she may have done so, their input is not obvious in the text and no mention is made of them in the acknowledgments. Many of the figures are overly simplistic and not very accurate, and there are minor errors throughout the text (MDNR - instead of Maine DMR, saxitoxin is misspelled throughout, the level for toxin closures - should be 80 ug/100 g tissue, a notation that surfclams need deep water, and many others). I certainly don't see it as a history of the field or a potential textbook. A title such as, *Musings on Shellfish Farming*, would have given the reader a very different set of expectations for what lay between the covers, and one might not have been so disappointed at the content. All of this being said, the book is an easy read with interesting photographs and should be appealing to the general public.

Sandy Shumway
University of Connecticut

17th International Pectinid Workshop Held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Santiago de Compostela, an idyllic setting in northwest Spain, welcomed 115 scallop aficionados who spent April 22-28, 2009 immersed in all things 'scallop'. José Luis Sánchez López and Luz Pérez-Parallé Mera provided the participants with an outstanding venue, program, and an amazing daily cuisine. Scientific sessions covered fisheries, physiology and reproduction, aquaculture, biotoxins, pollutants, biochemistry, genetics, resources and management. Oral presentations and posters were presented over the course of the week, with a full day excursion to the Ría Baixas to view shellfish aquaculture and wineries firsthand. The Workshop was celebrated with a banquet at the Hotel Monumento San Francisco with music, wine and seafood, and the traditional awarding of scallop memorabilia by Andy Brand and Sandy Shumway to unsuspecting awardees for their various and tenuous outstanding performances during the conference. The Alan Ansell Awards for Best Student Papers were presented to Frolan A. Aya, Hokkaido University, Japan (Oral) and Jose L. Ramírez, Centro de Investigaciones Biologicas del Noroeste, Mexico (Poster).

Special thanks to the Organizing Committee (Luis and Luz, Marcelina Abad Caeiro, Juan Blanco Pérez, María Paz García Martínez, Ana Insua Pombo, Josefina Méndez Felpeto, Antonio Juan Pazos Castelos, Guillermo Román Cabello and Sandy Shumway), the Scientific Committee (Luis, Marcelina Abad Caeiro, Andy Beaumont, Juan Blanco Perez, Maria Paz Garcia Martinez, Helga Guderley, Ana Insua Pombo, Alfonso N. Maeda Martinez, Thorolf, Magnesen, Josefina Méndez Felpeto, Antonio Juan Pazos Castelos, Guillermo Román Cabelo and Sandy Shumway), the Workshop Sponsors (Gobierno de España Ministerio de Ciencia de Innovación, Xunta de Galicia Consellería de Pesca e Asuntos Maritomos, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Universidade de A Coruña, Instituto Espanol de Oceanografía, Rede Galega de Biotecnoloxia, Alimentos Javimar S.L., Beckman Coulter, Inc., Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc., Bodegas Veiga Serantes S.L., Celta Ingenieros S.L., Lagar de Pintos S.L) and all the participants who continue the tradition of the International Pectinid Workshops, for yet another memorable gathering.

Mark your calendars for the 18th International Pectinid Workshop to be held in Qingdao, China, in the spring of 2011!



José Luis Sánchez López and Luz Pérez-Parallé Mera welcomed participants to the 17th International Pectinid Workshop held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain this past April. Over 100 attendees were treated to a week of excellent presentations, food and entertainment.

JSR Receives Second APEX Award

The National Shellfisheries Association extends hearty congratulations to Sandy Shumway, editor of the Journal of Shellfish Research, for receiving a 2009 APEX Award. The APEX Awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. This year the competition was exceptionally intense with 3,785 entries in 11 major categories and 122 sub-categories. Once again, JSR was recognized with an APEX Award for Publication Excellence in the category of Print Magazines and Journals of over 32 pages.

Two in a row – way to go!



NSA Strategic Plan

During the past two years, Lou D'Abramo has guided the drafting of a strategic plan for NSA. This effort represents an important step in the evolution of the future administration of the Association and we hope you will find it useful as a guide to your participation in NSA. Together with NSA's Past Presidents, Lou first completed a standard Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis for the Association. Virtually all of the Past Presidents participated in the SWOT analysis demonstrating their long-lasting commitment to NSA. Their responses were summarized, presented to the EXCOM for comment, and then used as the foundation for a draft strategic plan. The draft plan was reviewed by the Past Presidents and the EXCOM to ensure that all items identified in the SWOT analysis were included and expressed appropriately.

The result was a list of 10 goals and objectives proposed for achieving those goals. Many of the objectives are intuitive, but others indicate a direction that the EXCOM desires to take in order to keep NSA a viable organization serving as a timely and valuable resource for its members throughout the world. The goals and objectives are not set in stone and are not a 'to do' list. The strategic plan is the EXCOM's plan for adaptive management to ensure that in an ever-changing environment the members of NSA continue to be served and the goals of the association continue to be addressed most effectively. The ten goals, as stated in the plan are:

1. Increase membership – NSA membership has hovered around 600-800 for several years but there are many potential members in our field throughout the world.
2. Establish a home office to strengthen identity – NSA has never had a permanent physical office, rather it has moved with elections and appointment of new officers.
3. Continue to improve the web portal to provide strong and responsive support services to members and officers.
4. Maintain a high quality journal for members – JSR is recognized as one of the top Journals in our field thanks to Editor Sandy Shumway and mechanisms to maintain this status well into the future are needed.
5. Maintain strong student friendly activities and involvement for NSA sustainability.
6. Continue to maintain a high quality Newsletter.
7. Increase the expanse and continuity of NSA – although we are an international organization, NSA continues to maintain a largely North American focus.

8. Build and increase collaborative endeavors that are formal and consistent – with the appearance and growth of other organizations (public and private) involved in shellfish science, NSA needs to remain actively involved with these organizations and collaborative efforts provide one of the best opportunities for involvement.

9. Increase revenue through novel approaches – costs continue to rise for publications, meetings, internet and other vital Association activities. To maintain and increase the quality of these services requires an increase in revenue.

10. Establish strategies to encourage volunteerism among members- we are after all, a volunteer based organization. Without your involvement we will not endure.

You can view the entire plan by visiting the NSA website at www.shellfish.org and following the "About NSA" link and then selecting "Strategic Plan". The EXCOM encourages you to read the plan and provide your feedback through Secretary John Ewart (ewart@udel.edu).

Dave Bushek
Past-President



Ten Past Presidents met in Savannah, GA and discussed the past, present and future of NSA. From left to right: Lou D'Abramo, David Bushek, John Manzi, Steve Tettlebach, Sandy Shumway, Tom Soniat, Danielle Kreeger, John Kraeuter, George Abbe, Roger Newell.

Know someone interested in shellfisheries but not yet a member?

Pass on this Newsletter and recruit a new member today!

Environmental Impact Statement Recommends Against Introduction of Non-Native Oysters to Chesapeake Bay

To revive the struggling Chesapeake Bay and its once massive population of Eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) a proposal was put forth to introduce the non-native Suminoe oyster (*Crassostrea ariakensis*). The concept of introducing a non-native oyster has been batted around for years to combat the pernicious oyster diseases Dermo and MSX, but the formal proposal stimulated the need to develop a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Several years of research, much by NSA members, provided many advances in our understanding of both species. NSA published a special issue of *JSR* (Volume 27(3) May 2008) on *C. ariakensis* with funding provided by the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office and Mark Luckenbach serving as guest editor. After several years of anticipation, the final PEIS, complete with public comments, is available at www.nao.usace.army.mil/OysterEIS/.

The PEIS considered a variety of alternatives including the establishment of a breeding population of *C. ariakensis*, an introduction limited to the use of triploid *C. ariakensis* for aquaculture, expanding existing efforts with the native oyster as well as various combinations and permutations of these alternative strategies. In the end, the agencies involved determined that using a combination of strategies that involve the native eastern oyster only is the preferred way forward. Throughout this process NSA provided an open forum for the exchange of information, discussion and debate. We are pleased that so many members participated with civility and professionalism. We encourage all members to continue to use the Association as a forum to bring researchers, regulators, industry members and the public together to discuss shellfish related issues.

Dave Bushek
Immediate Past-President



Pacific Coast Section Update

Summer is here, school is out, fieldwork is in and it is time to put together a talk and register for the 63rd Conference of the Pacific Coast Section of NSA and the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association. (Submit your proposal online at www.pcsqa.org.) The meeting will be centrally located on the West Coast at the Jantzen Beach Hotel in Portland, Oregon from September 29 to October 1, 2009. Dr. Jane Lubchenco, the new Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (head of NOAA), is the invited keynote speaker and opening session plenary speakers include Drs. Richard Feely and David Jay. Dr. Feely is the Program Leader for the Marine Carbon Program at NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, WA. He spoke at the conference last year in Lake Chelan and will share with us new findings and research on ocean acidification. Dr. Jay, of Portland State University, will talk about his work on an increase in the range of tides throughout most of the eastern Pacific, a symptom of global warming which along with rising sea levels and larger storm waves results in potentially severe coastal erosion along Pacific shores.

Topical sessions at the conference will include: Ocean Conditions: Climate Change, Ocean Chemistry, and Acidification; Marine Pathogens: HABS, Vibrios, Viruses; Down on the Farm: Shellfish growers trials, tribulations, achievements and failures; Resource User Conflicts and Solutions; Permitting and Regulatory Issues; Offshore Aquaculture: Progress, Permitting Issues and Potential; CarbonTrading and Shellfish: Bivalves for Clean Water; Restoration and Protection Efforts; Estuarine Habitat and Shellfish Culture Interactions; Invasive and Exotic Marine Species; Genetics and Brood Stock Development; Shellfish Disease and Mortality; Geoducks; Resource Assessment and Management; Crustaceans and the ever popular session Dismal Failures: Projects That Didn't Work. Never fear, between the PCSGA award for 'Best Applied Research' and the Ken Chew Student Endowment Fund, students will have plenty of opportunities for financial support to help defray costs so they can participate in the conference and share their research. For more information and registration materials visit our website at www.nsapcs.org. It's never too early to think about auction items for the student endowment fund.

A huge thank you to Sean McDonald and numerous member photographers for the awesome PCS 2010 calendar to benefit the Ken Chew Student Endowment Fund. The calendar will be unveiled at the Conference and will be for sale during the Conference and via the PCS website afterwards. Have a great summer.

Looking forward to seeing you in Jantzen Beach!

Teri King
Pacific Coast Section Chair

Mussel Culture off Martha's Vineyard Clears Bureaucratic Hurdle

A collaborative spearheaded by Rick Karney of Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group is testing the feasibility of long line mussel farming in the offshore waters on the north and west side of Martha's Vineyard. Mussels are farmed throughout much of the Canadian Maritimes, including Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island. They are also cultured in several northeastern states, although the production of mussels in the U.S. is dwarfed by that in Canada. Beginning in 1998, the University of New Hampshire instituted the Open Ocean Aquaculture Demonstration Project aimed at developing the technology for the offshore culture of finfish and shellfish, including blue mussels and the technology has been successfully adopted by at least one commercial mussel farmer in New Hampshire. The effort by Karney's team, however, will help bring mussel culture to areas further south on the U.S. Atlantic Coast. They are anticipating that mussels will grow faster in the relatively warmer, productive waters off Martha's Vineyard and reach market size in less than 12 months, a distinct advantage over the 18 months it can take mussels to reach harvest size further north. If realized, faster growth would substantially reduce production costs.

So far, the project has received a lot of support from the local community. Selectmen on Martha's Vineyard see aquaculture projects like Karney's as valuable alternative fisheries that can help to maintain a vibrant commercial fishing industry in the region. The project has received technical assistance from the University of New Hampshire, Scott Lindell and the Program for Scientific Aquaculture at the Marine Biological Laboratory and Sean Brown at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and financial backing from federal, state and private sources. But the seas have not been all smooth. Perhaps the biggest obstacle faced by the project has been a requirement from the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources for an extensive and very expensive archaeological survey that could have delayed or sunk the project completely. Fortunately, the project has a very small footprint and is likely to have a very low impact on the bottom, and Rick was able to convince the bureau to allow a simpler side-scan sonar survey of the proposed culture sites. So Rick and his partners are still hopeful they will soon be bringing mussels to markets near you. More information on the mussel farm and the controversy over the archaeological survey can be found in a recent article in the Martha's Vineyard Gazette at <http://www/mvgazette.com/article.php?21119>.

Paul Rawson
University of Maine



At the 101st Annual Meeting in Savannah, Rick Karney of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association presented NSA Membership Chair Bill Walton with a Certificate of Appreciation for his exemplary work in the northeast. Walton recently changed coasts, having taken a new position at Auburn University in Alabama.

Special Thanks for Seafood Donations !!

NSA would like to thank the following companies for donating shellfish to the President's Reception at the 101st Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA. Their generosity of the highest quality seafood helped to make the reception a tasty and memorable event.

Baywater Inc, Bainbridge, WA
Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, Cedar Key, FL
Georgia Marine Extension Service
Little Skookum Shellfish Growers, Shelton, WA
Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association
Pemaquid Oyster Company, Waldoboro, ME
Taylor Shellfish Farms, Shelton, WA
Ocean State Shellfish Cooperative, RI

Shellfish News

The Spring/Summer 2009 edition of Shellfish News, the biannual Newsletter of the British shellfish farming and harvesting industry, was recently posted to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) website. Articles in this edition include, Reproductive ecology of the Manila clam in Southampton Water, Restocking of the native oyster in Shetland: habitat identification study, Development of sea urchin rearing, PSP toxin monitoring and more. Visit <http://www.cefas.co.uk/publications/shellfishnews/> to learn more about shellfish and shellfish farming "across the pond".

NSA thanks Reed Mariculture Inc. for sponsoring this issue of the Quarterly Newsletter

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Getting the Newsletter is a member benefit but many of you have asked if you could get it electronically. Well you can. The Newsletter is posted as a pdf file to <http://shellfish.org/pubs/qnl.htm>. Members can always access the current and archived issues there. If you would like to "GO GREEN" and save some trees and postage, simply send a note to Paul Rawson (prawson@maine.edu) and we'll add you to an email delivery list. Once an issue is sent to the printers you will be sent the link via email so you can directly and easily access the pdf file.

Upcoming Events

Aquaculture Europe 2009: August 14-17, 2009, Trondheim, Norway. For information visit www.easonline.org.

12th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration: September 15-18, 2009, Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. For information visit www.gov.pe.ca/shellfishconf/.

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>.

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

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation 20th Biennial Conference: November 1-5, 2009, Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. For information visit <http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009>.

Virginia Aquaculture Conference: November 13-14, 2009, George Washington Inn & Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA. For information visit www.vaaquacultureconference.com.

Aquaculture 2010 / National Shellfisheries Association, 102nd Annual Meeting: March 2-5, 2010, San Diego, CA, USA. For information visit www.shellfish.org or <https://www.was.org/WasMeetings/meetings/Default.aspx?code=AQ2010>.

World Congress of Malacology: July 18-24, 2010, Phuket, Thailand. For more information, registration and abstract submission visit <http://www.wcm2010.com> or <http://www.ucd.ie/zoology/unitas/>.

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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