

# National Shellfisheries Association

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2003 - POST-MEETING ISSUE

WALDOBORO, MAINE



## President's Message

Another year, another meeting, and New Orleans was spectacular. Tom Soniat and his team did an outstanding job of organization – even found a suitable costume for the auctioneer. Julie Gauthier did a yeoman's job of keeping the audio-visual equipment running (and dealt with the minor emergencies when it wasn't), Earl Melancon organized the President's reception and handled countless mini-crises, and Louis Deaton handled the poster displays. John Lawrence made the Historic New Orleans Collection available for our reception, and Paul Soniat provided the flowers. Many individuals contributed food for the receptions ranging from oysters to baked Alaska and we thank them for their generosity (but not the calories): Randy Guste, Buddy Pausina, Jimmy McKay, and Pam Falter. It was also great to see so many students and student-organized activities thanks to Steve Allen, Nature McGinn and Maille Lyons.

A special treat was the opening of the exhibit on the history of the Louisiana oyster industry during the reception at the Historic New Orleans Collection. This exhibit of historical photographs, gear and stories was put together by Tom Soniat (see photo, p. 5) and will travel to other venues for display later in the year. It was a perfect setting to recognize Sammy Ray for his contributions to the oyster industry and to announce the near-completion of the NSA History by Mel Carriker. Mel has been very busy over the past couple of years and the NSA history, "Taming the Oyster" is almost ready to go to press.

The Publications Committee and the EXCOM are still discussing the various options for publication, but we plan to have this resolved and at the printer by the end of the summer so that the book will be available at the meeting in Hawaii. Thank you, Mel, nobody else could have done it!

The EXCOM met for an unprecedented eight hours before the meeting in New Orleans commenced and we have a number of initiatives underway and plans for the coming year(s). First, a very special thanks to Roger Newell, Mark

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## New Orleans Meeting a Success!

The 95th Annual Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association was held from April 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown New Orleans. By all accounts the meeting was a tremendous scientific and social success.

There were a total of 180 presentations, 152 oral and 28 poster. For the oral presentations, there were 17 sessions of which 9 were special sessions. Of the total of 152 oral presentations, there were 32 student presentations and for the 28 posters, there were 15 student presentations. Students thus presented 26% of the oral and poster papers. Total registration was 201, including 50 students and 33 non-U.S. attendees.

The meeting opened Sunday evening with the President's Reception, which featured the lively cajun music of Bruce Daigrepoint and a seafood feast which included especially safe and succulent high-pressure treated oysters donated by Motivaitit Seafood of Houma, Louisiana. The Historic New Orleans Collection in the French Quarter hosted the NSA with a Monday evening reception in concert with the

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- ***Student Awards***
- ***Industry Update***
- ***Book Reviews***
- and much more!***

## New Orleans Meeting Continued from page 1

opening of an exhibit on the history of the Louisiana oyster industry. Tuesday evening featured Sandy's audacious auction in which she, dressed in full Mardi Gras regalia, showered the crowd with carnival beads as she once again raised funds for the Student Endowment. Wednesday evening was Ken Chew's Famous Chinese Dinner, graciously hosted at China Rose Restaurant near the Lakefront.

The meeting was especially noteworthy for its level of student participation and the number of student activities. Student events included a student luncheon, a student's night out and student breakfasts at the hotel and at Cafe DuMonde in the French Quarter.

The meeting was supported by financial contributions from Louisiana Sea Grant, the Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant Program, and the Louisiana Oyster Task Force.

Tom Soniat and Lou D'Abramo

## Recruits Corner

I hope all of you have recovered from the Bourbon St. and the meeting. This year's meeting was one of the best ones that I have been to. I would first like to thank everybody who helped out at the registration desk and NSA booth, as well as all of the help at the Student Auction. This year was a good year for the Student Endowment fund, at the auction we raised nearly \$1700, with a total combined profit from the NSA booth raffle tickets and auction of well over \$2000. Thanks are also due to the following for their contributions: Jane Williamson, Gary Wikfors and the NMFS Laboratory at Milford, Els Bosma and Elsevier Science, Juliette Massey, Carol Mendoza and the World Aquaculture Society, John Cooksey, Carter Newell and Great Eastern Mussel Farms, Blackwell Science Publishing, Robert Whitlatch, Gregg Rivara, Mike Patricio, Mel Carriker, Bill Fisher, Gef Flimlin, Louis Deaton, Marti Chintalla, Caroline Soniat, Bill DuPaul, Sandy Madfarlane, Dee Kreeger, Joth Davis, and Nature McGinn.

I would also like to thank Maille Lyons for organizing the student breakfast, lunch and evening out on the town. The lunch was a good opportunity for all of the students to get to know each other as well as a forum for you to tell Nature and myself your ideas and concerns. As a reminder the meeting is not the only place and time you can voice your ideas, please email Nature or myself with any ideas or problems you may have about the recruits or the meeting. Now that this meeting is over we really need to start

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## Past-President's Message

The New Orleans meeting has now come and gone, as has my time as President of our wonderful society. What a great way to wrap up my term, down on Bourbon Street! For those who made it to the meeting, I'm sure you'll share in my enthusiasm for it was both a scientifically stimulating conference as well as a fun venue. Thanks again to Tom Soniat, Lou D'Abramo, Julie Gauthier, Earl Melancon, and all the other hard workers on the local organizing committee who made this an especially memorable meeting. Jay Parsons, Dave Bushek and Tom are to be acknowledged for their impromptu negotiating skills with hotel staff. As usual, Sandy Shumway was everywhere you looked and helping out with all aspects of the conference – a special thanks to her. Lastly, I'm grateful to the students of NSA who represented a record percentage of meeting participants (>25%) and who were timely and flawless in running the A/V and overseeing the registration and sales booth tables. Although general attendance was reduced compared to the previous meeting in Mystic, at this time it appears the meeting is poised to still generate a net profit.

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*Dee Kreeger and Catherine Gatenby appearing incognito in New Orleans...*

## Student Endowment/Awards NSA 2003, New Orleans, LA

A total of 23 students applied for the Student/Endowment Travel Awards. Twelve reviewers (Marty Chintala, Ami Wilbur, Sandy Shumway, Jim Moore, Christophe Lambert, Rick Karney, Joth Davis, Bill Fisher, Maureen Krause, Kim Reece, Mike Rice and Ryan Carnegie) evaluated the applications. The evaluation was based on the strength of the advisor's letter, financial need and distance travelled, the style/clarity of the abstract as well as the innovativeness of the science, relevance to NSA, etc. Generally, all the applicants had done a good job writing up their work. Thanks to the full support from our president, Danielle Kreeger, the local committee chair, Tom Soniat, and the treasure David Bushek, all 23 applicants were awarded either lodgings or registration waivers.

A total of 26 oral and 14 poster presentations were evaluated for awards at the NSA annual meeting in New Orleans. As usual, students consistently delivered high quality of their work in their presentations. There were many good talks and posters. This year **Michael Goedken**, University of Connecticut, won the Turlow C. Nelson Award for his presentations. Michael Goedken gave a talk on "Flow cytometry as a tool to quantify oyster phagocytosis, respiratory burst and apoptosis". The Nelson Award carries five years of membership to NSA for the winner. The judges were also extremely impressed by **Caroline Fabious's** (UMR PE2M, IFREMER, France) talk, "Oyster Vasa-like gene: a specific marker of the germ cell lineage in *Crassostrea gigas*". She earned an Honorable Mention Award and one year of free membership in NSA for her achievements. The Gordon Gunter Best Student Poster Award was presented to **Helene Hegaret** (IFREMER, Brest, France) and **Maille Lyons** (University of Connecticut). Helene Hegaret gave a poster presentation on "Algal food quantity and quality affect immune function in oysters stressed by high temperature" and Maille Lyons presented a poster on "Suspension-feeding bivalves, marine aggregated and the accessibility of small particles". The Gordon Gunter Poster Award carries one year of NSA membership.

One of the most thankless jobs at NSA is sacrificing a significant bit of time and freedom during the conference by agreeing to judge student presentations. Every year, however, we manage to find an enthusiastic and dedicated group of NSA members who are willing to commit their time to this critical task, and hopefully they are rewarded by the opportunity to see a number of excellent presentations and by getting to know the newest members of NSA. **Thank you** to the following judges of oral and

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## Proclamations of the 95<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association

*Whereas, the National Shellfisheries Association, Inc. (NSA) is a Not-for Profit Corporation, and Whereas, members serve as officers and committee members on a voluntary basis, **Be It Resolved** that on 16 April 2003, the National Shellfisheries Association formally recognizes and thanks the chairs of the following committees: **Lou D'Abramo**, Program Chair and Publications Co-Chair; **Vic Kennedy**, Publications Co-Chair; **Rick Karney and Jonathan Davis**, Industry Committee; **Fu-Lin Chu, Gary Wikfors**, and **Marty Chintala**, Endowment/Student Awards Committee; **Steve Allen**, and **Nature McGinn**, Student Organization (The Recruits); **George Abbe**, Audit-Budget-Finance Committee; **Jay Parsons**, Awards and Elections Committees and **Gef Flimlin**, Revenue and Investment Committee for their outstanding contributions to the prosperity and well-being of the National Shellfisheries Association during the last year.*

*Whereas, the National Shellfisheries Association, Inc. (NSA) is a Not-for Profit Corporation, and Whereas, members serve as officers and committee members on a voluntary basis, **Be It Resolved** that on 16 April 2003, the National Shellfisheries Association formally recognizes and thanks: **Thomas Soniat**, Local Arrangements Chair; Arrangements Committee Members: **Lou Deaton, Julie Gauthier, Danielle Kreeger, Molly Lyons, Jerome LePeyre**, and **Earl Melancon**; as well as, **Lou D'Abramo**, Program Chair, and **Jana Player**, Program assistant for their outstanding contributions to the organization and success of the 95th Annual Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association.*

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*Whereas, the National Shellfisheries Association, Inc. (NSA) is a Not-for Profit Corporation, and Whereas,*

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## Awards... Continued from page 3

poster presentation awards: William S. Fisher, Eric Lund, Sandy Shumway, Ami Wilbur, Maureen Krause, Jean-Francois Samain, Pierre Boudry, Jim Moore, Ray Grizzle, Christophe Lambert, Rick Karney, Joth Davis, Kim Reece, and Ryan Carnegie. If we have missed acknowledging some by name, please accept our sincere apologies.

Finally, NSA "senior" members: if you are interested in helping judge any or all student awards for the 2004 Hawaii, Aquaculture meeting, please contact the Student Awards Committee chairs, Fu-Lin Chu, Maureen Krause, and Aswani Volety.

Fu-Lin Chu  
Gary Wikfors  
Marty Chintalla

## AQUACULTURE '04

Get your surfboards and grass skirts out - AQ '04 is just around the corner! The meeting will be held March 1-5, 2004 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and the theme is: "Aquaculture: An Ecologically Sustainable and Profitable Venture". The venue will be the recently opened Conference Center and John and Mary Cooksey will serve as Conference Managers. The Program Chair is Sandy Shumway and Association Representatives to the Program Committee are WAS - Joe Tomasso, NSA - Evan Ward, and AFS/FCS - John Nickum.

Rooms have been secured at several hotels ranging in price from \$77-139/night. Special emphasis is being put on aiding student participation. NSA will have its usual competition for registration and free rooms, and we have secured one extra student room - the Suite reserved for the Program Chair is being donated as additional student accommodation. Opportunities for students to earn cash during the conference will be made available by the Conference Managers, e.g. audio visual, stuffing bags, poster organization, etc., so keep in touch with your student reps (Steve Allen and Nature McGinn).

A tentative program has been assembled and currently includes >70 special sessions. There is still time (barely) to add a session, so if you have any ideas, please notify Sandy or Evan Ward immediately.

When you register for the meeting, remember to check the box indicating that you are a member of NSA. Our profit margin depends on this!

Sandy Shumway

## **The Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Grant and Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research Awarded**

The National Shellfisheries Association is pleased to announce that the fifth annual **Melbourne R Carriker Student Research Grant** has been awarded to Ms. Carol Rosetta, a Ph.D. graduate student of Dr. Sandra Shumway in the Department of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut. The title of Ms. Rosetta's grant proposal was "Effects of *Chattonella* spp. on commercially important bivalve molluscs." This competitive research grant is named in honor of Professor Carriker, one of NSA's most distinguished past-Presidents. The grant awards an NSA student member \$1000 for non-travel related expenses associated with undertaking graduate research.

We are also pleased to announce that the inaugural **Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research** has been awarded to Ms. Lisa Milke, a Ph.D. graduate student of Dr. Monica Bricelj from the Institute for Marine Biosciences, NRC, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The title of Ms. Milke's grant proposal was "Algal diets and nutritional requirements of early life-history stages of the commercially important sea scallop, *Placopecten magellanicus*, and bay scallop, *Argopecten irradians*". This competitive research grant is named in honor of Michael Castagna, a distinguished and long-serving member of the association. The grant awards an NSA student member \$1000 for non-travel related expenses associated with undertaking graduate research.

We would like to thank Aswani Volety, Fu-Lin Chu, Loren Coen and Karolyn Mueller Hansen for their time in reviewing this year's applications. The next opportunity to apply for the **Melbourne R Carriker Student Research Grant** and **Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research** will be in the summer of 2003. Details concerning the application process will appear in the *NSA Newsletter* or visit the NSA web site at that time.

Danielle Kreeger and Jay Parsons

## Metamorphosis

Steve Allen (Recruits Co-Chair) married Sarah Kingston on March 29th in Charleston, SC. Congratulations, Steve!

Have a major change in your life to report? If so, contact Chris Davis and it will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter* (contact information on back page).

## Hey Tom, How about dem ersters?

A History of the Louisiana Oyster Industry exhibit at the Historic New Orleans Collection on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003 to coincide with the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, which was held in New Orleans from April 13-17, 2003. The title of the exhibit was "How about dem ersters: a history of the Louisiana bivalve." Tom Soniat was guest curator for the exhibit, which surveyed the history of the oyster industry from 1850 to 1950. The exhibit will be on display for several months at the Historic New Orleans Collection in the French Quarter and then travel to the Louisiana State Fisheries Museum in Lafitte, Louisiana and to the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum in Houma, Louisiana.

Meeting attendees were treated to a special reception to celebrate the opening of the exhibit. Oyster stew, crawfish pasta (see page 13 for recipe) and baked Alaska were the order of the day along with a fine collection of donated wines. The exhibit was simple, elegant and a fine representation of the oyster industry, complete with gear and old-time photographs. Congratulations, Tom!



Tom Soniat

### Proclamations... Continued from page 3

*members serve as officers and committee members on a voluntary basis, **Be It Resolved** that on 16 April 2003, the National Shellfisheries Association formally recognizes and thanks: **Danielle Kreeger**, President for her outstanding contributions to the prosperity and well-being of the National Shellfisheries Association during the past year.*

*Whereas, the National Shellfisheries Association, Inc. (NSA) is a Not-for Profit Corporation, and **Whereas**, members serve as officers and committee members on a voluntary basis, **Be It Resolved** that on 16 April 2003, the National Shellfisheries Association formally recognizes and thanks: **Aswani Volety** and **Ami Wilbur** for leading the Membership Committee's very successful completion of the updated NSA Membership Directory; this document is an important resource to all members of NSA and will serve well to help us to remain a cohesive society.*

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*members serve as officers and committee members on a voluntary basis, **Be It Resolved** that on 16 April 2003, the National Shellfisheries Association formally recognizes and thanks: **Tom Soniat** for raising the visibility of the Gulf-coast shellfishing heritage through his development and realization of the exhibit, "History of the Louisiana Oyster Industry," that will travel to several southern Louisiana museums following its festive opening at the Historic New Orleans Connection during our annual meeting.*

*Whereas, the National Shellfisheries Association, Inc. (NSA) is a Not-for Profit Corporation, and **Whereas**, members serve as officers and committee members on a voluntary basis, **Be It Resolved** that on 14 April 2003, the National Shellfisheries Association formally recognizes and thanks **Mel Carriker**, NSA Historian for his determination in completing a written history of the National Shellfisheries Association, "Taming of the Oyster."*

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## **President's Message** Continued from page 1.

Luckenbach, Evan Ward, Scott Siddall and Dave Bushek who worked diligently as the ad-hoc Software Management Committee. This group was charged by Danielle Kreeger with investigating options for management software and we are pleased to announce that this ad-hoc committee has been disbanded and will now comprise the new ad-hoc Implementation Committee. A system has been chosen in principle and the details are now being finalized. This will mean easier and more efficient handling of membership, conferences, dues, our WEB page and other activities of the NSA. For those who may not be aware, we have been operating on a now out-dated system that was custom-designed over 20 years ago by Scott Siddall and maintained by him all these years. Thanks Scott!

Congratulations to the new officers: Lou D'Abramo, President-Elect, Karolyn Mueller-Hansen, Vice President, Joth Davis, Secretary, Dave Bushek, Treasurer, Rick Karney, Member-at-Large. Gary Wikfors and Loren Coen are the incumbent Members-at-Large. Much of the work of the NSA is carried out by various committees. The make-up of some of these committees is mandated by our Constitution and By-Laws, e.g. Election, President's, Site Selection. Others are staffed by volunteers and your input is most welcome. The recently passed special ballot question (236 Yes/9 No) will allow for greater continuity and experience among the EXCOM members and I am looking forward to a very productive two years. The Committees for next year are listed separately and if you are interested in serving on any of them, please contact the Chair directly or me. Remember, we only function as well as our membership's level of volunteerism!

Membership is something that we can all work on. NSA currently has 827 active members. If each member recruited only one new member we would double in size. More members means more revenue and that means more opportunities. At a minimum, I would like to see us grow to over 1000 members by next year and it's a goal we can reach if everybody tries. Marty Chintala will be joining the Membership Committee as co-chair with Ami Wilbur and they will be contacting you (see the article on why folks join societies on p. 10.)

I would also like to see our collaboration with industry continue to strengthen. I have asked the previous co-chairs of the Industry Committee, Rick Karney and Joth Davis (both now members of the EXCOM) to identify other individuals to work with the group and I have also asked Gef Flimlin and Joth Davis to co-chair a session for AQ '04 entitled "East meets West" to encourage the newly formed East Coast Shellfish Growers Association (ECSGA) to share ideas and goals with the firmly established and successful Pacific Coast SGA.

Maureen Krause has agreed to work with Karolyn Hansen to upgrade our WEB page. This is our message board to the outside world and we need more and, more importantly, current information. This means input from the membership. We will also be pursuing ways to make *JSR* available on-line as full-text articles and searchable. This is a monumental task and volunteers will be needed.



*JSR* is doing well but it can always be better. I am asking the Publications Committee to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all members asking for your suggestions and criticisms. Please take a moment to return it. I am also asking our members to publish more of their research in *JSR*.—foreign papers now represent 80% of the total published. While there is nothing inherently wrong with this, it does not represent our membership. Finally, this is the annual plea to ask your librarian to subscribe. This is one of the greatest bargains in the publication arena and institutional subscriptions are an important part of our income.

NSA is a great organization and it can be bigger, better and stronger. Please consider volunteering for a committee, writing an article for the newsletter, maintaining a part of the WEB page, convincing a colleague to join, or even serving as a judge for student presentations. Every contribution is greatly appreciated and NSA will be all the better for it.

Please feel free to contact me or any of the EXCOM and Committee Chairs with your thoughts and ideas, and thanks for allowing me the privilege of serving you for another term!

Sandy Shumway

## Oyster Restoration in South Carolina

The South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement Program (SCORE) involves community organizations, school and youth groups, and individual citizens in hands-on creation, restoration, and/or enhancement of oyster reefs. Oyster reefs are particularly important in South Carolina where other Essential Fish Habitats are not found. In contrast to most east coast populations, oysters in South Carolina occur almost exclusively in the intertidal zone. Thus, restoration methodology suitable for subtidal resources is not necessarily applicable to South Carolina. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has been investigating methods of managing, enhancing and, where necessary, restoring intertidal oyster resources.

The SCORE program was initiated in late 2000 as a means of involving the public while augmenting the capabilities of limited SCDNR staff. The basic SCORE restoration method is to plant recycled oyster shells during the summer months in suitable intertidal locations where they provide substrate for natural recruitment of juvenile

oysters. To prevent shells from being washed away by wave action and boat wakes in relatively small creeks and rivers, we contain them in plastic mesh bags. Since its initiation in Fall 2000, SCORE has involved more than 900 volunteers in restoration activities. SCORE volunteers have recycled more than 2,000 bushels of oyster shell, have placed more than 5,000 bushels of shell into mesh bags, and have built 53 reefs at 20 sites spanning 200 miles of



South Carolina coastline. Subsequent to reef construction, K-12 students use the reefs as living classrooms to learn ecological concepts and high school and college students, as well as DNR scientists, use the reefs as research platforms. Trained volunteers monitor water quality weekly and reef progress monthly and enter the data online at our interactive website <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/scoysters>. In spring 2002, almost 300 volunteers assisted in a rapid assessment to determine the progress of reefs built the previous summer. These results helped to guide our 2002 reef building plans.

Similar community-based projects have been very effective in Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey where literally thousands of citizens participate each year in “Oyster Gardening”, shell bagging, and other restoration efforts.

These citizens gain a vested interest in the resource which results in their exercising influence on legislative and policy decisions. SCDNR hopes that a similar awareness will result from the new project in South Carolina. Funding for this project was provided by NOAA – Community-based Restoration; NOAA – EPA Five Star Challenge Grant; NOAA – Coastal Services Center; SC Sea

Grant Consortium; FishAmerica Foundation, the Hilton Head Island Foundation, and the South Carolina Saltwater Recreational Fisheries License Program.

Loren Coen and Nancy Hadley

### **AQUACULTURE 2004 - HAWAII IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

**ABSTRACTS ARE DUE AUGUST 1, 2003**

There is still time (barely) to send Sandy Shumway your ideas for Special Sessions (Sandy’s contact information is on back cover)

## **Past-President's Message** continued from page 2

I'm proud of the accomplishments of the members of the Executive Board and Committee Chairs during the past year. Along with all of the routine business, this group worked hard to finally tackle several issues that have long been topics of discussion. I'm pleased that the Software Review Committee has now evolved into a Software Implementation Committee, which will work to replace an outdated program used to manage our association's affairs and to provide new online services for members. You'll be hearing much more about this in the coming year. Term lengths have been altered and our Constitution updated accordingly to facilitate societal management. A strategy has been approved to pay for publication this year of our society's first ever written history, as diligently related by Mel Carriker. Our membership directory was finally published. Our by-laws were finally revised. New investment strategies were approved. Journal publication costs were cut. Our Treasurer Dave Bushek has done a superb job of guiding a continued improvement in our society's financial state. And Sandy Shumway will be shepherding additional new initiatives that are likely to result in new member services or a further improvement of our bottom line. I wish I could thank all of the committee and board members by name and deed – they deserve it – but then, this article would be three times as long. A special thanks to Sandy Shumway, George Abbe, Jay Parsons and Karolyn Hansen for their responsiveness and candor to my frequent pleas for advice.

Despite these advances, our association will continue to face new challenges in the future. Membership has been stagnant, and we absolutely need to invest greater energies into expanding our base. We're in danger of further financial stagnation. We also continue to lag behind other societies in terms of technological advances. I find it frustrating to sometimes hear members criticize decisions that are made by the few who work so hard for our society. The most instrumental way for members to effect change and get their views heard is to get involved in service. And, as new challenges loom NSA will need new faces to replace or assist those who regularly invest so much of themselves. Hence, I'm issuing a parting plea for fresh blood on the various committees – please, offer up a small bit of your energy to Sandy Shumway or any of the new committee chairs listed elsewhere in this issue. Now is a good time to step forward.

Lastly, I want to extend my personal gratitude to all of you who have been so supportive of me on a more personal level during the past year – I will never forget! I'm so very proud and grateful to have been able to serve as President of our fabulous and unique group. And I look forward to continuing in service in other ways in the coming years.

Danielle Kreeger

## **National Shellfisheries Association** **Established 1908**

This makes us one of the oldest scientific societies in the United States, and we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the 2008 annual meeting. The location is still to be determined and we are currently soliciting suggestions for the location. Some have already been proposed:

- New York City (site of the first meeting)
- A cruise (the American Malacological Society did this for an annual meeting - see Mel Carriker for a report!!)
- Bermuda
- Opry Land (Tennessee)
- Bivalve, NJ (We hear they have a shell heap and a zip code, not much on hotels or night life)

These are only suggestions at the moment and more are welcome. We want this to be a special meeting and in a location that is either symbolic of the founding of NSA (i.e. NYC), someplace we have not met previously, or simply unique.

Please indicate below your thoughts on any or all of the above suggestions and feel free to suggest alternatives. Please also give some thought to special *overview* sessions that might be presented (e.g.: A Century of Oyster Disease; An Historical Perspective on Mussel Farming). It doesn't have to be something you want to organize, if it's of sufficient interest, we'll find someone to do it!

Jot down your ideas and comments and mail to Sandy Shumway or just send an email response. Committee members welcome!

### **Photographers Take Note!**

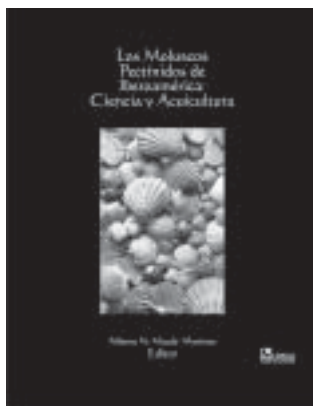
High resolution photos of any aspect of shellfish biology (portrait orientation) are needed for future covers of the *Journal of Shellfish Research*. Please send your images (transparencies or digital format) to Sandy Shumway (contact information is on the back page.)



## Book Reviews

**Los Moluscos Pectínidos de Iberoamerica: Ciencia y Acuicultura**, Alfonso N. Maeda-Martínez, Editor, 2002. LIMUSA Noriega Editores, Mexico; 501pp.

This book arrived on my desk as a gift from the Editor. Noting that it is in Spanish (not my forté), my initial reaction was that it is an attractive volume that I would need to get translated if I wanted to use it, but a welcome addition to my library as a reference volume. Upon careful inspection I have found a comprehensive volume on taxonomy, reproduction, physiology, ecology, nutrition, genetics, aquaculture and marketing of scallops in Mexico, South America and Spain. The contributors are experts in their respective fields and bring many of years of experience to the reviews. Each of the chapters includes an English summary and references as recent as 2001 are common. Translation is well worth the effort! Color is used judiciously but effectively. I was especially pleased to see chapters on processing and handling and trade and marketing. Moreover, I am pleased to see such a volume summarizing our knowledge of scallops from these countries. Having had the opportunity to travel to these areas and see the high quality research, fisheries, and aquaculture firsthand, I have always come away dismayed that so much of that valuable information is not known to the rest of the world. This volume is a significant contribution to scallop biology and should be a welcome addition to the library of anyone working in the field - Spanish speaking or not.



Sandy Shumway

### **JSR Update**

In an effort to shorten the wait for publication of papers and to lessen the size of individual issues (and associated postage and binding issues), **THREE ISSUES OF JSR WILL BE PUBLISHED ANNUALLY BEGINNING WITH VOLUME 22 (2003)**. It is anticipated that future issues of the JSR will be printed in April, August and December.

Sandy Shumway, Editor of *JSR*

**A Taxonomic Guide to Some Common Marine Phytoplankton**. Rita A. Horner, 2002. Biopress Limited, The Orchard, Clanage Road, Bristol, BS3 2JX, England. 195 pp. ISBN 0-948737-65-4

Perhaps the most fundamental question asked about any living organism is “What is it?” The current typological taxonomic and systematic schemes for microalgae and other protists, based upon morphological characteristics with an often undefined range of phenotypic plasticity, are being re-evaluated in a flood of molecular and proteomic data. Nevertheless, as visual beings, we relate to the things we see – answer the question “What is it?” — in terms of size, shape, color, and patterns of motion. In this book, Dr. Horner has done an admirable job of displaying visually and describing in simple, useful terms some common marine phytoplankton.

Introductory sections provide overviews of the phytoplankton in general, distinguishing characteristics of the major Classes covered, and a bit of guidance on sampling, observing, and enumerating phytoplankton. But the real substance is in the (usually) one-page photomontages and text profiles of the algal species included. Rather than re-drawing for the umpteenth time 19<sup>th</sup> Century line drawings, Dr. Horner bases the visualizations mainly upon her own phase-contrast photomicrographs (200-100X magnification) of living material collected as part of a harmful-algae monitoring program on the northwest coast of North America. The photographs are of exceptional quality, in terms of clarity in focus, exposure, and printing; often, several photographs are combined in plates to show the range of morphological variation in a species, including reproductive stages in many instances. Accordingly, one sees in this book what one would see in the most commonly-used type of microscope, without the artistic is most interpretation inherent in drawings. As someone who has sacrificed a good portion of my eyesight to microscopic identification and counting of phytoplankton, I was much relieved to see “mug shots” of some of the “usual suspects” as they are familiar to me from life, rather than from the black and white cartoons that remove the confusing internal structure that nevertheless continues to confuse the eyes in practical experience.

The “mug shot” analogy is appropriate because I think this is how the book will be used by most; confronted with an unknown buggie under the scope, one will turn the pages looking for a match. Those familiar with dichotomous keys may be uncomfortable with this approach, but the reality is that keys for phytoplankton generally are impractical and

continued on page 10

## **Taxonomic Guide** Continued from page 9.

tedious. Dr. Horner takes a very direct approach to differentiating similar taxa with simple statements, "Distinguished from X by...". In a few cases of genera with many species represented (e.g., *Chaetoceros*), keys *per se* are included, but these should be used with some caution as not every possible species one might encounter is represented. For each species, text detailing size ranges, external and internal structure, seasonality, some life-history characteristics, swimming motion (if appropriate), and a statement about distribution is included. Organisms described are grouped by taxonomic Class (i.e., the diatoms are on consecutive pages followed by dinoflagellates, etc.), but there are no alerts that one has made the transition from one Class to another.

This observation brings to mind a few minor critical comments. A header or footer with the taxonomic Class of the organism on each page would be especially helpful to beginners. I found the "Distribution" statements to be a bit vague and not often useful. While Dr. Horner states clearly in the Preface that the book is not intended as an exhaustive check list, the presence or absence in the book of a bug you are trying to identify will depend upon where you are – or where your water came from. Obviously, the list representative of the flora in the region from which Dr. Horner's samples were collected. The Introduction section

generally is very helpful, but there are some necessary generalizations that could be a bit misleading if taken at face value (e.g., '... all twelve algal classes with marine representatives.' on page 1; there are more). Line drawings of Niskin bottles, settling chambers and such are superfluous as they do not provide sufficient detail to allow the novice to acquire, build, or operate them. The eight-page glossary of terms is very well written in plain language and includes most of the jargon that will befuddle a novice, but how much more useful it would be if terms appearing in the glossary were printed in bold where they appear in the body of the text!

Apologies if this seems like a long list of complaints. In truth, Dr. Horner has done a great service by making this very useful tool available to those of us who struggle with phytoplankton samples to answer the question "What is it?" Recently, I was asked to guide a young student in identifying phytoplankton in seawater samples collected locally. I spent a day with him describing the process of what to look for and how to look, but at the end of the day I left him with a stack of books, photocopied pages, primary articles, etc., with the ones I consider to be most useful on the top. Henceforth, "The Horner Book" will be very near the top of the stack.

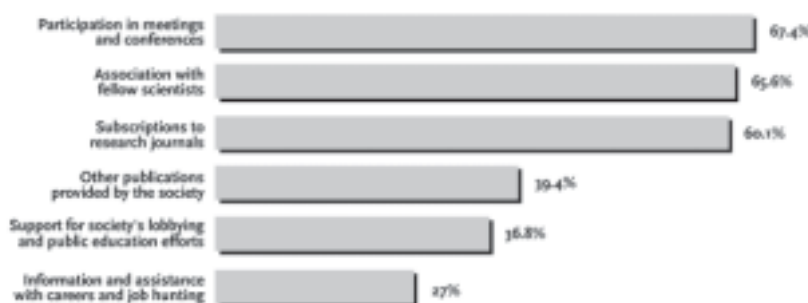
Gary H. Wikfors

## **A Little Propaganda To Help You Recruit New Members!**

*The Scientist* recently published the results of a survey they ran entitled: Why Do Scientists Join Societies? They surveyed 340 readers to find out if they are members of professional scientific societies, and why they join.

"A majority of readers, 82.4%, belong to at least one society, and a remarkable 21.4% belong to four or more societies. Important reasons that a majority of scientists join professional societies include: participation in meetings and conferences (67.4%), association

with fellow scientists (65.6%), and subscriptions to research journals (60.1%).



The 17.6% who are not members of any society gave a very wide variety of reasons--cost and irrelevance being mentioned most frequently. Society membership secretaries take note:

A number of readers answered that they had no good reason for not being members of a society and planned to join up soon!" (From *The Scientist*, March 10, 2003)

**LET'S FIND THE ONES WHO ARE PLANNING TO 'JOIN UP SOON'!**

## Audit-Budget-Finance Update

Total revenues for the 2001-2002 fiscal year (October 2001 through September 2002) were \$249,355 and expenses were \$253,891 for a decrease of \$4,536 to our overall balance, which ended the year at \$115,078 including \$22,285 in Student Endowment Funds. At this time, however, all balances are well ahead of where we closed out the last fiscal year.

Administrative revenues and expenses for 2001-2002 were \$48,049 and \$18,933, respectively, for an increase of \$29,116. Publication revenues were \$123,349 and expenses were \$176,306 for a decrease of \$52,957. And revenues from our annual meeting in Mystic in 2002 were \$72,100 while expenses were \$52,930 for an increase of \$19,170.

The proposed budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2003 projects a gain of about \$13,500 for administrative activities including a one-time charge for

new management software, a decrease of about \$39,000 for publications including the first edition of Mel Carriker's NSA history, and a gain of about \$24,000 from "Aquaculture '04" which will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii in March 2004. If these revenues and expenses are realized it would decrease the NSA balance by about \$1,500, but future sales of the NSA history would more than cover costs. Since 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 generally exceed publication revenues. These excess costs are subsidized by administrative and meeting revenues.

NSA financial ledgers were examined in late 2002, but not to the extent they were a year earlier when the books were transferred to treasurer Dave Bushek. Our financial condition, however, is solid and the future of NSA looks good.

George Abbe



### *Down the Hatch!*

*Steve Tettelbach (in the rear) Steve Allen, Carol Rosetta, Dane Frank, Lisa Milke, Maille Lyons and Evan Ward sampling some of the local oysters in New Orleans.*

## West Coast Industry Update

Shellfish culture on the US west coast has progressed this past year with existing production and expansion of culture areas at times constrained by vagaries of the economy, persistent problems with culture activities relating to husbandry and disease and regulatory issues. This update will attempt to take a snapshot of the US west coast bivalve industry to give readers an idea of where we are today with respect to culture and research. Most of the action on the west coast (outside of abalone culture in California), involves the culture of naturalized Pacific and Kumamoto oysters, Manila clams, native and Mediterranean mussels and more recently geoduck clams. The shellfish industry continues to bump against regulatory issues relating mainly to the effects of shellfish culture on estuarine ecology, public perceptions of shellfish culture and user conflicts over near-shore areas that are in increasingly high demand for competing uses. Additionally, the industry continues to provide cooperation and support for solving public shellfish health and safety issues under increasingly difficult conditions.

An escalating focus on user conflicts and regulatory concerns repeatedly points to the need to conduct the ecological research that may serve to help better understand the effects of culture activities on the marine environment. This remains a critical concern to the west coast industry. Advances in genetics, husbandry and nutrition may well make farming bivalves more profitable with increased production on a smaller footprint, but what growers really need is an atmosphere of increased regulatory stability, and on the west coast this means taking into account as growers, the recognition that the intertidal areas we farm are ecologically important and biologically diverse. One of the most criticized aspects of oyster culture in the Pacific Northwest has related to the effects of oyster culture on eelgrass dynamics and eelgrass habitat values. A new Western Regional Aquaculture Center (WRAC) study has been funded to investigate ecological interactions between bivalves (oysters and geoducks) and eelgrass production and dynamics. The focus of this work awarded to the University of Washington will seek to understand how suspension feeders influence eelgrass productivity and distribution via effects relating to water clarity, transfer of nutrients from the water column to the sediments via biodeposition and provision of habitat by oysters and clams. An ongoing WRAC study continues to assess the effect of oyster culture on use of culture areas by fishes, including salmonids. Issues with burrowing shrimp in west coast estuaries and the periodic utilization of carbaryl continue to draw attention to industry practices that fall outside of mainstream environmental policy nationwide with regard to estuarine uses. Yet, the ability to farm these areas depends on controlling shrimp. How, or whether it is possible to achieve this in an ecologically sensitive manner

remains the focus of debate.

Concurrent with these developments has been an effort to develop an Environmental Code of Practice (ECOP) for the shellfish industry through the Pacific Coast Shellfish Grower's Association (PCSGA). The industry association recently finalized its effort to develop an Environmental Management System consisting of the ECOP and Environmental Policy (EP). The PCSGA has taken the lead in helping to nurture development of ECOP and EP for individual companies. Achieving ISO 14001 certification as a result of these efforts is the goal for the industry as a whole.

Other pertinent research looking at environmental effects of shellfish culture conducted through industry members and the Pacific Shellfish Institute is focused on the effect on the water column of mussel rafts, taking into account seston extraction rates, rates of mussel biodeposition and changes in flow dynamics in and around individual rafts. Collaborative research is also focused on understanding the dynamics between physiology and environmental variability and summer mortality in Pacific oysters. The recent NSA meeting in New Orleans afforded an excellent opportunity for US researchers to interact with scientists from IFREMER who are immersed in similar research issues through the MOREST project.

In terms of production research, work on probiotic approaches to molluscan larval rearing, and genetic improvement in Pacific oysters through selective breeding (Molluscan Broodstock Program), polyploidy (Taylor Shellfish and 4C's) and crossbreeding (WRAC and Taylor Shellfish) continue to make advances in broodstock made available to the industry. New projects to investigate abalone rearing and restoration and rock scallop development are getting underway currently. In general, the focus among growers on the west coast has been to hang onto the end of the rope a little tighter as conditions change, continue to diversify and endeavor to enjoy the lifestyle that attracted them to aquaculture in the first place.

Joth Davis

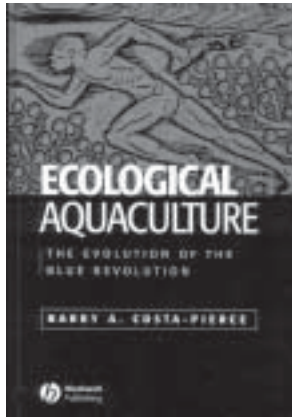
## Book Review

**Ecological Aquaculture - The Evolution of the Blue Revolution.** Barry Costa-Pierce, Ed. Blackwell Science Ltd., UK, 382 pp. ISBN 0-632-04961-8.

During the early years of the modern aquaculture era which I think of as starting in the 1960s practitioners of the art undoubtedly considered themselves to be strong environmentalists. Working with nature to produce food, bait, and ornamental species for the enjoyment of humans was the goal, but the practice involved establishing and maintaining the best possible conditions for production of the target species. Our understanding of pond dynamics, physiological requirements of culture species, and aquatic animal nutrition and disease were just a few among the many topics addressed by researchers. A tremendous amount of information on the relationships between aquatic organisms and their environment, e.g. ecology, was generated and continues to be generated by aquacultural researchers.

Yet, by the mid-1980s, at least some forms of aquaculture were being branded as detrimental to the environment. It took a bit of time for the aquaculture community to become sufficiently introspective to recognize that, indeed, some of their practices had negatively impacted the environment. For at least the past decade, a considerable amount of time, money, and effort have been expended by the aquacultural community in addressing both real and perceived problems. The mantra of the aquacultural community became focused on sustainability. Many publications have appeared over that period which address the criticisms and relate how aquaculture has responded to them.

*Ecological Aquaculture* takes a somewhat different approach in that it provides interesting insight into what we would now consider to be primitive culture systems and then ties those activities into modern aquaculture approaches. The book is edited and authored to a considerable degree by Barry Costa-Pierce who has been one of the leaders in the discussion of responsible and sustainable aquaculture development. A prolific author of often thought-provoking articles, he has assembled some of the other leading thinkers in the field to provide a pot-pourri of information spanning the spectrum from artisanal to high technology approaches to producing aquatic animals with an eye on maintaining balanced ecosystems.



The approaches advocated in this volume represent the future of aquaculture around the world. Criticisms will continue to be lodged by opponents, but the fact is that if the demand for seafood is to be met in the future, a major source will have to be from aquaculture as capture fisheries are currently being exploited at or beyond maximum sustainable yields. Aquaculture often cannot be practiced without some environmental impact, but that impact can be reduced, hopefully to insignificance, if the proper approaches are adopted. This book helps define those approaches. It should be required reading for anyone interested in producing aquatic organisms in an environmentally responsible manner; which means that it should be read by everyone involved in aquaculture. While the minds of the opposition may not be changed by volumes such as this, those members of society who are interested in the facts concerning how environmentally responsible aquaculture has been practiced in the past, how it is currently being practiced, and where it might be going in the future will find this book to be an excellent primer on the topic.

Robert R. Stickney  
Director Texas Sea Grant College Program  
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

*From the Forward, reprinted with permission of the publisher.*

## Pam's Crawfish Pasta

**1 stick butter**  
**1 bunch green onions**  
**1 can rotel tomatoes**  
**1 lb crawfish tails**  
**1/2 lb. Velveeta Cheese**  
**1/2 lb. Cream cheese**  
**1 pt. half & half**  
**1 lb. Bowtie (or your favorite) pasta**  
**Tony Chachere's seasoning (to taste)**  
**Worcestershire sauce**  
**Tobasco sauce**  
**Parmesan Cheese**  
**Parsley**

Saute' green onion in butter till limp. Add Rotel tomatoes and cook for about 10 min. Add Velveeta Cheese & cream cheese and stir till melted. Add half & half and stir till hot and well mixed on med. heat so cheese does not stick). Add Worsteshire, Tobasco, Tony's and crawfish and heat for five minutes or so. Add cooked pasta and mix well. Pour into casserole and sprinkle parmesan cheese and parsley on top and bake till hot at 350 degrees for about 20-30 min.

**Proclamations...** Continued from page 5.

*Professor Carriker's book will provide the heritage upon which the future of NSA and the shellfish community can grow, and his gift of scholarship and perspective will be appreciated by many generations to come.*

*Whereas, the National Shellfisheries Association, Inc. (NSA) is a Not-for Profit Corporation, and Whereas, members serve as officers and committee members on a voluntary basis, **Be It Resolved** that on 16 April 2003, the National Shellfisheries Association formally recognizes and thanks: **Louisiana Sea Grant College Program, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, Nicholls State University, Mississippi State University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Louisiana State***

*University, Mr. Buddy Pausina, and Mike Voisin of Motivatiit Seafoods for their generous sponsorship and support of the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association.*

*Whereas, the National Shellfisheries Association, Inc. (NSA) is a Not-for Profit Corporation, and Whereas, members serve as officers and committee members on a voluntary basis, **Be It Resolved** that on 16 April 2003, the National Shellfisheries Association formally recognizes and thanks: **The Louisiana Oyster Task Force** for a generous contribution to our organization. We sincerely hope that our efforts to bring research, industry, and management communities together to share knowledge and information will help to further the goals of the Task Force.*



*The Newell Family Fiddlers (Meagan, Carter, Helen and Kaity) and Gary Wickfors brought great music to New Orleans!*

**The Recruits** Continued from page 2.

looking ahead to the next. The deadline for submission for the Tri-Annual meeting is literally right around the corner (August 1, 2003). As we stressed in New Orleans, even though the meeting is in Hawaii, it doesn't mean that you can't go. Airfare is more reasonably priced than some may think and hotel rates start at \$77. Also remember that there will be plenty of help needed that pays cash. As soon as I have details I will send out an email. Well that's it for this newsletter. Have a great summer and hope to hear from you soon. Thanks again to everybody who helped in New Orleans.

Cheers  
Steve

**New NSA Items for Sale**

- Hats** (maroon, beige, green, navy with embroidered logo) \$10
- Canvas tote bags** (beige with black or navy straps and logo) \$10
- Cookbooks** \$10
- Coffee mugs** \$5

Send your order to Sandy Shumway (contact information on back page) and please include \$3.00 for postage.

Order today and show off your support for the NSA!

## Upcoming Meetings

**69th American Malacological Society Meeting:** June 25-29, 2003, Ann Arbor, MI. For more information, contact Diarmaid Ó Foighil by phone: (734) 647-2193 or email diarmaid@umich.edu.

**9th International Congress of the International Society for Developmental and Comparative Immunology:** June 29 - July 4, 2003, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK. The Congress remit includes all aspects of comparative, developmental or evolutionary immunology across the whole spectrum of living organisms and will also report findings from new genomic, proteomic and bioinformatic studies. For further information, contact Dr Val Smith by email: v.j.smith@st-and.ac.uk or visit: <http://www.st-and.ac.uk/~seeb/ISDCI/home.htm>.

**International Organic Aquaculture Workshop, Low-Food-Chain Candidate Species:** July 11 - 12, 2003, Minneapolis, MN. For more information, contact: Deborah Brister Institute for Social, Economic and Ecological Sustainability University of Minnesota, 186 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108-6142, email: djb@fw.umn.edu or visit [www.fw.umn.edu/isees](http://www.fw.umn.edu/isees).

**Aquaculture Europe 2003:** August 8-12, 2003, Trondheim, Norway. This year's theme is "Beyond Monoculture". For more information, contact Alistair Lane, EAS Executive Director by phone +32-59-32-38-59 or email [ae2003@aquaculture.cc](mailto:ae2003@aquaculture.cc) or visit <http://www.easonline.org>.

**Asian-Pacific Aquaculture 2003:** September 22-25, 2003, Miracle Grand Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. This year's theme is "Quality: the Focus of Asian Aquaculture". For more information, contact the Conference Manager at 2423

Fallbrook Place, Escondido, CA 92027 or phone (760) 432-4270 or email [worldaqua@aol.com](mailto:worldaqua@aol.com).

**20th Annual Meeting of the Aquaculture Association of Canada:** October 29 - November 1, 2003, Victoria Conference Center, Victoria, BC, Canada. The theme of the meeting - "Two Decades and Beyond" underscores the successful development and maturation of the aquaculture industry in Canada and its bright and sustainable future. For more information, visit <http://www.aquacultureassociationca/ac03/welcome.html>.

**7th International Conference and Workshop on Lobster Biology and Management:** February 8 - 13, 2004, Hobart Tasmania Australia. For more information, contact the Conference Secretariat at Conference Design Pty Ltd, PO Box 342, Sandy Bay Tasmania 7006, Australia or visit <http://www.cdesign.com.au/lobster2004>.

**Aquaculture 2004:** March 1-5, 2004, Hawaii Conference Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. International Triennial Conference and Exposition of the National Shellfisheries Association, American Fisheries Society Fish Culture Section and the World Aquaculture Society. For more information, contact the conference manager at phone (760) 432-4270 or email: [worldaqua@aol.com](mailto:worldaqua@aol.com). **Abstracts are due August 1, 2003.**

**5th International Conference on Recirculation Aquaculture:** July 22-25, 2004, Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke, VA. For more information, email: [aqua@vt.edu](mailto:aqua@vt.edu), phone (540) 231-6805 or visit <http://www.contend.vt.edu/aquaculture/r-aqua/index.html>.

If you would like to announce a meeting, conference or workshop that might be of interest to NSA members, please contact Chris Davis (see back page for contact information).

## Mark Your Calendars!!!

**Future NSA Annual Meetings are scheduled as follows:**

- 2004** Triennial Meeting AQ '04 in Honolulu, Hawaii (Shumway)
- 2005** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Kreeger)
- 2006** California (California Sea Grant - Paul Olin and Susan McBride)
- 2007** Triennial Meeting AQ '07 in San Antonio, Texas (Shumway)
- 2008** CENTENNIAL MEETING - TBA (see page 8)

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