

2000 David A. Wallace Award

This afternoon, representing the Executive Committee of the National Shellfisheries Association, I have the distinct privilege of introducing you to the 13th recipient of the **David H. Wallace Award**. The following is quoted from the bylaws of the NSA, "For the Wallace Awards, the Awards Committee of the National Shellfisheries Association selects individuals whose actions most demonstrate the principles and actions concerned with programs in shellfisheries, aquaculture, and conservation as exemplified by *Mr. David H. Wallace* during his lifetime in promoting understanding, knowledge, and cooperation among industry members, the academic community, and all levels of government, and who has had outstanding success in bringing together shellfish scientists and industry officials for the benefit of shellfisheries."

Mr. Leroy Creswell is this year's recipient and his career embodies what this award is all about. Perennially we emphasize the importance of fostering communication and interaction among the academic community, government organizations and private industry. The fruits of Leroy's career are a testimony to what can be accomplished when efforts are made to work together.

Through his vision, dedication, and devotion, Leroy paved the way for the development of a thriving commercial bivalve industry in the southeastern United States. He started with small grants from Florida's Department of Agriculture in the early 1980s and used these funds to design culture systems for

both oysters and clams. These systems specifically addressed needs relative to the sub-tidal condition of the waters for growing and the subtropical climate of Florida.

His efforts were eventually followed by "how to" manuals, educational workshops, and training programs to introduce the needs and potential for successful shellfish aquaculture. A unique opportunity for expansion arose when he was asked to participate in a program that was funded through the Job Training Partnership Act. Via this program, Leroy provided education and training in shellfish culture to commercial fishermen who were economic victims of a gill net ban in Florida's waters. The program was the foundation for the expansion of an economically successful shellfish industry in Florida.

In part, through the continuing efforts of Leroy, the number of shellfish producers in Florida has increased from 13 during the late 1980s to the current 450, a 3000% increase. Never complacent with the status quo, Leroy has always strived toward improvement and efficiency. He has been involved in the design of harvest and culture equipment for bivalves, equipment that has resulted in two patents.

Many individuals credit Leroy as the source of inspiration for individuals who were reluctant or did not have faith in research programs or government-funded projects. Leroy gained the respect and trust of potential and existing producers by his exceptional rapport with clientele. This rapport was based upon the technical support and practical information that he provided, enthusiastically, sincerely, and with a true sense of

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*Presentation of the **Wallace Award** to Leroy Creswell. Pictured left to right: George Abbe, Lou D'Abramo, Leroy Creswell and Rick DeVoe.*

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caring. Few can equal the intense desire and devotion that he has demonstrated in transferring information and technology effectively.

Leroy has always recognized the value of professional societies, particularly NSA, in promoting interaction between researchers and private enterprise. As a fledgling graduate student at the University of Miami, he heeded the exhortations of Scott Siddall and attended his first NSA meeting in 1982. He has been a member of NSA for 21 years. Leroy has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the World Aquaculture Society for several years, and as a fellow member of that Board I can attest to his dedication to effective modes of information transfer. He served as President of the World Aquaculture Society from 1994 to 1995, a testimony to the respect he has gained internationally. He has also served as President of the Caribbean Aquaculture Association and Director of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, currently serving as a Board member and Senior Editor of the Institute's Proceedings. In these leadership positions Leroy had devoted considerable effort to establishing an on-going dialogue between the shellfish industry and researchers through forums, special sessions at national and international meetings, and workshops. Another fine example of his way of serving both researchers in academia and the industry is a book, "The Aquaculture Desk Reference", that he prepared. It's a handy source of information for all those involved in aquaculture.

Leroy continues to demonstrate his vision of where the aquaculture industry in the United States should be in the future. He has advocated the need for the shellfish industry to develop codes of practice that will insure sustainability and to develop a better image with the public and a better working relationship with state and federal agencies. He recognizes the importance of diversification, not simply limiting his work to the hard clam or the eastern oyster but also turning his efforts toward the investigation of the aquaculture potential of the angel wing clam. He has recently turned some of his attention to the culture of ornamental marine shrimp, an alternative to the destructive consequences of wild collection from coral reefs. In concert with this research, he developed a commercially available diet called *Vibragro*. Leroy also has been involved in the development of technology for the culture of spiny lobsters and is considered to be one of the few experts in queen conch culture. He is also working on the development of a formulated diet for green sea urchin.

Since 1983, Leroy has been employed at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Fort Pierce, Florida. Soon, he will move on to an extension position within the Florida Sea Grant Program. Undoubtedly, while he serves in the capacity of this new position, the shellfish industry in the southeastern United States will continue to expand, benefiting from his expertise and his unique ability to make things happen through information transfer and exchange.

Leroy is a mover and a shaker in the shellfish community, and an individual with boundless optimism and energy. He is an innovator, he is a people person, and he is an individual who has helped to restore the industry's faith in academia. He most definitely exemplifies the spirit of the prestigious Wallace Award. Leroy, on behalf of the members of the Executive Committee and Board of NSA and all members here today, congratulations to you.

Lou D'Abramo

Notes from the Treasurer

After a run of four straight years with a positive net annual budget, NSA finances were in the red for the fiscal year ending 9/30/99. The net balance for the year was \$-87,965, which was more than four times our greatest deficit ever. This occurred despite a profitable meeting in Halifax and a positive net for our administrative cost center. The reason for the large deficit was our production of five issues of JSR during the fiscal year instead of the usual two or three. Due to rising costs associated with journal publication, by my calculation it cost \$151 per page to publish these five issues, but we charge only \$65 per page for page costs (and we don't charge for all of those). Hence, each issue of JSR incurs a loss. For example, the five issues produced cost \$257,655 but revenues generated from publications totaled only \$159,248. This nearly \$100K loss resulted in depletion of our main account balance from \$178K in October 1998 to \$95K in October 1999. Without taking corrective measures to increase revenues, I forecast that we would continue to generate an annual deficit no matter whether we produce two or five issues of JSR, due to the rising costs for most of the services that NSA members receive.

Daniel A. Kreeger
Treasurer

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